

**Cultural and Pedagogical Inquiry
Legacy Series, Winter 2019**

**Poetics of Geography
UWI, Mona**

**Volume 1:
Tributes and Memories**

Edited by:

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This electronic book consists of at least, two volumes. Anyone who receives a copy of the limited edition eBook, **Poetics of Geography, UWI, Mona, Volume 1 and/or 2**, is asked to adopt the honour system. In the spirit in which the Department's Founders Barry Floyd, Vernon Mulchansingh, John Fermor and Ann Norton (1967-1970), as well as, professors and instructors, throughout the years, taught us Geography at UWI, please make a generous voluntary contribution to the UWI Alumni Association, The Geography Founders Trust. Minimum contribution: \$20 Canadian.

Your donation contributes to the establishment of a trust fund: the Geography Founders Trust. Periodically, the Trust awards a bursary to at least one Geography student at the UWI. During the first two years of studying Geography, the student demonstrates consistent evidence of exceptional academic performance. However, due to financial circumstances beyond her/his control, the student might be forced to withdraw from the UWI, prior to completing, a Bachelor's degree.

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Dedication

From Cecille DePass:

To my parents Phyllis and Cecil Harriott; my Geography high school teachers, especially, Wendy Smedley, Cecile Parchment, and Mrs. Rendle; my teacher, great aunts (Chrisie, Gladys, Edna and Dor), and to everyone who encouraged me to: participate actively in knowledge making processes; live a good life; and contribute to larger communities, in meaningful ways.

To Bunny Lalor, Marlene Hamilton, Ted Robinson, Barry Floyd, Vernon Mulchansingh, Ann Norton, David Buisseret, Roy Augier, Ruby King, Profs Mills, L. Reid, A. Phillips and like-minded professors at UWI; In Canada to Evelina Orteza y Miranda, Mathew Zachariah, Celia Haig Brown, David Wilson, Suzanne Majhanovich, for their vision, leadership and mentorship.

To everyone who taught me consistently, how to become an applied geographer who lives in the world.

From Faye Lumsden:

To my Father who frequently voiced his skepticism and sorrow at the thought that none of his children would graduate from The University that was a short walk from our home, thereby giving me the opportunity to prove him wrong in true contrarian style.

To my Mother for her love and support; and to my geography teachers, notably, Rita Hilton and Vernon Mulchansingh who introduced me to the What, Where and Why of the World around me.

Appreciation and Gratitude

Cecille DePass:

We thank everyone who has encouraged, advised, and contributed, in so many ways, to making a dream of writing an independent, series of non-commissioned eBooks, a reality.

Many of the UWI graduates who submitted their work for inclusion in the eBooks, have returned to their respective homes throughout the Caribbean. Some of us, by migrating, have become participants in a diasporic movement from the English-speaking Caribbean to the USA, Canada, Britain, Australia, and we suspect to several other countries.

Immeasurable thanks to Faye Lumsden, Eleanor Jones and Beverley Phillips who realized from the books' inception, that a small, warm spark ignited, during another bitter, prairie, northern hemisphere, winter could catch fire and become a reality online, and hopefully, one day, in hard copy. Without the generous contributions and support of as many individuals as possible, the evolution of Poetics, Volumes 1 and 2, in essence, two innovative and inspirational, eBooks of memories and tributes, could never have taken tangible form.

Limitations: If there are any errors and oversights, in terms of: information included/excluded, interpretation/misinterpretation of narratives collected via innumerable telephone calls, email letters, in person contacts between 2015-2017, Cecille DePass, as the first author, accepts full responsibility.

We know that, due to major constraints of time, space and lack of funding that even with the benefits of technology, several potential contributors have not been contacted. We invite anyone who has stories of UWI, Geography's founders and professors, memories of UWI, Geography and as importantly, evocative, interactive photographs, maps, poems, etc., to contact Cecille DePass. Cecille will make the necessary revisions, in subsequent printings of the book.

Gratitude: Warmest thanks and acknowledgments for the immeasurable support to the following individuals, whose encouragement and advice, over the many years, have made the creation and compilation of the first and subsequent volumes of "Poetics" such a rewarding venture.

Thanks to the following:

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Photographs and Artwork: The following individuals have helped to re-create the milieu, context and spirit within which the eBook has evolved.

Their contributions have made the eBook come alive and sing:

Carol Campbell
Cecile Clayton's sample of archival illustrations
Barry Floyd
Gillian Glean Walker
Colin Hewitt
Anne Hickling-Hudson
Brian Hudson
Eleanor Jones' sample of archival illustrations
Faye Lumsden's archival samples of documents and photographs

**MESSAGE ON THE ePUBLICATION OF
“POETICS OF GEOGRAPHY”**

**From
MARLENE HAMILTON
Professor Emeritus, UWI**

It is both an honour and pleasure to have been invited to send a message to the indefatigable authors of this e-publication, marking the first volume of “*Poetics of Geography*” in tribute to the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Department of Geography, at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus in Jamaica.

Described as an eBook of memories, the collaborators - Cecille DePass, Faye Lumsden, Beverley Phillips and Eleanor Jones - have gone the extra mile to locate those who, whether as alumni and/or academics associated with the Department of Geography, have been willing to enthusiastically support its preparation, whether by way of articles, photographs or even poetry, hence the title.

It has been said that the work of UWI is the best kept secret in the Caribbean and beyond. No doubt, this is because the institution, in true British fashion (recall its early days as the UCWI, a college of the University of London) has been reluctant to blow its own trumpet, as the saying goes. Indeed, it is largely through our alumni and those near and dear to the institution such as the authors mentioned above, that the word is being spread – hence, the invaluable importance of publications such as this.

Poetics of Geography recounts the department’s birth and separation from Geology, as well as its important role in fostering off-shoots such as Climate Change and Disaster Studies along with numerous informative conferences, seminars, and various publications. It should also be noted that success at Mona, and a growing demand throughout the Caribbean, led to the creation of a sister department at the St. Augustine Campus in 2012, as part of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture.

Poetics is also forward-looking through its section on “Life after UWI”. Asking the question – “Are we there yet?” prompts the reader to contemplate beyond departmental concerns and reflect on the impact and importance of the University of the West Indies to the region.

I again commend the authors on this seminal, forward-looking piece so appropriately memorializing the Department of Geography’s Fiftieth Anniversary, and trust that it will command wide readership.

Letter from Dr. Barry Floyd, UWI, Geography's Founding Head

My dear Cecille,

I do regret being unable to assist you any further with your admirable project: "Poetics of Geography, UWI". Let me say how truly impressed I am with the work you and your team have put in to produce so splendid a document, honouring 50 years plus, of our beloved subject, at the university level in Jamaica and the Caribbean.

Unfortunately, I did not maintain close touch with UWI, having left to return to Nigeria (via Durham) in 1972. When I arrived at the UWI, in 1966, Geography was located in the Faculty of Science. I came to UWI, having been forced to evacuate, as the Head of Geography, at the University of Nigeria, due to the Biafran civil war.

I sought over six years to have our subject located in the Faculty of Social Sciences. I firmly believed that our main emphasis should be on the human side of the discipline. This was reflected in the undergraduate syllabus which I developed. Our British external examiners also, firmly supported my efforts.

Ted Robinson, the Head of Geology and I, became great friends. He too, supported our planned re-location of the Geography Department. But sadly, we did not succeed in persuading the Senate to transfer the Department to the Social Sciences. Rather ironically, I later assumed the post of Head of Geography and Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, at the University of Calabar, Nigeria.

Please let me know how I can make a contribution to the UWI Alumni Fund, with a special focus on supporting a needy student in Geography.

With every good wish, and greetings to all contributors to: "Poetics of Geography".

Sincerely,

Dr. Barry Floyd, Professor Emeritus
Rye, East Sussex
January 9th, 2017

Prologue

With the fortuitous 50th Anniversary celebrations of the UWI Geography Department, Mona, in 2016, a small group of us associated with the Department in different capacities, decided to write an eBook: “Poetics” which morphed into two volumes. The book pays tributes to the founders and professors of the Geography Department who have played instrumental roles in our lives.

Knowing that in fifty years, a sizeable number of students have studied in the Geography Department between 1966-2016, we wanted to document some of our memorable experiences in a number of ways (via stories/narratives, poetry, photographs, illustrations, etc.). Initially, we approached a number of graduates, using a process very similar, to that in which a Christmas Cactus grows and blooms, profusely, repeatedly, sometimes for several generations. Some of its stems may be passed from grandparents to family and friends. Very often, they take root, and flourish, in less than favourable conditions.

Accordingly, by adopting our extensive friendship and collegial networks, we contacted a few of the graduates and professors who were key participants in the Department’s formative years. By using such a purposeful process of revisiting and at times, excavating memories, we succeeded, to a greater or lesser extent, in gathering informative contributions from several graduates and professors.

Attending the Department’s 50th Anniversary Conference and activities, at the Mona Campus, in late June 2016, however, Cecille DePass realized that there were a good number of professors who had made significant contributions to ensure that the Department maintained its reputation for excellence in teaching, research and service which had been established by its founders. Thus, the list of professors to be commended was expanded. (See Anne Hickling-Hudson’s Photo Journal Part 7, for examples of some of the professors, lecturers and administrative staff who received awards).

In seeing the emerging themes develop from the submissions received and presentations at the UWI Geography Conference, in 2016, DePass decided to invite some academics such as, Brian Hudson, Hilary Robertson-Hickling (UWI), Yvonne Brown (formerly UBC), Margaret Dobson, and Mona Dillon (formerly U Calgary) to contribute either to Volume 1, and/or to submit more detailed book chapters to Volume 2. Their work became the foundations for the development of the 2nd Volume of Poetics which showcases a sample of publications and photographs.

Cecille DePass, PhD

Associate Professor Emeritus, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Recipient, Farquharson Institute of Public Affairs (FIPA), Centennial Award (2018)

Recipient, CIESC’s David Wilson Award for Distinguished Services to the Field (2015)

Former President, Comparative and International Ed Society of Canada (CIESC)

Former CIESC Rep, World Congress of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES)

Former Chair/President, Education Sectoral Commission (CC-UNESCO)