

# Several firsts for SEED Competition

## SEVERAL Firsts in 2019 UWI CIBC First Caribbean International Bank SEED Business Plan Competition

This year was a year of firsts for the UWI CIBC First Caribbean International Bank SEED Business Plan Competition.

Student Entrepreneurial Empowerment Development (SEED) co-ordinator, Ayanna Young Marshall indicated this during her remarks at the UWI 3Ws Pavilion on Wednesday. She revealed that the programme was offered in both semesters (due to demand), there was an adjustment of timing for the course to accommodate retrenched workers and there was an entrepreneurial clinic.

She added that this year, there was the participation of women who had more experience, young men, a retrenched worker and a person living with a disability. She highlighted the research done by her department has shown that the disabled category of entrepreneurs is often neglected but it is one which holds many solutions.

In 2019, there were five SEED Finalists who gave their presentations of their businesses. Kemar Codrington and Mikhail Eversley of Oasis Laboratory spoke about their work of converting sargassum to value-added products and the conservation of the natural environment.

Franz Harewood-Hamblin of Grow Smart Youth Farm said her business' aim is to provide high quality grown vegetables using in-



**Franz Harewood-Hamblin Of Grow Smart Youth Farm received congratulations from Mikhail Eversley Of Oasis Laboratory after both businesses were awarded first place in the CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank SEED Business Plan Competition at the Awards Ceremony, UWI 3Ws Pavilion on Wednesday.**

novative food productions e.g. Aquaponics with the assistance of young people.

Shakayla Jordan of Baem'bu Box spoke about her business which is focused on providing a service to market local beauty products while giving Barbadians an opportunity to try them.

The last two presentations came from Katrina Reece-Burley of Just Believe Children's Salon, a business which will provide hair grooming services to children and teenagers and Sherry-Ann Waithe who was retrenched during the Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation Programme (BERT) showcased Elohim's Senior Care Home.

The SEED co-ordinator announced the winners, a tie between Oasis Laboratory and Grow Smart Youth Farm. In third position was Just Believe Children's Salon

followed by Baem'bu Box. In fifth place was Sherry-Ann Waithe of Elohim's Senior Care Home.

This year's participants would have received a part of \$30,000 to support their ventures with the winners accepting the largest amount.

Earlier in his remarks, Head, Department of Management Studies and SEED Chair, Dr. Dion Greenidge told the audience the campus wanted to empower and develop the students to be business owners and employers.

### New Programme Pending

He added that the department is presently conducting a curriculum review and a new programme, a Bachelor of Science in Management, Entrepreneurship and Innovation is expected to be rolled out at the University of the West Indies (UWI).

"We must see entrepreneurs also in the broader

context where we have students who leave this institution and enter into organisations...where they are also contributing to developing ideas, developing products for companies and being creative and innovative," said Dr. Greenidge.

Past winners of the competition have come from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. The SEED Co-ordinator indicated that all finalists were from Barbados this year. She added that the SEED initiative was created in 2008 and managed by her department since 2009. This is the seventh business plan competition and \$180,000 in funds were allocated to thirty businesses during the six past competitions. CIBC FirstCaribbean sponsored the event as part of its commitment to supporting and developing UWI students around the region.

# 'We Care Day' at Alleyne School

By Shamar Blunt

AROUND 100 volunteers from Barbados' very own Mount Gay Distilleries descended upon the Alleyne School this morning for the company's annual 'We Care Day' activities. We Care Day, is the yearly exercise ran by the company and its employees to give back selflessly to a community or establishment in its efforts to foster strong bonds between the employees and locals.

Managing Director of Mount Gay, Raphael Grizoni, spoke briefly during the school's morning assembly about the history shared between the school and the distillery, and also the company's dedication towards volunteerism within communities.

"We are very honoured with all the Mount Gay staff to be with you today. We are all members of the same family, not only of the Barbadian people but also families of [Sir] John Gay Alleyne that was instrumental to the creation of the distillery, and also this beautiful school. Every year on the 20th of June, we as a company give back to the community. So today we are here with you to do a number of things to make life easier", Grizoni explained.

Workers, who were all decked out in their 'We

Care Day' shirts had a number of tasks to complete during the day, which included the repainting of the school's sports facility building, planting of several trees to help beautify the area, and general landscaping of the property to provide a thorough face lift for the educational institution.

In continuing in their fight to promote better drinking habits among persons, especially during this Crop Over season, Mount Gay also partnered with members of the Substance Abuse Foundation, to speak to the students on the importance of being aware of the pitfalls they will encounter if they abuse alcohol or partake in the use of illegal drugs.

Primary Co-ordinator at the Foundation, Allison Gotip emphasised the need for addicts to seek treatment, but wider education being the key to combating these diseases.

"We have be working very tightly with those who are bound by the disease of the addiction, however we are very mindful that we also need to educate people to understand more about substance misuse. That is why we have partnered with Mount Gay to encourage people especially over this Crop Over season, to be drinking responsibly".

# Strengthening relationships between faiths

## LEADERS from Page 1

Barbadians in regards to crime, and youth delinquency which have seen a rise in numbers over the last year. The Abrahamic faiths (Christianity, Muslim, and Judaism) along with the Rastafarian communities came together during this year's conference to freely discuss pressing matters which affect all faiths in their efforts to strengthen cordial relationships among their groups.

After holding an official walk through the city on

June 17th with students from many of the islands' schools, and the main conference being held at Codrington College the following day, it was yesterday's public discussion at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Conference Centre where many Barbadians turned out to ask the invited faith leaders about pressing issues they think need addressing.

Speakers such as Dr. Michael Clarke, the current chairman of Codrington College, Shaykh Ahmed Saad,

Archbishop Josiah, Ras Iral, and Rabbi Thomas were all in attendance to speak on behalf of their faiths, however, it was Lecturer Alana Griffith who cut to the meat of the matter without hesitation, with her views on the heavy responsibilities faith leaders have over their flock.

"On one hand, religion promotes social cohesion, it brings people together through their rituals and prayers and a common belief system, but at the same time, what it does to those people who do not

share in those religious beliefs; there is a process of exclusion that is created. If you do not understand how the rituals take place then you can feel very much like an outsider. So consequently, there are some people who take it a little further and then you have an intolerance that may develop, where people do not share or are not willing to share in the knowledge or the understanding of the other religions and you have extremism developing."

Archbishop Josiah from Nigeria, who opened his

brief remarks by expressing his joy so far in his visit to the island, warned Barbadians about the pitfalls which have followed societies around the globe when citizens have not embraced the differences amongst each other.

"Do not turn a blind eye at the differences within this country, you are a small country but you are diverse. There are Christians, there are Jews, there are Muslims, there are Rastafarians and there are Buddhists, these differences are important [in] trying to un-

derstand each other. For us Christians, there is that particular lesson in the [Quran] which tells us these differences are a gift from God. Brothers and sisters, the differences will always be there, but please let us use our differences positively."

Minister of People Empowerment and Elderly Affairs, Hon. Cynthia Forde praised the organizers on the success of the conference this year and expressed interest in to seeing the event taking on a permanent annual spot on the calendar.