

SAGICOR + UWI = S.C.O.R.E.

When the history of the University of the West Indies and its contribution to the development of regional cricket is written, the name Sagicor will feature quite prominently on those pages. These two beacons of Caribbean achievement in academia and business, which have played significant roles in the upliftment and integration of this region, recently combined their ongoing efforts at strengthening the Caribbean's single most unifying force - Cricket.

A Memorandum of Understanding between Sagicor Financial Corporation and UWI, Cave Hill Campus, has facilitated the establishment of the Sagicor Cricket Operations and Research Enterprise (SCORE), a project undertaken at Cave Hill Campus, designed to give tangible sustenance and visibility to the development of regional cricket, thereby nourishing one of the primary vehicles through which Caribbean people have demonstrated world-class excellence.

The Sagicor/UWI MOU has provided for the financial company to make a donation of one million dollars to the University to enhance Cave Hill's cricket research, playing and training facilities. In concert with this funding, Cave Hill Campus will implement academic and training programmes geared towards assisting cricketers at all levels throughout the region in pursuit of attaining excellence at their craft. It is hoped that these changes and improvements will entrench the sport firmly within a culture of learning, while illustrating a beneficial nexus between cricket and higher learning.

The one million dollars to support the learning and playing of cricket and provide the needed infrastructure is being disbursed over a three year period. The funding is intended to help establish such features as The 3Ws Oval, The Walk of Fame, The Indoor Cricket School and a soon-to-be-completed Cricket Library and Research Centre.

The creation of The 3Ws Oval comprised the upgrading and refurbishment of the cricket field to internationally approved standards. This included leveling the western portion of the field, improving the overall texture of the

turf and creating a classical cricket oval by enlarging and encircling the playing area in traditional fashion. The 3Ws Oval is now hailed as one of the premiere cricket grounds in the region, and has already hosted a number of first class matches since its first international encounter between Australia and the UWI Vice Chancellors XI in 2003. It is currently receiving global exposure since it was selected as the location for current television commercials.

The Walk of Fame, which nestles beneath the embankment at the burial site of former West Indies captain Sir Frank Worrell, is a monument to the outstanding performance of our cricketers at Test level. It chronicles the names of all those who have scored a century or taken five or more wickets in an innings since West Indies stepped into the Test arena in 1928. These detailed inscriptions are intended to become a cultural facility and major heritage site in the region.

The Indoor Cricket School, as a state-of-the-art training facility, surpasses any similar offering anywhere in this region. Its presence at Cave Hill Campus was partly responsible for that venue being chosen for a West Indies

Training Camp in preparation for the team's participation in the Victoria Bitters (VB) 2004-05 Triangular Tournament in Australia.

The Centre for Cricket Research, an academic network, was established at the Cave Hill Campus in 1994 to research, publish and discuss all aspects of West Indies cricket culture and history for educational purposes. The Centre has designed and taught a course for final-year students, supervised postgraduate studies in cricket culture and established the annual Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Lecture. In its quest as a facilitator in generating research and publications on West Indies cricket history and culture, the Centre aims to set up a dedicated library complete with the necessary physical structure and staffing to complement its work.

It is envisaged that project SCORE will underline indisputable evidence of the renewed commitment of two quintessential Caribbean institutions to the people of this region, a commitment that goes a long way in helping to develop a quest for excellence that is concomitant with the shared passion for a game which we cherish as a people.

Professor Hilary Beckles and Dodridge Miller at the signing of the S.C.O.R.E. Memorandum of Understanding

