



UWI

STAN

ST. AUGUSTINE NEWS

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2009

CONNECT WITH
ARNOLD RAMPERSAD

PRESIDENT'S GOLD MEDAL WINNER
NADIMAH MOHAMMED

FILM MAGIC
**UWI FILMMAKERS
MAKE THE FINAL CUT**

TRAINING DAYS
**UWI SPEC INTERNATIONAL
HALF-MARATHON**

UNDERSTANDING THE TSUNAMI

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STAN

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2009



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ON THE COVER
*President's Award Gold
Medal Winner, the
inspirational Nadimah
Mohammed, is captured
at The Office of the
Campus Principal by
photographer Marlon
Rouse. Known for her
humility and "great smile"
we feature this honor
student on our cover.*

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State of Independence

UWI St. Augustine looks towards turning 50

We recently celebrated Republic Day on 24th September and in October, our UWI Campus at St. Augustine will celebrate its forty-ninth anniversary. A fiftieth anniversary (in 2010), is a milestone by any standard, but one that leads to a profound need to assess the past and plan strategically for the future of our unique institution.

Our University's independence is closely linked to the history of our islands. As the Caribbean moved towards independence from British colonial rule, The University of the West Indies also progressed, from a college of the University of London, to a full-fledged institution, with main Campuses in Jamaica, as well as Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados. On a similar path to growth as a Regional University was our development in the sport of Cricket. Our regional cricketers, sometimes from very small island states, joined forces and fought their way up the ladder to be world leaders in Test Cricket. Perhaps a key lesson we can learn from our past, is that we must continue to be innovative, competitive and work together as a team in the best and worst of times.

Although our Campus of nearly 17,000 students has significant challenges, we have accomplished major milestones in the calibre of our alumni and the quality research

projects that have helped in the development of the region. Yet, we have to ensure that our key focus remains on meeting the needs of our stakeholders, primarily our students, staff and communities. As educators, every member of staff should be professional and service oriented. We must instill a sense of engagement in our teaching and inculcate some of the broader goals of the distinctive UWI graduate, while creativity and problem solving must be central to our research. We will have to do this in difficult times, as we continue to be affected by the global economic crisis.

In this issue of *UWI St. Augustine News (STAN)*, we look to those who have gone beyond the ordinary to excel in their field and serve our community. I am inspired by the determination and sheer courage of our valedictorians, who will celebrate with our graduating class in November. Another milestone is the prolific work of our film students at this year's Film Festival, which was highlighted locally and internationally at the Portobello Film Festival in London and featured on the BBC. These films enabled us to see ourselves, our landscape, our social ills and successes without censure. I would like to thank Drs. Jean Antoine and Bruce Paddington for developing this programme.



Prof. Clement Sankat
Pro-Vice Chancellor & Campus Principal

As we welcome the more than 200 national scholarship winners who selected UWI as their first choice, we also look to our President Medal winner Nadimah Mohammed, who is also featured in this issue.

There are also those members of staff who work diligently behind the scenes to ensure that we provide a quality education to our students. In this UWI People segment as we welcome our recently appointed Campus Brusar, Ms Carla Dubé, we celebrate the more than forty years of sterling service provided by Mrs Lylla Bada, by sharing some of the highlights at a luncheon held in her honour.

We also hope you enjoy the impactful research being done at UWI to address the HIV-AIDS pandemic and our book review examines the multi-faceted, cross-departmental work of our staff.

These are but a few of the features in our award-winning, *UWI STAN*. We hope you continue to enjoy the publication and share your stories and views with us. ■





Graduation 2009

Friday 30th and Saturday 31st October 2009
UWI SPEC

At the UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC), St Augustine Circular Road, St Augustine, the annual ceremonies for the Presentation of Graduates 2009, will be held over a two-day period at the Campus. On Friday October 30th at 10:00 am the graduation ceremony for the faculty of Humanities & Education will be followed by ceremonies for the Faculties of Science & Agriculture and Medical Sciences at 4:00pm. The following day the Ceremonies for the Faculties of Engineering and Law will be hosted in the morning followed by the Faculty of Social Sciences Graduation in the afternoon.

Developments in Caribbean Community Law

Monday 9th - Wednesday 11th November, 2009
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port of Spain

The Caribbean Law Institute Centre (CLIC) of The University of the West Indies in association with The CARICOM Secretariat and The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) presents The Inaugural Symposium: Current Developments in Caribbean Community Law.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.caricomlawsymposium.com/>

Livin De Music CD Launch

Friday 6th and Saturday 7th November, 2009
UWI LRC

Deryck Nurse and Yohan Popwell will launch their debut CD, Livin de Music, with two live concerts at the Learning Resource Centre at UWI. Recorded at Queen's Hall in 24-bit HDCD® format, the album includes an original score along with twelve arrangements in the Latin, Bossa Nova, Calypso, R&B and Popular genres. Advance tickets only are available for each night at TT\$120. CD available: TT\$100. A special of TT\$80 will be afforded for delivery of autographed CDs at the venue, with ticket purchase.

UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon 2009

Sunday 1st November, 2009
UWI SPEC

Over one thousand runners are expected to compete at the ever-popular, UWI SPEC International Half Marathon presented by First Citizens. The St Augustine Campus will host its signature 13.1 mile race from 6am. Spectators are in for a treat this year with international and regional athletes competing for over \$120,000 in prizes. The route for the traffic-free race starts at the sporting complex then along the Priority Bus Route (PBR) to the La Resource Junction in D'Abadie, before runners return to the UWI SPEC.

For more information, visit the UWI SPEC website at www.uwi.tt/spec/marathon/ or call (868) 662-2002 Ext. 3771, 2660, 3556 or 3571 or e-mail specinfo@sta.uwi.edu



CONFERENCE HONOURING NOBEL LAUREATE DEREK WALCOTT

Wednesday 13th - Friday 15th January 2009

Poet, playwright, essayist, critic, dramatist and painter, Derek Walcott, is recognised as one of the world's greatest living writers. Among his many awards and honours is the Nobel Prize for Literature which he won in 1992. The conference Interlocking Basins of a Globe will explore the multifaceted nature of Walcott's work. It invites reflections on his evolving thought and analyses of Caribbean civilisation – his beloved Antilles, and the cartography of its origins. His far-ranging poetic imagination gives metaphoric expression to the creative possibilities of the ambivalences that exist within the New World psyche. Its axes of loss and plenitude form the ground of unprecedented possibility, facilitating unique intersections between cultures that enable a leap into the new. Walcott theorises the world of the Americas. Walcott's vision evolves from a desire to inhabit and be nourished by multiple worlds simultaneously. On the one hand, this response to New World history and sensibility has been, in some measure, shaped by his lifelong dialogue with the work and theories of other Caribbean creators and thinkers; and, on the other, from his acknowledged apprenticeship to literary ancestors and his collaboration with writers from across the globe. These streams have fed debates about the nature of his relationship to the Caribbean, and to Europe, Africa and Asia. His many essays and commentaries often respond to such concerns and the politics of that relation contribute to the complex tapestry of his drama and poetry.

Papers will be presented on the following topics:

Literary Ghosts and confreres; Here and Elsewhere: The Politics of Exile and Belonging; Myths and Histories; The Visual Imagination; Rethinking the Sublime; Time, Landscape and Myth; Walcott's Cities: A Babel like Heaven; Caribbean Contestations; Walcott as Critic, Commentator and Journalist.

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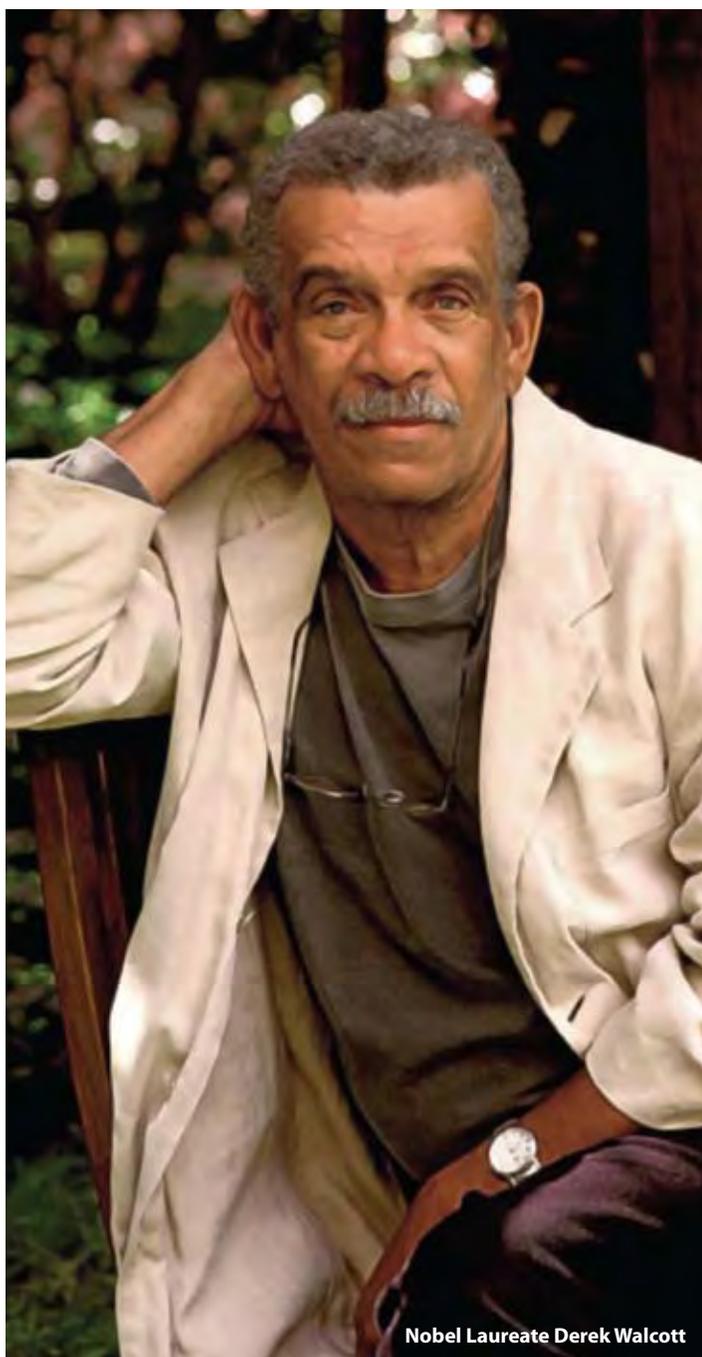
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The Department of Liberal Arts,

Faculty of Humanities and Education,

The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine,

Republic of Trinidad & Tobago.



Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott

Community School of Arts

September 12th to November 21st, 2009

DCFA Gordon Street, St Augustine

Registration for The UWI Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) Community School of Arts for children of ages 4-12 is currently open. Registration information is available at DCFA Agostini/Gordon Street, St. Augustine.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

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Ready, Set, Go!

Many of our readers shared their appreciation for our April-June cover, featuring the UWI Games student sprinter, via phone calls and postcards. Many thanks. Our relay runner may have indeed been seen by some as an allegorical figure, one who, like many of our students, is about to begin a race to the finish line. We also take this opportunity to congratulate so many of our record-breaking Caribbean sprinters who excelled at the World Championship Games, including those who have used UWI grounds to perfect their skills and technique.

YOUR VOTE

Do you like the new colours of the Administration building?

YES: 81%

NO: 19%

Thanks for voting.
Look out for our new poll.
Visit **STANOnline** for more of our monthly updates.

IN SEPTEMBER WE ASKED STUDENTS: What can be done to improve WEST INDIES CRICKET?

Photos by Aneel Karim



Stefan Guevara

*BA Education
2nd year student
Arima, Trinidad*

"I believe we need more teamwork. We need to stop showboating. I believe everyone believes they are the ideal player and as a result they don't show the humility."



Nigel Pierre

*BA Education
2nd year student,
Arima, Trinidad*

"First of all the players need to identify that they are a team. Before, when Brian Lara was on the team, everyone depended on him to make the runs. There is no 'I' in team and the players have to follow the leadership of their Captain and Coach."



Deven Gokool

*(Environmental
Management Major,
1st year student
Sangre Grande, Trinidad*

"Currently you have to solve the current impasse. West Indies [former team with Sarwan and Chanderpaul] is a good team, [but] they have to get more consistent."



Kurba-Marie Questelles

*BSc Psychology
1st year student,
Chaguana, Trinidad*

"Personally I think the down fall of the team stems from the struggles between the West Indies Players Association and the WICB...It also has to do with the mental aspect of the team."

Share your views with us: Editor of UWI STAN, Marketing and Communications Office, St Augustine Campus, The University of the West Indies, Trinidad. • Email: marketing.communications@sta.uwi.edu

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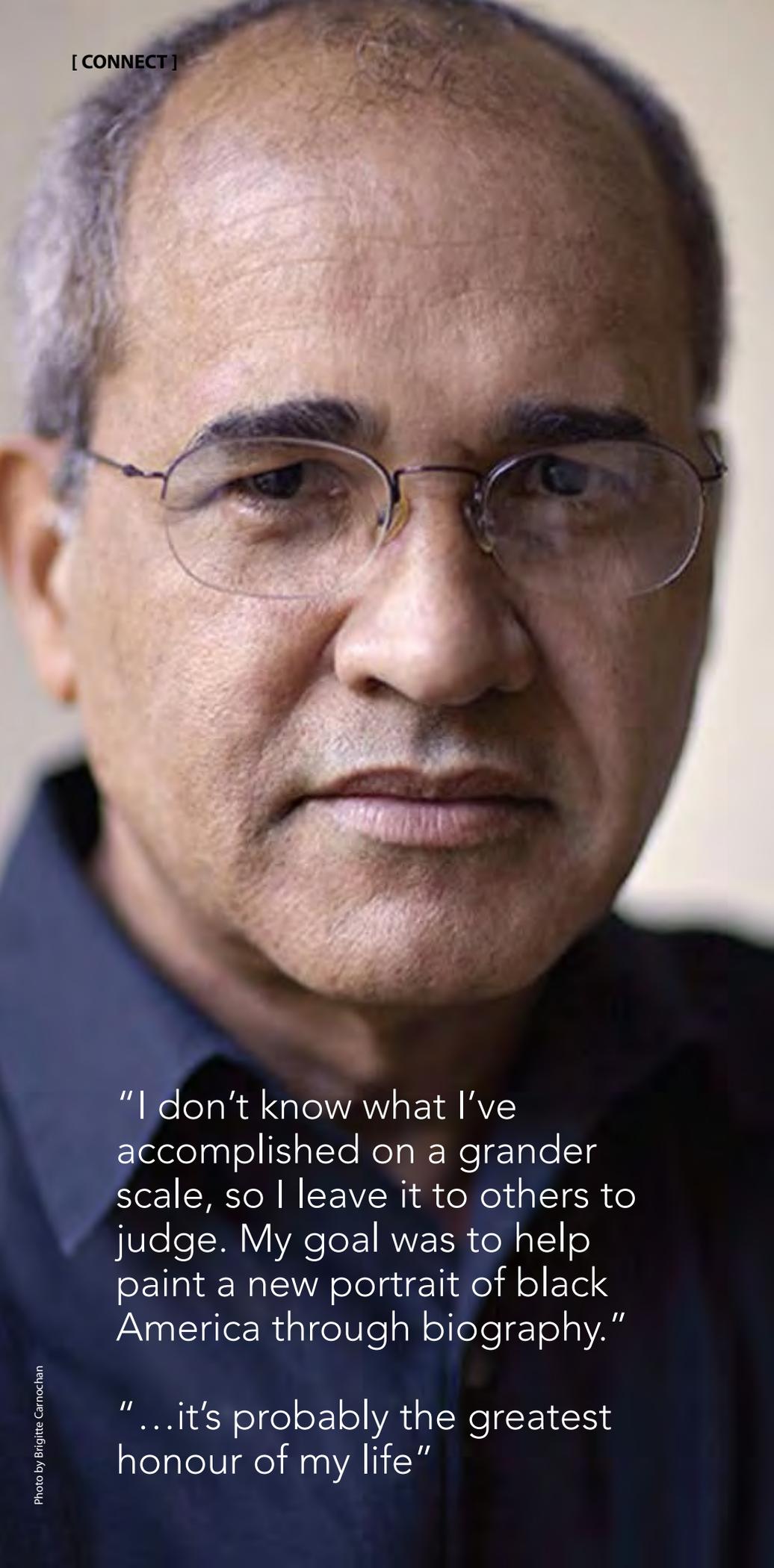
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"I don't know what I've accomplished on a grander scale, so I leave it to others to judge. My goal was to help paint a new portrait of black America through biography."

"...it's probably the greatest honour of my life"

Acclaimed writer, Arnold Rampersad, talks about US President Barack Obama, his return home and being honoured by UWI in an interview with Anna Walcott-Hardy.

As a young man growing-up in Belmont, Arnold Rampersad would lime with a group of friends that included artists Donald 'Jackie' Hinkson, Peter Minshall and writer, Kevin Arthur. The Hinkson home in Port of Spain was a popular meeting place for the group, where they discussed art, music and writing. Hinkson recalled that he was "very soft spoken, gentle...he expressed himself beautifully and his English was always impeccable." The friends also shared a passion for cricket and often went to the Queen's Park Oval to watch the regional team.

Having read his books, I felt I knew Arnold Rampersad long before meeting him one humid afternoon at Jackie Hinkson's home in 2006. His biographies, "Days of Grace" and "The Life of Langston Hughes," were sandwiched between the poetry of Joseph Brodsky and a novel by Coetzee in our small Petit Valley library. An unusual placing, perhaps, but then again, perhaps not, since his works have often been praised for rejuvenating the genre of the literary biography. Unassuming, discerning and somewhat reserved, with a very dry wit, the widely acclaimed writer is currently Professor of English and the Sara Hart Kimball Professor in the Humanities at Stanford University. From 2004-2006 he was Senior Associate Dean for the Humanities, responsible for the full array of departments, including Art and Art History, Asian Languages, Classics, Comparative Literature, Drama, French and Italian, German Studies and Linguistics.

On Art & Imagination

From 1991 to 1996, he held a MacArthur “genius grant” fellowship. He is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Philosophical Society. He is the brother of Roger Toussaint, the president of Transport Workers Union Local 100, and John Mendes of Arima, editor of “Cote ci Cote la,” a popular dictionary of Trinidad expressions.

Born in 1941 in Trinidad, he received a BA and MA from Bowling Green State University and an MA and PhD from Harvard University. He has taught at The University of Virginia and at Rutgers, Columbia and Princeton Universities. This year he will be honoured by The University of the West Indies and some may say it’s been a long time coming. Hinkson says it best: “obviously it is most well deserved, the man has excelled.”

AWH: In your presentation on the Tenth Annual Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture in October 2008 on “The Challenge of Leadership in America: Race, History and the Emergence of Barack Obama,” at Florida International University, you spoke of President Barack Obama as an enigma—a master orator with the capacity to be a great leader, but who could also, perhaps by the very nature of his “contemplative reserve,” be at risk of being a “passive and ineffectual president.” What grade would you give the President thus far?

AR: I think that his opponents on the right have tried to capitalize on what is a genuine tendency in his character, toward contemplation and reserve. They also harp on his lack of previous executive experience, which could indeed have been a major handicap. Nevertheless, I think that he has performed superbly on the whole. My fears that he would

do little have been proven completely unjustified. He is surrounded by a team, including his Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and David Axelrod, both also from Chicago, that has worked aggressively with him on a daunting set of problems. Even during the low point of August, when he was hammered steadily by his opponents over health care issues mainly, but also trivially and often spitefully, I thought that he was performing very well, and I was sure then, as I’m sure now, that he will win (a partial but major victory) on the health care issues, and generations of Americans will be glad that he fought and won. He has been attacked for making compromises, but I support his pragmatism. He definitely gets a grade A from me—although the head of the Republican Party, Michael Steele had failed him. That’s wishful thinking.

You’ve been away from Trinidad for over thirty years and you returned home last year for an extended period. Looking back, what were some of your expectations?

I had dipped into Trinidad a few times after a long time away, prior to my more extended return. I had been impressed that the nation was doing so well, not only economically, but also in terms of preserving its astonishing vitality and creativity. I was very pleased to see people who had been poor doing much better than when I left them in the early 1960s. The whole country had become much more sophisticated and skilled. Of course, I was inundated by local voices that emphasized the problems of living in Trinidad. Some of these people were and are extremely pessimistic. I returned in order to try to get closer to the truth, as well as to benefit from the vitality and creativity of which I spoke just now.

How did they measure up to the reality of being in Trinidad?

I was sad to leave Trinidad after four or five months here; but then, to be honest, after a few days I was contented to be back in a much blander but more organized culture. For one thing, I could take a drive in my car without making sure my will was in order and my next-of-kin could be notified quickly.

One has to be strong to be a Trinidadian. Crime is a reality that undermines the foundations of the nation; crime and the impunity associated with it. The failure to solve crimes of murder, especially high-profile crimes, tends to mock all the genuine achievement of the country.

And then there is the matter of “race” relations. Even if one sets aside the matter of the relationship between the peoples of African and Indian descent, there is a sometimes disturbing lack of progress, as I experienced it, among the non-Indian peoples. Skin colour continues to matter far too much, I think. And yet in the final analysis Trinidad is not a blind society. It is intensely self-critical. People are smart and knowing, alert and alive and creative, and they understand the need to hang together, even if it is sometimes very hard to do so.

How were you able to move so seamlessly and successfully from broadcast journalism in the Caribbean to academia in the USA?

My education at Belmont Boys’ Intermediate and at CIC [St Mary’s College] stood me in very good stead. CIC and QRC [Queen’s Royal College] and schools of that quality were old-fashioned in some ways but also superb in preparing us as students. As for attending college, I was simply

[CONNECT]

lucky. I certainly had neither the money nor the sage advice about how to get scholarships and the like. Then I became a freshman at 24 through the graces of the US State Department, a partial scholarship, and the local embassy, especially in the person of the wonderful Nina Squires of Trinidad, an artist in her own right employed at the embassy.

I was sent, fearing that I couldn't compete after five years out of CIC... and discovered that I loved being in the classroom, that after CIC and taking the advanced Cambridge University overseas exams I was more than ready to do well, especially in the humanities. Incidentally, I had loved being a broadcaster, especially in journalism. It extended my education about the world. Perhaps I should have stayed in the field. Who knows? The key matter, in some respects, was my early discovery of the links between earlier, foundational, American literature and some of the very issues consuming the younger artists in the Caribbean as I was growing up. I mean the questions surrounding colonialism and nationhood, the problems and challenges of being dominated by a foreign literary and cultural tradition, mainly English, that was attractive, but needed to be rivalled and even displaced. Once I discovered American literature of the American Renaissance of the 1840s and 1850s that produced writers such as Melville and Walt Whitman, and saw how similar it was, in key ways, to the Caribbean Renaissance that had already produced Walcott, Naipaul, and other transformative writers and artists, I had found my career. The arrival of the Black Power movement refined my goals further. In the struggle of blacks and sympathetic whites for the achievement of social justice for all, and in the rich but largely ignored literature of blacks that spanned two centuries, I found my scholarly and teaching focus. That focus sharpened further when I became dedicated to filling the gap of black biography within American culture.

Did you have many mentors along the way?

Absolutely. I received no mentoring from my father or mother, but in my childhood Edith Callender Cole, a school teacher who became head mistress of Sacred Heart Girls', literally taught me to read and write after my education had been badly neglected. In fact, the first school I ever attended was Belmont Boys' Intermediate. I owe her everything. Fortunately she is still alive. At CIC, Fr. Roland Quesnel, who taught me English and French for many years, was a powerful influence because of his intelligence and learning and also because of his stylish self-confidence and self-possession. He was no one's pal, but he was shrewd and humane about our characters and shortcomings. I was, for a while, a member of Derek Walcott's Trinidad Theatre Workshop. Derek wasn't a mentor, but he embodied literary genius, even if at times in a forbidding way, and it was a privilege to be near him and learn from him.

As for the US, mentors abounded, especially in the university... In the US, many people, professors mainly, wanted to help younger people. The idea of an almost intrinsic American generosity is no myth, although not every American is generous, needless to say.

It's been said by writers and literary critics that through your books, "Days of Grace" (1993), tennis star Arthur Ashe's autobiography, which you co-authored, and in the biography, "Jackie Robinson" (1997), you've brought the craft of the scholar to the popular biography. Do you think you've rejuvenated the literary biography genre?

I don't know what I've accomplished on a grander scale, so I leave it to others to judge. My goal was to help paint a new portrait of black America through biography. The old portrait showed no

face, or didn't exist. I lived long enough to see how my two-volume biography of Langston Hughes, for example, although criticized at times ... provided the foundation for an entirely new level of respect for Hughes and, by implication, the black American writers. Well-done biographies can have that effect. The main thing about the Ashe and Robinson popular biographies, especially the latter, which is a formal biography, is that I insisted on breaking the mould and treating every part of their lives as important—not simply the sports but their entire lives, their boyhood, their parents, their religion and politics, their race, their attitude to women, their negotiation of life after the glory years of sports ended. If that approach changed things, I'm happy. The black sportsman or sportswoman is not simply a body (this is true of all players, of course), he or she has a mind and a past that shaped that mind; he or she has hopes and fears, and weaknesses and strengths. I always want to show a full human being—even if almost all sports biographies act as though there was no life before or after the glory years. And the problem of reliable and persistent portraiture is far worse for blacks than for whites, as one can imagine.

How do you feel about this honorary degree from The University of the West Indies?

I try not to take honours and awards too seriously. In fact, I try not to take them seriously. They can drag one down into complacency and arrogance. There is not a single diploma or certificate or award framed and hanging anywhere in my home or office. I won't hang this one either. Still, it's probably the greatest honour of my life.

UNESCO, HISTORIES AND UWI

On October 5 to 6, UNESCO summoned a group of historians to a meeting at its headquarters in Paris to discuss the general and regional history series which UNESCO has sponsored, starting in the 1960s. There are six of these ambitious, multi-volume series: The History of Humanity; The General History of Africa; The History of Civilisations of Central Asia; The Different Aspects of Islamic Culture; The General History of Latin America; and The General History of the Caribbean.

Representing the History of the Caribbean series was Professor Bridget Brereton of the St Augustine campus, along with Sir Roy Augier of Mona, and Professor Franklin Knight of The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. It seems fair to say that UWI historians have played a very large role in the six-volume work. Four of the six volume editors are closely connected to UWI: Knight, editor of Volume 3, is a Jamaican Mona graduate and a recent (2007) recipient of our honorary degree; the editor of Volume 4, taking over on the death of the Cuban historian Manuel Moreno Fraginals, is St Augustine Professor Emeritus Keith Laurence; Barry Higman, for many years based at Mona, edited Volume 6; and Brereton is the editor of Volume 5, as well as the author of chapters in Volumes 4 and 6. Many UWI people wrote chapters for the series, including St Augustine's Kusha Haraksingh, Keith Laurence, Brinsley Samaroo and Kelvin Singh. And Augier, Professor Emeritus at Mona, and a former Pro-Vice-Chancellor, is the President of the Scientific Committee which has overall supervision of the series.

The History of the Caribbean, like the other series, aims to present current scholarly knowledge on the region's past, for a readership mainly conceived as University students and the intelligent general public. It is also designed as a work of reference. Defining the region in the broadest possible sense, it offers a genuinely

More people in the Caribbean speak and read Spanish and French than English; and the pan-Caribbean conception and design of the series are undermined when the publication is in only one regional language.



Professor Bridget Brereton

pan-Caribbean perspective, and its authors are all specialists in the history of the pre-Columbian, colonial and postcolonial periods,

and of all the territories whatever European language they may currently speak. Five of the six volumes are out and the last one, Volume 4, is in press and will appear early in 2010.

The Paris meeting was partly to 'big up' the different Histories, and to celebrate their completion or near-completion—planning for some began as long ago as the 1960s. Both the out-going UNESCO Director-General—who presided over the launch of Volume 5 of the History of the Caribbean right here at St Augustine in the Main Library back in 2004—and the new one, the first woman to be appointed, spoke at the opening session. But the more substantive agenda had to do with the next steps for the Histories: how to disseminate them more widely; how to market them better; how to produce versions in different media for a wider and younger constituency.

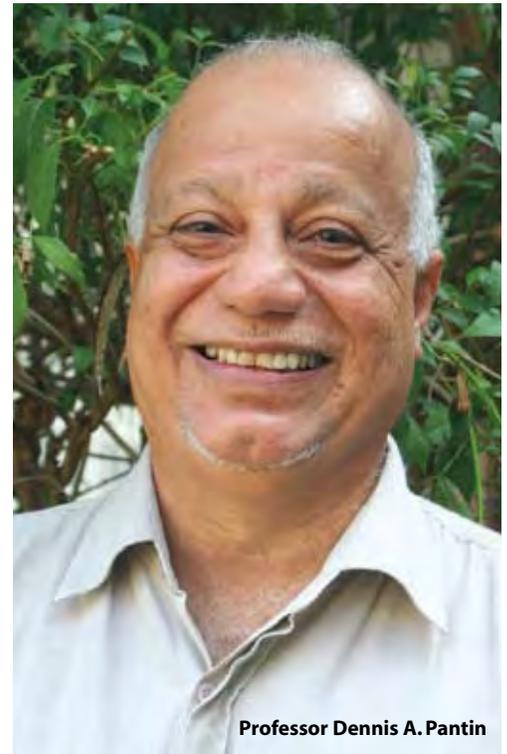
With respect to the History of the Caribbean, which is in English only, translating the volumes into Spanish and French was clearly essential. More people in the Caribbean speak and read Spanish and French than English; and the pan-Caribbean conception and design of the series are undermined when the publication is in only one regional language. Sadly, it became clear that UNESCO could not currently fund this project, and that it would be necessary to find a 'partner' who could sponsor the translations, and the publication of the translated versions. Plans are in train for producing a 'youth-friendly', video version of the History, and it is hoped that funds may be raised for a three-part series of one-hour film documentaries.

Meanwhile, the six-volume History of the Caribbean remains as an essential reference work for students and others, written by well-respected historians, lavishly illustrated, with extensive bibliographies, and truly regional in its scope and design.

Conference on the ECONOMY

A conference highlighting the myriad of developmental issues facing the country and the wider Caribbean region were examined in October at The University of the West Indies, St Augustsine Campus. Organised by the Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Economics, the Conference on the Economy (COTE 09) brought policy makers, technocrats, private sector representatives, academics, students and the general public together at The UWI School of Education Auditorium on October 1st and 2nd.

Speakers at the conference included Professor Patrick Watson, Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social & Economic Studies (SALISES) and Professor Dennis A. Pantin, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, Sustainable Economic Development Unit (SEDU). Lecturers in the Department of Economics, including, Dr Lester Henry, Dr Roger Hosein and Mr Gregory Mc Guire as well as lecturers of other regional universities also took part in the conference proceedings. Look out for more on the Conference in the next issue of UWI STAN. ■



Professor Dennis A. Pantin



EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE WELLNESS PROGRAMME A PRIORITY AT UWI

Lifestyle diseases including cancer, diabetes mellitus, heart disease and stroke have been claiming the lives of individuals at home and abroad, in record proportions. These diseases can be alleviated by simple changes in eating habits along with regular physical activity. The health and wellness of employees is a priority to The University, so a holistic Wellness Programme for employees was launched this year with a Fair on Thursday August 13 at the St Augustine campus.

An initiative which was agreed to by the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) and The University of the West Indies (UWI), this programme broadens the traditional Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) by adding a Wellness dimension (EAWP). UWI's EAWP will be supported internally by the Sport and Physical Education Centre, the Health Service Unit and the Faculty of Medical Sciences, and externally by the Health Communications

Unit of the Ministry of Health. The wider programme will include health forums, lectures and seminars to educate on healthier lifestyle choices in terms of exercise and nutrition, mental and emotional wellbeing and stress-management.

Services available for UWI staff under the EAP include: Anger management and conflict resolution; Crisis trauma debriefing; Stress management for managers and employees; HIV/AIDS prevention and counseling; Grief therapy; Financial counseling and Health and safety awareness. At the launch on August 13th, there were several booths offering blood pressure and sugar level testing, mini massages and oral care advice - all part of The UWI's commitment to ensuring the wellbeing of its community by promoting healthier lifestyles.

For further information, please feel free to contact the Human Resources Division of The UWI at Ext. 2312, 2313, 4239.

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The magic of the movies came to UWI as the University hosted two days and nights of film screenings as part of the outreach programme of the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival 2009. What's more, the programme included a wide selection of engaging films made by students and members of the faculty.

The Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival ran from September 16 to 29 at venues around the country, with the UWI standing-room-only screenings taking place on Thursday 24 (Republic Day) and Friday 25, at the Institute of Critical Thinking during the day and on evenings at the Film Programme's brand new headquarters at Carmody Road, St. Augustine. The evening screenings, which took place outdoors, also served as a launch event for the Film Programme's new location as well as a celebration of the Programme's first graduating class.

Conceived as a form to showcase of the best local, Caribbean, and Caribbean Diaspora films, the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival began in 2006 as a weeklong series of film screenings at MovieTowne in Port of Spain. Since then, it has grown tremendously, with this year's Festival comprising a fortnight of screenings of over 60 feature-length and short narrative, documentary, and experimental films. In addition to the film screenings, were also workshops, panel discussions, social events and more.

The UWI outreach is a significant event, and not only because it gives persons from East Trinidad and the University easier access to excellent local and foreign films they may not otherwise be able to see; but the screenings are also important for the University's nascent Film Programme, which while only in its fourth year, is already making its presence felt beyond campus.

"The two full days and nights of screenings at UWI reflects the close relationship between the Film Programme and the TTFF," notes Bruce Paddington, the new Programme Coordinator of the BA in Film, and founder of the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival. "This relationship was really given a boost when films made by students of the Film Programme won two out of the three people's choice awards at last year's Festival."

The films Paddington refers to are *The Siege*, directed by Junior Andrew-Lett, which won the award for best documentary, and *Directions*, by Renee Pollonais, which was the best short film. *The Siege* is a sobering reflection on the 1990 coup attempt, while Pollonais' film is a funny look at the Trinidadian predilection for giving bad directions.

This year the student films — which are by students from all three years of the Programme— reflect a variety of themes and concerns. Thomas Jemerson's *Queen of the Brands*, for example, is a stylish piece of anti-consumerist agitprop, featuring an overly materialistic young woman who is made to learn a lesson in the perils of being too *bling*-conscious. In addition to showing at UWI, this film also has the honour of screening at MovieTowne on the opening night of the Festival.

Among the other student films is the humorous folktale *Suck Meh Soucouyant*, *Suck Meh*, by Oyetayo Ojoade, about an old Mayaro village ram, Lionel, who coaxes a powerful soucouyant to fly to England and steal a gold spoon from Queen Victoria's cutlery. When Lionel tries to steal the spoon from the soucouyant—in a ploy that includes a final demonstration of his virility—things go disastrously wrong. Similar in subject is Roger Alexis' *Contemporary Sorcerer*, a raucous story about a formidable obeah man.



A scene from Yao Ramesar's *Sistagod* trilogy

There are also a few student documentaries. Jimmel Daniel's *The Power of the Vagina* explores issues of women's sexuality and sexual politics in our society. The film was a favourite at home and abroad, receiving a standing ovation and selected as a finalist for Best Documentary at the Portobello Road Film Festival in London.



vie magic

Jonathan Ali gets
up close and personal
with UWI filmmakers

Johnathan Ali



Conceived as a form to showcase of the best local, Caribbean, and Caribbean Diaspora films, the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival began in 2006 as a weeklong series of film screenings at MovieTowne in Port of Spain.



Solange Plaza's *Racing Definitions* looks at contemporary attitudes towards race. Finally there is a film from the graduating class, *Sans Souci*, a haunting drama about a group of friends in conflict, written and directed by the Film programme's honors graduate, Francesca Hawkins.

However, the screenings aren't just about student films. "The outreach programme is also an opportunity to see the work being made by staff," says Paddington. These films include the feature-length *Sistagod II: Her Second Coming*, by professional filmmaker and lecturer in the Film Programme, Robert Yao Ramesar, which was screened on Thursday evening at Carmody Road. The second film in a trilogy, the visually stunning, symbol-laden *Sistagod II* continues the story of a black female messiah's struggle to survive in a post-apocalyptic world. The film's stunning imagery and prolific metaphors generated much discussion at the launch.

Also being screened is Professor Patricia Mohammed's sumptuously shot *Coolie Pink and Green*, about a young Indo-Trinidadian's

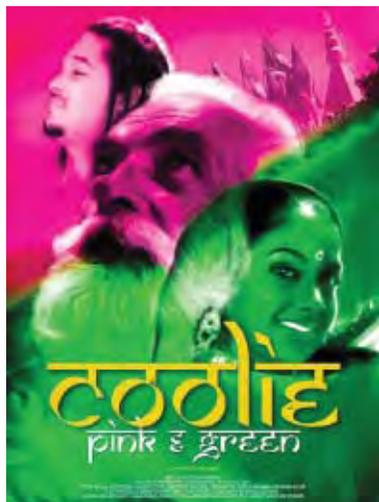
attempts to reconcile her life as a modern woman while holding on to the traditions of the past. The film won People's Choice at the Film Festival.

There will also be a couple of documentary profiles: Dr. Bhoë Tewarie's *VS Naipaul: Tribute to a Native Son*, which was shot back in 2007 when Naipaul visited Trinidad for the celebrations at UWI in honour of his 75th birthday, as well as a film by co-founder of the film programme, Dr. Jean Antoine-Dunne on Professor Gordon Rohlehr.

In addition to the films by students and staff, selections from the wider Festival will also be shown. One such film is *Bury Your Mother*, an unsettling and provocative experimental film by writer, artist and filmmaker, Jaime Lee Loy, a UWI alumnus. Another is British documentarian Adam Low's portrait of legendary Indian filmmaker Satyajit Ray. The director himself will be in attendance for the screening, following which he will introduce Satyajit Ray's debut film, the 1955 classic *Pather Panchali*.

To close the UWI programme, filmmakers belonging to the bfm collective from the UK were at Carmody Road on the Friday evening, to screen and talk about their work. The forum featured Rachel Wang, director of *Afro-Saxons*, a warmhearted film about black women's hairstyling in Britain; Ismahil Blagrove, director of *Hasta Siempre*, a revealing look at life in contemporary Cuba; and Lawrence Coke, maker of the hilarious romantic comedy, *Melvin: Portrait of a Player*.

"We intend for the Film Programme's location at Carmody Road to become a place where people from the neighbourhood can come and see good films," says Paddington, who plans to make screenings there under the stars a regular event. "We hope these screenings will also help forge further links between UWI and the local community." JA ■



Francesca Hawkins

Live to Tell the Tale

New Home for UWI Film Programme

At last a home of our own. That was the message sent and received by guests and speakers at the outdoor screenings of the UWI Film Festival at Carmody Street, St Augustine.

“For too long we have had too many people tell our stories and now we have a chance to tell our own stories in our own images,” Faculty of Humanities and Education Dean Funso Aiyejina explained at the event. A celebrated, award-winning writer and poet, the Dean spoke of the “many complexities” of the Trinidadian culture and spoke of the importance of understanding one’s space as a means to self-awareness.

He went on to thank several individuals for making the film programme a reality including Principal Clement Sankat, Prof. Ian Robertson, former Campus Principal, Dr Bhoendradatt Tewarie, co-founders of the programme Drs Jean Antoine and Bruce Paddington, Lecturers Yao Ramesar and Chris Mair, to name a few. Dr Antoine was also presented with a gift of thanks during the Ceremony.



UWI Lecturer Yao Ramesar

Francesca Hawkins, filmmaker and TV news anchor, was also invited to speak. She highlighted the challenges and accomplishments of the degree, stating that students “fought to have their voice heard” and went on to praise the UWI as an “oasis of ideas”. She then closed with the hope that the Masters in Film would become a reality. AWH ■



valedictorians



Photos by Aneel Karim

Dr Tennille Auguste

Tennille Auguste entered the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in September 2004 to read for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree. She chose to study Veterinary Medicine because of her love for animals and her desire to help people through their animals.

“My parents and my grandparents strongly influenced my decision to become a veterinarian, as well as Dr James Herriot author of the book entitled ‘It shouldn’t Happen to a Vet’,” she said. (Veterinary surgeon James Alfred Wright wrote under the name Dr James Heriott and must have influenced many with his humorous accounts of life as a vet. His son became a vet and his daughter, a doctor.)

She is very excited to have attained her doctorate, especially in the field she loves. “My dreams will finally be fulfilled in October 2009 when I graduate with a distinction degree,” she said.

While a student, Tennille has kept herself busy fulfilling her spiritual needs and actively participating in administrative issues. She was a member of Campus Crusade for Christ, and teaches at her parish Sunday school, and was secretary of the executive board of the Veterinary Students Association of Trinidad and Tobago.

So what does the future hold?

“I would like to pursue post-graduate work in the areas of surgery and diagnostic imaging. Ultimately, I would like to be a board-certified surgeon, who occasionally participates in research while spending at least two months out of the year doing volunteer work as a locum.”

Chava O’Sullivan

Chava O’Sullivan is graduating with first class honours in Electrical and Computer Engineering. It was an area she entered mainly out of uncertainty. She didn’t know quite what she wanted to do after high school, and was still unsure when she entered UWI Mona, but her father and brothers are engineers and she found their discussions about communications and power intriguing.

“Communications especially seemed to be very dynamic with much room for growth and expansion,” she said, and it seemed so attractive that she transferred to UWI St. Augustine to pursue electrical and computer engineering. The first two years were the most challenging, “contrary to what most people think.”

“In the first two years I was exposed to all areas of electrical and computer engineering and I was not so keen on all of them, while in the final year I was able to specialize in my areas of interest; communications and controls. Although it had its challenges and I had to dedicate a lot of hours to studying and practising, it wasn’t a burden because it was an aspect of engineering I enjoyed and was excited about.”

She balanced it off by being an active member of the Jamaica Students Association in Trinidad and Tobago (JASATT) and taking a lively interest in events on Milner Hall including the Hall concerts.

Chava plans to work for a while to gain some experience in the telecommunications field and then to go after a Master’s degree in Communications.





Joni Lee Pow

Joni Lee Pow attended Mucurapo Girls' R.C. Primary School and St. Joseph's Convent, in Port of Spain. With a National Scholarship, she entered The UWI two years later as a Visual Arts student because she had always wanted to be an artist.

"I realised however in my first year that art brought me no sense of fulfilment but instead highlighted my inadequacies. I recognise the personal and emotional struggle of artists and I truly admire those who chose to live out this career in its truest sense," she said.

She changed her major and completed a BSc in Psychology with First Class Honours, and hopes to pursue a doctorate in Clinical Neuropsychology. It's a choice she's happy about. "Psychology, like art deals with human nature and its complexities, but unlike art, it satisfied my need for rationale and love of science. I am fascinated by the biological intricacies of the mind as it related to psychology and I look forward to furthering this interest."

Joni has a fascination with the concept of endurance, believing it to be a challenge to the human mind's capacity. She's completed one marathon and a half-marathon and says her approach to distance running is like her attitude towards education: "I place much greater emphasis on the journey and not the endpoint."

"I acknowledge the importance of having balance within the many facets of one's identity. Although I value the importance of education I uphold the greater importance of human relationships. As a wife and mother I believe life is about loving as much as it is about learning."

Kailash Jaikaransingh

Kailash Jaikaransingh is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications Studies with Literature with First Class Honours. Communications Studies opened new doors for her, while Literature fueled her passion for writing. She also shared her interest in Literature with secondary students by teaching on Saturdays.

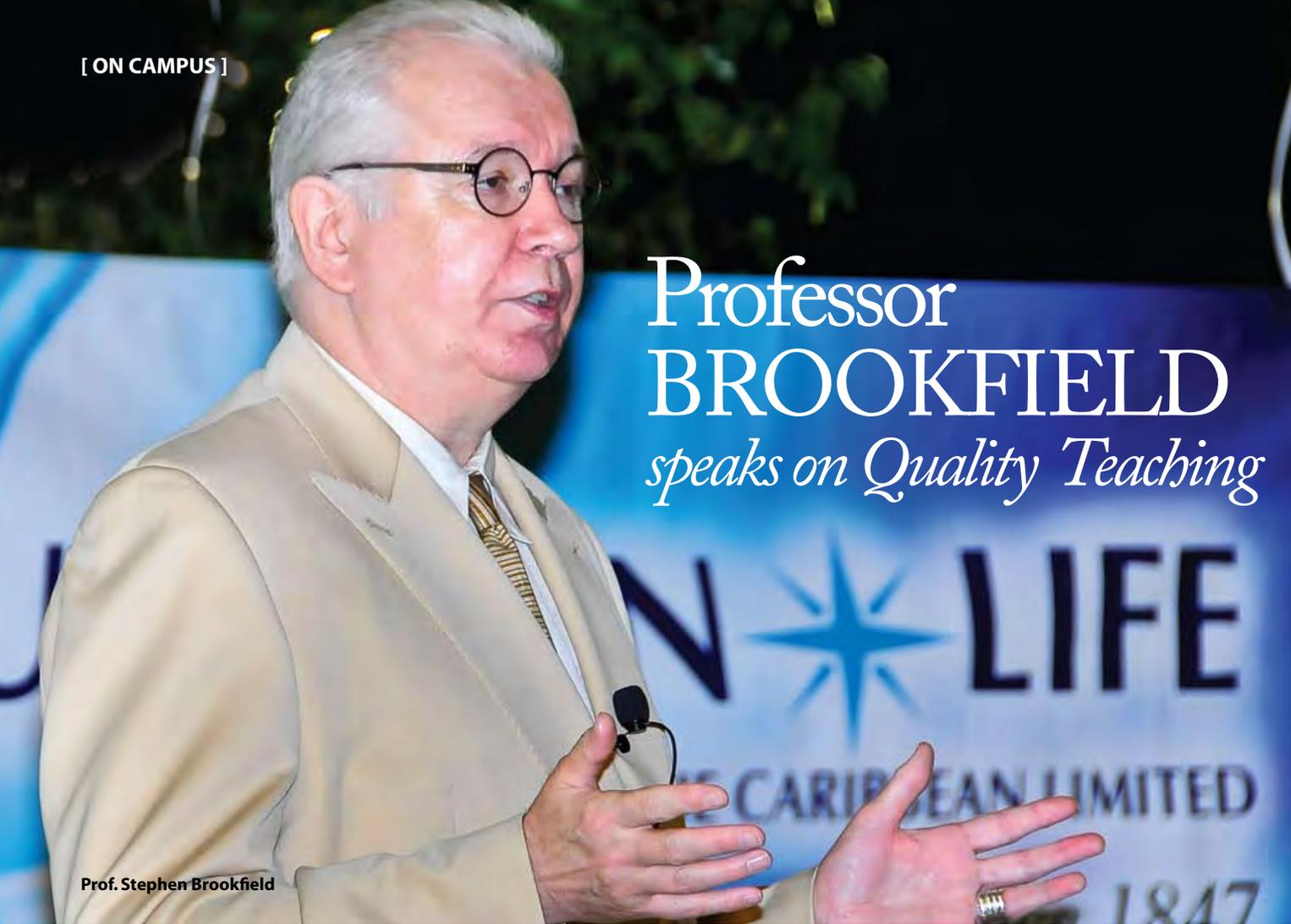
With her newfound love for Communications Studies she also seized any opportunity to explore its many genres. When her lecturer introduced a competition that would allow a student to take part in the 12th gathering of The Caribbean Media Exchange in Puerto Rico she immediately entered. She was awarded a partial fellowship which provided her with the opportunity to visit a new country, voice her concerns as a youth representative of Trinidad and Tobago and to network with other youth delegates, media personnel and professionals of other Caribbean islands.

Kailash is currently, pursuing a career in the field of Communication Studies. She plans to continue her studies abroad by doing a M.A. Communications Studies before returning to work and completing a Masters thesis part time.

She attributes her success to support from family, friends and teachers, both at The UWI and at St. Joseph's Convent in San Fernando, who inspired and encouraged her.



graduation 09



Prof. Stephen Brookfield

Photo by Vincent Lopez

Professor BROOKFIELD

speaks on Quality Teaching

The University of the West Indies (UWI), in collaboration with Guardian Life of the Caribbean Limited, hosted a Premium Open Lecture which examined “Reflective Practice: The Core of Quality Teaching” on October 2nd at the Daaga Auditorium, UWI St Augustine. Presented by Dr Stephen Brookfield, Distinguished Professor at the University of St Thomas, Minnesota, the lecture was well-received guests including several teachers from secondary and tertiary level institutions

Dr. Brookfield is currently based at the University of St Thomas in Minneapolis-St Paul, where he recently won the university’s Diversity Leadership Teaching & Research Award and also the John Ireland Presidential Award for Outstanding Achievement as a Teacher/Scholar.

Now in its eleventh year, this annual event which is alternated with the Premium Teaching Awards, has featured leading educators from universities around the world including, Dr. Patricia Cross, Professor Emerita of Higher Education, University of Berkley, California; Professor Dan Pratt, Professor of Adult and Higher Education in the Department of Educational Studies and the Acting Director of Clinical Educator Fellowships in Medical Education in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia and Professor Bridget Brereton, Professor of History, The Faculty of Humanities and Education, UWI St. Augustine, who was the first local lecturer to be featured at one of these events.

The event, which is managed by a committee and led by the Director of the University’s Instructional Development Unit, Dr. Anna May Edwards-Henry, continues to grow in popularity and critical acclaim.

For more information, please contact the Instructional Development Unit (IDU) at (868) 663-9236 or 662-2002 Ext. 2611, or contact Guardian Life’s Corporate Communications Department at 632-5433 Ext. 2051 or 2058. ■

ABOUT STEPHEN BROOKFIELD

Stephen Brookfield is currently based at the University of St Thomas in Minneapolis-St Paul, where he recently won the university’s Diversity Leadership Teaching & Research Award and also the John Ireland Presidential Award for Outstanding Achievement as a Teacher/Scholar. Since beginning his teaching career in 1970, he has worked in Europe and North America, teaching in a variety of college settings. He has written twelve books on adult learning, teaching, critical thinking, discussion methods and critical theory, four of which have won the Cyril O. Houle World Award for Literature in Adult Education (in 1986, 1989, 1996 and 2005). For more information, please visit www.stephenbrookfield.com

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UNDERSTANDING THE TSUNAMI

Students from two of Trinidad's remote coastal communities are now better educated on Tsunami safety thanks to an outreach initiative by the UWI Seismic Research Centre (SRC).



This year, the SRC chose *Understanding Tsunamis* as the main theme for its Earth Science Week celebrations, focussing on raising awareness on tsunamis for students of schools in two coastal areas.

During Earth Science Week in October, the SRC in collaboration with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM), sponsored a group of geography students from Mayaro Secondary School - a small town on Trinidad's east coast - to attend a student workshop at the SRC in St. Augustine. During the workshop, the students learned about the causes of tsunamis and how to recognize a tsunami's natural warning signs. Students were also encouraged to share the information with family and friends.

Students of Cedros Secondary School benefited from a similar educational programme when a team from the SRC visited Bonasse Village - a fishing village along Trinidad's southwestern peninsula - during Earth Science Week. In addition to learning about tsunamis, Cedros Secondary students planted trees along the beach as part of the SRC's Tsunami Ready Environment & Education (TREE) event.

According to the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) coastal forests can reduce the depth, force and velocity of a tsunami and other large wave events. "It was great that first the students learned about the potential impact of tsunamis and then they actually went outside and did something to reduce that impact on their community," commented Dr. Robert Watts, SRC Volcanologist.

"Currently, there is a lot of work being done to establish a tsunami warning system for the Caribbean but we still have a long way to go," said SRC Education Officer, Stacey Edwards. "In the meantime it is very important for people living and working in coastal areas to be able to recognize a tsunami's natural warning signs and to be able to respond appropriately," added Edwards.

The SRC partnered with the Department of Forestry in the Ministry of Agriculture Land & Marine Resources and the Trinidad & Tobago Meteorological Service and received generous sponsorship from First Citizens, ODPM, Neal & Massy Foundation, Scrip-J and Cool Connections Ltd. ■



"SRC Research Assistant, Monique Johnson, assists students with planting their tree."



"Students pose proudly beside their recently planted tree. The school's Environmental Club will maintain the seedlings as one of their projects."

CORE training at SRC

The University of the West Indies (UWI) Seismic Research Centre (SRC) launched a summer internship programme committed to identifying future geoscientists and communications practitioners in May. The Centre's new programme, called CORE (Creating Opportunity from Research Experience), was an eight-week internship for undergraduate and postgraduate students interested in pursuing careers in geosciences and related fields.

CORE interns worked closely with SRC staff on current research projects in volcanology, seismology, geology, software engineering, physics, mathematics, or public awareness and education.

Interns received a stipend, and took part in career-enhancing field experiences, lab experiments and research exposure, which are designed to complement formal classroom instruction. The internship began with a full-day orientation and ended with an oral presentation to the project supervisor.

In 2009, its debut year, the CORE programme included three projects. The first involved the implementation of a public awareness campaign on tsunami and other coastal hazard warning systems within the participating states of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA). This campaign was funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Another project, which focused on computational signal processing and data acquisition, involved the development of seismic station health monitoring applications. The third project developed a study to test the sensitivity of geothermal systems.

For more information about the internship programme, please contact Joanna Minott, Internship Coordinator and Student Outreach Officer, at jminott@hotmail.com. For more information about UWI Seismic Research Centre, please contact Stacey Edwards, Education Officer at staceyedwards@uwiseismic.com or uwiseismic@uwiseismic.com or (868) 662-4659 or (Fax) 663-9293.

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Top Students HONOURRED AT UWI



Photos by Aneel Karim

Prof E. Nigel Harris, UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor Rhoda Reddock, Deputy Principal and Professor Clement Sankat, St Augustine Campus Principal at the Ceremony with SEA students.



Professor Rhoda Reddock, Deputy Principal presents awardee.

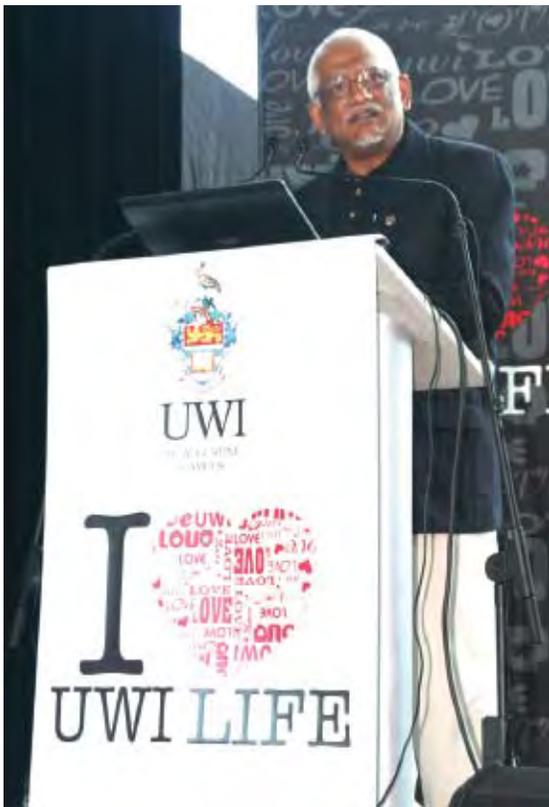
Professor Rhoda Reddock, UWI Deputy Campus Principal recognised twelve students who ranked in the top ten spots at the Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) exam at its annual Matriculation and Welcome Ceremony at the JFK Quadrangle on Thursday 17th September, 2009.

The Matriculation Ceremony also served the traditional purpose of welcoming new students as members of the academic community. Prof E. Nigel Harris, UWI Vice Chancellor and Professor Clement Sankat, St Augustine Campus Principal, formally recognised the students as the newest members of university academia.

Hundreds of students were invited to sign the Matriculation Book and to take the Academic Vow, led by Mr Hillan Morean, UWI Student Guild President. Students were also encouraged to join the UWI Alumni Association after graduation.

The ceremony included a formal academic procession, which included Sir George Alleyne, UWI Chancellor, and Campus Council Chairman and Central Bank Governor Ewart Williams, as well as University Management, Faculty Deans and other members of academic and administrative staff.

For more information, please contact the UWI Admissions Department at (868) 662-2002 Ext. 2154. ■



I LOVE UWI LIFE

UWI launches innovative orientation sessions for parents and students

The three-day UWI Life orientation sessions have become famous for welcoming students and parents with an über-informative series of Campus events.

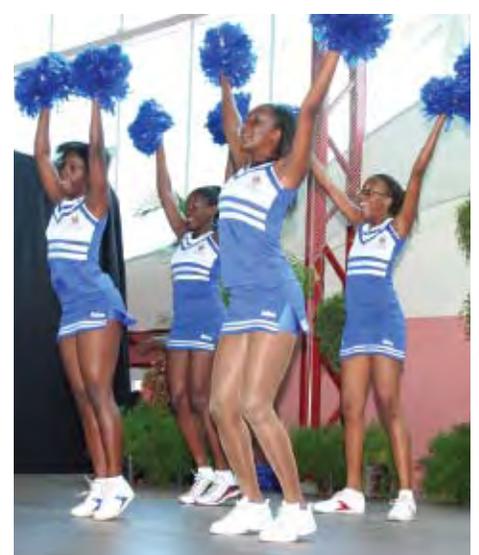
The orientation programme, which is designed to prepare students for their university experience, consists of three sessions. The first session, 'UWI Life Support', was held on Wednesday 2nd September, at 5.30 p.m. in the Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC). Designed to provide information on the many services, amenities and offerings at UWI, the session is also held so that members of staff are on-hand to answer *burning* questions on Campus life from the parents, guardians, and spouses of incoming students. UWI recognises the importance of a fundamental support system for academic success and parents are provided with informative lectures, videos and an open forum.

Orientation continued with "UWI Life Extension" on Thursday 3rd September, 2009 at 5.30 p.m. at UWI SPEC. This session, which addressed the lifestyle of mature, evening and postgraduate students, was designed to offer advice on finding a balance between family, career and academia. Once again senior management, students and staff were on-hand to ensure that students capitalise on the many opportunities available at UWI.



The St Augustine Campus welcomed about 5,000 undergraduate students in the 2009/2010 academic year. They were treated to an orientation that blends interactive media, with face-to-face dialogue and an unforgettable ice-breaker to close the day. The morning seminar, which included presentations by the Campus Principal, Prof. Clement Sankat and psychologist Dr. Dianne Douglas, provided extensive information on support systems available on Campus from Health Services to Career Advice at 'UWI Life Student' on Friday 4th September, 2009. There was also prize-giveaways and live entertainment after lunch, to encourage social networking among first-year undergraduate students.

For more UWI Life photos, click on: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/theuwi/collections/72157622104733809/>. For more information on UWI Life 2009, please visit the official website at <http://sta.uwi.edu.uwlife>, or contact the UWI Marketing and Communications Office at (868) 662-2002 Ext. 3635 or 2315. ■



Photos by Aneel Karim, Yohan Govia

[SPORT]

Training Days

Athletes use the half marathon as a testing and training ground for Marathons and triathalons at home and abroad.

Female Champion, Alika Morgan, Guyana



With over TT\$135,000 in prizes, a traffic-free route and a focus on providing a premier, quality event, The UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC) International Half Marathon has continued to grow in popularity among athletes from the Caribbean, USA, Latin America and Europe.

This year the race begins at 6am on Sunday 1st November at UWI SPEC with an expected 1,000 at the starting line. Participation has grown over the years, from 300 at its inception in 2004, to more than 750 in 2008.

Athletes often use the race as a testing and training ground for the more strenuous Marathons at home and abroad. Local mountain bike racing and triathlon champ, David Hackshaw along with a group of ten athletes are using the race as a training ground to test their readiness for local as well as USA races including the Marathon of the Palms, in Miami, in December.

It has also brought benefits to the staff of First Citizens. In a recent issue of the race's SPED magazine, Denise Nottingham an Adminis-

trative Assistant in the Retail Banking Unit, lauded the benefits of taking part in the race.

“At one point in my life due to medical constraints I thought everything was lost. After surgery and recovery, I had to improve and maintain a healthy & physically fit body. UWI SPEC (International Half Marathon) 2008 was an excellent endurance test encompassing body, mind and soul. It was a truly rewarding experience and a triumph for me to cross the finish-line.”



Runners along Race Route





Champions Alika Morgan, Guyana and Nicholas Kiprono, Uganda



The bank has returned once again as presenting sponsor of the 13.1 mile race for a third year. At the official launch of the race in September, Anthony Alexander, Corporate Manager of First Citizens, presented St Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat, with a TT\$350,000 cheque.

At the launch Raffique Shah, veteran journalist and technical director of the UWI race's, commended Dr Iva Gloudon, Director of Sport and Physical Education at UWI and her staff for their perseverance and commitment over the past five years.

"From a technical standpoint, this race has from inception, been my dream race," Shah explained.

As the organiser of the first Marathon in Trinidad and Tobago hosted by The Mirror newspaper, which had its debut on Easter Sunday, April 3rd 1983, Shah spoke of our local

history as runners explaining that "we have a history of great runners, people who used to run on a cinder track."

He added that runners including Moses Ranghell, Flavia Marin, Mc Donald Bailey, the Voisin brothers, Bruce Lockner, Mannie Ramjohn and Mannie Dookie were the pioneers of the sport. He also noted with a chuckle, that a particular pool of runners from Siparia got their start in running after they "went to the movies and ...they had to run home when they couldn't get a drop."

This year, the route remains unchanged, with the Half Marathon starting at the UWI SPEC, continuing to the La Resource Junction in D'Abadie, before doubling back to the UWI SPEC. The course will be complete with markers and water stops at every mile for the convenience of the athletes. Categories include those for UWI students and staff, and wheelchair as well as physically challenged competi-

tors. A new team category will debut in 2009, where each group must have a minimum of 15 athletes. Team members are also allowed to enter in the individual categories.

Once again, this year's race will be electronically timed and any records broken in this AIMS-certified (Association of International Marathons and Distance Races), and International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF)-accredited race will be recognized worldwide.

Another important feature is the recognition by the National Amateur Athletic Association (NAAA) of the UWI SPEC International Half Marathon as its official half marathon championship.

Local participants have the added convenience once again this year of registering at any First Citizens Bank branch throughout Trinidad and Tobago by presenting valid picture identification and their registration fee. Race waivers



MARK HARDY

will now be signed at the First Citizens branch when completing the registration. Registration takes place from September 10th to October 23rd, 2009.

Registration will automatically close, however, when 1000 persons have registered for the race. There will be no registration on race day. Only athletes residing outside of Trinidad & Tobago can register online at active.com. The deadline for online registration is Friday 16th October, 2009.

To download photos from the UWI SPEC International Half Marathon media launch, click <http://www.flickr.com/photos/theuwi/sets/72157622320417310/show/>.

For more information, visit the UWI SPEC website at www.uwi.tt/spec/marathon/ or call (868) 662-2002 Ext. 3771, 2660, 3556 or 3571 or e-mail specinfo@sta.uwi.edu

AWH ■



Dexter Charles, First Citizens presents Aisha Huma, UWI Mona



Among

With her engaging smile and affable nature, President's Gold Medal Winner breaks new ground

"I'm very outspoken, extroverted and I'd like to think I'm a good leader." Nadimah Mohammed had been asked to list her attributes and flaws. "I can be a bit controlling and a bit critical ...and my main flaw is that I'm too much of a perfectionist," continued the 19-year-old UWI Student, without hesitation.

But it seems that her drive for perfection has led to this graduate of the nearby St Augustine Girls' High School, to win the prestigious President's Gold Medal in 2009. After ace-ing three subjects – Chemistry, Literatures in English and French, she became one of two students to win the President's Gold Medal; Chantal Cave (also registered at UWI) is the other, she is a graduate of St Joseph's Convent in Port of Spain.

In the Cape examinations, Mohammed got nine distinctions. She believes that her passion for learning, combined with the support of her family and spiritual beliefs all fuelled her success. A devout Muslim, she spoke of the value of family and religion in her life and underscored the importance of balance, "everything is about being balanced, that's what my mom says."

She seems to have found that equilibrium through her love of literature, sport and philanthropy. Among her favourite writers : Martin

g the Believers

Carter, Camus, Shakespeare, Walcott and Wordsworth. She also is an avid scrabble and badminton player and has enjoyed many of the outreach programmes she took part in while at high school which helped families-in-need.

“I know where I stand and where my religion stands and it’s something that comes naturally...Once you have that relationship with Allah, everything flows.”

For Nadimah humility is key, as well as the need to “step back and assess situations”. A defining moment for her was the pilgrimage or Hajj to Mecca, there she had a defining moment, an epiphany.

“It made a big difference in my life, it was such a defining moment when you realize that you are not the centre of this world, God is the centre of everything.”

Her mentors and best friends are those within her family: mother, Lystra, a retired payroll clerk with the Trinidad Guardian is described as “very calm and wants to maximize our education, she dedicated her life to me and my sister” and her father Fazeer, a well known journalist and cricket commentator, who often encourages debate about current issues. For the Mohammed family no topic is taboo; in fact, it is an opportunity for discourse.

“You cannot insulate your children from the world outside ...it invariably backfires,” explained Fazeer. “I’ve never told her you can’t read this book...the only way we operate in this family is to keep an open mind.”

She is quick to give special thanks to her sister, Amenah, currently a student at SAGHS as well as her teachers.



Prof E. Nigel Harris,
UWI Vice Chancellor
and Nadimah Mohammed

She paid kudos to French teacher Paul Carington for bringing the text to life. “I was able to understand what the author brought across. I grew to love chemistry because of Joanne Mahadeo. I have to thank my literature teachers Sharda Ramsundar and Carolyn Harnanan. The two of them were an amazing team. I have to thank vice-principal Katherine Bahadur.” She explained to journalist Michelle Loubon of the Trinidad Guardian Newspaper.

The family has been celebrated by friends as well as neighbours, even strangers in the close-knit San Juan community where the family lives. For Fazeer, he is greatly appreciative of the thanks from the community and the wider public.

“It’s tremendous pride. You hope your children do better than your level of achievement... It’s very humbling how people have reacted, everyday people in the street, in the San Juan community seeing her as...one of their own. It’s very humbling. It is an entire family effort.”

What about the future for Nadimah. What are her hopes? Well, after graduating from University, where she is currently studying Psychology with minors in International Relations and Sociology, she wants to work with an international aid agency.

“My ultimate goal, since I was in Form One, is to work for the United Nations, or the UNDP or UNRWA, to make a fundamental change to improve things in Trinidad and Tobago.”



Mrs Lylla Bada

Farewell...

Mrs Bada Celebrated for Sterling Service

Lylla Bada's more than forty years of sterling service to the University was celebrated at a luncheon on 9th October 2009 at the Office of the Campus Principal. There, the former Campus Bursar was toasted by the Vice Chancellor, University Bursar and Principals from all three of the University's main Campuses -Cave Hill, Mona and St Augustine.

Over the years she has become respected for her loyalty, professionalism, integrity and compassion. She also advanced the cause for equity in salary for female employees and was known as a *"fierce guardian of the assets of The University"* explained Campus Principal, Professor Sankat.

The Bursar had received a standing ovation after a tribute in her honour was given at the close of the Campus Council Meeting in March, by Principal Clement Sankat. He spoke highly of her dedicated service, humility and vast knowledge of the workings of the institution then and at the luncheon.

"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...I am told by her immediate staffers that anyone who approached her with an honest claim or need was heard with sympathy and understanding."

After the formal ceremony and a heartfelt speech from Mrs Bada, she was presented with a triptych of paintings by artist Carlisle Harris.

UWI STAN welcomes Ms Carla Dubé to the Campus (see article on page 37) and wishes Mrs Bada all the best. She will truly be missed. ■

www.sta.uwi.edu/stan



The Vice Chancellor presents Mrs Bada with paintings of Carlisle Harris



The Campus Principal presents a bouquet to Mrs Bada

Photos by Richard Spence



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UWI Welcomes NEW CAMPUS BURSAR

“Throughout my career I have maintained a careful balance between critical thinking, integrity and respect, as I strive for excellence as a professional and to add value to the institution [that] I am part of,” explained Campus Bursar, Carla Dubé. She has been warmly welcomed to her new job by her successor, the iconic Mrs Lylla Bada, who retired in September.

With over 13 years of senior management experience and qualified as a professional Certified General Accountant since 2000, Carla Dubé has an impressive resumé. Her achievements include the transformation of accounting processes, the reorganisation of accounting departments to enhance leadership and as General Manager, the successful management of a business unit.

“These successes are based on dedication, perseverance, commitment to a strategic approach and the ability to implement (make) changes,” she explained.

A graduate of Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, where she gained a BBA (Accounting) in 1989, she is currently pursuing the Executive Masters in Business Administration (EMBA) degree at the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business (ALJGSB), UWI.

Having worked in Canada for several years in key positions, including as Senior Financial Analyst with Symcor Inc., Mississauga, Ontario, from December 1999 – August 2002 and as General Manager with iSTAR Internet Inc. in New Westminster, British Columbia, from September 1994 – to May 1997, she returned home to Trinidad.

Over the years, she has held key managerial positions including as Business Counsel for 3M Trinidad Inc., located in Belmont, from 2003 –2007, where she was responsible for Annual Plans and Quarterly forecasts for 3M Trinidad, including information for Latin America. While at the Company, she also led several initiatives including a regional Process Change Project (Pricing), local Six Sigma projects (in areas such as Finance, Logistics and business) and won Innovator of the Year award in 2006, having designed a reporting tool for Sales. In 2007, she joined PricewaterhouseCoopers, Trinidad, as a Management Consultant before joining the UWI.

She recently shared her Vision for the department with UWI STAN, which includes ensuring that “the Bursary maintains a high level of service delivery to all stakeholders in the processing of transactions and on financial matters in general.”

“Also, given the importance of information in decision making, combined with the changing landscape within which the University now finds itself, the Bursary must boldly transition into being providers of critical financial information to those who are charged with navigating the business of the University; thus ensuring we stay on course and achieve the strategic objectives as set out in the STRIDE plan.”

She added that it is fundamental that staff work as a team to create an environment of excellence focused on performance, which is grounded in values such as integrity, respect, cooperation and harmony. AWH ■



Carla Dubé

The GIFT

UWI Interns gain hands-on experience and learn to give back to the community

Eight students from The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus gained hands-on experience and expertise as interns with Methanex Trinidad Limited in 2009. The Company's Vacation Internship Program has a holistic approach offering students an introduction to the world of work, developing relationship skills and encouraging volunteerism in the community over a three month period.

Ryan Cudjoe, a UWI Environmental and Natural Resources Management and Geography major, lauded the programme.

"This wonderful experience offered at Methanex allowed me to apply the theoretical lessons of the classroom to the workplace. The knowledge of health, safety and environment was useful in giving me a heightened perception of Responsible Care which I will share with my classmates. It's good learning for life, not just the workplace."

Now in its fifth successful year, the programme, which is coordinated by the Human Resources Department, aims for a balance between professional and personal development and is based on a mentoring concept : in fact interns are assigned to employee mentors who are responsible for supporting their development.

While project assignments allowed the students to apply academic knowledge to actual situations, additional learning came from a Lunch n' Learn with the company's CEO, Charles Percy; a professional development session that addressed values and work ethics; and an

'Away Day', spent at the Salybia Beach Resort, that allowed them to apply interpersonal skills in getting to know their peers.

However, it was the community outreach initiative of their choice that all interns singled out as being the most memorable activity. They chose to support the Hope Centre on Pointe-a-Pierre Road, San Fernando – a home for children whose parents/guardians are unable to care for them. The interns had profound support from employees in raising funds through a series of ventures including, on-site breakfast, cake and chow sales. Methanex matched the funds raised, allowing them to purchase school uniforms, shoes, books, school accessories and items that the Home needed to make the children comfortable.

Methanex's Human Resources Manager, Noel Jones, noted that the programme offers an excellent opportunity for developing skills beyond the classroom and gives young people a much-desired boost as they begin to think of the world of work. This is one of four avenues for on-the-job experience at Methanex; the others are programmes for Graduates in Training (GIT), Operator Trainees and Technician Trainees.

Juantelle Charles, a Mechanical Engineering major, thanked Methanex for "an excellent experience, particularly as I was placed in the department which relates to my area of study. This exposure will help with my school work and give me the upper hand on courses for the new school term." ■



University students gave high marks to Methanex for a well-balanced internship experience (l-r) Ryan Cudjoe, Hayden Bishop, Anthony Martinez, Kerron Mohamed, Shaughn Deokiesingh, Nalini Seerattan, Afiya Edwards and Juantelle Edwards.

UWI Students Excel INTERNATIONALLY

R E S E A R C H T H A T I M P A C T S O U R W O R L D

From Georgia
to Dubai, UWI
undergraduate and
postgraduate students
from the Faculty of
Engineering have
been making strides
globally through
innovative research
projects and conference
presentations.



Dean Brian Copeland

Photo by Alex Smailes

Our *congrats* to the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, *Professor Copeland*, for his leadership and for sharing this news with us.

Clayton Griffin Student Paper Award

2009 Georgia Tech Protective Relaying Conference, April 22-24, 2009



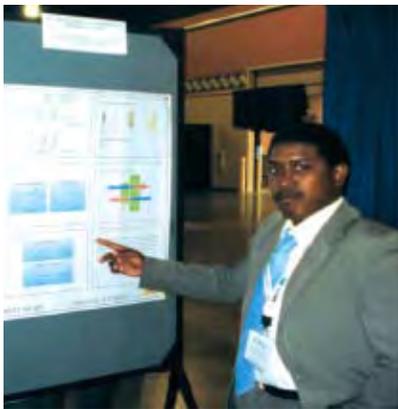
Ms. Mohammed with her award

In April, **Purdy Mohammed**, a UWI student enrolled in the BSc Electrical & Computer Engineering programme, won the 2009 Clayton Griffin Student paper award. Mohammed, who was supervised by Professor Chandrabhan Sharma, presented the paper *'Applying Demand Side Management to the Trinidad Network'* at the international conference on

April 24, 2009; after which she was presented with the award which is sponsored by the Georgia Power Company. She received a plaque, complimentary registration to the 2009 Georgia Tech Protective Relaying Conference and a monetary prize.

STLE 64th Annual Meeting and Exhibition in Florida, USA

May 17-21, 2009



Mr. Jarvis making his presentation

Christian Jarvis, a student of the UWI BSc Mechanical Engineering programme, won a Silver Award for work in the Student Poster Competition of the 64th Annual Meeting and Exhibition of the Society of Tribology and Lubrication Engineers (STLE) held at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Florida from

May 17-21, 2009. Jarvis' presentation examined *'Characterisation and Applications of Shape Memory Alloys'* and was supervised by Dr. Jacqueline Bridge. The competition consisted of 31 posters with students from the United Kingdom, United States of America, China, Korea, Italy and Trinidad and Tobago.

5th International Student Conference on Education Without Borders in Dubai

March 30 - April 1, 2009



L-R, Carlene Boodoo, Jasmine Mannie and Salomi Hope with the National Flag of T&T

Salomi Hope, a final year UWI student enrolled in the BSc Petroleum Geoscience Programme, Department of Chemical Engineering, presented a paper entitled *'Could "Fiery Ice" be a Future Source of Energy for Trinidad and Tobago'* at the 5th International Student Conference on Education without Borders, held in Dubai from March 30 to April 1, 2009. This biennial conference hosted over

500 students from 120 countries and focused on the sharing of ideas to promote a better world through technology. Two additional students from the Faculty also attended the conference, Jasmine Mannie, a BSc Mechanical Engineering student and Carlene Boodoo, a student enrolled in the MSc Geoinformatics programme, from the Department of Surveying and Land Information. Hope's paper was supervised by Professor Richard Dawe and Mrs. Jill Marcelle-De Silva.

ISOCARP Congress in China 2008

Doneika Simms, a second year student enrolled in the MSc Urban and Regional Planning programme, Department of Surveying & Land Information, received the top award for the best paper submitted at the Young Professional Planners (YPP) Workshop for planners age thirty-two and under in China in September, 2008. The initiative is part of ISOCARP (International Society of City and Regional Planners). The presentation which focussed on *'the Effects of Urbanization on Natural Resources in Jamaica'*, was voted the top paper from among a worldwide pool of over two hundred abstracts of which only twenty-four were selected. Five finalists were then chosen for the YPP Routledge Award from which she emerged as the winner.

ISOCARP Poster Competition in Belgium 2007

Post Graduate student, Annika Fritz, enrolled in the MSc Urban and Regional Planning programme, won the second prize in the ISOCARP Routledge Poster Competition for her poster entitled *No Collective Vision for the City*. She was the sole participant from the Caribbean region selected to participate in ISOCARP's YPP Workshop and conference in Antwerp, Belgium, held in September 2007. Ms. Fritz was able to attend the workshop and conference through the assistance of the Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago Foundation.

Fulbright Scholarship

Recently, Jennifer Collymore, a graduate of the M.Sc Planning and Development Programme, was awarded a US Fulbright Scholarship to pursue doctoral studies in the Geography Department at Penn State University.

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure 11

The Netherlands, June 15-19, 2009

The paper, *The Status and Development Direction of the Trinidad and Tobago National Spatial Data Infrastructure* submitted by **Carlene Boodoo** and **Rehanna Jadoo**, final year students in the MSc Geoinformatics programme of the Department of Surveying and Land Information and **Lisa Ramoutar**, a final year student in the MSc Civil Engineering programme of the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, was accepted for presentation at the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure's 11th Conference held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands from June 15-19, 2009.



Latin American Delegates flanked by Lisa Ramoutar (left) and Carlene Boodoo (right)

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[BOOKS]

Challenging the Myths of UWI ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURER LAUNCHES



f Caribbean History

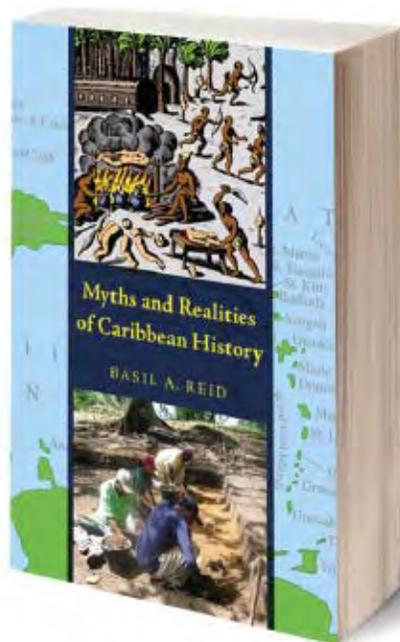
BOOK & DEBUNKS MYTHS

In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue. That may be true, but a new book from a UWI Archaeology Lecturer says that Caribbean history actually started 7,000 years ago, long before Columbus sailed.

Myths and Realities of Caribbean History, a new text by Dr Basil Reid, challenges many cherished Caribbean myths. Reid proposes that contrary to popular belief, the history of the Caribbean did not begin in 1492, but 7,000 years ago with the infusion of Archaic groups from South America and the successive migrations of other peoples from Central America for about 2,000 years thereafter. The book will be launched regionally at the Barbados Museum and Historical Society in Barbados on Monday 27th April, and at the Jamaica National Heritage Trust in Kingston, Jamaica on Tuesday 5th May, 2009.

Myths and Realities examines eleven popular and prevalent myths about Caribbean history. Using archaeological evidence, it corrects many previous misconceptions promulgated by history books and oral tradition as they specifically relate to the pre-colonial and European-contact periods. It informs popular audiences, as well as scholars, about the current state of archaeological and historical research in the Caribbean and asserts the value of that research in fostering a better understanding of the region's past. In addition to discussing this rich cultural diversity of the Antillean past, *Myths and Realities of Caribbean History* debates the misuse of terms such as "Arawak" and "Ciboneys," and the validity of Carib cannibalism allegations.

The book has received positive reviews. According to Professor William F. Keegan, Curator of Caribbean Archaeology, Florida Museum of Natural History: "This is an



extremely important book. Dr. Reid has selected some of the most cherished beliefs about the native peoples of the insular Caribbean and demonstrates that these beliefs are wrong. The book provides a new view of the past, and clears away much of the colonialist baggage associated with the history of the region as it is currently being taught."

Dr. Antonio Curet, Field Museum states that "Myths and Realities of Caribbean History is well organized and well written. Arguments are easy to follow and it includes a large number of references. Figures and tables are of good quality and appropriate. This book will be of interest to a wide variety of people in the entire Caribbean, tourists, Americans interested in the region, and various kinds of scholars that specialize in this area."

"The book provides a new view of the past, and clears away much of the colonialist baggage associated with the history of the region as it is currently being taught"

The text is expected to be of particular interest to CXC and CAPE officials as well as history, geography and social studies teachers and students throughout Trinidad and Tobago and the Anglophone Caribbean. Published by the University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa USA, *Myths and Realities of Caribbean History* is the second edition of *Popular Myths About Caribbean History*, which was launched at the National Museum and Art Gallery in Port of Spain in August 2007. Copies of both books are available at the UWI Bookshop, UWI St. Augustine Campus. GERARD BEST ■

Gerard Best is an honors graduate of UWI, St Augustine Campus and a Marketing and Communications Officer, UWI, St Augustine.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Basil A. Reid is Lecturer in Archaeology, Department of History, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, where his major research inter-

ests are the pre-Colombian history of the Caribbean, archaeology and geoinformatics, and forensics in the Caribbean. His articles have appeared in the *Journal of Caribbean History*, *Caribbean Quarterly* and *Caribbean Geography*, and he is the editor of both *Archaeology and Geoinformatics: Case Studies from the Caribbean* and *A Crime Solving Toolkit: Forensics in the Caribbean*. Dr. Reid is currently an external evaluator with the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) and a member of the editorial boards of *The Historic Environment* and the *Journal of Caribbean Archaeology*. He was also Chairman of the 21st Congress of the International Association for Caribbean Archaeology (IACA) which was held in Trinidad and Tobago in July 2005.

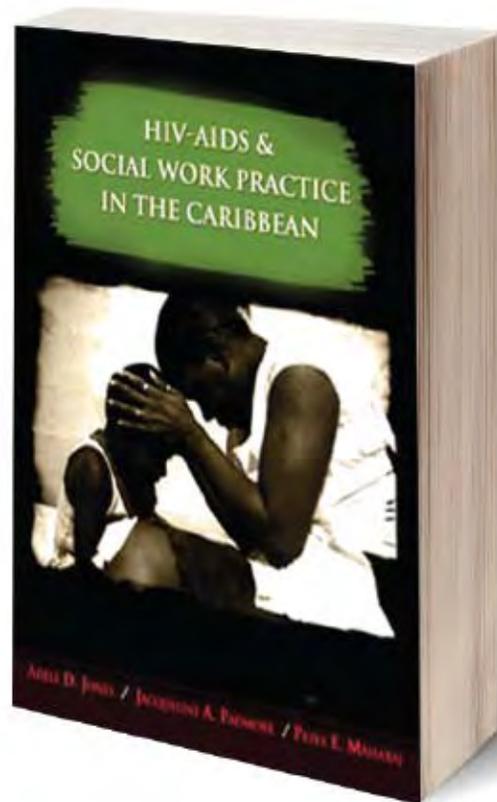
[BOOKS]

For a mature social worker like myself, who has recently re entered the field of social work *HIV-AIDS & Social Work Practice In The Caribbean* is a valuable publication for many reasons. Publications that speak directly to the Social Work Practice in the Caribbean environment are rare and therefore on that score alone this publication is welcome. Additionally the AIDS epidemic is comparatively recent so the opportunity to examine its consequences in *one's own backyard* so to speak is indispensable.

Programmes designed for the care of HIV-AIDS patients have concentrated mainly on public health education, the management of the transmission of the disease and the preparation for loss. With medical advances and the availability of antiretroviral therapies, HIV-AIDS is no longer a death sentence. For many, it has just been commuted to a life sentence, as the stigma, the discrimination and the gender inequalities remain. This volume develops the argument that it is now critical for Social Worker Practice to recognize the psychosocial dynamics of the person living with HIV-AIDS, the deleterious consequences of the present environment, and the need to make interventions that improve the quality of their lives and afford them social justice and equity.

HIV-AIDS & Social Work Practice In The Caribbean is the result of research over a three year period by scholars in the field of Social Work, Psychology and Economics at UWI. Edited by Adele D.Jones; Jacqueline Padmore and Priya E. Maharaj, it is true to its sub title *Theory, Issues and Innovation*. The writers address the questions: Who are today's social workers; What are their *bona fides* to play a significant role in the HIV-AIDS epidemic; and How are they going to approach significant aspects to bring about social change.

At a personal level the Social Worker in my day was perceived, at worst as a sort of caring Mother Teresa, one dedicated to helping the disadvantaged, and at best a lowly professional, answering 'a calling' really,



UWI Researchers examine

HIV-AIDS & SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN THE CARIBBEAN

Theory, Issues and Innovation
Edited by Adele D Jones, Jacqueline Padmore
& Priya E. Maharaj

Although HIV was first associated with males, the homosexual community in particular, statistics show that in the Caribbean women represent 51% of the adult HIV positive population

which though laudable was intellectually undemanding, based on a strong Christian code of behaviour and supported by a few select psychological theories.

Adele D Jones, one of the editors and contributors to, *HIV-AIDS & Social Work Practice In The Caribbean*, suggests that to some extent this perception remains: **‘Social Work...is an ambiguous profession. The inability to clearly articulate a specific body of knowledge, the personal subjugation to people in professions with higher societal status (for example doctors and psychologists) and public perceptions of Social Work as benign at best and ineffective, are all factors which undermine the value and contribution of Social Work in Caribbean countries.’**

This volume *HIV-AIDS & Social Work Practice In The Caribbean* goes a long way to disprove this negative perception of the value of Social Work Practice and makes a strong case for the recognition of the Social Worker: “in the reformulating policies and practices to incorporate indigenous perspectives, to mitigate those factors that contribute to underdevelopment and to include strategies for achieving social justice.”

HIV-AIDS & Social Work Practice In The Caribbean is organised in three sections – The Context for Social Work Practice; Risk and Social Support; and Specific Issues for Women. The first section, speaking directly to the Social Work Practitioner, suggests a more comprehensive way of approaching the needs of PLHIV. Rather than restricting the worker to the supportive role of micro interventions, the practice should move *Beyond the Counselling Room*. A model is offered in which four interrelated perspectives, developmental,

feminist theory of inter-sectionality, principles of empowerment and human rights perspective are utilized to better effect change at the individual and societal level. Today’s Social Worker must be a part of macro practice, an equal partner in the developing of social policy with policy makers, activists, administrators and NGOs and other relevant organisations.

Any examination of HIV-AIDS must recognize the stigma, discrimination, and prejudice that is associated with the condition, informs our institutions and the resultant secrecy and fear of disclosure. Priya E. Maharaj’s contribution suggests that an examination of these ingrained prejudices has been neglected in the literature, the culture of the society has institutionalised these beliefs and exploration of the ways in which this is entrenched is warranted.

The second section of the book features empirical studies with special populations. Children at Risk are considered in some detail. This study is undertaken by Karl Theodore, a widely respected UWI economist, who has worked extensively on the economic implications of social problems in the Caribbean, joined by Roger McLean, a well-respected Health Economist and Michele Sogrin, a Lecturer and administrator in Social Work at UWI, whose research interests focus on the family and include children and HIV-AIDS and who has served on several national and international bodies. Further insights into other populations are given in Khadijah Williams-Peters’ study of sex talk between women and teenage girls and Patricia Ison’s revealing discussion of the realities of Social Support in a non traditional family setting.

The editors were aware that their publication did not present an exhaustive list of the issues facing people living with HIV-AIDS, indeed they identify two important areas that require examination – the homosexual community and

the elderly. However, two of the contributors, Adele D. Jones and Priya E. Maharaj, do give consideration to the Disabled, another population, that very little has been written about. They make the surprising assertion that : “It seems that there may be a general assumption that disabled people are at a reduced risk of contracting HIV, when in fact the very opposite might be true, as their physiological vulnerability may place them at increased risk.”

The third part of the book concentrates on specific issues for women. Although HIV was first associated with males, the homosexual community in particular, statistics show that in the Caribbean women represent 51% of the adult HIV positive population. In Trinidad and Tobago the state provides free anti retroviral therapy to its patients, the writers consider the factors that contribute to the non adherence to treatment. Non adherence to treatment is not only the result of the stresses of the illness itself but must be considered in the wider context of the challenging, demanding, unequal and often demeaning role of women in the Caribbean.

The editors of *HIV-AIDS & Social Work Practice In The Caribbean* express the hope that the contributions of this volume will stem the tide of stigma-infused prejudice across the region. It should also arm workers with the ammunition to consider the benefits of a macro approach to the epidemic, and encourage them, practitioners, researchers and students, to widen scope of their interventions. ■

Margaret Walcott is an honors graduate of Keele University, UK, a former UWI part-time lecturer and presently a Long-Arm Field Supervisor with the UWI Social Work Programme.



Regional Fund provides US \$150,000 in Scholarships

In 2008, The University of the West Indies celebrated its sixtieth anniversary. While the cross-Campus celebrations were an opportunity to recognise the accomplishments of the past, it was also a time of planning for the future of UWI students across the Caribbean.

Officially launched in July 2008 as part of the University's Anniversary celebrations, The UWIREF provides the opportunity for international and regional donors to partner with the University to give meaningful support to its undergraduate and graduate students, as well as to research and other developmental projects.

"They celebrate with 15 other counterparts spread across the Caribbean, who have all taken up offers to study at The University's Cave Hill, Mona or St. Augustine campus"

The 2009/2010 UWIREF Scholarships, valued at a total of US\$ 150,000 were funded through the collaborative efforts of UWI and its partners including:

RBTT Bank
Sir George and Lady Sylvan Alleyne
Dame Bernice Lake
Maud Fuller
Roydell Lawrence (Dec.)
Professor Pamela Rodgers-Johnson (Dec.)

One year after the anniversary celebrations, the UWI Regional Endowment Fund (UWIREF) 2009/2010 has provided scholarships in the sum of US \$150,000 to UWI students: *Jennifer*

Mofford and Amelia Rouse of Barbados; Corazon Durand of Dominica; Anne Teresa Birthwright, Mele-a Campbell, Amoako St. Patrick Evans, Felisha Henry, Shanique Sterling, Samantha Christie, Shaneeek Findlay, Adrian Stephens and Pettia Gay Williams of Jamaica; Androy Emery and Keiran Prescott-Joseph of St. Lucia; Malissa Cornwall, Melissa De Freitas and Valdene Jack of St. Vincent and Candice Myers and Lauralee Samaroo of Trinidad & Tobago. The students were recommended for the awards based on merit and financial need.

On September 18th, UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris and St. Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat, welcomed four scholarship winners to UWI St. Augustine. The students, Amelia Rouse, Candice Myers, Lauralee Samaroo and Melissa Ann De Freitas were awarded scholarships and bursaries amounting to US\$25,000 by UWIREF.

Amelia is enrolled in the Faculty of Engineering, while Melissa is in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture and Candice and Lauralee are both in the Faculty of Medical Sciences. They celebrate with 15 other counterparts spread across the Caribbean, who have all taken up offers to study at the University's Cave Hill, Mona or St. Augustine campus. Congratulations to all of the recipients of the 2009/2010 UWIREF scholarships.

*For more information please contact
 The Marketing & Communications Office
 (868) 662-2002 Ext. 2013, 2014. ■*



(L-R) Prof. Clement Sankat, UWI St Augustine Campus Principal, scholarship recipients, Lauralee Samaroo, Melissa Ann De Freitas and Candice Myers, and Prof. E. Nigel Harris, UWI Vice Chancellor.

Making it Count

Regional Training in Demographic Analysis AIDS DEVELOPMENT



Dr. Godfrey St. Bernard

For the past two decades, national statistical offices have been drawing attention to the dearth of professional skills to undertake highly technical demographic analyses. In this regard, the CARICOM Secretariat has responded and prepared a proposal to facilitate the production of a critical mass of expertise in demographic analyses. To this end, the CARICOM Secretariat became the principal executing agency of an annual series of Regional Workshops on Demographic Analysis. Between June 8, 2009 and July 24, 2009, the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), St. Augustine was one of the main collaborating organizations that facilitated the **Fourth CARICOM Regional Workshop on Demographic Analysis**. This was the last of the series of annual demographic analysis workshops in which SALISES has played such a role since 2006.

In 2006, the first workshop was funded by a number of international agencies including the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Department for International Development (DFID). Since 2007, the workshops have been funded principally by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and managed by the Regional Statistics Division of the CARICOM Secretariat. These workshops have been instrumental in strengthening the institutional capacity of national statistical offices and other allied



technocratic agencies within the CARICOM member states and associated territories.

The SALISES, through Dr. Godfrey St. Bernard, has made a major contribution to this end. More specifically, Dr. St. Bernard and Professor Chukwudum Uche, Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work, UWI, Mona, have been the principal architects in fulfilling the demographic training needs of 18 CARICOM member states and associated territories. Between 2006 and 2009, approximately 100 professional statisticians and demographers have been trained by Professor Uche and Dr. St. Bernard in the four annual workshops along with a special abridged forum that catered specifically for senior level officers including Directors of Statistics.

In 2006, Professor Uche and Dr. St. Bernard obtained additional assistance in the delivery of technical modules from colleagues such as Mr. Sylvan Roberts formerly of the CARICOM Secretariat, Dr. Caroline Schmidt, from ECLAC and Ms. Samantha John, tutor and laboratory assistant. In 2007 and 2008, they obtained similar assistance from Ms. Sharon Priestley, Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work UWI, Mona while in 2009 such assistance was forthcoming from Ms. Samantha John, a graduate student who was completing graduate studies in demography at UWI, Mona. In 2008 and 2009, Ms. Jacqueline Small, a graduate student of demography at UWI, Mona, provided assistance to trainees in laboratory sessions

that exposed them to technical analyses manually and using customized computer software applications.

Having had exposure to the training offered in these workshops, professional statisticians and demographers have been empowered to produce more reliable and valid statistics that impact positively upon the pursuit of local, national and regional development initiatives. Such exposure has been of tremendous significance in empowering every CARICOM member state and associated territory to fulfill mandates that have been established in the context of the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs). As such, statisticians and demographers who had been exposed to the workshops would have developed capabilities with respect to determining sources of demographic data and the evaluation of data quality, the analysis, interpretation and presentation of data on demographic events such as fertility, nuptiality, mortality and migration; and theoretical perspectives associated with population dynamics in particular, fertility, mortality and migration. In addition, trainees benefited from modules exposing them to more advanced topics such as life table analysis, stable population theory and analysis, model life tables, population projections and a range of indirect techniques used for demographic estimation. Such content is consistent with the type of training required to fulfill the requirements of undergraduate and graduate programmes in formal demography; a set of skills that have been elusive within the confines of operations

within the vast majority of national statistical offices within the CARICOM Community.

National statistical offices in CARICOM member states and associated territories should no longer be complaining about a dearth of technical skills in demographic analysis. The majority of countries have had at least four trainees exposed to the series of workshops. There is considerable evidence that a number of trainees have been given opportunities to use and build upon the skills gained through their participation in the workshops. Dr. Philomen Harrison, Project Director, Regional Statistics Programme, CARICOM and Dr. St. Bernard, have reported that a number of trainees have since represented their organizations at major regional meetings of statisticians and demographers, among others, and displayed extremely high professional standards in the delivery of their respective presentations. For more than 10 years, Dr. St. Bernard has been representing the UWI, St. Augustine at the annual Meetings of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS).

Having heard the needs that statisticians have expressed for formal training at the graduate level, Dr. St. Bernard has sought to establish a M.Sc. in Development Statistics in SALISES, St. Augustine Campus. Such a goal was eventually realized and the first cohort of eight students was admitted in the academic year 2008/2009. For the academic year 2009/2010, the second cohort is expected to consist of 20 students. Students have options of specializing in either **Survey Research or Social and Demographic Statistics**. It is hoped that the MSc. in Development Statistics will blossom and continue to fulfill the training needs of the regions' statisticians and applied researchers. SALISES has been instrumental in supporting the CARICOM Regional Statistics Training Initiative especially during the past four years and will continue to support such initiatives in its own right through its new MSc. in Development Statistics.

DR GODFREY ST BERNARD ■

STAN

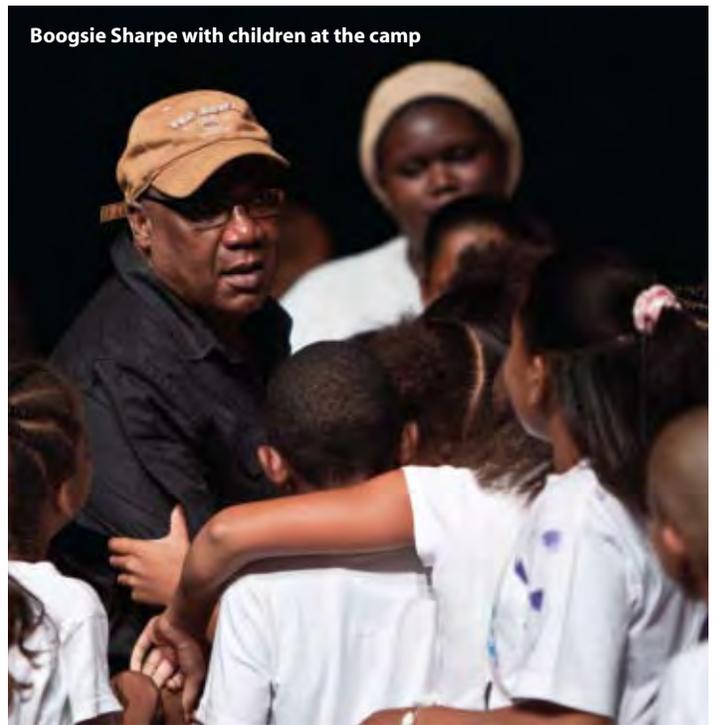
online in **SCHOOLS**

PAN RISING August Camps Abound

While the Community School of Arts at the Department of Creative and Festival Arts, Gordon Street in St Augustine welcomes children aged 4-12, to register for its innovative courses, we take a peek at a popular, unique theatre camp in Port of Spain.

The Patrons of Queen's Hall hosted their annual Camp for those aged 6-16 at the modern facilities of the Queen's Hall in St. Ann's in July/August. Several part-time tutors and students from the UWI teach music, dance and art to the talented campers. After three weeks of activities the event climaxes with a production. This year the theatrical production celebrated award-winning pannist and arranger, Boogsie Sharpe. The "Boogie with Boogsie" production gave the children an opportunity to show-off all they had learnt at Camps, from playing the steelpan to singing, acting and dancing. In the past the camp has focussed on celebrating the work of iconic West Indian artists, including Andre Tanker and Peter Minshall. This year was another proven success for all, including a particularly touching moment during the curtain call, when the unassuming Boogsie was invited onstage by Noble Douglas. There he received an impromptu group hug by about 90 of his young fans.

Boogsie Sharpe with children at the camp



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Trinidad and Tobago

Students at the
Woodbrook Presbyterian School
taking a break for lunch

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