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# Open Letter

The e-newsletter of The UWI Open Campus

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The Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne, addresses the audience at The UWI Open Campus Graduation Ceremony in Saint Kitts & Nevis on Saturday, October 13, 2012

## GRADUATION 2012

Graduation 2012 will be remembered by many of us for a long time. Despite the high winds and heavy showers due to Tropical Storm Rafael in St. Kitts and Nevis on Saturday, October 13, 2012, nothing could put a damper on the high spirits of the 126 graduates who gathered in the Royal Ballroom of the St. Kitts Marriott Resort to receive their congratulatory handshake from The UWI Chancellor as they graduated from the University of The West Indies (UWI). In all, 719 persons graduated from the UWI Open Campus this year.



himself and Dr. Honychurch (pictured above), who gave the address to the attendees at the Principal's Dinner on the previous evening, Friday, October 12, 2012. Dr. Augier, in his presentation, aptly entitled, "The Imperative of Entitlement", revealed that he was taught literature by the current Principal and Pro Vice Chancellor of the UWI Open Campus, Professor Simmons-McDonald.



Honorary Graduate, Dr. Adrian Augier (pictured above) presented the Graduation Address to the gathering on behalf of

Using excerpts from his poignant poem, *Navel String*, Dr. Augier stated his deep belief that "most Caribbean people know that a worthy and rewarding life is seldom just about our individual needs. I think we know that our sense of community and shared responsibility binds us and builds us, in ways that other cultures may have long forgotten."

"Notwithstanding such innate knowledge of our beginnings, I think we too are in danger of forgetting that this higher education which shapes minds and lives and so our future, must also reinforce our dedication to that great enterprise which is Caribbean society. Unless we hold firm to that cause we will be overrun: by the ethics of convenience, the economics of scarcity, the politics of expedience and our own blind and unbridled materialism.

## ANNUAL STAFF AWARDS CEREMONY

The Annual Staff Awards Ceremony was held on Saturday, October 13, 2012 at The St. Kitts Marriotts Resort Royal Ballroom at 7:00 p.m. with the Campus Registrar, Mrs. Karen Ford-Warner as Master of Ceremonies.

Dr. Francis Severin, Acting Director of Sites, read the citations commencing with the four (4) retirees, namely, Mr. Earl Alfred, Programme Officer (2009-2012), Open Campus Country Site – Commonwealth of the Bahamas; Dr. Olabisi Kuboni, Head, Graduate Programmes (1999-2012), Academic Programming and Delivery Division; Mr. Bernard Dinnard, Technician (1977-2012), Open Campus Country Site – Dominica and Professor Edwin Brandon, Senior Programme Officer, Planning and Development (1992-2012), Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Principal and UWI from 1978.

Ten staff members celebrated 21 years of service: Marilyn Brown, Caribbean Child Development Centre, Ann Clement-Kirton, Office of the Campus Registrar, Winnifred Hall, Open Campus – Montego Bay, Cheryl McDonald-Sloley, Open Campus – Office of the Director, Aura Prescod, Open Campus Gordon Street, Margaret Roberts, Open Campus – Grenada, Professor Vivienne Roberts, Deputy Principal, Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Rhonda Small-Charles, Office of the Campus Registrar and Imogene Williams, Social Welfare Training Centre.

Ten staff members also celebrated 22-29 years of service: Germaine Alexander, Human Resource Department, Annette Arjoosingh, Academic Programming and Delivery Division, Cleophas Fraser, Open Campus – Gordon Street, Claudia Hagley, Open Campus – Grenada, Carolyn Jenkins and James Jonas from Open Campus – Antigua and Barbuda, Delena Lynch-Mason from Open Campus – Montserrat, Karen Noel, Open Campus Mayaro, Allan Noreiga, Open Campus Gordon Street and Delroy Waugh, Open Campus – Office of the Director.

One staff member, Dr. Christine Marrett, from the Office of External Relations and Intra/Inter-Institutional Collaboration (ERIC), celebrated thirty (30) years of service. The highlight of the evening was the Principal's Awards of Excellence. Ms. Marva Campbell, Programme Officer, Caribbean Child Development Centre, Consortium for Social Development and Research (CSDR) captured the Administrative and Professional Award. Ms. Lisa Rocke, Senior Administrative Assistant, Open Campus Country Site – Belize, captured the award for Administrative, Technical and Service Support. The Best Performing Department was Caribbean Child Development Centre, CSDR.

In speaking on behalf of the awardees and retirees, Ms. Marva Campbell noted that there was a recent survey on staff engagement which showed that staff engagement was too low. She noted that "what Infotools don't know is that we are past engagement. We are into marriage, through sickness and health, for better or worse, richer or poorer". She spoke about the demonstration of commitment, family, community, love for people and work demonstrated by staff which, as she added was why the survey further indicated that staff had "a desire to continue working with the University" evidence that "something must be right".

She cautioned staff that "it must not only be our contracts that guide our desire to serve this noble institution, but a covenant of a higher order".

"Valedictorian, Miss Krissa Johnny began her speech by quoting from the poem, "The Ladder of St. Augustine" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "The heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight. But they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night."

She continued, "I think we will all agree, that the time spent at the Open Campus, though challenging has been a rewarding one. The quality teaching and learning experiences alongside innovative pedagogic design broadened our knowledge base through research and interaction with our peers and e-tutors. As with any successful family unit, the Open Campus afforded us the opportunity to learn from, and by extension, respect the perspectives of others within and outside the region via physical classrooms as well as virtual classrooms, transcending time and space".

She added that this momentous occasion would not be possible without the foresight of key stakeholders of The University of the West Indies to respond to a changing global climate. She noted that with over 60 years experience and direct knowledge of the needs of the countries and people of the Caribbean region, the University has adapted its education services, through the Open Campus, to benefit and empower more Caribbean people in the countries of the UWI-12 and underserved countries and communities and "therefore the significance of the campus to the region **CANNOT** be overemphasized".

She spoke directly to the Governments around the region: "I implore you to continue supporting our University in its service, as opposed to promoting national universities, which challenge the value of a regional university. Commonality exists among our countries as the tides of the Caribbean Sea wash on **EVERY** shore. The region must continuously upgrade knowledge and skills for a better future. These opportunities are

provided **RIGHT HERE** by our premier regional university. I urge our governments, to demonstrate solidarity as family, and strive for the advancement of regionalism as a means of developing and sustaining economic growth." In her plea to the governments she reminded them of the words of Sir William Arthur Lewis, "The fundamental cure for poverty is not money, but knowledge".



Ms. Marva Campbell of the CCDC (left) receives her staff award from Principal, Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald



Professor Julie Meeks, Head, accepts The Best Performing Department for the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC).

### **NEWEST ADDITION TO THE OPEN CAMPUS SITES IN ST. ELIZABETH, JAMAICA**



The community of Junction in St. Elizabeth is the newest addition to the OC Sites in Jamaica. Formerly located at Lititz, St. Elizabeth, the new site is under the direction of Dr. Jerome Miller-Vaz, Head of Jamaica Western Zone. The UWIOC Junction site is positioned to take adult learning to the underserved in and around the environs of Junction. This will be done through the blended mode delivery at the location, offering a laddering approach by facilitating the teaching of Pre-University courses (CXC/CSEC, CAPE) face-to-face. This will act as a feeder for applicants who wish to pursue higher levels of education. To date (October 1, 2012) there are 54 registered students for Supervisory Management, 40 registered for CSEC, (doing multiple subjects) and 22 accepted for the UWIOC Bachelors, Diplomas and Masters programmes.

### **PROFESSOR SIR ERROL WALROND DELIVERS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE**



Professor Sir Errol R. Walrond delivered the Fifth Annual Bernard A. Sorhaindo Lecture which was organized by the University of the West Indies (UWI) Open Campus Dominica in collaboration with the Dominica Social Security on Thursday, September 29 at Fort Young Hotel. Walrond is Professor Emeritus of UWI and Honorary Consultant at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Barbados. He spoke on the topic: "Professional Ethics: A Community & Professional Responsibility."

During the event, Mr. Felix Wilson, Open Campus Dominica's Head (Ag) read the welcome remarks of Dr. Francis O. Severin, Director of Open Campus Country Sites (Ag), who was out of state at the time.

"This is not merely about Dr. Bernard A Sorhaindo as much as it is preserving a legacy for our nation of ethical honesty and professional medical practice and community service," wrote Severin. "The UWI Open Campus Dominica and the Dominica Social Security are both pleased to be associated with such a legacy. The University is not a commonplace and ordinary institution, nor is it comprised of ordinary and commonplace people. Its role is a midwifery one to assist in delivering the region from its social, economic, political and I dare say, ethical conundrum."

Walrond's presentation examined the ethical expectations and implications of professional fields in general, and the medical profession in particular in light of the many changes that have occurred globally since the 1960s. "We are in a changing world, one in which there is an expectation that doctors will get rich quickly. People are absorbed in the dramas portrayed on medical television shows where they see the roles of doctors portrayed, and there is the evidence of increase of medical mal-practice complaints and claims" explained Walrond.

"So today therefore, when young doctors are prepared for their role in the world, they need to be very good in the science of medicine and to be equally, rigorously prepared to act ethically and legally."Walrond believes that in order to attain and maintain professional ethics, there must be education of both the professionals and the public.

"How would we get the public to have confidence that doctors, or other professionals for that matter, are acting ethically?" Walrond asked. "It is clear to me as a former teacher that one would not only have to influence students, but their teachers and their role models as well. If one could influence the patients and others in the community to know what is right and wrong in the relationship between the professionals and their clients, it would be much easier to get the whole thing right."

UWI Open Campus Dominica hosts this Distinguished Lecture each year in honour of Dr. Bernard A Sorhaindo, Dominica's first UWI graduate. Dr. Sorhaindo was dedicated to the development of Dominica through his medical practice and his energetic participation in community service activities.

## PROFESSOR FROM UWI, MONA CAMPUS TAKES BELIZE BY STORM!

Professor Carolyn Cooper from the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica recently visited Belize to deliver a Distinguished Lecture on Reggae and Dancehall. During this visit, Professor Cooper also made a presentation at the University of Belize (UB) to hundreds of students and many artists.



She also facilitated a workshop for representatives from the Music Industry and a second one, which was hosted by the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry Limited, for some of the tourism authorities in Belize.

Professor Carolyn Cooper is an expert in Reggae and Dancehall Studies, as well as in the use of Creole/Jamaican Patois. The author of several publications, Professor Cooper shared her knowledge of the two music genres that for decades have become a staple in Belizean entertainment. On Tuesday night, September 4, 2012 Professor Cooper delivered a Distinguished Lecture at the Bliss Institute of the Performing Arts entitled, Sounds of Freedom: Reggae and Dancehall Culture in the Caribbean. This was followed by a presentation at the UB campus in Belmopan on Thursday September 6, 2012. Both events were very well-received by a full house.

The Distinguished Lecture was broadcasted live on KREM Television and KREM radio and it has been replayed many times by this media house as requests for its repeat continue to come in. This event was included on the official September Celebrations Calendar for Belize and was organized by

The University of the West Indies, Open Campus, Belize in collaboration with KREM Television and the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH). While in Belize, the Professor was a guest on many talk shows both for radio and television. These included: KREM Radio, KREM Television's Wake Up Belize Morning Show, More FM, Love FM, Love TV Morning Show, Open Your Eyes and Plus



TV. Professor Cooper met with the staff of the UWI, Open Campus, Belize as well as with Executives of the Student Guild and the UWI Alumni Association, Belize Chapter.

Professor Cooper was also invited to an Evening of Patriotic Songs and Poetry where she observed and participated in this activity.

She also paid a courtesy call on the Governor-General of Belize, His Excellency Sir Colville Young and on the Prime Minister, Honorable Dean Oliver Barrow.

Professor Carolyn Cooper's Distinguished Lecture is still the talk of the town in Belize a month later! A repeat visit has been requested many times over and is anticipated by the people of Belize.

## OPEN CAMPUS BELIZE AT EXPO 2012

In the fourth year of its existence as the newest campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Open Campus "stepped out" at EXPO 2012 as the Belize Site participated in this year's event.



This was the first time ever that UWI was "on display" at the EXPO which has been happening for the past fifteen (15) years in Belize. It was held over a two-day period on September 15-16, 2012 at the Institute of Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Belize City. When the very first EXPO was held in 1996 there was only one row of booths situated immediately outside the St. John's College gymnasium. The "EXPO" has,

over the years, evolved into the EXPO Belize Marketplace, the largest consumer tradeshow in the country and a welcome addition to the September Celebrations Calendar.

All the staff of the Belize Site was present and took turns in covering the UWI booth at this major marketing event which promoted the programmes offered by the University on all four campuses as well as the local courses and professional development training provided by the Belize Site. Brochures from all four campuses were distributed as well as giveaways which spread the name of the UWI far and wide. Many people visited the UWI booth over the two-day period and they were greeted by staff of the Belize Site as well as the President of the UWI Alumni Association, Belize Chapter and Executives of the Student Guild.



Raffles were held with UWI bags as prizes which contained promotional materials and giveaways. Other prizes were gift certificates for participation in professional development training offered by the Belize Site. The EXPO was declared a success by the organizers, the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The staff of the Belize Site endorses this in light of the stream of interested and curious visitors alike who stopped by seeking information and even signing up for local courses and professional development training. Another positive outcome is that of potential students now getting ready to apply to the University in November when the application portal opens. The Belize Site is looking forward to EXPO 2013 as it plans to make this an annual marketing event.