The University of the West Indies

A Tribute

Prof the Hon. Rex Nettlford for 51 years of service to The UWI 1953-2004

The UWI Years

Rex Nettlford entered the University College of the West Indies in 1953, and emerges for three formative years as which, as a Rhodes Scholar writing his MA in Political Science at Oxford College, Oxford, he caught the curious eyes of Isaiah Berlin, he has never left. He has made Mona his home, the site of his reading and research, his writing and teaching, the nursery of the bold ideas germinated in his creative imagination. From his inconspicuous and humble corner of the campus, underneath the Dallas Mountain overlooking the Mona bowl, the light of his vision was to shine on every island in the chain, from the shamanism to Tobago, from Barbados to Belize, his name known to every Government, and every educator, his expertise and counsel sought by every Prime Minister of his country since 1960 and by many outside.

At every twist and turn in the growth of this University, Rex Nettlford has helped in the steering, quietly, self-effacingly quietly, at the service of every Vice-Chancellor, Lewis, Sherlock – yes, Sherlock his mentor, Marshall, Preston, McIntyre until he himself was propelled into shouldering the heavy cross of care-taker of this crossroad institution, of harnessing fifteen centrifugally-oriented units into a fifteen-stored chariot force of centripetal energy on their course of destiny.

He was there when the one campus became two, and the two three, during the turbulent years of student power, of black power, when gown went to town and changed the nature of our interface, when we grew from an essentially residential to an essentially commuting community of scholars. He was there when the demographic profile of the campuses became national. He was there when the pressure of the north we accommodated, when we adopted a new governance structure, he was there throughout all, studying, counseling, encouraging the age optimist, incorrigibly confident in the wisdom and creative power of the Caribbean people.

Being Caribbean has been, for Rex no matter of accident. It is essence. Watching from his corner as his colleagues promoted the revolution of the working class, in his own softly quiet style his only regret was that in misunderstanding and thus undersizing their own Caribbean reality, they failed to Caribbeanize their effort, in the tradition of CLR James. For his part, he promoted a quest, Caribbean-style, working-class revolution of his own, in founding the Trade Union Education Institute, he equipped thousands of workers from every corner-piece in the region with the intellectual tools to critique the plantations, and guide their own affairs.

Through all, through an amazing career that has swam with the past fifty-five flow of the University, Rex has remained a light of hope and optimism for the future of our region and of our University. A West Indian, a Caribbean Man, he has devoted an entire professional life to the on-going task of Caribbeanizing the Caribbean on the foundation of self-knowledge and identity. Especially in the face of the old obstacles remaining under the name of globalization, we have to hang together as a Caribbean people, he is wont to say, or we shall hang separately.

Through it all, he has remained the same as he always was – the ever accessible scholar and teacher, the quiet champion against academic hierarchies and bata-jos, who finds every barb and vigorous thrust with the spirit-mask of royal bearing, pedigree, flair, presence, grandeur, grandiloquence, grandmother-centred wisdom, we know not who bestows it, but the note.

Quid pro quo? That Hon. Rex, University’s National. What’s his name? What’s this? King indeed, of our University?

– Barry W. Chinna-nes

Quotations: 1. All Honors Rex University National. 2. What’s his name? What a man! King, indeed, of our University!

Barry Chinna-nes
Mona Declaration on Tertiary & Higher Education

The University of the West Indies deems it critical that the Region adopt an appropriate policy framework for the promotion of tertiary education that is central to the creation of the intellectual capital required for stimulating development and creation of a competitive society in a globalised economy. Accordingly, the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, staged a conference entitled 'Revisiting Tertiary and Higher Education Policy in Jamaica: Towards Personal Gain or Public Good' at the Mona Campus between August 27 and 29, 2004.

Based on the deliberations at the conference and taking account of the proposals contained in a number of studies and reports on tertiary and higher education and, in particular, the policy paper entitled 'A Proposal for a National Tertiary Education System for Jamaica' prepared by the Research and Policy Group (RPG), the following principles are advanced as the Mona Declaration on Tertiary and Higher Education.

1. Given the importance of education in the development process, an adequate allocation of resources should be provided to the sector on the basis of a formula that projects an annual growth in the allocation consistent with the needs of the sector.

2. In view of the special role of tertiary and higher education in generating the intellectual capital required for increased competitiveness in the global economy and the creation of a knowledge-based society, the allocation of resources (from both government and non-government sources) to this sector should be maintained at a level necessary to ensure that tertiary enrolment reach a target of 30% of the eligible age cohort, in order to bring such enrolment to a level consistent with that reached in some countries in Latin America.

3. Since tertiary and higher education promote both personal growth and societal goals, the formula for financing tertiary education should be based on a combination of government support and an expanded loan scheme to enable a larger number of students to finance their education as an economic investment.

4. The collaboration among tertiary level and higher education institutions should be intensified in order to create an 'integrated system' for the delivery of education at this level, while permitting greater variety and flexibility in course delivery in keeping with the areas of specialisation of the various institutions.

5. While seeking to expand access, increased attention should be paid to the maintenance of standards which is a prerequisite for maintaining the reputation of tertiary and higher education institutions in the region and assuring prospective employers of the quality of the degrees and certificates issued by these institutions.

6. Since education is an important vehicle for the preservation and transmission of national culture, an increased effort should be made to ensure that important elements of culture are incorporated in the education system.

7. An increased effort should be made to involve prospective employers in course design in order to take into account their requisites in the structuring of the curriculum of tertiary and higher education institutions.

8. Increased use should be made of communication and information technologies in the delivery of tertiary and higher education in order to satisfy the educational needs of communities outside of Kingston (and indeed of non-campus territories in the wider Caribbean).

9. Tertiary and higher level education should allocate increased resources to the analysis of issues of vital concern to the government and the country at large in order to provide policy options for addressing the multifaceted challenges presented by a rapidly changing national and international environment occasioned by the impact of globalization.

10. A suitable policy approach should be adopted (based on increased regional co-ordination) in order to ensure that the liberalisation of educational services does not undermine the integrity of indigenous tertiary and higher educational institutions in Jamaica and elsewhere in the Caribbean. At the same time such a policy stance should seek to strengthen the role of regional institutions in the delivery of educational services outside the region.

11. In an effort to increase their competitiveness, tertiary level and higher education institutions should seek to develop creative curricula and course offerings which seek to promote an increasing interdisciplinary approach, particularly between social sciences and pure and applied sciences in order to respond to an emerging techno-economic paradigm.

12. Innovative forms of governance should also be introduced into the organisation and management of tertiary level and higher education institutions in order to improve effectiveness and decision-making and ensure the more efficient delivery of services.

13. Tertiary level and higher education institutions should adopt new approaches to conceptualising and designing their physical facilities both to increase student satisfaction and, where appropriate, promote income-generating activities.

14. The University Council of Jamaica should play a proactive role in seeking to establish a framework for the functioning of tertiary and higher education institutions with an emphasis on increased collaboration among the various institutions and the maintenance of adequate standards.

15. A suitable policy should be adopted (preferably in concert with other Caribbean governments) towards off-shore education institutions in order to establish a better undertaking of their places in the delivery of tertiary and higher level education.

16. Based on the transformational character of tertiary and higher level education and its significant contribution to development, as is affirmed by economic growth accounting models, it is important for governments and other stakeholders to reassess the place of education in the overall development process in terms of its relationship to other sections of the economy.

The principles embodied in the Mona Declaration are intended to emphasise the central transformational role of education and also provide a broad framework for orienting tertiary and higher level education policy as an indispensable element in the development of modern societies capable of generating increased levels of growth and human development and thereby to compete effectively in a rapidly globalising world.
Tribute to Professor Rex Nettleford

From the University Council

Rex Nettleford is not only the first graduate of the University of the West Indies to head this institution; he is also among its longest-serving staff members. In the words of the Public Orator Emeritus, "Professor Nettleford is the finest and most distinguished graduate of our University, for the combined quality and range of his achievements, together with the fact that these achievements for the most part have been accomplished in service to the University... This University has been the Vice-Chancellor's career and vocation. His life has been seamlessly intertwined with the life of the University of the West Indies and his career is almost co-terminous with the life of the University to date... Although he is not strictly one of the Founding Fathers, he is the next best seamless interlude with the life of the University of Oxford, as a Rhodes Scholar reading for his PhD in Political Science, he never left. It is indeed difficult to think of anyone who knows the UWI more intimately, more widely, at all the levels of its social structure and who can understand the nuances of its political heartbeat. He has served in his quiet, self-effacing way, five Vice-Chancellors - Sir Arthur Lewis, his mentor, Sir Philip Sherlock who, as he is fond of recounting, offered him a position as Staff Tutor in the Eastern Caribbean, in what was then known as Extra Mural Studies, for a far less attractive salary than what he could have earned otherwise, knowing full-well that he would jump at the challenge; Sir Roy Marshall, Mr A.Z. Preston and Sir Alister McIntyre - until he himself took the mantle in 1998.

He has served in this position with distinction. His legacy will be his unwavering commitment to regionalism; the introduction of Foundation Courses aimed at ensuring that the UWI produces graduates who are rounded individuals, grounded in an appreciation of the Caribbean's history and culture and of their places in this space as Caribbean people; his nurturing and promotion of Cultural Studies, which may yet emerge as the most marketable output of the Universities of the West Indies in this globalised world; his appreciation that our multi-sourced existence, for all its contradictions, is the greatest asset of the Caribbean people; and probably most importantly, that he has set the standard for a managerial style grounded in old-fashioned gentility and the ability to allow all views to contend, while achieving consensus.

Our Vice Chancellor is a man as quick on his feet as he is with a clever turn of phrase. His gift of erudition, combined with his inability to decline appeals for contributions of his talents in this area, have resulted in his maintenance of a speaking schedule that would daunt normal mortals. He has written many fine books and contributed chapters to many more. The texts of his speeches covering a wide range of topics, yet to be catalogued, occupy no less than five filing cabinets - enough grist for many more fine books.

It is said that a prophet is not without honour except in his own country. This is not entirely true of Professor the Honourable Rex Nettleford. He is easily the best known and most loved intellectual, certainly in Jamaica and to only a lesser extent, in the wider region. He has been conferred with numerous academic honours and has received from the Government of Jamaica the highest national award which a civilian can earn - the Order of Merit. He has been consulted by just about every Government in the Caribbean region, including of the non-English speaking countries and has served in an advisory capacity to several international organisations, including CARICOM, the Organisation of American States, UNESCO, the ILO, the World Bank and the International Development Research Council (IDRC), of which he is a founding director.

In addition to the Order of Merit, he is recipient of the Gold Musgrave Medal from the Institute of Jamaica, of which he was also named an Honorary Fellow; The Living Legend Award from the Black Arts Festival, in Atlanta, USA; The Zora Neale Hurston-Paul Robeson Award, from the National Council for Black Studies, the UWI Pelican Award among many others. It is with a sense of great pride and gratitude that we have now endorsed the latest and most lasting accolade - the establishment of the Nettleford Prize in Cultural Studies by the Rhodes Trust - which will ensure that his name and work will live on in perpetuity. It is fitting that one of the conditions of the prize is that studies be pursued at the University of the West Indies. The Institution and Nettleford are thereby inextricably intertwined. He would not have had it any other way!

April 23, 2004

A Man For All Seasons

Honouring

Professor

The Honourable

Rex Nettleford...

for contributing over

50 YEARS

of solid service towards nation building

Jamaica National

Building Society

WE'LL HELP YOU FIND A WAY!
Tribute to Professor Rex Nettleford
51 years of service to the UWI
(1953 - 2004)

Commendations
Outstanding leadership

There are not many men who from their youthful days influence those who come within reach of their presence. Professor Rex Nettleford, from his teen age years, began to influence not only the youths that were his contemporaries but older persons as well. In the community in which he grew, the schools he attended and in fact all the organisations with which he associated, it was evident that he loved all the people around him and they in turn loved and respected him. Truly, every village wanted to have him; every civic body wanted to hear him speak, as he knew how to reach and inspire his audience. No wonder he is one of the best loved persons in our country. In truth, he has been an instrument of change. Indeed, at the national level he brought a new dimension in the arts, in culture and scholarship. As Lecturer, Professor and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, his influence reached out, not only in the Caribbean but to the wider world, where Oxford University honoured him for outstanding leadership.

The Government and People of Jamaica gave Professor Nettleford one of his highest honours, the Order of Merit, for the exceptional contribution that he has made to our country.

With the vitality that he possesses, I am sure that he will continue to be of great service to the world as he continues to make his presence, intellect and knowledge available to all.

His voice will continue to resonate beyond the Caribbean

Professor Rex Nettleford is a colonial figure in the intellectual and cultural arenas of the African Diaspora and deservedly so, as no other person has so single-handedly created and eloquently defined a space that our peoples are at last beginning to accept as a legitimate rendering of their collective identity.

His vast repertoire of works in academia and culture consistently provided the mirror through which Caribbean people specifically, and blacks in the Diaspora generally, could undertake the often uncomfortable and painful examination of self.

He has become a potent voice in and beyond the Caribbean by marshalling the obvious forces of his genius, among them linguistics subterfuge to counter the so-called intellectual and cultural hegemony of the Western world and to call into question our own uncritical, even if at times uncomfortable, acceptance of the space that has been assigned to us. Professor Nettleford’s work at the University of the West Indies both as academican and artist defines his unique trio use his own words, “perceptivity to march under the surface of Caribbean life and to help to construct an alternative space for the peoples of the Caribbean.

As Professor Nettleford demits office as Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, I wish to express my personal appreciation for his contribution to the development of Jamaica and the region as a whole. His retirement will leave a yawning chasm at the University of the West Indies but as a Caribbean saying, no loss is irreparable. His voice will continue to resonate beyond the Caribbean, as he continues his quest for new ways of thinking and living in the region.

Outstanding leadership

Education makes you trainable.
Training makes you employable.

"Most people don't realise how intensive HEART training can be and the high level of instruction a trainee receives. I came to HEART with a solid general education and a desire to excel. At HEART, I learned to think creatively and it helped to prepare me to become a professional in my chosen field."

UONIE LYN

JCDC 2003 Jamaican Chef of the Year
Ritz-Carlton Rosehall Supervisory Cook
HEART Culloden Training Centre Westmoreland
NCTVET Certification in Food Preparation, 2000
Black River High School St. Elizabeth Graduate

The National Training Agency
Honouring Professor The Honourable Rex Nettleford
for celebrating over 50 years of service towards nation building.

A defining legacy

The man who gets ahead is the man who does more than is necessary and keeps on doing it." Professor Rex Nettleford is a model of this truism. The rewards of his dedicated efforts manifest themselves in the outstanding achievements of his academic career.

A distinguished scholar with a commanding grasp of understanding the dynamics of society, Rex Nettleford correctly identified the role of culture as the underlying imperative of the development process. He has written extensively and spoken intensively from his broad base of cultural understanding, particularly on the Caribbean psyche. His contributions have been authoritative and invaluable. After 51 years at the University of the West Indies, first as student, then member of the academic staff and finally in the leadership role of Vice-Chancellor, it can be said that no one knows the University better than Rex Nettleford. He brought to the leadership of the institution remarkable powers of conciliation and consensus building which allowed him to forge ahead with the development of the institution in the broader environment of the globalised world.

Edward Seaga Leader of the Opposition

Sunday, September 26, 2004 A JAMAICA OBSERVER SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE
Recollection of the early years

By Mary Morgan

Our sixth Vice Chancellor is fond of recounting his arrival at Mona, grip in hand, for the Michaelmas Term 1953-4 which began on Sunday October 4, 1953. Twenty years earlier, Rex Nettleford, scholarship winner from Cornwall College, had come by train on Saturday, 1st from Montego Bay to Kingston, taken a bus from downtown Kingston to Papine and walked in from there. It was a wet afternoon, imagine it a new student - a freshman - carrying an old suitcase, loping through the rain to Taylor Hall. "The Hall of Hills", in this new elite University College of the West Indies, built to educate future leaders of the region.

It was a measure of the young man that Rex Nettleford was then, that he felt no way diminished by the manner of his arrival at Taylor Hall. Indeed, it didn't take him long to shine there and to show his leadership qualities elsewhere on campus. It is a measure of the quality of Professor the Honorable' Edith Milton Nettleford, Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies that today, in all his academic, artistic, cultural accomplishments, he can look back with gratitude to his growing up in straitened circumstances and going through universities - innumerable, showing brough to light that there was no shame in being poor, that humility and hard work were critical keys to life and happiness, that generosity of spirit was a desiring and made a false companion.

Goodwill tour 1955

Extra-mural Department frequently, he joined the Dramatic and Historical Societies; he started a dance group, he spoke out in tutorials and at general meetings of the student body. Later, his leadership skills honed, he was appointed to chair two special committees of the Guild Council.

Early days at UCWI

Vice Principal Philip Sherlock. Director of Extra-mural Studies, always looking for future stars to polish, encouraged young Nettleford to drop in and talk to him about the founding of the college, the mainland territories and other islands of the region, Public Relations Officer Cedric Lorde, in the office next door, was also very welcoming. Rex soon became a sort of "Man Friday" in the Extra-mural Department - rolling off papers running meetings sitting in for the secretaries, etc.

The Dramatic Society played a clear and disciplined group led by Extra-mural Drama Tutor Errol Hall. We put on two or three productions a year - all great public interest - with commercial prizes in the annual Jamaica Drama Festivals. Among other parts, Rex played Johnnie in Nevin on Casey's "Ancestral" and the Prince in a sensitive part in "The Madness of King Christopher". He also had the leading roles in several other productions. We rehearsed and played the parts in the drama he was to do in a production which won plaudits from Gleaner critic Harry Miller.

A history of leadership, Rex was elected President of the Historical Society for two consecutive years. at a time of great political ferment in the region, when the West Indies Federation was born and briefly lived (1954-58). Most of us in the Society were fervent federalists, but I don't think the UCWI or the West Indies cricket team were all about? Some discussed both these matters at the Students' Union with young members of staff Leslie Robinson (Maths lecturer 1949), E.V. Eltington (Biochemistry lecturer 1950), Roy Asgier (History lecturer 1954), Hugh Holness (Bursary monitor of Union accounts), and others. Once Rex invited the Governor, Sir Hugh Font, to address the Society, on Federation from the British viewpoint. Mr Nettleford was promptly summoned to the Principal's office, where Dr George Sternbeck rebuked him for failing to observe protocol. Rex apologised, the Governor spoke, and the Principal, with other university officers, attended.

Barbara Goodison (Gloudon) and colleague Lettice Small never missed a UCWI Dramatic Society Production. As a young Gleaner Feature Writer, Barbara came to know Rex well, when he joined the Ivy Baxter Dance Group in 1954; they became firm friends from them. She vividly remembers the discussions, the Federation parties and formal balls at the Union.

And on public holidays?

On public holidays we went on picnics, beach outings, to the cinema. Pam Morris and Rex helped me organise the first picnic to Kinny. About 25 of us crossed the Hope River above Papine, using the wobbly old Bailey Bridge (a formidable venture!), and ran down the slope to the idyllic Boy Scouts' camping site. When we wanted to go to the beach, we had to seek permission from Wardens for persons listed not to be absent from campus, and from Major Karl Craig, the Neward, to use the beach, before requisitioning the bus to transport us to the university beach at Lynxom, St Thomas. We also went in groups to the cinema, taking public transport to miniature shows at Eath Cinema; or to night shows at the open air Tropical Cinema, also at Gros Road.

The Dance and Gymnastics Group started by Rex Nettleford and Kathleen Berthusen Ruben's (Warmunt) used to arrange long walks on moonlight nights to Half Way Tree, then into the Mag scenery. Then the students, who don't have any reference books..."

We had breakdancing, "breaking", which delighted Eastern Caribbean ears. One night a birthday party was held by the rivet, for Gem Smokey (1966). We were raced, and we were surprised and pleased with the positive reaction.

Being groomed for leadership

Meanwhile Rex Nettleford was being groomed for a leadership post in the Extra-mural Department. Philip Manderson, his Munderson Nettleford union to join Sir Philip but known to us as "PM" was his mentor, role model, encourager. PM gave Rex a job as Secretary to the进choir. was a Workshop held early in the summer vacation 1953. A few other students with miscellaneous duties reported to him. We worked out of one of the old wooden huts on the road to the Students' Union.

Leonde Forbes was a secretary in the department at that time. Learning from Louise Bennett, Ivy Baxter and Trinidad's Beryl McBurnie at the workshop was a tremendous experience, not only for Rex, but for us all.

Landmark goodwill tour to USA

Rex was appointed Tour Leader by the Guild Council, for the six-week goodwill tour of the eastern US from Miami to New York, August 15 - September 29, 1955. Sammy Blackwood as Guild President had negotiated this break-through in student international relations; a first outside of USA, Europe; when low-cost international educational travel was offered to UCWI students under the sponsorship of the Association for World Travel Exchange, and 25 of us took UCWI and the region to the USA, in style! It was an exhilarating learning and teaching experience!

Picnic at Kintyre

Tour leader Rex made it clear from the beginning, before we left Jamaica, that this tour was "by no means a joyride." We were ambassadors for the university. We had to prepare to speak about our respective territories and the university on radio and television and at public meetings; we had to rehearse folk songs and movements; he and Hugh Wyrstter would take care of the stories. And on the journey, Rex stepped lightly, manoeuvred politely between latent prejudices, precipitate objections and incomprehensions, as much within our group as in the host society. So we grew to understand each other, our own cultural nuances, and the Caribbean, and our generous sponsors and hosts - even as we literally saw for the first time segregation signs in the USA.

Boca Raton, Florida; a little tumbledown shack for blacks. Rex asked the US tour guide to tell the concessionaires in the whites only dining room that there was a British group on the bus. So we climbed the pearly steps. chatting in the most English of accents; sat in the elegant dining room and were served, still chatting ebulliently. Several would be patrons turned back when they saw us.

Savannah, Georgia: same tactics repeated. This time we were served buffet style. But when the bus pulled out of the bus, we heard a cracking sound; the tour guide told us that they were breaking the crockery we had used!

Charleston, South Carolina: our tour leader decided that we would get off at that stop. The bus stops experiences aside. Southern USA hospitality was warm and friendly. Host families black and white, church or university related... had scarcely heard of the British West Indies. But all wanted to learn; children got out their world atlases and globes; adults talked with us far into the night. And our arrangements paid off; we showed the region and our university. We were interviewed. We addressed audiences, we performed. We took part in radio and panel discussions. discourses and presentations at functions and receptions.

We shot the UCWI colour film and film from the Jamaica Film Unit (Franklyn "Chappie" St Jute was working there then). We visited universities and interacted with their students. We were received by mayors. West Indian students at Howard took us around in their taxis. In New York we visited the United Nations and were honoured to speak with UN Secretary General Ralph Bunche on his work.

A sense of community: bonding across the region

UCWI students were banded by a strong sense of community - we recognised that, together with staff, we were a true university; a community of scholars. Ours was a fully residential institution, so we felt ourselves to be a campus community, developing a feeling of closeness and belonging. Our own awareness throughout the region, we knew ourselves to be a Caribbean community.

We were from UCWI student, UWJ student, Honourable Vice Chancellor - this gifted gracious generous person who is just Rex whom we love - who has always reflected the spirit of community in a special, unselfishness, a sense of ultimate Caribbeanness.
Tribute to Professor Rex Nettleford
51 years of service to the UWI
(1953 - 2004)

Reflections
Esmond D. Ramesar

Much has been written and will be written about Rex Nettleford's contribution to academia, and to the cultural life of Jamaica and the Caribbean. I will deal with selected glimpses into some aspects of his life, which are known to me.

I first knew Rex Nettleford as a bright young undergraduate in the early 1950s when I attended UCWI, Mona. We later renewed our fellowship in the mid-50s when he became Resident Tutor for Jamaica and I was a part-time lecturer with the Extra-Mural Department. On my return to Jamaica, after a three-year stint in Ghana, I was appointed Resident Tutor for Trinidad & Tobago and thus became a colleague of Rex. A little later Rex was appointed Director of Extra-Mural Studies. When the name of the Department changed to the School of Continuing Studies, Rex continued as its Director, while I was appointed Associate Director & Head of the School of Continuing Studies on the St. Augustine (Trinidad) Campus. Our convergent understanding of university adult education may well have shaped the development of adult education within the University.

During the mid 70s, a delegation from The University of the West Indies was invited by the Association of Atlantic Universities to visit certain Maritime universities - Dalhousie, Memorial, Acadia, Mount Allison, U.N.B. - in order to observe, at first hand, the operation of distance education at these institutions. Rex Nettleford led the delegation. Members of our delegation as well as members of the host universities were very excited and inspired by the way Rex spoke, and by his leadership capacity. I remember him using one of his favourite quotes, viz., "You cannot eat your cake and count your calories", at one of the meetings.

Perhaps inspired by his short spell as Resident Tutor in Trinidad in the early 60s, Rex seemed to have developed a taste for Trinidad curry and roti. So, whenever I went to meetings or conferences in Jamaica, I often took packets of curry powder for him but I do not know whether he did any cooking himself. Recently, since my retirement, he found time to visit me at home on occasions when I was recovering from major surgery, and he was on the St. Augustine Campus attending official engagements as Vice-Chancellor.

Rex is a friend and brother.

Jean Smith
Consultant to the Vice Chancellor

Robert Henry
Resident Tutor, St Augustine Campus (1967-69)

Rex Nettleford has been a source of inspired leadership, to all kinds of people across and beyond the Caribbean for over 50 years.

For many people, to start and sustain a national cultural organisation of excellence would represent a lifetime of achievement. Ivy Baxter was not able to do it. Neither did Dennis Scott or Faye Simpson, or Torrance Mohammed or Beryl McBurnie. However, Beryl is acknowledged as the Grand Dame of Caribbean Dance, and electrified the Jamaican theatre with the performances of her dancers in the late fifties. Rex saw and seized the opportunity, and invited them to mount an Extra Mural Summer School in Caribbean Dance at Mona with people like the Maurice sisters, Ken Henry and Buddy Paugatt. The Jamaican National Dance Theatre Company never looked back; the experience from helping to run that project was very useful in planning later Summer Schools in St Augustine.

Peter Minshall

Sadler's Wells Theatre in London stirs extraordinary images and memories. It was there some thirty years ago that I took my own first big step in design for the theatre with the set and costumes for "Beauty and the Beast", a full-length two-act musical.

Jean Smith, Consultant to the Vice Chancellor

Robert Henry, Resident Tutor, St Augustine Campus (1967-69)

No Limits
to Progress

Thank you, Professor Rex Nettleford.

Your contribution to the University of the West Indies resonates throughout Jamaica, and indeed the world.

For more than 50 years you have ignited the Caribbean with your imagination and inspired us with your passion for excellence.

In your work and words you have added currency to the idea that there are no limits to progress.
ballet which premiered at the Wells to mark the inauguration of the Scottish Theatre Ballet. It was at Sadler’s Wells that I experienced my first complete live opera, Wagner’s “Gotterdammerung”, in a production by the English National Opera. It was wonderful. I can see me now, my chin on my knees, the young man as an artist, not long from Trinidad, looking down from the Gods as from another planet. By looking at the triumphs of the world out there, so splendidly staged, I was beginning to see and appreciate my own self more clearly.

If in London I was gradually finding myself, it was at Sadler’s Wells one night that I saw myself most gloriously revealed. The National Dance Company of Jamaica was performing under the vibrant young leadership of Rex Nettleford. I had never seen or even heard of the man. I had never seen or even heard of the Company. But that night at Sadler’s Wells I experienced “Kumina”. The experience remains indelible. “Kumina” raised the spirit of that first night audience to the rafters. They were dancing down the aisles. I was dancing too. The young lion Rex Nettleford literally breathed the fire of the Caribbean into the house. The place lit up with celebration. The Company danced with such heart and generosity. The dancing and the singing were pure, simple, elegant, fresh, so original, so new to the world, so “us” as a people, so Caribbean. There are few times in my life I have felt as proud, as happy to be me, to see myself so beautifully expressed by fellow Caribbean artists in a public place. What joy! And what a public place, Mister Sadler’s well was overflowing with the healing powers.

Rex Nettleford’s life as a scholar and an artist has been devoted to the expressions of the Caribbean. He understands and loves the curious collective “us”. We are original and we are rare. We are pain and we are joy. We are richly textured and we are held. We are so unlike the others. We are truly very interesting in our souls. Rex Nettleford knows this. Rex Nettleford burns with the fire of the Caribbean. He breathes it. We must be grateful to him. The world is getting to know us through him. But more than that, we are getting to know ourselves.

Geof Brown

We were both young men in our early twenties or late teens. I was an avid party-goer and had developed a reputation as a good dancer. Young women were happy to line up for a chance to dance with me. On one party occasion, I was dancing with the “pick of the crop”. My partner and I were doing so well that we became the stars of the floor with others stepping back to watch us.

All of a sudden, the young lady made a dash from my arms, exclaiming “Here comes Rex!” She left me standing right there in the middle of the floor as she rushed to embrace the newcomer who was indeed, you guessed it, Rex Nettleford. All she wanted was the privilege of dancing with him before anyone else did. Understand that in the context of those times when courtesy and “proper behaviour” were very much in vogue, this almost brazen act by my dancing partner was landmark behaviour.

And so it was that I had a dramatic preview—albeit at my expense—of Rex Nettleford bound for dancing fame. Had I known what his future held at the time, I would not have been nearly as embarrassed as I was. My dancing partner was clearly a good judge of superior talent. The rest is history.

The next time I encountered Rex, he was doing dancing lessons with one of the Baxter sisters (was it Ivy?). But soon, he was going to leave that mentor behind, no less than I was left behind on the dance floor as his superior talent took centre stage.

Geof Brown

We were both young men in our early twenties or late teens. I was an avid party-goer and had developed a reputation as a good dancer. Young women were happy to line up for a chance to dance with me. On one party occasion, I was dancing with the “pick of the crop”. My partner and I were doing so well that we became the stars of the floor with others stepping back to watch us.

All of a sudden, the young lady made a dash from my arms, exclaiming “Here comes Rex!” She left me standing right there in the middle of the floor as she rushed to embrace the newcomer who was indeed, you guessed it, Rex Nettleford. All she wanted was the privilege of dancing with him before anyone else did. Understand that in the context of those times when courtesy and “proper behaviour” were very much in vogue, this almost brazen act by my dancing partner was landmark behaviour.

And so it was that I had a dramatic preview—albeit at my expense—of Rex Nettleford bound for dancing fame. Had I known what his future held at the time, I would not have been nearly as embarrassed as I was. My dancing partner was clearly a good judge of superior talent. The rest is history.

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Reflections

Continued from page 7

on the wearisome socio-political contortions of our space! We have come to admire the far-thing, octopoduous seeing of his arms and the depth of his anthropological embrace, even when, his would have been more effective sermons for change, were it not for that penchant of West Indian charm and wit for alternating laughter with cries which he possesses and which softens his bite, mellow his resolve.

But, is it with a brilliant prow of Caribbean genius and nobility, he achieves that leisure among forests of words, abloom with hypotheses that lift us, to see music, to hear colour, to taste sound; to touch the invisible and to know what heralds our Homecoming!

George John
Humming Bird Medal (Gold), D. Litt
(Hon) UWI

Rex Nettleford made me feel good two years ago when he launched a book of my journalism memoirs in felicitation language and he indicated that we, the two of us, held something in common. His story was that as a youth he worked as a cub reporter at the same newspaper where in my middle age I laboured in the newsroom.

That’s about all he and I have in common. I don’t share his high intellect. I don’t hold membership among his prestigious Rhodes scholarship fraternity. I can’t hold-audiences spellbound, as he does, when he speaks at home and abroad on the culture and society of the region. Nor have I ever choreographed a Caribbean ballet, or danced on stage. or created a National Dance Theatre Company, as he has done for Jamaica.

A man of many parts, an artist of his time, his championing of his people, and his formidable powers of oratory, earned him as he ceased, sweet-talked, lectured (and if necessary) bullied his colleagues and others to do the right thing. Above all he never lost sight of the central mandate of the University: to develop and enhance the culture (and he always uses that term in its widest possible sense) of the Caribbean as the region’s indispensable contribution to world civilisation. We in the University’s humanities family are proud to claim Rex Nettleford as especially our own, and to acknowledge with gratitude his inspirational leadership of the Cultural Studies programmes which now flourish throughout UWI.

Maud Fuller
President UWWA, UWI

To people who have only heard the name, Rex Nettleford remains an intriguing figure. The perception of him is tinged with an element of the mystique. He is an academician who flits with dance! Or a dancer dabbling in academics. To Caribbean people abroad, this is no quandary. “De man ‘ave enough brain to do anything he set his mind to.” “Brains even eina im foot dem.” “You a tek jokes; but it tek brains to make up dem deh monarch.”

These comments were from ladies dissecing the performance of the NOTC after a Toronto Concert in 1999.

But here is the compliment supreme. Professor had just finished an open lecture at University of Toronto and a group of Caribbean men and women who had led the region’s difficult yet joyous journey of self-discovery and self-definition. As Vice-Chancellor over the last six years, he brought to that office his immense qualities of wisdom and humanism, his ability to inspire people, and his formidable powers of persuasion, as he described over what they had heard, when one of them went off topic to ask, “Gentlemen, what you think of Nettleford?” The least talkative among them blurted out without the slightest hesitation, “Him is the Caribbean’s Maximum Son.”

Bridget Breerton
Professor of History, St. Augustine

A proud Jamaican, yet also quintessentially a regional player, for over four decades Rex Nettleford has been one of that small band of men and women who have led the region’s difficult yet joyous journey of self-discovery and self-definition. As Vice-Chancellor over the last six years, he brought to that office his immense qualities of wisdom and humanism, his ability to inspire people, and his formidable powers of persuasion, as he described over what they had heard, when one of them went off topic to ask, “Gentlemen, what you think of Nettleford?” The least talkative among them blurted out without the slightest hesitation, “Him is the Caribbean’s Maximum Son.”

Lilith Nelson
Coordinator, International & Special Groups Programme, UWI

Prof., (as I call him with the warmth of admiration coupled with respect), is the visionary, unparalleled in his institution, with respect to his international perspective and his deep understanding of the ethos and culture of our regional university. One of the first things he said to me as I reported for work was “welcome to chaos, but one which forces us to use our creative imagination to make sense of it”. Indeed, those years spent working with Prof. had provided the opportunity for me to walk between the randraps, to find structure and produce positive results, always within the context of making the point.

It was exhilarating to stop in to see Prof early in the morning, to seek advice or ascertain his perspective on an issue I was to argue in the course of carrying out my responsibilities, or as sought to re-fashion a plan in the interest of sensitively managing change. Community Development, left with a renewed sense of purpose and validity, with a smile on my face and a spring in my steps, because Prof had not only got immediately into the centre of the problem and given guidance out of his unique intuitive and erudite approach, but had engaged me in stimulating discussion, as we faced on current issues in our world. quick analysis of the most recent performance of whichever group was on stage during that week, nodded me towards completing a book or continuing with life-long learning, and dispatched me with utmost respect and a “bless you!”

Dr Veronica Salter
Managing Editor, Caribbean Quarterly

Working alongside Professor Nettleford one cannot help but notice the values that shape his life:

In the worst of crises he appears calm, thus helping others to cope. Once, on a very turbulent flight, with the passengers in panic, Prof sat calmly reading a magazine. Then someone noticed that it was upside- down! When a large earth tremor was underway, Professor stood calmly and kept strength kept him balanced when a rather robust officer attendant in her fringt, leapt into his arms, hugging him and saying: “Generosity...”

Without accolades, press coverage of “photo ops”, he has given personal cheques for fees, medical expenses and other necessities to hundreds of benefactors. He once paid for a replacement donkey which was the source of income for an elderly man. He set up a special account for students to be able to get something to eat when rehearsing at the Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts. He even paid students to account were made by.

Graciousness and Respect

High praise from Rex Nettleford is to be having a “generosity of spirit”, which he himself epitomises as he looks always for the good in any person, and for their strengths, which no correction needs to be made, it is done in confidentiality, on a one-to- one basis. He allows people to ‘save face’ when the issues persons their due and credit for their accomplishments. He refers to all co-workers, whatever category, by their title, and never on a first name basis, in order to have a closer relationship he has with them. When titles change, he writes and informs his team of the encumbent’s new title.

Beverley Pereira
Chair of the Jamaican branch of the UWI Guild of Graduates presents the Pelican Award to Professor the Hon Rex Nettleford, 1990.

Thoughtfulness

Personal letters are sent to every University employee who has achieved national, international or academic honours. His own staff receives individual hand-written letters of appreciation at Christmas, and on other special occasions. He cuts out every article of relevance from foreign newspapers and magazines and sends them to persons who share that field of interest. He never went to Europe without asking me if I needed a letter posted to my mother.

Brath

Professor Nettleford recycled paper before it became fashionable to do so. More important, he has never squandered a dollar of University money on non-essential items. When a chair breaks, it can be replaced! A few years ago, a young accounting clerk enthusiastically ordered plants for the office. On meeting him, Prof asked, “look out the window and tell me what you see?” “Grass and trees,” and “Plants”, “And that’s where they should remain.”

Marva Phillips
Staff Tutor in Labour Education School of Continuing Studies, UWI

In 1982 when the male leadership of the Caribbean Trade Union Movement sought to wage war against their junior female clerks, Lilieth Nelson was among those on strike. Without knowing how the superior female clerks would react to their junior female clerks, his good will and generosity, his understanding and respect, his extraordinary artistic talents which he shares with such ease are.

Beverley Pereira, Chair of the Jamaican branch of the UWI Guild of Graduates presents the Pelican Award to Professor the Hon Rex Nettleford, 1990.

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The early years...

Undergraduate Rex Nettleford being interviewed by Willie Richardson, Public Relations Officer for the West Indian Federation.

Rex Nettleford, Staff Tutor, Extra-Mural Studies, giving a lecture at a Trade Union Workshop in Guyana, 1961.

Caribbean’73


As Director of Studies, Trade Union Education Institute, with Trade Union leaders, participants in a one-month course, 1978.


You have worked tirelessly to build our nation, making a sterling contribution to our educational process as well as our cultural legacy.

We thank you for your vision and dedication to the development of our country over the past 50 years.

Scotiabank salutes Professor The Hon. Rex Nettleford, a true Nation Builder
...the office of Vice Chancellor

Jubilant well-wishers congratulate Prof. the Hon Rex Nettleford following the University Council meeting in April 1998, which decided to appoint him Vice Chancellor of the UWI.

Nettleford being capped by University Registrar, Gloria Barrett-Sobers, at his Installation Ceremony, while former UWI Chancellor Sir Shridath Ramphal looks on (1998).

Presenting the Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence to Professor Terrence Forrester, Head of the Tropical Medicine Research Institute.

With (L-R) Chancellor, Sir Shridath Ramphal, Professor Ken Hall and Professor Hilary Beckles.

VC Nettleford at meeting of the Board, American Foundation for UWI (AFUWI), chaired by Karl Rodney (c.), New York.

Cutting the ribbon to declare open the refurbished Sir Frank Worrell Cricket Ground at Mona. Also in the picture are former WI Cricket captain, Courtney Walsh; Ian Fleming, captain of the visiting New Zealand team, and Prof Kenneth Hall, Principal of the Mona campus.

Nettleford shares the podium with acclaimed author and poet Maya Angelou and world famous performer Mr Harry Belafonte (NY Gala, 1999).

THE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, JAMAICA SALUTES

Professor, the Honourable

REX NETTLEFORD

For his outstanding contribution to education. We wish you continued success in your future endeavours.

"Excellence Through Knowledge"
Honours and Awards
Rhodes Trust, Oxford, Establishes Rex Nettleford Prize in Cultural Studies

The governing Council of The University of the West Indies (UWI) has approved a proposal from the Rhodes Trust to establish in the Caribbean the Rex Nettleford Prize in Cultural Studies, on a permanent basis, tenable at the UWI. The Prize was proposed by the Rhodes Trustees as an appropriate way to mark the centenary of the Rhodes Scholarships in the Caribbean. In a letter to Professor Nettleford from the Rhodes Trust, he was advised that the intention is built to honour his own contribution to higher education and to the cultural life of the Caribbean, and to nurture talent in the Caribbean in these areas.

Council accepted with acclamation the proposal to establish the Prize and noted that this would appropriately ensure that Professor Nettleford's contribution would be permanently recorded in the annals of the University, and that his name and work would live in perpetuity, worldwide.

Council agreed that the holder of the award will be named the Rex Nettleford Fellow in Cultural Studies. The Prize will be awarded annually to a resident of the Caribbean under the age of 35. Award holders may pursue all aspects of scholarship in the fields of cultural studies, including work in the creative arts. The value of the award will be Ten Thousand pounds with an associated travel grant of Two thousand pounds. The award holder will be expected to give a number of public lectures and will be expected to use the tenure of the award either to complete an existing piece of work or to develop a new project.

Council also approved the logistics of the selection process for the award. Candidates will be selected by a panel of five members, two nominated by the Rhodes Trustees, namely Lord Waldegrave, Chairman of the Trustees and Dr John Ronett, current Warden of Rhodes House, and the Secretary General-designate of the Association of Commonwealth Universities; Professor Nettleford himself; and two distinguished persons in the intellectual and cultural life of the Caribbean, nominated by him.

The announcement of the winner will be at a special event hosted on behalf of the Trustees by the Secretary of the Rhodes Trust in the Caribbean, currently Mr Peter Godwin. The award ceremony will be held at The University of the West Indies.

The request for approval of the Prize was contained in a letter from the Chief Executive of the Rhodes Trust, Dr John Ronett. He pointed out that the Rhodes Trustees had marked the centenary of the Rhodes Trust by the establishment of a partnership with former President Mandela to create the Mandela Rhodes Foundation. The new foundation was dedicated to building exceptional leadership capacity on the African continent to the promotion of a better life for the people of Africa and to returning to Africa something of the wealth taken from Africa which originally enabled the creation of the Rhodes Trust.

Dr Ronett said that at the same time the Rhodes Trust had been concerned to find appropriate ways to mark the centenary of the Rhodes Scholars in the Caribbean. As part of that process the renowned artist, Barrington Watson, was commissioned to do a new painting of Norman Manley, one of the earliest, as well as one of the most distinguished Jamaican Rhodes Scholars. The Rhodes Trust had also resolved to establish the Rex Nettleford Prize in Cultural Studies in the Caribbean, in order to move substantially mark the centenary.

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"Hats Off" to Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford for 50 Years of outstanding support to the University of the West Indies from the Productive Business Solutions LTD.
Tribute to Professor Rex Nettleford

51 years of service to the UWI (1953 - 2004)

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>D.Litt.</td>
<td>St John's University</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Presidential Medal</td>
<td>Brooklyn College</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>L.H.D</td>
<td>City University of NY, John Jay College</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>Oxford University</td>
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Professor Nettleford being conferred the Order of Merit by the then Governor General, Sir Florizel Glasspole on Labour Day, 1975.

UNIVERSAL SOLUTIONS INC.
[Expect the Extraordinary]

USI and the Moulton Family Congratulate the Vice Chancellor on the event of his retirement from The University of the West Indies. His legacy of exemplary service and extraordinary commitment will continue to inspire us all to greater heights. All the best!
Tribute to Professor Rex Nettleford
51 years of service to the UWI
(1953 - 2004)

..national and international reach

With mentor and friend
Norman Manley.

Professor Nettleford at a meeting of the UNESCO Executive Board in Paris, 1994.

Vice Chancellor Nettleford and Chancellor, Sir Shridath Ramphal greet South Africa President, Thabo Mbeki, to the Mona Campus, 2003.

Nettleford in animated conversation with P.J. Patterson, then Deputy Prime Minister, on occasion of the ICFTU International Youth Rally on the Mona Campus (1991).

In conversation with Lady Bustamante and Robert Hill.


Observe...
The Power of Style & Substance

On Monday we cater to your inner diva. Our weekly magazine All Woman, salutes that independent spirit, strength of mind and beauty that you exemplify. In its weekly articles and observations on wide ranging issues all from a woman's perspective. And every Monday, we keep your mind sharp by giving you the info you need for the day. Get Monday's All Woman, all you need.
...with artistes

Fellow dancers, Alicia Alonso, Artistic Director of the National Ballet of Cuba and Professor Rex Nettleford, in conversation, 1980.

Professor Nettleford converses with renowned Barbadian poet, Professor Kamau Brathwaite.

Bert N. Mitchell and Mitchell & Titus, LLP

Congratulate

The Vice Chancellor Professor the Honourable Rex Nettleford

On his retirement and for providing outstanding leadership and development to the University of the West Indies

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On the occasion of your Retirement

THE PETROLEUM CORPORATION OF JAMAICA recognizes
Professor the Honourable Rex Nettleford
on your sterling Contribution To the nations' development
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

Cave Hill • Mona • St Augustine

Unlocking Caribbean Potential

The University of the West Indies is the oldest, fully regional higher education institution in the English-speaking Caribbean, and is supported by and serves 15 countries – Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts–Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines, and the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago.

With three main campuses – Mona (Jamaica), Cave Hill (Barbados) and St Augustine (Trinidad) – the UWI delivers a wide range of graduate and undergraduate programmes across all disciplines, through the following Faculties:

- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of Humanities & Education
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Medical Sciences
- Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences/Science & Agriculture
- The Faculty of Social Sciences and
- The School for Graduate Studies and Research

As a regional institution the University of the West Indies offers the rich and vibrant atmosphere that results from the interaction of students connected yet varied in cultural and social backgrounds. A strong emphasis on Caribbean issues in both teaching and research makes the UWI an ideal learning environment for regional as well as international students.

For information on any of our graduate, undergraduate or International Group Summer Programmes please write to the address below, or visit our website for further details.

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The University of the West Indies
Mona, Kingston 7
Jamaica, W.I.

Contact telephone numbers:

Mona: (876) 927-2779  Cave Hill: (246) 417-4127
St Augustine: (868) 662-2002  Ext. 2157

School for Graduate Studies and Research: (876) 977-0655;
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