



STAN

ST. AUGUSTINE NEWS

APRIL – JUNE 2009

The Talented Mr.
ROBERT RILEY

**HONOURING
NETTLEFORD**

CONNECT WITH
CHRIS LAIRD

**MONA REIGNS
AT UWI GAMES**

NATASHA RAMROOPSINGH

Impacting on Our World

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STAN

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

APRIL – JUNE 2009



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ON THE ENVIRONMENT



ON THE COVER

Photographer **Frederic Dubray** hits it for six, clearing the walls of the oval, in his *Campus Journal* (centre spread). Images of triumph and loss brought us close to the excitement of the student athletes as they competed at the UWI Games held at the St. Augustine Campus just over a month ago.

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Mr. Wayne Richardson

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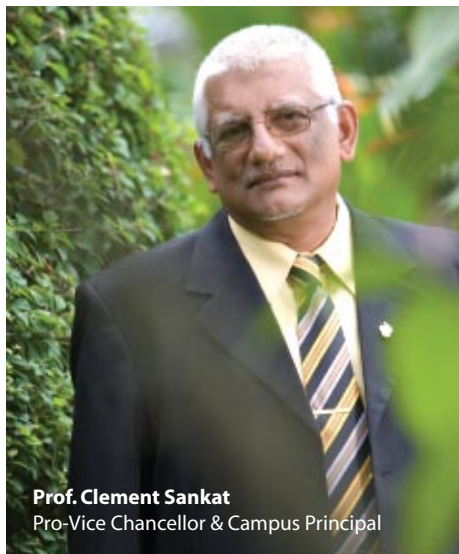
In Full Bloom

The coming of the rains and the flowering of the majestic red and yellow Flamboyant trees on our Campus, signal the close of yet another semester. Now with the exam season at an end, we look to preparing for the orientation of new students in September and the graduation ceremonies for our class of 2009 in November. Once again we have a class of some of the best and brightest in the country, about to enter and leave our sixty year old institution. Best of luck to you all !

Although the past six months have been challenging, with financing being at the centre of our attention, we've been able to accomplish a great deal. Our milestones range from the successful hosting of the UWI Games, to the intense debates that have brought workable solutions to many local and regional issues at the UWI conferences.

Our recent UWI seminars and conferences have focussed on key, topical issues that are affecting our island and region. These include the global financial crisis, crime, agriculture (cocoa) research and development, social work and e-learning. Another milestone is our recently launched drive for Institutional Accreditation of our Campus by The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago, ACTT.

I would like to congratulate all those who have played integral roles in the project management, presentations and round-table discussions of these events. Members of staff continue to make us proud through their research and publications, many of which are featured in this issue of the St Augustine News (STAN). Through this work we can share our classroom and laboratory innovations with the world.



Prof. Clement Sankat
Pro-Vice Chancellor & Campus Principal

Ultimately, the challenges of recent times have made us more reflective and aware; and with our strategic transformation process under way, we will become more resilient and efficient. You will hear more on this in the months to come.

In closing, I would like to congratulate our dedicated colleagues who have been key to the development of the institution. Individuals including the iconic Professor Emeritus, Rex Nettleford, Campus Bursar Mrs Lylla Bada, Secretary Mrs Nalini Deyalsingh and Messenger Mr Melville Lewis, continue to live the core values that help UWI to not just survive, but thrive in good and bad times. We must also thank our stakeholders who continue to dig-deep and find innovative ways to ensure the development of the institution. In this issue we feature the inimitable Robert Riley and the prolific Christopher Laird, who will be honored in November at our graduation ceremony.

Undoubtedly, UWI students are at the core of our world and I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to ensure that they realize their true potential and lead the way for future generations.



Cool Cover

Our mailbag was quite full with e-mails and postcards including one from artist, Kwynn Johnson, who was featured on the cover of the January-March 2009 issue, sending her thanks for "featuring my work in the STAN Magazine - the cover was cool too! Not at all what I expected... So many random people saw it as well and contacted me, it really has a wide viewership". It was truly our pleasure.



Artist, Kwynn Johnson

Flash Photography

For the many postcards the mailbox received, our diligent writer from Jamaica, W. Guy, would like to see more images of the St Augustine Campus in future issues and was "impressed by the photos of the Main Library and the Administration Building." We hope you enjoy the new photo gallery in print and online. www.sta.uwi.edu/stan



Almost Famous

Before signing-off, congratulations to our Silver-Quill-winning publications team, although we have yet to win the prestigious Gold Quill from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), we are pleased to announce the UWI STAN was a finalist. A letter from 2009 Chair, Gold Quill Awards Program, Paul Matalucci, noted that the entry "was a finalist and demonstrated impressive communications ability." See you next year.

CORRECTION In the Staying Relevant article (January – March 2009) we would like to clarify that the Master in Higher Education (MHED) Tertiary Level Teaching and Learning is an Instructional Development Unit (IDU) programme, which is being offered through the Faculty of Humanities and Education. The first MHED cohort began classes at the IDU in January 2009. Our apologies for the error and any inconvenience this may have caused.

THE UWI MISSION

The enduring mission of The University of the West Indies is to propel the economic, social, political and cultural development of West Indian society through teaching, research, innovation, advisory and community services and intellectual leadership.



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Do you like the new colours of the Administration building?

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NO ☐

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Share your views with us:
Editor of UWI STAN, Marketing and Communications Office, St Augustine Campus, The University of the West Indies, Trinidad.
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Campus Film Classics



Date: Every Tuesday (June 9th – 18th August 2009)

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Centre for Language Learning (CLL), UWI

The UWI Film Programme will host an ongoing event entitled 'Campus Film Classics'. Featuring must-see classics including Akira Kurosawa's *Seven Samurai* and Zhang Yimou's *Raise the Red Lantern* can be enjoyed free of charge on Campus at these CLL public screenings. Enjoy cornerstone movies that have impacted on the industry including some of the best films from the Caribbean, India, China, Senegal, the USA and more. The films will be shown every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. from June 9th to August 18th, 2009. The screenings will be held at the Centre for Language Learning (CLL), UWI, St Augustine.

For further information, please contact Dr. Christopher Meir at Christopher.Meir@sta.uwi.edu or (868) 662-2002 Ext. 4233.

12th Annual CTLPA Conference

Date: 22nd – 25th June, 2009

Location: Grafton Beach Resort & Le Gran Courland, Tobago

'The Power to Imagine, the Courage to Act' govern the 12th Annual Caribbean Tertiary Level Personnel Association (CTLPA) Conference at the Grafton Beach Resort and Le Gran Courland Hotel, Tobago. The CTLPA is an organisation that fosters tertiary level student learning through the generation and dissemination of knowledge, which informs policy, practice, and programmes for student services professionals and the higher education community.



For more information please contact CTLPA's Public Relations Officer Mr. Chandar Gupta Supersad at 662-2002 Ext 2360, or email: Chandar.Supersad@sta.uwi.edu, or visit <http://www.ctlpa.org.jm/About.htm>.

21st All African Students' Conference

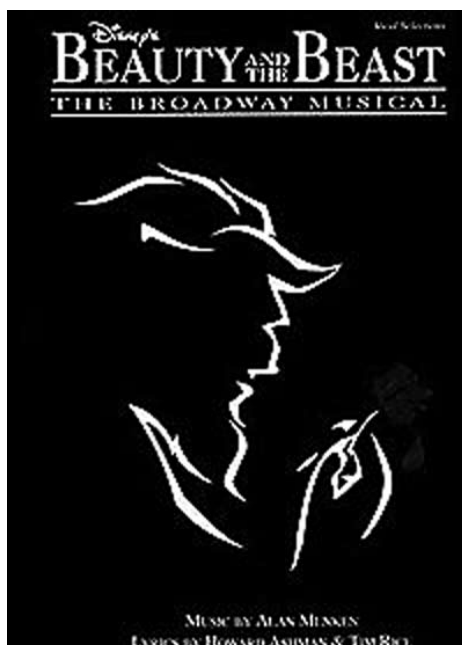
Date: 25th -27th June, 2009

Location: UWI, St. Augustine Campus

The 21st All African Students' Conference (AASC) will be held from Thursday 25th to Saturday 27th June, 2009 at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. The theme for this conference is "Thought and Action: redressing the challenges and (re)visioning the possibilities for the African community".

For further information, please click on the link below:
[https://sta.uwi.edu/media/documents/2008/African Students' Conf.doc](https://sta.uwi.edu/media/documents/2008/African%20Students'Conf.doc)

Disney's Beauty and the Beast goes to Broadway



Date: 2nd – 5th July, 2009

Location: Queen's Hall, St. Ann's, Trinidad

The show is an adaptation of the Broadway musical, Disney's Beauty and the Beast, a classic French tale of love and redemption. The Festival Arts Chorale will present 'Disney's Beauty and the Beast' in July at Queen's Hall, St. Ann's on Thursday at 7:00 p.m., on Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. General admission tickets can be purchased at a cost of TT\$150, and Special Reserved tickets at TT\$200. Tickets for the children's matinee, on Sunday 5th July at 2:00 p.m., cost TT\$100.

For further information, please contact the Festival Arts Chorale at (868) 662-2002 Ext. 2315 or 757-1526, or uwi.festival.arts.chorale@gmail.com.

28th West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference

Date: 6th- 10th July, 2009

Location: Barbados

The 28th West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference of the Caribbean Agro-Economic Society will be held jointly with the Barbados National Agricultural Conference, from 6th to 10th July 2009, in Barbados. The theme for this year's conference "Food Security, Investment Flows and Agricultural Development in the Caribbean".

For further information, please contact Sarojini Ragbir at 1-868-662-2002 Ext 2088 or Sarojini.ragbir@sta.uwi.edu; and CAES website at caestt.com for more information.

ACHEA Annual Conference 2009

Date: 8th – 11th July, 2009

Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port-of-Spain

The 2009 annual conference of the Association of Caribbean Higher Education Administrators will be held in Trinidad and Tobago from the 8th – 11th July, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Port-of-Spain. The theme of the conference is 'Higher Education and Sustainable Development'.

The release for the conference explains that the United Nations has declared 2005-2015 as the Decade of Sustainable Development and as small islands states with economies and geography that make us vulnerable to global and natural forces, the issue of sustainable development is of critical importance. Our higher education institutions play a pivotal role in research, analysis and planning for human resource development needs and as such, we must be "ahead of the curve" on this issue in order to ensure that by 2015, our countries are well-positioned to take on the challenges of a new economic world order and of global issues such as climate change, technology-driven development and the digital divide.

For further information, please contact call (246) 417-4000, or visit [https://sta.uwi.edu/media/documents/2008/ACHEA Annual Conference.doc](https://sta.uwi.edu/media/documents/2008/ACHEA%20Annual%20Conference.doc)

UWI Life Orientation 2009

Date: 1st, 3rd, 4th September 2009

Location: UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre & Learning Resource Centre

For new students and parents/guardians who want to 'hit the ground running', the UWI Life series of orientation events are a must. The official orientation programme of The University is specifically tailored to orient the new undergraduate and postgraduate students, their parents and guardians to the offerings of UWI. It is also an opportunity to meet Lecturers, Deans, Counsellors and the Campus Principal, get answers to questions, learn about campus amenities and services and get to know each other. The series kicks off with UWI Life Student Support on September 2nd, specifically catering to the needs of parents and guardians. The next day on September 3rd, the UWI Life Extension programme will provide key information to Graduate and Evening programme students, with the Undergraduate UWI Life Student Orientation being held on September 4th. Here students will gain information on the services available to them at the Campus, as well as enjoy live entertainment and special give-aways.

For further information, please contact Student Advisory Services (868) 662-2002 extension 2097 or visit www.sta.uwi.edu/uwilife.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

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Email: marketing.communications@sta.uwi.edu
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[UWI PEOPLE]

Willing to **SERVE**

*Student Guild honoree, Nalini Deyalsingh,
reflects on her career at UWI*



The Deputy Principal's Office

has seen its fair share of student protests, interventions and rallies. Yet there have also been many times when students express thanks to the office staff. In fact, *Nalini Deyalsingh's* file cabinet is filled with Thank You cards and on the wall nearby, hangs a plaque from none other than the UWI Student Guild.

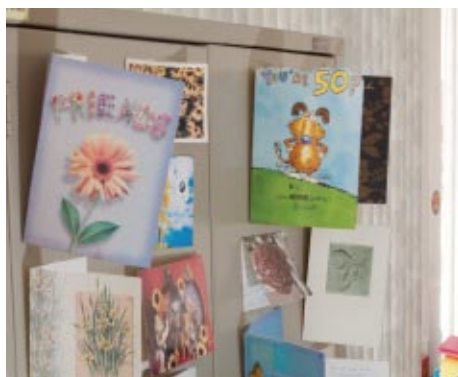
On February 11th they honored the Senior Secretary for her *"invaluable contribution to the lives of the students of The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus"* at the Student Guild's 2008/2009 Award Ceremony.

Over the years, she has interacted with various members of the Guild as a Secretary in both the Principal and Deputy Principal's Offices. Ultimately, she believes that the current Guild, under the Presidency of *Hillan Morean*, has been the "least stressful".

"From the start, I laid down some ground rules asking for understanding, respect for the Deputy Principal and good time keeping with regard to attendance at meetings. Mr. Morean and the Guild Councilors have lived up to this; we work well with each other," she added.

Hillan Morean, now in his second term in Office, recently spoke of her diligence and commitment. "Ms. Deyalsingh has been there, in the Deputy Principal's Office for the past eight years and the interaction has been one that really speaks to her going the extra mile...she's always there to help ...every time you pass at 6 or 7pm in the night she's still there working...and we just wanted to show her our appreciation".

Having worked in key offices of the University, being mentored from iconic Department Heads including *Mr. Zaffar Ali*, *Prof. George Maxwell Richards*, *Prof. Clement Sankat*, *Prof. Bridget Brereton* and *Prof. Gurmohan Kochhar*, she is known for her efficiency and professionalism. She continues



to look to the University as "a home" where she has gained integral training and made lasting friendships with colleagues including *Stephanie La Veau* (her mentor), *Barbara Grosvenor*, *Marion Fraser*, *Jessie-Ann George*, *Claudia Chesney*, *Tyra Bacon*, *Patsy Bishop*, *Zaleena Ramnath* (Chin Yuen Kee), *Marion Almandoz-Khan*, *Jeannette Reyes*, *Chandra Ragoonath*, *Beverley Camps*, *Ian Romain*, *Curtis Mike*, *Elizabeth Nicholas*, *Muriel Hazzard*, *Monica Gray* and *Dave Lackhan* (deceased).

Born in Curepe, Trinidad, in 1955, Nalini Deyalsingh is the daughter of Retired High Court Judge, *Justice Lennox Deyalsingh* and *Mona Deyalsingh* (nee Roopnarinesingh), and sister of Vashti and Varma. She grew up in a close-knit, extended family and although discipline was high on the agenda in the home, she looks back on her childhood fondly.

"I am forever grateful to my parents for the lessons taught and values instilled; these have moulded me into the disciplined adult I now am."

After graduating from the St. Augustine Girls' High School, encouraged by her mother, she

applied for a position in the Main Library under the headship of *Dr. Alma Jordan* in 1976 and began working as Acting Secretary/Stenographer to the Deputy Librarian, Miss *Barbara Comissiong*.

"I remember telling Mummy that the salary was only \$450.00 a month, but her response was that you had to creep before you walk in order to climb the ladder. Mummy often used her father and brother Syam, as examples. Papa Roop worked at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture (ICTA) in the 1920s... He used to catch frogs and butterflies for the Zoology Lab. He was ambitious and with his salary from ICTA, he used to send away for Accounts books and eventually became an Accountant and then a Director of J.N. Harriman Company Limited. Uncle Syam worked at ICTA in the early 1950s before he went abroad to study. He eventually became a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mt. Hope."

Inspired and focussed, she was promoted quickly to Secretary/Stenographer to the Senior Project Officer, Development and Planning Unit, *Zaffar Ali*, in 1984, whom she describes as "a brilliant statistician, kind, humble, honest, and a patient boss, an honourable man with a heart of gold".



"From the start, I laid down some ground rules asking for understanding, respect for the Deputy Principal and good time keeping..."



"I pledge to offer my continued assistance and time to students, my ears, shoulders, and the box of tissues on my desk, any time, be it day or night or weekends, at work or at home."

"Mr. Ali was the person responsible for my upward growth and development. He had confidence in me and my work. I am eternally grateful to him."

In turn, in a recent interview, the former Campus Registrar, had the highest praise for Deyalsingh.

"All I can say is what I've been quoted as saying before, that her work is exemplary," explained Ali, who went on to commend not only her work-ethic, but her propensity to continue to upgrade her skill-set through training. "She does all of this for the University."

In fact, in 1987 when Zaffar Ali was appointed Campus Registrar, she worked for both the Offices of the Campus Principal and Campus Registrar. Two years later, she was appointed Secretary/Stenographer to then Campus Principal, *Professor George Maxwell Richards*. In March 1997, the new Office of the Pro Vice Chancellor (Research) housed in the Frank Stockdale Building was established. She was recommended to become Secretary to the new Pro Vice Chancellor, *Professor Roger Prichard*, a former Professor of Biotechnology at McGill University, Canada. She also had the opportunity to work with *Professor Clement Sankat* when he was the Campus Coordinator for Graduate Studies and Research.

She described the current Campus Principal as "a hard-working, down to earth, honest, warm and caring Coordinator with Vision. It was a blessing to work with him. The knowledge and exposure gained from this Office have worked much to my benefit."

In 1999 she began working in the Deputy Principal's Office on a temporary basis, and was subsequently interviewed for the position of Secretary/Stenographer. There she worked with Professor Bridget Brereton, whom she describes as "a gem of a boss, a rare gem, who recognized my passion for helping students with various problems".



UWI Guild President, Hillan Morean

From 2002-2008, she then worked with Professor Gurmohan Kochhar, successor to Prof. Brereton.

"I would like to express my gratitude to Professor Kochhar for permitting me to pursue the Peer Counselling course on campus, and attendance at HIV/AIDS Workshops".

My thanks also to *Indrini Basant*, who had also come from a disciplined Library background, and *who was my right hand*."

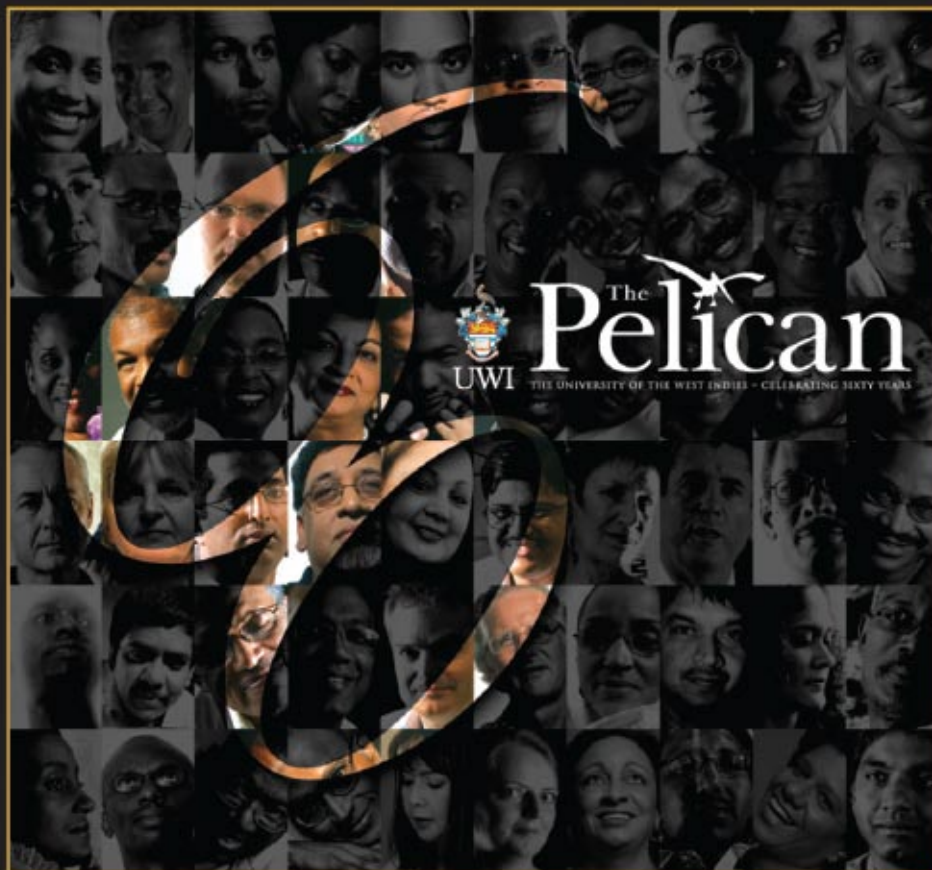
Today, she is Senior Secretary to Deputy Principal, Prof. Rhoda Reddock, whom she describes as sincere, energetic and "always on the go".

"She also recognizes my desire for helping students and knows that I will go 10 extra miles and often work late hours, up to 11.00 p.m., to get things done. She is a wonderful boss and a pleasure to work with," she added.

In terms of planning for the future, she is looking forward to spending more time with her aunts, Urmilla and Vidya, and of course, her family.

In 1978, she married Rajendra Maharaj whom she met while he was a student at UWI, their son Shivan was born in 1981, a daughter Sarana followed in 1983. Post retirement, she is also focussed on continuing her studies in Spanish and Counselling, as well as "looking to helping others in the society".

AWH. ■



APEX awards for PELICAN MAGAZINE

"...it is a chance not only to promote UWI's work, but also to have our public relations and marketing activities assessed and recognised by an international panel of experts"

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is once again in winners' row, having gained international recognition at the Awards for Publication Excellence (APEX) 2009. The UWI Marketing and Communications Office, under the direction of Mrs. Dawn-Marie De Four-Gill, took home APEX Awards in two categories: Websites and Photography for the Pelican Magazine.

"We always look forward to entering APEX because it is a chance not only to promote UWI's work, but also to have our public relations and marketing activities assessed and recognised by an international panel of experts," said Mrs De Four-Gill.

This was not the first year that the University won APEX awards. In 2007, the UWI Marketing and Communications Office

received an APEX award for Publication Excellence in the category of Magazines and Journals for The UWI St. Augustine News (STAN) magazine (2007/8). The international APEX Awards for Publication Excellence recognise excellence in publications by communication professionals. Evaluated on the basis of distinction in graphic design, editorial content and the ability to achieve overall communications excellence, the annual competition salutes outstanding entries in each of the categories. APEX 2009 marked the 21st Annual Awards, and with close to 3,785 entries, the competition in this year's programme was exceptionally intense.

In the APEX websites category, UWI Marketing and Communications received an award for its Pelican magazine online. The Pelican is a bi-annual publication that turns the spotlight on the achievements of UWI faculty, alumni and regional leaders, and celebrates the University's many contributions to regional growth and development. With its regular web exclusives, the Pelican online magazine is a perfect complement to the print version.

UWI Marketing and Communications also shone in the Photography Category, copping an award for 60 under 60, a special edition of The Pelican, published to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the regional university. Showcased in this keepsake are sixty of the University's leading researchers, representing a sample of the wide range of talent resident at UWI. 60 under 60 featured the photography of Alex Smailes/Abovegroup and Peter Ferguson/2 _ Works Ltd., who were given creative freedom to develop the project.

For more information on UWI publications, please visit our official website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/markcom/publications/default.asp>, or contact the Marketing and Communications Office at Marketing.Communications@sta.uwi.edu at (868) 662-2002 Ext. 2013, 2014. For more UWI News, click <http://sta.uwi.edu/news>. ■



Festival Dance Ensemble in USA

The Festival Dance Ensemble, Department of Creative and Festival Arts, recently returned from the World Dance Alliance Americas General Assembly which was held at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Prof. Rex Nettleford was the feature speaker at the event. The troupe's repertoire included *Caribbean Praise* and *The Hunt*, both performed at the Margaret H'Doubler performance space, Lathrop Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison. Many thanks to the Coordinator, of the Dance Programme at UWI, Hazel Franco, for sharing these images of the successful tour.

Sweet Success for Melville Lewis

Congratulations to Store Room Attendant/Messenger, Melville Lewis of the Health Service Unit for winning in the St George East County Category, National Entrepreneur award (2008) for Apiculture (beekeeping). He was on-hand to accept the award which was presented by the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, The Hon. Arnold Piggott at the Hilton Hotel. Lewis has been successfully developing his business in the hills of the Northern range for the past 15 years.



Melville Lewis accepts his award from Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, Arnold Piggott.

Although colonies have been collapsing around the world, causing major concerns to scientist and environmentalists alike, he has not had any losses locally. However, he says that managing the bees has become more challenging because of climate change.

"Bees produce honey during the dry season and now with changing weather patterns, the season has shortened and prices have increased, along with theft," he explained recently.

But Melville remains committed to his business and "loves his work with the bees and managing the more than 100 colonies".



I UWI LIFE

UWI ORIENTATION EVENTS 2009

UWI Life Support

2nd September 2009

(For Parents, Guardians and Spouses Only)

UWI Life Extension

3rd September 2009

(For Mature, Evening and Postgraduate Students Only)

UWI Life Student

4th September 2009

(For First Year/First Time Undergraduate Students Only)



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UWI LIFE is the official student orientation programme of The University of the West Indies.

[CONNECT]

A conversation with film maker & CEO of Gayelle, The Channel

Christopher Laird

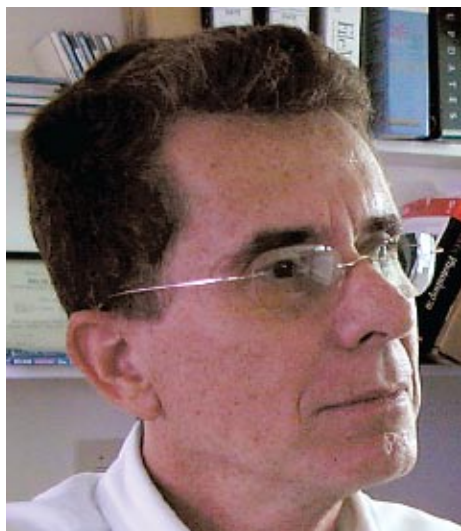
Many of you may
not know the name
Christopher Laird,
but in fact, he's
been inside your
homes for over two
decades.

A graduate of London University with post-graduate training in Education, he taught for seven years at the John S. Donaldson Technical Institute in Port of Spain, is a published poet and published a journal of the Arts for five years in Trinidad & Tobago.

Since 1975 he has been working in television and has written, directed and produced over 400 programmes, including the first television drama series in the anglophone Caribbean - *Who the C.A.P. Fits...* (1978). He has worked extensively in the Caribbean, both in the production of television and the training of broadcasters.

The son of celebrated architect Colin Laird, he grew up in the renaissance years of the Federation, inspired by his father's artistic circle of friends. He's currently the CEO of Gayelle The Channel, the region's first all Caribbean free-to-air television station, which he co-founded with Errol Fabien in 2003. The Gayelle Model, previously declared unfeasible and impossible by regional media pundits – six years on, remains the only free-to-air station to offer local and regional content 24 hours a day.

Anna Walcott-Hardy got some answers from the award-winning artist who will be honored by The UWI St Augustine Campus at a November Graduation ceremony.



How old were you when you decided to become a filmmaker? Who were your mentors?

I guess all youngsters want to make movies but I first seriously expressed the aim of becoming a filmmaker at 19. Film schools were just starting up in London, Poland and a few other places, but the way to a career in film still meant getting a job and working your way up in the industry. My parents were adamant that I get my degree first.

My mentors at that time were not necessarily filmmakers, but the many Caribbean artists especially the writers with whom I had the privilege of knowing in my parent's circle growing up and those whom I met in the Caribbean Artists Movement in London in the 60s. **John La Rose, Andrew Salkey, Edward (now Kamau) Braithwaite** and I remember **Wilson Harris** being very supportive of my exploring things visually, when he saw an illustrated poem I had constructed at the time.

I knew that I had a strong visual sense and a strong sense of mission in terms of expressing the Caribbean reality. Film seemed to be the way but I didn't know how to achieve it. Remember, the time was the late 60s, and we were all caught up in the revolutionary nationalism of the time. Video was just beginning and that really was the way I entered filmmaking.



Do you have any projects you look back on and think – how were we able to accomplish this on such a limited budget, little resources and time?

In the early days. I guess almost all the projects seemed like that, but as time went on, one could not avoid a certain dissatisfaction or frustration that the work had to be so compromised by the lack of time, resources... It is an empty boast to say I had achieved X with nothing if X wasn't up to standard. Eventually, I chose just those projects which seemed to promise a balance between resources and the quality of the outcome by accepting a degree of modesty in its design. Needless to say, when you get down to it, that promise is seldom if ever kept. You always want better. The growth of digital technology, however, has helped a great deal to achieve a semblance of quality with slim resources.

Do you have a pet project?

Gayelle was a pet project decades in the making and I have to count by blessings that I have had a chance in my lifetime to be able to confront the dream in reality. It is still a pet project yet to be fully realised.

My other pet project, has been to make a film of **Sonny Ladoo's NO PAIN LIKE THIS BODY**. I've been working on that for 35 years, ever since I read the book 1974. Tony Hall, Errol Sitahal and I have a great screenplay, but that is as far as we have got. Meanwhile, I have been working on a documentary on Ladoo and have filmed about half of it. Work on that stopped with the coming of Gayelle the channel.

"I guess I have appeared unassuming because I know I am no genius."

For the past 30 years your productions have helped us to see ourselves, to better understand who we are as a people. With the challenges Banyan and then Gayelle have faced over the years, what do you think is the future of film in T&T and of local programming?

The conditions for Caribbean motion picture production are still difficult, but that is the nature of the business. Making films is never easy, anywhere. But as Cuban filmmaker **Gloria Rolando** says, 'you can't stop artists dreaming', even though for nearly half a century of television in the Caribbean we have had to dream other people's dreams.

Nevertheless, there are hopeful signs: The Trinidad & Tobago Film Company is a huge step forward despite the fact that the government has slashed its already inadequate budget 50% this year; there are film courses at UWI and students are coming out of them with some promise. There are many young people out there now who fancy themselves as filmmakers. The technology is doing for film what it did for audio recording twenty years ago, putting it within the reach of everyone. When Gayelle started five years ago people came to us with ideas, now they come with DVDs.

Do you think that subsidizing the industry would help the progression of film or video productions and raise the standard; and does this come hand-in-hand with censorship and regulations that may deter creativity?

Subsidies for film production are absolutely essential if the state is serious about developing the industry. Our market is so small [that] massive investment over a long period is needed to kick start the industry and establish momentum. This includes investment in developing marketing and distribution channels and infrastructure. The industry will not develop if we don't increase the size of our market and that takes real investment.

It is a matter of faith in the real resource we have in the region, the creative drive of our people. This is what has filled the world with Caribbean Carnivals, it could be a world full of Caribbean media tomorrow. But the record is more than dismal when it comes to our governments having faith in the worth of our people.

“I see my films like I see my father’s buildings. If you walk into a Colin Laird building, its elegance and his exquisite sense of scale will make you feel the dignity and infinite possibility of being human.”

Where do you see Gayelle the Channel in five years?

Gayelle the Channel in five more years will have to still be at the centre of Caribbean media origination one way or the other. It has already radically changed our expectations of our media. Compare the media environment when we began to that of today: the explosion of channels, television personalities, series, shows and people employed in the industry. Yet we are still the only free-to-air station in the region, with close to 100% Caribbean content 24 hours a day.

In the next few years you can expect a deepening and sharpening of focus as economic realities are driven home but the shape of the industry in five years will be unrecognisable compared to today. The glory days of broadcast television days are way past and the new media is poised to turn

established forms on their heads. I expect Gayelle to be in the midst of that. At the very least, we will have been the main inspiration and model.

You’ve always seemed like such an even-tempered, unassuming guy - are you excited about being honored by UWI, by being on stage, in front of the camera for a while?

I have always been a back stage person. I guess I have appeared unassuming because I know I am no genius and it has taken 300 productions and many years of work and self-analysis of my work to find my particular talent and become secure in that.

I am not a flashy filmmaker, if you see my hand while watching a film of mine, then I have failed in some respect. The people in my films are the subject of the films, not me. You know, I see my films like I see my father’s buildings. If you walk into a Colin Laird building, its elegance and his exquisite sense of scale will make you feel the dignity and infinite possibility of being human. I like to feel you get the same feeling when you watch my best work: the joy and pain, the intelligence and enduring courage that it takes to live our lives together in this world.

I am not alone in believing that in this society the fate of the truly innovative and committed artist is vagrancy of one sort or another, literally and/or figuratively. Our history makes us so brutal with those who don’t accept their station. I have seen too many of our heroes talking to themselves in the street to not take it as a caution and know that those who have escaped that fate, have done so because someone SAW them, recognised them, loved them, usually a nurturing friend or family member and they were wise enough to accept that love as more important than their dreams.

Recognition and appreciation too often happens here after death. So that the UWI has seen it fit to give me this honour is wonderful.

I am deeply appreciative, even while I feel the accusing press of the legions of those still unrecognised and restless warriors who precede me and with whom I still walk.

Who or what inspires you?

There are so many names I shy away from naming them for fear of those whom I will necessarily omit.

I have always been inspired by the giants of our Caribbean civilisation, **James, Walcott, Naipaul, McBurnie, Chang**, those who I was privileged to come to know as people, as a young person growing up. I grew up in a house that was often filled with such presences, inspired by the dream of Federation and I saw a whole generation crash and burn with its demise. That conviction of our unique and shared Caribbean genius lived on with the Caribbean Artists Movement and I like to feel that I act still in that tradition along with those who continue to share a vision of what we have to offer the world as a region.

While I would count **my parents** and people like **John La Rose** as significant guides, I would also admit the influence of those two generous and anarchic iconoclasts **Ken Corsbie** and **Marc Matthews**, with whom I have been close over the years. If I have an ounce of their talent and spirit I would consider myself well endowed indeed. The recording genius **Emory Cook** is still someone I would consider a model for all my work with Banyan and Gayelle.

I have been extremely fortunate to have been able to work intimately with rewarding creative results with great talents like **Tony Hall** and his brother **Dennis, Bruce Paddington, Errol Sitahal and Niala Maharaj** and for the past five years I have had the incredible experience of working side by side with one of the most extraordinary human beings I know, **Errol Fabien**. Talk about inspiration! ■



CHANCELLOR'S MEDAL FOR NETTLEFORD

It was a memorable night with none other than the UWI Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne as host to guests including members of the Diplomatic Corps, Celebrated Artists and Government Ministers. They came to celebrate the eminent Professor, Rex Nettleford, who was being presented with the Chancellor's Award from UWI on 24th April 2009. The Ceremony at Daaga Auditorium featured The Lydian singers under the direction of Pat Bishop, as well as a memorable presentation of the 18K gold medal.

The Chancellor's medal is a special Award of Distinction made by the Chancellor of The University to a person who has made a signal, substantial and lasting contribution to the welfare and development of the University. It is also awarded to persons who have enabled

UWI to access significant resources for the achievement of its Mission: delivering to the region quality higher education through teaching, outreach and research, and thereby facilitating Caricom Caribbean's growth and development.

Professor Rex Nettleford, often celebrated for his immeasurable contribution to cultural development in the region, is a well-known Caribbean scholar, trade union educator, social and cultural historian.

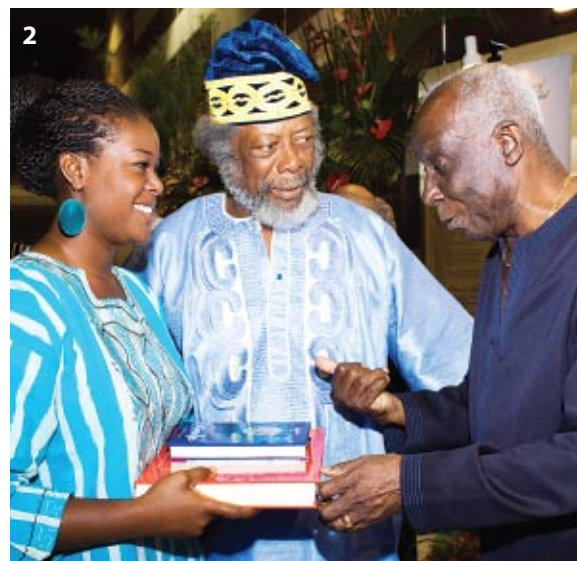
He is the founder, artistic director and principal choreographer of the internationally acclaimed National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica. A former Rhodes Scholar, he is a Vice Chancellor Emeritus at UWI, Jamaica and was responsible for introducing the Cultural Studies Initiative which has attracted postgraduate

scholars since its inception in 1996.

Professor Nettleford has served the region in many capacities and continues to do so as editor of Caribbean Quarterly Journal.

Additionally, he has served on several international bodies concerning intercultural development and academic scholarship, such as UNESCO and The Organisation of American States (OAS). Over the years Professor Nettleford has been the recipient of numerous awards including Caricom's highest award – the Order of the Caribbean Community (OCC).

For further information about this ceremony, please call the Marketing & Communications Office at (868) 662-2002 Exts 2316, 3726, 3636, 2315. ■



1. Mrs Elizabeth Mc Comie, UWI Events Manager, Office of the Campus Principal with UWI Chancellor Sir George Alleyne 2. Artist Leroi Clarke and his daughter present a collection of books to Professor Nettleford 3. Dancer Allan Balfour 4. Prof. Margaret Rouse-Jones with Mrs. Karen Lee Quan 5. Sir George presents the award to Prof. Nettleford 6. Prof. Clement Sankat 7. Harpist Liselli Grunwald



Dr. David Rampersad,
Director Business Development

EDULINK

New project focuses on global partnerships

"The project is intended to provide the tools to academic and administrative staff to help them generate revenue"

A key collaboration is underway with the UWI and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, as well as the European Union Member States that are signatories to the 9th European Development Fund (EDF).

EDULINK is an initiative that funds cooperative projects between its members and the 'Capacity Building for the Financial Sustainability of ACP Higher Education

Institutions' project which was officially launched on Friday 22nd May at the St. Augustine Campus. The UWI is spearheading the project. The Edulink network will include The University of Technology (Jamaica), The University of Mauritius, The University of Suriname, The University of Guyana, The University of Belize, The University of the South Pacific and The University of Warwick.

This EDULINK-funded project involves strengthening the capacity of the member universities in the area of financial sustainability, through the design and implementation of a professional development programme on resource mobilisation. The project will help partner institutions to strengthen their competitiveness and enable ACP states through their universities to achieve sustainable development objectives and promote higher education as a means of reducing poverty.

The project is intended to provide the tools to academic and administrative staff to help them generate revenue more effectively and create a shift from traditional sources of funding. It will also facilitate capacity building in research administration, use of technology, and the management of intellectual property.

With EDULINK, academic and administrative staff of all partner universities will be trained in revenue generation techniques with a focus on philanthropy, grantsmanship, commercialisation of research and business development.

The project is also expected to result in the formulation of a professional development programme in resource mobilization and the establishment of a Virtual Office at which will provide guidance and manage the implementation of this project. The project will last for a period of twenty-four months.

For more information about EDULINK, please contact Dr. David Rampersad at David.Rampersad@sta.uwi.edu or (868) 645-2500 or Ms. Joy Cooblal at PcfIns.EDULINK@sta.uwi.edu or (868) 662-2002 Ext. 3551. ■

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[ALUMNI]



The Talented Mr. Riley

UWI Alumnus Robert Bernard Riley at his bpTT office in Port of Spain

Robert Bernard Riley, Chairman and CEO of bpTT will be one of five persons receiving honorary degrees from **The University of the West Indies, St Augustine** campus later this year.

He receives an **LLD**, an award that “humbled” and “surprised” him and made him question whether his “body of work” was sufficient so far. In this Q&A with **Vaneisa Baksh**, he talks about his role at bpTT, a company he has led for nearly a decade.

How did you come into the petroleum sector?

It was in 1991 when I joined Amoco. It was to be an attorney at the company. I came in and got relegated to looking at a bunch of gas files, which nobody thought was important, and I remember looking at it for days and days and days, looking at the history of the company's attempt to do LNG in this country, ranging back right to the beginning in the sixties. People don't know this but the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and Amoco and companies like that were looking at doing LNG then, looking at doing gas then, what we had done, how we had done the Fertrin project. I spent a lot of time reading these files because that was what I was relegated to, and being frustrated.

I learned a lot about the gas business when Amoco wasn't into the gas business. So here I am two or three years into the firm and people are saying Amoco wants to leave. The oil business was going out of style. I was called to a meeting in Houston and I had to lead a team of 25 people to develop the plan to exit Trinidad.

We looked at that option and none of us liked it. And then we said, but there is gas that we know about. It turned into: could we make gas possible? Could we do a gas business in Trinidad? And so I was right there at the formation of Amoco's declaration and strategy to grow a gas business in Trinidad, and the principal strategies that we adopted to grow the gas business in Trinidad.

A real burning vision of what this company should be like in Trinidad came into my head. I think from then to now I've had this passion around mutuality, [that] this company should really give as much to the country...should be doing more than paying taxes, should be developing the human resource, should be bringing more of the activity to the country.

Would it be accurate to say your company, bpTT possibly contributes a third of the national income?

Yeah, I think so. It's quite true. About the foreign exchange reserves we're about 60% of it. That's why [former Finance Minister] Brian Kuei Tung said, and I think he was accurate, 'If BP sneezes he catches the cold.' And as much



“we have lots of good people here, pulling their weight.”

as the country has shifted so it's a little bit less so now, it is still very much so.

It is a powerful entity.

It is a very powerful entity.

Would you say that in the company that exists today as bpTT, the principles that guide you have filtered into it?

I think it is filtering. There's a good reason why this company continues to be successful. We have lots of good people here, really pulling their weight. I've been lucky and privileged to lead this team, privileged. These are some of the most talented people in the country. I think that's the dream really... of a sustainable stream of quality individuals that we are making at the same time. That is the sustainability. That to me is the future of the country. And that is what I am about. I think that is coming into the ethos of this company. We are developing leaders here who are not total leaders. We are developing people who understand that their duty is to look beyond themselves.

When you say not total leaders, you mean...

I mean leaders who are not authoritarian... leaders who really eat their young so there never is succession....people who can't retire because they have nobody left behind to take their place, by design. People are authoritarian. I think it is reflected in our leadership. I think it is bogging down the Caribbean, because there is no space for these youngsters. We're stagnant.

I think the real failure of the Caribbean is leadership in all its spheres, elites. So those who have money not doing what they're supposed to do with it. Those who have privilege in learning and intellect not using that for others and really devoting their lives to the better...there are people who do it but I don't think it is enough, the people who do it.

...I don't want to take crack shots at anybody but I think that for many years Lloyd Best described the plantation model and its governance, but actually to find solutions... and maybe in my theory the solution might

lie in the way in which we actually develop human capital in a much more even way, and a leadership cadre that starts to understand the need for creating a balance that is actually in their own self interest, that it's in their benefit if they want to develop the society, that you have to develop the artist, you have to develop the intellectual, and sustain them so that they can actually stay in that state of focus where they can.

An artist can stay more in the purity of the expression of himself, which is going to be a reflection of us in a way that we can't see. And the intellectual has to be free to comment, experiment, to put ideas down, to just think, almost for the sake of itself, about problems that we have in society, and describe them without having to worry about where their next bread and their next income is coming from. That's what I want to be an example of, and you can't say it alone, you have to act it and be it and do it. And that's all I'm trying to do. It's another kind of activism. There's the political sphere of activism and some people go into that. At the moment I am in corporate activism. I think it's a new way. ■



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MONA REIGNS AT UWI GAMES

JAMAICAN CAMPUS REGAINS TROPHY



UWI, Mona was crowned

champion of UWI Games 2009 at The UWI, St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad in May, reclaiming the title that they have won in six of the last seven biennial Games.

UWI Games 2009 kicked off on Thursday, May 21 with a festive Opening Ceremony at which UWI honoured Jai Jebodhsingh, Victor Cowan and Winford 'Fred' Green, who were the collective driving force responsible for ensuring that the UWI Games continued when it was threatened by financial difficulties in 1975.

Although all Campuses had strengths in various events, neither St. Augustine nor Cave Hill could dethrone the reigning champions, whose final count of 102 points bested Cave Hill's total of 80, and St. Augustine's 56-point tally.

Team Mona at the last showdown event of the Games at the Larry Gomes Stadium, Arima, Trinidad, secured their 15th outright victory in the 44-year history of the Games, capturing the Top Female Team, Top Male Team, Top Technical Team and Victrix Ludorum (Tanice Barnett) awards in a full day of track and field events. Cave Hill's athletes gained 195.5 points and St Augustine's achieving 149, leaving Mona with a sure win with 266.5 points.

From May 21- 28, more than 400 athletes from the three campuses competed in track and field, football, netball, cricket, volleyball, basketball, 6-a-side hockey, swimming, table tennis and lawn tennis. Apart from Track and Field, Mona copped top honours in Tennis, Swimming, Netball, Women's Basketball, Women's Football and Women's Volleyball, although Cave Hill held their own in the Men's and Women's Hockey, Men's Basketball and Men's Volleyball, and St Augustine walked away with Table Tennis and Men's Football.



Mona trounced her sister campuses in the Women's Volleyball championship, taking first place and claiming the prizes for Best Setter, Best Blocker, Best Spiker, Best Defender, Top Technical Team and MVP (Zalika Paul). St Augustine's Jeanne Rose Rene and Jenelle Marshall claimed the Best Server and Best Receiver respectively.

Host Campus St. Augustine found sure footing in the Table Tennis championships, where four-time national women's table tennis champ, Verna Edwards coached national junior player Priya Ramcharan, her sister Nirveeta Ramcharan, Garfield Gay and captain Kellon Roach to a 5-2 victory over their Mona rivals. The St .Augustine team would go on to take first place in the Championship.

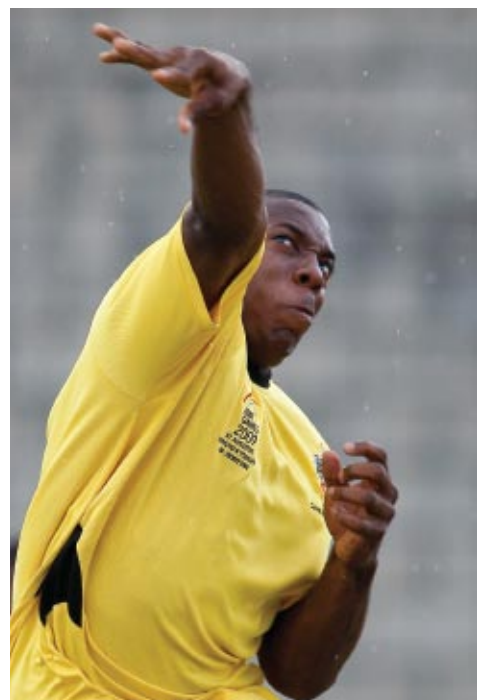
The final day of UWI Games 2009, May 28, belonged to Cave Hill, whose cricketers scored 137 for 5 to defeat St Augustine in an exciting one-day at the UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC), St. Augustine.

On the SPEC indoor court, Cave Hill dominated Mona in the men's basketball game, as evidenced by a final score of 84 to 43. The outcome was the same for the St. Augustine netballers, who fell 41-24 to the opponents from Cave Hill. A change of venue brought no better luck for St. Augustine in Men's Hockey, as Cave Hill again beat St. Augustine convincingly (3-1), this time at the Eastern Regional Sport Complex in Tacarigua. The St. Augustine ladies fared slightly better against their Mona opponents in hockey, breaking even at two goals apiece, but could not prevail over the women in football, falling 1-0 to evenly matched opponents from Mona.

The host campus St. Augustine, ceremonially handed over the UWI Games flag to the Cave Hill campus at the Closing Ceremony, as they will host the games in 2011.

Correspondents: Mona, Cave Hill and St Augustine Public Relations/Marketing and Communications Offices . To download the official UWI Games 2009 Calendar and view the official scores, visit www.sta.uwi.edu/uwigames2009. ■







Dr.Sabga with Vice Chancellor Nigel E. Harris and Mrs.Sabga at the UWI 60th Anniversary Gala at The Hyatt Regency Hotel

For two decades the ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre has been successfully pioneering the growth of Psychology within Trinidad and Tobago... The ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre is unique to all three campuses of The University of the West Indies and it's the first of its kind in the English Speaking Caribbean. The Centre continues to hold true to its mission "To promote and develop the discipline of Psychology with particular focus on research, teaching, professional and policy development", and "To use psychological principles as an integral part of applied social science for personal, social and national development." The major force behind the emergence of psychology and development of the ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre is Professor Deosaran.

The Centre has been strategically developed and highly respected for the work accomplished by its main founder and first director Professor Deosaran. In the 1980s being the only academic teaching and researching psychology, he pushed forward the initiative for the development of a Psychological Research Centre for the growth of research and teaching in psychology. Thanks to the [then] chairman of the ANSA McAL Group of Companies Dr. Anthony Sabga, a generous endowment was given to The UWI for the construction of the Centre.

History of the Centre

The year was 1988... Society at this point, according to Professor Ramesh Deosaran was "relatively naive about Psychology." In the book *The ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre: The Miracle of St. Augustine* 1989-1999, Professor Deosaran stated that

at this point, psychology "was in the realm of superstition and predications. It was popular Psychology, faddish..." These beliefs may have made it difficult for Psychology to grow and be established as a respected social science capable of standing amongst the ranks of the "hardcore sciences" that were offered by The University...

To assist in the development of a Centre for Psychological Research, the Foundation for Psychological Research was established with the following members: [Then] Chief Justice Mr. Clinton Bernard (Chairman), Mr. Peter Quentrell-Thomas (Vice Chairman), Professor Ramesh Deosaran (Secretary/ Research Coordinator), Mr. David Martin (Treasurer/ PRO), Professor John Spence, Father Winston Joseph, Mr. Robin Montano, Mr. Russell Martineau, Mrs. Nesta Patrick, Professor Knolly Butler, Mr. Percy Cezair, Dr. Jeff Davidson, Dr. John Neehall, Dr. Winston

Ince, Mr. Hayden Franco and Mr. Cecil Paul. Due to reduced funding, the University encouraged faculties and their departments to engage in self-financing projects. After approaching potential donors, it was the ANSA McAL Group of Companies headed by its Chairman Dr. Anthony Sabga that generously agreed to fund the building of the Centre. On January 6th 1989 the sod-turning ceremony for the ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre took place. This ceremony solidified the conception of a centre for psychological research and development, in a region where this was absent and severely needed. The event was a representation of the tireless efforts to obtain funding for the centre by foundation members, who were eternally grateful when a representative from the corporate world saw the importance of the venture and heeded the call.

Through the corporate donation from the ANSA McAL Group of Companies, the Centre formally opened its doors on May 24th, 1989. The success of the Centre in the following years was greatly due to the hard work and foresight of Professor Ramesh Deosaran. The accomplishments of the ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre over the years are vast and far-reaching.

Growth of Psychology

The ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre spurred the growth of the psychology programme at The UWI. Three years after the development of the Centre, a national consultation on Psychology was hosted. Following this consultation and the presentation of a proposal on a Psychology Programme by Professor Deosaran, U.W.I. agreed in principle to develop a B.Sc. Programme in Psychology. Three years later the B.Sc. Major in Psychology was first offered at the St. Augustine Campus. The programme was later offered at the Mona and then the Cave Hill Campuses. In 1998, 15 students graduated from the B.Sc. in Psychology Programme at the St. Augustine Campus.

Currently, there is an annual intake of about 150 students pursuing the major and special in psychology with over 1000 students having graduated since the start of the B.Sc. in Psychology... Today the offerings in Psychology have been expanded to a Special in Psychology, an M.Phil and Ph.D. in Psychology. The Department of Psychiatry, UWI, at Mt. Hope, offers a Clinical Psychology Programme of which almost 90% of the students are graduates of the UWI, B.Sc. Psychology Programme. An M.Sc. in Applied Psychology will soon be proposed. The Centre assisted in the introduction of the B.Sc. Major in Psychology, M.Phil. in Psychology and Ph.D. in Psychology programmes.

Research and Academia

Since its formal opening in May 1989, the ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre has undertaken a number of research projects, outreach and public education programmes, training seminars, staff seminars, seminars for undergraduate and postgraduate students, surveys, publications, lectures, conferences,

“To use psychological principles as an integral part of applied social science for personal, social and national development.”

workshops and symposiums. In addition, various publications and policy proposals prepared by the Centre have been submitted to policy makers of this and other countries in order to inform decision making at the highest echelons.



Derek Chadee, Manager,
ANSA McAL Psychological
Research Centre

Research Projects

The research projects undertaken by the Centre over the years incorporate various themes and subjects including psychonomics, fear of crime, psychology of juvenile behaviour, social norms, HIV/AIDS stigmatization, environmental attitudes, attitudes towards work and customers, psychology of risk and perception of victimization, media perception research, civic and community and family life. Since 1993, the Psychological Research Centre has been undertaking social opinion surveys, measuring attitudes on a number of crucial psychological, social and political issues. In 1998, the Trinidad Guardian commissioned the Centre to undertake weekly surveys. Since this period the Centre has undertaken over two hundred opinion and elections surveys including the measure of peoples' attitudes and attitude change with respect to the 2000, 2001 and 2002, 2007 General Elections and Tobago House of Assembly Elections.

Past research projects include a social psychological analysis of the 1990 Muslimeen insurrection recorded in Professor Deosaran's book, "A Society Under Siege: A Study of Political Cohesion and Legal Mysticism." In 1995 a proposal entitled Mediation as a Community Alternative to Litigation for Young Offenders was submitted to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. This proposal from Professor Deosaran resulted in the Mediation Act No. 13 of 1998 and led to the setting of a number of mediation centres across Trinidad and Tobago. The University of the West Indies subsequently developed a Mediation Centre which now offers a Master of Science in Mediation Studies.

In the mid-90s the Centre undertook a study on the psychology of poverty. In 2001, the Centre received a Ford Foundation grant to study the Social Psychology of Crime, Safety and Community Empowerment (The Ford Foundation is a resource for innovative people and institutions around the world, founded to advance human welfare). Among the major



variables measured in this fear of crime study were: respondents' feelings of fear of crime, risk and safety assessment of being a victim of crime, actual victimisation experience, and protective strategies used to reduce fear and risk. Additionally, on the topic of psychology of fear and safety, the Student Guild Project on Campus Safety was conducted by the Centre at the St. Augustine Campus. The major intention of this survey was to measure the extent to which students feel safe on the campus and to make the necessary recommendations.

Among the recently completed projects include an HIV/AIDS study for the National AIDS Coordination Committee. This project assessed among other issues the degree of HIV/AIDS stigmatization and discrimination, level of awareness and impact of HIV/AIDS advertisements and the effectiveness of the advertising campaign in reaching targeted groups and the perception of HIV/AIDS. Currently two psychology graduate students are undertaking research on HIV/AIDS stigmatization. Environmental Attitudes and Awareness study was recently completed for the Environmental Management Authority. This study assessed the attitudes, cognitions

and behaviour towards the environment along such areas as global warming, deforestation, pollution, endangered species and environmentally sensitive areas. Another recent study assessed the attitudes and satisfaction levels of the motoring public on various aspects of licensing transactions including the public's attitudes, perceptions and expectations of the main licensing offices.

The Centre's relationship with the Trinidad Guardian since 1999 in the undertaking of surveys has been productive. In fact, since 1999 over 150 surveys have been done to ascertain the media consumption (frequency of newspaper reading, television viewing, and radio listening) habits as well as social, economic and political issues of the general public. More important, the undertaking of these surveys is used to train many of our psychology major students in the use of important and useful research methods in the measuring of attitudes and dispositions.

Some of the current projects being undertaken by the ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre include a project on Gambling with the Ministry of Social Development, a Social

Norms Project with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and a longitudinal fear of crime study funded by a Trinidad and Tobago Government Grant.

The Centre's publications over the years are reflective of its research and are inclusive of several books and articles on a range of topics in psychology.

Conferences and Workshops

Conferences and workshops were seen as a way to fulfil an educational need for students pursuing studies in psychology. Over the years the Centre hosted a number of conferences and workshops which were innovative, useful and provided a medium for teaching the community of psychology and other students within the Faculty of Social Sciences; including conferences and workshops on Crime and Justice - addressing issues such as Forensic Science, the psychology of crime and domestic violence. Other conferences/workshops included areas in Parapsychology, Cultural Diversity, National Unity, Conflict Management, Social Development, Trial by Jury, and Attitudes and Challenges in the Work Place, held for senior staff at the Office of the Ombudsman, covering topics such as Dealing with Challenges in the Workplace, Stress Reduction and, Mediation and Conflict Resolution. Another insightful workshop was recently held last year by the Centre and conducted by Professor Roopnarine Jaipaul on the topic, Parental Social Development Practices in the Caribbean Homes. Other seminars included Education and Juvenile Delinquency, Drug Addiction and Rehabilitation, The Influence of Stereotypes on Court Testimony, Fear of Crime in Trinidad and Tobago, An Overview of Suicide in Trinidad and Tobago, The Psychology of Humour, Stress Management: Coping with University Life, Carnival: A Way to Relieve Stress or a Stressor, Integrative Psychotherapy, Psycho-Pharmacology of Drug Abuse, Statistics and Research Methods in Psychology, Quantitative and Qualitative Research,



Data Analysis on SPSS, Structural Equation Modelling and other statistical applications.

Several workshops held within recent years, focused on research and statistical education and training in areas such as Evaluative Research (conducted by Professor Linda Heath, Psychologist, Loyola University, Chicago) and Statistics and Research Methods (Dr. Alistair McClelland, Psychologist, University College London).

In June 2008, the Centre hosted a workshop on Behavioural Assessment and Interventions in Juvenile Homes. The workshop was conducted by Dr. John Van Eenwyk, Clinical Director International Trauma Treatment Programme. Attending the seminar were representatives from Youth Training Centre, St. Michaels Industrial School, St. Jude's Home for Girls, St. Mary's Children's Home and representatives of different Ministries of Government. Two seminars were also held in 2008 on gambling and social norms.

Collaborations

The ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre has in the past and continues to liaise with researchers and institutions in several countries and regions including the USA,

UK, Europe and other Caribbean states. These liaisons and sharing of resources and ideas, have allowed for collaboration on issues relevant to the Caribbean that are similar to problems in international regions, and have allowed the local researchers to gain global insight into social problems and phenomena. Collaborations on projects and publications have allowed the Centre to gain recognition and rapport with internationally accredited institutions and leading researchers in their respective subject areas. The Centre has produced several publications with colleagues from abroad that have been published in regional and international journals and books. Among the universities that the Centre has and continue to collaborate with are State University of New York at Albany (SUNY); University of Sheffield, United Kingdom; University of Central Florida; University of Nis, Serbia; Boston Medical Centre, Massachusetts; University College London; Loyola University, Chicago and Hunter College; City University of New York (CUNY), Social Psychology Department; London School of Economics; University of Toronto; Syracuse University; Atlantic State University...

In the area of teaching, learning and graduate studies, the Psychology Unit's 2008-2012 Strategic Plan is consistent with the vision of The University's new strategic plan. With prospects of new faculty, an experimental psychology laboratory and a new Masters programme (M.Sc. in Applied Psychology), hopes are high for the positive outcomes.... As for research and innovation, the Centre will continue to do what it does best. There is a never-ending need to seek out knowledge and information, to find solutions to problems where they exist and to attempt to explain and predict human behaviour...

*Excerpts from an article compiled by
Cherisse Rambarose. ■*

[ON CAMPUS]

Prof. Clement Sankat

A TRIBUTE to Lylla Rose Bada



Prof. Clement Sankat

One of the most *memorable moments of the Campus Council Meeting in March, was the tribute given by the Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat, to the Campus Bursar, Mrs Lylla Bada, who will retire this year. Known for her diligence, professionalism, integrity and modesty, she has given decades of sterling service to the UWI. As the meeting came to a close, some of the senior administrators and professors admitted they were moved to tears and all agreed that although she has left a legacy of excellence, she will be truly missed.*

Ms Lylla Rose Bada has been widely described as a very simple, modest person who does not favour being in the lime light. Throughout the UWI system it is known that her honesty and integrity cannot be questioned. Her fearlessness prompts her to challenge anyone, regardless of position, rather than allow the rules to be broken.

However, I am told by her immediate staffers that anyone who approached her with an earnest claim or need was heard with sympathy and understanding and she always did her best to assist. This Bursar had an open door policy and was accessible at all times to Bursary staff and at most times to the rest of the Campus community.

Lylla started on this campus 40 years ago in 1969 as Assistant Accountant- a position she held until 1971. She left the UWI for a short while in 1971 and returned in 1972 when she was promoted to the post of Accountant. She held that position for 12 years until 1984, when she rose to the position of Senior Accountant.

Ms Bada served in various sections of the Bursary as a Senior Accountant until she became Bursar on January 1st 2001. At her first assessment for reappointment as Bursar (which was extended until her retirement) it was specially noted that – “...Mrs Bada is a good decent, fair and honourable woman- a thorough professional at her job, a competent manager and able leader....

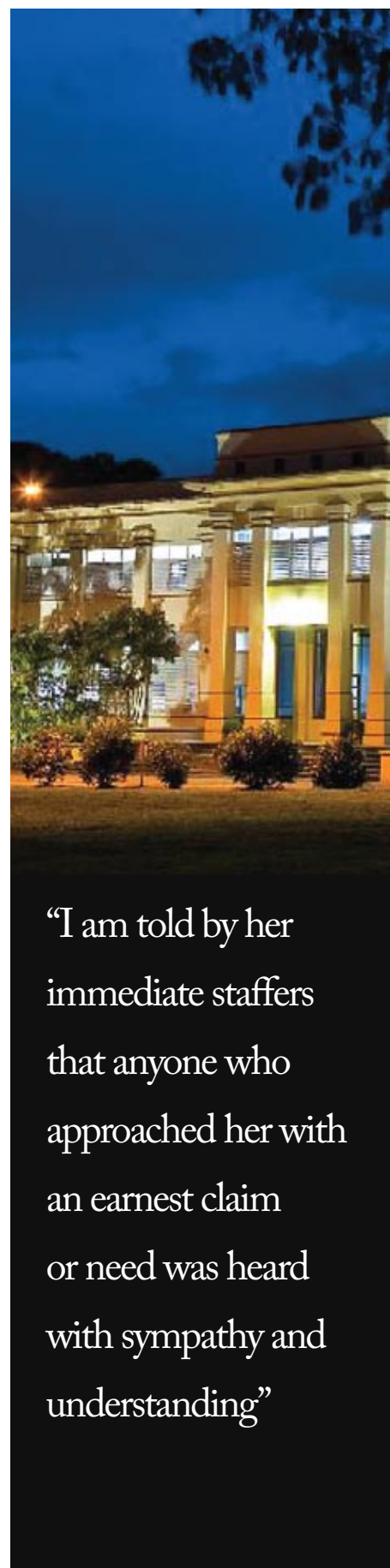
Her vast institutional knowledge is unparalleled throughout the UWI (all campuses) and this knowledge has enabled her to optimise her decision making.

It was rare that she took her full quota of leave in any one year. She gave unstintingly of her time and her car may be seen parked outside the Administration Building on most weekends”.

I have learnt a lot from her during my tenure as Dean and later as PVC Graduate Studies. As Campus Principal, I found myself depending heavily on her for guidance in a new arena. I’ve always found her to be patient, understanding and willing to give excellent advice gained from her own vast experience both on the Campus and with life.

It is with much regret that I ask the Campus Council to acknowledge that this is her last meeting in her capacity as Campus Bursar as she retires in September this year.

I ask you to join with me in a round of applause for her loyal and dedicated service to the entire UWI community. ■



“I am told by her immediate staffers that anyone who approached her with an earnest claim or need was heard with sympathy and understanding”



THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED



All this in our pipeline

The National Gas Company plays a major role in the development of Trinidad and Tobago's natural gas sector and by extension our country's growth and development. Our contributions enable T&T to enjoy a quality of life that is envied by many developing countries worldwide. We see our responsibilities to the nation as being a major driver of our values, mission, vision and strategy, as we set our sights on the future.

NATASHA RAMROOPSINGH, PHD
Chemistry Faculty of Science & Agriculture



RESEARCH THAT IMPACTS OUR WORLD

"I'm convinced that chemistry is my true calling and the great lecturers at the UWI really helped me in seeing that."

Ionic Liquid research is not well known in Trinidad, yet Dr Natasha Ramroopsingh, delved into it while pursuing her PhD Chemistry at the UWI St. Augustine Campus. Natasha's research was specifically titled *"Characteristics and Applications of Immobilized Enzymes in Ionic Liquids"*. She was encouraged to look into this new growing area of research by the Dean, Prof. Dyer Narinesingh of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture. The decision to take on this research topic greatly appealed to her, as interpretation of the data required knowledge of both physical and organic chemistry – two of her favourite areas.

[RESEARCH]

The physical and chemical properties of Ionic Liquids are still being discovered. Yet Natasha sought to investigate how these liquids function in certain environments and how biological systems (enzymes), can potentially be used with higher efficiency, in synthesis and in electrochemical systems. Ionic liquids are salts, which are liquids at room-temperature, and are therefore ionic solvents rather than molecular solvents which are widely used in chemical reactions. The chemistry in an ionic solvent would invariably be different than in a molecular solvent, hence the curiosity arose with biological systems.

In her research, Natasha was able to clarify the kinetics of various enzymes in ionic liquids and in aqueous solvents, develop a new synthesis for sugars with high atom efficiency and develop novel electrochemical systems using the immobilized enzyme-ionic liquid system. The results obtained in the research assist in the full characterization of ionic liquids.

“Until these ionic liquids are fully understood, their use will be limited to the brave. I want my work to assist in adding to the growing database of knowledge on ionic liquids, so that they can be more fully understood. Once they are fully understood, their use in the future will only be limited to the imagination of the researcher.”

Through this and her continued work, Natasha hopes that more researchers will become involved in this area of work. “It is still too early for ionic liquids to be incorporated into any real systems in Trinidad, but an increased awareness of their existence, and potential applications would fuel an interest and lead

to implementation”. She highlights that these solvents are already being used on a wide scale in many industrial applications in countries like Germany.

Within the field of Chemistry in Trinidad, like many other areas, good jobs are scarce. However Natasha believes that more people should enter the field. “Chemistry is only for a select few; however I would encourage anyone who has a knack for it to pursue it. What it all boils down to after all, is doing what you are good at and what you enjoy.”

Natasha’s interest in Science truly took root at the O’ levels and she continued with it through the undergraduate and masters levels. “I’m convinced that chemistry is my true calling and the great lecturers at the UWI really helped me in seeing that.”

She currently works as an Assistant Professor at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). There she is in the process of developing research in ionic liquids. She has taken her knowledge overseas having presented at two international conferences and is currently awaiting the publication of a research paper. In the future, she would like to have a laboratory with three or four assistants focussed on ionic liquids research. She also revealed that she has a passion for cooking as well.

“I am dedicated to my teaching duties and hopefully one day my work can be incorporated in the improvement of industrial processes in Trinidad. Also, and this is completely unrelated, I would love to open a restaurant on the side where I can cook!”

Carlene London ■

“Chemistry is only
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is doing what you a



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UWI

Responds to Concerns Over Virus

In a matter of weeks cases of H1N1 Influenza A virus in Trinidad and Tobago ranged from none to thirty-two. The World Health Organization's rankings also changed from listing the Virus as an epidemic to a pandemic, as confirmed cases increased worldwide. Subsequently, the increase led to a decision by the T&T Government to cancel the Caribbean Games which would have seen hundreds of athletes and support staff converge on the St Augustine Campus.

Then, in light of confirmation that members of the Surinamese volleyball team which had taken part in a recent tournament at the UWI SPEC had tested positive for the H1N1 Influenza A virus, the St. Augustine Campus sent a public advisory that on Monday 16, June 2009, UWI and UWI SPEC (Sport and Physical Education Centre) officials contacted medical officers at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex at Mt. Hope.

On Tuesday, officials from the Ministry of Health's Epidemiology Unit visited the UWI SPEC to interview staff and to share information and answer questions on the potential risk of exposure to the virus. Symptomatic persons eligible for lab investigation were sent for testing and in keeping with the national advisory issued by the Ministry of Health, any other persons who were exhibiting flu-like symptoms were advised to remain at home for a period corresponding to 10 days from date of onset of these symptoms in order to prevent the spread of ANY respiratory illness (whether H1N1 or otherwise).

To date, there have not been any confirmed H1N1 cases among the UWI staff and student population. Health officials further advise that anyone who may have been exposed to the virus at UWI SPEC during the course of the tournament, and has not yet displayed any flu-like symptoms, has not been affected, as they are well beyond the end of the incubation period.

A mechanism has been established at the UWI Health Service Unit for screening staff and students and an advisory has also been issued to the Campus community. The UWI SPEC remains open, but users and the wider community are advised to follow the guidelines for good personal hygiene put forward by the Ministry of Health and previously circulated to staff and students on the campus as we continue to monitor the situation in close collaboration with officials from the Ministry. ■

Commendations For UWI Medical programmes

Two medical teaching programmes at The University of the West Indies (UWI) have been extended accreditation status from the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) 2009. The UWI Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and Veterinary Medicine programmes both received accreditation and commendation from CAAM-HP.

In extending the accreditation status of the UWI MBBS to 2012, CAAM-HP commended the University on the progress made in the governance of the Faculty of Medicine across campuses. CAAM-HP also congratulated the leadership of the School of Veterinary Medicine for the successes evident in the programme. CAAM-HP is the legally constituted body established in 2003 under the aegis of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), empowered to determine and prescribe standards and to accredit



CAAM-HP also congratulated the leadership of the School of Veterinary Medicine for the successes evident in the programme

programmes of medical, dental, veterinary and other health professions education on behalf of the contracting parties in CARICOM.

On its official website (www.caam-hp.org), CAAM-HP defines “accreditation” as “an objective peer review process designed to attest to the educational quality of new, developing and established educational programmes.”

The CAAM-HP accreditation process aims to certify that a medical education programme meets prescribed standards, and to promote institutional self-evaluation and improvement. Acting independently of the participating countries, the CAAM-HP makes periodic evaluations of the medical, dental and veterinary education programmes in CARICOM countries. In preparation for the upcoming full survey visit by CAAM-HP to the UWI campuses in 2012, the University is now preparing to conduct an institutional self-study from the medical teaching programme during the year 2011.

ABOUT CAAM-HP

CAAM-HP is the legally constituted body established in 2003 under the aegis of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), empowered to determine and prescribe standards and to accredit programmes of medical, dental, veterinary and other health professions education on behalf of the contracting parties in CARICOM. The accreditation process assures that medical, dental, veterinary and other health professions schools meet standards of structure, function, and performance and assures society and the health professions that graduates of accredited schools meet the education requirements for further training and the health care needs of the people in the Caribbean. Through accreditation, the CAAM-HP provides assurance to medical, dental and veterinary students, graduates, professionals, institutions and the public that undergraduate programmes leading to qualifications in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine meet appropriate national and international standards for educational quality, and that the graduates have a sufficiently complete and valid educational experience. For more information about CAAM-HP, please visit www.caam-hp.org ■



Dean S. Ramsewak, Faculty Medical Sciences

The *other* White Meat

“Nutritionally, rabbit meat is healthier to eat than chicken”



Like apples and oranges. Chalk and cheese. Chicken and rabbit. People always compare rabbit meat to chicken, says Dr Rajendra Kumar Rastogi, Senior Lecturer in Animal Breeding and Genetics at The University of the West Indies (UWI) St Augustine Campus in Trinidad.

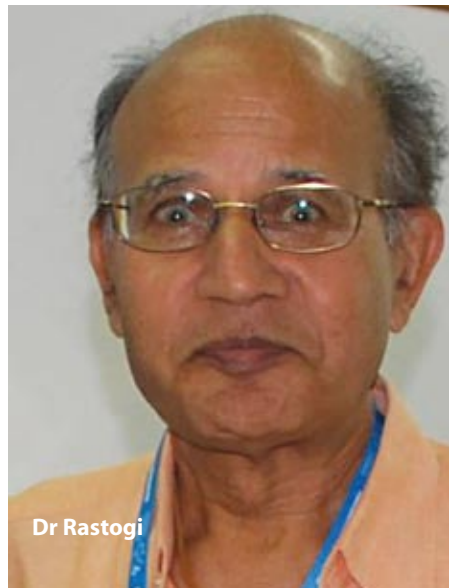
Dr. Rastogi is spearheading an effort from within the Department of Food Production to encourage consumers to add rabbit meat to their daily diet. In fact, he wants rabbit meat to be seen as an alternative to chicken, beef or pork.

“Nutritionally, rabbit meat is healthier to eat than chicken,” said Dr. Rastogi, explaining that rabbit meat is high in protein, and low in cholesterol, fat and sodium.

He was speaking at a rabbit-cooking exercise designed to showcase the versatility of the meat. On the menu, a selection of geera rabbit, pineapple rabbit, honey barbecue rabbit,

cheesy rabbit pie, rabbit kebabs, stuffed rabbit eggs, Thai Poon rabbit, rabbit corn soup, even rabbit wontons!

The exercise, which was hosted by the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, aimed to teach students how to prepare meals with rabbit meat as the main ingredient. Staff at the Food Production Department were focussed on ensuring that the exercise dispelled some misgivings about rabbit meat.



Dr Rastogi

Ask Dr. Rastogi, and he will probably tell you that the introduction of rabbit as a staple in the local diet has long been his intention. He is now actively seeking to have the meat adopted by the prison system and the national school feeding programme.

Dr. Rastogi's passionate faith in this other, other white meat, is perhaps well-placed: the rabbit meat industry is booming worldwide, with over \$150 million spent in global annual trade. The global trend holds true at home. According to Dr. Rastogi, a 2004 agricultural census showed that the local rabbit population had increased to between 6,000 and 7,000.

QUICK FACTS:

Rabbit milk may also be of medicinal value because of its high protein content.

Rabbit manure can be used in vegetable gardens without being made into compost.

Rabbit urine is high in nitrogen, and makes lemon trees very productive.

In March 2008, the University's Food Production Department, in collaboration with the Livestock Products Board and the Ministry of Agriculture, Division of Animal Production and Health, conducted an artificial insemination workshop for specially invited rabbit farmers at the University Field Station Rabbitry. The workshop, conducted by Agnes Camus of IMV Technologies, France, aimed to sensitise farmers and technicians to the potential of rabbit artificial insemination to help improve rabbit breeding.

Dr. Rastogi remains committed to helping local farmers to tap into this profitable industry. Ultimately, he remains hopeful that consumers will expand their food choices.

Gerard Best ■

'BORING *but* STABLE'

Financial Conference examines the future for Caribbean states



What a difference a year makes.

Goldman Sachs, the American financial institution that gained bail-outs in the billions from the US government months ago, has repaid its debt (and the penalty), and announced a US \$3.4 billion half-year profit; to the chagrin of many analysts.

Who would have thought 6 months ago that investment 'Gods' like Burnie Madoff and our very own Allen Stanford, famous for his 20/20 millionaire-making cricket tournament, would have such a steep descent; virtually exchanging designer pinstripes for jail-house jumpsuits.

Who would have predicted that longstanding names including Bears-Stern, AIG and closer to home, CLICO would fall so far, so fast.

And how has our very own economy held-up in the short and long term: for the most part fine – according to the experts at the recently concluded Business, Banking and Finance (BBF) Conference at the Learning Resource Centre, St Augustine Campus, UWI. The third international biennial conference was a forum for the exchange of ideas on critical business, banking and financial issues facing

emerging economies in the context of a global financial and economic meltdown of unprecedented proportions.

Over the years, the conference has been sponsored by Caribbean Money Market Brokers, CMMB. Ironically, the company has not escaped the tremors of the financial quake, as its parent company, CL Financial, is experiencing severe financial difficulties, resulting in CMMB being incorporated into First Citizens group. In the past First Citizens has pledged its support to the UWI on several initiatives, from sport to student bursaries, and this year the BBF conference was added to the list.

In 2009, the Caribbean Centre for Money & Finance, the UWI Department of Management Studies and the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies hosted the Conference which featured a range of international and local speakers, including The Hon. Prime Minister of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Patrick Manning.

With promises of learning from the mistakes of others, he spoke of the present global challenges facing the country and gave, if somewhat general, over-arching solutions. "We are very aware that the present global experience demands that financial institutions return to their original mandate of secure savings and conservative investments; of conditionalities to credit that are neither burdensome nor lax; and of building the trust of populations so that they could place their investments and life savings in a system that provides them with the level of security they need."

"We are still fortunate to have that kind of banking tradition in Trinidad and Tobago. It used to be said that banking is a boring business. That was before the intoxication of derivative driven excesses. I suspect that the world would like the financial sector once again to be described as somewhat dull. Dull but powerful and indispensable. Boring but stable," Prime Minister Manning stated at the Opening Ceremony.

While some predict that we are in recovery in Trinidad and the world, other analysts view the bail-outs at home and abroad, as simply stalling the inevitable – the end of an empire, which is the USA, and the emergence of another (China perhaps). More than two years ago, USA economist, Robert Shiller, and a handful of gurus, predicted the credit crisis and the derivate-driven excess.

He saw that home prices in the USA would fall more rapidly than any models had predicted and that financial world markets would be affected profoundly. He saw that the real-estate bubble in the United States and parts of Europe ultimately represented a failure to manage risk. Yet, he is not a fan of US President Obama's bail-out strategies and feels that more is to come in the future, including hyper-inflation. His view is not the most popular.



Patrick Watson, Director of SALISES chats with the Hon. Prime Minister at the reception.



Ram Ramesh with Principal Sankat.

At the recent UWI conference, high profile bankers, policy-makers, students and economists, tackled the tough questions and came up with an array of answers.

“In the light of the cataclysmic occurrences in the financial sector over the past few months, and the resulting impact on the economies of the world it is reasonable that as economists we should take a step back – *reculer pour mieux sauter* – and ask some fundamental questions about our basic assumptions,” UWI economist, Professor Karl Theodore, explained in his presentation.

“There is no question that among the many causes of what has transpired, the propensity to cockiness and the lure of greed have to be highlighted as having played [a] major role in some of the key catastrophic decisions that were made. No doubt mistakes were made and we know that to err is human. However, to

the extent that we hold to the view that what happened was due purely to human frailty and not to a problem with the system we operate under, we will be setting ourselves up for a more horrendous repetition in the future.”

Professor Theodore’s research paper looks to two major systemic changes. The first is a more important role for the government in setting-up and maintaining a financing network which would obviate the kind of human toll that Nobel Prize winner Stiglitz mentions. Second, is the involvement of financing institutions which are themselves not driven by profit, but by the desire to keep inflation rates low, so that the value of their savings pools will not evaporate. “While the intent of the paper is to contribute to the general discussion on how our thinking as economists should respond to the recent events, the more pertinent objective is to get policymakers in the Caribbean to start

thinking about how our own environment needs to be modified if we are to avoid falling.”

Although improvements have been made, including lending rates being lowered by Banks and in some cases food prices decreasing in some parts of the world (and rising in others); layoffs have continued and more recently on the local front, the Central Bank had to inject US \$824 million to support the local financial system in the first few months of 2009.

Meanwhile, Republic Bank Managing Director, David Dulal-Whiteway, held true to his views, with the Bank slashing its lending rates a few months after he spoke on the matter at the Conference; and while oil prices are still fluctuating, they have remained in the US \$60s, for the most part. Ultimately, only time will tell.

Turning closer to home, in the words of the Campus Principal, Prof. Clement Sankat, who spoke at the Opening Ceremony of the BBF conference, quality, affordable education and landmark research, remain a priority for the UWI administration.

“...My Main priorities as Campus Principal will continue to be ensuring quality in our academic programmes, working at meeting our expanding physical capacity needs and promoting new research and innovation in areas that support our national development agenda.” AWH ■

PETERS WINS 'SCHOOL BAGS' COMPETITION



“You, the children,
yours is the great
responsibility to
educate your parents...
you carry the future of
Trinidad and Tobago in
your school bags”.

Dexnell Peters, a student of Trinity College, Trinidad and Tobago copped first prize in the Inaugural Eric Williams ‘School Bags’ Essay Competition. Jamaicans Patrina Pink and Machela Osagboro took second and third place respectively. The essay competition was open to all final-year Sixth Form students in 155 schools throughout 17 Caribbean countries. Prizes included a four-day trip for two to Jamaica with airfare, hotel accommodations and two meals daily; a laptop computer; various tours; US \$1,500; courtesy calls on the President of Trinidad and Tobago and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; Eric Williams’ books; and a framed certificate. In addition, Peters’ winning essay will be published in the Miami Herald’s online edition, as well as the newsletters of The University of the West Indies and Caricom. Professor E. Nigel Harris, UWI

Vice Chancellor, in collaboration with the Honourable Yvonne Gittens-Joseph, the High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago to Jamaica, hosted the Awards Ceremony in August 2008 at UWI, Jamaica.

Students were asked to write on the topic, ‘How has Capitalism and Slavery shaped current debates on the commerce in African slaves and the abolition of slavery? What relevance, if any, do these debates have for today’s student?’ Essay reviewers were pleased with the quality of research, writing, and the manner in which the students addressed the topic. In his essay, Peters writes: “None can question the success of this book... [It] can be considered the starting point to the eventual liberation of the Caribbean from its imperial shackles...” Patrina Pink stresses: “Few works have ruffled the shirtsleeves of academia more than Dr. Eric Williams’.” And in addressing the 64-year-old book’s relevance to today, Machela Osagboro conducted a survey of her classmates, 73% of whom agreed that current debates raised by its theories were still pertinent.

UWI STAN is pleased to feature an excerpt from the winning essay of the competition, which was held in commemoration of the 2007 Bicentenary of the British Abolition of the Transatlantic Trade in Africans, and in honour of Eric Williams, a major historian of the 20th Century. Dr. Williams led the government of Trinidad and Tobago for a quarter century until his death in 1981. On August 30, 1962, the eve of his country’s Independence from Britain, he spoke those now famous words, “You, the children, yours is the great responsibility to educate your parents...you carry the future of Trinidad and Tobago in your school bags”. Dr. Rita Pemberton, Lecturer in History at UWI St Augustine judged the competition alongside Dr. Verene Shepherd, Lecturer in History, UWI Mona and Dr. Colin Palmer, Professor of History at Princeton University. The Eric Williams memorial Collection is housed at the UWI St Augustine Library. ■

Excerpt from Dexnell Peters' Essay.

How has Capitalism
and Slavery shaped
current debates on the
commerce in African
slaves and the abolition
of slavery? *What
relevance, if any, do these
debates have for today's
student?*

Capitalism and Slavery has been the most influential scholarly work from a Caribbean historian about the Caribbean and its relation to the world. Williams took an unorthodox but highly logical and justified stance on the commerce of African slaves, effects of slavery and the cause of its abolition. Selwyn H. H. Carrington states that "Caribbean history was written from the Eurocentric perspective associated with the British imperial school of historical writing...they paid little attention to the contributions of the colonies"¹ The historical setting is important in looking at the impact of the publication of *Capitalism and Slavery*. British colonialism was still embedded deeply in Caribbean culture. *Capitalism and Slavery* launched a full scale attack against this institution with a concrete argument. It is because of this that an over fifty year debate has ensued. Clearly the book has experienced much success within the Caribbean region as well as the wider world. None can question the success of the book – it is a classic. In the field of literature classic books are those that stand the test of time and continue to be studied or, better yet, critiqued many years after their publication. The book has continued to be at the forefront of the discussion on the commerce of African slaves and the abolition of slavery. In Williams' view, slavery was very profitable but prior to the ending of the slave trade it began to decline in profitability. This, in turn, played a major role in the abolition of the slave trade and slavery. Williams links the commerce of African slaves and the British economy to show evidence of the development

of British capitalism. Therefore, with “mature industrial capitalism”² the stage was now set for the abolition of slavery. Williams pioneered the study of African slaves, showed the political, social and economic value concerned and allowed for the expansion of the topic. This may be the reason why the book is still of such significance today. Many historians will agree that the book touches on a number of important issues outside of its main concern. Professor Brogan wrote, in an introduction to the book, that he found it was “as topical as it was in 1942.”³ Carrington says “the study contains several theses and numerous sub-theses, which are of as immense importance in this modern era.”⁴ One of the most important aspects of the book is its universality. Williams’ speaks about the topic in a manner which can be applicable to the events of today as well as to other fields of study. It is not only history but sociology, economics and political science. *Capitalism and Slavery* still stands up to the scrutiny that modern historians with modern research technology attempt to give it. Perhaps what is most interesting is the extent to which the debates over the book have evolved over the years.

The issue of the profitability of slavery was the first to attract attention in the academic fraternity. This debate is traced from the publication of the book, to the 1970s and the present day. When the book was in the process of being published, Pitman made the claim that the book was not original, stating that the “work adds little to what scholars in the field know.”⁵ If Pitman was referring solely to the decline in the profitability of the slave trade his point is well noted. Ragatz published a book showing depreciation in the economic value of the slave trade and slavery. In retrospect, Ragatz was not the first to hold this view. Selwyn Carrington states in an article that the idea of depreciation in the plantation economy was first put forward by Hall Pringle. What Williams did was agree with the theory, give further evidence to it and use it in support of a more macro view of slavery in relation to the world. Therefore, as Palmer puts it, “Pitman failed to appreciate the book’s refreshing originality.”⁶ In any case, Williams dedicated the book to Ragatz. Williams also admitted to two works that were of great significance to him; a thesis, “Africa and the Rise of Capitalism” by W.E. Williams and *The Black Jacobins* by C.L.R. James. Erica Williams Connell stated in an article “Williams may have owed an intellectual debt to these two writers... but he developed and took the relevant ideas in directions perhaps not necessarily anticipated by either of them.”⁷ Williams agreed with these views, elaborated on them by stating further evidence and put them into a different and broader perspective which, in turn, made *Capitalism and Slavery* a completely advanced and original book.

The decline theory continues to stand its ground through the support of other noteworthy scholars such as William Darity, Jr.⁸, David H. Makinson⁹, Richard B. Sheridan¹⁰, Barbara L. Solow¹¹ and David Brion Davis¹². They have all in some way or the other helped to further Williams’ argument. Davis in an essay wrote that “opposition to slavery cannot be divorced from the vast economic changes occurring at the time.”¹³ In this he supported Williams’ emphasis on the economic factor. The decline theory would eventually gain opposition – particularly around the 1970s. In 1968 Roger Anstey would publish a critique of the book. Anstey calculated figures depicting the profit of the slave trade from 1761 to 1807. He calculated it as “9.5% (8.2%, 12.1%, 10.7%, 13% for the first four decades and 3.3% for the years 1801-1807).”¹⁴ He believed that this did not warrant an end to the trade but definitely could not have been enough to be a major factor in the development of capitalism in Britain. The debate shifted from the discourse of claims or qualitative evidence to the discourse of quantitative evidence. Seymour Drescher is described as the most notable antagonist of the decline theory. Davis Brion Davis in a review of the book *From Slavery to Freedom* described Drescher as “the historian who [in *Econocide*, 1979] demolished the long-standing thesis that British abolitionists succeeded only because the slave colonies were in a state of irreversible decline (1999).”¹⁵ This quote echoes the sentiments of many historians during this period and sometime after. Drescher’s main view was that slavery was, in fact, still quite profitable and, thus still significant to Britain when the abolition of the slave trade occurred.... ■

For the complete essay please visit stanonline : www.sta.uwi.edu/stan or for further information about the School Bags essay competition, please contact Mrs Erica Williams Connell at ewc.suilan@juno.com. For information on the Eric Williams Memorial Collection, please contact the UWI St Augustine Main Library at mainlib@sta.uwi.edu

Footnotes:

1. Selwyn H.H. Carrington, "*Capitalism & Slavery and Caribbean Historiography: An Evaluation.*" *The Journal of African American History*, Volume 88 No. 3, 2003, p. 304+
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3. Eric Williams, *Capitalism & Slavery*, Andre Deutsch, London 1964, p. ix.
4. Selwyn H.H. Carrington, "*Capitalism & Slavery and Caribbean Historiography: An Evaluation.*" *The Journal of African American History*, Volume 88 No. 3., 2003, p. 304+
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Musician Shane Gibson, aka Rizon, broke on to the music scene in 2007, with his chart topping anthem, Reach. His unique sound has already earned him COTT nominations for Jazz/World Music Composition of the Year in 2007, followed by Publisher of the Year in 2008.

Motivated by purpose and passion, not fame and fortune, Rizon has been praised as one of the most promising local artists of his generation. Unassuming and focussed, the UWI graduate explained that he actually prefers being behind the scenes rather than performing in the spotlight. We're grateful that he took time-out to answer our Proust inspired questionnaire for this issue of UWI STAN.

How would you describe yourself?
Faith-filled.

What motivates you?
To fulfil purpose; I'm motivated to be and do all that God designed me to do.

If you weren't an artist, what would you be?
A Graphic design[er] or something creative.

What is the trait you most deplore in others?
A lack of integrity.

Who are you a fan of?
I'm a big fan of Isaac Blackman. I love his music and I like how he conducts himself in the industry.

What do you value most?
I really value relationships. Friends and family are important to me.

If you were a superhero what power would you have?
Ha! You should have never asked me that! Invulnerability, invisibility, telekinesis, teleportation, flying, super strength... (The list went on)

Who's the most influential person in your life?
My mum.

What's the one thing you need in life to be happy?
Once I'm fulfilling purpose and feel, like God is pleased with me, I'm happy. ■

RIZON

YOUNG LEADERS

STAN

online in

SCHOOLS

We begin our series with an insider's view of what's happening in high schools across the country. At the Young Leaders award ceremony in June, the "adrenalin was pumping" according to a guest, as students from across the country who had worked for months producing innovative projects and debating key global issues, filled the ballroom at the Trinidad Hilton Hotel and Conference Centre. The RBTT popular annual programme brings a new energy to secondary school students, challenging them to debate and develop projects related to a particular issue. Over the years, fourth form high school students have tackled issues from poverty to the environment, ultimately bringing lasting change not only to their schools, but also to their communities. This year with a focus on *The Green Revolution: Global Challenge, Regional Responsibility, National Focus*, Lakshmi Girls' Hindu College won the Award of Distinction, with Waterloo High School gaining the Award of Excellence and St Joseph's Convent Port of Spain copping the Award of Merit. *In 2009/2010, the Young Leaders theme will examine Holistic Wellness:*

The Journey Towards A Fulfilling Life.

Congratulations to all of our Young Leaders and to RBTT for developing a sterling programme. ■

Most of Outstanding Young Leader

Tyler Jubrajsingh, Waterloo High School

Award of Distinction

Lakshmi Girls' Hindu College

Award of Excellence

Waterloo High School

Award of Merit

St. Joseph's Convent, Port of Spain

Awards of Honour

Scarborough Secondary School

Vessigny (Antilles) Government Secondary School

Arima North Secondary School

Carapichaima West Secondary School

Naparima Girls' High School

San Juan Government Secondary School

St. Joseph's Convent, St Joseph

Success Laventille Composite School

Presentation College, Chaguanas

ASJA Girls' College, Barrackpore

Judges' Award

Mucurapo West Secondary School

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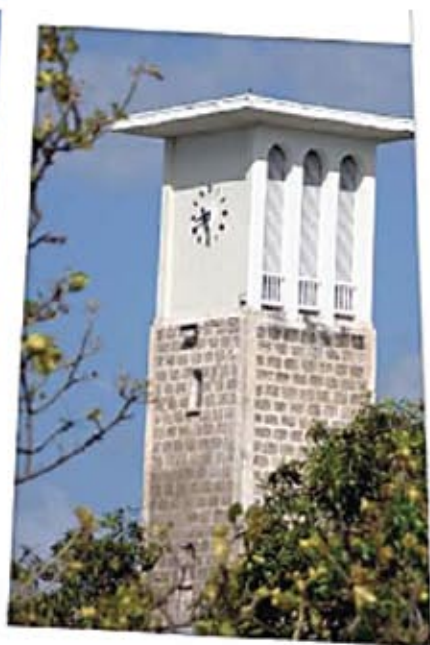
focus on the Environment



1. Most Outstanding Young Leader: Tyler Jubrajsingh, Waterloo High School & Catherine Kumar, President & Country Head, RBTT Bank Limited. 2. Award of Distinction: Lakshmi representative and Esther Le Gendre, The Hon. Minister of Education 3. Award of Merit: St. Joseph Convent, Port of Spain with Catherine Kumar, President & Country Head, RBTT Bank Limited.



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