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OPEN CAMPUS

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Open Letter



THE E-NEWSLETTER OF THE UWI OPEN CAMPUS



The Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne, addresses the gathering at The UWI Open Campus Graduation Ceremony in Antigua and Barbuda on October 10, 2015.

The UWI Open Campus Celebrates 2015 Graduation in Antigua and Barbuda

On October 10, 2015, the Open Campus of The University of the West Indies (UWI) recognised the accomplishments of graduates for the 2014-2015 academic year at an official ceremony held at the St. Johns Pentecostal Church (SJPC) House of Restoration Ministries in Antigua and Barbuda.

This year, 650 students officially graduated from The UWI Open Campus (534 undergraduates and 116 postgraduates) with degrees, certificates

and diplomas in a wide range of subject areas. Of these, 134 attended the official Graduation Ceremony, crossing the stage with pride to receive their scrolls from Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, Sir George Alleyne, who graciously shook the hand of each graduate while congratulating them on their success.

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The UWI Open Campus 2015 Graduates

As in previous years, the graduation ceremony was attended by a number of regional dignitaries, including the Governor General of St. Kitts and Nevis, H.E. Samuel Weymouth Tapley Seaton QC, and the Governor General's Deputy of Antigua and Barbuda, H.E. Sir Clare Roberts and Lady Roberts.

Other dignitaries in attendance included Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Mrs. Browne of host country Antigua and Barbuda, Hon. Vance W. Amory, Premier of Nevis, Hon. Michael Browne, Minister of Education, Science & Technology of Antigua and Barbuda and Mr. Reginald Saunders representing the Minister of Education of The Bahamas. Several other highly placed government officials also attended.

This year, an Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) was conferred on a citizen from The Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Her Excellency Angela Missouri Sherman-Peter. Currently CARICOM Permanent Observer to the United Nations, Ambassador Sherman-Peter has an outstanding and distinguished career as a diplomat, is a respected senior government representative in her country, The Bahamas, and provides singular service to The University of the West Indies.

Following an eloquently delivered citation by the Campus' Public Orator, Dr Francis Severin, Her Excellency kept the gathering transfixed as she recalled her humble beginnings as "the fifteenth of sixteen children of illiterate, but highly principled and devoted parents" who only "found her voice" while attending the Mona Campus of The University of the West Indies.

Using her personal journey as a source of inspiration for the graduates, Ambassador Sherman-Peter thanked The UWI for teaching her to "appreciate and value the intellect of Caribbean scholarship, the richness of Caribbean history, and the rationale for Caribbean integration."

"At The UWI," said Ambassador Sherman-Peter, "I learned the importance of objective and independent thought. I learned to respect the opinion of others, but to have an opinion of my own. I learned the importance of standing up and speaking up, of responsibility and self-motivation, of teamwork and leadership. The lessons taught in my home about hard work, commitment and dedication were reinforced."

In closing she reminded the new graduates that there was a significant role for all of them as alumni and urged them to join the conversation on how best to be committed alumni and partners with The UWI; to live up to the motto of our University, ORIENS EX OCCIDENTE LUX, "A Light Rising from the West" and to let their light ever shine, on our countries, our region and our world.

Ms Nadesha Edwards, this year's Valedictorian, graduated with First Class Honours from the Open Campus's BEd Early Childhood Development and Family Studies programme. Radiating positivity, strength and determination, she delivered an impassioned speech that was well received by her fellow graduates and guests. During her address, she exhorted the graduates to keep flying The UWI flag high, and praised the Open Campus for affording her the opportunity to attend The UWI – a dream that she was previously unable to fulfil.

Ms Edwards observed that far from being disadvantaged by studying within a virtual environment the "experience at The University of the West Indies Open Campus has been totally different as the interactive Blackboard Collaborate meetings, networking, and relationship building opportunities removed every feeling of loneliness, isolation and disconnectedness. Indeed, what we have had is a sense of virtual interconnectedness that was palpable."

She urged her fellow graduates to remember that they were no longer followers, but leaders in the organizations to which they would offer their professional services. She also reminded them of the most important tenets of leadership - honesty and integrity, sacrifice, and service over self.



Her Excellency Angela Missouri Sherman-Peter receives her Honorary Degree from Sir George Alleyne, Chancellor of The University of the West Indies.

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Amidst shouts of joy and loud bursts of applause, the formal ceremony concluded with the Class of 2015 being presented with their individual scrolls – the tangible evidence of their individual academic achievements.

An official reception, hosted by the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda for the graduates and their guests, brought the celebration to a close.



Her Excellency Angela Missouri Sherman-Peter presents the Graduation Address to the gathering at the 2015 UWI Open Campus Graduation in Antigua and Barbuda



Ms Nadesha Edwards, The UWI Open Campus 2015 Valedictorian addresses her fellow graduates.



After the official 2015 Graduation Ceremony, UWI officials celebrated with the Honorary Graduate. From left to right: the Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne; Principal, Cave Hill Campus, Professor Eudine Barriteau; Vice-Chancellor, Sir Hilary Beckles; Honorary Graduate, Her Excellency Angela Missouri Sherman-Peter; Principal, St. Augustine Campus, Professor Clement Sankat and Principal (Ag.) The UWI Open Campus, Dr Luz Longworth



The 2015 UWI Open Campus Honorary Graduate



Ambassador Angela Missouri Sherman-Peter, an accomplished former Bahamas diplomat and senior public official, has more than 38 years' experience in diplomacy, public service, international organisations and executive management. Her leadership positions have included Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Special Envoy; Chef de Cabinet to the President of the 58th session of the United Nations General Assembly; High Commissioner, Consul General – to name just a few. She also served as Assistant Director/Special Adviser in the Political Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat in London from 1994-1997.

Ambassador Sherman-Peter has a BA in History (Special Honours) from The University of the West Indies and a Master's in International Affairs from Columbia University in New York. Her specialty areas include crime prevention and criminal justice with focus on international narcotics control and gender affairs. In 2013 she was the recipient of the Pelican Award from The UWI Alumni Association – New York Chapter, in recognition of outstanding career and accomplishments in diplomacy and public service.

The 2015 UWI Open Campus Valedictorian



Ms Nadesha Edwards is an Elementary School Teacher with over 12 years experience working with students from diverse nationalities. She grew up in the community of Rock Hall, St Andrew, Jamaica where she attended pre-school and primary school. At the age of 11, she won a scholarship to attend Vere Technical High School to join their track and field team and represent them at various national sporting events. She says that this experience taught her to be open-minded, friendly and a resourceful team-player with a sound and optimistic outlook on all things in life. In the year 2003 her high school journey ended and at the early age of 17, she took up her first job as a pre-school teacher at the Holy Childhood Preparatory School.

In 2007, she entered Shortwood Teachers' College to pursue a teaching diploma in Early Childhood Education. At Shortwood, she was involved in a variety of co-curricular activities and undertook several college responsibilities. She was the second and third year batch President with responsibility to oversee all the clubs and societies as well as plan and execute college functions. Notwithstanding the responsibilities she was able to graduate with First Class Honours and was chosen as Class Valedictorian. She attests that the experience at Shortwood influenced her to become a positive and hardworking individual, who strives to achieve the highest standard possible.

Immediately after finishing college in 2010, she received a job offer to teach at Kids of Vision Preparatory School in her home country, Jamaica. This job lasted for one year, as she was selected by the Head of the Early Childhood Department at Shortwood Teachers' College to take up a job offer in the Cayman Islands. Her commitment to teaching eventually propelled her to look for ways to hone her skills which lead to her enrolling with The University of the West Indies, Open Campus in 2012 to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Development and Family Studies. This journey ended in the summer of 2015 with a blissful celebration when she completed The UWI with a First Class Honours degree.

In addition to teaching, she is involved in the mentoring and development of young people and continues to be an avid lover of track and field.



The UWI Open Campus Contributes to



Dominica RELIEF



Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Ag.), Dr Luz Longworth and Dr Justin Robinson, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Cave Hill Campus making a presentation to Captain Robert Harewood, Department of Emergency Management in Barbados

On August 27, 2015, Tropical Storm Erika caused heavy rainfall in several of the Leeward Islands. Dominica in particular was severely impacted by the almost 10 inches of rain that fell within a few hours. The results were devastating, with major flooding and mudslides destroying villages and bridges and causing the loss of 31 lives, with dozens more reported missing. Some residents escaped from the landslides with only the clothes on their backs, including five of our own Open Campus students.

Within days, the Open Campus sent out an organized appeal for assistance for those affected by the storm. The Open Campus Barbados staff immediately began to donate essential items such as bottled water, canned and other food items, clothing, shoes and toiletries. A shipment left Barbados on September 8, 2015 on the HMBS Trident, and was gratefully received by Open Campus representatives in Dominica. Another shipment was sent on Tuesday, September 29, 2015.



Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr. Luz Longworth, delivering remarks at the presentation of items for the people of Dominica affected by the damages resulting from Hurricane Erika.

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In addition to the donations of essential items, a celebrity T20 cricket match was organized as a joint initiative of the West Indies Cricket Board and The UWI, with the support of several businesses in the regional private sector.

The match was held on September 26, 2015 and was well attended. Spectators had the pleasure of supporting the relief efforts in Dominica and watching the participating celebrities, such as Brian Lara, Sir Curtley Ambrose, Dwight Yorke, Yohan Blake and Vice Chancellor of The UWI, Sir Hilary Beckles, along with many others, play a friendly match to benefit those affected by the storm.

CEO of the West Indies Cricket Board, Michael Muirhead, said that Barbados was chosen as the location for the match because the entire West Indies cricket team was in Barbados preparing to tour in Sri Lanka. In addition to the cricket match, a live telethon was held on match day by Flow Caribbean and a text donation drive was carried out by Digicel Barbados.



Dr Francis Severin, Director Open Camous Country Sites delivering brief remarks at the Presentation Ceremony



Miss Caren Casimir, Vice President, Dominica Student Association offering the Vote of Thanks at the Presentation Ceremony



Principal of The UWI Open Campus, Dr. Luz Longworth, being interviewed by Ms. Carol Roberts of Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) at the Cricket Match

Open Campus Principal and Pro-Vice Chancellor (Ag.), Dr Luz Longworth, was very pleased with the response of the Open Campus staff in Barbados to the call for assistance. She expressed the wish that members of the Open Campus community continue their efforts in one of the following ways:

1. Make an online donation - via www.windiescricket.com
2. Text to donate - open to Bmobile/Flow/Lime and Digicel customers
3. Make a cash donation - through First Caribbean International Bank or Republic bank Limited
4. Drop off relief items - at identified UWI Locations

D RALLY ROUND MININICA

#1 Make an online donation at www.windiescricket.com
Click on "BUY TICKETS" and select option to make a donation (NLT).

#2 Text to donate a fixed amount to Dominica's Relief effort. Text as often as you like.
Bmobile / FLOW / LIME CUSTOMERS: text the word "HELP" to 4357.
A fixed donation amount of US\$ 1 will be deducted from your account for each text message received.
DIGICEL CUSTOMERS: text the word "DOMINICA" to the numbers listed below.
A fixed donation amount will be deducted from your account for each text message received.

IF YOU'RE IN:	TEXT "DOMINICA" TO:	TO DONATE:
Anguilla	5151	XCS 1
Antigua	5151	XCS 1
Aruba	5151-5154	ARUG\$ 1.50
Bonaire	5151-5154	USD 1.50
Caracas	5151-5154	FL\$ 1.50
Barbados	5152	BB\$ 5
Bermuda	5151 #	USD 1
British Virgin Islands	5151	USD 1
Cayman Islands	5151	KYD 1
FWI	9995 OR 99910	EUR 5 and EUR 10
Grenada	5151	XCS 2
Guiana	7155 OR 1156	GYD\$ 200 and GYD\$ 500
Jamaica	4447452	J\$ 25
St Kitts & Nevis	5151	XCS 1
St Lucia	5151	XCS 2
St Vincent & the Grenadines	5151	XCS 1
Suriname	4141	SRD\$ 0.65
Trinidad & Tobago	5151	TTD\$ 3
TC	5151	USD 1

4 WAYS TO GIVE

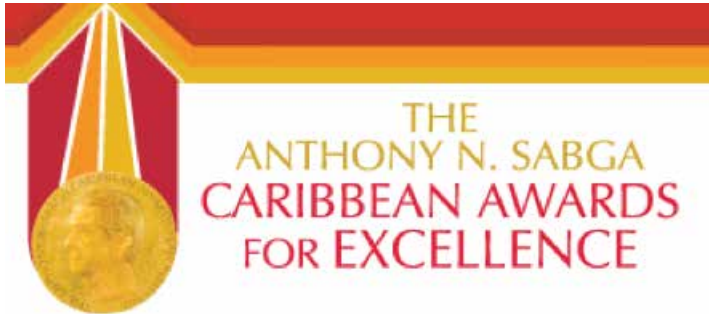
#3 Make a cash donation via direct deposit to any of these Open Campus Bank accounts:

- **FIRST CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL BANK:**
Barbados – Account #: 1001142338
Cayman Islands – Account #: 0010459800
- **REPUBLIC BANK:**
Trinidad – Account #: 160131200291

#4 Drop off relief items at any of these locations:

- The Administration Building, UWI Cave Hill Campus, Barbados
- Open Learning Centre, UWI Open Campus situated on the Cave Hill Campus, Barbados
- Any UWI Open Campus Site throughout the region.

The UWI Open Campus Saint Lucia and ANSCAFE Collaborate on Book Presentation



In commemoration of its first decade, The Anthony N Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence has produced a permanent record of its activities from its launch in 2005 to the present. In "The Excellent Decade" are autobiographical essays from all ANSCAFE laureates, photographs, and the forewords provided by Caribbean Heads of State, its founder, and the Chairmen of its Eminent Persons Panel. The publication includes reports on all the members of territory nominating committees, past and present members of the EPP, and other ephemera.

To mark the occasion, ANSCAFE has been presenting copies of "The Excellent Decade" to libraries around the region and partnered with The UWI Open Campus to do so in Saint Lucia. The presentation was held at The UWI Open Campus Morne Fortune on Thursday, September 10 at 10:30 a.m.

The ANSCAFE/UWI collaboration was proposed by Dr Charmaine Gardner, OECS Nominating Committee Chair, who noted that the majority of Caribbean Laureates were UWI graduates, as were the majority of the other contributors to the volume. Her Excellency, Dame Pearllette Louisy and Vice Chancellor Emeritus, Professor E Nigel Harris, both contributors to the book, autographed copies for the recipients. Dr Adrian Augier, ANSA Caribbean Awards Arts & Letters Laureate 2010, also autographed copies and made the closing remarks.

About the Anthony N Sabga Caribbean Awards For Excellence

The Anthony N Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence (ANSCAFE) is now the English-speaking Caribbean's leading recognition programme in Arts, Sciences, and Public and Civic Work. The ANSA McAL Foundation launched this Awards Programme in October 2005. The Awards are made in four areas (as of 2015): Arts & Letters, Science & Technology, Public & Civic Contributions and Entrepreneurship. The awards began as a biennial event in 2006, became annual between 2010 and 2015, and thereafter returned to a biennial cycle. So far, 27 laureates have been named.



Dr. Charmaine Gardner addressing the gathering



The UWI Open Campus Saint Lucia and ANSCAFE Collaborate on Book Presentation cont'd

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT IN PICTURES



Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy, Governor General of Saint Lucia signing books at the event

Professor E. Nigel Harris signing books at the event



Ms. Daisy St. Rose receiving a copy of The Excellence Decade on behalf of the Open Campus St. Lucia



Librarians Attendees at the book presentation

The UWI Open Campus Held Inaugural Virtual Matriculation and Welcome Ceremony



THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES
OPEN CAMPUS

Virtual Matriculation and Welcome Ceremony 2015

Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 6:30p.m. EC Time
via Blackboard Collaborate (BbC)

All new students are invited



The Campus Registrar, Mrs Karen Ford-Warner, the Guild President, Ms Aneka Lee and the Director, Alumni of The Open Campus, established another “first” with the launch of its inaugural Virtual Matriculation and Welcome Ceremony on September 10, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. EC time, via Blackboard Collaborate (BbC). This event was staged across the UWI-17 to formally welcome the 2015-2016 entrants to The University of the West Indies Open Campus community, and to recognize them as duly matriculated.

Conceptualised and coordinated by Assistant Registrar, Student Support, Mr Jonathan Archie, this event engaged our new students and began to foster a sense of community across the dispersed Open Campus landscape, using the BbC teleconference platform.

Over 220 participants joined the ceremony. New students were greeted with remarks from the Vice Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Ag.), Dr Luz Longworth, Director of Alumni Relations in the Office of the Vice Chancellery, Mrs Celia Davidson-Francis. The ceremony, which lasted for approximately 45 minutes, proceeded smoothly with photographs of the speakers being displayed and a live video stream of the Vice Chancellor’s presentation and the formal recognition of our new students joining our community.

Attendees were also introduced to the Open Campus Top Matriculant for the 2015-2016 academic year, Ms Akida Affesha St Cyr. Ms St Cyr is attached to the San Fernando (Trinidad & Tobago) Site and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management Studies (International Management). She grew up in Couva, Central Trinidad where she attended the Exchange Roman Catholic Primary School. After completing the Secondary Entrance Assessment, she moved on to the Holy Faith Convent, where she completed CSEC and CAPE examinations with eight passes in CSEC (seven distinctions) and eight passes in CAPE (five distinctions). Ms St Cyr is also very involved in service to her community.

The Open Campus hopes to stage the Virtual Matriculation and Welcome Ceremony annually because attendees indicated that it made them feel a part of The UWI community and that the presentations were useful and informative. The successful staging of this pilot, means that the event will be open to attendance by all interested staff and students.

The UWI and WIPA SIGNS MOU



Dr Luz Longsworth, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, (Ag.) of The UWI Open Campus and Mr Wavell Hinds, President and CEO, WIPA signing the MOU

The University of the West Indies (UWI) and the West Indies Players Association (WIPA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on September 8, 2015. This is a symbolic gesture demonstrating the parties' commitment to achieving their shared objectives; WIPA and The UWI will aim to undertake the joint implementation of programmes and projects that focus on capacity building, organizational development and technical assistance where practicable; and to that end, harness the experiences and resources of both parties. Under the MOU, WIPA members will access training, education and information through The UWI Open Campus. The Open Campus will grant discounted tuitions to WIPA's members for eligible programmes, provided that such WIPA members meet the entry requirements of the University. Upon the request of WIPA, where appropriate the Open Campus will provide assistance to WIPA in undertaking policy and technical studies on subjects of interest to both parties.

Dr Luz Longsworth, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal (Ag.), The UWI Open Campus in commenting on the partnership stated; "The University of the West Indies Open Campus is certainly pleased to embark on this venture with the

West Indies Players' Association. This partnership allows for the flexibility of the members of the association to continue their studies without putting their lives or careers on hold. It is important to note that members who have not gone through the traditional route in their education can now access courses that would allow them to enrol in formalized programmes. It is essentially two institutions that care about the region, that are coming together; we can only grow from strength to strength"

At the signing, Mr Wavell Hinds, President and CEO, WIPA, remarked, "This agreement is a step in the right direction for the development of our players on and off the field of play. WIPA is extremely pleased that through this partnership with UWIOC, we can help prepare our membership for a better life during and after cricket."

The MOU was signed by WIPA President and CEO, Mr Wavell Hinds and UWIOC Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal (Ag.), Dr Luz M. Longsworth. Ms Anneshia Welsh, Project Coordinator at The UWI Open Campus and Wayne Lewis, Secretary of WIPA attended the signing.

This partnership allows for the flexibility of the members of the association to continue their studies without putting their lives or careers on hold.



Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC)

The UWI Open Campus participates in the Child Development Agency (CDA) 2015 National Children's Summit.



Photo: Podium, Mr Adawi Aiken, Member CDC Children's Advisory Panel; seated: Mr Xaundre Mohansingh, Youth Mayor Clarendon; Ms Sanchia Ellis, Manager The Fathers House CDA; Dr Priya Anaokar, Project Coordinator, CCDC, The UWI Open Campus; Mr Damian Harris, Operations Officer, Sterling Assets Management Ltd, and Ms. Claudine Bailey, Attorney at Law, Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce at the session "Transitioning out of Care and what it means for you" held on August 25, 2015 at the Jamaica Conference Centre.

Dr Priya Anaokar, Project Coordinator for Caribbean Child Development Centre's (CCDC's) Transitional Living Programme for Children in State Care (TLP-CSC) Project, was one of the panellists at the recently held Children's Summit on August 25, 2015 at the Jamaica Conference Centre. Dr Anaokar presented on the TLP-CSC project during the panel session entitled "Transitioning out of Care and what it means for you".

Dr Anaokar informed the youth delegates about the goals and objectives of the TLP-CSC project. The project aims to improve their preparation for the transition to independent living after residential care. The programme includes a life skills training component as well as vocational skills training through the HEART Trust/NTA.

Other panellists included Ms Sanchia Ellis, Manager of The Father's House Transitional Facility in Montego Bay, St. James as well as former CDA wards who excelled in their fields of endeavour Ms Claudine Bailey (Attorney-at-Law: Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce Jamaica), Mr Damian Harris (Operations Officer, Sterling Asset Management Ltd), and Mr. Treneil Lowe (not pictured) (Student, University of Technology). The panellists encouraged the youth present to use the initiatives offered by the CDA to help them successfully transition out of care.

Also in attendance at this Summit were Ms Joan Thomas, CCDC Research Fellow, and Ms Kathi-Ann Thomas, Project Field Assistant for the TLP-CSC Project from the CCDC, The UWI Open Campus.

The panellists encouraged the youth present to use the initiatives offered by the CDA to help them successfully transition out of care.



The UWI Open Campus Dominica's Eighth Annual Bernard Sorhaindo Memorial Lecture



Guest speaker, Dr Griffin Benjamin (centre) and his family with Mrs Althea Sorhaindo, widow of Dr Bernard Sorhaindo (seated 2nd left), and her son, Carl (standing at left).

Alumni and friends of The UWI Open Campus, Dominica gathered at the Fort Young Hotel for the Eighth Annual Bernard Sorhaindo Memorial Lecture on Thursday, August 20, 2015. Dr Griffin Benjamin, Consultant Psychiatrist at the Princess Margaret Hospital, delivered on the topic: "Health Care & the New Frontier: Can people in the vagrant community overcome rejection?"

In his opening remarks, Dr Benjamin expressed his pleasure at being given an opportunity by The UWI Open Campus to speak on the issue on mental health. He remarked that, "I was so impressed when the organizers stipulated that I select a topic on mental health. This presented for me an opportunity to 're-present' psychiatry to a captive audience of Dominicans. The fact is that there is no health without mental health. Why are we so scared of mental illnesses? We really need to overcome this problem."

Dr Benjamin said he chose to speak on the issue of vagrancy in particular because this subject has many roots in mental illness.

"Speaking as a medical doctor, I am continuously looking at my role as a health care provider in resolving the problems of vagrancy," Dr Benjamin said.

"Vagrants in Dominica suffer from alcohol and substance use disorders, are impaired with mental and physical disabilities and have social and economic vulnerabilities."

Dr Benjamin discussed plans from an approved paper that he presented with colleagues to the Dominican Cabinet. According to him, the issue of vagrancy is finally going to be addressed with a proper plan.

"The government of Dominica has outlined in its Cabinet paper, its strategic intention to manage the issues of poverty, homelessness, unemployment and social justice affecting persons in the vagrant community," he informed the gathering. "The two main decisions were to develop a long-term solution by conducting a Social Impact Assessment of Vagrancy and to initiate a Day Hospital facility at the Acute Psychiatric Unit."

The lecture, which was sponsored by Optical Services Ltd. and the Dominica Social Security, is named after Dr Bernard Sorhaindo, Dominica's first graduate of The UWI and one of the country's most celebrated medical doctors. Dr Sorhaindo was an advocate for the availability of proper health care facilities and personnel to improve the quality of life of Dominicans.



L-R , Dr David Johnson, (Chief Medical Officer, Dominica), Ms Kimone Joseph (Officer-In-Charge), The UWI Open Campus Dominica, Dr Griffin Benjamin (Lecture Presenter & Consultant Psychiatrist), Dr Liris Benjamin (Lecturer at Ross University)



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