Education

Major upgrade for UWI Open Campus site

Major renovation work is expected to begin soon at the site of the UWI Open Campus site at Murray's Road.

by WILLIAM 'KOJAH' ANTHONY

UWI reaches home

VINCENTIANS desirous of pursuing degree courses from the University of the West Indies (UWI), will be able to do without having to spend a number of years on campuses overseas.

This, when the UWI Open Campus of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, located on Murray's Road, Kingstown, is upgraded by September 2016, providing students with "comfortable learning commons to accommodate them with modern facilities."

The news was disclosed by Dr Luz Longsworth, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal (Ag) of the University of the West Indies Open Campus, during the launch of the UWI Open Campus Development Project, at the Kingstown site, last Thursday. May 14.

Dr. Longsworth highlighted the role of the Open Campus, citing that it "has begun a transformative process that will mesh our virtual and physical presence to bring UWI to you wherever you are."

The Project is supported by national, regional and international donor organisations, including the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Government of Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Development (DFATD) Strengthening Distance Education in the Caribbean (SDEC) project.

According to Dr. Longsworth, more than "40 continuing and professional education programmes and courses in areas as diverse as real estate management, security studies, journalism and financial management," will be accessible in the new building.

She noted the history of Canadian support of distance education and outreach to UWI.

High Commissioner of Canada to Barbados and the OECS, His Excellency Richard Hanley, in addressing the launch, commented on the Caribbean's "impressive education record," and of its legacy.

He justified his country's support for higher learning, and outlined existing cooperation with the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College.

H.E. Hanley was of the view that "authentic programmes were needed to make the Caribbean workforce more marketable and competitive."

This could be addressed through online education, in which, he said, "Canada sees value," and he called for providing the "right courses for the right time."

The High Commissioner also suggested that employers should offer career guidance, as well as making opportunities available for workers to advance.

The shortage of males in the training schedule is a worry to Commissioner Henley, and he challenged the university to "find ways to attract men."

Mrs. Michelle Cross Fenty, Director of Projects at the CDB, expressed profound satisfaction with the bank's involvement with the expansion of the Open Campus facility.

She looked at investment in education as "imperative" in the fight to stop or reduce the incidence of crime, and expressed concern about the "risks" with which the society was faced from "drop-out and disconnected youths."

Mrs. Fenty projected on the "World Class Open Campus Site: online, on site and on demand."

Vincentian Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves gave the main address. Dr Gonsalves traced the history of the Open Campus, from a Cotton Ginnery destroyed by fire in 1959 to its current state.

He noted that it had changed to an "education factory", and that "what we are going to replace it with, will have greater value."

Deborah Dalrymple, Head of the local Open Campus, expects that the Administrative Office would be relocated to nearby premises by September this year, to make way for the reconstruction.

Stewart Engineering Ltd. are the Project Consultants, and architectural services are provided by T. V. A. Consultants Ltd.

A Building Contractor for the project will be decided by tender.

Those addressing the launch of the construction project were: *(L-R):* Open Campus SVG Head Deborah Dalrymple; Director of projects at the CDB Michelle Cross Fenty; Prime Minister of SVG Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, Canada's High Commissioner to the OECS H.E. Richard Hanley; and Dr. Luz Longsworth, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal (Ag) of the UWI Open Campus.

New Student Guild Executive elected

A NEW STUDENT GUILD EXECUTIVE for the University of the West Indies Open Campus, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, was recently elected, to run the day-to-day activities of the Student Body.

The members of the Executive are: Chairman - Mr. Nick Francis, BSc Youth Development Work; Guild Deputy Chairman - Mr. Martin Sheen, BSc Banking and Finance; Secretary - Ms. Samantha Williams, BSc Youth Development Work; Treasurer - Mr. Ricky Haynes, BSc Banking and Finance; PRO - Ms. Nellie Phillips, BSc Youth Development Work.

The Local Chapter of the Student Guild is run by students for students, the main function being to represent the interests, rights and concerns of the student body at the Open Campus, while promoting the University as a viable option for tertiary studies for prospective students.

The new Student Guild Executive for the UWI Open Campus, SVG *(L-R):* Ms. Samantha Williams - Secretary, Mr. Nick Francis - Guild Chapter Chairman, Mr. Martin Sheen - Guild Chapter Deputy Chairman, Mr. Ricky Haynes – Treasurer and Ms. Nellie Phillips - P.R.O.

In addition, the Guild Chapter also provides assistance to new and returning students, offering support and advice on their educational well-being and experience at the Open Campus.

The Executive is in the process of planning several activities to promote student interaction, and to facilitate a well-rounded university experience for Open Campus Students.

Head of the UWI Open Campus, Mrs. Deborah Dalrymple, noted that she is "happy to see the strength in leadership of the Guild", and looks forward to "more student engagement, certainly among students themselves and between students and staff."

UWI Open Campus students can find out more about their Guild and upcoming activities on Facebook at the following link: https://www.facebook.com/SVGGuildofStudents.

(Contributed by Ronnie Daniel, Marketing Assistant)

It's back again, celebrating her birthday is
Miss adorable Nicolette Anderson
of Barrouallie on the 21st May.
Best wishes coming from her loving grandparents
Kam, Petro, Christopher and Osbourne.
Enjoy your big day. Love you baby girl.

Guess who celebrating on 21st May?
It's Nicolette of Barrouallie.
Greetings from your loving aunts especially, Kayrah.
You are 2 sweet 2 be forgotten.
Love you to the max.

Special birthday greetings to the pride and joy of our hearts, Nicolette of Barrouallie.
Greetings from Mom - Nicola and uncles - Bigman and Smallman. You go girl, it's your big day.

Happy 2nd birthday to Nicolette of Bottle & Glass, Barrouallie.
Greetings from Petro, Ida, Bigman, Smallman and the rest of the family. Luv you loads.

God has taken special time out to create a beautiful garden with petals of beauty in it.
Happy 2nd birthday to Nicolette of Bottle & Glass, Barroualle.
Greetings from Bernard, Breanna, Kayrah, Kam, Elka, Fay and the rest of the family.
Love you so much baby girl.