

LONDON TO STUDENTS: USE KNOWLEDGE TO IMPROVE SOCIETY



Chief Secretary Orville London, right, presents a token of appreciation to Aphea James of Scarborough Secondary yesterday (March 26, 2015). James was one of several students from across Tobago who participated in the Tobago House of Assembly Youth Assembly Debate in November 2014.

Use your knowledge and training from the Youth Assembly Debate to help shape a better society in Tobago.

That was the message from Chief Secretary Orville London to the young students that participated in the debate, which took place in November 2014. The event was part of the Tobago House of Assembly's 34th anniversary celebrations.

The Chief Secretary was impressed with their presentations, and recently took time to present the participating student with tokens of appreciation.

"In participating in the development of Tobago you don't necessarily have to be an electoral district represen-

tative," London told the youngsters. "But you can be a representative. You can be a representative of decency, you can be a representative of service, and you can be a representative of your particular sector regardless of where you are and what you do." Scarborough Secondary School's Aphea James, who served as minority leader during the Youth Assembly Debate, encouraged other students to get involved in debating. James said: "You're able to share your views to a wider range of persons so you're able to allow other people to hear what you think on certain topics and I think it's a ways for youths to have their voice heard through debating."

CORYSE'S 'SOLAR COOLER' REACHES THE UN

Sitting in the office of the United Nations (UN) General Secretary, Ban Ki Moon, at the UN's New York Headquarters is a painting entitled "Solar Cooler". It shows a young student walking through a street on a hot day with a solar-powered umbrella and air-conditioned backpack. The artwork was created by Speyside High School Upper Sixth Form student Coryse Wright, who won the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Bridging Borders Through Art competition. The Ministry presented the painting to the UN general secretary.

It followed up her win in the 2013 Office of the Chief Secretary Calendar Art Competition with her composition, "Washer Woman".

Her latest achievement, though, has her feeling particularly proud. "It's a great feeling, because people came up to me

and was like 'I wanted to reach the UN so long and since you have the opportunity to reach this far even teachers have not had the opportunity to reach this far' and I was so happy to reach this far," Wright recalled. Last year's win was not too surprising after Wright placed third in the Bridging Borders Through Art competition in 2013. That same year, she won the Office of the Chief Secretary Art Competition with her composition "Washer Woman". Speyside Secondary School Art is very impressed with his young student.

"Coryse is an excellent artist. She is excelling based on what she has accomplished so far. What I also like about Coryse is the understanding of the Art itself and not just painting what the art encumbers."

When she finishes at Speyside Secondary, Wright is hoping to study international relations.

DR MELVILLE NOT FIRED BUT HIS CONTRACT EXPIRED

Dr. Mentor Melville was not dismissed by the Tobago Regional Health Authority as general manager of Primary Health Care Services. His contract lapsed, and a decision was taken not to renew it. This was confirmed by Secretary for the Division of Health and Social Services, Claudia Groome-Duke at Wednesday's post Executive Council media briefing at the Administrative Complex, Calder Hall.

It was reported in the media last week that Dr. Melville had been fired, but Secretary Groome-Duke said that was not the case.

"Dr. Melville was on a 12-month contract subject to one month's vacation leave," Groome-Duke stated. "The board informed me that this commenced on May 1st, 2014 and was expected to expire on April 30th, 2015. According to the board, Dr. Melville was expected to proceed on leave with effect from the 10th of March, 2015."

The Secretary said she asked the board why Dr. Melville's letter was written like a notice of termination. She said the board explained that this approach was used to remind Dr. Melville that his contract had expired.