



# STAN

ST. AUGUSTINE NEWS

OCTOBER 2009 – FEBRUARY 2010

## COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE: A TRIBUTE TO REX NETTLEFORD

With Prof E. Baugh's Eulogy

## CELEBRATING DEREK WALCOTT

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## ASTRONOMICAL POSSIBILITIES

Cedriann Martin connects with Dr Shirin Haque

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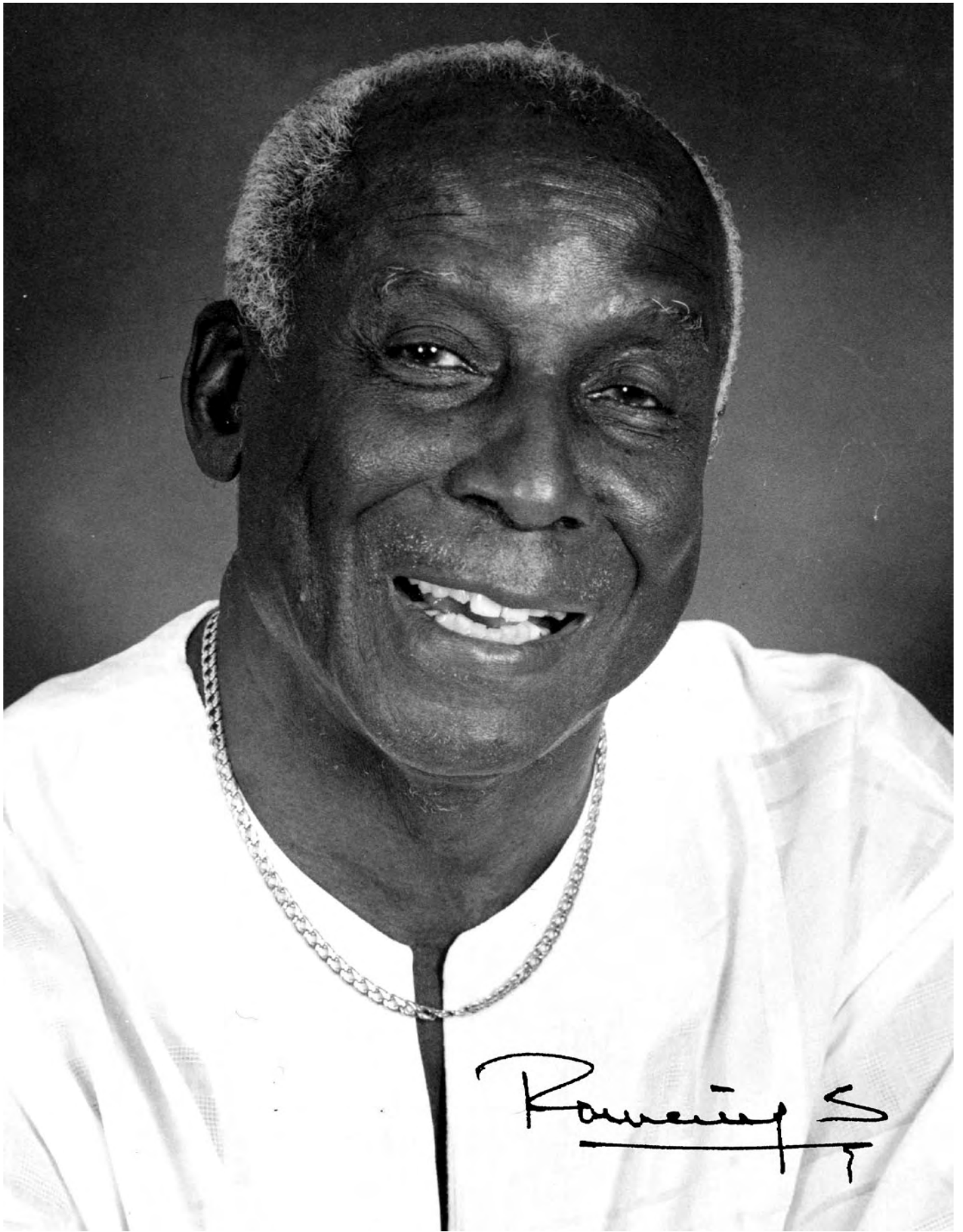
UWI graduate at ground zero in Haiti

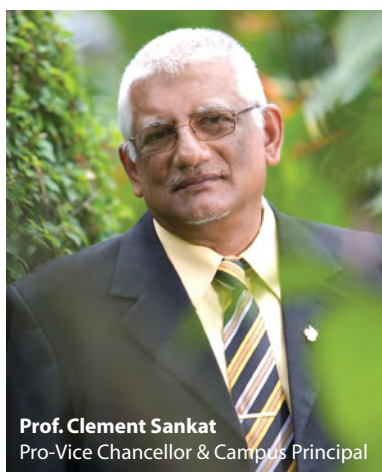
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Noble prize winner examines GDP

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**Prof. Clement Sankat**  
Pro-Vice Chancellor & Campus Principal

# The Turning Point

They cannot take our faith from us,  
We, who suffered many things,  
All the soldiers, guns and drummers,  
All the emperors and kings.

(from Derek Walcott's *The Haitian Earth*)

**“He embodied and epitomised UWI;** what was best about it; what was noble in its mission, what it symbolised for all West Indians,” Sir Shridath Ramphal’s astute and eloquent words pay homage to the spirit of the late Professor Rex Nettleford. Rex Nettleford was a multi-faceted individual, who was not only profoundly talented and erudite, but one who had great empathy for others.

A graduate of The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus (*then the University College of the West Indies*) in 1956, he became a member of the academic staff that very year as a Resident Tutor in the Extra-Mural department in Trinidad and Tobago and dedicated decades of service to the UWI, becoming Vice Chancellor in 1998 until 2004. As Editor of the Caribbean Quarterly since 1967, he understood the power of the written and spoken word and would frequently go out of his way to acknowledge and commend our UWI STAN staff. His continued support over the past eight years has been invaluable to our team.

It would be an understatement to say that he will be missed, as he has left such a formidable legacy, not only on stage and in the classroom, but in the daily lives of artists, scholars and graduates across the world. We cannot thank him enough for the innovative programmes he developed, the artists and scholars he supported, the many graduates he inspired and the staff he supported. His humanity as a University Administrator is an inspiration for all.

We do hope that you enjoy this special, double issue of UWI STAN, a tribute to a great Renaissance Caribbean man.

*“Rex was princely, multi-talented and loved by all West Indian artists,”* UWI graduate and 1992 Nobel Prize winner Derek Walcott stated recently. And in his acceptance speech at the Chancellor’s Medal ceremony, Rex Nettleford began by quoting Walcott. Both men have generously supported the arts and education, giving time and funding to young Caribbean men and women over the years.

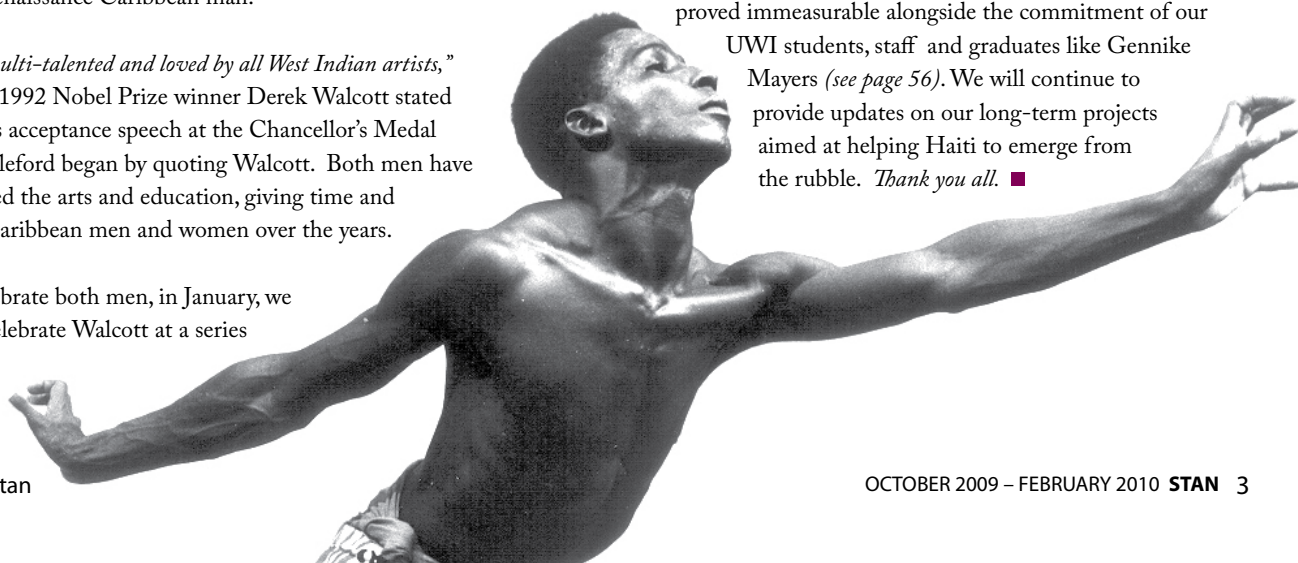
In this issue we celebrate both men, in January, we were fortunate to celebrate Walcott at a series of events held

at the Campus which were hosted by the Faculty of Humanities and Education. At the *‘Interlocking Basins of the Globe’* conference Walcott scholars from the Caribbean, USA, Europe and even Japan examined the work of the St. Lucian poet, playwright and painter. The landmark week saw Walcott read from his soon to be released book *‘White Egrets’*, he also shared the BBC and Times of London commissioned pieces on USA President Barack Obama. Also an exhibition of his oils and watercolours from the family’s private collection were also on show at the Office of the Campus Principal. Our University’s first class productions of Walcott’s plays were very well received by the general public, especially our local high school students, as was the unique exhibit at our Main Library. Congratulations to Dean Aiyejina, Dr. Morgan, Dr. Antoine-Dunne and the committee on producing a successful conference.

It is undeniable that as we enter a new decade, we have much to mourn and to celebrate. We look forward to highlighting the achievements of UWI during this year, our Campus’ 50th anniversary. In this issue of the magazine you will learn about our challenges and success stories including the delivery of timely, accredited programmes, landmark research and outreach activities.

I must close with a special thank you to our Campus community for the support given to our Haitian neighbours. Just one day after performers re-enacted the remarkable history that led to the freedom of our region in Derek Walcott’s play *‘The Haitian Earth’*, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated Haiti. The foresight of our Vice Chancellor, Professor E.

Nigel Harris in creating the Disaster Relief Fund and database, proved immeasurable alongside the commitment of our UWI students, staff and graduates like Gennike Mayers (*see page 56*). We will continue to provide updates on our long-term projects aimed at helping Haiti to emerge from the rubble. *Thank you all.* ■





# Rex Nettleford

(1923-2010)

Professor Nettleford's life has been seamlessly intertwined with that of The University of the West Indies. At every stage in the growth and development of the institution his quiet, self-effacing leadership could be discerned. He served in this way five Vice Chancellors – Sir Arthur Lewis; his mentor, Sir Philip Sherlock; Sir Roy Marshall, Mr A.Z. Preston and Sir Alister McIntyre – until he himself took up the mantle in 1998. Even after his official 'retirement' in 2004 Professor Nettleford continued to serve in the capacity of Vice-Chancellor Emeritus, Professor of Cultural Studies and unofficial advisor to current Vice-Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris.

His intellectual gifts and wise counsel have been generously shared with many heads of Government, not only in Jamaica, but throughout the Caribbean and beyond. Professor Nettleford has been consulted by just about every Government in the Caribbean region (*including the non-English speaking countries*) and has served in an advisory capacity to several international organisations, including CARICOM, the Organisation of American States, UNESCO, the ILO, the World Bank and the International Development Research Council (IDRC) of which he is a founding director. His gift of erudition, combined with his inability to decline appeals for contributions of his talent in this area, resulted in his maintenance of a speaking schedule that would daunt normal mortals. He has written several books and contributed chapters to many more. The texts of his speeches, covering a wide range of topics, provide enough material for many more fine books.

Although Rex Nettleford is perhaps best known for his genius as a dancer and choreographer – he was co-founder and Artistic Director of the acclaimed National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica – it is as an intellectual and academic leader that the University has known him. He has been conferred with numerous academic honours from many universities and received from the Government of Jamaica the highest national award which a civilian can earn – The Order of Merit. He is recipient of the Order of the Caribbean Community (OCC); the Gold Musgrave Medal from the Institute of Jamaica, of which he was also named Honorary Fellow; The Chancellor's Medal (UWI); the UWI Alumni Pelican Award; The Living Legend Award from the Black Arts Festival in Atlanta, USA and The Zora Neal Hurston/Paul Robeson Award from the National Council for Black Studies, among many others.

The Rhodes Trust, in celebration of its Centenary in 2004, established the Rex Nettleford Prize in Cultural Studies, tenable at The University of the West Indies – a fitting and lasting accolade which will ensure that his name and work will live on in perpetuity. Rex Nettleford's life and career were indeed coterminous with The University of the West Indies.

UWI, St. Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat, expressed great sadness at the news of Professor Nettleford's passing. "*Rex touched us all in his own extraordinary way and made us better for this. We will miss him at The UWI, but through his generosity, his humanity and his life's work, he has left so much for us. Thanks Rex.*" ■

## The University of the West Indies

community was devastated by the passing of Caribbean cultural icon, Professor the Honourable Rex Nettleford. He died on Tuesday 2nd February, 2010, at 8 pm – just four hours short of his 77th birthday.

Save for the three years he spent as a Rhodes Scholar at Oriel College, Oxford, Rex Nettleford lived his entire adult life at and for The University of the West Indies. This life-long association with UWI began in 1953 when he entered the then University College of the West Indies to read for a degree in History. He returned immediately after completing the MPhil in Political Science at Oxford and, at the prompting of UWI Founding Father, Sir Philip Sherlock, took up the challenge of widening the reach of the still fledgling institution through the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, which took him to Trinidad and Guyana as Staff Tutor for the Eastern Caribbean.

# Tributes

[ REX NETTLEFORD ]



"All humanity, and within it Jamaica, the Caribbean, the non-white world, the world of dance and culture, academe in our region and beyond have all lost in Rex Nettleford a rare 'incandescent eagle'. For the many who had the good fortune to know him even a little - for few knew him entire - a light has gone out in our lives.

I seemed to have known Rex Nettleford all my adult life. Like Philip Sherlock, he embodied and epitomised UWI; what was best about it; what was noble in its mission, what it symbolised for all West Indians. And, of course, I shared with Rex five wonderful years when we were Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor together.

Nor did Rex's light shine only in this Region. When Oxford University honoured him on the Rhodes Centenary in 2003, Rex Nettleford was one of only four Rhodes Scholars worldwide so honoured. It was a global tribute.

May our 'incandescent eagle' still soar in the hearts and minds of all West Indians."

**Sir Shridath Ramphal**  
UWI Chancellor Emeritus



"The sudden passing of my friend and colleague Professor the Hon. Ralston (Rex) Nettleford has left me with a profound sense of loss.

Professor Nettleford was a unique soul with a brilliant mind and an unparalleled commitment to Jamaica and the Caribbean.

Many will no doubt refer to his many achievements: his eloquence in the spoken and written word; his outstanding career as an educator; his prolific writings; his seminal contribution to the arts and culture; the articulate expression of his political philosophy. In all of this, his central goal was simple: the recognition of identity - the sense of self, and the upliftment of the marginalized descendants of the African slaves, who suffered through the colonial experience and still continue the struggle for development and prosperity."

**The Most Hon. P. J. Patterson**  
Former Prime Minister of Jamaica



"We, at the Caribbean Development Bank, mourn the passing of Professor the Honourable Rex Nettleford on February 2, 2010. For those of us who have had the good fortune to be counted among his friends and close colleagues, the sense of loss is even greater.

Professor Nettleford was a most dynamic, vibrant and creative talent and intellect in the Caribbean and the world for decades. He was a man of rare distinction."

**Compton Bourne**  
Former UWI St Augustine Campus Principal,  
President of the Caribbean Development Bank



"Rex was princely, multi-talented and loved by all West Indian artists."

**Derek Walcott**  
Poet, Playwright - 1992 Nobel Prize Winner

In 2009, **The University of the West Indies** shared its appreciation for the innovative leadership and dedicated service given to the University by **Vice Chancellor Emeritus, Professor Rex Nettleford**. On April 24th, 2009 at Campus' Daaga Auditorium, Prof. Nettleford was presented with the **CHANCELLOR'S MEDAL AWARD** and with his trademark eloquence, humour and wit, gave this acceptance speech.



## THE CHANCELLOR'S MEDAL

*by Professor R Nettleford*

**“There is a force of exultation**, a celebration of luck, when a writer [any intellectual, any artist, any dedicated citizen] finds himself/herself [as] witness to the early morning of [a] culture that is defining itself, branch by branch, leaf by leaf in the self-defining dawn, which is why at ends of the sea, it is good to make a ritual of the sunrise. The noun of the Antilles ripples like brightening water, and the sound of leaves, palm fronds and birds, is the sound of a fresh dialect, the native tongue”.

Thus spake the iconic Derek Walcott, a favourite alumnus of this University of the West Indies, in his Speech accepting the Nobel Prize for Literature.

It is such exultation, such celebration of luck, such baptism in the ritual of the sunrise bringing light in the West of which Derek Walcott, and lesser beings like myself, are the grateful lucky beneficiaries – thanks to The University of the West Indies.

In its sixty years of existence there are a couple or so generations of us who can look back, praise the Lord and pass the ammunition of intellect and imagination in creative, conscious transfer of knowledge and know-how to a new generation and, through that generation, hopefully to one yet unborn.

It is for this reason that I have had cause to marvel at a seemingly concerted effort in one part of this region to less-count the achievements and continuing significance of what I have always regarded as the Commonwealth Caribbean's finest gift to itself as a transforming idea of light, liberty and learning. For in providing for six or so million of our region's tenants the capacity to exercise their intellect and creative imagination, it has helped a great many of us to know that self-empowerment comes with the capability to make definitions about self on one's own terms and to be able to proceed to action on the basis of such definitions.

The sixty-year collective investment in our human resources has provided dividends not always as bountiful as one would wish but which have remarkably been at hand to meet many of the challenges which building a nation and shaping a society demand. We have no reason to be self-satisfied however, and I take this opportunity to appeal to my university colleagues to double their efforts, work harder than many of us admittedly now tend to do, to bring to our students (the next generation) the caring and compassion which a true centre of learning must afford its wards, and foster the sense and sensibility that will have the region fully prepared to engage the globalised challenges no one of us can handle on one's own. Paradox of paradoxes: while countries like Cuba and the Dominican Republic are anxious to join us, a number of us are aching to disengage.

The current global economic crisis may indeed drive us to despair and short-cut options. But what our regional UWI as an institution of growth and instrument of development has taught ones like myself (thanks to some excellent dedicated teachers) are the values of critical thinking and a dynamic creativity serving the natural, environmental and medical sciences, the humanities, education and social sciences. It offered, as well, a vision and a resolve to action through community collaboration and an appreciation of the experience of ages which was designed not to entrap us in self-indulgent circular debate but to serve as a source of energy for present and future action.

For the real resources of our regional university lie in the people who teach, conduct research and reach out to the wider society which it was set up to serve. The resources include, as well, all those who administer and who dare to apply the audacity of hope in consonance with the region's founding fathers in their drive to self-government and an independence that would explode the froudacious myth that the likes of us are neither fit to rule nor fit to govern.

The regional UWI has facilitated, fostered and promoted all this through its work in all established campus territories and, from hereon, in the newly conceived Open Campus ancestrally rooted in the outreach work of old Extra Mural and the later School of Continuing Studies in all other contributing countries. They have all made possible the comingling and conjoint operations of folks drawn from all our contributing territories which have shared a common history of exploited labour and colonial subjugation but, above all, that wonderful capacity and will to survive. A great many of us also came to realize that life is long distance running, not sprinting; that sustained professional application is the surest guarantee of excellence and not instant gratification minstrelsy.

Like others of my generation, I have welcomed the many changes throughout the region since UWI's founding. There is no doubt in my mind that the UWI presence over the past six decades has provided for the region's tremendous intellectual depth, productive skills of talent and sophistication, with our rich North Atlantic neighbours being decided beneficiaries of that output. But we are also conscious of the fact that progress does not guarantee a linear trajectory of positive products; and that remaining as priorities on our agenda of concerns are the increase in gun crimes and related drug trafficking, the deepening immiseration of the poor and disadvantaged among us, the coarsening of sensibility up and down the social ladder and other such fall-outs from the obscurity of a history of dehumanization and the failure of too many post-colonial successors to help emancipate ourselves from such transgressions.

But it is the education which the likes of us received at The University of the West Indies which has driven so many of us to innovative initiatives and to serious investigation of the complex nature of our cultural diversity and the dynamic cross-roads civilization it engenders.

Added to this is the inescapable responsibility to engage all this in pursuit of equity, governance based on the rule of law, of mutual respect and understanding, among citizens, of a sense of justice and a commitment to have education (and not just training) retain its central place in the investment we must make in ourselves – in our human resources which remain our greatest asset. It is people who decide on trade, aid, healthcare, social development and foreign relations, not summits.

For a university is not a trade school. The preparation to make a living is paramount. But no less so is the preparation for life.

Study and experience have taught us that development begins with people, with a release of the creative potential in an individual or society; that science and the arts are merely aspects of that creativity demonstrated in the exercise of the intellect and the imagination; that the harmonization of technological thought and spiritual feeling is a good in itself; that the vitality of a nation's system of education and educational institutions, as well as the effectiveness of our development policies and programmes are best judged by the extent to which they enable an individual or a society to realise their potential, and (thanks to the special character of the UWI), that the shifting paradigms, the textured sense and sensibility of 21st Century youth bombarded with myriad images of self and society, via the media or through personal contact with persons of different backgrounds, races and cultural origin are all challenges to humankind's creative diversity – a diversity which must be managed with sensitivity and daring on all of Planet Earth...

...So those of us who have benefited from the UWI which has taught us the value of cultural diversity and of the principle of heterogeneity as a social and political organizing principle, should do all in our power to retain for the region all the instruments that will facilitate our coping with this contradictory, chaotic but exciting 21st century – from cricket and Caricom, through calypso and carnival and all forms of Caribbean popular artistic expressions, to CSME and CCJ, CDB and the UWI.

Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, friends and Colleagues, how could I not graciously accept this prestigious honour with the deepest appreciation, humility and gratitude which I owe this flagship Caribbean institution of growth and instrument of development? This is, indeed, a force of exultation, a celebration of luck! *My thanks.* ■



IN MEMORIUM

# REX NETTLEFORD

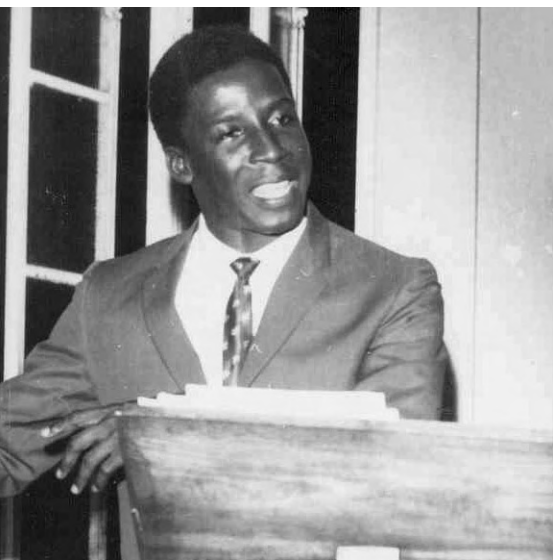


Prof. Edward Baugh

**We are met in ritual remembrance** of Professor the Honourable Ralston Milton Nettleford, member of the Order of Merit, member of the Order of the Caribbean Community, Fellow of the Institute of Jamaica, Honorary Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford.

Having spoken those honorific words, with due formality, on behalf of the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor and the entire University of the West Indies, I can now proceed to speak about Rex, just Rex, everybody's Rex. That name, Rex, and the wide currency of its usage are a mark of the man, since it connotes a blend of affectionate informality with style and regality. For "rex", as you know, is the Latin word for "king," and our Rex was a prince, let alone the Kumina king.

His life will stand as a superlative example of how talent, wise nurturing and education can combine to produce the highest excellence out of circumstances of limited social and material privilege. Rex has described himself as "a typical member of the so-called 70 percent clan, the legendary 70 percent of the Jamaican population who were born to a mother who did not have



the benefit of confetti.” He was raised by his mother and his maternal grandmother, both examples of that wonder of the world, the strong Jamaican woman. The boy they raised has already become a legend.

Ever since the news of his death broke, there has been an unprecedented spate of eulogies in the media, so much so that, to adapt his famous phrase about gilding the anthurium, one must now be careful not to gild the ebony. The best of those tributes should be collected in a book that will be an invaluable bequest to posterity.

Two Saturdays ago my wife was reading one of the newspapers, when I heard her give out, “Boy, every puss, dog and fowl have something to say about Rex!” It occurs to me that, with those words – “puss,” “dog” and “fowl” – she spoke a deeper truth than the off-hand remark might have intended; for one of Rex’s signal contributions was that he spoke up for puss, dog and fowl, and worked to make them feel that they were people too.

What else shall we remember about him? Well, to begin with, the sheer presence of the man: the easy authority, the self-assurance without arrogance, the sartorial individuality and elegance of the liberated man. Beyond the presence, though, were the extraordinary range and volume of talent and achievement.

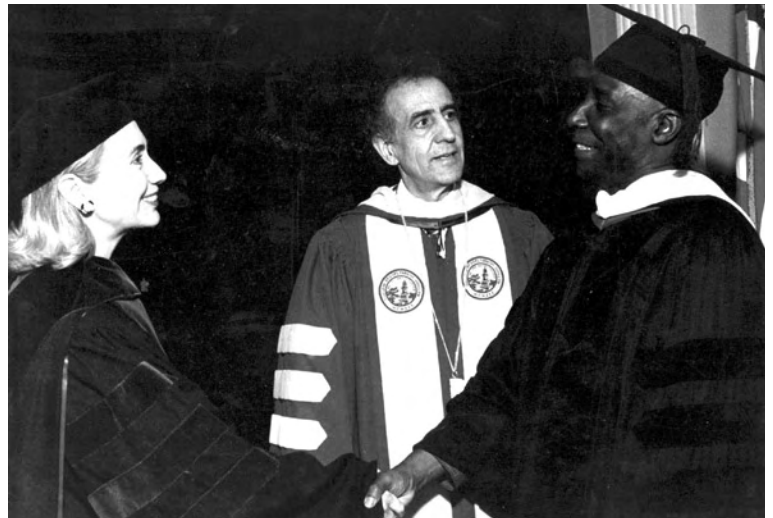
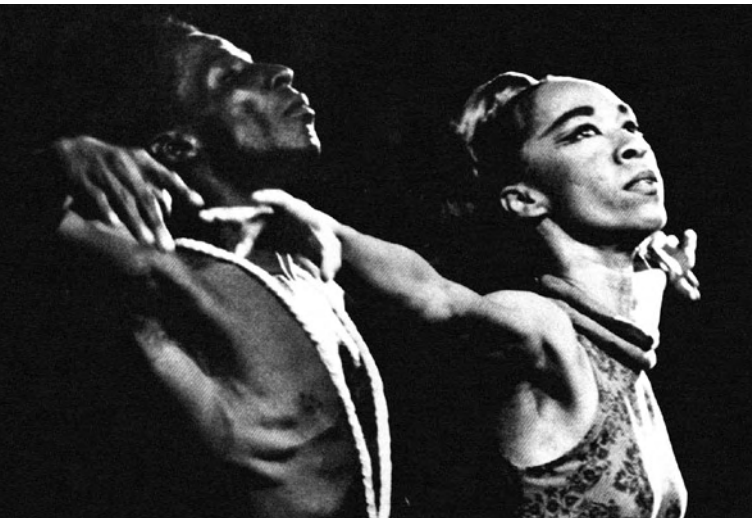
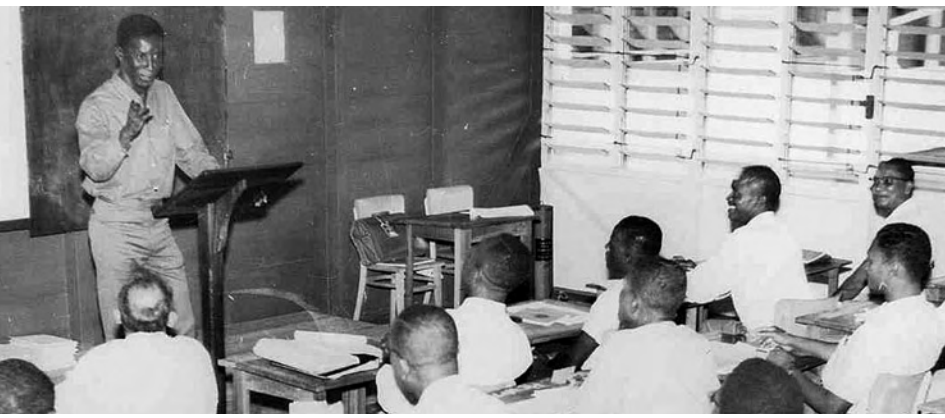
His life was many, simultaneous, mutually energizing careers. The achievement in each, separately, would have been enough to earn him a place in history. He was scholar, educator, author, dancer, choreographer, administrator, institution builder.

Which other university’s Vice-Chancellor has also been a dancer, choreographer, founder and artistic director of a dance theatre company? And which other dancer-choreographer has also been head of a Trade Union Education Institute?

Then there were the myriad works of voluntary public service, local, regional and international: service on boards and committees, and all the lectures and speeches he was asked to give. When he was appointed Ambassador-at-large for Jamaica, he had already, for years, been performing that function, not least through the monumental, spirit-lifting achievement of the National Dance Theatre Company.

Where did he find the time and energy to do all the things he did? I got part of the answer when he was for a while my neighbour on College Common. I would get awake at 5.30 to get the house going and to help get my young daughters off to school. I would go downstairs, open up the house, let out the dogs and give them water. When I opened





my kitchen louvres, I looked out across the intervening yard space into Rex's yard, sometimes just in time to see him getting into his car and driving off to his office. What this meant was that by the time the campus began its day at half-past-eight, Rex had got half a day's work done, written another chapter of a book, and taken phone calls from important people here and abroad. Prime Ministers and other such folk had a "hot line" to him. Note, I didn't say that he had a "hot line" to them. Anyway, I felt inadequate, but I would console myself for my own unproductiveness by observing that Rex didn't have children and didn't keep dogs.

It is a further mark of his distinction that all of this work was driven by one great purpose: to promote self-knowledge and a creative sense of self-worth in the Caribbean person, a self-confident sense of identity-in-community. This purpose was naturally informed by particular regard for the African

underpinnings of Caribbean culture, while he affirmed his commitment to the idea of cultural diversity. In him the artist and the activist were one. His essentially educational mission was articulated in his many books, on dance, culture and identity. These works have ensured for him a place in the intellectual history of the Caribbean. He also developed his idea of communal "renewal and continuity" through the language of the body, dance.

A related feature of his capacity to articulate ideas was his eloquence. His mastery of English was a factor of his self-assurance as a Caribbean person. Sometimes he would run rings of words round us, but we would still go away impressed. Once, to my surprise, he asked me to look over his draft of a lecture. I

told him that it was fine, but one or two of the sentences seemed too long and convoluted. He never asked me to look at any draft again. Then, speaking of his eloquence, there are his famous witty phrases and axioms, like the anthurium one I mentioned earlier, or "Every butt in a Benz is a butt", or "weapons of mass distraction". In recent times, when anyone told him how well he was looking, he replied that it was "only the glow of the setting sun."

This University has been Rex's vocation. The lives of the two have been seamlessly intertwined. From the day when he entered the place as a freshman in 1953, until the day when he left us two weeks ago, he never left us, except for his two years at Oxford on a Rhodes scholarship, and that was only preparation

*"Good night, sweet prince,  
and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."*



for returning. It is an achievement of the institution that he is the first of its graduates to have become its Vice-Chancellor. When he was appointed to that position in 1998, having been Deputy Vice-Chancellor for the two preceding years, the transition was only too natural, since he had for years been a member of what he called “the kitchen cabinet” of successive Vice-Chancellors.

His twenty-five years as Director of the Department of Extra-Mural Studies and the School of Continuing Studies, which the Department became under his aegis, enhanced his claim to being the embodiment of the regional character of the university. He was to play a key role in the establishment of certain other units of the university which have fostered its practical intervention into the life of the wider community. We think, for instance of the Trade Union Education Institute (which he headed), the Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts, the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication, the Mona School of Business, the Cultural Studies programme.



A feature of his leadership style was his accessibility, to “puss, dog and fowl;” and closely related to this were his thoughtfulness and generosity towards others, and his unreserved gratitude to all who nurtured and mentored him in his early years. A few years ago, a retired maintenance worker who had been re-hired on contract, was told, unjustly as he thought, that his services would no longer be needed. In telling his story, he said to me, “I vex, I vex, so I just go and talk to Mr Rex.” (I don’t think he realized that he was a dub poet.) That story was an eye-opener to me, even at that late stage of my knowing Rex, as to what he meant to the so-called little people. We have heard of his financial help to young people of limited means to further their education. Many of us have experienced his meticulous kindness in sharing information. When, in his travels, he came across some article or book review which he knew would be of particular interest to you, soon enough you

would receive a clipping or a photo-copy, with a note in his own hand.

As for his gratitude to persons who helped to make him, whether as benefactors, mentors or role models, he has spoken warmly of Dr Herbert Morrison, who, as Rex’s close friend Barbara Gloudon has written, was like a father to him when he was a schoolboy at Cornwall College. He has singled out teachers like Clifford Francis at the elementary school at Bunker’s Hill, and Rupert Miller and Phillip Wright at Cornwall. Then, at the UCWI, there were Elsa Goveia, Roy Augier and John Parry. At Oxford, there was Isaiah Berlin. But perhaps the one who may be called his chief mentor and promoter was Philip Sherlock. To his siblings, to his other relatives, to Sam, to Miss Morgan, to Miss Ruby, to his beloved NDTC family, we say, “Take courage from his strength and his example.” Tonight the music of alleluias will lift with the gentle breeze blowing across the cane-piece. As it rises, to Bunker’s Hill, to Accompong, to Blue Mountain Peak, and spreads across the Caribbean Sea, and as the spirits dance on the waves, we will hear, under the singing, the drums, the drums, the heartbeat of the people.

“Good night, sweet prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.”

“Prof,” Professor, Rex: we say to you, as you were fond of saying to us at leave-taking, “Bless you!” ■



THE EULOGY FOR  
**REX NETTLEFORD**  
 WAS DELIVERED BY  
**PROF. EDWARD BAUGH**  
 AT THE UNIVERSITY CHAPEL, MONA,  
 16 FEBRUARY 2010

Where there's PROGRESS...

# there is Energy



## Our Nation's Progress Energizes Us

Trinidad and Tobago is a major player in the global LNG market and remains the largest supplier of LNG to the United States.

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**Where there's a commitment to progress there's energy.**





UWI

# STAN

ST. AUGUSTINE NEWS

OCTOBER 2009 – FEBRUARY 2010



# STAN

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES  
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

October 2009 – February 2010



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**ON THE COVER (left)**

A Fond Farewell: It is very difficult to document the legacy left by the illustrious Professor Rex Nettleford. Although he shall be missed terribly, we cannot help but celebrate his achievements and the many treasures he has given to our University and Region that can only ensure our continued development. In this issue we celebrate two Caribbean icons in our double covers, two intellectuals and artists who share a commitment to the development of the region.

**ON THE COVER (right)**

Derek Walcott: At the gate, Duke of Edinburgh Avenue, Petit Valley, Trinidad. Watercolour on paper, circa 1980 (from the collection of Margaret Walcott)

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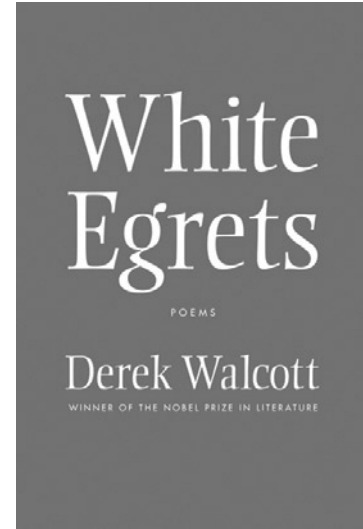
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# STAN ONLINE



## BOOK REVIEWS

White Egrets by Derek Walcott  
Manikin Foreword by Geoffrey MacLean

## FILM REVIEWS

Avatar or Avarice  
A Winter's Tale directed by Frances Anne Solomon

## FEATURES

Inside the CSA:  
An interview with past president Prof. Pat Mohammed  
Habla Espanol? Connect with UWI Alumnus Maria Corona

## STAN IN SCHOOLS

Pan Minors & Majors at UWI

In mid- January, a few days after the devastating earthquake led to the death of more than 300,000 men, women and children in Port au Prince, we asked students to weigh-in on the support being given by individuals, our Government (an initial pledge of US \$1 million) and local institutions to help our Caribbean neighbours in Haiti.

## ARE WE, IN TRINIDAD DOING ENOUGH TO HELP THOSE AFFECTED BY THE HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE?



### Umesh Nandalal

Faculty of Science and Agriculture (Agribusiness Management), UWI St. Augustine, San Juan, Trinidad

"I think we are doing enough for the economic times we are in right now. The other countries are doing their part as well, but for as little as we are, we are doing our part."



### Joanna Alarcon

Centre For Language Learning, (English as a Foreign Language) UWI St Augustine, Colombia

"No, that's not enough. The first problem [is that] not much help is being distributed correctly, the food, the health[care]...the first step is to organize correctly the things that are sent."



### Antoinette Guillaume

Faculty of Social Sciences (Psychology), UWI St Augustine Campus Point Fortin, Trinidad

"Yeah we're doing a little bit of everything. For me everybody is helping in their own way."



### Vishal Baboolal

Faculty of Science and Agriculture (Agribusiness), UWI, St. Augustine

"Well in terms of monetary [help], TT \$ one million, I'd agree we're doing enough in terms of money. In terms of food supplies, clothing - we could do some more - more food and water is what they really need right now. Instead of money - food clothing and basic necessities should have been sent."



**CORRECTION** In a feature carried in the UWI STAN January-March 2009 issue, it was inaccurately stated that Dr David Chadee Senior Lecturer in the Department of Life Sciences, of The University of the West Indies, was the recipient of a TT\$1.5 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for research in mosquito management. The grant from the Gates Foundation was not awarded to Dr. David Chadee but was, in fact, awarded to Dr. Dawn M. Wesson of Tulane University, while Dr David Chadee was a sub-contractor of the project. We apologise for the error. ■

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[ CONNECT ]

# ASTRO- NOMICAL POSSIBILITIES





**DR. SHIRIN HAQUE**, an astronomer and Head of the Physics Department at UWI, shares her insights with Cedriann Martin on the important research resource we have in Trinidad, our Pitch Lake, global warming and the programme offerings in astronomy at UWI.

**Three days had gone** since the start of what would turn out to be frustrating negotiations and frenetic protests at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. Thousands of miles away at The University of the West Indies, Daaga Auditorium, an acclaimed astronomer coolly analysed claims that the steep acceleration in climate change might be the sun's doing. Then, he offered a sanguine spin on the consequences of global warming for Trinidad and Tobago by 2100. The dry and rainy seasons will become more pronounced, he said. Sea levels may rise by 1 ½ metres claiming at least 15 metres of coast in the bargain. There'll be a tad more tropical storms. Average temperature may increase by one or two degrees. "Maybe you could wear less clothes during Carnival," offered Professor Edward Guinan of Villanova University. The comment won chuckles from an audience that included students and professional astronomers from 17 countries.

In December, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, hosted the group during the 31st International School for

Young Astronomers (ISYA). The school is co-organized by the UWI (St Augustine campus, Trinidad) and the International Astronomical Union (IAU), and is supported by the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Literature (NASL) and the National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST) in Trinidad. Professor Stephon Alexander, a Trinidad-born physics lecturer gave a public lecture on music and cosmology one week after Guinan's talk. From the sun's cycles to the universe's frequency, ISYA 2009 demonstrated the huge spectrum and mass appeal of astronomy 400 years after Galileo first peered through a telescope.

Dr. Shirin Haque, an astronomer and Head of the Physics Department at UWI, shared her insights with UWI STAN on the important research resource we have in Trinidad, our Pitch Lake, global warming and the programme offerings in astronomy at UWI.

## [ CONNECT ]

**CM: With respect to debates surrounding practical issues like climate change as well as ideological ones like creationism, do you think there's an astronomical perspective missing from the global dialogue?**

**SH:** I don't think it's missing. There are some things in astronomy that are known well, others that are in a grey area and things that are definitely in the realm of skepticism when it comes to planet Earth. Its age and the geology of the planets are well known and established and I don't think they are ignored.

**CM: Some people ignore them.**

**SH:** Some people always will. You mention creationism. Astronomers accept that questions on that angle would always come. Our discipline is based on observation models, data analysis, empirical evidence and mathematics. Even if we'd love to think that something should be it comes down to what the data shows. As a good scientist you have to have an open mind. The other point of view is faith-based. They would not meet. One is changing, while the other

is unchanging. Actually that is the crux of so much that we know today: you've got to have a willingness to accept that your understanding of things will change.

**CM: Have you had a major conceptual shift about anything over the course of your career?**

**SH:** When I started in the field about 15 years ago I don't think I was sure that there was life elsewhere in the universe. Humans have always felt that they were special and that Earth is at the centre of the Universe and everything revolved around us. Most of those beliefs have been debunked over the centuries but one of the things that's still felt to be far-fetched, is the possibility of life elsewhere. That has come into our lap. The number of extrasolar planets being discovered and the rate of discovery is phenomenal. In the last 10 to 15 years about 300 have been found. They accidentally found water on Mars.

**CM: But you're not going to find any beings comparable to us in terms of complexity are you?**

**SH:** We're talking about life at its most basic form: microbial level life. A shift has come in that area. Researchers in the area of astrobiology and astronomers are searching. We don't know. If they find that you would see headlines screaming.

**CM: What can Trinidad and Tobago offer from a research perspective?**

**SH:** We have a couple of major collaborative projects. One led by the University of Turku in Finland was listed as number 40 on the Top 100 Science Stories of 2008 by Discover Magazine. It's the first observation of a binary black hole system. That was big, that was one. The second one involves astrobiology at the pitch lake and mud volcanoes. You'd be amazed. BBC and Discovery Channel were down here featuring this study. We've teamed with five other institutions from Canada, the United States and Finland to work on this project. The interest is that the pitch lake is a hydrocarbon lake. One of Saturn's moons, Titan, has hydrocarbon lakes. We can't go to Titan so if you want to understand what's happening there you study hydrocarbon lakes on Earth. There are three natural pitch lakes in the entire world. The one in San Francisco has been mined out and access is not that easy for the international community to the lake in Venezuela. Blessed are we that the third entity is located in Trinidad.

In astrobiology we're trying to understand how life can arrive in other places. Will a tree grow in the pitch lake? No it wouldn't. It is a toxic environment for even microbial growth. The other thing is that when astronomers find evidence of methane on another planet they get very excited because most of it is produced by a biogenic process. It could be geochemical but that's not likely. There's methane at both the Pitch Lake and Titan. The same thing happens with mud volcanoes. This time the analogy is to planet Mars. They found methane on Mars as well. Methane gets destroyed in the atmosphere very easily so there is something producing it and replenishing the supply.





“Humans have always felt that they were special and that Earth is at the centre of the Universe and everything revolved around us. Most of those beliefs have been debunked over the centuries, but one of the things that’s still felt to be far-fetched, is the possibility of life elsewhere.”

**CM: What has been discovered about how these formations were created?**

**SH:** Those are some of the unanswered questions. A group of people work on this project—a geologist, planetary scientist, microbiologist, astronomers, chemists. Each person understands a part of it and we all come together. We seem to think there is a connection between the pitch lake and mud volcanoes but it is still not very well understood.

**CM: I have to ask: Is there any astronomical basis for astrology?**

**SH:** Good question. How I like to describe that one is that they are twin brothers that went their separate ways. Astronomy has its birth in astrology. They studied the stars and the movement of the planets with regard to it having an effect on the destinies of man on planet earth. Now they are totally diverse fields. One is scientifically based and evolving. The other is as static as it was thousands of years ago. There’s no science to show that how planets are lined up has any significance for our individual personalities or fates.

**CM: On the face of it studying astronomy presents you with the clichéd Humanities predicament: all you can do is teach. Is that true?**

**SH:** Astronomy is notorious in that respect. People think there are no jobs. Right now we have three students doing post grad work in the field. That’s a high number for a small region like ours with very little astronomy staff. But the

skill set you develop is transferable. That’s what I would tell people. You learn computational physics, math, programming, observational skills, image processing... all of these things can transfer to fields as wide-ranging as medicine or the stock market. It is something people have a passion for and they choose to pursue it knowing there is no hard and fast job prospect locally. The other angle is that if you are trained in astronomy the world is your job market, really.

**CM: Are there undergraduate degrees in this area at UWI?**

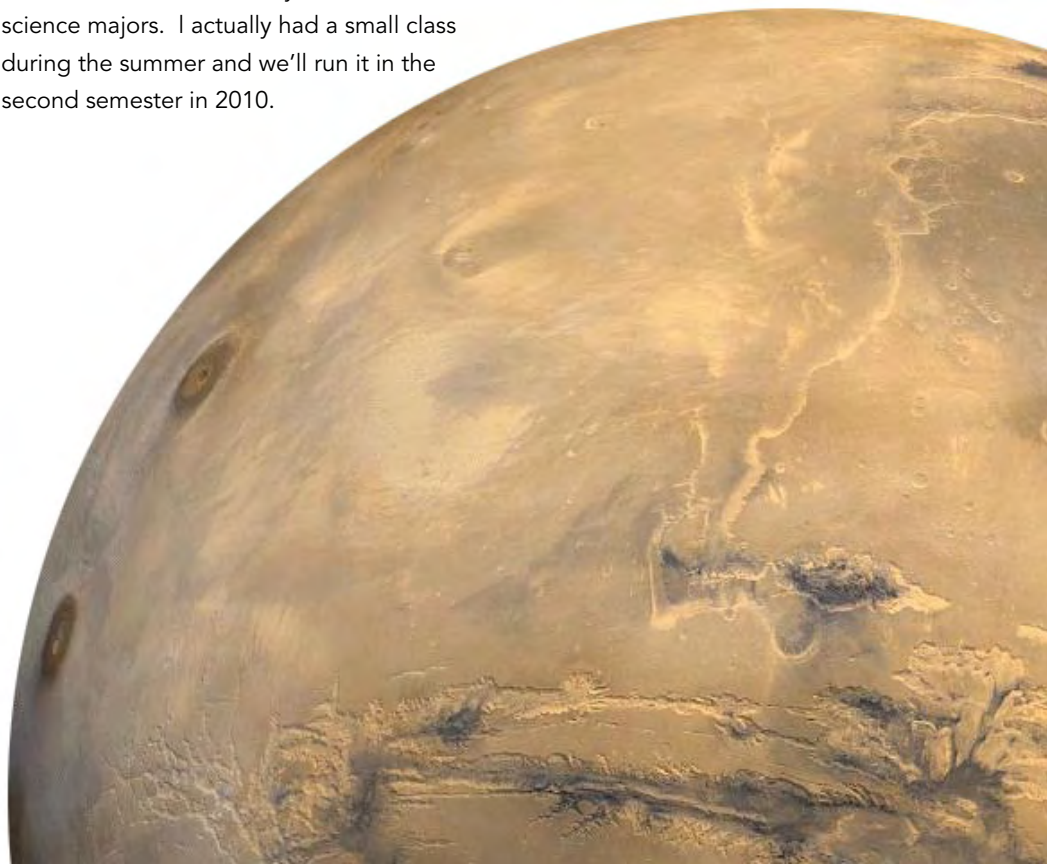
**SH:** There is one course in astronomy at the Physics Department and you can pursue an M.Phil. or Ph.D. research degree. I’ve also developed a new course, “Introduction to Astronomy” for non-science majors. I actually had a small class during the summer and we’ll run it in the second semester in 2010.

**CM: What gave you the courage to take the academic and professional leap into the uncertain field that is astronomy?**

**SH:** I was told that I would have very few job prospects when I went away to do post-grad work in astronomy so I kept a plan B. I had a physics degree so I would have been very happy to teach physics. I’ve been extremely lucky.

**CM: It’s one thing to be fired up about a field of study, but you’ve also won several awards for teaching. What does it take to be a good teacher?**

**SH:** I just have a natural passion for astronomy. Once you have a natural passion and love and respect your students, that’s a potent mix. It creates an amazing chemistry. I see them getting excited and engaged. In my class we have fun. ■





Professor, Joseph E. Stiglitz

# CAN YOU MEASURE HAPPINESS?

Nobel Laureate calls for broadening of indicators to measure GDP

*By Anna Walcott-Hardy*

**I've heard two** or three local and foreign reporters state that no one could have predicted the global financial meltdown of 2009. But in fact, one prolific Professor, Joseph E. Stiglitz, wrote and often spoke of the impending collapse, along with a few of his fellow economists. But few took heed. Similarly, almost two weeks before world leaders converged on Copenhagen for the Climate Change Summit, the 2001 Nobel Prize winner spoke of the importance of broadening the indicators used to measure the growth and development of a country. His indicators included looking at climate change and various non-market activities to analyse a nation's socio-economic wealth.

Throughout the Distinguished Open Lecture held at The University of the West Indies St Augustine Campus in November, the Columbia University Professor underscored the need for

more efficient, transparent indicators, including measures of environmental and resource depletion, to reflect the well-being of a society. A self-described "theorist", the former World Bank Senior Vice President, held the attention of the audience in the standing-room-only Daaga Auditorium for over an hour; all done without power point slides, charts, not even a video clip. Focusing on 'Economic Performance and Social Well-Being', Stiglitz underscored the constraints of using traditional statistical tools that focus on an average, in terms of income and production, but do not reflect "typical experiences and what people care about."

He argued that national leadership had a responsibility to identify the key indices of economic activity, in keeping with the overall concerns of the population. In resource-rich countries like the USA and Trinidad and Tobago, where the natural resources are being depleted, he emphasized that there was a need for a more comprehensive assessment of development.

"The measure...becoming poorer, should reflect that resource depletion and environmental degradation...It's very important that the stats that we gather reflect what people care about."

A particularly striking example given during the lecture was the story of the Gold Mining Industry in Papua New Guinea. Here, the development of the industry led to a spike in the GDP and profits for foreign investors, but locally, it impacted negatively on the population, with the pollution of the environment, including some rivers and the loss of income for locals, with a heavy impact on the fishing industry.

"If you don't have good stats, it's like driving blind: you don't know where you're going...If your stats don't provide an accurate description of what's going on, you can make some bad decisions." In his relaxed, conversational style, he made the topic of economics and accounting, not only interesting, but relevant to our local scenario.

## “The question is not whether there will be another crisis, but where it will be...

From Keynes to Bernanke, Reaganomics to the Global economic crisis, his witty anecdotes distilled hard core theories into real-world situations that connected with the audience.

It seems that his views have also connected with French President Nicholas Sarkozy, who would also fly-in to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGM) in Port of Spain. President Sarkozy has appointed Stiglitz to head a Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, to look into the production of more relevant indicators of social progress. The Commission is chaired by Joseph Stiglitz and advised by Amartya Sen.

For many, the Nobel Laureate may be lauded as being prophetic, for as far back as 1990s, and even earlier, he predicted the rather rapid decline of the US economy. He reported that although many of the stats may not have reflected this, more Americans were worse off in 2008 than in 2002.

In fact, what we can see now was that the rich were getting richer and the gap between middle income and wealthy widening. Over time accounting procedures were weakened, combined with poor risk management by financial institutions and more money being invested in a housing “bubble” than in healthcare, education and the environment.

In ‘Dealing with Debt: How to reform the Global Financial System’, an article published in the Harvard International Review (Volume 25, 2003) his call for reform was on target.

“Something is wrong with the global financial system. One might think the system would shift money from rich countries, where capital is in abundance, to those where it is scarce, while transferring risk from poor countries to rich ones, which are most able to bear it. A well-functioning global financial system would provide money to countries in their times of need, thereby contributing to global economic stability. Through an orderly bankruptcy

procedure, a well-functioning global financial system would grant a fresh start to those who cannot meet their debt obligations, giving creditors an incentive to pursue good lending practices, while ensuring that borrowers able to repay loans do so. The current global financial system does none of these things. As a result, international financial crises or near-crises have become regular events.”

Having received his PhD from MIT in 1967 and having taught at MIT, Stanford, Yale and Oxford, then being awarded the Nobel for his work on the analyses of markets with asymmetric information, his understanding of the global markets is not surprising. For Stiglitz the question was not whether the crisis would occur, but when and where.

“The question is not whether there will be another crisis, but where it will be... Observers in the early 1990s, however, lauded the huge flows of private capital—at one point exceeding US\$300 billion—from developed to developing countries, heralding a new era in which the private sector would supplant the need for public assistance. But this was a hollow boast. Even then, it was clear that most of the money went to a few countries, most notably China, and virtually none to the countries that needed it most, such as those in sub-Saharan Africa. Nor was the money spent in desperately needed sectors like healthcare, education, and the environment. Developing countries could attract firms to extract their natural wealth—provided they gave it away cheaply enough. There was far less success in attracting investments that would create new jobs. Worse still, much of the money was speculative—hot money—coming in while the going was good, but fleeing the moment matters looked less rosy.

The countries did grow a little faster while the money was flowing in, but the damage that ensued when it flowed out more than offset the initial gains. Economists studying capital flows have long recognized that, especially in developing countries, they are procyclical, coming in good times and

leaving in bad thus making the booms more intense and the busts worse.”

A storyteller at heart, during the UWI lecture, Stiglitz turned to a somewhat politically incorrect scenario to underscore the point of the limitations of GDP. Two scenarios: the first is the story of a couple that stays at home; they cook dinner using home-grown vegetables and enjoy a quiet evening; high contentment or happiness factor, but low GDP levels. The second scenario is of a professional who eats dinner at a fancy restaurant, goes in search of (ahem) entertainment, then returns to another venue to enjoy a few drinks, has a car accident while driving home and ends up in the hospital; high GDP, but surely a much lower happiness factor and definitely lower on the scale of social well-being.

Stiglitz, who was key in the development of the 1995 Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, cited the UNDP’s Human Development Index (HDI) as one alternative to the GDP. He pointed out, “If you care about education and health, then the GDP doesn’t accurately measure what you care about.”

However, the question many ask is – how do we measure our happiness and which are the happiest countries? Stiglitz touched on this briefly during the dynamic open forum hosted by Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr Hamid Ghany. But if you want to read more then google the report by the Commission on Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress by Stiglitz, Sen and Jean Paul Fitoussi to review their recommendations. ■

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# COMMONWEALTH AT 60

*Round Table at 100 and year-end Celebrations in T&T*



**Timothy M Shaw, Director,**  
Institute of International Relations, IIR at UWI

**The second-half** of November 2009 was memorable and unrepeatable for both University and Institute: the Commonwealth's inter- and non-governmental Summits for the former and for the latter plus the centenary of Round Table: the Commonwealth journal of international affairs. The two dimensions came together in the pre-Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) three-day workshop which the Institute hosted on campus, as delegates began arriving from around the world for the People's and Business Forum on 'The Commonwealths in the Second Decade of the 21st Century: inter- & non-state contributions to global development/governance'.

University and Institute were particularly active at the People's Forum at Cascadia Hotel. Colleagues helped animate the gender (Professors Rhoda Reddock and Jane Parpart), peace & conflict (Dr. Deborah McFee and I; the Institute served as nominal host in T&T) and financial crisis as well as economic development (Jane Kelsey, visiting scholar from New Zealand) assemblies.

The Forum was opened by recent honorary graduand from Trinidad, Dr. Angela Cropper. Other UWI personalities participating included Vice Chancellor Emeritus, Professor Rex Nettleford and Director of CASLE, Dr Jacob Opadeyi, Senior Lecturer in Surveying & Land Information. The Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat, hosted a discussion with the

“The highlight of the 100th year was the after-dinner speech by the third and longest-serving Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and our Chancellor Emeritus, Sir Shridath Ramphal, on whether Ireland could adopt the Indian example of being a republic within the Commonwealth”

Commonwealth of Learning (CoL). And after the People’s Forum, Institute and SALISES hosted the Commonwealth Network on LGBTI concerned about human rights offenses in the Gambia and Uganda in particular.

The Institute was pleased to host two bookend events with others around CHOGM. First, while the official Commonwealth was marking six decades, the venerable Round Table, the oldest journal of IR in the world (the Institute of International Relations library holds a subscription), was approaching its centenary. Its birthday was marked by the launch at St Augustine of a commemorative collection edited by James Mayall on *The Contemporary Commonwealth: an assessment 1965-2009* published by Routledge in the UK, currently on sale at the UWI bookshop for a very special price of TT\$155. Its dozen chapters include Ron Sanders from Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados on ‘The Commonwealth as a champion of small states’. He was one of a half-dozen panelists at two afternoon sessions, which also featured Sandra McIntyre-Trotman, Director of Policy and Planning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The highlight of the 100th year was the after-dinner speech by the third and longest-serving Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and our Chancellor Emeritus, Sir Shridath Ramphal, on whether Ireland could adopt the Indian example of being a republic within the Commonwealth.

And second, with CANARI, CIGI, CaPRI, CWN & RCS, IIR had hosted three days of discussions arising from the myriad roles of Commonwealth non- as well as inter-governmental networks. Some two dozen authors and papers were presented at a half-dozen panels on the economy, polity and ecology: civil society, conflict, corporate social responsibility, culture, democracy, ecology, fisheries, governance, OTs and DOMs, regional transportation, water...and the future of the Commonwealth. Late-afternoon keynote addresses were presented by Professor Jane Kelsey, visiting law professor from the University of Auckland on FTAs and Eduardo del Buey, Director of Communications and Public Affairs at the Commonwealth Secretariat on ‘public diplomacy’.



The Hon. Prime Minister Patrick Manning

Finally, we were all honored after CHOGM by a visit & prestige lecture by President Bharrat Jagdeo on ‘Sustainable Development or Climate Change: preparing for the Copenhagen summit’ which mentioned the unique Commonwealth experiment at Iwokrama ([www.iwokrama.org](http://www.iwokrama.org)), whose international science committee met here last July. One member of that group, Dr John Agard, moderated the Q&A after President Jagdeo’s presentation.

Together, these 100th and 60th deliberations have encouraged me to consider whether in addition to American and English and European schools of IR there might yet be a Commonwealth one which would include IIR at St Augustine, still a youngster at forty-something? *Timothy M Shaw* ■



# Breaking Tradition

## A UWI RESEARCHER INVESTIGATES THE BENEFITS OF LOCAL MEDICINAL PLANTS

**“I think he’s my driving force,”** explains Arlene Williams. We’re seated in a small, neat office in the very expansive Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex at Mount Hope.

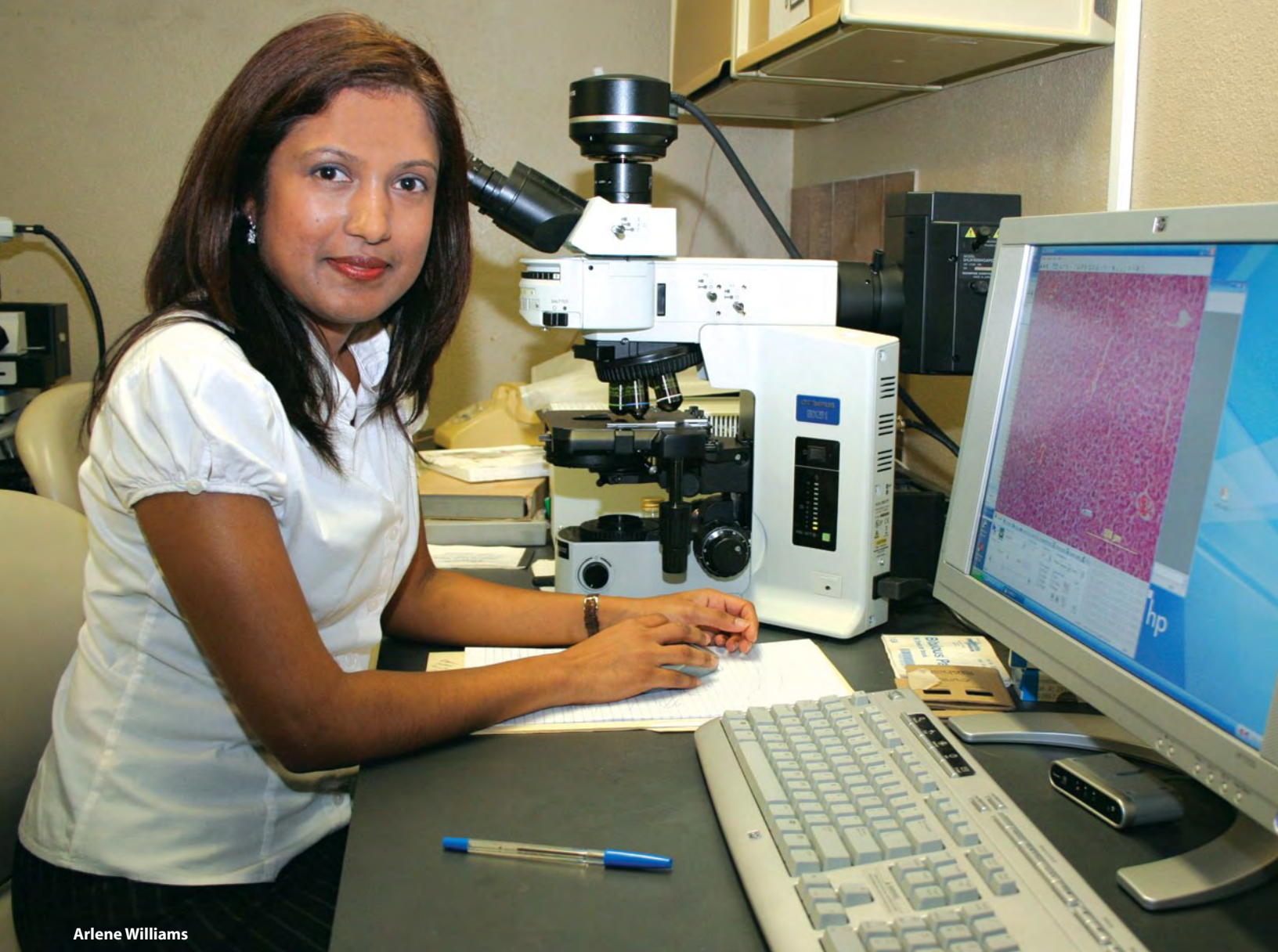
Here, in the Pharmacology Unit, the conversation has stopped. I’ve suddenly become very aware of the slight smell of disinfectant coated by some sort of musky, French perfume. Arlene is a final year postgraduate student in the Unit of Pharmacology at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. She is reading for a Masters of Philosophy in Pharmacology and Therapeutics. Her focus over the past four years has been investigating the healing powers of local medicinal plants. Today, I am here to discuss landmark research being done



Shandilay (*Leonotis neptifolia*)

by the UWI student, but my questioning has meandered towards family and Arlene explains in her quiet, distinctive voice, that she lost her brother Mark, in September 2008. Yet, it’s obvious that in the face of this unimaginable loss, she has become stronger, inspired to continue her postgraduate research.

It’s no surprise that there has been an increase in the use of medicinal plants globally and the need to provide effective screening procedures has become even more vital. In fact, Arlene explained that the use of natural products, while beneficial, can also be fatal. For instance, a plant that may be beneficial to diabetics and used to treat acute liver failure may be toxic if the wrong dosage is administered. Arlene’s work has focussed on just this issue.



**Arlene Williams**

“For the course of my study; I have completed the *in vivo* studies, measured the level of antioxidant enzymes using diagnostic tests and completed the histological preparation of the liver tissue in a dose regimen and secured a possible mode for screening other natural products possible for developing therapeutic and toxic doses.”

Today, she is testing the true benefits of these plants through her work in pharmacology and writing an extensive thesis on “*Investigating the role of Leonotis nepitifolia as a hepatoprotective agent in an animal model.*” Allow me to translate: she is looking into the ability to prevent damage to the liver (hepatoprotective agent) by the plant we call *Shandilay* (*Leonotis nepitifolia*) using a mouse (the animal model),

since these rodents have a very similar metabolism, sleep pattern to humans. In Trinidad, *Shandilay* leaves are often brewed to make a flavoured tea, which is used to treat coughs and fever.

Throughout the interview one could not help but admire her calm, patient manner of explaining these foreign terms. But her enthusiasm about her research was always visible in the animated way in which she spoke of the work – from the “pathways” that detoxify the body, to the mentors who inspired her to continue working, to keep uncovering the truth, to find ways to heal our bodies.

“I’ve recently returned from training for six months at the Department of Pharmacology

and Toxicology, University of Toronto, Ontario, where I was exposed to a new culture of unsupervised and independent research and was able to practise additional and novel techniques developed by that facility.”

The months abroad had an enormous impact on her research, but also allowed her to experience the multi-cultural campus and city, while developing team-building skills in a performance-driven, “welcoming environment”. The intensive programme also included techniques in the preparation of DNA samples, amplification using Polymerase Chain Reaction, (PCR) and quantification using the SLOT blotting procedure.

## [ RESEARCH ]

“This work was necessary to isolate and identify the genetic fingerprint of the mouse models used in carcinogenesis studies I also carried out an *in vivo* study investigating drug pharmacokinetics, using High Pressure Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) to quantify the drug and its metabolite over time. During this time I was also able to set up a Histology Lab to prepare sections using Haematoxylin and Eosin staining,” she explained.

The UWI recently acquired an HPLC machine, the US \$250,000 investment has already been proven to be invaluable to research in pharmacology. For the St Augustine Senior Comprehensive High School graduate, research has always been exciting. Arlene describes herself as an “average student” inspired by “a mentor...an excellent teacher who always made bio-chemistry fun”.

As a young girl Arlene grew-up in St. Joseph, Trinidad, a few miles from the St Augustine Campus, with her mother Myrna and father Kenny, sister and brother. Like many Trinidadians she often used local plants to cure various ailments, including *Aloe Vera* to heal cuts.

She gained a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry also at UWI before taking up the position as Laboratory/Research Technician with the Pharmacology Unit. She spoke excitedly about the fundamental cancer research done in collaboration with professors at UWI.

“My duties include, firstly, laboratory management and maintenance, development, evaluation and implementation of laboratory safety procedures. I was also involved in the compilation of a Laboratory Safety Manual for this laboratory. Thirdly, I was involved in assisting academic staff with their research projects.



“It’s no surprise that there has been an increase in the use of medicinal plants globally and the need to provide effective screening procedures has become even more vital.”

One of the projects included *The investigation of anti-cancer agents found in medicinal plants*. This project included the collection of local herbs used in our population for treatment of cancer. I was involved and received training from Mr. Gangadeen Ramcharan to inoculate the cancer cell line with plant extracts. I was also instrumental in the compilation of the results and the statistical analysis of the data produced from this research project...I am fortunate to be surrounded by people who believe in my ability to conduct research such as, my parents Myrna and Kenny Williams, my supervisor Dr Yuri Clement, Co-worker, Mr. Gangadeen Ramcharan, and the staff of Pharmacology Unit.”

As for the future, she would like to gain a Doctor of Philosophy and continue her research.

“If you enjoy doing what you do, you will never work a day in your life... Hard work, dedication and finding out what you enjoy the most will enable you to live life to your full potential. Achieving my research goals by being a resourceful individual to my family, friends and colleagues is my way of achieving this.”

*Anna Walcott Hardy* ■

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**C A R E E R B U I L D E R**



UWI celebrates

# WALCOTT

*By Vaneisa Baksh*

Whom we choose to honour is an eloquent expression of our values and ideals. For when we pay tribute to someone, we are saying: This, I admire. This, I celebrate. We are saying: Your presence has enriched our lives.

**So Derek Alton Walcott**, the man of words, of paintings, of theatre and film—muse of so many histories—found himself surrounded by an outpouring of gratitude for his immeasurable contribution to new ways of seeing and believing.

And for those who participated in a week of events that sprung up at all levels, like supporting acts for the star: “Interlocking Basins of a Globe,” the academic conference hosted by The University of the West Indies, for those, it was as much a public statement of identity as it was an offering.

A performance of “Fragments” from the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA), was ready to go at the Learning Resource Centre just after the Principal of the St. Augustine Campus, Professor Clement Sankat briefed the media on the week’s activities at his Office.

There, a Walcott painting generously donated by the estate of Dr Patricia Ismond (the lecturer who breathed such life and love into the study of Walcott’s work that it became the rod and staff accompanying me on my own journey since) was unveiled by the Nobel Laureate himself with undisguised pleasure. The painting was part of an exhibition of 18 works by Derek Walcott from the Private Collection of Margaret Walcott, Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw and Anna Walcott-Hardy. The watercolours and oil paintings on display at the Principal’s Office also included a painting by Warwick Walcott, the Nobel Laureate’s father, who died when Derek and his twin brother Roderick, were just a year old and his sister Pamela, three.

The DCFA’s performances were repeated, on one day, twice on account of the large number of students turning up to enjoy the incorporation of dance, song, mime and improvisation that sought to interpret his theatrical scripts, essays and poems.



The Conference itself, which was organised by the Liberal Arts Department led by Dr Paula Morgan, got underway on Jan 13, with a packed cast of speakers, including Professor Emeritus Gordon Rohlehr, Dr. Jean Antoine-Dunne, and discussions exploring topics like “Walcott’s Ghosts and Confrères,” “History as Muse” and “Myths and Histories.” Professor of History, Bridget Brereton, chaired a special panel of members of the Trinidad Theatre Workshop (which was co-founded by Walcott in 1959), including Eunice Alleyne, Albert Laveau and Nigel Scott.

At the opening ceremony, Professor Emeritus Edward Baugh, editor of Walcott’s Selected Poems in 2007, delivered a thoroughly

engaging keynote address titled, “Walcott’s Island(s), Walcott’s World(s): On inhabiting disparate, shifting, overlapping spaces.” Examining the tussle to inhabit those disparate places simultaneously (“we have tortured ourselves / with our conflicts of origins”) he notes that the persona (in *The Prodigal*) reaches the point of questioning “So has it come to this, to have to choose?” Prof Baugh felt that “there is no resolution in the sense of accepting one place and rejecting the other.” He suggested that Walcott indeed was a true inhabitant of the world despite attempts to tuck him into neat niches.

Larger he grew as the week went by, the supporting events each in their own way adding dimension and stature. Apart from the conference—which was part of the Caribbean Nobel Laureate celebrations conceptualised by former Campus Principal Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie—his films were also being screened in this cornucopia: *The Haytian Earth*, which was made for television and produced by Timmy Mora and *The Rig* directed by Walcott and filmed by Christopher Laird as well as Yao Ramesar’s film, *The Saddhu of Couva*, narrated by Walcott.

The UWI Open Campus added *Pantomime* to the list, putting on shows at the DCFA’s Gordon Street home that were well attended by secondary school students who are studying the play for their CAPE exams.

By the time the closing night came around where he was scheduled to read from his latest work, *White Egrets* due to be published shortly, even the dim-witted who had not yet grasped the measure of the man could feel the resonance of his presence. Mounting the stage carefully, shuffling gingerly to the armchair, he exuded an air of frailty, calling to mind immediately the poignant fact that he was only a few days away from his 80th birthday. Seated, he chatted comfortably about his new work, speaking to the audience with an intimacy that supported his suggestion

[ CONFERENCE ]

that everyone take his reading as one being delivered to them alone.

As he read, his voice washed over the audience, a reminder that under the choking yoke of the daily grind, the mind can still venture into placid, wide and measured spaces. The poems in this collection reflect the stillness of his age, he said, meaning a contemplative not a feeble stillness, as, true to his Don Juan in 1974's *The Joker of Seville* (Juan's Farewell) who sings of going down fighting, Walcott invoked raw, phallic images battling against diabetes and agents of age.

Then he turned to the poem commissioned by The Times and the BBC to mark the election of US President Barack Obama, "Forty Acres."

He tells the dry and practical story of the size of the offered fee persuading him, but as he reads it and then plays the soundtrack (done by long-time collaborator Galt MacDermot) it is clear that no amount of money can buy this. This is a man who will always enrich our space, whether he is physically here or not.

"An emblem of impossible prophecy," he said of Obama, and so too it can be said of him. ■







**Representatives of the CIES, UWI, FIFA and Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education at the Official Launch of the FIFA/UWI/CIES Post Graduate Diploma in Sports Management**

## NEW SPORTS PROGRAMME AT UWI

**A new Executive** Sports Management programme from The University of the West Indies (UWI) and the International Centre for Sports Studies (CIES) could be just what the Caribbean needs to strengthen this region's standing in the international sporting fraternity.

On February 19th, Professor Clement Sankat, Pro Vice Chancellor and St. Augustine Campus Principal, launched a new Postgraduate Diploma programme in Sports Management at the Office of the Campus Principal. The milestone event welcomed participants from the FIFA, CIES, the local sporting fraternity and the University. The University has also introduced a Master of Science degree in Sport Management which commenced in February 2010.

Through its partnership with the FIFA and CIES, UWI has joined the CIES International University Network, which, to date, counts twelve universities in 11 different countries including South Africa, Costa Rica, Argentina,

Egypt, Senegal, Palestine, Turkey, Chile and Ukraine, Venezuela and Spain. Students accepted into the programme will have access to resources from any of the member institutions of this network and will become part of the international student fraternity operated by the CIES. Professor Sankat noted that the new executive sport management programme is "the first of its kind in the region to be offered at a tertiary level."

This programme aims to provide broad-based understanding of sport management, marketing, finance, facilities management and policy development issues, law, communication, and event management challenges involved in delivering sports services in a globalised environment. It will be coordinated by the Department of Management Studies of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Addressing the audience at the launch, FIFA Vice President, Mr. Jack Austin Warner applauded the work of the three organizations on the success of such a major

venture and agreed that the partnership will allow this University the power to shape this region's future and "reach the zenith of sport management intelligence that will make us the admiration of all and the envy of many."

The history of the programme dates back to September 2008, when FIFA President Joseph Blatter and The UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris signed a Memorandum of Agreement to undertake cooperative programmes in the areas of research, training, education and facilities development in sport within the region. The signing ceremony for this Agreement was hosted by Professor Clement Sankat, Principal of the St. Augustine Campus and was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education and the Ministry of Sport; Mr. Jack Austin Warner, FIFA Vice President; Mr. Oliver Camps, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Football Federation; and Lord David Triesman, Chairman of the English Football Association.

The FIFA Vice President concluded that the programme "...will provide a coherent, academically rigorous, vocationally relevant and culturally specific education, which will enable our scholars throughout the region to develop to be critical and reflective leaders in the world of sport management." ■

*For more information about this programme, please contact the UWI Department of Management Studies at [Charisse.Broome@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Charisse.Broome@sta.uwi.edu) or the Director of Sport and Physical Education at [Iva.Glendon@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Iva.Glendon@sta.uwi.edu) or (868) 662-2002 Ext. 2307.*



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## YATICH & AKOR TAKE HOME GOLD

### UWI SPEC International Half Marathon a success

In just over an hour, Kenyan, Alfonsi Yatich (1:06:50), won The University of the West Indies Sport and Physical Education (UWI SPEC) International Half Marathon in November 2009, with his countryman Simon Saw crossing the finish line minutes later. St Lucia's Zephyrinus Joseph continues to make strides in racing at home and broad, finishing in third place in a time of 1:09:11. For the women Nigeria's Mary Akor won first place in an impressive time of an hour and eighteen minutes (1:18:43).

In 2008, Nicholas Kipruno of Uganda, sped across the finish line in 1:05:35 with Cleveland Ford (Guyana) in second and Pamenos Ballantyne (St Vincent and the Grenadines) in third place. In 2009, Ballantyne would have

to settle for placing in the top ten, not the customary first five.

Almost 1,000 local, regional and international athletes competed for over TT\$135,000 in prizes, including specific categories for UWI students and staff at the UWI SPEC International Half Marathon in November 2009.

First Citizens once again signed on as presenting sponsor of the UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon. In September, St. Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat, received a cheque for TT\$350,000 from First Citizens, at an official media launch of the Half-Marathon, held at the Office of the Campus Principal.

The race, which is often heralded as one of the best organized in the country, began at the UWI SPEC at 6 a.m., with the 13.1 mile route remaining unchanged : the runners raced along the traffic-free Priority Bus Route (PBR) to the La Resource Junction in D'Abadie, before doubling back to the UWI SPEC. The course, complete with markers and water stops at every mile, is a favourite among local and Caribbean athletes. In 2009 a new team category was introduced with a minimum of 15 athletes. Team members were also allowed to also enter in the individual categories.

Our congratulations to winners of the electronically timed race (timed by Odyssey Timing Co.), to Dr Iva Gloudon, Director of Sport & Physical Education at UWI, St

Augustine, for producing yet another successful event, as well as to the student volunteers and supporters. Records broken are certified by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS), and will be recognised worldwide. The race is also accredited by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF). **AWH ■**

*To download photos from the UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon archives, click <http://bit.ly/2J3dU0>.*

*For more race media releases, click: <http://bit.ly/18Nnr>. For more information, visit the UWI SPEC website at [www.uwi.tt/spec/marathon/](http://www.uwi.tt/spec/marathon/) or call (868) 662-2002 Ext. 3771, 2660, 3556 or 3571 or e-mail [specinfo@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:specinfo@sta.uwi.edu).*



**Veteran runner Granny Lucess**



**Athletes with their medal after the race**



**Dr Iva Gloudon, The Hon. Minister of Sport and Campus Principal**



**Race winners Yatich and Akor with Campus Principal Sankat**

### UWI SPEC International Half Marathon TOP 15

- |           |                  |  |
|-----------|------------------|--|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>1:06:50.0</b> | ALFONSI YATICH (Kenya)                           |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>1:08:59.0</b> | SIMON SAWE (Kenya)                               |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>1:09:11.9</b> | ZEPHERINUS JOSEPH (St. Lucia)                    |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>1:10:11.0</b> | RICHARD JONES (Trinidad & Tobago)                |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>1:10:58.0</b> | RONNIE HOLASSIE (Trinidad & Tobago)              |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>1:11:22.0</b> | KELVIN JOHNSON (Guyana)                          |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>1:11:55.0</b> | JULES LA RODE (Trinidad & Tobago)                |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>1:13:08.7</b> | CURTIS COX (Trinidad & Tobago)                   |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>1:13:17.0</b> | PAMENOS BALLANTYNE (St Vincent & The Grenadines) |
| <b>10</b> | <b>1:17:38.0</b> | BRIAN MAYNARD (Trinidad & Tobago)                |
| <b>11</b> | <b>1:17:47.1</b> | ROLAND BARTHOLOMEW (Trinidad & Tobago)           |
| <b>12</b> | <b>1:18:38.5</b> | NEIL STEWART (Trinidad & Tobago)                 |
| <b>13</b> | <b>1:18:45.9</b> | ELVIS TURNER (Trinidad & Tobago)                 |
| <b>14</b> | <b>1:18:46.9</b> | COLIN JOSEPH MERCURIUS (Guyana)                  |
| <b>15</b> | <b>1:18:48.3</b> | MARY AKOR (Nigeria)                              |

# EDULINK

## STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE BREAKS NEW GROUND

With temperatures in the high 80s, one hundred and twenty participants representing sixty-six ongoing EDULINK projects from the ACP regions, the EU and interested external parties, attended the meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Stakeholder Conference on October 1-2, 2009 in Lisbon, Portugal, at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa. This meeting followed the previous two which were held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2008 and Georgetown, Guyana in February 2009.

The UWI was represented by EDULINK project administrators Dr. Asad Mohammed, Professor Andrew Lawrence, Ms. Joy Cooblal, Dr. Judith Mendes and Dr. Mark Thomas.

With a focus on examining 'Knowledge sharing through the ACP-EU Platform for Cooperation in Higher Education', emphasis was placed on two areas: the promotion of higher education as a means of reducing poverty in ACP countries and regions as linked to individual EDULINK projects, and establishing EDULINK as the ACP-EU Platform for Cooperation in Higher Education with the intention of integrating ACP Higher Education Institutions into the global knowledge-sharing networks and promoting the exchange of experiences and good practice. Discussions surrounding these areas were centered around issues common to all projects.

Feature speakers included Mr. Andrew Bradley, Assistant-secretary General, ACP Secretariat, Mr. Jose Antonio Valente, EuropeAid Cooperation Office and Prof. Dr. Antonio Rendas, Rector of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

The presentation by Prof. Matti Tedre, Tumaini University, Tanzania entitled: *Information and Communication Technologies and Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities which examined e-learning in Higher Education Institutions*, painted a clear picture of the benefits and the challenges which institutions

in Tanzania face in structuring e-learning systems into their academic environments. Many of the participants identified with the types of challenges encountered by the universities in Tanzania in this regard. While the address by Prof. Melanie Walker, Nottingham University, UK, focussed on *The constitution of higher education to poverty reduction in ACP countries and regions*. In this presentation Prof. Walker addressed the role of HEIs in reducing poverty through a process of transformation through higher education. She stressed the multidimensional aspect of the effects of poverty on society that consequently confirms the need for a university based on human development principles and values.

A presentation was made by Mrs. Renata Russell of the European Cooperation Office on: *EC responses to Higher Education through ACP-EDF Programmes*. She addressed the current status and expected future development of intra-ACP EDP Programmes. In speaking about the EDULINK Development Funds (EDF), Mrs. Russell confirmed that there are 66 ongoing Edulink projects, 35-40 programmes under Science Technology Innovations Capacity Building, 184 applications for scholarships to accredited universities in the ACP region under the Erasmus Mundras Classical Programme and the development of a new programme – The Intra ACP Mobility Programme. It was announced that the next call will be at the end of 2010/2011.

Included in the scheduled activities of this 2-day meeting were two working group sessions. Participants were divided into groups to discuss the following topics which were chosen for their relevance to the future development of EDULINK Programmes and the recommendations formulated by the groups were discussed in a plenary session including: *The contributions of EDULINK to the Internationalization of ACP HEIs, How to make the ACP-European Union platform in the higher*

*education work; Maximizing the socio-economic impact of EDULINK projects; and The next generation of EDULINK projects: what can be proved?*

The final session of the conference was a discussion on *Contractual, Procedural and Budgetary Issues*. This session was highly anticipated by delegates as it served to explain and clarify the challenges experienced by the project coordinators in interpreting and implementing the Grant Contract, particularly the budget contained. A reporting handout was circulated. This stakeholder conference held in the beautiful and historic city of Lisbon with temperatures in the 80s, was also the ideal setting for coordinators to network and exchange ideas and opinions relating to their projects. In addition, the meeting increased the programme's visibility and contributed towards the building of an EDULINK community.

### What is Edulink?

The University of the West Indies (UWI) and other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Union Member States that are signatories to the 9th European Development Fund (EDF) have engaged in an important collaborative undertaking through EDULINK.

EDULINK is an initiative that funds cooperative projects between its members and the project entitled 'Capacity Building for the Financial Sustainability of ACP Higher Education Institutions'. Officially launched on Friday 22nd May, 2009, 10:00 a.m. at the Institute of Critical Thinking, UWI, St. Augustine, The University of the West Indies (UWI) will spearhead this project.

The Edulink network will include The University of Technology (Jamaica), The University of Mauritius, The University of Suriname, The University of Guyana, The University of Belize, The University of the South Pacific, and The University of Warwick.

**JOY COOBLAL ■**

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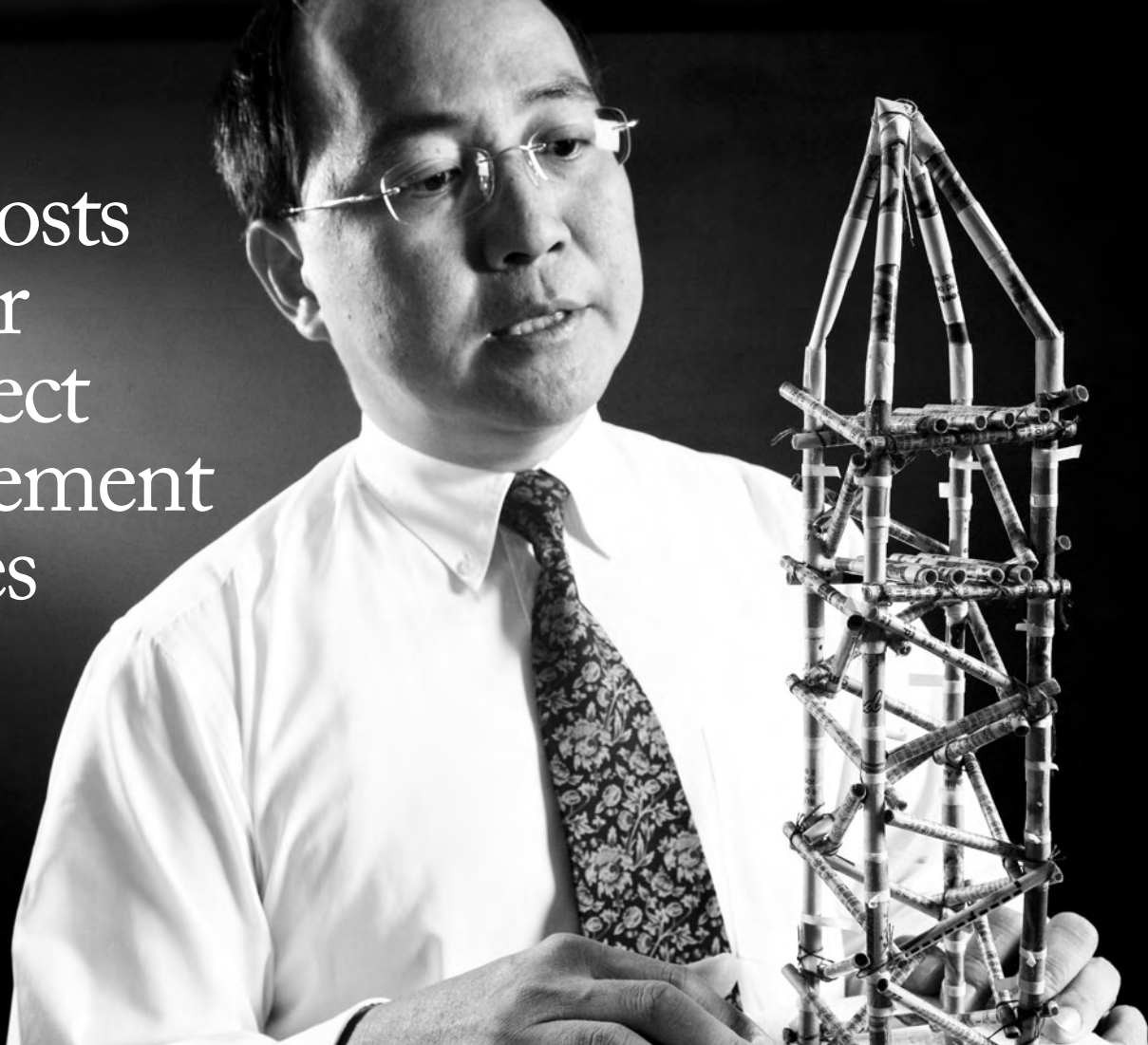


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# UWI hosts Seminar on Project Management Practices



Professor Kit Fai Pun

**The Faculty of Engineering** of The University of the West Indies (UWI) hosted the Fourth Public Seminar on 'Project Management Practices in the Caribbean' (PM4 Seminar) on 21st November 2009. It was organised in collaboration with the Technology Management Council (TMC) and Education Society (EdS) Chapters of the IEEE Trinidad and Tobago Section, The Association of Professional Engineers of Trinidad and Tobago (APETT), and The Project Management Institute Southern Caribbean Chapter (PMISCC).

The Seminar was facilitated by **Professor Kit Fai Pun** of the Faculty of Engineering, UWI. **Eng. Alvin Lutchman**, the Immediate Past Chairman of the IEEE Trinidad and Tobago Section, delivered a welcoming address to participants.

The Seminar sought to facilitate the region-wide awareness of research and development in Project Management Practices. There were two sessions, and each had two presentations covering the following topics: Electronic Government - Management and Applications; Implementation of a Work-Out programme using the General Electric approach; The Health Care Professional and Project Management; Project Management for e-Learning in Trinidad.

The four invited speakers, **Ms. Tracey N. Edwards** from The Ministry of Planning, Housing & The Environment, **Mr. Andre Persad** of Svitzer Marine (Trinidad and Tobago) Ltd., **Dr. Celia M. Poon King** of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, and **Dr. Ruel L.A. Ellis** of Faculty of Engineering, UWI, shared with the participants their experience on project management practices in the Caribbean context. The coverage of presentation topics

is quite wide ranging and substantial, from the adoption of e-government practices in public sector to the use of a people-oriented GE Work-Out approach in a private-sector organisation; and from exploring the project management potentials in public health to applying the project management principles in e-learning.

In total 88 participants including invited guest speakers, industry delegates, faculty members and students attended the Seminar. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly good. Many participants commented that the presenters were very knowledgeable about their areas of expertise and the presentations were interactive and informative. ■

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Moving Forward



# PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST

A STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

**The work** of students enrolled in an introduction to Photography, a course that is part of the B.A. in film programme, was on display at the St Augustine Campus in 2009. Course lecturer, **Dr Bruce Paddington** teaches photography to a class that is as cosmopolitan as it is creative; there's a heady mix of veteran film producers, cameramen and 'amateur' directors, as well as budding photographers, to name a few. We're pleased to share some of these pieces with you. ■



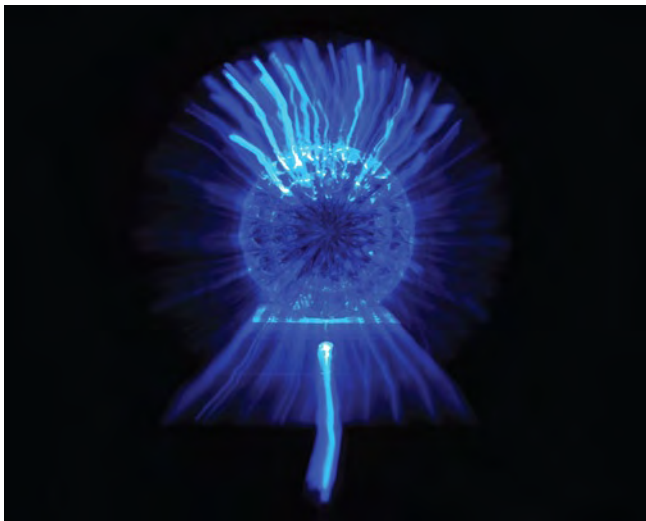
NAME: B. CLINT GREGOIRE  
MAJOR/MINOR: FILM/IT



NAME: WHITNEY-LEE COZIER  
MAJOR/MINOR: COMMUNICATION STUDIES



NAME: ANTON MARK GUINNESS  
MAJOR: FILM



NAME: KIVONNE TERENCE RAMSAWAK  
MAJOR/MINOR: FILM PRODUCTION



NAME: XARIA RAE ROXBURGH  
MAJOR: VISUAL ARTS



NAME: ZAHRA A. GIBBONS  
MAJOR/MINOR: FILM



NAME: STEPHAN DE SHONG  
MAJOR: FILM



NAME: SHERVONE CLARKE  
MAJOR: FILM PRODUCTION



NAME: SHEA BEST  
MAJOR/MINOR: FILM/THEATRE



Steven M. Taylor Photography

NAME: STEVEN M. TAYLOR  
MAJOR: FILM PRODUCTION

# UWI fetes gives b



**Patrons of the UWI Fete**, as it is popularly called, have been partying for a serious cause, helping students broaden their horizons and gain a first class education. The University of the West Indies Development and Endowment Fund (UWIDEF) hosts the annual party to raise funds that have assisted thousands of students over the years.

Through its fund raising efforts, the UWIDEF has been able to make direct contributions to the education of a steadily increasing number of graduates. Steady and increasing public support of the Fund's two major fundraisers—the UWI Fete and UWI Golf Challenge—have translated into a steady increase in funds available for bursaries. Selected students received bursaries from the UWIDEF in a formal bursary award ceremony, held at the Learning Resource Centre (LRC), UWI St Augustine on February 9th, 2010.

The 2010 Award Ceremony included brief remarks by Mr. Ronald Harford, Chairman of the UWIDEF committee, Mr. Victor Cowan, Secretary to the UWIDEF Committee, Professor Samuel Ramsewak, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, and Ms. Priya Sahadeo, a student of Faculty of Medical Sciences.

The UWIDEF committee also includes Professor Clement Sankat (UWI Pro Vice Chancellor and St Augustine Campus Principal), Ms Deirdre Charles (Director of UWI Student Services), Mr Peter Clarke, Mr Walton James, Mrs Lucille Mair, Mr Jerry Medford, Mr Dennis Ramdeen, Mr James Richardson, Mrs Christine Sahadeo, Mrs Radhica Saith and Ms Lisa Wickham.

The UWI Development & Endowment Fund (Trinidad and Tobago) was launched in April 1989, with its primary objective being the establishment of a fund to provide scholarships to undergraduate and postgraduate students to alleviate the financial hardship of selected students. The fund is managed by a committee comprising a Chairman and members representing the business community, University alumni and the wider University community. ■

*For more information, please contact:  
Alana Campbell-John, Administrative Assistant,  
UWI Development & Endowment Fund at  
Alana.Campbell-John@sta.uwi.edu or  
(868) 662 2002 Ext. 2326.*

# back

Through its fund raising efforts, the UWIDEF has been able to make direct contributions to the education of a steadily increasing number of graduates.





## UWI Rededicates iconic Administration Building

**In March**, the iconic Administration Building of The University of the West Indies (UWI) St Augustine Campus was rededicated in an official ceremony formally marking the re-opening of the building, which has recently undergone substantial renovation and interior refurbishment.

The Rededication Ceremony which was held at the Administration Building on March 12th, 2010 from 10 to 11 a.m., culminated in the unveiling of a specially laid Rededication Stone by His Excellency Professor George Maxwell Richards, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Sir George Alleyne, UWI Chancellor and Professor Clement Sankat, Pro Vice Chancellor and St. Augustine Campus Principal, witnessed the rededication by President Richards, while Professor Bridget Brereton, UWI Lecturer in History, presented a history of the Administration Building.

The ceremony as marked the launch of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the St Augustine Campus. ■



## UWI SALISES EXAMINES GOVERNMENT PURCHASES AND TAXES

The University of the West Indies (UWI) Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social & Economic Studies (SALISES) will hold its 11th annual conference from March 24th to 26th, 2010. The highlight of the Conference is the 2010 Distinguished Sir Arthur Lewis Lecture, by Professor Robert Barro, on “Macroeconomic Effects from Government Purchases and Taxes.” This event takes place on Wednesday 24th March, beginning at 6.30 p.m. at the Daaga Auditorium, UWI St. Augustine Campus, and is open to the general public.

## Accreditation & Accolades for UWI Petroleum Studies programmes

**Two Petroleum Studies** programmes at The University of the West Indies (UWI) have been accredited by the Energy Institute (EI). This is in addition to previously earned accreditation by the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3) and the Geological Society of London (GSL) respectively.

The University's Master of Science (MSc) in Petroleum Engineering and Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Petroleum Geoscience is accredited by the UK-based Energy Institute (EI), which has accreditation facilities for degrees for Chartered Engineering, Chartered Petroleum Engineer, Chartered Environmentalist and Chartered Science status.

The BSc Petroleum Geoscience at UWI became the first geological programme of any nature to be accredited outside the UK, when it was awarded accreditation by the Geological Society of London for a period of six years from March 2004, following a February 2004 visit by the President of the Society. The

programme has now been re-accredited to 2016. Membership in the Geological Society of London brings many benefits, including professional recognition. Fellows are entitled to the letters FGS after their name and Chartered Geologists can add the postnominal CGeol.

The MSc Petroleum Engineering at UWI has been accredited by the IOM3 for graduates entering the programme from 2004 to 2011. As a result these graduates will be able to go forward to become internationally recognised and chartered professionals by IOM3 after 4-6 years suitable experience and responsibility. Accreditation also provides peer-reviewed certification of the standard and scope of professional and scientific training offered by MSc programmes, giving universities, grant-awarding bodies and employers confidence in the value of the programme in producing well-trained graduates for employment in the geosciences. In addition, the recognition of an MSc programme by accreditation is a valuable aid for students choosing their locus of study, particularly for overseas students.

The EI accreditation, for graduates entering the programme from 2009 to 2013, was awarded after an official visit to The UWI to examine facilities, meet staff and students and assess against the Energy Institute criteria for accreditation. The visiting EI team met with Professor Richard Dawe, TTMC Chair in Petroleum Engineering in The UWI Chemical Engineering Department, who explained the history and organisation of the Unit and the nature of its courses. The team also met with other members of academic staff and with a selection of students.

A report from the visiting team described the teaching staff as "supportive and accessible" and "committed and enthusiastic, with a well developed involvement with the local and international oil and gas industry." The report further described students as "very enthusiastic about the courses." ■

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## Guyana President speaks on Sustainable Development or Climate Change?



**The President** of Guyana, The Honourable Bharrat Jagdeo, visited The University on Monday 30th November, 2009, to examine a topical, complexed issue. The well-attended seminar at the Campus focused on "Sustainable Development or Climate Change: Preparing for the Copenhagen Summit." Keep reading UWI STAN for more on the views of President Jagdeo. ■

# UNICA

## UWI Leads UNICA efforts in Haiti

**On March 15, 2010**, members of the Association of Universities and Research Institutions of the Caribbean (UNICA), including Rectors of three Haitian universities, met at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus to explore strategies for the reconstruction of Haiti, with primary focus on its education system.

The UWI's Disaster Risk Reduction Centre has updated and broadened its database of expertise at the University (including construction engineers, physicians, psychologists, agricultural specialists and others) and is partnering with the CARICOM Secretariat and the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) to provide medium and long term assistance in the reconstruction effort.

The UWI campuses are embarking on an effort to offer scholarships to over 100 Haitian students. UWI is also considering sharing its faculty with Haiti.

The UNICA conference focuses on "Partnering for Sustainability" and was hosted at the Institute of Critical Thinking at the St. Augustine Campus from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. The conference focussed specifically on mobilizing Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes to partner with Haiti in the rebuilding effort, with an emphasis on its tertiary sector. By collectively addressing Haiti, it is hoped that the conference will give UNICA members and other participants the opportunity to strengthen partnerships and reaffirm the important role of UNICA in the sustainable development of the Caribbean region.

Following the devastating 7.0 earthquake that rocked the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince on January 12, 2010, The University of the West Indies (UWI) has taken the lead in developing the UNICA response to Haiti. Some of the support initiatives already being considered by UNICA-member universities include the reconstruction of schools and universities, scholarships to Haitian students and a rotation of shared faculty.

"Since the earthquake, The UWI has been working at several levels to provide assistance – humanitarian, sensitizing the various stakeholder groups about Haitian issues and positioning ourselves to help with the mid- to long-term recovery and reconstruction," said UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris.

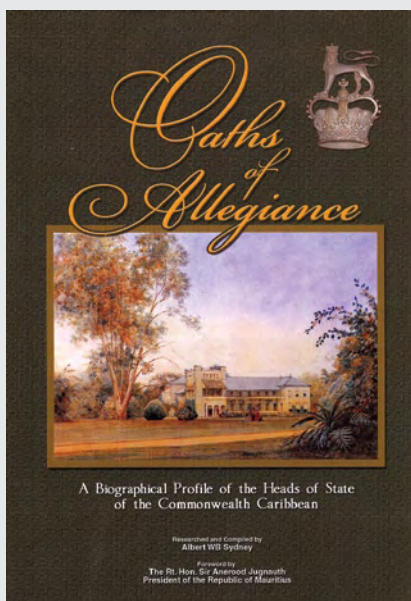
The UNICA conference follows another meeting held in Jamaica on Wednesday, February 24, 2010, to mobilize the support of Caribbean universities to assist in the medium and long term reconstruction effort in Haiti, with particular emphasis on Haiti's tertiary education sector. Diplomats representing seven countries with UNICA-member universities, including Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Trinidad & Tobago, and Venezuela, as well as representatives of UNESCO and UWI attended. In an update on the damage to the education sector as a result of the earthquake at that February 24 meeting, Charge d' Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Haiti, H.E. Max J.C. Alce advised that "40 university professors and 1300 teachers are dead, 4000 students have died, 13 university faculty buildings have collapsed, 2394 schools have been destroyed." He also emphasized that Haiti would need continuous help for some time to reconstruct its education system. ■



UWI Vice Chancellor,  
**Professor E. Nigel Harris**

*For more information on the UNICA conference, please contact: The Office of the Campus Principal at 868-662-2002 ext. 3937.*

# BOOKS



## OATHS OF ALLEGIANCE

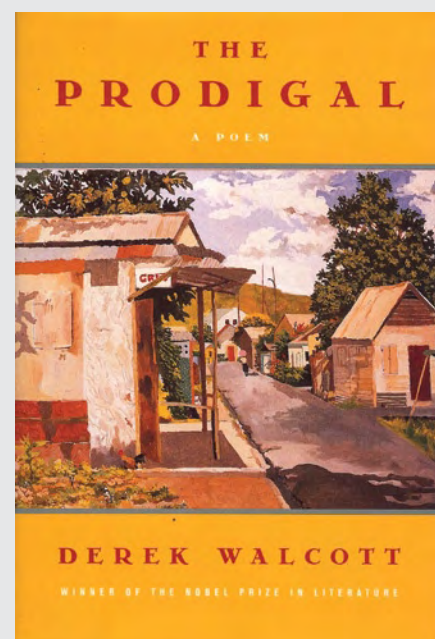
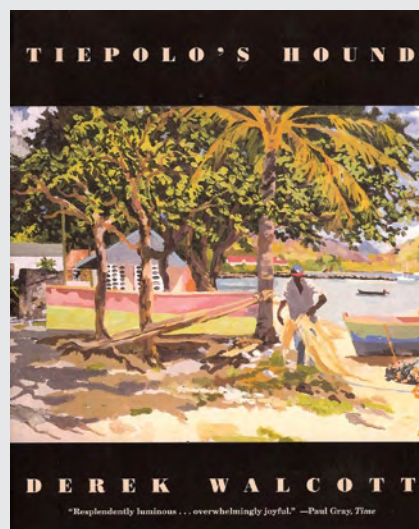
Researched and compiled by  
Albert WB Sydney  
Introduction by  
Professor Timothy Shaw  
Sydney House,  
Port of Spain  
2009

A biographical profile of the Heads of State of the Commonwealth Caribbean

## TIEPOLO'S HOUND

Derek Walcott  
Farrar, Strauss and Giroux  
New York  
2000

“Resplendently luminous... overwhelmingly joyful” writes Paul Gray (Time Magazine) while A. Alvarez of The New York Review of Books describes the work as “cool and measured and beautiful... Walcott is doing for his beloved St Lucia what Pissarro did in paint for the French landscape – fixing it in time with ‘lyrical, light precision’, modestly and without fuss”. Walcott’s Tiepolo’s Hound, joins the quests of two Caribbean men. Camille Pissarro, a Sephardic Jew born in 1830, leaves his native St. Thomas to follow his vocation as a painter in Paris, while the poet himself longs to rediscover a detail – “a slash of pink in the inner thigh/ of a white hound” – of a Venetian painting encountered on an early visit from St Lucia to New York. Both journeys take us through a Europe of the mind’s eye, in search of a connection between the lost, actual landscape of a childhood and the mythical landscape of empire; with reproductions of oil and watercolour paintings by Walcott.



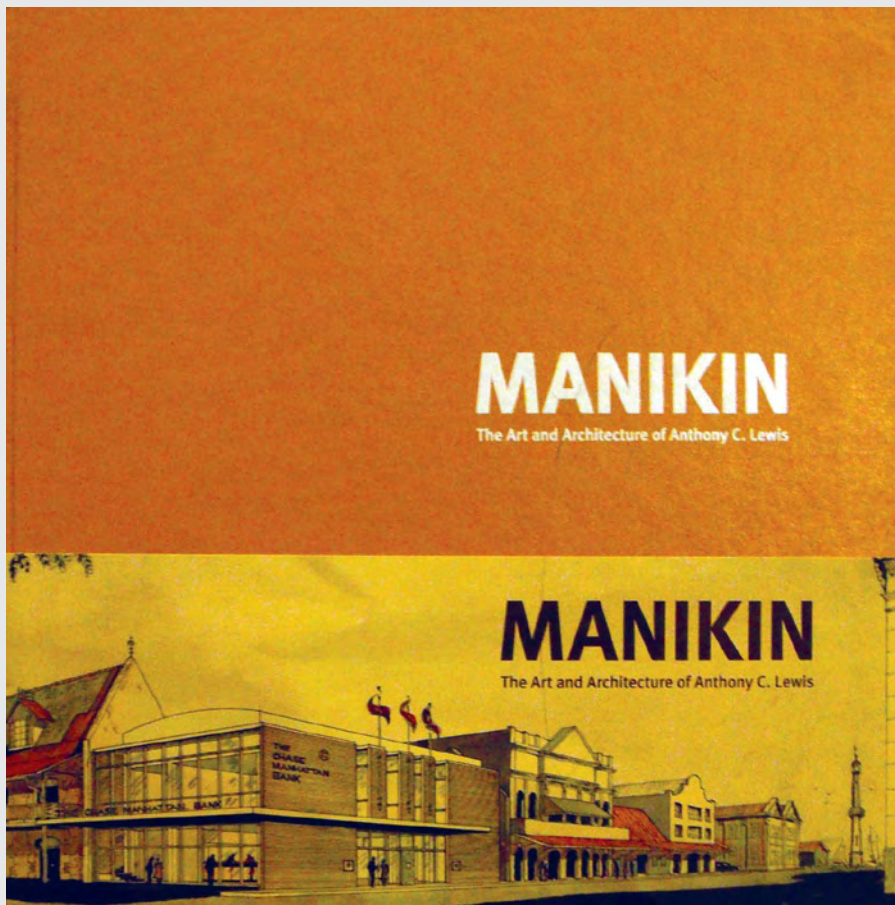
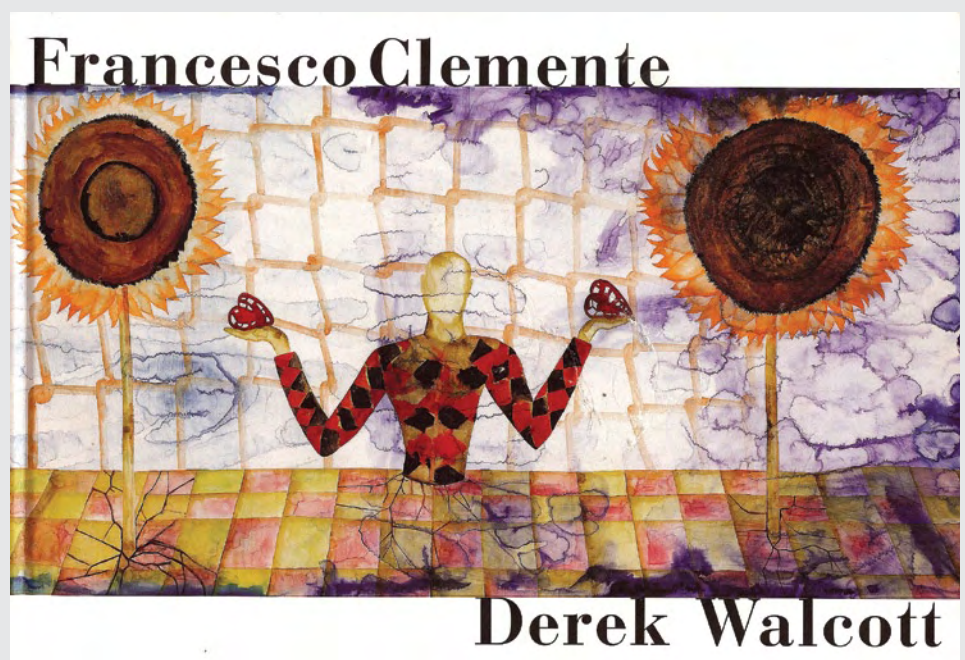
## THE PRODIGAL A POEM

Derek Walcott  
Farrar, Strauss and Giroux  
New York  
2004

The Prodigal is a journey through physical and mental landscapes, from Greenwich Village to the Alps, from Pescara to Milan, from Germany to Cartagena. But always in “the music of memory, water” abide St Lucia, the author’s birthplace, and the living sea. Derek Walcott has created sweeping yet intimate epic of an exhausted Europe studded with church spires and mountains, train stations and statuary, a place where the new world is an idea, a wavering map, and where History subsumes the natural history of his “unimportantly beautiful” island home. Here, the wanderer fears that he has been tainted by his exile, that his life has become untranslatable, and that his craft itself is rooted in the betrayal of the vivid archipelago to which he must return for the sustenance of life.

FRANCESCO  
CLEMENTE

Derek Walcott  
Leva spa, Sesto San Giovanni  
For Edizioni Charta  
2009



MANIKIN  
THE ART AND  
ARCHITECTURE OF  
ANTHONY C LEWIS

Foreword by Geoffrey  
MacLean  
ACLA WORKS  
2009

WORLD FINANCE  
INSURANCE  
AWARDS  
2009



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# UWI GRADUATION AN HISTORIC YEAR



**Kailash Jaikaransingh,**  
Valedictorian



**Joni Lee-Pow,**  
Valedictorian



**Tennille Auguste,**  
Valedictorian



**Chava O'Sullivan,**  
Valedictorian

## *Valedictorians & Honorary Graduands*

**Congratulations** to all our graduates, including the St Augustine Campus' four valedictorians who spoke at the Graduation Ceremonies on Friday 30th and Saturday 31st October, 2009.

On Friday 30th October Kailash Jaikaransingh, Valedictorian of the Faculty of Humanities and Education, graduated with First Class Honours, having completed an undergraduate B.A. degree in Communication Studies with a minor in Literature. Jaikaransingh sees her future in Communication Studies and intends to pursue an M.A. in Communication Studies abroad before returning to Trinidad to work

and complete her Master's Thesis part time. Theatre artist and poet Mr. Christopher Laird and noted biographer Professor Arnold Rampersad received the honorary Doctor of Letters (DLitt.) .

In the afternoon ceremony, Tennille Auguste, Valedictorian of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, graduated with a distinction in Veterinary Medicine. Auguste has always loved animals and is determined to pursue further studies in the areas of surgery and diagnostic imaging and ultimately become a surgeon. At the ceremony, Angela Cropper, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United



Nations Environment Programme, received a DLitt from the University for her work relating to issues of the environment and sustainable development.

Ms Chava O’Sullivan, graduating with First Class Honours in her BSc. Degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering, gave the Valedictory Address at the 31st October. Ceremony. For O’Sullivan, a Jamaican national, life at UWI St. Augustine was “no cake walk”; her first two years were the most challenging years she spent at UWI. She intends to gain work experience in the telecommunications field, then pursue a postgraduate degree in Communications. At this ceremony, the University honored petroleum industry pioneer, Mr Robert B. Riley with an LLD.

In the fourth and final graduation ceremony, Ms. Joni Lee-Pow, Valedictorian of the Faculty of Social Sciences spoke after the address by celebrated entrepreneur and philanthropist, Mr. Yesu Persaud. He was honored by UWI with an LLD, in recognition for his endeavours and accomplishments in this field. Lee-Pow, a wife, mother, marathon runner and former National Scholarship winner, believes life is about loving as much as it is about learning, a belief that drove her to achieve First Class honours in her undergraduate BSc. degree in Psychology. She intends to pursue a Doctorate in Clinical Neuropsychology. The ceremony was an historic one on many levels as UWI Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne congratulated the largest class ever at the Campus, with 3,275 students graduating and 700 being awarded higher degrees. ■



UWI Chancellor,  
**Sir George Alleyne**



**Mr Robert B. Riley**  
Honorary Graduand



**Mr. Yesu Persaud**  
Honorary Graduand



**Professor Arnold Rampersad**  
Honorary Graduand



**Angela Cropper**  
Honorary Graduand

### VEERA BHAJAN GRADUATES

Inspirational is the way that many of her fellow classmates describe, UWI graduate Veera Bhajan. Born without arms, the physically challenged student “never let that deter her from fulfilling her dream of becoming a lawyer,” journalist Anika Gumbs Stanford wrote in an article in The Trinidad Guardian in November.

“The petite Bhajan, currently a registered student at the Hugh Wooding Law School, was the lady of the moment as she graduated with honours in the Bachelor of Laws Degree. There was resounding applause as she made her way to the podium at The University of the West Indies Sport and Education Facility where the graduation ceremony of the Law and Engineering Faculty was held. Proud parents Pooran and Ramdai hugged and kissed their daughter. A favourite with her classmates, they all begged to be photographed with her. An elated Bhajan said, “It feels good. I was not expecting this. I am happy because I worked very hard despite being born without any arms. It is a challenge but I use my toes for everything. I want to be a lawyer and I am going to fulfill my dream.”

The UWI remains committed to ensuring that physically challenged continue to thrive at the University and have an on-going programme to enhance programme offerings and the facilities, as well as the operation of a dedicated office. ■

# A Citizen of the World

GRADUATION ADDRESS – FRIDAY OCTOBER 30, 2009

ANGELA CROPPER

*Honorary Graduand, Degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) Honoris Causa*

## Good afternoon.

This evening we celebrate the Graduands of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, and of the Faculty of Medicine. And I am supposed to say something inspirational to them!

I thank the University of the West Indies for this exceptional honour, and I thank the Public Orator for her very generous citation. I feel elevated by the consideration given to me by the University. At the same time, I am a little startled by it, having to my mind no “body of work” to put on display. And so it is with deep humility that I accept from the University this Degree Honoris Causa.

I appear before you as a graduate of this University, within which I have had my grounding at the Campuses of St. Augustine and Cave Hill, and from which I have taken my bearings. I thank the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, and of Barbados, whose taxes bore the cost of my education. I am still trying to find a way to give something back to this Region that could possibly be commensurate with that investment.

I regard this honour as the culmination of my mother’s decision, taken more than half a century ago, to make it possible by whatever means to allow and enable a ‘girl child to get education’. As a result of which I became the first among her twelve children to have the

opportunity for secondary schooling and in due course also for university education. And throughout my life I have been conscious of that privilege, and tried to shoulder the responsibility and meet the expectations that came with that investment in me. Likewise, I will see this honour by the University as another investment in me against which I still need to deliver.

At this Campus I had the further privilege of being tutored by Lloyd Best, and I pay tribute to him for expanding my horizon from that of a rural village girl to a sense of identity as a Caribbean citizen, and a perception of a Caribbean replete with possibility. This certainly laid the foundation for my own evolution as a global citizen. I often introduce myself when I am asked where I am from, by saying that “I am from the Caribbean – Trinidad and Tobago; I am also a citizen of the Rest of the World.”

The University, and this Campus in particular, is associated in my own mind with more than my intellectual development and philosophical outlook. It brought John Cropper to the Caribbean through its offering of a Diploma in Tropical Agriculture. He then served his entire professional life in this region, most of it through the University or other regional institutions. This Campus brought me in contact with him, and he became my life partner and my compass for 34 years. His support, encouragement, counsel, and subordination of his own interests in favour of my professional opportunities were unwavering.

So this evening I acknowledge the respective contributions of these three major influences to the course of my life and personal development. Fortunately for me, not everyone who has had a hand in the shaping of Angela Cropper, such as she is, can be described as ‘late’. There are many others still available to me, some here in this audience, who have guided, encouraged and



Angela Cropper  
Honorary Graduand

assisted me along the way, whether as teacher, colleague, mentor, or friend. I thank them all.

My fellow Honorary Graduand, Mr Robert Riley thinks that “the real failure of the Caribbean is leadership in all its spheres”. His statement echoed the words of Lloyd Best to me some 40 years ago that “the first obligation of leaders is to create new leadership”. These words still ring in my ears. I commend them to all Graduands of this University. Mr Riley also said that at bpTT they are “developing people whose duty is to look beyond themselves”. I cannot think of any combination of insights that could better serve as inspiration and motivation to a graduate of The University of the West Indies, than those I have just cited. Create leadership. Look beyond yourselves.



The creation of The Cropper Foundation nine years ago reflects similar inspiration and motivation that were engendered in me by others. Its creation is our way—John Cropper’s and mine—of giving something back to the Caribbean and to this University, and of facilitating others to do so. From my mother who could always “feed another mouth,” as she would put it, however slender our resources, I came to understand that philanthropy is not about how much one has, but it is about what one does with what little one has.

The Foundation’s rationale embodies these insights of demonstrating and creating new leadership and looking beyond oneself. I remain ambitious that we will better manifest these values as we go along. The Foundation is also a mechanism for continuing engagement and collaboration with University colleagues. I am encouraged by the University’s commitment to such a relationship as evidenced in our Memorandum of Understanding, and I am pleased by the interest of this Campus Principal and the Vice-Chancellor to deepen this relationship.

I and the Foundation are guided by the maxim that “Life is about more than personal advantage.” This guiding line was suggested by the first awardee of the Devanand Cropper Memorial Award which is offered at the London School of Economics, in recognition of students who have contributed to the wider community of LSE and beyond. Everything comes together in that tag line. It echoes Mr Riley’s motivation to “develop people who understand that their duty is to look beyond themselves.” I commend it to all Graduands of this University.



So how can these snippets from my modest story be made relevant for the Medical Graduands? You have an opportunity through your own practice to contribute to leadership, and to be an example for our Caribbean leaders in their role to orchestrate the economic foundations, the cultural and social conditions in which we might realize that sea of Caribbean possibility of which Lloyd Best used to speak, and which has been a template in my mind.

Why do I say that? Because our economies and societies are sick and are in need of intensive, creative, compassionate and holistic care. Because patients are to you what the body politic is—or should be—to the leaders. Because your vocation exists to serve and sustain your patients’ health and well-being, and analogously so should theirs.

How might you contribute such example to other realms of public service? I expect that your training would lead you to take the extra effort to address the underlying causes of an ailment, not just the patient’s symptoms. That you would focus on prevention and counsel your patients towards routine cultivation of well-being, in order to avoid the need for emergency treatment or for life support systems. That you would practice early intervention in order to avoid later distress. That you would assist your patient to look within—at life style, at personal practice, at responsibility for oneself—and enlist the patient’s capabilities in the healing process.

You might say that these represent your duty to your patients in any case, and correctly establish whose needs and interests are served by whom.

#### **For the Graduands of Science and Agriculture:**

Your patient is the Planet.

It is a living organism.

It comes to you already in very bad shape.

It needs a similar kind of intensive, creative, compassionate and holistic care.

But there is no life support system outside of itself that you can offer to it.

It also warrants attention to the root causes of its problems, not just to its symptoms.

So it needs diagnosis and prescription and practice based on an understanding of the whole organism, and of the entire pathology.



You also might approach your duty in a manner that gives example for leadership elsewhere. The approach addressed to the Medical Graduands is equally applicable in your domains. I expect your training would lead you to exemplify “the duty to look beyond yourselves.” That you would be guided by the sustainability imperative “to meet our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs”. That your horizon would be the needs and interests of the next generation, as distinct, analogously, from looking just to the next election. That you would be good stewards of the patrimony of this region, its natural capital, which could be its enduring asset.

#### **For the Graduands of both Faculties:**

You all have a duty of care.

We all have a duty of care.

Beyond ourselves, for others, for the health and well-being of the citizens of this region, for our collective regional future, and for this Planet without which humankind will have no home.

Let us resolve to manifest that duty of care in all that we do. ■

They say strangers are friends who have not yet met. In a gesture of friendship, Tanya, the hairdresser offered Red Cross worker, Gennike Mayers a new hairstyle in Haiti.



# GENNIKE MAYERS

## UWI graduate assists Haitians after devastating earthquake

**Anna Walcott Hardy** speaks with UWI graduate **Gennike Mayers** about being a member of one of the first rescue teams to hit the ground running after the devastating earthquake.

**Haiti is an enigma**; a country with such a captivating, epic history – defeating Napoleon’s army, paying what some say, would be equal to US \$40 billion (today) in “compensation”, helping to bring about the end to slavery in the region, revolutionizing the world order, while creating a new line of Emperors. Henri Christophe, Boukman, Dessalines, Napoleon Bonaparte, Rochambeau ...are all dead and gone, yet they continue to impact on our reality.

Now, Haiti has been dealt another blow, yet according to UWI graduate Gennike Mayers, the optimism and tenacity of the people is the real story.

“You want my initial reaction? I find it’s hard to describe. I was shocked to see, first of all, the rubble, because there were hardly any buildings standing. I was touched to see people walking almost aimlessly...looking for their loved ones. There were a lot of

wounded people, seeing people wounded, seeing people in pain affected me.”

Gennike was a member of one of the first rescue teams to arrive in Haiti on January 14th, mere days after a devastating earthquake. She was part of the ten-man, Field Assessment and Coordination Team of The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), a global humanitarian organization, which coordinates and directs international assistance following natural and man-made disasters in non-conflict situations.

Two days before her arrival, on January 12th, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti just outside the capital city of Port-au-Prince. Within minutes the devastation – in lives lost, property destroyed, and families displaced – was colossal. The death toll currently stands at 300,000, with over a million homeless.

"Because of our proximity I was mobilized immediately, I was simply the closest one. I left Trinidad on the January thirteenth (13th), got into Dominican Republic that night and got into Port-au-Prince the afternoon of the fourteenth (14th). It was a seven hour drive."

Although there were reports of looting and mass hysteria in the media, Gennike says that her experience was just the opposite. Almost immediately after the earthquake, Haitian Red Cross volunteers (there are about 10,000 nationwide) swung into action,

with integral assistance from individuals in various communities. They began caring for the wounded, gathering data on the survivors living in various camps and listing the missing.

In fact, at the Red Cross distribution centres, there was much calm and patience. Gennike's team would go into a community or camp to assist and begin developing a register of names and relevant information and often found this was already compiled by local camp committees. The residents were then given a ticket by the Society and

told the Red Cross would return the next day with supplies etc.

"They already had a list of who is there, they organized themselves into committees. We'd give tickets and say that we'll come back in a day or two with supplies and when we returned they would line-up and we would process them in a very calm manner. Sometimes people waited two to three hours with tickets in hand, patiently, no violence," Gennike explained.

At the various camps and in the streets, she saw first-hand the impact of the earthquake: pregnant women who had lost their babies because of injuries from falling debris - large cement blocks having fallen on them; gaping wounds - men, women and children with gashes to the head; and many with infected wounds that would have to be amputated. The organization also provided psychological first aid - psycho-social support, not only to the Haitian population, but also to the volunteers, accessed through the Medical Stations.

As Gennike explained, "we too have our own stresses and vulnerabilities".

Yet there was great optimism in the face of such disaster.

"Once I settled in the camp and was able to go into open spaces occupied by people trying to stay away from the few buildings that remained standing, once I started engaging with people, I found they were very open, quite optimistic, they did recognize it was very difficult to deal with... they wanted aid yes, but also indicating



**Haitian Red Cross volunteers attend to this severely injured child.**



**Tanya Petit-Frère, the first recipient in line at the first Red Cross distribution of non-food items which included tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen kits, hygiene and supplies (photo by Gennike Mayers)**

their own willingness to help themselves and their neighbours...it was incredible, seeing people in the midst of a disaster being so optimistic and willing to help their neighbour."

She also had several unforgettable encounters in Haiti. One particularly memorable event came from the very first beneficiary of the distribution of relief supplies which included pots, pans, hygiene kits etc; an eight-month-pregnant woman.

"She asked me to follow her. I followed her to a tent and when I got there her two sisters looked at my hair. They wanted to do my hair (which was into dreadlock, I couldn't wash it, I used mostly wet wipes for the first few days, I easily adapted and four to five days later I had a shower at the Red Cross ) they were hairdressers. I was happy for the offer and got cornrows. I did pay them for it. I thought this is a job and it may have come from gratitude ...but when you wear the Red Cross emblem people have expectations of you."

From their arrival on the 14th to the departure on the 26th, the team met many challenges: yet they were able to assist the Society in providing emergency medical care, water and sanitation to hundreds of thousands of people.

As of February 2nd - 9600 had received medical treatment, about 1,000 people per day at times. Water was distributed to 200,000 people per day in approximately 88 camps throughout the capital city. There were also 250 emergency response units in the city. With Red Cross staff and volunteers increasing to 180, working with 3,000 Haitian volunteers, and numerous non-profit, international and regional organizations progress was made. Overall, the assistance of the local and international Red Cross in Haiti has been expedient, impactful and tenacious – in for the long haul, with a relief and recovery programme that is looking at assisting over 300,000 Haitians over the next three years. But today there are many obstacles to overcome, from sanitation to housing, education to health care.

In February, an update on the damage to the education sector as a result of the earthquake by the Charge d' Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Haiti, H.E. Max J.C. Alce, advised that "40 university professors and 1300 teachers are dead, 4000 students have died, 13 university faculty buildings have collapsed, 2394 schools have been destroyed." He also emphasized that Haiti would need continuous help for some time to reconstruct its education system. UWI has been working with global organizations and Haitian University administrators to develop a comprehensive strategy to assist Haiti's students and teachers.

At UWI, Gennike stood out as not only an astute student, but one focussed on giving back to the society while gaining a greater understanding of the Caribbean region. UWI Lecturer, Eric Maitrejean explained that whenever there was an option within the programme to enroll in a student exchange with another campus (The UWI has an agreement with UAG in Martinique), she was one of the first to apply and spent a semester there. She also capitalized on the one-year teaching assistantship in a French school in the Caribbean. While study towards gaining a Postgraduate Diploma in Interpreting at UWI "she was always happy to contribute, to do something for the Caribbean, to be a go-between, an ambassador between the different territories, be they English, French or Spanish-speaking."

"I must say that I have been privileged to have taught many outstanding students throughout my years at UWI, but what struck me in Gennike, apart from her intellectual curiosity which is a must if you want to make it academically, is her strong belief

in her Caribbean identity...I remember one of her greatest moments was during the Summit of the Americas, when she had the opportunity to interpret for Haitian President René Préval. So I was not surprised at all when I saw her in the frontline mere days after the terrible tragedy of January 12th 2010 in Haiti. She was there and put her various linguistic and people skills to work, helping her Caribbean brothers and sisters. For her, every course she did at UWI (language, literature, whatever it was) was relevant, once it had the potential to connect with one aspect or another of the Caribbean reality. As far as Caribbean-ness is concerned, she sure walks the talk," Maitrejean explained.

Born in Chaguanas, Trinidad, to a family with a talent for numbers, her father is a credit manager and her mother, a financial consultant, Gennike claims to have "no finance" in her veins. After graduating from UWI, St Augustine in 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and a minor in Spanish, she went on to gain a Post Graduate diploma in Interpreting at her alma mater. Having worked for a few years in media production and journalism, she then looked to joining the Red Cross.

"Everything I've done so far in life has culminated in where I am today...UWI has given me that diverse Caribbean-ness. When I lived on Milner Hall, being exposed to different cultures of the Caribbean and studying at UWI. It assisted me greatly with my work in Haiti – I understand people better."

Fluent in three languages, she remains thankful for the expertise of lecturers in the French programme and for the transfer programme that UWI has developed with the French Caribbean island of Martinique, where she was able to perfect her Creole.

"Thanks to the scholarship through UWI to go to Martinique, I was able to pick-up Creole. The French government student assistance programme was excellent. Thanks to UWI and that programme, I was able to speak the creole language, which ties into one of the reasons I was able to go to Haiti as a communications officer with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies."

Although suffering from a "bad cold and exhaustion" she was prepared to stay in Haiti, but she returned home to focus on the needs of the Caribbean.

"While there is much focus on Haiti, another part of the work we do is disaster preparedness and the rest of us in the region, we need to take some lessons learnt and see whether we are ready to deal with a disaster like this."

Although the days spent in Haiti gave her incredible hope she explained that there is still much work to be done.

"Leaving Haiti I felt hopeful because the people, the red cross volunteers and beneficiaries, they are the ones that gave me hope, their optimism their resilience... that's how they were talking about their future." **AWH** ■

**Gennike at work gathering testimonies of Haitians to share with the world on [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org) and [www.caribbeanredcross.org](http://www.caribbeanredcross.org)**





**Force of nature added to poor structure = flattened building.**  
(photo by Eric Quintero)

## THE TRIANGLE OF LIFE

# An Eastern Caribbean Perspective

Doug Copp's recommendation of the 'Triangle of Life' is presented as a definitive strategy for protecting oneself during an earthquake and is often circulated widely on the internet following an earthquake. Scientists at the UWI Seismic Research Centre (SRC) do not support this recommendation and the SRC is compelled to respond to this article which at the very least can be misleading for the Caribbean region. Doug Copp claims to be a Rescue Chief and Disaster Manager of the American Rescue Team International (ARTI) - a private company not affiliated with the U.S. Government or other agency. In his article, he discourages traditional 'duck, cover and hold on' earthquake safety measures such as going under a desk or bed. Rather he states that:

"...when buildings collapse, the weight of the ceilings falling upon the objects or furniture

inside crushes these objects, leaving a space or void next to them. This space is what I call the "triangle of life"... Cats, dogs and babies all naturally often curl up in the fetal position. You should too in an earthquake. It is a natural safety/survival instinct. You can survive in a smaller void. Get next to an object, next to a sofa, next to a large bulky object that will compress slightly but leave a void next to it." (Trinidad Guardian, Page 44, 01/11/05).

Mr. Copp's assertion of the 'Triangle of Life' can be read in its entirety at this website: [www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/triangle.asp](http://www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/triangle.asp). Our investigations suggest that he is viewed with scepticism in the United States and because buildings do not usually collapse in the US, his advice is not considered important in the US strategy during an earthquake (see the American Red Cross' response to the recommendation at this website: [www2.bpaonline.org/Emergencyprep/arc-on-doug-copp.html](http://www2.bpaonline.org/Emergencyprep/arc-on-doug-copp.html)).

In the Eastern Caribbean, most dense occupant buildings (e.g. schools, commercial buildings, hospitals, etc.) are made in conformance with a building code. Many residential buildings however, do not adhere to building codes but the dominant type of construction in this category is single to double storey structures with roofs made out of pliable and relatively light material (e.g. galvanize). Hence large scale 'pancaking' or crumbling of buildings (both residential and non-residential) in this region, which would crush occupants as described in the 'Triangle of Life' assertion, is not expected.

Additionally, while we do not doubt that Mr. Copp sees these empty triangles in collapsed buildings after the earthquake, it is unknown if during the earthquake these "triangles of life" are impacted in any way which may make them unsafe areas. There is, therefore, a need for a proper scientific study into the matter by civil engineers, seismologists and the like before the "triangle of life" can be a recommended strategy for use during an earthquake, in which structures crumble.

As evidenced by the recent earthquakes in the Caribbean region, citizens should be aware that we lie in an area that is prone to earthquake activity. As such, we should take the necessary precautions to ensure that homes, schools and workplaces are 'earthquake safe' such as securing heavy furniture, removing pictures or mirrors that could fall on a bed, anchoring tall furniture to wall studs etc. We emphasise, however, that 'Earthquake Safety Tips' are not a magic wand to be used blindly. Scientists continue to advise that people should remain calm and alert, eyes wide open, protect their heads and faces during an earthquake by going under a strong desk and holding on and to use reasonable judgement for personal safety.

For more earthquake safety information contact your local national disaster management agency or visit our website at [www.uwiseismic.com](http://www.uwiseismic.com). ■



## UWI AID *for* HAITI

The University of the West Indies is inviting you to partner with us to help the Haitian people reclaim their country and rebuild their lives. We ask each of you to give what you can to help ensure the people of Haiti can build back stronger and better than ever. The best way you can help is to donate funds that will go directly to supplying these material needs. Please deposit your donations into the following bank accounts:

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### CAVE HILL

RBC Savings Account  
Nr 0945-2524239

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### MONA

NCB Savings Account  
Nr 404141538

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### ST AUGUSTINE

Republic Bank Chequing Acct  
Nr 160135528301

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### ANTIGUA

First Caribbean International Bank  
Acct Nr 106933692

UWI will work to provide immediate relief and long-term support to earthquake survivors. We will channel the collective goodwill of the global UWI community and the Caribbean Diaspora to help the people of Haiti rebuild their cities, their neighborhoods, and their families.

Any other suggestions you may have regarding other ways in which the UWI can assist would be most welcome. Suggestions can be sent to [vcoff@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:vcoff@uwimona.edu.jm).

UWI is pleased to coordinate the following programmes:

- International Relations presents HAITI: THE CRISIS AND BEYOND
- Professorial Inaugural Lecture by Professor Valerie Youssef
- UWI staff and students host "UWI for Haiti: A Solidarity Event"
- Institute of Gender and Development Studies aims to create Personal Hygiene Kits for the women of Haiti

YOU MAY ALSO DONATE  
TO THE IFRC ONLINE AT  
[WWW.IFRC.ORG](http://WWW.IFRC.ORG)

# Dental Students Outreach in Maracas



Professor Samuel Ramsewak

**The Rotary Club's** Dental Outreach in 2009 at the Maracas Presbyterian Primary School was a resounding success. Along with our Dental Instructors from the Child Dental Health Unit at UWI School of Dentistry, we the students from the class of 2010 embarked on this amazing journey.

We gathered our trusty oral hygiene instruction aids, posters, screening instruments and courage and piled into the maxi to travel to this far away land. This was our first outreach experience so we were utterly excited but equally nervous as children can be quite unpredictable. Our instructors, however, had total faith in us and had no fear that we would deliver our very best.

We arrived at the little inconspicuous location unaware that it even existed and oblivious to what was in store for us. Finally after much anticipation we met them, all eager faces staring up at us and immediately we embraced the task at hand, surprised, as we all instinctively became teachers.

The visit involved a clinical screening for caries, complete oral hygiene instructions and dietary advice. The proper brushing and flossing techniques were demonstrated as well as the action and use of fluoride mouthwash. A run-down of dental friendly foods was given as well as the detrimental effects of those much loved sugary snacks.

Our instructors screened each child in record time as we delivered as much information as possible to our pint-sized but precocious audience. Most of the kids were exuberant, few were shy but all were refreshingly receptive. They inspired us with their many questions, answers, volunteering to perform tasks and the endless posing for photographs. The children were also presented with a 'party bag' stocked with dental aids such as toothbrush, toothpaste and floss as a follow up to their dental education experience.

It was a grand affair, undoubtedly fulfilling for everyone involved, with lots of laughing, hugging and, of course, the learning. It has certainly left us with the desire to make a difference whenever, wherever and to whoever possible and to encourage our fellow students to jump at the opportunity to participate in any future dental outreach programmes to share in this great experience.

The outreach participants were Candice Cunningham, Darius Matmungal, Ryan Moosai-Maharaj, Kgalalelo Nkonyane, Sarah Ramsaroop, Arif Saqui, Sarika Sarpavarapu, Lindwe Siele all from the Class of 2010 and, of course, our instructors from the Child Dental Health Unit Dr. Naidu and Dr. Balkaran. ■

**SARAH RAMSAROOP**

## THE ECONOMICS OF ECOSYSTEMS

# Professor Agard focuses on the environment

**The Professorial** Inaugural Lecture of Professor John Agard on February 25th at the Learning Resource Centre, UWI St. Augustine focused on key, topical and somewhat controversial issues facing countries across the globe.

Professor Agard's lecture examined "Environment in Development: From Plantation Economy, Biodiversity Loss and Global Warming, Towards Sustainable Development." In the lecture he argued that the Plantation Economy Model of Caribbean economic structures and characteristics can be further elaborated by the inclusion of the environment as a provider of ecosystem services.

The Plantation Economy Model was developed by Professor Kari Polanyi Levitt and the late Dr Lloyd Best in the 1960s as a schematisation of global economics in which the relationship between the outside world and the plantation is characterised by the distinction between a metropole and a hinterland of exploitation. Professor Agard suggests that the hinterland of exploitation includes not only people and mineral resources but living nature and its services as well. This new eco-industrial characterisation of development could be a transition phase to a more sustainable development model. Examples were provided of approaches to mainstreaming environmental considerations into development and planning decisions at global, regional and local levels. These ranged from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the 4th Assessment of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change and UNEP's Global Environmental Outlook to EMA's Certificate of Environmental Clearance



**Professor John Agard, Professor of Tropical Island Ecology and Head of the UWI Department of Life Sciences**

Rules, as well as the Nariva Swamp Restoration and Carbon Sequestration Project.

Professor John B. R. Agard is Professor of Tropical Island Ecology and Head of the Department of Life Sciences at The University of the West Indies (UWI), Trinidad and Tobago. He is a former Chairman of the Environmental Management Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (EMA). He has served internationally as Lead Author in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2007, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He is currently a Lead Author in the European Union sponsored global assessment of "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity" (TEEB) project. Professor Agard also serves as a member of the US based, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Independent Advisory Group on Sustainability.

*For more information about Professor Agard's Lecture, please contact the Marketing and Communications Office at (868) 662 2002 Ext. 2013 or 2014.*



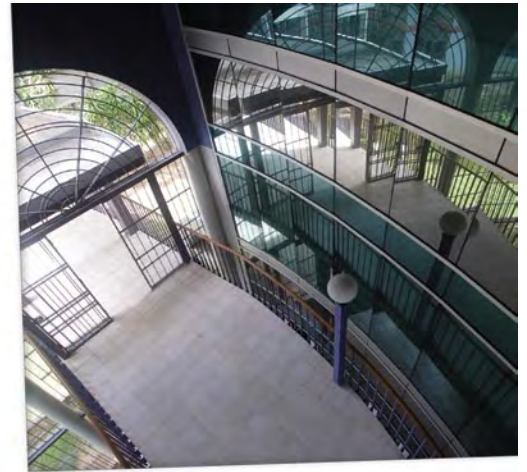
**(R-L) Professor Terence Seemungal, Chair of the Open Lectures Committee; Professor Dyer Narinesingh and Professor Clement Sankat**



# Unlocking



# Caribbean



# Potential

As the Caribbean's largest and longest-standing tertiary institution, **The University of the West Indies** is the recognised leader in scholarship.

Backed by a 60-year tradition of excellence, The UWI is a sought-after partner in the delivery of undergraduate and graduate programmes, and cutting-edge research.

Its community extends beyond the Caribbean to more than 100 international universities and colleges, and numerous regional and global partners and institutions.

“Internationally recognised as a centre of excellence on research and teaching related to the Caribbean.”

For further information please contact:

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Website: [www.sta.uwi.edu](http://www.sta.uwi.edu)



## UWI

ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS  
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

UWI is the primary source for teaching, research and expert advice on complex issues and challenges facing the region and international community such as:

Alternative Energy  
Biodiversity  
Biotechnology  
Business and Entrepreneurship  
Cultural Studies and Development  
Disaster Risk Reduction

Environmental Science  
Gender Equality  
Governance and Policy-making  
HIV/AIDS Prevention and Management  
Information and Communication Technology  
Justice and Security

Poverty Reduction/Eradication  
Public Health  
Small Island States  
Trade and Sustainable Economic Growth