



The University of the West Indies, Open Campus Montserrat
presents



**The Third Distinguished Lecture in the
Alphonsus 'Arrow' Cassell Memorial Lecture Series**

“Thinking Beyond the Ash: Using Our Volcanic Resources”

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2015 • 7.30 PM • CULTURAL CENTRE, LITTLE BAY

Presenter:

Dr. Aldrin Sweeney, Associate Professor, Ross University School of Medicine, Dominica, and Member, Board of Governors, Montserrat Community College

Chairperson:

Miss Shirley M. Osborne, Honourable Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Montserrat) and Chair of the Coordinating Committee for the 20th Year Observance of the Soufrière Hills Eruptions.



Dr. Aldrin E. Sweeney

Dr. Sweeney was born in the UK to parents from Montserrat. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in biochemistry and science education and earned a PhD in Science Education from Florida State University in 1997. He currently serves as Associate Professor of Medical Education at Ross School of Medicine in Dominica, and is on the Board of Governors of Montserrat Community College.

Dr. Sweeney's professional areas of interest include *the impact of biomedical science & technology on societal issues, the professional preparation of medical doctors, and emerging research in nanoscale science and engineering*. He has published widely in these areas and has contributed as an editor, reviewer, consultant and expert review panel member to an impressive number of publications and other academic activities in his field.

While at the University of Central Florida, Dr. Sweeney received several awards for teaching and research including the *Teaching Incentive Program Award; Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award; Research Incentive Award; and the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Award*.

Topic: *Thinking Beyond the Ash: Using Our Volcanic Resources*

Numerous descriptions and explanations of Montserrat's Soufrière Hills volcanic eruptions (1995-present) are well-documented in the scientific literature. The devastating social and economic effects caused to the island of Montserrat by the various eruptions also have been comprehensively researched and documented.

In this Alphonsus 'Arrow' Cassell Memorial Lecture, Dr. Sweeney will briefly review - in layperson terms - key peer-reviewed published studies that address environmental and health concerns caused by the deposited volcanic ash. A short discussion and analysis of the Government of Montserrat's current *Ash to Cash* initiative also will be presented. The lecture will conclude with several suggestions/speculations for productive use of Montserrat's volcanic ash that may stimulate entrepreneurial opportunities for various creative, cultural and manufacturing industries.