



AFUWI and UWIAA Florida to host “Adopt a Student Mix & Mingle” event in Florida

The American Foundation of the University of the West Indies (AFUWI) and the Florida Chapter of the University of the West Indies Alumni Association will host an “*Adopt a Student for \$1 a-day Meet and Mingle*” event in Florida on Friday, July 27, 2012 at **Golden Krust Caribbean Bakery and Grill, 5711 N. University Drive, Tamarac, Florida, from 6 PM to 8 PM**. The event will be open to the public but you must RSVP to attend. There will be complimentary refreshments and entertainment.

The “\$1 a-day drive” was launched at the offices of the Jamaican Consulate, in New York City on Thursday, March 22, 2012 with the New York City-based American Foundation for The University of the West Indies (AFUWI) asking the Caribbean Diaspora to Adopt-A-Student by contributing to US\$1-A-day drive, for a pool based scholarship fund. At the launch, President and CEO of Golden Krust Caribbean Bakery & Grill, and Partnership Board Chair of AFUWI, Mr. Lowell Hawthorne, used the cliché “It takes a global village to raise a child”, noting further that he hoped the *Adopt-A-Student* program will draw support from every part of the globe. With the immense impact that an educated work force can have on civil society, Mr. Hawthorne challenged the community to assume some responsibility and become part of the solution.

Mr. Hawthorne will be here in Florida along with the Executive Director of AFUWI, Ms. Ann-Marie Grant, to launch the drive in July 2012.

For more information about the program, visit the AFUWI website @ www.afuwi.org or call their offices 212-759-9345. You can get information about the event and RSVP to attend the event by contacting Rupert Rhodd, the president of the University of the West Indies Alumni Association, Florida at 954-242-2529.

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Florida UWI Chapter Fundraising, A Small Success

The Florida Chapter of the University of the West Indies first Fundraising effort for 2012 netted \$795, a feat that we should be proud of, having launched this project just five weeks ago. The Fundraising Committee took a bold step and with the support of members of the association, success was achieved. For this fundraising project, UWIAA Florida partnered with another Jamaican alumni association based in New York to sell tickets for the annual Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations (UJAA) New York raffle. This event is used by many alumni associations as their major fundraising activity.

Out of the 500 tickets distributed, 256 were returned grossing \$1280, from which the association paid \$560 to participate in the raffle. The remaining \$720 was boosted by a \$75 contribution to make the net income \$795. Thanks also to another member who donated \$90 to cover the postage for this venture. It would have made a big difference if those who received tickets had simply returned them in the self-addressed stamped envelope before the deadline as others might have sold them. Two hundred thirty (230) tickets sent to members were not returned.

The Fundraising committee is truly appreciative of the effort of members of the chapter and would like to thank you for taking the time to sell raffle tickets and for contributing to this project. Funds from this project will be used for scholarship at the University of the West Indies; through your effort you will be helping to make a difference in people's lives.

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Compiled by
Sandra Schrouder, PhD
Rupert Rhodd, PhD



Florida Chapter Fundraising, a Small Success (From Page 1)

The following individuals were responsible for the Chapter’s success:

Dr. Cecil Aird	\$50	Christine Boothe-Brown	\$40
Roxanna Brown	\$75	Hollis Chan	\$50
Marlon Clarke	\$20	Geli Eldemire	\$50
Lloyd Findlay	\$50	Donat Grant	\$50
Andre Gray	\$175	Eric Hammond	\$50
John Haughton	\$200	Kim Insang	\$50
Dyona McLean	\$50	Justin Peart	\$50
Sylvia Ricketts	\$50	Sandra Schrouder	\$195
Gregory Solomon	\$50	Ben Watson	\$50
Leighton Williams	\$50		

Sandra Schrouder (Public Relations)

UWI Professor Appointed Chair of UN Working Group of Experts



Professor Verene A. Shepherd, University Director of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies at The University of the West Indies (UWI) is the newly appointed Chairperson of the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGPAD). The announcement of her appointment came at the recently concluded 11th Annual Meeting of the Working Group in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent operates within the United Nations system and is tasked with strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe, as well as addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. The WGPAD is specifically mandated to examine the problems of racial discrimination faced by people of African descent, to collaborate with respective countries to devise policies aimed at eradicating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance; as well as to propose measures to ensure access to justice for all persons of African Descent. It was established by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/68 of 25 April 2002 in direct response to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban in 2001 and the subsequent Durban Declaration and Program of Action, which both advocated for consideration to be given to “establishing a working group or other mechanism of the United Nations to study the problems of racial discrimination faced by people of African descent living in the African Diaspora and make proposals for the elimination of racial discrimination against people of African descent”.

Originally named a mandate holder to the WGPAD in 2010, in her current capacity as Chairperson, Professor Shepherd will now assume stewardship of the Group in its obligation to realize the principles of equality and non-discrimination and address all the issues concerning the well-being of Africans and people of African descent contained in the Durban Declaration and Program of Action. In accepting the position, Professor Shepherd urged the international community to envision and craft new futures, moving towards the end of all expressions of intolerance.

<http://myspot.mona.uwi.edu/proffice/newsroom/entry/4640>, May 25, 2012

Show your
Pelican
Pride by
supporting
UWIAA
Florida!



Cave Hill Excellence Given International Acclaim

Cave Hill doctoral student Kim Baldwin brought glory to herself and The University of the West Indies last September by winning the best student paper prize at the prestigious Coast GIS Conference held in Belgium. The Centre for Resource Management (CERMES) enrollee, submitted a paper entitled *A Geospatial Framework to Support Ecosystem Based Management and Marine Spatial Planning for the Trans-Boundary Grenadine Islands*.

The presentation was taken from the first chapter of Baldwin's PhD thesis – the culmination of six years of research. The GIS chapter introduced the unique application of geographical information systems (GIS) technology, usually associated with creating 3D land maps (like Google Earth), for the purpose of mapping various aspects of marine topography in the Grenadines Bank, an area of the Caribbean Sea used by both St. Vincent and Grenada. She said the use of the technology to map the sea is still new, having been applied only within the last 15 years.

Baldwin chose the biennial Coast GIS conference because "it is the largest marine or coastal GIS conference that's out there." Reaction to her submission was extremely favorable. "People at the conference were really impressed with what we integrated, and this was very new. It's called participatory GIS, which is what I do."

Participatory GIS integrates conventional science with local knowledge. She explained this new approach is essential to further development in the field, adding that "environmental management (is) about people; people are the ones that have an effect on the environment, so you need to understand their perceptions, what their objectives and their priorities are and bring that into science."

This impressive approach also colligated with one of her goals, which is to present this paper to international audiences, thereby validating local knowledge and empowering various people working in the communities where she conducted her research – namely fishermen – to assist scientists, and subsequently local government and shareholders in planning for sustainable development within their areas.

"I wanted to show in this project how merging local knowledge and scientific knowledge can provide – especially using GIS – insight that you would not see by analyzing information independently," Baldwin said.

www.cavehill.uwi.edu/news/releases/release.asp?id=396, March 27, 2012

Annual Dues

Please remember to mail your annual dues of \$30. Make checks payable to *UWIAA, Florida Chapter*. The address is

UWIAA, Florida Chapter
P.O. Box 970313, Coconut Creek, Florida 33097

You can also pay by Paypal on the association's website <http://www.uwiaafl.info>

The dues that you pay help the association to meet its recurring expenses and annual contribution to our alma mater for scholarships and financial assistance to students.

*Stay
Connected
To Your
Alma
Mater!*



UWI Research Improving Diabetes Care in the Region



Scientific studies and appraisal of some bush remedies at the University of the West Indies, (UWI) Mona have found that these “bushes” though possibly having beneficial ingredients also have potential toxins which can be harmful to individuals and that these cultural practices greatly impact on the health of the region.

The researchers found that across the region there is widespread use of “bush teas” for a variety of ills, inclusive of diabetes. Some bushes of preference for diabetes include cerassie, annatto, peri-winkle, dandelion, vervine, guaco, cashew bark, coconut shell, aloe vera, cannabis satira among others. The medical authorities believe that these “bush teas” when drunk result in a negative urine test for sugar and even a, real or imagined, lowering of blood sugar. The reason for this is obscure, but these clinical findings cannot be ignored or denied.

Against this background the researchers have suggested that urgent attention be given to patient education in the management, and even prevention, of this disease. In response, The University (of the West Indies) Diabetes Outreach Program (UDOP) in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) organized a workshop for the development of a curriculum for health professionals. Experts practicing in the field, professors in academia and program advisors were gathered to define the curriculum predicated on that of the International Diabetes Federation. This was, however, with the provision that the framework of the curriculum must reflect needs specific and in a cultural context to the Caribbean.

Prof. Dalip Ragoobirsingh, Director of the UWI (Mona) Diabetes Education Program and Temporary Consultant to the PAHO project on Improvement Initiatives for Diabetes Care in the Caribbean has incorporated lectures on this subject. The specific goal of this project is to achieve real and sustained improvements in diabetes care in 10 Caribbean territories including: Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Over the last three years he has visited each territory where he worked along with PAHO staff, health planners and providers from the local ministries of health designing an intervention for improving diabetes care in their country. He also worked with the local teams to train local health care providers and co-ordinate the implementation and evaluation of interventions, which is being continuously reviewed and supported.

He notes that although a lot still remains to be done there is good evidence that this program is playing a pivotal role in assisting health care professionals, individuals with diabetes and their home care givers ,as well as policy makers to implement change, to effectively manage diabetes and prevent its complications across the region.

The UWI (Mona) Diabetes Education Program has had the full support from the Offices of the Campus Principal, Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences as well that of the Head, Basic Medical Sciences. The UWI also partnered with the University of Technology (UTECH) in hosting the UDOP 18th Conference and Graduate course in Diabetes entitled New Frontiers in Diabetes Management, at the Jamaica Grande in Ocho Rios on March 29 to April 1, 2012.

<http://myspot.mona.uwi.edu/proffice/newsroom/entry/4563>, April 5, 2012

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your Florida
Chapter and
help to build
communities
in Florida*



“The UWI is alive and well” Council members affirm

An air of optimism pervaded the Council Room as delegates to the annual business meeting of University Council, held on Friday, 27 April 2012, listened to the leadership of the 63 year-old institution give account of their stewardship over the 2010/2011 academic year. Despite the hostile economic climate and the financial challenges facing the UWI the Vice-Chancellor’s Report as well as the reports emanating from the four campuses focused on the many positive achievements, not least of which was the growth in the number of graduates produced each year. Advances made in research into issues common to the Caribbean region in a wide range of disciplines, the positive response to changes in the needs of its major stakeholders through curriculum development and the widening of academic program options, the steady increases in enrolment and significant upgrade of the physical infrastructure were cited as sure indicators that the institution would not only survive the turbulent economic times but would continue to strengthen and further enhance its reputation.

In the words of one Government Representative, “The UWI is the best legacy that West Indians have received and it is deserving of continued support”. It was conceded, however, that the UWI could do a better job of connecting with the ordinary man in the street, so that every West Indian would understand the import and impact of the regional institution. The meeting of Council, chaired by the Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne, dealt with a number of matters including approval of financial reports, tuition fees for the coming academic year, the appointment of Deans and several Senior Managers, endorsement of recommendations for the award of honorary degrees and approval of the Strategic Plan to guide the institution for the next five-year period. The meeting was to have been held in the spanking new UWI Regional Headquarters building on Hermitage Road in Mona, Kingston but due to the fact that the building was not quite ready, Council was hosted, as it has done most often in the past, by the Mona Campus.

www.cavehill.uwi.edu/news/releases/release.asp?id=406, April 30, 2012

Some Pictures from UWIAA Florida General Meeting in February 2012



***UWI Alumni
Pledge***

***As a graduate of
the University
of the West Indies,
I commit
myself to uphold
the ideals
and goals of my
alma mater.***

***I will strive to
ensure***

***The UWI’s place as
a Caribbean icon:
the catalyst
for Caribbean
development
and leadership. It is
a legacy
that I will proudly
help build for
future generations.***

***The UWI – First in
our hearts and first
in our region***