TODAY, THE UWI St. Augustine Campus once again hosts its signature UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon sponsored by First Citizens. This year the 13.1 mile route of the Half-Marathon remains unchanged. The race will continue along the traffic-free Priority Bus Route (PBR) to the La Resource junction in D’Abadie, before doubling back to UWI SPEC. The course will be complete with markers and water stops at every mile for the running convenience of the athletes from around the world including the Caribbean, USA, Latin America and Europe.

EXCELLENCE – 5
Lucky 7
- Recipients of the VC’s Awards

INNOVATION – 6
Sweet Tradition
- Elbow deep in chocolate

OUTGOING – 8
Valedictorians
- At the end of the trip

INCOMING – 12
Matriculation
- On the threshold
A Degree in Insurance and Risk Management

"Although a degree in Insurance and Risk Management is not required to work in the industry, the reality of the market place is that first degrees (at least) have become a non-negotiable," said Prof Surendra Arjoon at the launch of the BSc in Insurance and Risk Management at the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI on October 14.

Prof Arjoon, Head of the Department of Management Studies, noted that in the US alone, 36 colleges and universities are currently offering a Bachelor’s degree in this field.

Developed by the Faculty of Social Sciences in partnership with the Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Institute (TTII) and the local insurance industry, the new programme aims to provide students with analytical and problem-solving skills for addressing complex issues in the insurance sector; leadership skills to meet local, regional and global challenges that may arise; and the academic foundation to pursue postgraduate studies in a related discipline.

"Over the years, the UWI has moved toward a stakeholder approach to governance in responding to the needs and requirements of the business and wider society," in this regard, said Prof Arjoon, as part of its Strategic Plan, "the Department is setting up an advisory board which will comprise key players in the business sector so that together we can better respond to their needs in the designing and executing of curricula and training programmes."

The launch was attended by Minister of Science, Technology, and Tertiary Education, Fazal Karim, and was also addressed by Dr. Hamid Ghany, Dean of the UWI’s faculty of Social Sciences in partnership with the Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Institute (TTII) and Errol Simms, Deputy Dean of Planning and Programming at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. Clement Sankat, Pro Vice Chancellor and St. Augustine Campus Principal, and Douglas Camacho, Chairman of the Board of Governors, TTII.

The Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Institute presented a cheque for $250,000 to The UWI to help fund the BSc in Insurance and Risk Management programme, and The UWI has sponsored a position for a lecturer for it.
Principal Pays Tribute to President Jagdeo

In a rare event that was eloquent because of its unusual nature, Guyanese held a tribute to their outgoing President, His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo, before he had actually demitted office. Titled, “A World of Thanks to President His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo,” it was held on September 16, 2011 in Georgetown, and Campus Principal and Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor Clement Sankat, presented a tribute.

Protesting President Jagdeo’s vision of an integrated Caribbean, Prof Sankat remarked that through his leadership, “Guyana has become a leading light at CARICOM, though not a part of the regional University of the West Indies, which epitomizes Caribbean regionality and solidarity. This is therefore an opportunity for Guyana and especially, its talented students and academics; and something that should be revisited,” he said.

Crediting him with being among the region’s leading spokespersons, Prof Sankat said it is indisputable that President Jagdeo has given the Caribbean a voice on critical global issues and a presence in international fora. He outlined some of his contributions as President, citing the “Jagdeo initiative” and the new agriculture vision which aimed for development that went beyond food production and would help “agro-businesses, creating employment, increasing export earnings of our countries as well as income for our farmers and other stakeholders.”

He said President Jagdeo is widely recognized as the leading Caribbean advocate on environmental protection. “In fact, few will deny that this pursuit of new and creative economic strategies has produced impressive results! President Jagdeo has been credited with substantially reducing Guyana’s national debt, undertaking critical fiscal and tax reform and passing legislation to support increased transparency, better procurement and competition. Rehabilitation of the health system, land reform, significant expansion of the housing sector, major improvements to the water and sanitation systems, large-scale development and extension of road, river and air transport networks, and in the area of education, significant wins in the area of widening access and improving quality – these are all gains that have been attributed to his leadership and from which the Guyanese people are benefitting,” he said.

As he continued enumerating his achievements, Prof Sankat concluded that, “whether it has been by reviewing the global financial architecture for our small states, trying to avert the dangers posed by climate change and global warming, advancing proposals for food security in Guyana and the region, stretching the boundaries of regionalism, increasing opportunities for education or just thinking about the challenges before us”, the University of the West Indies, through its various institutions, is focused on regional economies in the prolonged volatile economic environment.

“President Jagdeo has been credited with substantially reducing Guyana’s national debt, undertaking critical fiscal and tax reform and passing legislation to support increased transparency, better procurement and competition.”

COTE 2011

The audience at the Opening Ceremony of The UWI COTE 2011 enjoys a skit honouring Dr. Eric St. Cyr put on by members of The UWI Arts In Action, at The UWI St. Augustine Campus on October 6. This year’s conference paid tribute to Dr. St. Cyr, a former Lecturer and Head of the Department of Economics, UWI.

COTE is an annual landmark event of the Department through which findings from quality research and other studies are presented to inform economic and social policy. This year’s theme, “Managing for Development in a Volatile Economic Environment: Addressing the Challenges before us”, focused on regional economies in the prolonged volatile economic environment.
Vice-Chancellor’s Awards 2011

Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, Professor E. Nigel Harris, presented awards to seven outstanding University staff members at a ceremony held at the St. Augustine Campus on October 5.

Professors Kathleen Coard, Minerva Thame, Anthony Clayton and Mrs. Eda Martin of the Mona Campus; Dr. Anna-May Edwards-Henry and Professor Vijay Naraynsingh, St. Augustine Campus, and Professor Julie Meeks Gardner of the Open Campus, were this year’s recipients of the prestigious Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence.

The Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence was established in 1993 under former Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alister McIntyre to recognize high achievement by academic and senior administrative staff of The UWI. Awards are given in the following areas: Teaching, Administration and Research Accomplishments, Service to the University Community, Contributions to Public Service, and All-round Excellence in a combination of two or more of the five core areas.

The 2011 Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence were presented to:

- **Professor Anthony Clayton**
  Institute of Sustainable Development, Mona, for Public Service

- **Professor Kathleen Coard**
  Department of Pathology, Mona, for Teaching

- **Dr. Anna-May Edwards-Henry**
  Instructional Development Unit, St. Augustine, for Service to the University Community

- **Mrs. Eda Martin**
  Office of Finance, Vice Chancellery, Mona, for Service to the University Community

- **Professor Julie Meeks Gardner**
  Caribbean Child Development Centre, Open Campus, for All-round performance in Research & Public Service

- **Professor Vijay Naraynsingh**
  Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences, St. Augustine, for Research

- **Professor Minerva Thame**
  Department of Child Health, Mona, for Research
What does a chocolatier do on World Cocoa and Chocolate Day?

Astrida Saunders followed her passion. She spent October 1 as she spends every Saturday: at her workshop, elbow deep in chocolate. For the founder and managing director of Exotic Caribbean Mountain Pride, and the source of the company’s delectable creations, it was business as usual.

“Saturday is my dirty day, or work day,” she says, “the day that I will be doing the roasting and the shelling of the beans … and it can be very dirty and dusty.” Since much of the process is done manually, it’s a lot of hard work, but “it’s the most important part of the chocolate process.”

First, the beans are fermented. Next they’re dried, roasted and set aside to cool. Then it’s time to shell them, and for this she uses her own self-taught method. “It’s very effective, but it’s a lot of work.”

“Or,” she continues, “if I have done it before it’s the day to actually be making the chocolate … I will be grinding the beans, mixing my spices, pouring it into moulds, putting it into the freezer.”

It seems arduous, but she isn’t complaining. “I have a really comfortable workshop,” she explains, crediting all who helped construct it. “They did it with love … so when I sit in my workshop I am very comfortable.”

Comfort is a good thing; in just one Saturday session she produces 600 chocolates.

Don’t be mistaken though, Saunders’ creations aren’t your regular ‘open a box and pop one in your mouth’ chocolates. They’re “traditional chocolates,” she declares. “It’s what people grew up with – the chocolate that was used to make the traditional hot cocoa tea.”

A sip must bring forth memories of childhood and granny’s kitchen.

“We try very hard to keep that taste.”

Saunders’ entered the chocolate world through her grandparents.

“I grew up in a family that was always involved in cocoa,” she explains. “We are from Tamana … which grew a lot of cocoa … my grandparents had estates which they passed on to my parents … so we (Saunders and her brothers) are inherently the owners of the estate now.” While her brothers deal with the production of the beans, she decided “to take it a step further … than just sell cocoa beans,” by turning them into chocolate.

She didn’t know how to make the chocolates that are so popular today. She hadn’t learnt because she never foresaw a future in chocolate. Or maybe she did. She’d dreamed of becoming a florist and studied Agricultural Management in Venezuela.

Although she couldn’t make chocolate, she thought of what she could produce out of her cocoa beans. “So we said … long time they used to make a kind of chocolate that people no longer get so let’s try to make that – the chocolate that people know long time.”

“They had a mortar and a pestle and they used to pound beans and that is exactly how we started.”

That’s where her training in Agricultural Management came in. “It was a practical school. You had to work hard and think of how to make your job easy, so developing this chocolate I had to use a lot of my skills from Venezuela … because it’s a practical product.”

After visiting “one or two little open days” with her Hot Cocoa Tea and Memories of Granny

BY SERAH ACHAM

The day was first declared by the London based International Cocoa Organisation (ICCO) and then the Académie Française du Chocolat et de la Confection (French Chocolate and Confectionery Academy) to recognize and raise global awareness of the efforts of cocoa growers around the world, their living conditions, and the need for a long-term self-sustained cocoa economy.
product, she discovered that “people loved it.” This cemented her decision to create what is now Exotic Caribbean Mountain Pride.

Initially, she admits, “the passion (for chocolate) wasn’t there.” But she wanted to create something that people would love. Answer one question and up pops another; how could I make this product without so much labour? … without so much work? … easier?

She became focused on finding a way to produce in bulk without the intense labour. It was complex and draining.

“There were all these factors involved so you couldn’t have passion for the product. You had to have passion for machinery, infrastructure, electricity, getting it to the market, getting people to know it.”

“I’ve overcome that challenge,” she says. Now her passion is for her chocolate. With her brand gaining market, getting people to know it. “They have embraced me really,” Saunders says of her relationship with the CRU. “I met them after I started making the chocolate.” The CRU had invited her to an open day that

Where can you find her chocolate?

“Today it’s in most of the major supermarkets in Trinidad, she says. “And it’s certainly making its way around the world.”

“My aim is to take the same taste that we have as the traditional drinking chocolate and make it into edible bars, so…our bar will taste like long-time cocoa … which will be something different.”

Exotic Caribbean Mountain Pride produces six flavours of drinking chocolate: original, mint, lemon grass, ginger, chilli and orange, “as well as a liqueur, Astrilique,” for Astrida’s Liqueur, Saunders explains. “We also do a liqueur in cream which is like ponche de crème or cocoa crème,” she continues, letting me know that it may be on grocery store shelves soon, “we’re looking forward to start selling it this Christmas.”

The Cocoa Research Unit celebrates

The celebration of World Cocoa and Chocolate Day on October 1 will become a permanent part of the calendar of events of the CRU.

Visitors were encouraged to sample some of the chocolates on display at the exhibition held by the Cocoa Research Unit.

The educational link between cocoa and chocolate was made with displays from the Cocoa Research Section of the Ministry of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs Research Division, the Cocoa and Coffee Industry Board of Trinidad and Tobago and our very own Cocoa Research Unit.

There was a special chocolate tasting session from noon were interested individuals were involved in consumer testing of four signature lines of International Cocoa Genebank origin chocolates produced in house by the Cocoa Research Unit. The celebration of World Cocoa and Chocolate Day on October 1 will become a permanent part of the calendar of events of the CRU.

Crown of Honour for Principal Sankat

The very prestigious Cacique’s Crown of Honour has been awarded to Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI, Professor Clement Sankat, as well as to the Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris. It is the third highest national award of Guyana, the place of their birth.

According to the instrument of appointment for Prof Sankat, it makes him a “Member of the Order of Service of Guyana” for his “outstanding service to the CARICOM Region in the field of education.”

Prof Sankat, who is a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago, left Guyana when he was 18, and has served The UWI for many years. Before becoming Principal of the Campus, he was Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. At a lavish ceremony on October 21, at the National Cultural Centre in Guyana, the national awards, which had been proclaimed on May 26, the country’s Independence Day, were presented by outgoing President of the Republic, His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo.

Prof Sankat said that he is indeed “honoured and humbled” by the award from the land of his birth. Prime Minister of Guyana, Sam Hinds was conferred the Order of Excellence (OE), the nation’s highest award. Dr Arlington Chesney of CARDI was conferred the Golden Arrow of Achievement (AA), as was Dr. Edward Greene, former CARICOM Assistant Secretary-General.
Whether it is kindergarten, primary or secondary school, graduation day is memorable and joyful. Yet, nothing beats the thrills of a University graduation. I am 22 years old, but I have been waiting on this day for the past 17 years. As a child, my parents always instilled in me the value of education to the highest level. I always thought about the day I would graduate from The UWI, simply because it would have meant I successfully attained my degree. It’s been three years of sitting through interesting and boring lectures, over 30 examinations and living away from my family, but most of all, knowing the possibility of being a future CEO, businesswoman or even Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

I remember my first day at UWI in 2008, feeling so lost, not knowing where to find my class; the mix-up in timetables; the weird looks at us, the first-year students and total confusion about the purpose of certain classes. That soon dissipated as the semesters wore on, and I kept focused on the notion that I had to stand the grind for only three years and I would graduate in 2011. So said, so done.

Looking back at the past three years, I have certainly grown, both academically and personally. Throughout that time, I wrote countless essays; read more than I ever imagined; ate too much Ramen noodles, Mac and Cheese, KFC and pizza; lived on probably the lowest budget of my life; met inspirational lecturers, made great friends and opened my imagination beyond limits. Sadly, I also lost my father, who passed away right after I completed my first semester. Nevertheless, I set my mind to overcome (not forget) that obstacle to reach my finish line: graduation 2011.

From the moment graduation application information became available online, I swiftly confirmed my attendance. Paying the $750 for the rental of my gown and DVD had me smiling from ear to ear. Although I was not over-impressed by the retro look of the graduation gown, I was still honoured to know I would be wearing it. I figured my feeling that it lacked the glamour I had imagined for all those years, would find compensation in the sophisticated feeling I would get when I put it on.

My years at The UWI have been the most enlightening, enriching, emotional and enduring of my life, thus far. While it sheltered me at first, it gradually introduced me to the real world. I was forced to grow up, which wasn’t a completely horrible thing. I’ve started working at the Marketing and Communications Office so I’m still here at UWI, but on the other side, in a sense. Two weeks before the big day, as I address invitations to Academic Staff, it only meant one thing: the day was practically right in front of my eyes.

Every graduation has been special, but naturally, this graduation seems extra special. While I miss the fact that I won’t have my father to share this day with me, I know he’d be proud to have seen me reach this far. I’m even more proud of myself for having reached this day, given all the obstacles throughout the years. It is indeed the end of one phase, and the beginning of another. I can breathe a sigh of relief as I hear my name being called and collect my certificate. It’s a small sigh though; I know the journey continues.

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VALEDICTORIANS 2011

MEERA RAMPERSAD-JANGLEE
Faculty of Engineering
BSc in Chemical & Process Engineering, First Class

"You have the power to achieve anything that you put your mind to," were the words that drove Meera Rampersad-Janglee. Full-time wife, mother and student, she has a lot to celebrate this particular October; her son turns two on the 25th and two days later, she officially graduates.

Meera attended St. Stephen’s Anglican and later St. Stephen’s Anglican College in Princes Town. From there she went on to do a diploma in Chemical Engineering Technology at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). Meera said her teachers at UTT encouraged her to pursue Chemical Engineering at The UWI.

Teachers weren’t the only inspiration to further her studies. Meera is inspired by her son who says she is “so vibrant that he encourages and influences my daily actions to secure a brighter future for him.”

Her plan for the future is to acquire a job where she can practice what she learnt. She also intends to start her studies. Meera is inspired by her son who she says is “so involved accounting. While residing on trinity Hall for three years, she was the treasurer for the trinity Hall activities. She recalls cooking and sports competitions with UWIS tAt for about a year planning events for CSME week, World AIDS Day and the Campus Principal’s Children’s Christmas party. She feels privileged to serve the student body and describes it as an avenue for self expression. She is also a hiking aficionado. In her spare time, she loves to shop and go to the cinema. Meera enjoys reading, spending time with her family and advocating charity work.

DEXNELL PETERS
Faculty of Humanities & Education
BA History with a minor in Political Science, First Class

Dexnell Peters began with a plan to enrol for just one year in the Faculty of Humanities & Education, then transfer to the Faculty of Law. By the end of that first year he had earned the grades for the transfer but had lost his heart to history.

It was not a particularly surprising development. He says he has always been intrigued by history and his own interest was stoked by the thought-provoking history he encountered while a student at Trinity College, Moka. The youngest of four children, Dexnell says he has been inspired by the people around him: family, peers and teachers at school, church community and friends.

From T20 to Test matches, Dexnell is an avid cricket fan. He also plays pan, favouring jazz and calypso. While a student at university he joined the History Society and served on the Society’s executive during all of the three years spent pursuing his undergraduate degree. He credited this group on their role in building his leadership capacity on a platform of ethics and values.

FAMEEDA LORRAINE MOHAMMED
Faculty of Social Sciences
BSc in Management Studies (Specials) with a minor in Finance, First Class

Born in Orange Field Settlement, Carapichaima, Fameeda Mohammed went to Waterloo Secondary School for seven years, pursing business subjects. Her decision to pursue the BSc in Management Studies (Specials) with a minor in Finance came from the advice from her teachers who assured her it would supplement her knowledge in the field.

Fameeda recollects many memorable experiences at the UWI; like her two favourites: Campus Carnival and Orientation Week, and she looks back fondly at the everyday experiences such as “the teamwork and hustling to complete projects to get them printed on time.”

She readily acknowledges the teaching staff at Waterloo High for their help and support throughout her studies at UWI, as well as her mother. She is involved in Latin and belly dancing; a form of art she describes as exciting and a great avenue for self expression. She is also a hiking aficionado. In her spare time, she loves to shop and go to the cinema. Fameeda intends to continue her studies in the areas of law, finance and economics.

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Unlike most, Anaïs had the unique experience of living in many places. She was born in the US, lived England, Congo (Africa) and France, before her family settled in Tobago where they operate an ice cream factory called Yf’s Homemade Ice Cream. Anaïs learned bookkeeping and other financial aspects of her family business.

Her secondary school Principles of Accounts teacher helped her “ignite a passion for accounting.” And now it seems that even her extra-curricular activities at UWI involved accounting. While residing on Trinity Hall for three years, she was the Treasurer for the Trinity Hall Committee (2009-2010). She was also the Social Sciences Representative for the Catholic Students’ Movement. Travelling, reading and spending time with her friends are some of her hobbies.

She is pursuing ACCA certification and intends to obtain her MBA in a few years.

BERNICE LINA ROBINSON
Faculty of Science and Agriculture
BSc Major in Geography
Agriculture, Management, First Class

Bernice Lina Robinson is no stranger to academic excellence as this is not the first time she is a valedictorian – she graduated as most outstanding student and valedictorian at Micoud Secondary School.

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Bernice said her source of success is her family; for their prayers and motivation throughout her entire school life. Born in Mon Repos, St. Lucia, Bernice choose UWI St. Augustine for her studies because of its legacy of excellence. She acknowledges UWI as “the avenue for the youth of the islands to learn, to un-learn and re-learn together.”

At UWI she engaged in numerous extra-curricular activities. She recalls cooking and sports competitions organized by the St. Lucian Association of Students (LaSATT) and Milner Hall committee. She was also involved with UWISTAT for about a year planning events for CSME week, World AIDS Day and the Campus Principal’s Children’s Christmas party.

Her most memorable experience at UWI was the support from faculty and students following Hurricane Tomas which devastated St. Lucia in 2010. She plans to read for a Masters Degree in Environmental Law.

DAVID MILNE
Faculty of Medical Sciences
MBBS, First Class

David’s path to medicine was not clear cut. After completing sixth form at St. Mary’s College he took a year off and worked as a waiter; which brought him communication skills. His career goal was to become a Biologist but due to last minute changes, fate introduced him to medicine.

David quickly grew a passion for medicine, solidified by his interaction with patients. They inspired him to excel as his “knowledge or lack thereof can mean the difference between life and death.”

Among all the significant moments at UWI writing his final MBBS exams stood out. Although motivated, David recalls the information overload and nervousness he felt. Nonetheless it was pacified with the bond he and his classmates shared from sharing information and helping each other.

David was also very active in UWI club affairs. He served in the Medical Students Council (MSSC) in different capacities from 2007-2011 and was the UWI Guild counsellor representing the Faculty of Medical Sciences. He felt privileged to serve the student body and describes it as a rewarding experience.
Mrs. Helen Bhagwansingh

Philanthropist and entrepreneur, Helen Bhagwansingh’s contribution to the nation spans over fifty years. Her father was a pioneer in steel merchandising in Trinidad and Tobago in the fifties, and she began selling construction blocks.

After acquiring the business from her father, Bhagwansingh and her husband, Hubert, created their own empire that included steel manufacturing, hardware retailing, transportation, construction, real estate, light manufacturing and portfolio investments, and now employs over 1,200 persons.

She is well known for her philanthropic and charitable support to organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Lantana Heights of Gran Couva and the Bridge of Hope Children’s Services.

Her donation of TT$ 5 million to the St. Augustine Campus of the UWI led to the creation of DERPI (Diabetes Education, Research and Prevention Institute), as the organizing trust and with it a substantial amount of research work in screening has already been accomplished.

Bhagwansingh’s economic and philanthropic activities earned her many awards including the nation’s highest award, the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, she was the first woman to be inducted into the Business Hall of Fame from the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

Mr. Roy Cape

With a CV that boasts a musical career of 52 years, Roy Cape has taken calypso and soca music from local pan yards to stages in Canada, the USA, England, and parts of Europe, including the 2006 World Cup Soccer Finals in Germany.

Cape began his foray into music when he was just 11 years old and bought a tenor pan. Today, though recognized for his many musical talents, his renown lies mostly in his forte on the alto saxophone.

Cape’s career as a professional musician with local brass bands began in the 1960s when he joined Frankie Francis. From there he moved on to Clarence Curvan’s Orchestra, the Ron Berridge Orchestra and then to Sparrow’s Troubadors.

After playing American and Caribbean popular music in New York for some time during the 1970s, he returned to Trinidad and created the Roy Cape All Stars.

During his time as a musician, Cape’s talent has earned him a number of awards and recognitions, including Trinidad and Tobago’s Humming Bird Gold Medal in 2004, the Gayelle Pierrot Grenade award in 2005, and awards at the Plymouth Jazz Festival in Tobago in 2008 and at Dominica’s World Creole Music Festival in 2009.
Mr. John Reginald Dumas

Humanitarian advocate, Reginald Dumas is a graduate of Cambridge University and was a Carnegie Endowment Fellow at the Institute Universitaire de Hautes Etudes Internationales in Geneva.

For many years, Dumas has actively participated in multilateral negotiations dealing with specific concerns of his home country and the Caribbean Community. From 1987 to 1988, he was Ambassador to the USA and Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the Organization of American States. From 1985 to 1987, he served as High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

Prior to his appointment as High Commissioner to Canada, from 1980 to 1984, he served as his country’s High Commissioner to India, with concurrent accreditation to Sri Lanka, Singapore, Indonesia and Japan. Between 1973 and 1976, he was Trinidad and Tobago’s High Commissioner to Ethiopia, with concurrent accreditation to Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

Serving as the Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister, head of the Public Service from 1988 to 1990, and chair of the Public Service Reform Task Force, Dumas is also the author of two substantial books: “In the Service of the Public” (1995), which contains written or spoken material of his tenure as a senior public officer and “An encounter with Haiti: notes of a Special Advisor” (2006).

Mr. Brian Charles Lara

Brian Charles Lara was born on May 2, 1969, but his cricket career began when he was just six years old and was enrolled at the local Harvard Coaching Clinic. In 1990, he became Trinidad and Tobago’s youngest captain, and enjoyed some success there before making it to the West Indies team.

1994 was a big year for Lara, earning him global acclaim as the Prince of Port of Spain. He broke the world record for highest Test innings with 375 at the Antigua Recreation Ground, a record he broke again with 400 in 2004.

He became one of just three cricketers to be awarded the BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year, he was named the Wisden Leading Cricketer in the World by Wisden Cricketers’ Almanack (for which he copped the award the following year as well), and he was presented with the Trinity Cross, the highest national award in Trinidad and Tobago.

In September 2004, now captain of the West Indies cricket team (a position he held three times), he was appointed T&T’s Ambassador for Sport.

Lara retired from international cricket in 2007. In 2008, he was awarded the Order of the Caribbean Community in recognition of his accomplishments in and contributions to the sport and the Caribbean.

In 2009, Lara was made an honorary member of the Order of Australia.

Professor Anantanand Rambachan

University administrator, teacher and scholar, Professor Anantanand Rambachan’s journey focused on paving the way for the co-existence of religious diversity. His contribution spans the fields of arts and letters as well as the public and civic sphere.

After graduating from The UWI in 1972, Rambachan pursued graduate studies in India and later at Leeds University, United Kingdom where he obtained his PhD in 1984.

During the years 1983-1986, the BBC invited Rambachan – the first person from the Hindu tradition – to deliver a series of 20 lectures on Hinduism.

From 1987 to 1997, he delivered the annual lectures sponsored by the National Council of Indian Culture (NCIC).

He currently serves on the Theological Education Steering Committee, a team within the American Academy of Religion which meets the scholarly and professional needs of theological educators by creating programmes and services and enriching the work of theological educators.

In 2007, he was elected head of the religion Department of Saint Olaf College in Minnesota, USA.

Rambachan is the author of many religious books and journals and has produced multimedia works for educating teachers and students on Hinduism.

Mr. Donald Jackie Hinson

Jackie Hinson has led regional art development, devoting his life to the creation of a body of art that is distinctly Caribbean.

He studied painting at the Académie Julian in Paris, and earned a degree in fine arts, with distinction from the University of Alberta in Edmonton. After earning a Diploma of Education in 1970, he was invited to live and teach in Canada, an offer he declined in order to return to Trinidad to become the first art teacher in the long history of his old school, Queen’s Royal College.

Sixteen years later he resigned in order to devote himself to his art. The versatile artist has worked successfully in water colours; oil and acrylic paintings; pencil sketches; large-scale charcoal and crayon work; murals; and wooden sculpture.

Hinson emerged as a mature creator at his second public exhibition in 1971. His first solo exhibition in 1974 classified him as perhaps the finest watercolorist in Trinidad history. He earned such wide respect for his drawings and paintings of our older, often humble, buildings that the government commissioned him in 1982 to execute a hundred of such drawings and watercolours.

Mr. Kamaluddin Mohammed

Kamaluddin Mohammed is well known for his outstanding political and government services, religious, culture and community work, for which he has received the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mohammed produced and presented the first Indian radio programme on Radio Trinidad and organized numerous Indian orchestras, recorded their songs and music and featured them on the radio.

He is a member of the Jāecvyeystal Islamic Association, and was chairman of the Nur-e-Islam Mosque Board – the board responsible for the construction of the largest Masjid in the Western hemisphere.

At the age of 24 he contested a seat in St. Ann’s Ward for Local Government elections and won, defeating many seasoned candidates at the time. Mohammed holds the record for being the longest Government Minister in any Commonwealth country, covering thirty years from 1956 to 1986. As Minister of West Indian Affairs from 1967-68 he was one of the architects of the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA).

In 1974, he was appointed Chairman of the United Nation’s World Health Assembly. He has been a strong advocate for the Caribbean Court of Justice and the Single Market and Economy.

Sir Fenton Ramsahoye

Born in Demerara, Guyana Sir Fenton Ramsahoye attended primary school on the West Coast of Demerara and then attended secondary school in Georgetown. Sir Fenton was elected a Member of Parliament of Guyana and served until 1973. He was Attorney General of Guyana from 1961 to 1964 and a member of the Board of Governors of the University of Guyana from 1962 to 1964. He was appointed Senior Counsel in Guyana in 1971 and from 1972 to 1975 he was Deputy Director of Legal Education for the Council of Legal Education in the West Indies and head of the Hugh Wooding Law School as a professor.

Sir Fenton is a Queen’s Counsel and member of the Bars of England and Wales, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Jamaica, the Territories of the Eastern Caribbean including Montserrat, and the British Virgin Islands. In his book, “The Development of Land Law in British Guiana” (1966), he analyzed the growth of a complex system of rules governing the acquisition and transfer of rights in land. Sir Fenton was knighted in 2006 by Governor General Sir James Carlisle during a ceremony at Government House in Antigua.
MATRICULATION MOMENTS

Eleven of the top Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) performers for 2011 were recognized by The UWI, St Augustine, as part of its annual Matriculation and Welcome Ceremony. This year, Senator Fazal Karim, Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education delivered the feature address at the event, which took place on September 15.

Top A-Level/CAPE student, Ms. Amrita J. Annamunthodo, signed the symbolic register on behalf of the students, and Mr Amilcar Sanatan, UWI Student Guild President, invited students to take the Academic Vow.

Professor E. Nigel Harris, UWI Vice Chancellor and Professor Clement Sankat, UWI Pro Vice Chancellor and St. Augustine Campus Principal, also welcomed new students as members of the academic community.

WELCOME TO UWI

It was a very welcoming month at The UWI, spanning mid-August to mid-September as incoming students were greeted by a new orientation programme that set out to cover as many aspects as could be envisaged. It aims to assist students with their transition to university life, as well as to help them manage their lives throughout their UWI careers, by addressing four distinct categories: UWI Culture, Personal/Social Development, University Administration, and Learning Management/Academic Development.

HISTORY IN ACTION


Those interested in submitting articles for the March 2012 issue can send abstracts up to October 31, 2011. Book reviews are particularly welcome, as are abstracts relating to documentary history, oral traditions, ethnography, socio-cultural anthropology, archaeology, cultural studies, historical geography, historical linguistics, etc.

Please feel free to review back issues of the Journal http://www.mainlib.uwi.tt/epubs/historyaction/issues.htm
Managing Intellectual Property and Innovation Clusters

One issue engaging policy makers at The UWI is the need to produce more impactful research and to engage more directly in technology transfer. As part of this effort, the UWI Business Development Office in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) hosted a Regional Seminar entitled Management of Intellectual Property and Innovation Clusters at the St. Augustine Campus on October 11 and 12, 2011.

The aim of the Seminar was to provide guidance to universities in the region on the establishment of Technology Transfer Offices and to create awareness on the importance of intellectual property management in innovation and research and development strategies.

Over 60 participants from the region attended, including representatives of higher education institutions from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Presenters included Prof. Wayne Watkins, Associate Vice-President for Research, University of Akron, Ohio, Dr. Richnd Aching, Intellectual Property Office, Ministry of Legal Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, and Ms. Mary-Ann Richards, WIPO Consultant and Regional Coordinator.

The Seminar included presentations on the valuation of intellectual property, the identification of clusters in economies, and the creation of value from innovation clusters. Business models for managing innovation clusters were discussed. Presentations were also delivered on the establishment of technology transfer offices and on the commercialisation of R&D results.

Presenters stressed the key role of governments in driving science and innovation. They highlighted the importance of significant investment in R&D at the University level, given that the majority of innovation and invention is conducted there.

Prof. Watkins advised universities to consider focusing on innovation in the area of alternative energy. He stated that the key to innovation in this area was to use existing technology but to find ways to make it cheaper. He suggested using technology that was freely available, that is, technology that was not patented in the country, and making it better.

Presentations delivered at the regional seminar are available online at www.sta.uwi.edu/bdo.
Cool Green Cathedrals in Climate Change

BY MIKE OATHAM

The image of tropical rainforests as cool green cathedrals teeming with countless plants and animals is often invoked to justify efforts to prevent vast tracts being destroyed. But, there is another reason why the average world citizen should be concerned about degradation and destruction of these temples to biodiversity. That reason is global climate change.

Most people concede that climate change is occurring but the heated debate is over whether humans are responsible and what should be done. Many governmental and international organizations are trying to mitigate against extreme climate change. With predictive global climate models run on super-computers, a clearer idea of what is in store for the planet is emerging. The models indicate that boundaries of biomes and agriculture will shift with global climate change, and it is likely that many species will become extinct and that human society will be disrupted, with starvation and conflict in some parts of the world and severe economic recession in others. Researchers suggest that the extent of disruption to natural and human ecosystems can be moderated if greenhouse gases such as carbon are released into the atmosphere at a slower rate and if carbon is removed from the atmosphere at a faster rate than it is at the moment. A key to these two critical processes are tropical rainforests.

Tropical rainforests play an integral role in the global carbon cycle as has been demonstrated in a recent article in the journal “Science” by Yude Pan of the US Dept of Agriculture. Dr. Pan and other scientists compiled and analyzed data from long-term growth studies from forests around the globe, including tropical forests, and found that they were the best at stripping carbon from the atmosphere. This has become an important marketing tool in some countries where consumers can select companies that can show zero or negative release of carbon into the atmosphere. Many airlines and car rental companies now offer a carbon offset fee that customers pay carbon absorbers if the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere is to be controlled. This is being planned and implemented in European countries and with great controversy in Australia.

As the effects of global climate change make themselves increasingly felt, the urgency of finding ways to moderate these impacts will increase. Tropical forests will form a vital component of these mechanisms and the potential of forests of this region to earn income from these new markets is great. However, management of those forests to keep them intact needs to be strict, and creeping degradation and deforestation must be eliminated. It is a challenge for the whole society.
The phenomenon of poverty alleviation is global. Poverty is a social problem that has attracted a lot of descriptions, not all accurate. The literature demonstrates that the phenomenon defies a single acceptable definition. Some believe that poverty is due to the lack of access to basic resources such as water, a reliable job, a good education, and the like. Others believe it relates to more direct financial matters, such as the inability to purchase foodstuffs, to commute, or to send their children to school. The question of poverty in this regard, is one that needs to be seriously examined because one has to be careful of the messages that could be sent to the poor namely, the creation of a dependency. On the other hand, we may want persons to get out of poverty by providing the opportunities, or materialistic support for them to do so. In this regard, the framework within which this could best be accomplished is through community support. From a social and sociological perspective, community support translates to community empowerment. In this way a community of needs will experience a distillation of values which would be transmitted from one individual to the next as they work together to eradicate the common goal called poverty. At the same time, one has to appreciate that a common objective is facilitated through the cohesiveness of the community which is the repository of a common set of values even if those values in the first instance, need to be transformed. Because a community not only live the experience of poverty and poverty alleviation strategies, the long term goals have within them the ability to influence successive adherents and family members since it determines what works and what does not. Put another way, poverty alleviation would be structured, articulated, and practised within a system of norms and values, consistent within the needs, and certainly the outlook, of the community.

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved without some degree of sustainability and this means that the structure within which poverty alleviation is framed ought to have the ability to expand and provide the kind of output and expectations that could be used as a template for similar communities faced with the challenges of poverty, and poverty alleviation, the permanency of which amounts to poverty eradication.

Sometimes one has to look below the surface to determine the indicators of poverty: How many people are losing jobs, how many children are dropping out of school, and for what reasons, how many people are on welfare, and if it is growing. How many people are attempting to live above their means, which will have long-term consequences.

Dr. Ronald Marshall is a senior lecturer in the Sociology Unit of the Department of Behavioural Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, The UWI, which hosted an International Conference on Poverty Alleviation, from October 20–21 at the Learning Resource Centre Auditorium, UWI. For further information on the Conference on Poverty, please contact Dr. Marshall or Ms. Fareena Alladin at (868) 662-2002 ext. 83506 or at ronald.marshall@sta.uwi.edu or fareena.alladin@sta.uwi.edu

Students Shine at TTFF

As the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival closed, it was clear that students and alumni from The UWI had made a good impression.

Nadissa Haynes’ Pushan of the Froot, which was made for the Film Programme’s second-year documentary course, was selected to open the Festival. This is the second film by a UWI Film student that has been chosen to open the Festival, the first being Thomas Jemmers’ Queen of the Brands in 2009.

Other works by UWI Film students selected for the Festival included Marian Bradshaw’s La Parranda, Mandisa Pantin’s Shushed, Social Injustice by Kivonne Ramsawak and Zahira Gibbons, Lynnessa Parks’ Losing My Religion and Renee Pollonais’ Sweet Fries. Film Programme alumni Christopher Din Chong and Mikkell Khan had their debut feature, 3 Line, selected for the Festival. Rooted in Dreams, a documentary about the University itself, which was co-directed by alumna Francesca Hawkins, was also featured. Many of the works of students and alumni were shown on campus as parts of the UWI Film Festival, which ran simultaneously.

The festival’s honours and awards were handed out on October 2 and a number of UWI students walked away with top prizes. The Jury Prize for Best Local Short Film was awarded to Renee Pollonais for her film Sweet Fries. Sweet Fries was also awarded the Jury Prize for Best Local Actress, for its star (and DCFA Student) Dionese Sylvester. Natalie Wei, an MPhil student in Gender and Development Studies, won the People’s Choice Award for Best Short Film for her film Chinee Girl. Also, Francesca Hawkins received the inaugural bp TT Graduate Film Development Award for her outstanding contribution to local film culture.

Commenting on the performances of UWI students at the Festival, Dr. Christopher Meir, the director of the UWI Film Programme said, “We in the UWI Film Programme are extremely happy and proud to see our students and alumni making such great contributions to the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival. Given the talent on display in this year’s Festival and the performance of students’ work in recent years at regional and international festivals, we are confident that UWI students and alumni will help to lead the way forward for local and regional film culture.”
UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS
OCTOBER 2011 – JANUARY 2012

VET SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
10-11 November, 2011
9am-6pm
School of Veterinary Medicine
Faculty of Medical Sciences, EWMSC, Mt Hope

The School of Veterinary Medicine is having its biannual Open House at the School of Veterinary Medicine, Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex. The Open House is meant to enhance public awareness of the role of the School and the veterinary profession in T&T. Prospective students are welcomed as are pet owners and pet lovers. The event is free and open to the public.

For further information, please contact Alice Young at alice.young@sta.uwi.edu or call 6452640, ext. 4250, 4213.

INTERNATIONAL HALF-MARATHON
30 October, 2011
UWI SPEC
St. Augustine Campus

Today, The UWI St. Augustine Campus once again hosts its signature UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon sponsored by First Citizens. This year the 13.1 mile route of the Half-Marathon remains unchanged. The race will continue along the traffic-free Priority Bus Route (PBR) to the La Resource junction in D’Abadie, before doubling back to UWI SPEC. The course will be complete with markers and water stops at every mile for the running convenience of the athletes from around the world including the Caribbean, USA, Latin America and Europe.

For further information, please call 662-2002 ext. 83771, 82660, 83556 or 83571 or e-mail specinfo@sta.uwi.edu.

THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN HIGHER EDUCATION
2 November, 2011
5-7pm
Daaga Auditorium, UWI, St. Augustine

This Panel Discussion is hosted by The UWI, the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT), and the Ministry of Science Technology and Tertiary Education. (MSTTE). It will be moderated by Dr Sandra Gift, Quality Assurance Unit, UWI and the panelists are: Rodney Amar, MSTTE, Emmanuel Gonsalves, COSTAAT, Dr Freddy James, School of Medicine, Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex. The event is free and open to the public.

For further information, please visit the ACTT website at www.actt.org.tt, or email customerservice@actt.org.tt, or sandra.gift@sta.uwi.edu.

CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT
9 November, 2011
Hyatt Regency, Port of Spain

The Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business hosts the 1st Regional Forum on Cluster Development in the Caribbean, themed “Opportunities for Competitiveness and Growth.” This forum brings together key experts and development partners in cluster development, as well as leaders in business and Government, to identify regional opportunities for cluster development and share key insights for execution.

For further information, please contact the Regional Forum on Cluster Development team at 645-6700 ext 173; 662-9894 ext 352, or via e-mail at r.persad@gsb.tt or s.lezama@gsb.tt.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COURSE FOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
31 October-4 November, 2011
St. Augustine Campus

The University Office of Planning and Development hosts a certified, 3-step Strategic Planning Course for Colleges and Universities. Offered through the Society for College and University Planning (SCUP), this course is primarily for persons engaged in strategic planning in higher education institutions.

For further information, please contact Ms. Carol Grant at 662-2002 ext. 83574, (868) 645-5795 or planning@sta.uwi.edu.

THE SCOURGE OF NCDS AND THE LUNG
10 November, 2011
5.30pm
Learning Resource Centre, UWI, St. Augustine

Professor of Medicine, Terence Seemungal at The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, will deliver his Professorial Lecture, “The Scourge of NCDs and the Lung” at the LRC. Diseases affecting humans may be easily classified as communicable and non-communicable (NCDs). There is now world-wide agreement that NCDs are: diabetes, cardiac disease, common cancers and chronic respiratory diseases mainly COPD. In 1990, COPD was the 6th leading cause of death. In 2020 it is expected to be the 3rd leading cause of death.

For further information, please contact Prof Terence Seemungal at 6634332 or Terence.seemungal@sta.uwi.edu.

TOURISM CONFERENCE
18-21 January 2012
Learning Resource Centre, UWI, St. Augustine Campus

This international conference will provide a forum for industry stakeholders, executives, consultants, government officials, tourism practitioners, members of the various creative industries, professional associations and groups, networks of cultural actors, graduate students and civil society organizations to focus on a broad range of topics that are related to tourism, culture and the creative industries and to explore issues of mutual interest at all levels.

For further information, please contact Dr. Acolla Lewis-Cameron at acolla.lewis-cameron@sta.uwi.edu, 6622002, ext 82621, or 7897656 or visit the website at http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/12/tourism/

GANGS, VIOLENCE AND GOVERNANCE
3-4 November, 2011
St. Augustine Campus

The Department of Behavioural Sciences at The UWI St. Augustine Campus raises the issue of the intrusion of ‘gangs’ into the sphere of money laundering and drug trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago, at an International Conference it will host on the theme, ‘Gangs, Violence and Governance.’

For further information, please call Nisha Alladin-Motilal, Secretary Department of Behavioural Sciences 662-2002 ext. 3234, or via e-mail at nisha.alladin.motilal@sta.uwi.edu.

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