

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (FLORIDA)  
P.O. BOX 970313  
COCONUT CREEK  
FLORIDA 33097  
[www.uwiaafl.info](http://www.uwiaafl.info)

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## UWIAA Florida 2014

**Membership:** The Chapter added 15 names to its roster in 2013 bringing the enrollment to 148. Through the sending of birthday cards and the publishing of a newsletter, the Chapter tries to keep members interested in the activities of the University of the West Indies. The Chapter's website ([www.uwiaafl.info](http://www.uwiaafl.info)) is a repository for information on the chapter, the University of the West Indies, and news about other Caribbean-American Organizations in Florida.

**Fundraising/Income:** The Chapter participated in the annual Coalition of Jamaican Alumni Associations of Florida Walkathon and contributions from this event helped to boost the scholarship fund which is now \$1034. The Chapter will be granting the scholarships to UWI students in fall 2014. Hopefully, by that time we will reach our target of \$2000. The Chapter is still very dependent on the annual membership dues and other contributions from members. These sources of funding have caused the Chapter to end the end the year with a positive balance. In 2014, the Chapter will be making an extra effort to increase its fundraising activities by partnering with other Jamaican alumni associations in Florida.



**Collaboration with Caribbean-American Organizations:** The Chapter's president (Rupert Rhodd) and Public Relations Director (Sandra Schrouder) are still very active in the umbrella organization for Jamaican alumni associations in Florida, the Coalition of Jamaican Alumni Associations of Florida, in which they serve as co-chairs. Through their leadership, the Coalition will be assisting a primary school in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica to refurbish its bathroom.

On June 8, 2014, the American Foundation of the University of the West Indies and the Florida Chapter will host **THE CARIBBEAN JAZZ-MATAZZ**, a fundraising event to aid scholarships at UWI. This will be held at the Broward Convention Center, and promises to be an exceptionally entertaining evening of Jazz and reggae music. For more information visit the Chapter's website at [www.uwiaafl.info](http://www.uwiaafl.info) or call 954-242-2529. Also see the flyer on page 2.

*Rupert Rhodd*

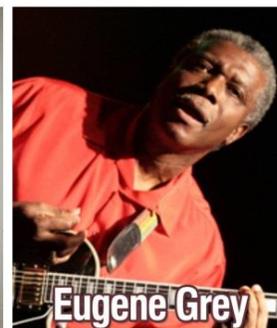
## *Annual Membership Dues*

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



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Proceeds of Caribbean Jazz Matazz will be used to provide scholarships for deserving Caribbean students with proven financial need who cannot afford to pay tuition to UWI

AFUWI is a 501(c)3 organization; all donations in cash or kind are tax deductible to the full extent of state & federal laws.





### UWI COMMUNITY MOURNS THE PASSING OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS NORMAN GIRVAN, CD

For those of us who were taught by Dr. Norman Girvan, I am certain that our interaction and relationship with him extend way beyond the classroom, and long after we completed our formal training under his tutelage. Dr. Girvan truly believed that learning takes place both inside and outside the classroom, and that it is based on substantive interaction. This is how he lived and many of us who knew him both inside and outside the classroom are grateful for the interaction long after we graduated from the University of the West Indies.

Rupert Rhodd, Ph.D  
Associate Dean & Economics Professor  
Florida Atlantic University

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The recent passing of Norman Girvan, Professor Emeritus of The UWI has come as a deep shock to all at the St. Augustine Campus who were fortunate enough to have known him. Professor Girvan had been with the institution for many years, first encountering the University as an economics student in, when it was still the University College of the West Indies. Later, he returned to the Mona Campus where he would eventually establish himself as one of the leading contributors in the field of Caribbean economics. He was the first Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies at The UWI, and from 2004, taught at the St. Augustine Campus Institute for International Relations until his retirement in 2010.

A quintessential Caribbean man, he was a scholar and academic who, even after his retirement, had a prominent voice in many issues that went far beyond the scope of economics. He remained consistently committed to defending and fighting for several causes, ranging from Caribbean integration to the betterment of the Haitian peoples. His passion and intellect are evidenced by the content of his website, *Caribbean Political Economy*, which reflects the areas in which he made his most significant contributions to modern Caribbean development.

Campus Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Clement Sankat, on behalf of all faculty and staff, extends deepest condolences to the family and friends of Professor Girvan.

Professor Clement Sankat  
Pro Vice-Chancellor  
University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus  
<http://sta.uwi.edu/news/releases/release.asp?id=1244>

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Born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1941, Norman attended Calabar High School before entering what was then the University College of the West Indies in 1959 to study economics. Part of a brilliant cadre of students drawn from across the region, including, among many others, Walter Rodney and H. Orlando Patterson, he was taught by an equally outstanding faculty, among them, Lloyd Best, Lloyd Braithwaite, Roy Augier, Alister McIntyre and Elsa Goveia. *(Continued on Page 4)*

### UWI COMMUNITY MOURNS THE PASSING OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS NORMAN GIRVAN, CD *(From page 3)*

The young Girvan left to pursue his doctorate at the London School of Economics, returning thereafter to the Mona Department of Economics, where he served for many years, establishing himself as one of the leading economists of the region. Girvan's work, both as individual scholarship and as part of the New World Group that flourished throughout the Caribbean in the Sixties and early Seventies, sought to critique the nature and limitations of political independence and to redefine a space for Caribbean sovereignty as well as more inclusive notions of democracy. More specifically, through studies like the evocatively titled *Foreign Capital and Economic Underdevelopment in Jamaica and Copper in Chile*, Girvan argued that through the structure and operations of international corporations, the newly emergent nations of the Caribbean and Latin America were being denied a fair share of the surplus from the exploitation of their mineral resources. This, he suggested, contributed immeasurably to their inability to escape from a cycle of underdevelopment.

Never confining himself entirely to the academic environment, Norman also served for extended periods in national, regional and international institutions, among them, as Head of the National Planning Agency of Jamaica (now the PIOJ) and Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). Serving for many years as the Director of the renowned Consortium Graduate School of the Social Sciences at Mona, he was instrumental in its merger with the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) to create SALISES, leaving, perhaps too soon after its formation, to take up his position at the ACS.

Since 2000, Norman and his family have lived in Trinidad and Tobago, where in 2004, following the ACS Directorship, he taught in the Institute of International Relations at UWI St Augustine, until his retirement in 2010.

In this phase of his life, Norman's work, if anything, gathered pace, with many critical interventions in both scholarly and new media, suggesting caution about and modification of the proposed Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union, greater engagement with Cuba, recognition of Haiti as an integral part of the Caribbean and, consistently, calling for deeper and more popular Caribbean integration. Above all, Norman, through his website 1804 **CaribVoices**, has emerged as a tribune for rethinking Caribbean history, understanding and fighting for the preservation of the environment, defending all causes associated with popular empowerment and, inevitably, redefining the Caribbean in all its component districts, as a common, sovereign space.

We express our deepest condolences to his wife Jasmine and children Ramon, Alexander and Alatashe as we reflect on and remember with gratitude a life well-lived and the immeasurable contribution of this exemplary Caribbean citizen.

**Brian Meeks**  
Professor and University Director  
SALISE

<http://sta.uwi.edu/news/releases/release.asp?id=1243>



## UWI GRADUATES ON THE MOVE

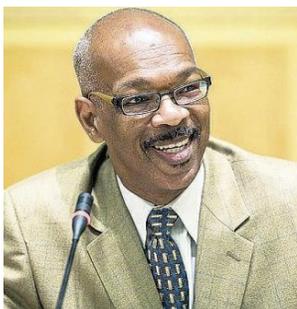


**TRACY ROBINSON ELECTED CHAIR OF IACHR:** SENIOR lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Tracy Robinson has been elected chairman of the Inter American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), becoming the second Jamaican to chair that body after her father — internationally acclaimed judge Patrick Robinson. The election took place yesterday at the IACHR's 150th Regular Session held in Washington, DC. She had been serving as a member of the commission, having been first elected in June 2011 for the standard four-year term which began on January 1, 2012.

The senior lecturer, the sister of junior Government minister Julian Robinson, graduated from the University of the West Indies (UWI) in 1991 with a first class honours degree in law. In 1992 she was the recipient of the Rhodes Scholarship, where she studied law at Oxford University. She also holds a master's of law degree from Yale University. She currently lectures in gender and the law, constitutional law and Commonwealth Caribbean human rights, among other legal subjects, at UWI, Mona. She has been a consultant for international agencies such as the United Nations Fund for Women and UNICEF, and has advised Caribbean governments on topics related to legislation on gender and children rights, among others. She has been editor of the Caribbean Law Bulletin and has written and published reports on a range of topics, including gender, the rights of LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons), sexual harassment, sexual rights, sex work and the law, and the rights of the child.

The IACHR is an autonomous organ of the OAS, whose primary function is promoting the observance and defence of human rights. The Commission has its headquarters in Washington, DC and represents all of the member States of the OAS. It has seven members who act independently, without representing any particular country. The members of the IACHR are elected by the General Assembly of the OAS.

*Jamaica Observer, March 21, 2014*



**'BILLY' MARSTON HEADS IMF'S NEW RISK MANAGEMENT OFFICE:** FORMER Jamaica football administrator David 'Billy' Marston has been appointed head of a new unit in the office of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde, the Jamaica Observer learnt yesterday. According to a source with knowledge of the development, Marston has been put in charge of the Office of Risk Management and will report to the IMF's first deputy managing director on behalf of the agency's management. "What the fund has created is a chief risk officer function, which is a very senior position," said the source, who opted not to be named. "It is a challenging concept because, unlike a financial institution that can choose the risk it takes on and can price those risks, the IMF is set up to lend to countries where others will not, and charges the same to Germany as it charges Jamaica," the source explained.

The Observer was told that this initiative is one of several measures being undertaken by the IMF to strengthen its risk management framework globally in an effort to foster a strong risk culture throughout the institution, and to provide decision makers with better information and tools to manage risks. Marston worked at the Bank of Jamaica as a senior director before going to the IMF. He served first in the Monetary and Capital Markets Department as assistant director before moving to the Strategy Policy and Review Department where he is currently deputy director.

**'BILLY' MARSTON HEADS IMF'S NEW RISK MANAGEMENT OFFICE: (From Page 5)**

People with knowledge of local football history will remember him as president of the Kingston and St Andrew Football Association from 1976 to 1992 and vice-president of the Jamaica Football Federation. He represented St George's College in the Manning Cup competition and later Real Mona.

Yesterday, when the Observer contacted Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) President Chris Zacca for a reaction to Marston's appointment, he described it as a very significant and influential position which will play a role in ensuring global financial and economic stability.

"For this position to be held by a Jamaican, who has already contributed so much to national development, is a very positive development of which the entire country should be proud," Zacca said. "The PSOJ congratulates Mr. Marston on this new position and wishes him great continued success in his illustrious career."

*Jamaica Observer, April 14, 2014*

**PROFESSOR DALIP RAGOOBIRSINGH, UWI'S TOP DIABETES EXPERT GETS WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION APPOINTMENT:**

IN the week of its ground-breaking annual conference that will throw the spotlight on "Diabetes and Sports", the University Diabetes Outreach Programme (UDOP) is celebrating a major international appointment of one of its most outstanding experts. Kingston-based Trinidad-born Professor Dalip Ragoobirsingh has just been invited to be a member of the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines development expert group, a recognition of his high quality work in diabetes and nutrition in the Caribbean.

Ragoobirsingh is the man who was humorously called the 'Grinch who stole Christmas' in a Jamaica Observer article last December in which he warned against overeating, drunkenness and smoking, as part of his relentless campaign to reduce or manage diabetes. "This is, no doubt, a signal honour for the University of the West Indies (UWI), of which he is a graduate, and is currently Professor of Medical Biochemistry and Diabetology, as well as Director of the UWI (Mona) Diabetes Education Programme.

Dr. Ragoobirsingh was identified from WHO's search for international specialists to advise the United Nations agency on the choice of important outcomes for decision-making and in the interpretation of the evidence for making recommendations. "This is in keeping with the 65th World Health Assembly comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition," the Diabetes Outreach Programme said in a press statement lauding the appointment.

Dr Ragoobirsingh's appointment has come close on the heels of his publication in the prestigious British Medical Journal, based on a study done in collaboration with the Florida International University and with the blessings of the ministries of education and health on 276 Jamaican adolescents aged 14-19 years, randomly selected from grades nine to 12 from 10 high schools on the island and including both genders. The study showed that Jamaican adolescents are at risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular diseases, with females being at greater risk than their male counterparts. It recommended that intervention measures are needed to educate Jamaican adolescents to reduce overweight and subsequently the risk factors.



**PROFESSOR DALIP RAGOOBIRSINGH, UWI'S TOP DIABETES EXPERT (Cont'd):** "It is more providence than coincidence that this news comes as UDOP is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its annual conference and graduate course on diabetes mellitus and its complications under the theme "Diabetes and Sports," the UDOP said. The conference will be held at the Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort in Ocho Rios from March 27-29. The keynote speaker at the opening ceremony is minister of state without portfolio, with responsibility for sports, Natalie Neita Headley.

Prof Ragoobirsingh, a Rhodes Trust scholar, was previously invited to Geneva in 2008 to advise WHO on its Peers in Progress programme for the treatment of diabetes mellitus. This followed his sabbatical attachment, as a Fulbright Scholar, to the Unit of Non-communicable Diseases of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) headquarters in Washington DC. He subsequently served as technical advisor to the PAHO project on Improvement Initiatives for Diabetes Management in the Caribbean. The latter included 10 territories: Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The specific goal of this project was to achieve real and sustained improvements in diabetes care in these countries.

The Caribbean now benefits from 14 technical reports, a major PAHO collaborative manual on diabetes education and the Caribbean Chronic Disease Passport, a patient-held medical record, which were developed out of this exercise.

<http://myspot.mona.uwi.edu/marcom/newsroom/entry/5639>

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### UWI MONA'S SIMONE BADAL McCREATH RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR CANCER RESEARCH



Research Fellow at the Natural Products Institute at The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, Dr Simone Badal McCreath is one of five women chemists worldwide to be honoured with the Elsevier Foundation Awards for Early Career Women Scientists in the Developing World, for research that looks to nature for ways to address cancer and other medical problems.

Simone Badal McCreath's work covers the screening of Jamaican natural and synthetic compounds for potential anti-cancer and cancer-preventive properties. The anti-cancer research conducted was done under the supervision of Dr. Rupika Delgoda.

The prizes were awarded by The Elsevier Foundation, the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) and The World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries (TWAS), with the aim of building scientific strength and advancing scientific knowledge in developing countries. The focus of the 2014 competition was chemistry. A selection panel of eminent chemists independently selected each winner based on her achievements, finding that the best candidates all had impressive accomplishments in applying the chemistry of nature to pharmaceutical science. Each winner received US\$5000 and an all-expenses paid attendance at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting in Chicago, where the award was presented.

Badal-McCreath holds the Bachelor of Science (BSc), Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees from The UWI, Mona and also undertook an MBA at the University of Wales in Cardiff, Wales. She received the Principal's award for best research publication (2013-2014) from The UWI, Mona for a joint publication entitled "Antiproliferative activity and absolute configuration of zonaquinone acetate from the Jamaican alga *Styopodium zonlae*." (with Penicooke N, Walford K, Badal S, Delgoda R, Williams LA, Joseph-Nathan P, Gordillo-Román B, Galimore W).

<http://www.uwi.edu/alumnionline/news-a-updates/news/26-campus-news/mona-campus-news/2554-uwi-mona's-simone-badal-mccreath-receives-prestigious-award-for-cancer-research.html>