

**Mr C. William Iton, University Registrar
Media Launch of UWI 60th Anniversary Stamp
Office of the Campus Principal, UWI St Augustine
Friday 3rd October, 2008
10.00 a.m.**

PROTOCOL

- Mrs. Jacqueline Gantaume-Farrell, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Utilities
- Pro Vice Chancellor & Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat
- Representatives from the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation, our collaborative partners in this special initiative,
- Deputy Principal, Professor Rhoda Reddock,
- Campus Registrar, Mr Jeremy Callaghan,
- Campus Bursar, Mrs Lylla Bada
- Campus Librarian, Designate Ms. Jennifer Joseph
- Esteemed colleagues,
- Honoured Guests,
- Members of the media,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning.

Let me begin this morning by extending a very warm welcome to everyone here today who have come out to celebrate this launch. I also wish to give a special welcome to the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation, our partners in this tribute to The University of the West Indies' icons. TTPost has allowed this University, specifically the St Augustine Campus to honour our icons in a way that is timeless and for this we are grateful. To all, welcome to this, **the Official Launch of the UWI/TTPost 60th Anniversary Commemorative Stamp Collection.**

This collection is being launched at a significant time and on a significant day. Today October 3rd, 2008 is sixty years to the day after the University welcomed its first group of students at Mona, Jamaica in 1948. The collection aptly entitled 'Celebrating Six Decades' is a groundbreaking collection that celebrates the icons that made their mark on the University. The entry of 10 females and 23 males from across the region into the Faculty of Medicine at the

Mona Campus, Jamaica official marked the opening of the University College of the West Indies. This was only the beginning of our journey. After the establishment of the University College at Mona Jamaica, the St Augustine Campus of the University College of the West Indies was officially established in 1960, out of the former Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad. Two years later in 1962, The University College of the West Indies becomes The University of the West Indies under the Great Seal of the Realm and one year later in 1963; The Cave Hill Campus in Barbados was established as the College of Arts & Sciences in temporary quarters at the Bridgetown Harbour (then familiarly known as the Harbour site). Today represents another significant milestone in our journey as an institution.

From this journey through the ages our University has grown in reputation and in the number of students we now serve. Today, sixty years to the day of our illustrious beginning, The University of

the West Indies is a contemporary, international tertiary education institution offering innovative programmes, modern facilities and collaborative links with **over sixty institutions** worldwide. The UWI is now the largest internationally accredited university in the region, serving over 40,000 local, regional and international students. As a University, we recognize the importance of our history and this launch of the commemorative stamps is a celebration of some of the people without whom we would not exist today. These people, by their dedicated service to the institutions have become icons of the University.

(Pause)

Today's festivities are not only a celebration of this journey, but the commemoration of these icons.

The UWI/ TTPost 60th Anniversary stamp issue features three of these icons.

- Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, the University's first Chancellor
- Sir William Arthur Lewis, the University's first Vice Chancellor and,
- Sir Philip Sherlock, the University's first Principal.

The commemorative issue also includes images particularly associated with the St. Augustine Campus, namely, the Samaan Tree and the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture building (now commonly known as the 'Old Administration Building').

The launch of this memorable collection comes as part of our ongoing 60th Anniversary Celebrations. Throughout 2008 we have been and will continue to celebrate our reputation as a University that has a longstanding tradition of excellence. This collection will give the University even wider exposure and showcase our commitment to those who have come before and laid the foundation

for what is now the best and most longstanding higher-education provider in the English-speaking Caribbean and a University with a world-class reputation.

While we continue to celebrate individual icons and the indelible marks that they have left on this University, what we are actually doing is celebrating the achievements of all of our alumni. By celebrating the few, we honour and inspire the whole. In this the sixtieth year of our existence we do not wish to quit, we do not wish to retire, we wish only to go forward into the great unknown and embrace those icons that we are producing today and wait in anticipation for the contribution that they will make tomorrow to not only the St Augustine Campus but to The University of the West Indies on the whole.

(Pause)

In closing, before I go, let me once again recognize TTPost, our partners in this venture. If the University is to continue to flourish we need to strengthen the linkages that we have made and establish new ones. Our partnership with TTPost has opened up the doors to so many possibilities and I look forward to a continued partnership with them.

Thank you.