

**Professor Rhoda Reddock, Deputy Principal  
Matriculation Ceremony  
Recognition of Top SEA Students**

**JFK Quadrangle  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2008  
5.00 p.m.**

- Honourable Christine Kangaloo, Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education,
- Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris,
- Pro Vice Chancellor and Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat,
- Campus Registrar, Mr Jeremy Callaghan,
- Campus Bursar, Mrs Lylla Bada
- Deputy Campus Librarian, Mrs Jennifer Joseph
- Esteemed colleagues,
- Presidents of the Guild of Students and the Alumni Association,
- Parents and guardians,
- Honoured Guests,
- Members of the media,
- S.E.A. achievers,
- All our thousands of new students,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2008 Matriculation and Welcome Ceremony of the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies.

This Matriculation and Welcome Ceremony, of which you are all a part, is one of the time-honoured traditions of our University. It is a time when we officially acknowledge and welcome our new undergraduate and postgraduate students into the UWI family and into the St Augustine Campus Community. Up until a few years ago, we had stopped holding the Ceremony. To be honest, I am not sure why. But in 2002, we decided to re-instate the Matriculation Ceremony on this campus because we firmly believe that it's an important rite of passage for students, to mark the transition into a new chapter of their lives.

Today, our University welcomes you, our new students to take your place among one of the largest classes ever to enter the St. Augustine Campus. And your incoming class is not only distinguished by its size, but by its excellent academic record. Even as you sit right now, you are shoulder to shoulder with some of the best students in the Caribbean, including many national scholarship winners.

We also have with us thirteen young people—I suppose I could call them younger people—who have kindly agreed to be a part of today’s Ceremony. We would like to give special recognition to these thirteen students, who have all done extremely well in their examinations for entrance into secondary school in Trinidad & Tobago. In recognising their achievement in this way, our purpose is dual. Firstly, we hope that this formal ceremony, with all the pomp and regalia of our 60-year-old tradition, imparts to them some idea of the reward that awaits them if they continue along the path of academic excellence.

Secondly, we hope that their academic accomplishment serves as an example to our own incoming students, most of whom are just beginning their academic careers at the undergraduate or postgraduate level. I have no doubt that from this group of new UWI students, we can expect future captains of industry, entrepreneurs, artists, heads of state, even Nobel Laureates; it is in keeping with our great UWI tradition.

Okay. Having said all that, I would now like to invite the S.E.A. students, our very special guests, to come and join me on stage as I call your names. On behalf of the St Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies, I would like to present each of you with a small token. We offer this to you with pride in your achievement and in the hope that you will be here again

in future at a Matriculation Ceremony like this one, as a new student of The University of the West Indies.

Please come forward:

- Shivanand Balkaran, a former student of Grant Memorial Presbyterian, now attending Naparima Boys College;
- Jeanine Bhikarry, a former student of Grant Memorial Presbyterian, now attending Naparima Girls College;
- Yasovineeth Bhogadi, a former student of Grant Memorial Presbyterian, now attending Naparima Boys College;
- Aliyyah Cassie, a former student of Gasparillo Hindu, now attending Naparima Girls College;
- Shenel Gangoo, a former student of Princes Town Presbyterian, now attending Naparima Girls College;
- Justine Lewis, a former student of Vistabella Presbyterian, now attending Naparima Girls College;
- Tanuja Maharaj, a former student of El Dorado Hindu South, now attending St Joseph's Convent, St Joseph;
- Vishala Pariag a former student of Exchange Presbyterian, now attending Naparima Girls College;
- Claire Ragobar a former student of San Fernando TML, now attending Naparima Girls College;
- Anthony Rajkumar, a former student of Curepe Presbyterian, now attending Hillview College;
- Amelia Ram, a former student of Gandhi Memorial APS, now attending St Augustine Girls High School;

- Mr Ajay Rameshwarsingh, a former student of Gandhi Memorial APS, now attending Presentation College, Chaguanas;
- And Nicholas Singh, a former student of Princes Town Presbyterian, now attending Naparima Boys College.

**\*OPTIONAL**

I would also like to make special mention of

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who could not be with us today, but who also did exceptionally well in the S.E.A.

Finally I would like all new students and your invited guests, including our S.E.A. achievers and parents to congratulate yourselves with a hearty round of applause.

***Pause***

Congratulations and I wish you all the best in the future.

***End***