

Campus Principals' Remarks

Cave Hill Campus Principal Professor Eudine Barriteau

Chancellor, Caribbean philosopher George Lamming reminds us in that brilliantly disturbing essay, **'The Education of Feeling'** "that the central and seminal value of the creative imagination is that it functions as a civilizing force in the process of struggle."

Today, the Cave Hill Campus proudly salutes the elevation and the creative imagination of the 8th Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, Hilary McDonald Beckles.

We commend this most admirable achievement of office, his elevation to the single UWI post where ultimate accountability and responsibility for the direction and development of The University of the West Indies reside. We also observe and commend, an internal, unfolding process of change, his processing and ongoing interpretation of an intellectual struggle to create meaning out of Caribbean historical and contemporary realities.

So today, Chancellor, we celebrate and mark with Hilary Beckles his dual excursions. The first, is his more obvious path through the Caribbean academy. The second is a far more fascinating interior voyage of knowledge making and paradigm shifting.

Cave Hill applauds the journey of this man through the Caribbean academy of the universe of UWI. Over three decades ago, his expedition began geographically, spatially at the Mona Campus with a designation called Assistant Lecturer. It rapidly gathered momentum as Hilary Beckles traversed multiple, socio-cultural, gendered, economic and political spaces within Barbadian society, the Caribbean and the international diasporic and hegemonic communities.

At every point of arrival, Head of the Department of History, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and General Studies, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Board for Undergraduate Studies, Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, at every point of arrival, one was acutely aware that this was no final destination for Hilary Beckles.

These career path punctuations, were never points of disembarkation. Some may have been tempted to interpret the necessary and welcomed expansion of the physical infrastructure of the Cave Hill Campus, as a sign of pitching tent and putting down one's stool. Chancellor we knew these edifices constituted contributions of the creative imagination. It is a glorious sight to view African\Ghanian architecture rising above Barbadian urban villages. Hilary Beckles was determined to translate his vision into civilizing the Cave and humanizing the Hill. We, who were observing him, were very clear, that Hilary Beckles was travelling. We saw that every latest career station or intellectual output, was but another destination on this unfolding, intersecting dual odyssey of interior discovery and public occupation of office.

Hilary Beckles' intellectual departures criss-crossed the educational, policy analysis and economic landscape of Barbados, the region and the Africanized diasporas. On these ideological journeys, he documented, analysed and conceptualized, black rebellion, natural rebels, policy rebellion, economic enfranchisement, democratization of educational access, and reparatory justice.

The Cave Hill Campus thanks Sir Hilary for operationalizing his vision of creating a thoroughly modern Campus, an embryonic University town that would become part of the urban economy and social development of Barbados. This was never a sign of arrival, merely a recognition that the process of educational empowerment continues.

Chancellor, The Cave Hill Campus stands collaboratively and fully with our new Vice Chancellor. We support his mission and mandate to globalize the educational goods and services of The University of the West Indies, and to do so towards deepening the advancement of Commonwealth Caribbean nations. British philosopher Bertrand Russell states, "that history makes one aware that there is no finality in human affairs. There is not a static perfection and an un-improvable wisdom to be achieved."

The Cave Hill Campus gives thanks for the work-in-progress of the journeys of Hilary Beckles.

We do not ask of you perfection, Vice-Chancellor. We do ask for a commitment to improving and using wisdom.

Sir Hilary, 8th Vice Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, continue to make history.