



# STAN

APRIL-JULY 2011

## **SHANI MOOTOO**

Giselle Rampaul connects with the award winning author

## **ONE LOVE, ONE UNIVERSITY**

Desiree Seebaran talks with the UWI Student Guild President about politics and power sharing

## **mFISHERIES**

Anna Walcott-Hardy shares the landmark research being done by a dedicated team of UWI Engineers

## **COVER STAR WINNER**

Congrats to our UWI STAN cover photo star



# STAN

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES  
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

APRIL–JULY 2011



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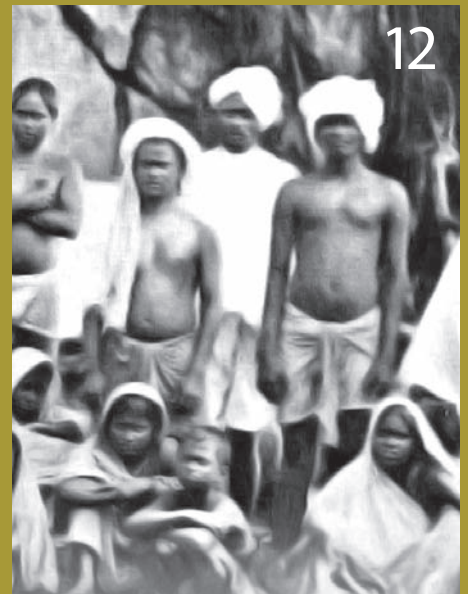
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### ON THE COVER:

Congratulations to UWI post graduate student, **SARAH BASS** for her creative image, 'You-We: The Canvas of Culture'. This engaging image has been selected by our judges as the top choice for the UWI STAN cover photo competition 2011. The photograph was taken at a Phagwa celebration in Kendra Village, Trinidad, "where a number of UWI students were present in participation of the celebration and the Calypso/Chutney performances". Sarah explained that " I thought it spoke poignantly to UWI's reach, and the immersion and influence of the student body in the

cultural expression of Trinidad and Tobago (as they extend beyond the physical boundaries of the university). Professor Aiyejina (Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Education) and UWI were even publicly acknowledged during the event, which further emphasizes this. This is what impressed me about the event, and what I sought to capture and convey in my photograph." Sarah will take home TT\$2,000 award courtesy Republic Bank Limited and a gift hamper, as the winner. It was not an easy choice for the judges to select from our numerous entries and if you would like to learn more about the annual competition and view some of the choices that gained honorable mention, please visit [www.sta.uwi.edu/stan](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/stan)



# Sailing to Byzantium

*THAT is no country for old men. The young  
In one another's arms, birds in the trees  
- Those dying generations - at their song,  
The salmon-falls, the mackerel-crowded seas,  
Fish, flesh, or fowl, commend all summer long  
Whatever is begotten, born, and dies.*

**W.B. Yeats**

*Sailing To Byzantium*

In 1926, the renowned Irish poet, W.B. Yeats wrote about the agony of ageing and the fight to contribute to the world both intellectually and socially while “fastened to a dying animal”. *Sailing to Byzantium* is a poem that everyone should read again and again, for it speaks of a spiritual journey towards existing, like a great work of art, in “the artifice of eternity”. In this state, the judicious poet would be able to interpret for us all “what is past, or passing, or to come.”

I believe that our journey at The St Augustine Campus is a prophetic, long and varied one, yet with persistence, dedication and a passion for discovery, one that will yield great results with far reaching benefits for the country and the Caribbean. Like the poet, this institution has grown and gained great wisdom over the years, from our simple beginnings as one faculty of seventy students, to our current count of five faculties with a sixth on the horizon, the Faculty of Law, and more than 17,000 students.

In these times of economic and social volatility, where generations are suffering before our eyes, we need more than ever to find ways to preserve and implement our research findings, to communicate effectively, share our wisdom and teach future generations. We need to fast-track the strides being made at UWI and this requires support from all our stakeholders.

As Campus Principal, these are issues that are of strategic importance in order to ensure that the UWI is well-positioned to maintain its preeminence as a regional tertiary institution. In the service of our country and region, we have already begun a process to review and reinvigorate the Campus' research

agenda, to develop specific multi-disciplinary clusters, enhance funding opportunities and alignment, explore increased partnerships with international funding agencies and the private sector and mentor young academic staff and students who will push the frontiers of intellectual curiosity.

The University of the West Indies St. Augustine Campus, has undertaken research in a wide range of disciplines ranging from tropical agriculture to engineering and the environment, humanities and education, the fine and performing arts, social sciences, medical sciences and law. With fifty years of extraordinary outreach, teaching and research under our belt, more than ever we need to move with great purpose towards establishing a new way of administering and coordinating new projects and joint initiatives, as well as sourcing funds to make these projects impactful and bountiful for the next fifty years and counting. We are working at developing more effective and creative ways to help our researchers, our scientists, artists, engineers and entrepreneurs, to analyse, reflect, create, test, restructure and reflect again. Research requires talent, capacity and passion which we have at our University, but it also requires patience, perseverance and funding. Moreover, it requires strategic partnerships to support effective application and knowledge transfer. Without this stakeholder support, knowledge transfer will not occur, but this is so important if we are to build successful, competitive societies. This is therefore, not only about the UWI, but about the future of our societies.

As a researcher for nearly 40 years in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, I have enjoyed developing a bagasse-based ruminant feed for the sugar industry, creating nutmeg crackers for the industry in Grenada, designing post-harvest systems for handling and storing the breadfruit, mango, papaya or the pomegranate for the benefit of Caribbean exporters and the design of drying systems for many crops. These among many other research and development projects have been rewarding experiences, but they have also led to the creation of new approaches and technologies



**Professor Clement Sankat**  
Pro-Vice Chancellor & Campus Principal

for a dynamic food and agriculture sector in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean. Like many in this field, this quest for new knowledge and its application, with the specific aim to reduce the travail and routine of manual labor, to develop new technologies, products and processes particularly in the field of food and agriculture, and to make these competitive, have been my passion.

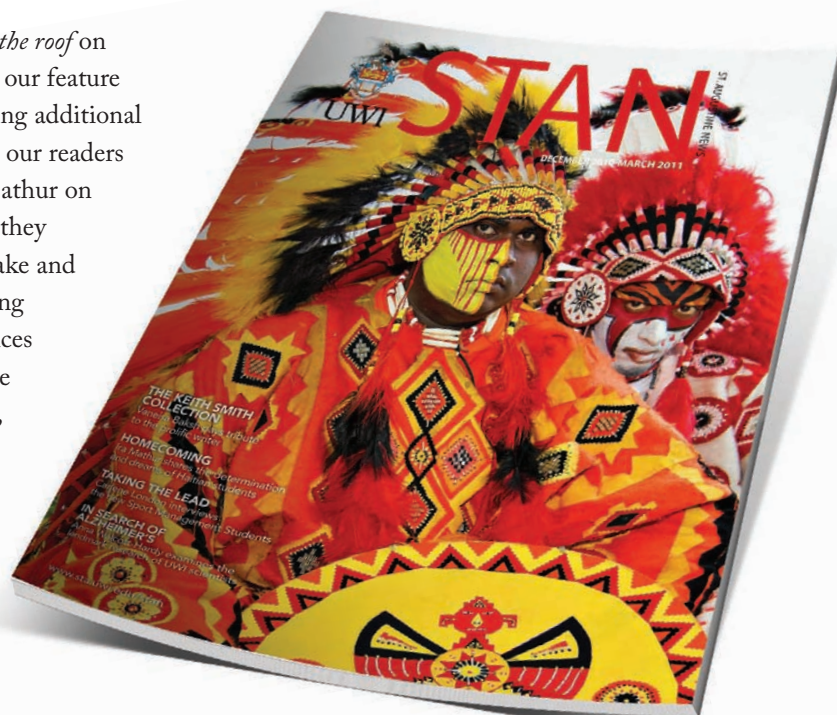
In this issue of UWI STAN you will read about the plethora of initiatives being undertaken as well as the launch of the publication “Decades of Research: UWI St. Augustine at 50”, which encapsulates the wealth of institutional research, intellectual engagement and scholarly activities of our professoriate.

Of course, over the past five decades, our Campus has gone through many changes – physically, demographically and even structurally, but our commitment to quality teaching, learning, graduate studies and research has remained constant. Our journey will reap rewards for generations to come as we gain a better understanding of “what is past, or passing, or to come”.

What we need now more than ever is profound reflection and a well-defined purpose that is anchored in meeting the needs of our community.

Enjoy! ■

**Our bumper 76- page** Carnival issue *raised the roof* on calls, email and facebook messages commending our feature writers, special event photographers and requesting additional copies. We greatly appreciate the feedback from our readers on several articles including the feature by Ira Mathur on the Haitian students studying at our Campus as they look back one year after the devastating earthquake and ahead to their hopes for change, the research being done by Doctors at the Faculty of Medical Sciences on Alzheimer's and Vaneisa Baksh's tribute to the prolific writer and former UWI Guild President, Keith Smith. The UWI STAN Photographer STAR competition also generated scores of entries that spoke to the creative talent of our staff and students. It was not an easy choice to select the winner of the grand \$2000 prize, but we did. **YOU CAN READ ALL ABOUT IT IN AUGUST IN STAN ONLINE.** ■



# UWI FACEBOOK

STAN COMMENTS



## HOMECOMING

I just read the article on the Haitian students. I LOVED IT!!!!  
**Krystle Samuel**



## IN SEARCH OF ALZHEIMER'S

Good luck on the breakthrough. This is an area that has hit my family and it is really a saddening and emotional experience. I welcome anything that will lead to early detection and possibly lead us to a probable cause.  
**Alicia Wells**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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## **OESH Seminar: Road Traffic Crashes in Trinidad and Tobago**

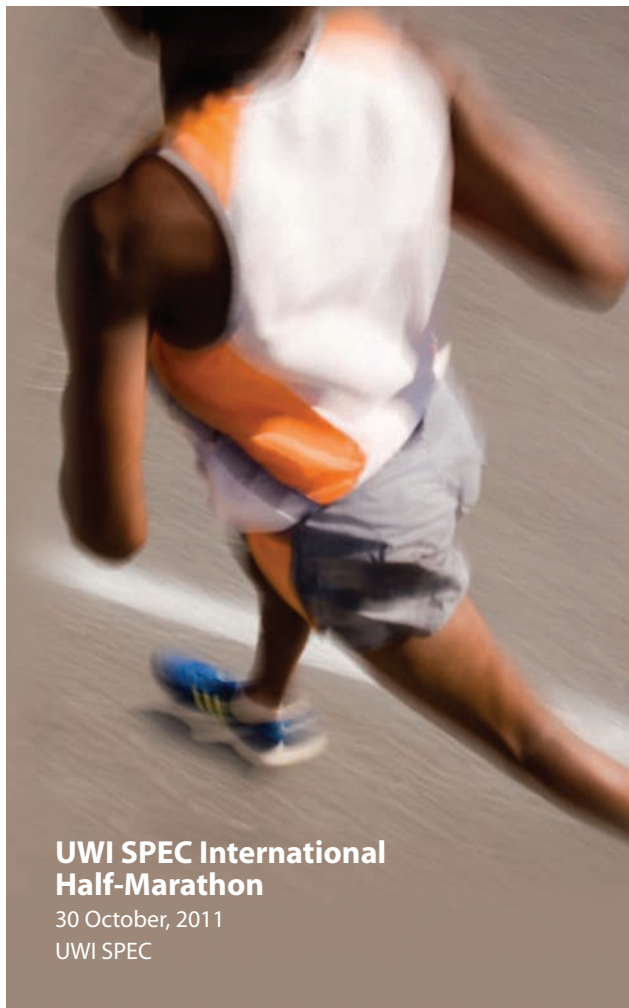
16 June, 2011

Hilton Trinidad & Conference Centre,  
Lady Young Road, Port of Spain, T&T

The Occupational Environmental Safety and Health (OESH) programme of the Department of Chemistry, hosts an OESH Seminar: Road Traffic Crashes in Trinidad and Tobago, on 16th June, 2011, from 8:30 am-1 pm, at the Hilton Hotel. This seminar aims to contribute to the improvement of the nation's roads by providing a historical account of road accidents in Trinidad and Tobago and a deep analysis of this phenomenon.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**please contact Ms. Wendy Lawrence at 662-2002  
ext. 83269, or via e-mail at Wendy.Lawrence@sta.uwi.edu**



## **UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon**

30 October, 2011  
UWI SPEC

## **4th Biennial International Business, Banking & Finance Conference**

22-24 June, 2011

Hilton Trinidad & Conference Centre,  
Lady Young Road, Port of Spain, T&T

The Department of Management Studies, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies and the Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance collaborate to host the 4th Biennial International Business, Banking & Finance Conference. Themed *"Restoring Business Confidence and Investments in the Caribbean,"* this conference is a forum for exchange of ideas on critical business, banking and financial issues facing the Caribbean region at this time. It will serve to bring together leaders of the local and regional business communities, governmental policy makers and international scholars and researchers.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**please contact the Conference Secretariat, SALISES,  
at 662-2002 Ext 82306, or via e-mail at bbf4@sta.uwi.edu**

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## **CTLPA 14th Annual Conference**

30 June-2 July, 2011

Learning Resource Centre  
The UWI St. Augustine

The Caribbean Tertiary Level Personnel Association (CTLPA) hosts its 14th Annual Conference from June 30th-July 2nd, 2011, at the Learning Resource Centre, UWI St. Augustine Campus. This conference is themed, "CTLPA: Bringing More to Student Learning and Professional Development in Higher Education."

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**please contact the CTLPA Headquarters,  
UWI Mona Campus, at (876) 824-1683**

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## **Discovery Camp 2011**

11-30 July and 8-27 August, 2011

Department of Creative and Festival Arts,  
Agostini Street  
The UWI St. Augustine

Arts-in-Action, the Applied Creative Arts Outreach Unit of the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA), hosts its annual Discovery Camp for children between the ages of five and 13. In keeping with the UN declaration of 2011 as the year for people of African descent, this year the theme will be "SARAKA!" The title itself marks a creative attempt at conceptualizing the idea of giving back/thanksgiving, while showcasing our local African heritage through the visual and performing arts. Campers will enjoy a camp experience inclusive of Mas making, storytelling, drama, folk-dancing, drumming and music workshops and performance. Weekly visits to the pool and field trips are included in the camp package.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**please contact Alicia Goddard, Camp Coordinator, at 663-0327  
or 663-2002 ext. 82377, or via e-mail at email@artsinaction.org**



## Orientation 2011 (Tentative)

15 August-15 September  
The UWI St. Augustine

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**Meet & Greet:** 15<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> August  
(for Non-Nationals, Regional/International)

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**Check In:** 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> August

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**Welcome Home** (Halls of Residence): 29<sup>th</sup> August-1<sup>st</sup> September

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**Faculty Open House** (All 5 Faculties): 29<sup>th</sup> August-1<sup>st</sup> September

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### Know Your Library (Library Orientation)

- International Relations Library: 30<sup>th</sup> August
- Medical Sciences Library: 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> September
- Alma Jordan Library: 5<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> September

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**UWI Life:** 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> September

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**UWI Guild Fest:** 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September

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### Postgraduate Workshops

- 8<sup>th</sup> September
- 13<sup>th</sup> September
- 14<sup>th</sup> September

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### The Paradigm Shift (Undergraduate and Postgraduate students)

- 10<sup>th</sup> September
- 13<sup>th</sup> September

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**Matriculation:** 15<sup>th</sup> September

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### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

please contact Jules Sobion at [Jules.Sobion@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Jules.Sobion@sta.uwi.edu)

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## 30th Annual West Indian Literature Conference

13-15 October, 2011

The UWI Department of Liberal Arts hosts the 30th Annual West Indian Literature Conference, themed "I Dream to Change the World": *Literature and Social Transformation*. This conference will take place from the 13th-15th October, 2011.

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### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

please contact Dr. Geraldine Skeete at [Geraldine.Skeete@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Geraldine.Skeete@sta.uwi.edu), or Dr. Giselle Rampaul at [Giselle.Rampaul@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Giselle.Rampaul@sta.uwi.edu)

## COTE 2011

5-8 October, 2011  
Learning Resource Centre  
The UWI St Augustine Campus

This year's Conference of the Economy (COTE 2011) pays tribute to Dr. Eric St. Cyr, a former Lecturer and Head of the Department of Economics. It will focus on the challenges facing regional economies as these seek to establish a path to sustainable growth and development in the existing volatile economic environment. COTE 2011 will highlight the key economic, and related developmental issues facing the region in this context.

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### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

please contact The Department of Economics at 662 2002 ext. 83231, 83582, or via e-mail at [uwi.cote@gmail.com](mailto:uwi.cote@gmail.com)

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## UWI St. Augustine Graduation 2011

27-29 October, 2011

SPEC

The UWI St Augustine Campus

Thursday 27th October, 2011:

- 10 am – STRICTLY for graduands of the Faculty of Science & Agriculture/Pure & Applied Sciences
- 4 pm – STRICTLY for graduands of the Faculties of Engineering & Law

Friday 28th October, 2011:

- 10 am – STRICTLY for Undergraduate graduands of the Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS) with surnames beginning with the letters A-L and graduands of the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business (ALJGSB)
- 4 pm – STRICTLY for FSS Undergraduate graduands with surnames beginning with the letters M-Z and Postgraduate graduands from the Departments of Management Studies, Economics, Behavioural Sciences, Institute of International Relations and Centre for Gender & Development Studies

Saturday 29th October, 2011:

- 10 am – STRICTLY for graduands of the Faculty of Humanities and Education
- 4 pm – STRICTLY for graduands of the Faculty of Medical Sciences

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### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

please contact Examinations at 662-2002 ext 82155 or 83008

# QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

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[UWI PEOPLE]

# out of the box

*By Anna Walcott-Hardy*

*"While working at a Department store on Charlotte Street, Port of Spain, she was inspired by the Pushcart merchants."*







# KRISTAL le blanc

**AGE**  
29

**HOMETOWN**  
Petit Bourg

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
Providence  
High School

**FAVOURITE  
PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Noel Norton  
Matthew Rolston

**From the age of seven** Kristal Le Blanc would doodle on whatever was handy, her choice of media can be called eclectic at best: using the red-clay stones that anyone growing up in North Trinidad would be familiar with, as well as more traditional ones from watercolour to coloured pencils.

But as she grew older, the teenager began to look at expanding her knowledge and training. At Providence High School she was inspired by her art teacher, Mrs De Souza. Then in August 2009 after working on a project at the National Library (NALIS) managing a database she fell in love with the work of celebrated photographer Noel P Norton.

“I fell in love with his work ...and then I saw that UWI had this photography, course so – why not take it?”

Looking back, she explained that she appreciated the UWI Visual Arts programme experience and felt profoundly inspired by her final year design project, a provocative piece - four chairs made from recycled material. To her the most interesting aspect was how others reacted to the piece.

She thrived at UWI, graduating with first class honors, but would like to see a greater emphasis on practical, real world training and perhaps over time a broadening of programme options.

“Honestly I think right now we need more diversity in the programme, it’s so theoretically based.”

Always looking to the future, her next step is applying to a Master’s degree programme in the USA where she can focus on Art Therapy, having a penchant for psychology and art.

“Art is missing in the curriculum [in Trinidad and Tobago] – art is just dying, in some degree it is flourishing but in other areas not... for the young, I would like to use art as an outlet for young people...I would like to help them.”

Last year she began documenting niche cultures in the city. While working at a Department store on Charlotte Street, Port of Spain, she was inspired by the Pushcart merchants.

“Charlotte Street is so colourful, I loved to see them *hussling*, pushing the carts; and I thought it was really interesting. Then I saw a documentary on Gayelle TV about the Pushcart Association and I asked [the street merchant members] if I could take their photos for my [UWI Photography project]. They are very hardworking, fascinating... they get up very early and work late.”

The photos, taken with a Nikon D 5000 camera, which was provided to students enrolled in the course by the University, were featured in the final year photography exhibit at the St. Augustine Campus. Kristal lives in Diego Martin now and has her eye on upgrading her point-and-shoot Nikon to perhaps a Leica. With the support of her family, her father is a company manager who also played the steel pan, while her mother is a primary school teacher, Kristal has her eye on the prize, helping our youth understand themselves and achieve their goals through art therapy. ■

# One Love, One University

Some describe the style of **Amilcar Sanatan** as Presidential, here he talks with Desiree Seebaran about tolerance, politics and being a Doubles specialist.

By *Desiree Seebaran*

**He won by 125 votes** in the March election.

“It was close,” he said, tumbling his trademark dreadlocks with his hand. He was often pigeonholed as ‘the dashiki man’ during the campaign. It was the first time he’d run for office.

For good reason, new UWI St Augustine Campus Student Guild President Amilcar Sanatan is not a fan of the “drama” surrounding Guild elections.

“There was a lot of negative stereotyping, which was the hardest. We all have certain competencies, but anyone can be President and we are all Guild members,” the 21-year-old explained. “We hope that everybody can feel a sense of being part of the Guild.”

Still, standing out for your differences can be a good thing. One campaign video shows Sanatan talking earnestly about servant leadership. The psychology major said that Rastafarianism and feminism are his personal political ideologies. And this has led to a radical approach to the management of the Guild. The Council has voted to have a male and female deputy on every single standing committee and Sanatan wants to see more non-nationals and women on the council. Maybe the combined effect of his African/Marxist first name and Hindu surname

have something to do with it, but Sanatan declared a passion for truth: in life and in Guild administration.

“As councilors, we can’t just talk about if the glass is half full; we also have a commitment to talk about if it’s half empty and even if the water brown!”

He went on to add that he doesn’t believe in the idea of self-serving partisan politics but, “I believe in all freedoms. You have the right to choose and have your opinions; but young people should attach themselves not to party politics but to the politics of contribution.”

“That’s why we’re using new technologies. We’ve invested in a Guild Blackberry PIN that can send broadcasts out; that should be launched in September. We’re on Twitter, Facebook, we use the digital signage provided by Marketing and Communications. So it’s a hyper-sensitive, hyper-visual approach to getting people out; and I believe the mobilisation has started. We saw a recognisable increase in the election turn out; it should be more, but that was a sign.”

Meanwhile, “our Guild”, as Sanatan puts it, is working on other student issues. The Council’s policy is to work with the University administration and one of its first goals is to help improve the efficiency and regularity of the shuttle service as

a crime prevention tactic. The Council is also allocating money to the Life and Labour Support, an initiative to assist pregnant students in need, with tangible and intangible support.

“We provide some help during the pregnancy as well as liaising with some administrative bodies to see if they can get extra time during exams and things like that,” the President said. “Women are the largest demographic on campus so we have to ensure that they occupy a special place.” He acknowledged that one term in office cannot fix all the problems that need solving, and that he is no one’s savior: “For those that believe one came already and is coming again, I won’t be the guy,” he joked. But he still believes that men and women will one day be treated as equals; that our society can be less violent; and that despite our differences, we can have understanding among us.

“Tolerance means that you can sit down in the same room with somebody and not like them, even make decisions against them. What understanding does is journey through the obstacles to engage each other as human beings.”

One of his personal goals as Guild President is to encourage all UWI Campus students to cultivate a regional outlook and look towards an identity as Caribbean people. Once students can



“Tolerance means that you can sit down in the same room with somebody and not like them, even make decisions against them.”

define themselves, they can be more effective citizens of the world. “When we go abroad,” Sanatan affirmed, “we must think that we are equally relevant.”

A self-proclaimed music lover, nerd, sports fan and vegetarian – “I’ve done curry tofu and mushrooms, and I’m a doubles specialist”; he also has a deep love of poetry and his passion for the art is evident in spoken-word offerings on and off campus. He was part of the UWE Speak open mic’ and helped found UWE TV. He’s not a *partier* but: “In Orientation I have added two more segments: a Reggae Night as well as a Rave night. I think all the girls like Junior Gong, regardless of race and class,” he grinned. His parents, both staff members at UWI, and his brothers Fidel and Marcus are also very important to him. They’re part of the reason that he won’t be running for office again. Ever.

“I have a life,” he said, smiling. “The Guild is my wife for now and I’m trying to stay committed. But I have to prove to myself and to the students that it was never about power; it was about being in a position to help.” ■



Student Guild President  
Amilcar Sanatan

# From Whence We Came

## The Research of Professor Brinsley Samaroo

By Desiree Seebaran

**For the last 40 years,** Professor Brinsley Samaroo has been T&T's foremost researcher on the history of Indian Diaspora. He's done everything from personally exploring our ancestral villages in Northern India to contextualizing photographs of indentured labourers in the Trinidad cane fields. But his life's work began as a desire to uncover a more personal history, while studying at the University of Delhi in India; and as a challenge accepted from an older historian. "From India, I went to the University of London where I found vast amounts of material but most of it had not been explored. And the only person who

knew that something existed was Eric Williams," Professor Samaroo explained. "He lamented that the area of the Indian Diaspora was very much neglected and he would have liked to see somebody work on it."

Having taken the lead of the former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Professor Samaroo discovered that Indians who migrated from India to countries like Fiji, Mauritius, Natal in South Africa and the Caribbean have a rich collective history that would need a lifetime of dedicated research to be examined. Over the decades, the Professor has documented

his prolific research, having published several books and papers, including *India in the Caribbean* which he co-edited with Professor David Dabydeen; and *The Making of the Indo-Caribbean Diaspora*, edited with Ann-Marie Bissessar.

Now retired from UWI and a senior research fellow at the University of Trinidad and Tobago, Professor Samaroo has organised seven conferences on East Indians in the Caribbean to date. The first conference was held in 1975 when he first joined The UWI St. Augustine faculty. And the last, entitled "The Global South Asian Diaspora in the 21st Century:



**"Up to 80 per cent** of those who came here, he said, were the poorest of their society, from the agricultural castes. They spoke Bhojpuri (not Hindi), ate the same foods now considered local Indian cuisine..."



Antecedents and Prospects”, was held this year in June and examined complex, diverse issues like leadership and power, gender relations, appearances in popular culture, media and religion.

The conferences have produced reams of published work that explain who the Indian emigrant was and how he/she shaped what the Indian Diasporic societies have become. It’s not surprising that significant historical themes and debates have been fuelled by the Conference presentations, like the ongoing discussion on whether or not the caste system exists in the Diaspora; the economic prosperity that Indians brought through their wide variety of skills and trades; and the differences between the Indian in India and the Indians of the Diaspora.

“The Indians of the Diaspora have become far more aggressive,” Professor Samaroo said. “People in India are much more philosophical; they think your fate is predetermined. Indians in the Diaspora don’t believe in that at all. So they make a very conscious effort to create their own lives and existences wherever they have gone, which they have done in a very proactive and aggressive way.”

“One of the contributions I have made is finding out why did they want to leave.” Poverty, oppression and degradation from the British were some of the push factors that Professor Samaroo found behind the Indians’ decision to indenture themselves. Up to 80 per cent of those who came here, he said, were the poorest of their society, from the agricultural castes. They spoke Bhojpuri (not Hindi), ate the same foods now considered local Indian cuisine, celebrated Ramleela, Hosay and Phagwa just as we do now and had names like ‘Ramkissoon’, ‘Rampersad’ or ‘Soomaroo’: the uncorrupted version of the professor’s surname, which translated means ‘someone born on Monday.’

**“One can say that by a process of natural selection, the bravest men and women decided that they were going to leave India. And wherever they have gone, they have prospered. But if you go back to India, to those very villages from whence we came, all the backwardness and the poverty remain.”**



**Professor Brinsley Samaroo**

But the triumph of the Diasporic Indian, according to Professor Samaroo, was and still is in his and her innovative spirit.

“One can say that by a process of natural selection, the bravest men and women decided that they were going to leave India. And wherever they have gone, they have prospered. But if you go back to India, to those very villages from whence we came, all the backwardness and the poverty remain. So we are lucky, despite the indignities of indentureship, to have escaped that society.” ■



Seepersad Bangar

**“The amount of years** I work here, the people I know, it’s like three-quarter of my life spent here, these habits hard to break.”

Seepersad Bangar, Foreman of the Grounds Section of The Division of Facilities Management, sees his time at UWI coming to an end. He has been honored at three long service award ceremonies and spent most of his life at the St Augustine Campus. Over the years he has been instrumental in ensuring that the lush grounds are well maintained and preparing the stage for major events.

The UWI Campus has its own take on the seasons- from orientation to graduation, studying to exams, even the sport fields have their defined annual activities and Seepersad Bangar has been part of it all. Even after all these years, with retirement fast approaching, he still remembers the day he began working at the St. Augustine Campus on 20th July 1970. The place has been like a second home to him.

# Bangar's Legacy

*By Anna Walcott-Hardy*

He began as a driver and labourer, working his way up the ranks to become Foreman. During those early years he worked with the Superintendent of Police and the Head of the Works department, Claude Mc Eachrane. He would see the Campus transform –more students, more buildings; he even explained that the Marketing and Communications Office was once “a home”.

UWI Grounds Supervisor, Division of Facilities Management, Noor Khan, spoke of his respect for Bangar with whom he’s worked for several years.

“Mr Bangar worked his way up from Labourer to the Foreman of the Grounds Section of The Division of Facilities Management, formerly Works Department, over a period of years.



He managed this in spite of having limited formal education. Therefore, his advancement through the ranks was due to his other attributes: he was always courteous, soft spoken and willing to embrace new challenges.”

In 1994, Bangar was appointed Acting Foreman and assumed the formal position of Foreman in 2002. Over the years he would experience the varying leadership styles of five Campus Principals: Professors Braithwaite, Richards, Bourne, Dr. Tewarie and the current Principal, Clement Sankat.

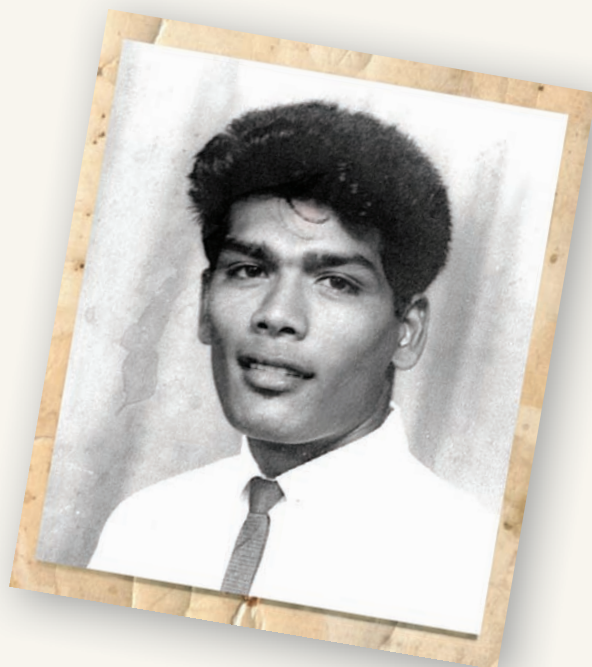
He had joined the UWI in an exciting era of change and expansion, when British lecturers and researchers were working alongside an increasing number of local lecturers and scientists. A decade earlier in 1960 the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture (ICTA) joined with the University College of the West Indies (UCWI) to form the St Augustine University Campus we know today.

What followed throughout the sixties and into the seventies was a period of rapid expansion with the College of Arts and Sciences as well as that of Agriculture and Engineering. It was also the time of student protests and national demonstrations, according to historian Professor Bridget Brereton this was a “turbulent period between the late 1960s and early 1980s.”

“Many marches and demos focused on the [Administration] building and its environs. In 1980, Principal Braithwaite was ‘besieged’ in his office by a large crowd of students, some of whom threw files and furniture around.”

Through it all Bangar has been known for having a calm, professional approach to his work. There’s no question – he will “miss

“Known now to his UWI friends as ‘Fo’, the shortened form of Foreman, he is no stranger to hard work and was industrious from an early age, leaving school as a young boy to work in the cane fields.”



the place”, even the extended hours- rising at dawn, leaving his home in Five Rivers to arrive at work at 6am and at times not returning until after midnight.

“This Campus I tell you, it’s real nice; we had more workers then, but now we have more machines.”

Tall, with an athletic build, Bangar has the look of those square-jawed gunslingers starring on screen in a Sunday Western matinee. He also has that unassuming yet direct manner of talking when he recalls the beauty of the Campus, especially the hulking Samaan trees, as well as the beauty of one of his favourite places, the JFK Quadrangle.

Known now to his UWI friends as ‘Fo’, the shortened form of Foreman, he is no stranger to hard work and was industrious from an early age, leaving school as a young boy to work in the cane fields.

“I used to work on Orange Grove Sugar Estate, something around 14, 15 years of age.”

Perhaps his talent in motivating and working with large teams came from being raised in a family of 12 children. There he learnt motivational, negotiating and leadership skills that kept him in good stead over the years. His strong work ethic probably came from his parents; his father Bangar Jangir, worked as a grounds foreman at a health facility in the fecund valley of Caura, Trinidad, while his mother, who still cooks daily at 87 years old, was a home-maker, who often joined the family planting and caring for the garden when they lived in El Dorado.

In those days the village “was like a family, you could not leave home and go to visit someone without taking something, whether it’s a mango or green fig.”

As a young man he loved *playing mas’* with the family in El Dorado, where he would help to create the metal headpieces and masks for the Carnival costumes. Sadly he lost a sibling at a young age and more recently a brother passed away, but he remains close to his family and can barely hide the pride he has for his wife of 45

## [UWI PEOPLE]

years, Dularie and their three daughters, Caroline, Cathleen and Cristin. Looking back at his life of 65 years, he is thankful for the friendships he has made at UWI and for those colleagues who helped inspire him along the way.

“A few persons I will miss a lot here: Mr. Noor Khan, a great man, always caring and he gives good advice; he’s always there for you. Also Mrs [Betty] Mc Comie, a great lady and the University Registrar Mr. Will Iton... there are a lot of them I will miss.”

“He had a positive attitude towards life and work and took enjoyment in both on a daily basis. He genuinely cared about The University, and its students and employees and this was evident in the care and pride he took in his job. Even when he disagreed on a work issue he voiced it in a calm and reasonable tone. He saw the workplace as an extension of his home, and saw his colleagues as his extended family, so he treated them all with the respect and attention they deserved. It was a pleasure working with him and having him as a friend,” Noor Khan explained recently.

At the close of the interview, as we stood outside of the Marketing and Communications Office, looking at the playing field and Administration Building, Bangar recalled that he gave some advice to colleagues in the Department - to recognize the importance of self-respect, professionalism and hard work.

“I never miss a day yet, never miss a punch.” ■

“His strong work ethic probably came from his parents; his father Bangar Jangir, worked as a grounds foreman at a health facility in the fecund valley of Caura, Trinidad, while his mother, who still cooks daily at 87 years old, was a home-maker, who often joined the family planting and caring for the garden when they lived in El Dorado.”







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# Reassembling the Fragments

**The Departments of Liberal Arts and History in the Faculty of Humanities, The University of the West Indies (UWI) will host a conference entitled, “Reassembling the Fragments” on August 25th–27th, 2011. The event, which honors three retired professors of the UWI, St. Augustine – Ian Robertson, Bridget Brereton and Barbara Lalla – Professors of Linguistics, History and Language and Literature respectively, will be held at the Centre for Language Learning (CLL) Auditorium, on the St Augustine Campus.**

The conference will provide a forum for scholars and practitioners to interrogate the body of work compiled by the three honorees over the years. It will aim to examine the socio-cultural contexts which framed and informed their endeavours, as well as evaluate the tangible outworking of their enquiries. Conference presentations will take the form of poster sessions, panel and round table discussions, performances, including dance, drama, music, oratory as well as demonstrations/exhibitions and workshops. Among the specially invited guests addressing the conference are David Trotman, Associate Professor at York University; Velma Pollard, retired Senior Lecturer at The UWI Mona Campus; and Lise Winer, Professor at McGill University. ■

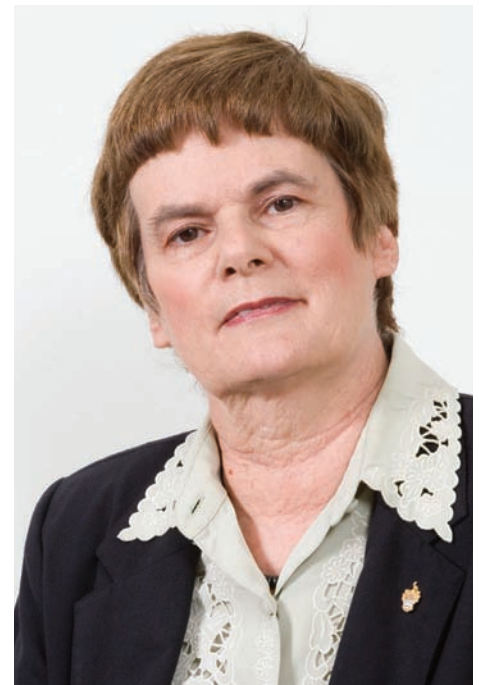
**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** on Reassembling the Fragments please call (868) 662-2002 Ext. 82031 or 84235.



Professor Barbara Lalla



Professor Ian Robertson



Professor Bridget Brereton



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# Shani Mootoo

**Dr. Giselle Rampaul**, coordinator and lecturer in the Department of Liberal Arts at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad, spoke with celebrated writer **Shani Mootoo** during the Campus' popular **Literature Week** in March. Mootoo's first collection of short fiction was published in 1993 to keen reviews. A multimedia visual artist and video-maker whose work has been exhibited internationally, her publications include "**Out On Main Street**" (1993), "**Cereus Blooms at Night**" (1996) and "**He Drown She in the Sea**" (2005). The Writer-In-Residence was born in Ireland, grew-up in Trinidad and currently lives in Canada. She is also well-respected for her forthright interviews and creativity in representing the rather less-than-obvious psychological complexities of Caribbean culture in her work. In this issue of **Connect**, she shares her views on returning home, the need for humility in perfecting the craft of writing and a connection with Nobel Laureate **V.S. Naipaul**.





[CONNECT]

**GISELLE RAMPAUL:** You've been a Writer in Residence elsewhere; how did it feel to be invited as a Writer in Residence in a place that you've grown up in, and a place you write so much about?

**SHANI MOOTOO:** Well, I didn't just grow up here—this is home, so it's been invited to be a Writer in Residence at home. You know, the subject matter of much of what I write has been the source of a lot of my 'outsiderness' in the family, in the extended family, in Trinidad as a whole. So you could imagine, then, being invited to come back and do this prestigious thing and to have had the kind of response at the readings! That was very moving for me. It even felt a little bit like that programme, "This is Your Life." There were so many accolades that I was very moved. Now the thing is that, in the last 35 years that I've been away, I have come back for five, seven days, ten days, not more than that. This is the first time I've come back for this length of time. I did not get to see until this time how much Trinidad has changed, or maybe how my understanding of Trinidad has changed. I grew in that time—certainly the place has grown in that time, too—so that there were bound to be changes, right? I was quite shocked by the realization that I could actually consider coming back and possibly living here part-time! So that was a highlight, I think, for me. But the other thing is the huge confusion now of this place that's not just a place I remember, I want to remember and write about, but it's a place that's just buzzing, bubbling with intellectual activity. So I'm attracted—very attracted to it.

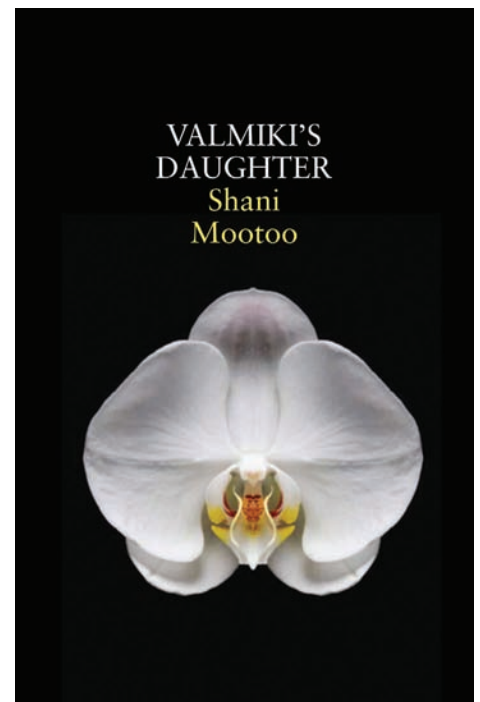
**GR:** On the back of *Valmiki's Daughter*, there's a quotation from *Globe and Mail* that says, "Shani Mootoo gives us a view of Trinidad that we have not had before." And in *Valmiki's Daughter*, Viveka talks about reading about ideas of

*Caribbeaness* from Caribbean canonical writers that she actually can't relate to. What do you see as your contribution to Caribbean Literature, and specifically to writing about Trinidad?

**SM:** I hope my contribution will be summed up by other people; it's not for me really to sum it up. I'm not outside of the work . . .

**GR:** So which Caribbean writer is most influential on your own writing, then, and why?

**SM:** Oh, wow! I am very, very keen on Naipaul, the writer; Naipaul, the man, is troublesome. But Naipaul, the writer, has influenced me in a lot of ways. Not necessarily about Trinidad—it's interesting. I mean, one of the books that I love is *India: A Million Mutinies Now* which I read before going to India and I was stunned at how compassionate this irascible man could have been and how diligent he was in trying to find out not what the India of the literary or the Bollywood or the middle or upper classes was like, but what the India that we tend to be terrified to associate with, the street India, the slum India—his diligence in arriving at some kind of fair truth. And when I went to India, to Bombay, many people there told me that they were so grateful for his book. It did not show anything dreadful, or anything grand—it just showed it. And there's a sparsity, an almost detached coolness, in his writing. And, yet, I do find that even though I like it, sometimes you love what you're unable to emulate. And it's not like you love it so you emulate it—sometimes it's just what it is. Except when he writes about women. Then I find his writing tends to go horribly cold or judgmental. Other than that, I find there's a coolness, that you have to read on for this amazing picture to come out of these words. For me, my tendency is to want to pile a great deal



“That writing is one’s passion is only part of the answer. But what is our role and our responsibility as a writer? The answer has to be stripped of a notion that includes ego or arrogance.”



into a single sentence so that a world is created in the sentence. For him, he has the confidence, I think, to use very calm, simple language—because a picture will emerge at the end. For me, I'm always nervous. I want a picture to be constantly emerging. So the funny thing is that while he is my favourite writer, it's not necessarily [because of] what he writes about Trinidad. And his views are another thing. Some of his views are very, very problematic. Still, there are books like *A Bend in the River* that—it has its own problems and so on—but the writing . . . he's good.

**GR:** Many writers feel that they have to distance themselves physically from a place to be able to write about it. What sort of perspective or vantage point does Canada give you?

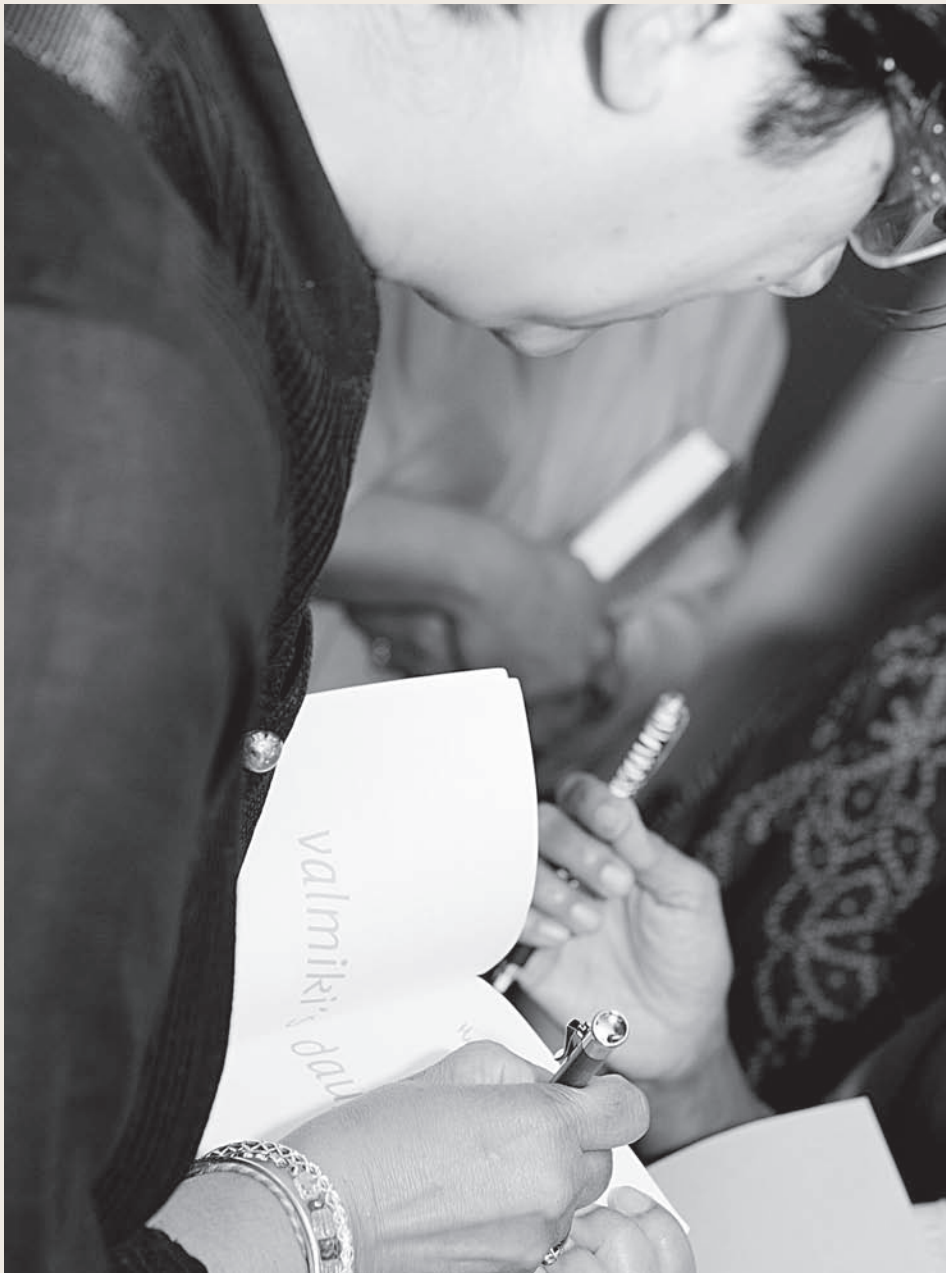
**SM:** I don't know that I can work here, I hardly got any work done. I mean, I think that's the thing—I think in order to work, I have to be away from it. Seriously. This is a place of experience. This is a place of activity, of sensory overload in a kind of way. It's just taking in, taking in. You're either elated or downright angry—you know, you're just like furious at something and you come home and if you write, it would be like diatribe, right? Because you're so angry. You're so elated that it would be really really bad poetry. So I think it's necessary to go away and let the dust of both elation and irritation settle, and understand and create stories out of it. Even if I were to write in Trinidad, I would need to have a foot outside, a foot that belongs outside. Not that steps outside, but that belongs outside. Because this place is seductive. I need the vantage point from which to be able to speak more unemotionally, or differently emotionally. The other thing—these all go hand in hand—is that when you're in a place, you develop loyalties, alliances, even friendships. It's a small place. When

you want to say something, something important, it can be compromised by friendships. So, as much as I am falling in love with so many things and people here, I think I need to be able to say what I want to say without fear of offending or without feeling that I am beholden to anyone so that I can't speak my truth. I think that the most important thing to me is—I don't believe that there is *a* truth, but there is one's truth and *my* truth—that is, if I can't speak my truth, I'm going to die. And it's one of the reasons that I felt that I needed to stay away because my own truth, I felt for many years, was compromised. Because there wasn't room for it. I feel, now, this trip has told me that there is

a lot of room. It's not entirely open but there is a lot of room. A couple years ago, I had a conversation with Vidya Naipaul, here in Trinidad, at my aunt's house—you know we're related, right? He's my grandmother's first cousin, but he's much younger than she is—he and my father are contemporaries and they lived together for some years at my great-grandfather's house. We have a very close relationship with his [Naipaul's] sister so at dinner at their house, just about ten of us, and we sat next to each other. It's an amazing thing to have sat next to him because when we were children, when he came here (he and Shiva) or if we were at Auntie Savi's [Naipaul's sister] house and they came to



“I am very, very keen on Naipaul, the writer; Naipaul, the man, is troublesome. But Naipaul, the writer, has influenced me in a lot of ways.”



“I think one of the responsibilities of the writer is to develop herself or himself as humbly as possible but as deeply and broadly as possible, and to question, but not to ever try to provide answers.”

visit, we were made to understand that he didn't like children. I knew from the time I was about ten that I wanted to be an artist or a writer or something like that. And the possibilities! There was Michael Anthony saying that it was possible to write about what you know, and there was Naipaul. Somebody in the family could step outside and be such a good writer that he's written about in papers outside of Trinidad. That was my understanding. And there were *books* with his name on it that that we could *hold* in our hands—quite amazing, right? But he had no idea that in his midst there was somebody like Neil Bissoondath, his nephew, and then there was me, and we were looking at him and going, “Oh my God!” What we were told was, “Be quiet, go away, Uncle Vido is working! Don't make any noise! Uncle Vido has to work.” That kind of thing. So, a couple years ago, I was able to tell him this and it was quite something! He said to me, “Why is it that you and Neil continue to always be writing about coconut trees and snow, coconut trees and snow? Why don't you just go away from what you know and write about elsewhere?” And some people say that's the mark of a true writer—when you can imagine to those heights or to those distances. And I did say to him, “But your first books were based here and, when you were finished, you stopped.” Possibly. Or maybe he wasn't finished and he just stopped—I don't know. But, for me, this trip has shown me that I have so far to go in writing. This is where my passion is. This is what I will write about. I was ten years old when I came to live with my family in this house, you know. This house was built for us when I was ten. Forty-four years ago. My parents'—my mother died in September—but this is my home.

**GR:** Identity is one of the major themes in your work that is often commented on. What do you think is the significance of story-telling to identity formation in relation to your characters and to your own role as a writer, as a story-teller?



**SM:** Well, for me, a successful story would be one that bears on how things actually really are. I find the ‘good Indian girl’ very unattractive for many reasons—mostly because she *appears*, on the surface, to be a canvas on which other people’s needs are drawn and there’s nothing interesting to me in that. I want to know what the person herself wants and dreams of and imagines the world to be—not just herself or her family, but the world. So that reserved Indian girl—she’s not reserved because she wants to be reserved. She was brought up to be reserved and brought up to serve a society, to serve a family and so on, right? So that’s a fact. And there is a history to that fact. A story that portrays her as she is is not interesting to me. A story that shows why she *might* be like that is more interesting. And that, to me, is the story. Why she is. Where she came from. That is why I found, in *Valmiki’s Daughter*, Viveka was basically going to repeat in a dreadful way, and then, I thought, she needs an out. And so it *looks* like she’s about to do the same thing—to get married. But, in fact, the marriage is an escape for her. Not an escape *into* that marriage, but marriage is an escape out of her situation to another thing from which she can get *out* of the marriage itself. So, to me, that’s what story-telling is about. I guess I start the story by something I’m provoked by. Not necessarily an incident. I’m very careful not to exploit actual stories, actual story-lines, or friends. Some of my friends get very nervous when I’m around because there’s the reputation that writers are epiphytes. So it’s not friends’ stories; it’s usually an emotional thing, something I’m really very deeply saddened by. It’s an emotional thing that troubles me and then I find a storyline. It’s not this thing that happened to this person—it’s this thing that happens with these kinds of people. It’s happened many times so I’m drawing on local—I don’t know if the word is ‘archetypes’—local kinds of archetypes. In general, the story has to

be something that’s repeatable, that has been repeated, I think. So, from that point of view, there’s a kind of truth—which is why I set it in San Fernando. I set out the promenade within the first 20 pages. You know it’s San Fernando. But then, at the same time, as you’re going along, you say, “But that’s inaccurate. That building is not there.” Although I want people to pay attention and say, “Okay, this is very possible,” I also don’t want it to be as if I’m telling tales on people or on a city.

**GR: Non-normative sexuality is another kind of identity you write about, and you write about it specifically in Trinidad. Why do you think these issues are important to discuss in Trinidad?**

**SM:** The contradiction begins at home, right? Where, Daddy, a long-time politician, was involved in trying to make prostitution legal for health reasons. He was trying to make abortion legal for health reasons. The whole capital punishment debate—he was one of the first people to put it on the table when he was in the senate sometime in the 1970s. And I remember things like... he and lawyers . . . he’s a doctor but several lawyers, people from Amnesty International—he used to head up the Caribbean Amnesty for a while—and there’d be meetings at the table here where they’d be writing letters and stuffing envelopes, and we would come as children . . . you’re seeing all this activity, right? All this civil rights activity happening right in the house. When there was a hanging, the night before the hanging or the days before, they would be up by the jail doing candlelight vigils and there’d be photographs of them trying to get a stay of execution for the prisoner. It so happens, my great-grandfather—the one he and Naipaul lived with—was murdered and his murderer was up for execution. And all the people were phoning Daddy and telling him, “Look, we’ll understand if

you don’t want to go up and walk around the jail with us. We’re not going to do it in support of you. We aren’t going to do it. *Don’t* do it.” People were phoning him up and saying, “You’re not expected to do this. This is your great grandfather.” And Daddy couldn’t understand that. And the next morning was a photograph of Daddy in the paper. He was the only one. Walking around the prison. With the candle. So this is the man you see, right? And then at home he says, “We can’t accept that you are a lesbian. We just cannot accept it.” So, on one hand, there’s this deep, deep, deep room for justice, and, on the other, “What would people say?” And a kind of parochialism. And, you know, sometimes, they say, *you* have to bring up your parents? Well . . . I think in many ways it was a struggle—them bringing us up; we bringing them up. To the point where my father and my partner are very close. Daddy’s changed so much. He’s changed so much. And now he will stand up for us. He cannot understand—now that he’s been faced with it and he’s had to think deeply about it—he can’t understand homophobia. From the time I was small—they say it takes one to know one, eh? So from the time I was small—I was seeing—even though there was no language for it when I was a child—that you recognize the same discomfort that you have in yourself in somebody else, but you can’t talk about it. Two girls down from you in class, there’s somebody else and you *know* that she’s the same as you, but you dare not speak about it. And then you go off, you leave—*because* of the father who has the broad worldview and so on, you get to leave, right? She’s not allowed to leave. She has to remain as the ‘good Indian girl.’ And she goes mad and ends up on Harris Promenade as a drunk—you know, like that girl in my novel.

## [CONNECT]

**GR:** Yes, Merle Bedi.

**SM:** And I get away. I get away because my parents allow me to go away and they want me to do something big, which is also to find myself. They're not sure that they want that I find the particular self I found but they want me to find . . . there is a contradiction in them as well, you understand? And this has happened over and over and over. You know how many gay men I know who are married? Those are the contradictions I am talking about. But the contradictions are lies as well. And they are lies—they are not white lies—they are lies that hurt wives. They are lies that hurt children. And I believe that when those kinds of lies are being told, that a society cannot advance. You cannot advance intellectually. I find the debate for capital punishment seems to me to have put the country back. Also, Colin Robinson and CAISO [Coalition Advocating for Inclusion of Sexual Orientation] . . . Colin, who I respect dearly—not dearly, I respect *bugely*—for what he and CAISO are doing. I take issue with him not wanting to put the issue of marriage on the table for discussion. I don't believe discussion should be shut down because it is only with being able to respond to ignorance—I know it would be *horrid!* I know the kinds of stupid comments that would come back, the arguments . . . Just at the university itself, I had a conversation with somebody who equated homosexuality with pedophilia and bestiality, right? So I can see the kinds of absolute ignorance always, for some reason, based on the Bible and I think incorrect readings of the Bible, to be honest. If you equate the debate with homosexuality and the Bible right now, you could equate slavery and the Bible a few hundred years ago and you'd say, "Oh, yes, slavery is absolutely the way it should go!" You know? I don't understand. Anyway, you see? You've touched a sore point there. I just went off. It's the first

time I can't remember what the question was.

**GR:** Related to your earlier point about archetypes, do you find it difficult to avoid stereotypical presentations of your characters in relation to normative and non-normative gender performance and sexuality?

**SM:** That's the task of writing, I think. It's not just getting a story out but every single line must be weighed in so many ways. Sometimes you depend on stereotypes for a shortcut if it's not so important. But you also have to be careful that in stereotyping, you don't stereotype permanently. You don't dig something deeper so if there is a stereotype of a gay man who *sashays* and so on, it's not because all gay men *sashay*—because all gay men don't. It's because he is very aware of what he's doing.

**GR:** So what are you working on next?

**SM:** I'm working on a novel. It is mostly set here. And it's a story about an old man here but it's being told by a white straight man from Toronto who comes to visit him. The old man was one of his parents at one time so it's a complicated family. It's a story about transitioning but it's very much set here. So you can imagine what this residency has done for that story. I had no idea that it would do that. I thought that I would be able to see the colour of the bird that sits on the telephone wire but it's way more than that.

**GR:** What is the most important piece of advice that you've found yourself giving to the MFA students you've been working with?

The students that I was working with kept wanting to deal with the words on paper but, after reading what they had on paper, what I saw was that they have a craft and they have subject-matter but they don't

have a big view that will affect the work in a much deeper way. So they write well but there are questions about why you write, what is your responsibility which comes into that. And how you develop a responsibility, to my mind, is not just in reading other authors but it's actually in thinking about issues broadly and deeply, and actually going out and living broadly and deeply, sort of like what Naipaul was suggesting I do (which I think I actually do!). If I am to judge from the students' work, I'd say it's still as it was when I was a kid—that the level of writing, storytelling, craftsmanship and so on is very, very high. But something deeper is lacking. Look at how many people we have writing who are very brilliant and how much creativity there is, here. That's good. As the Writer in Residence, I felt that there were issues off the paper that needed to be dealt with, and those issues tend to be about citizenship, responsibility, justice, and about the gray areas of life. That writing is one's passion is only part of the answer. But what is our role and our responsibility as a writer? The answer has to be stripped of a notion that includes ego or arrogance. I think one of the responsibilities of the writer is to develop herself or himself as humbly as possible but as deeply and broadly as possible, and to question, but not to ever try to provide answers. Rather it is to bring up questions as a challenge to herself and to her audience. But not to provide answers. . . .

**GR:** Thank so much for your time, Shani.

*During the UWI STAN Interview, Zahra Gordon of the Trinidad Express newspaper was also present and presented her questions.*

*An excerpt from the interview with Giselle Rampaul is reprinted here.*





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# mFisheries



A smart phone application suite developed by a team at UWI has far-reaching rewards for the Caribbean

*By Anna Walcott-Hardy*





**“Nobody in my family fish.** I went to school close to the sea and always wanted to fish.”

As a young boy growing up in Claxton Bay, Trinidad, Alliestier Suraj always dreamt of being a fisherman. Today at 43, he can boast of being a successful entrepreneur who has welcomed the mFisheries application suite developed by the Communication Systems Group in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at The University of the West Indies.

The team is cohesive, highly qualified and obviously inspired by the indomitable Dr. Kim Mallalieu, a Senior Lecturer in UWI’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering where she leads the academic, commercial and industrial outreach groups in Communications.

“The work I do is contextualized across many dimensions ... our focus is on poverty alleviation and intervention into poor livelihoods,” she explained in a recent interview.

This statement is undeniably true as the project seeks to improve the lives of fisherfolk in the region by enhancing communication. In fact, mFisheries is a suite of mobile applications developed for men and women working in the fisheries sector, from small scale fisher-folk, processors and retailers, to wholesalers and consumers. Through the use of a smart phone, users can get information on daily fish market prices and GPS navigation, there is also a compass, first aid companion, SOS emergency signal, to name just a few.

So far, the feedback has been extremely positive from the 49 fisherfolk involved in the project. This project seems to be breaking technological and social barriers since many of the fisherfolk who were not computer literate and never visited a university until the inception of the mFisheries, now boast

that they are smart-phone users engaged in this research project at The University of the West Indies. These fisherfolk are now equipped with the knowledge and skills to email fisheries-related photos using their smart phones while at sea. They feel that the TT\$500.00 conditional deposit for the phone, is minimal, when compared to the savings and convenience to be gained by using the mFisheries applications.

For Alliestier, who uses the banking method of fishing, the benefits are varied and far-reaching. He gets fish prices from two markets every day - Port-of-Spain and Orange Valley, which aids his marketing and distribution choices and saves both time and fuel. His favourite items are the customized calculator (designed with large numbers to suit users), compass and GPS “especially when the weather is bad”. A few years ago he was caught in a colossal storm at sea, and had to wait for more than hour “because of the low tide.” Hopefully, those days are over.

“I know the weather, the tide, I know how to move [after using the mFisheries smart mobile phone application] because certain days of the week the tide will change... The tide is up and down because the Port is not dredged – so the phone has the tides on it. So I leave home about 6am, check the tides the day before and I can even know next weeks’ tide.”

Over the years, he said there has been a definite decrease in the amount of fish caught daily, although on average on three or four days of fishing, he is still able to weigh-in with a sizeable catch of about 100-200 lbs. His main challenge is that once he is on his boat, far out in the Gulf of Paria, mobile service begins to deteriorate. But overall he is very pleased with the programme.

“It’s all about building something that in the future will be *conumerable*... it’s not about building a car and driving away... The objective was to create a model for research



**“mFisheries is a suite** of mobile applications developed for men and women working in the fisheries sector, from small scale fisher-folk, processors and retailers, to wholesalers and consumers...users can get information on daily fish market prices and GPS navigation, there is also a compass, first aid companion, SOS emergency signal, to name just a few.”

– [that would] nurture and engage communities in a real, in situ environment and see how technology in that context can be appropriately applied,” added Dr. Mallalieu, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), who over the years has won accolades from students and the administration for her teaching acumen and innovative research projects.

There is a definite synergy among team members Kevon Andrews, Ravi Deonarine, Candice Simonta-Dyer, Tremayne Flanders, Yudhistre Jonas, Mark Lessey, Amanda Suraj Candice Sankarsingh and Anil Ramnanan . As you enter the lab, you can feel the charge, the connection and dedication to the community and the project. The team visits their pilot communities frequently, and today, they are brainstorming ways to improve the applications within the objectives of this research project.

But what are the empirical questions that are central to the overall mFisheries research exercise? There are two key ones: How can the ubiquitous mobile phone be used to solve known inefficiencies in communications which impose unnecessary limitations in earning capacity and social development among low income Caribbean earners?

Secondly: “How can Caribbean capacity be built to engage communities of low income earners in order to collaboratively design, develop, deploy and evaluate applicable mobile solutions?”

An article on the mFisheries website explains that, “To a large extent, the m-Fisheries research project has arisen from the dearth of reliable and relevant quantitative and qualitative data regarding the small-scale fishing industry and ICT indicators on the usage and impact of mobile communication services on human and economic development in the low-income Caribbean. mFisheries applies and documents greater richness and uniformity in the gathering and analysis of empirical data. It also demonstrates application of the knowledge so gained, to the design, development and deployment of innovative mobile solutions for small scale fisher folk in Trinidad and Tobago”.

mFisheries is primarily funded by the **International Development Research Centre**, IDRC, under the umbrella of the Caribbean ICT Research Programme. Over a 2-year period, from November 2009 - October 2011, mFisheries has developed the “capacity in the Caribbean to pursue opportunities arising from the provision of innovative mobile-enabled services for its poor communities, and providing related empirical data and analysis to inform Caribbean policy and regulation. mFisheries focuses its attention on the small scale fisheries industry in the Caribbean, with particular emphasis on Trinidad and Tobago”.

Corporate sponsors have also come on-board .“Digicel has been fantastic in their support... it’s been a model in stakeholder relations,” Dr. Mallalieu added. She also recognizes BGT’s generous support with deep gratitude.

Similarly, collaboration with her alma mater, MIT, on both the technological (the server is located there) and creative side, has proven to be highly rewarding.

Moving from the specific to the general, we spoke of the challenges that scientific research has faced over the years, although the Caribbean has such a high proportion of intellectuals who have won international accolades. Her honesty was refreshing.

“Why are we in the Caribbean region so behind in scientific discoveries apart from funding issues? We obviously have intelligence...but we do not have a strong culture of research and recognizing the cost of research. It also relates to time and the time it takes to think, to reflect, to argue, to discard and think again but regional universities are challenged to support this cycle of exploration.”

“Our secondary school system is not good at nurturing playing, thinking and doing...it is largely barren and has created an abominable value system in which students are quite happy simply to do well in exams.”

Hopefully the knowledge, methodology and legacy of nurturing playing, thinking and doing that is so embedded in the strategies of the research team at sea and on land will also redound to the benefit of not only the fishing industry, but the region. ■



## mFisheries Team



**Kevon Andrews** is currently employed as a Development Engineer in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at The University of the West Indies. He has a B.Sc. in Electrical and Computer Engineering and an M.Sc., with Distinction, in Communication Systems from UWI. His current interest is in leveraging existing software and hardware to innovate mobile-based

solutions and participates as a mobile application developer in MIT's NextLab 2010, Mobile Innovation for Global Challenges. In 2009, he won an award from Red de Gobierno Electrónico de América Latina y El Caribe (RED GEALC) for a pilot SMS-based application, m-Community Skills Bank.



**Ravi Deonarine** is a Development Engineer II in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at The University of the West Indies. He has a BSc in Electrical and Computer Engineering and an MASc, with Distinction, in Communication Systems from UWI. Having 8 years of experience in developing web applications, he has produced ICT solutions for the local ccTLD registrar (the Trinidad

and Tobago Network Information Centre and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He also teaches Communication Systems related courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Ravi's development interests include mobile applications and ICT for education. His recently completed MASc project involved the application of Semantic Web technology to curriculum information management.



**Tremayne Flanders** is a Development Engineer in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, at The University of the West Indies. A computer science/ mathematics graduate of UWI, he has a rich set of practical experience in various ICT projects. Some of these include as the principal design architect in the re-engineering of the Ministry of Agriculture SALIS database, the developer of

mobile applications for farm data collection by the aforementioned ministry and the conceptual design of a data cleanup application at the Ministry of Finance. His most recent engagement has been the development of the "mFisheries Web" applications for online users. His immediate future goal is to pursue an MPhil. in Computer Science at UWI, with a research emphasis yet to be determined. He enjoys learning foreign languages, evident in his certification in Chinese and Spanish at the Centre for Language Learning, UWI.



**Yudhistre Jonas** is a final year Bachelor's student in Electrical & Computer Engineering at The University of the West Indies, UWI. With a keen interest in mobile phone technologies, he has shared the Teleios' 2010 Code Jam and MIT's NextLab 2010 Technology Innovation Awards. He has been a student developer in MIT's NextLab initiative since February 2010 and plans to continue until 2011.

He is currently working in UWI's summer employment programme to further develop his undergraduate project, a J2Me smart phone tracking application and Web utilities, with the view to building the Department's capacity to execute similar individual and group projects.



**Mark Lessey** graduated with first class honors in his undergraduate degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering and was recently awarded an MASc, majoring in Communication Systems, in Electrical and Computer Engineering from UWI. He is an Instructor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at The University of the West Indies. Prior to his engagement in the Department, he had six years of hands-on experience in broadband

and point-to-point wireless communication system design, implementation and management. His current research interests focus on the analysis and application of mobile services and technologies for improving the livelihoods of the underprivileged. A team player and communicator, Mark has studied Spanish to fluency, and has shared the honour of receiving MIT's NextLab Technology Innovation Award in May 2010.



**Kim Mallalieu**, a graduate of MIT and UCL, is a Senior Lecturer in UWI's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering where she leads the academic, commercial and industrial outreach groups in Communications. In these capacities, she builds partnerships between The UWI, various policy groups, universities and industry. Kim is a Fulbright fellow and the beneficiary of several other fellowships and international affiliations as well as the recipient of local

and international teaching awards. She has sat on a variety of technical and academic boards, at home and abroad, including the Board of the Trinidad and Tobago Telecommunications Authority and the Board of the International Journal of Electrical Engineering Education. Kim is the Principle Investigator in the Caribbean ICT Research Programme (Trinidad and Tobago) and the proud mother of three young sons.



**Candice Sankarsingh** graduated from The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine in 2001 with First Class Honours in French and Spanish. Quite the multi-disciplinarian, she served for 3 years as the Liaison Officer assigned to the Distance Learning Secretariat of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education prior to joining the team in November 2009. She has been involved in the development of communities of practice and the design of open educational resources

for the non-university tertiary education sector. Her research has focused on investigating potential frameworks for connecting learning access to human development with particular emphasis on marginalized communities. She has presented papers at the 5th Pan Commonwealth Forum for Open and Distance Learning held at the University of London as well as the E-learn Conference held in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009. She is the recipient of a Fulbright Foreign Student award and is presently pursuing a MSc. in Instructional Design Technology at Lehigh University.



**Candice Simonta-Dyer** is currently the Project Administrator and a Junior Researcher under the mFisheries component of the Caribbean ICT Research Programme, in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at The University of the West Indies. Candice has previously lead event coordination for the Caribbean Internet Forum (CIF) and Regional Dialogue on the Information Society (DIRSI), in addition to administering the MRP (Telecommunications) programme, which was an

online programme that consisted of students and teaching staff from various parts of the globe. Her academic background includes Management Information Systems and Public Sector Human Resource Management and she is currently in the final year of a BSc in Sociology with minors in Communication Studies and Psychology.

# HAITI: Picking Up





# The Pieces

By Yao Ramesar

**Film Director and UWI Lecturer, Yao Ramesar, has been recognized internationally for his discerning perspective of Caribbean people. Over the years he has been welcomed into our lives and captured the diversity and almost oxymoronic realities of the region. His "Sista-God" trilogy has been highly acclaimed at film festivals from Africa to Canada, while his work over the past 20 years, has inspired a new generation of filmmakers at UWI. His latest work looks to Haiti, uncovering the tragic beauty and sanguinity that lies deep within the Haitian psyche. Similarly, the UWI has been committed to the Haitian cause through a range of initiatives, from student exchange programmes to raising much needed funds and developing strategies for long-term rebuilding of the education sector. Inspired by the commitment of our lecturers, students, alumni and administrators, UWI STAN has been sharing these stories in each quarterly issue.**





I was directing a Mandarin/West Indian Creole language feature in Barbados when the earthquake struck Haiti. I remember sitting with water in my eyes at Wendy's establishment in Holetown, with David Rudder's "Haiti" playing on a loop and old *Bajan* men dazed by rum and the grim news. I thought about my friends in Haiti, if they had survived and what shape they might be in at this moment. After weathering so many storms over the past 500 years, now this? I felt stuck, on location, somewhere else – immobilized. I even questioned the lesser value of doing a Chinese co-production at that point in time. I decided then and there that the next feature I did would be in Haiti.

Later that year I began filming at UWI, St. Augustine, what would become "Haiti Bride" – with a Haitian exchange student, Tahina Vatel, draped in a wedding dress with a bridal veil from Yufe's in Tunapuna. We filmed the bride's "confessional" of her family's flight to New York from Haiti after the ousting of Aristide in 2004, where they settled until she met a Haitian man visiting the city....

A few months later I left for Haiti, ostensibly on an institutional partnering initiative with their Cine Institute in Jacmel. Once there, I *rendezvous'd* with Tahina to continue production alongside her "groom", a teacher named Lentz Durand who I met at the Cité Soleil Community School where Kwynn Johnson was conducting art workshops. Kwynn was a former film student of mine from CCFA, (now the Department of Creative and Festival Arts) UWI, St. Augustine, now pursuing practice-based research for a PhD in Cultural Studies at St. Augustine, her Haiti field trip, a study with the Rubble-artists in Jacmel. In fact the Haiti trip was replete with inter-locking UWI synergies – (UWI Professor) Clem Imbert and the Haitian students at St. Augustine; Jouvay Ayiti at the DCFA; International Office involvement et al.

Additionally, I took photos in Jacmel for the film, supposedly the groom's first pictures after getting his camera that was damaged in the earthquake back from repair in Miami.







It was of course a deeply emotional sojourn – the physical devastation of people and places in Port-au-Prince and in Leogane (the epicentre) was frankly indescribable. There were the ubiquitous amputees, the “luckier” ones trading right and left side shoes; the endless stream of trucks bearing rubble along the broken streets of Delmas; the dust and the hard ground. Tent city after tent city after tent city....

There was the bitter-sweetness of Old Year’s Night on the beach in Jacmel and Haitian Independence Day; Commemoration Day in front of the fractured Presidential Palace on January 12<sup>th</sup>, where the peoples’ theme song was “*C’est la vie*”.

And life was going on. In Haiti they say, “*If you are not moving, then you are sick*” ...and they mean *very* sick. Woman, man and child were constantly working, surviving in the midst of the rubble. With no visible “Government” in place, only a trickle of the pledged post-earthquake aid materializing and a cholera outbreak, Haitians were practically self-governing on a micro-level. Apart from the occasional “*manifestations*” complete with burning tires and traffic diversions born out of political rumours, I experienced no violence in Haiti. In Jacmel, I walked around the town, on the beach and in the tent city in the wee hours of the morning.







•28





What continued to flow forth was incredible creative art – particularly in Jacmel, with its great Carnival and *papier maché* carnival artists. With carnival cancelled after the earthquake, they were waiting on word of whether it would again be jettisoned this year because of the cholera outbreak.

I managed to send some photos I took of the *papier maché* masks to the Jouvay Ayiti mas' camp at DCFA while in Jacmel.

**"AND LIFE WAS GOING ON.** In Haiti they say, "If you are not moving, then you are sick"...and they mean very sick. Woman, man and child were constantly working, surviving in the midst of the rubble."





Finally, some notes I jotted while at the Cité Soleil Community School where I was understandably “banned” from filming. The children sang Haitian songs, Rihanna, Lucky Dube in the background while I wrote.

### *Blood From Stone*

*The chromed wings of a screaming iron bird flew mirrors over Cité Soleil this morning. A rooster winced through the rising dust, bowing its crown as its god sliced the smoke above the rubble.*

*Art classes have begun, but where are the pencils?*

*The Principal, sweating in full brown suit & tie in too-tight black polished plastic shoes, behind blue tarpaulin walls & under the old advertising banner ceiling, conjured up 11 new green pencils, 3 sharpeners & a plastic grocery bag for shavings; after a brief search of the compound.*

*The children all drew “their” houses neat & clean & without a crack, while ganja smoke from the home next door whispered in their nostrils – morning in Cité Soleil putting on a strong cologne.*

*Some still lie nearby in their improvised stone crypts, dispatched after a 35 second funeral service. The church clocks have frozen black hands on their fractured dials. The children draw their hands after they finish their imaginary houses – they all ask for black paint for this exercise. Each hand has five fingers, intact, no digits missing. Some have ornate rings. An old woman, selling coals, is standing outside, her brow a crumpled copybook page torn out, waiting for the right sentences to be written in its lines, with the dry ink of her charcoal sweat.*

*You have to have water inside you to sweat, much less to write.*

*Next to her is an amputee who’s saved some change for a shoe-shine for his one left shoe, of course at half the former price. He got it this morning a few blocks from the Palace – the Devil’s House – a broken wedding cake cracked like dry seeds in the teeth of a god; awaiting its newest occupant. Now back in Cité Soleil, his shoe is dusty again. Who dropped the wedding cake while the wedding party was on its way to the reception? Who smudged the icing? Are there more pebbles on the ground in Cité Soleil than stars in its skies, now that the solar panels are all “missing” from the aquamarine streetlights? One thing though, the dust cannot choke the gods. ■*



# Restoring Competitiveness and Growth in the Caribbean

by Ewart Williams



## WITH THE GREEK DEBT CRISIS IMPLODING

and over 100,000 jobs being lost monthly in the US, Caribbean economies are “still digging themselves out of the global crisis of 2008” explained **Ewart Williams**, Chairman of the UWI Campus Council, St. Augustine. The good news, continued the Governor of the Central

Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, is the robust growth of emerging markets in Asia and Latin America. To a highly attentive audience at the **Fourth Biennial International Business, Banking and Finance Conference** hosted by UWI, St. Augustine on June 22nd, Williams expanded on the way forward, the importance of regionalism and transforming difficulties into opportunities.

**Let me first of all** thank the organisers for inviting me to speak at this 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Business, Banking and Finance Conference. The organizers need to be commended for bringing together such an excellent group of academics and practitioners from the region and further afield to exchange views with us on - many hot-button economic issues. This forum is particularly timely since our Caribbean economies find themselves at

a critical inflection-point, with the legacy of the international financial crisis not yet behind us and with our region facing a global environment, which in many ways is markedly different from what obtained at the beginning of the last decade.

A few days ago in its mid-year World Economic Outlook assessment, the IMF warned that the global economy had run into a speed-bump arising from greater



(L-R) Dr. Shelton Nicholls, Deputy Governor, Research and Policy, Central Bank of Trinidad & Tobago; Mr. Ewart Williams, Governor, Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago; Mr. Richard P. Young, Managing Director, Scotiabank Trinidad and Tobago listen attentively to Wendell Adrian Mottley, Former Minister of Finance

than anticipated weakness in US economy and renewed financial volatility arising from concerns about the depth of fiscal challenges in the euro area periphery – particularly, the Greek debt problem. The good news is that emerging market economies in Asia and Latin America continue to experience robust growth. However the IMF warned about the risk of over-heating with inflation increasing at a faster rate than could be explained by rising commodity and food prices.

Our Caribbean economies are still digging themselves out of the global crisis of 2008 and unfortunately the recovery of the region is lagging behind that of other developing countries. This most recent slide is, however, part of a longer-term trend in which countries in the region have not been keeping pace with growth rates in emerging markets around the world.

According to the World Bank statistics, in 1980, the Caribbean's average per capita income was twice as high as the average for developing countries; today it is only a third higher. Countries in the region have been growing at an average rate of 2 per cent per year while small island states have been growing at an average rate of 3.6 per cent per year, roughly the average for the world economy.

Unfortunately, as we seek to reverse this trend and address the challenge of long-term viability, the region faces the reality that it has lost some comparative advantage at a time when the global economy has become less friendly. The following examples are worth noting:

First, the traditional preferences for bananas and sugar are now practically at an end and the region still finds itself unable to compete with lower-cost producers;

Second, foreign aid flows to the region (with the exception of Haiti) have all but dried up;

Third, while Caribbean tourism continues to be a viable brand, the region is facing stiffer competition from Asian destinations and will experience even greater competitive pressure when Cuba is fully opened up (as it could in the not too distant future); and

Fourth, the prospect of continued high unemployment in the US and the UK for the next two to three years will have implications for workers' remittances which are very important to some Caribbean economies.

### **“TECHNOLOGY PLAYED**

an important role in the take-off of Singapore, Cyprus, Mauritius and other successful small economies, by making business and government services more efficient. A concentrated focus on technological development will greatly facilitate business competitiveness in the region.”





(L-R) Prof. Clement Sankat, PVC & Campus Principal, The UWI St. Augustine; The Honourable Errol Mc Leod, Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development and Mr. Hollis Nicholas, Director, Department of Human Resources, The UWI, St. Augustine

To add to these exogenous factors, most countries in the region already have unsustainably high debt burdens, which limit the extent to which government spending could lead the recovery.

It is tempting to argue that Trinidad and Tobago represents a variation of this theme, given our energy resources, our stronger public finances and our much lower public debt burden which gives us more room to manoeuvre. We should be careful however of pushing that argument too far since (i) our proven energy reserves are fast dwindling (though some experts think that prospects for new discoveries are high); and (ii) our fiscal space is being steadily consumed, the more the private sector activity remains subdued and government steps in to lead the recovery.

While public sector indebtedness is still at a comfortable level, it too is increasing because of our recent deficits and to meet the high cost of the CLF/CLICO bailout.

Let me illustrate how it is easy to mis-read our good fortune. In the period 2002-2006, real GDP increased at an annual rate of close to 10 per cent based on an annual growth of 16.7 per cent in the energy sector and 5.6 per cent per year in the non-energy sector. Energy sector growth was based on higher oil production and on the expansion of the downstream production capacity - particularly Atlantic LNG Trains 2, 3 and the M5000 Methanol plant. The current prospects are for a continued decline in oil production (until there are new finds) and except for planned Melamine plant

(the AUM), no significant increase in downstream capacity is envisaged over the next few years. This would imply that energy sector growth would revert to lower, more sustainable levels leaving the non-energy sector to carry more of the medium-term growth burden. This makes a credible diversification strategy not merely a desirable policy option but an urgent necessity.

The bottom line is that the entire region needs to embark on a new private-sector-led growth strategy to ensure medium-term economic viability.

Clearly, each country in the Caribbean faces its unique challenges and needs to develop its own agenda to spur private sector investment. For example, the



(R-L) Prof. Clement Sankat, PVC & Campus Principal, The UWI, St. Augustine; Prof. Patrick Watson, Director, SALISES, The UWI, St. Augustine as well as Dr. Jean Ramjohn-Richards listen attentively to His Excellency President Prof. George Maxwell Richards

### **“PROFESSOR SANKAT COULD TESTIFY**

that in our university councils, we are at pains to underscore the importance of keeping UWI a regional university. Regionalism is even more important in our economic sphere and deeper regional integration is absolutely critical for our economic survival.”

## [CONFERENCES]

pre-conditions for attracting investment in the extractive industries in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Suriname are different from the steps that are needed to promote investment in the on-shore sectors. And these are different from what is needed to promote tourism investment in Barbados or in the OECS. There are however some common challenges and some common approaches which are worthy of consideration by all the countries in the region.

One challenge faced by the entire region is the need to reverse the decline in productivity and competitiveness which has occurred in recent years. The most egregious example of our competitive disadvantage is the banana industry, where the yields of our major producers – St. Lucia, Jamaica or Dominica – range between 20 – 25 per cent of the most efficient Latin American producers. But there are numerous other examples. For example the 2011 Doing Business Report (published by the World Bank and IFC) ranks 183 countries in terms of their business facilitation environment. Among all countries, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago – the two largest CARICOM members – were ranked 81st and 97th, respectively. Suriname was ranked 161st. For the sub-category “registering property” and eleven of the thirteen countries had a ranking greater than 105 for the sub-category “closing a business” and five of our CARICOM countries tied for the lowest ranking in the world.

The Global Competitive Index for 2010-2011 shows Barbados ranked at 43rd and the rest of the Caribbean ranked between 84th (Trinidad and Tobago) and 110th among 139 countries.

One explanation for our lack of competitive edge is the fact that the Caribbean is lagging behind in terms of access to and the cost of information

technology. In 2008, it was estimated that broadband penetration in the region was below 8 per cent compared with over 30 per cent in OECD countries. World Bank data also indicate that the cost of broadband services in the region is close to three times the price in the US and seven times the price in the UK.

Technology played an important role in the take-off of Singapore, Cyprus, Mauritius and other successful small economies, by making business and government services more efficient. A concentrated focus on technological development will greatly facilitate business competitiveness in the region.

In addition to business facilitation, regional governments could contribute to the resurgence of the private sector through disciplined fiscal management of the public finances. And this has many aspects. Obviously, one important aspect is avoiding sizeable fiscal deficits so as not to crowd out the private sector and to contain public debt burdens.

Good public sector management also implies allocating sufficient resources to infrastructural development, education and health – areas that are critical for private sector development. In many cases, a business-friendly government expenditure policy could imply difficult socio-political trade-offs involving expenditures on subsidies and transfers. We in Trinidad and Tobago need to be careful how we make those choices. As I noted earlier, several countries in the region already have excessive debt burdens which force expenditure adjustments to fall disproportionately on critical public investment.

Professor Sankat could testify that in our university councils, we are at pains to underscore the importance of keeping UWI a regional university. Regionalism

is even more important in our economic sphere and deeper regional integration is absolutely critical for our economic survival.

In delivering the William Demas Memorial Lecture last month, the Managing Director of the World Bank put her finger on this delicate issue which we are refusing to face squarely:

*“From my experience in Africa, (she said), I appreciate very well the sensitivities around deeper integration. At first glance, it might well seem that whatever one country wins, another loses. Free movement of people, for instance has created concerns in all regions that are seeking deeper integration. But regional integration is the only viable way to create scale for your economies.”*

We absolutely need to move beyond pious statements and seriously pursue what C. Y Thomas calls a model of “open regionalism”, based on an outward-looking market-oriented framework in which the private sector is expected to take the lead. In addition to the liberalization of trade in goods and services, this model involves the free movement of labour and capital, a regional strategic sectoral plan, the adoption of a harmonized investment code and the development of a regional capital market.



**Dr. Warren Smith, President,  
Caribbean Development Bank**





(L-R) Senator the Honourable Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie shares a moment with Senator the Honourable Timothy Hamel-Smith, President of the Senate and Mrs. Hamel-Smith

Greater integration along these lines could be a critical input in improving competitiveness. For example:

- labour mobility within the region has the potential to improve skills and wage arbitrage;
- co-ordinated investment promotion could make the region more attractive for foreign investment and reduce the fiscal cost attached to expensive and sometimes wasteful tax concessions; and
- regional planning could facilitate the exploitation of production integration opportunities, through clusters of economic activities.

The integration model also presents opportunities for joint marketing in extra-regional markets, joint research and development, and joint purchasing arrangements.

If the focus of our regional development strategy is the private sector, the sector would need to undergo a cultural re-orientation. Foreign direct investment to the region has been on a steady decline

over the past several years. While policy changes may help to reverse this decline, countries should also think about diversifying their targets for investment promotion. With the BRICs registering the fastest growth in the global economy they must be potential sources of foreign direct investment. So also must be Brazil.

Some people feel though that our domestic private sector needs to be more aggressive, to get beyond their comfort zone, and to be more prepared to take risks. This is of utmost importance since the country is depending on our entrepreneurs to expand, create jobs and contribute to the general welfare.

In this latter context there is a case for targeted partnerships between the private sector and government to enhance international competitiveness, to identify and promote opportunities for greater economic diversification and to develop new export markets. These partnerships should also incorporate tertiary educational institutions that must be at the centre of our efforts to promote research and development.

**“THE MOST EGREGIOUS EXAMPLE** of our competitive disadvantage is the banana industry, where the yields of our major producers – St. Lucia, Jamaica or Dominica - range between 20 – 25 per cent of the most efficient Latin American producers.”

Unfortunately, I have spent all my time outlining the many challenges that the Caribbean economies face in their quest for sustainable growth over the medium-term. But these challenges are not destiny and difficulties can become opportunities for change. Our region is at a cross-road of opportunity where the right combination of leadership, vision and commitment is needed to overcome a plethora of challenges. I am convinced that closer regional integration must be part of the solution and then we would need partnerships between the public and private sectors and other stakeholders including labour and our tertiary education.

We absolutely need all hands on deck to make this work.

*Thank you.* ■

## SRC launches Global Earthquake Model

The devastation caused by earthquakes in Japan, New Zealand and Haiti over the past two years have made the launch of Global Earthquake Model (GEM) an invaluable initiative welcomed by scientists and the public alike. The UWI Seismic Research Centre (SRC) in collaboration with the Global Earthquake Model (GEM) Foundation officially joined forces in the promotion of Global Earthquake Model vision in the Caribbean in January 2011. The UWI workshop was the next step.

Over three days, participants from across the region were introduced to the GEM goals and discussions held to establish

a strategy for achieving them. Through this interaction, it is hoped that gaps in existing knowledge in the Caribbean regarding earthquake hazard, vulnerability and earthquake risk can be identified and the necessary research prioritized in order to make full use of the GEM software and tools in the Caribbean region.

Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, Senator The Honourable Minister Fazal Karim, delivered the feature address at the opening ceremony during which he declared his support for the initiative given the Caribbean's vulnerability to natural hazards such as earthquakes, which continue to undermine the region's efforts to attain sustainable development. "We welcome the launching of this GEM Caribbean Regional Programme which

will bring together all the key stakeholders in the region to develop a strategy for achieving GEM's goals within the Caribbean."

While the knowledge and expertise required for developing tools to calculate earthquake hazard and risk exists, the low occurrence of earthquakes in any one country or region renders it difficult to test the efficiency of these tools. Dr. Rui Pinho, Secretary General of the GEM Foundation noted that this was clearly illustrated in recent earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand where, despite advanced seismic risk assessment systems in those countries the models still did not cater for a correct estimation of the likely intensity of the earthquakes that occurred.

"We urgently need a trans-national dialogue to discuss and vet our different ideas and approaches as only through such global testing will we learn what methods are superior and only through a shared standard set of tools will we be able to exchange ideas, results and approaches and ultimately mitigate seismic risk to which the world is exposed."

The Global Earthquake Model (GEM) was launched with assistance from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) at the beginning of 2009 and is a global collaborative effort that brings together state-of-the-art science, national, regional and international organisations and individuals aimed at the establishment of uniform and open standards for calculating and communicating earthquake risk worldwide. ■

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** on the GEM Workshop and initiative, please contact the UWI Seismic Research Centre at 868-662-4659 ext. 823 or visit <http://uwiseismic.com/General.aspx?id=91>.





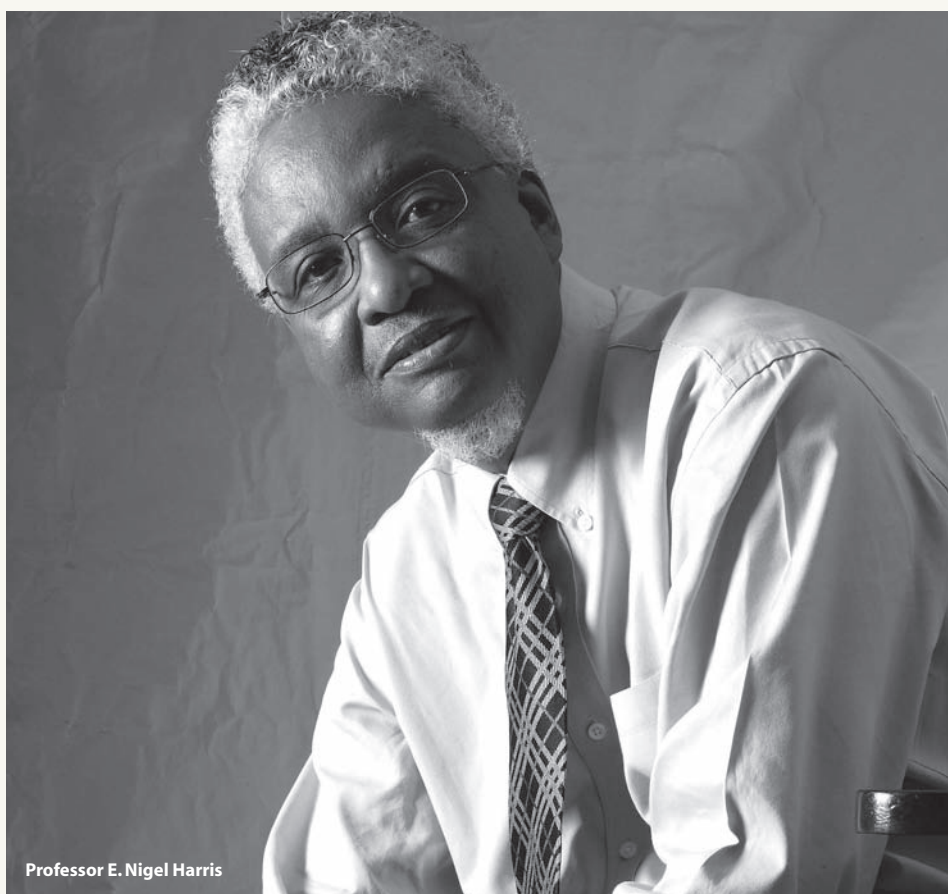
## New ACU Chairman

**UWI Vice Chancellor**, Professor E. Nigel Harris has been named the new Chairman of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU). The ACU announced Professor Harris' election following meetings in Hong Kong jointly hosted by leading Chinese universities; the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Open University of Hong Kong on April 5, 2011.

Established in 1913, the ACU is the oldest and one of the most prestigious inter-university networks in the world. Professor Harris who served as the Association's Vice Chair for the past two years succeeds Dr. Theuns Eloff, Vice-Chancellor of North-West University, South Africa and will serve as Chairman for a two year term. During his tenure the Association will celebrate its centenary and Professor Harris will also take the lead in the implementation of the Association's strategic plan 2008-2013 'Preparing for a Second Century'.

On his appointment, Prof. Harris remarked that, "This represents an excellent opportunity to enhance the global visibility of The University of the West Indies and to highlight that despite limited resources, West Indian governments and people have built an institution which is making its mark internationally".

The ACU's mission is to contribute to the provision of excellent higher education for the benefit of all people throughout the Commonwealth. In keeping with the Association's mission Professor Harris also noted that "burgeoning new technologies which are revolutionizing the tertiary education sector make it an opportune time to be at the forefront of discussions.



Professor E. Nigel Harris

Further, in a global economic climate where governments are providing less funding for universities, we are mandated to develop novel coping strategies while increased demands for accountability are also calling for research to translate more effectively into tangible societal benefits. In the face of these demands, coupled with competition from new types of private universities, the traditional Commonwealth Universities represented by the ACU are strategically working toward improving services and meeting new types of needs".

In March 2010, Professor Harris was elected President of the Association of Universities and Research Institutions of the Caribbean (UNICA); a voluntary regional organization which like the ACU, fosters cooperation among the higher education institutions in the Caribbean. Professor Harris received his B.S. degree

in Chemistry (Phi Beta Kappa honors) from Howard University in 1968, Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) degree in Biochemistry from Yale University (1973) and M.D. (with Honors) from the University of Pennsylvania (1977). After completing his M.D. degree, he went on to The University of the West Indies at Mona in Jamaica, where he completed a residency in internal medicine, receiving a D.M. (Doctor of Medicine) in 1981. Subsequently, he attended the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital in London, England on a fellowship. It was at the Hammersmith Hospital, in collaboration with Dr. Azzudin Gharavi and Dr. Graham Hughes that he devised the anticardiolipin test, which is now used widely in the world today for the diagnosis of an auto immune disorder, named the "Antiphospholipid Syndrome" ■

## UWI hosts 14th Annual CTLPA Conference

**The UWI St. Augustine** Campus recently hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Caribbean Tertiary Level Personnel Association (CTLPA), from 30<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2011, at the Learning Resource Centre, UWI St. Augustine.

The CTLPA is a professional organization that seeks primarily to foster the timely development of a student-centred culture in tertiary level educational institutions across the Caribbean. It facilitates learning, development and professional advancement for student services personnel by networking with these professionals to enhance their roles as educators and encourage the highest levels of professionalism.

Themed, “CTLPA: Bringing More to Student Learning and Professional Development in Higher Education,” the conference fostered student learning and development, examined related theories and showcased best practices.

The Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, delivered the keynote address in which he spoke on the importance of education to the development of the country and region.

“Ideally, therefore, our education system in the Caribbean should mould the kind of individual who possesses the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for active participation in life, and underscore the role of education in enriching human experience and the development of that Ideal Caribbean Person. It must however, go beyond academic competitiveness

and give greater emphasis to the role of education in fulfilling human potential, preserving cultural values and promoting social cohesion.”

In addition to presentations, the three-day conference included a panel discussion on “Approaches to Professional Advancement,” and a round-table discussion on “ACPA’s Strategic Initiatives on Globalization.” Also Dr. Heidi Levine, President of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) and Dean of Students at Cornell College Mt. Vernon, Iowa, examined “How Student Affairs Brings More to Student Learning.” ■

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

please contact Mr. Chandar Gupta Supersad at (868) 662-2002 ext. 82360, or via e-mail at [chandar.supersad@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:chandar.supersad@sta.uwi.edu).

## Seven to receive UWI Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence

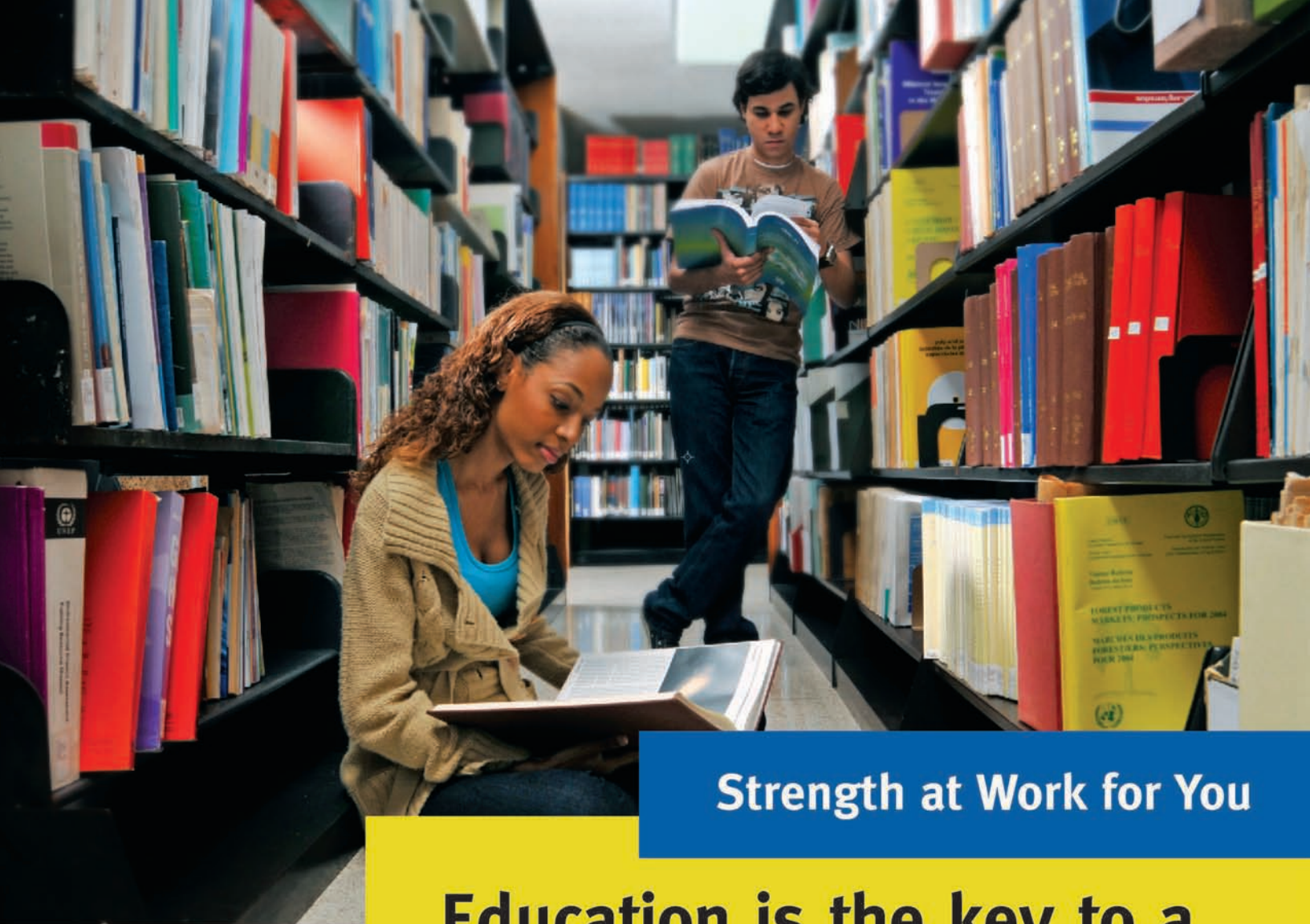
**The University** of the West Indies will recognize the outstanding contributions of seven members of staff at its 2011 Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence on October 5, 2011 at the St. Augustine Campus. Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris will present the prestigious awards to this year’s recipients Professors Kathleen Coard, Minerva Thame, Anthony Clayton and Mrs Eda Martin of the Mona Campus; Dr. Anna-May Edwards-Henry and Professor Vijay Narayansingh, St. Augustine Campus, and Professor Julie Meeks Gardner of the Open Campus.

Professor of Pathology, Kathleen Coard will receive the award for Teaching while two awards each will be presented in the categories Research Accomplishments and Service to the University Community.

Awardees in the Research category are Professor Minerva Thame, Head, Department of Child Health, Mona, and Professor Vijay Narayansingh of the Department of Surgery, St. Augustine, while Dr. Anna-May Henry, Director of the Instructional Development Unit at St. Augustine and Mrs. Eda Martin, Manager Customer Service, Office of Finance, Mona will be recognized for outstanding service to the University. Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development, Professor Anthony Clayton will be awarded in the category Public Service and Professor Julie Meeks-Gardner who heads the Open Campus’ Caribbean Child Development Centre will receive the award for All-round Performance in two categories: Research Accomplishments and Public Service.

Professor Kathleen Coard is the first female graduate of The UWI’s Medical DM (Pathology) programme to become a Professor of Pathology. She has been attached to UWI as a Lecturer in Pathology since 1984, is a founding member of the Jamaica branch of Teaching Improvement Project Systems (TIPS), a former Chair of the Department of Pathology Examination Review Committee and is Chief Editor for the end of module Final Examination Papers for BMedSci and MBBS students in the Faculty of Medical Sciences. She has participated in numerous professional workshops on curriculum development, and conducted staff training workshops with TIPS and the Instructional Development Unit. Professor Coard has over 60 publications in internationally recognized journals. Her research is dedicated to the understanding and treating of prostate cancer and soft tissue tumours and she has received more than six medical awards, including the Jamaica Medical Foundation award in 2009 for outstanding achievement in the fields of





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**RBC Royal Bank**



Professor Julie Meeks Gardner

pathology and research. Professor Coard was also the winner of the Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Award for Excellence (ANSCAFE) in 2010 and is currently President of the Jamaican Association of Clinical Pathologists (JACP).

An esteemed surgeon in Trinidad and Tobago, Professor Vijay Narayansingh has received numerous awards for his contributions to the field of medicine. He is the founder of the first regular vascular surgery service at the Port of Spain General Hospital and also established renal transplantation in Trinidad. Professor Narayansingh is currently the medical director of a voluntary project with the Rotary Club of St. Augustine which aims to provide and fit prostheses to amputees free of charge. Professor Narayansingh's vast body of research on vascular surgery has been published in over 100 international medical journals.



Professor Anthony Clayton

Professor Minerva Thame has attained international recognition for her publications and research which focus on the area of maternal nutrition and its impact on foetal growth and birth outcome. She received The UWI Principal's Award for the Most Outstanding Researcher in the Faculty of Medical Sciences for the academic years 2007/2008 and 2009/2010, an award from the Jamaica Medical Foundation for outstanding contribution in the field of Child Health and The Paul Harris Fellow Award from the Rotary Club of New Kingston in 2009.

Professor Anthony Clayton is the Alcan Professor of Caribbean Sustainable Development at the Institute for Sustainable Development at UWI. He has served as the lead policy advisor for both the Fifth Summit of the Americas and the Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings held in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009. Additionally, Professor Clayton has served on the Squatter Management Committee of the Ministry of Housing, Jamaica, where he was the lead author of the Committee's report which set out a proposed new policy for the management of informal settlements. Professor Clayton has also served in an advisory capacity to the UK Government Prime Minister's Strategy Unit and Foreign Commonwealth Office on policy options for the Caribbean as well as the European



Professor Kathleen Coard



Professor Vijay Narayansingh



Dr. Anna-May Edwards-Henry



Professor Minerva Thame



Mrs. Eda Martin



Commission. For his service and leadership excellence, Professor Clayton has been honoured with the 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Consuls Award of Excellence.

Dr. Anna-May Edwards-Henry has provided invaluable administrative service to The UWI. She is directly responsible for operations of the Instructional Development Unit and as a member of the Academic Quality Assurance Committee (AQAC) reviews the courses and programmes offered by The UWI. She created the Master in Higher Education: Tertiary Level Teaching and Learning, co-produced the Assessment Essentials Handbook with the heads of IDUs from the other campuses and reviewed, revamped and revitalized the Student Evaluation of Courses and Lectures (SECL). Dr. Henry has published numerous papers on teaching/education evaluation and assessment.

Mrs. Eda Martin has been with the University since her appointment as Executive Secretary to the Director of Finance/University Bursar in 1993. She was directly involved with the restructuring of the Office of Finance and in conjunction with the University's Bursars co-ordinated the first workshops on the Financial Code and the Financial Procedures and Guidelines. The UWI alumna is a holder of an MSc in Resource Development who has provided administrative support to The UWI's Grants Committee and Taskforce on Capital Development Needs. At present, Mrs. Martin manages meetings of the Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) and the Campus and University Grants Committees (CGC & UGC) among other core duties. She has also been involved with the UWI Mentorship Programme since 2006.

Current head of the Open Campus' Caribbean Child Development Centre Professor Julie Meeks-Gardner is a widely published UWI academic who specializes in Child Development and Nutrition. She is also a former member of the Board of Childwatch International, a network of research organizations that focus on children and children's issues; the UWI representative on the CARICOM Working Group on Early Childhood and a member of the Executive of the Jamaican National Food and Nutrition Coordinating Committee. Professor Meeks-Gardner is a founding member of the Children's Issues Coalition, a group of academics at UWI who are striving to enable more integrated research, teaching, outreach services and dissemination of research findings, in areas related to children. The group is responsible for "Caribbean Childhoods: Documenting the Reality", a database of research on children's issues which has obtained grants worth over JA\$2.2 million from the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica. The Children's Issues Coalition also produces an annual journal entitled Caribbean Childhoods, for which they have obtained a US\$15,000 grant from UNICEF.

The annual Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence was initiated in 1993 by former UWI Vice Chancellor, Sir Alister McIntyre, to recognize high achievement by academic as well as senior administrative staff. As many as eight awards may be given in any one year – five to academic staff and three to senior administrative staff. The Award categories are Teaching, Administration and Research Accomplishments, Service to the University Community, Contributions to Public Service and an award for All-round Excellence in a combination of two or more of the four core areas. Each award is valued at US\$5,000. ■



## Four Professors Appointed

**The announcement of** the promotion of four senior academics was made by University Registrar/Director of Administration, Mr. C.W. Iton following the recently concluded University meetings at The UWI Cave Hill Campus in Barbados. The University's Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GPC) endorsed the professorial appointments for Dr. Frederick Ochieng'-Odhiambo, Dr. John Ayotunde Isola Bewaji, Dr. Gary Garcia and Mr. Surendra Arjoon.

Ochieng'-Odhiambo, Professor in Philosophy and Head of the Department of History and Philosophy at The UWI Cave Hill Campus, is a native of Kenya. He received his PhD from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. Professor Ochieng'-Odhiambo's research interest is African Philosophy with a focus on Philosophic Sagacity a concept introduced into international philosophical circles in the 1970s. He is now one of the best known researchers and leading exponents of this approach.

John Bewaji is a Professor in Philosophy in the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy at The UWI Mona Campus and also serves as Coordinator of the Philosophy section. Professor Bewaji has a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Ibadan and a Master of Arts from the University of Ife. His research interests include the Philosophical Analysis of Leadership in African and African Diaspora and its relation to Society and Development as well as the Economics of Religion

Gary Garcia is a Professor in Animal Science at The UWI St. Augustine Campus. Professor Garcia obtained both his BSc and PhD degrees at UWI and now lectures in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, teaching courses in Lifestyle Products Technology and Tropical Animal Science. Professor Garcia's main areas of research include Production of Cattle and Wildlife Management.

Professor of Business Ethics and Quantitative Analysis, Surendra Arjoon, is a member of the Department of Management Studies at UWI St. Augustine. He has a degree in Mathematics from the University of Waterloo and a Master's from the University of Western Ontario. Professor Arjoon's research interest lies in areas of the application of natural law ethics to education, business and the economy with a specific focus on Corporate Governance, Corporate Social Responsibility and Reporting and the Nature and Purpose of Business.

These professorial appointments took effect on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011. ■





Professor Patricia Mohammed

# An Oasis of Ideas

*50 Years of UWI Leadership on film*

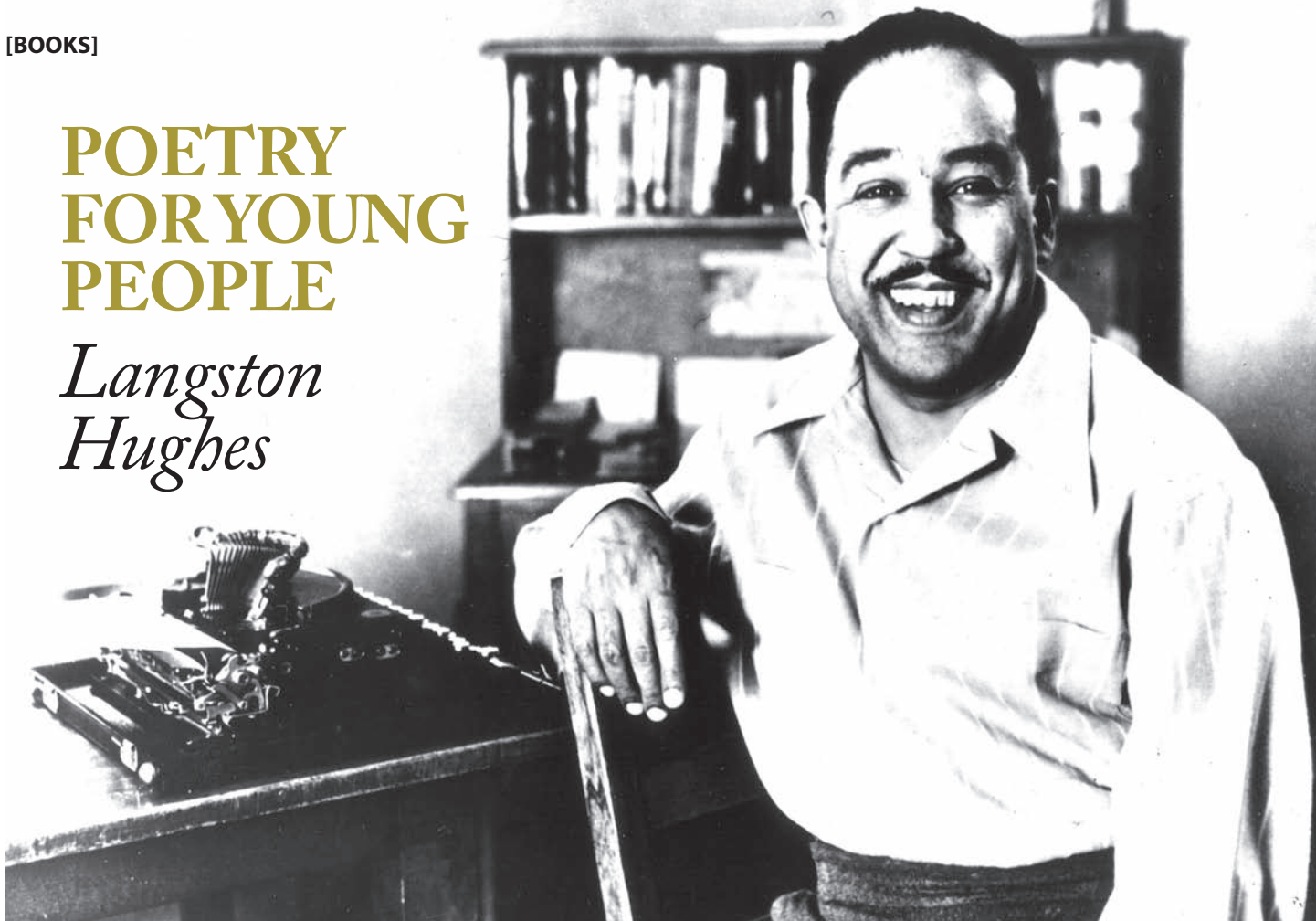


Professor Mohammed with Campus Principal Professor Clement Sankat and UWI graduate, director, TV anchor Francesca Hawkins, at the launch.

**Fifty years** and counting...as The Office of the Campus Principal at The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2011 launched a publication, “**Decades of Research: UWI St. Augustine at 50**” edited by Professor Patricia Mohammed and film “**Oasis of Ideas, Learning and Leadership UWI St. Augustine at 50,**” that examined the leading role the Campus has played in the development of the region. The landmark film was directed by **Professor Mohammed**, who is the Professor of Gender and Cultural Studies and Campus Co-ordinator of the School for Graduate Studies and Research at The UWI, and **Francesca Hawkins**, television and radio broadcaster. ■

# POETRY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

*Langston  
Hughes*



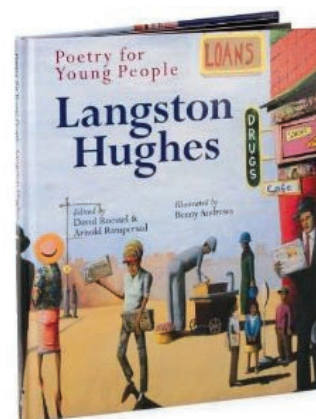
**The poetry of** Langston Hughes (1902-1967) is a favourite at my home, especially among my children, who prefer to sing rather than recite the inherently melodic verse. The book's introduction states that Hughes has been immensely important to African- American literature, "for he sought not only to "sing" of Black America in his poems, but also to do so in its everyday language."

*The night is beautiful,  
So the faces of my people.  
The stars are beautiful.  
So the eyes of my people.*

(Excerpt from *My People*, by Langston Hughes)

His poetry is very accessible to young readers and this book provides a gateway to a better understanding of the historic struggle for equal rights in the face of great adversity. The book is carefully edited

with succinct, informative, welcoming introductions to each piece, alongside beautifully rendered illustrations by the late sculptor, illustrator and painter, Benny Andrews (1930-2006). The influence of oral and musical tradition, as well as the incorporation of musical motifs peel away the multi-layered meanings in such an effortless manner that more is revealed with each reading. A must-have, the book of poetry is edited by Arnold Rampersad, professor of English and senior associate dean at Stanford University, a UWI Honorary Graduate and author of the widely acclaimed *The Life of Langston Hughes*; and David Roessel, who is the editor or co-editor of several books on American Poetry and drama including *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes* (with Arnold Rampersad) and winner of the Modern Language Association Prize for Independent Scholars. —AWH ■



## POETRY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LANGSTON HUGHES

Edited by David Roessel  
and Arnold Rampersad  
Illustrated by Benny Andrews  
(Sterling Publishing Co.)



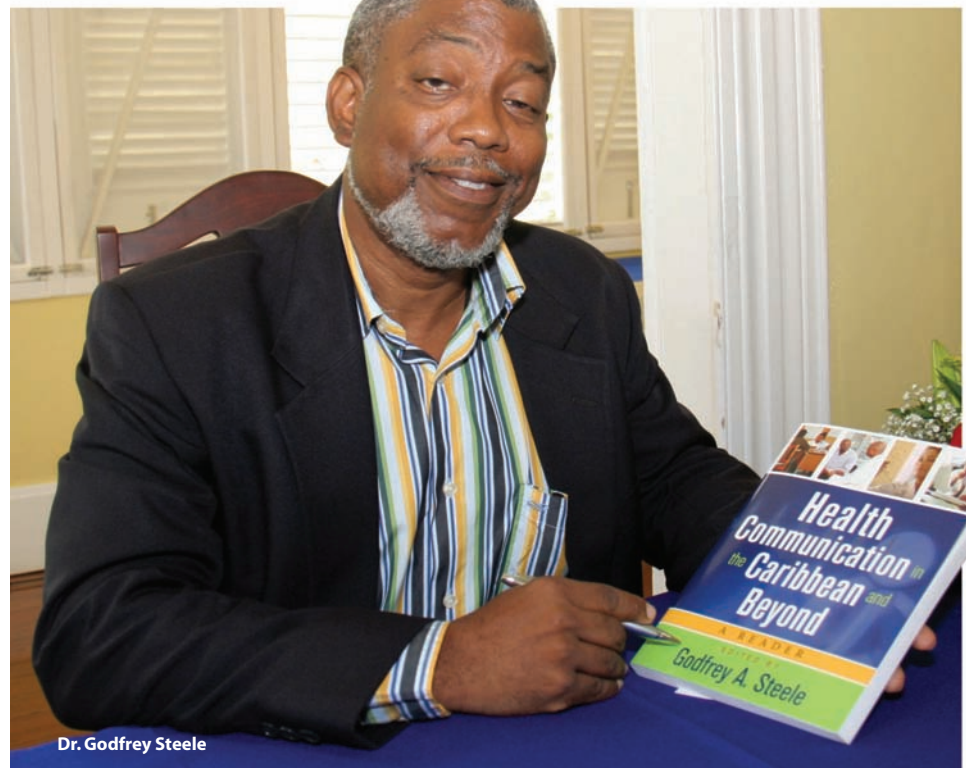
The UWI Faculty of Humanities and Education launched the book, *Health Communication in the Caribbean and Beyond: A Reader*, edited by Dr. Godfrey A. Steele, then Deputy Dean, Graduate Studies and Research and Senior Lecturer in Communication Studies, on Tuesday 21st June, at The Office of the Campus Principal.

The self-effacing editor, Dr. Steele, spent most of his presentation thanking contributors and colleagues including the Dean of the Faculty and Campus Principal, his wife, Linda, and communication studies students, before adding that he is not sure how he got into this field of health communication, but perhaps an incident in 1987 drew a spark. On this particular day, he had taken his mother to the hospital for medical care, when the doctor approached him while he sat waiting, and stated flatly, "Don't you know your mother has cancer?"

Over two decades later the publication, *Health Communication in the Caribbean and Beyond: A Reader* published by UWI Press was launched with the kind support of the Office of the Campus Principal. It provides a comprehensive, well-researched and up-to-date discussion of local and international health communication literature. The Reader also presents a theoretical and practical framework for teaching health and/or medical communication skills. It reviews, explains



At the book launch with Campus Principal Professor Clement Sankat



## Health Communication in the Caribbean and Beyond: A Reader

*Edited by Dr. Godfrey Steele*

and applies health communication concepts and principles, and provides contexts for their application in both the classroom and the health profession.

At the launch, which was chaired by Professor Funso Aiyejina, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Education, Dr Brader Brathwaite presented an engaging review of the book, while UWI graduate students, Petrina Cupid, Asha Daniel and Amanda Best read excerpts. Professor Clement K. Sankat, UWI Pro Vice Chancellor and St. Augustine Campus Principal commended Dr. Steele not only for the landmark publication, but for his integral development of communication studies at UWI.

"Dr. Steele has persevered within this field, promoting and developing the communication studies programme on our campus, with the support of his colleagues. As a result, we can boast of successful graduates who have gone on to work in the field and pursue further graduate studies." ■

*Dr. Steele's publication is available at The UWI Bookshop*

# A Little Goes A Long Way

## *Adopt-A-Student Programme* By Omega Francis

**Have you ever** wondered if there were any good Samaritans out there? Have you ever considered if someone would lend a helping hand in your time of need? Well, six years ago these issues struck the Director of Student Advisory Services, Deirdre Charles quite forcefully as she observed student life. She was so moved by what she saw that she asked UWI colleagues to donate monthly to assist students in need, and the Adopt-a-Student fund was formed.

It began with 32 staff members, who heeded the call and contributed to the fund in July 2005; it has now grown to over 100 donors making monthly contributions, ranging from \$5 to \$500 per month through salary deductions.

The Adopt-a-Student fund encourages both Administrative and Technical Service as well as Academic staff members to make monthly contributions to help students. Any money donated is disbursed to students who are experiencing financial difficulties. Students apply to be recipients of the programme and are assessed by Student Advisory Services for eligibility.

Deirdre Charles is responsible for Student Advisory Services, a Department that provides a group of essential support services for approximately 16,000 students. Recognising the sometimes unseen hardships, she developed this fund to help students in financial need, some of whom encounter situations where they are unable to afford the barest necessities.

“There have been many companies who have contributed to the Adopt-A-Student Programme and two have been continuous with their support: The Rotary Club of St. Augustine and The UWI Development & Endowment Fund (D&E Fund). The Rotary Club has made significant contributions totaling approximately \$40,000 to date. Apart from the Club making donations, individual members such as Mr. Ajay Khandelwal and Mr. Pradeep Kumar, amongst others, have made and continue to make personal contributions to the programme. We sincerely appreciate and value the Club and these individuals for their invaluable assistance to our students. All of this was possible in part to former Deputy Principal Prof. Gurmohan Kochhar. Prof. Kochhar was instrumental in making the initial link by introducing me to the Rotary Club where I was allowed to make a presentation about Adopt-A-Student. Similarly, the UWI D&E Fund has also been supportive and has contributed approximately \$35,000 to the programme over the years,” she said.

Many students have been beneficiaries of the fund and have expressed appreciation for the financial assistance.

“The programme helped me and my family as well. My father’s salary is small, so I was able to pay for items which I would not be able to afford otherwise,” said one student.

“I have benefited from the ‘Adopt-A-Student’ programme tremendously, so much that without it I would have been unable to attend school. My financial

position is not very secure. I strongly support this programme and I am very grateful,” another enthused. Student Advisory Services influences all aspects of students’ lives, enabling students to achieve maximum benefit from their university experience. They provide a range of services and programmes, which include accommodation, career guidance, job placement, employment, orientation and financial assistance.

One of the many success stories regarding Adopt-A-Student is a female student who was accepted into the Faculty of Engineering in 2005. She was excited yet worried about her acceptance as she lacked the financial resources to study at UWI. However, after being placed on the programme, she was able to successfully complete her studies and graduated with honours. ■

Contributing to the **ADOPT-A-STUDENT** fund is easy:

- (For staff) Complete and submit a salary deduction form at the Student Advisory Services office or online.
- Select the amount you would like to contribute each month.
- Change a life.



Director Deirdre Charles

If you wish to donate to the **ADOPT-A-STUDENT** fund, you can contribute at the University Bursary at the Administration Building (Account # 1300-226242)



# A MODEL UNIVERSITY

## *UWI St. Augustine Campus gains Institutional Accreditation*



(R-L) Prof. Clement Sankat, PVC & Campus Principal, The UWI, St. Augustine is congratulated by Dr Michael Dowlath, Chairman of the Accreditation Council of T&T (ACTT)

**On Tuesday 3rd May, 2011**, the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies (UWI) was awarded institutional accreditation by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT).

Members of the Campus administration, including Professor Rhoda Reddock, Deputy Principal; Mr. Jeremy Callaghan, Campus Registrar; and the Deans and Heads of the various faculties and departments, gathered at the Campus Principal's Office to witness Dr. Michael Dowlath, Chairman of the ACTT, handing the letter of accreditation to St. Augustine Campus Principal Professor Clement Sankat.

Those attending the ceremony were informed that, not only has the

Campus been accredited, but The UWI St. Augustine Campus was granted institutional accreditation for a period of seven years, the maximum length of time possible.

"The evaluation team did find The UWI St. Augustine Campus to be a model university among similar types of universities which they had evaluated in the Caribbean, in Asia and in the UK and US," said Mr. Michael Bradshaw, Ag. Executive Director of the ACTT.

Two years ago, on Friday 15th May, 2009, The UWI St. Augustine Campus launched its accreditation candidacy with the ACTT. The Campus then embarked upon a rigorous process of self-examination and reflection driven by Mr. Jeremy Callaghan, who was also the Chair of the Self-Study

Steering Committee; Dr. Sandra Gift, the Institutional Accreditation Co-ordinator; and Mrs. Deborah Souza-Okpofabri, the Campus' Self-Study Co-ordinator. The findings were documented in the "UWI St. Augustine Campus' Institutional Accreditation Self-Study Report, 2010" which was submitted to the ACTT.

In February 2011, following the submission of this report, a team of evaluators appointed by the ACTT made a comprehensive site visit to the Campus. The results of this visit were documented in the "External Evaluator Report on the Application for Institutional Accreditation for The University of the West Indies – St. Augustine Campus."

This report highlights the strengths of the Campus as well as gives recommendations for needed transitions, critical to attaining and sustaining excellence in all areas of institutional life. Thus, "developing an action plan for realizing these transitions is a priority," said Professor Sankat.

At the end of the seven-year accreditation period, in 2018, the Campus will seek reaccreditation and in preparation, it will be expected to submit to a "focused site visit" in 2015. This visit will be developed by another evaluation team appointed by the ACTT, and is aimed at supporting the Campus in further preparations for its reaccreditation exercise.

The purpose of accreditation is to assure the public of the quality of an institution and its dedication to high standards, as well as its commitment to continuous improvement. ■

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** please contact Dr. Sandra Gift at (868) 662-2002 Ext. 82584, or Mrs. Deborah Souza-Okpofabri at (868) 662-2002 Ext. 83880.



Dr. Maryellen Weimer

## UWI/Guardian Life Premium Open Lecture 2011

**Dr. Maryellen Weimer**, Professor Emerita of Teaching and Learning at Penn State University, USA, and winner of the Milton S. Eisenhower award for distinguished teaching, will be the feature speaker at the annual UWI/Guardian Life Premium Lecture. Dr Weimer will examine “Maximum Impact: Using Feedback to Drive Assessment” at the annual event on Friday 30th September, 2011, at 5.30 pm, at the Daaga Auditorium, UWI.

This event, which is organized through a joint working committee of the Instructional Development Unit (IDU) at

The UWI, Guardian Life of the Caribbean and Guardian Holdings Limited was launched in 1998. The collaborative venture seeks to enhance the quality of teaching by university lecturers. The lecture targets the teaching fraternity with special invitations to teachers and teaching administrators of tertiary institutions, primary and secondary schools. ■

This event is free and open to the public. To RSVP and find out more about the **UWI/GUARDIAN LIFE PREMIUM TEACHING OPEN LECTURE 2011**, please contact the IDU at 662-2002 ext. 82611, or via e-mail at [idu@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:idu@sta.uwi.edu), or e-mail [guardianlife@gloc.biz](mailto:guardianlife@gloc.biz) or [ghl@guardianholdings.com](mailto:ghl@guardianholdings.com)

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## UWI to Celebrate 20 Icons

**The University of the West Indies** (UWI) will formally recognise the contributions that 20 Caribbean icons have made to regional development when it confers honorary degrees at the annual Graduation Ceremonies to be held across its four campuses in the months of October and November.

The ceremonies begin on October 15th with the Open Campus Graduation to be hosted this year in Antigua, where Dame Pearllette Louisy, Governor-General of St. Lucia and Mr. Alwin Bully, Cultural Administrator will receive the honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) and Doctor of Letters (DLitt) degrees respectively. Graduation ceremonies at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados will claim the spotlight on October 22nd, when The

Most Rev. Dr. The Hon. John W. D. Holder and Professor Compton Bourne receive the honorary LLD and Professor Kwesi Prah, Professor Emeritus Keith A. P. Sandiford the honorary DLitt and Dr. Shirley Brathwaite the honorary Doctor of Sciences (DSc) degree.

From October 27th to 29th, the celebrations move to the St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad, where the honorary LLD will be conferred on Mrs. Helen Bhagwansingh, Professor Anantanand Rambachan, Mr. John Reginald Dumas, Sir Fenton H. Ramsahoye, Mr. Brian Charles Lara and Ambassador Kamaluddin Mohammed, while Mr. Donald ‘Jackie’ Hinkson and Mr. Roy Cape will receive the honorary DLitt.

Finally, on November 4th and 5th, the Mona Campus in Jamaica will host the closing set of graduation ceremonies. At Mona, Ms. Minna Israel, Mr. Earl Jarrett and The Hon. Usain Bolt, OJ will all receive the Honorary LLD while Professor Lenworth Jacobs and Dr. Erna Brodber will receive the DSc and DLitt respectively. ■



# PROFESSOR JULIAN KENNY

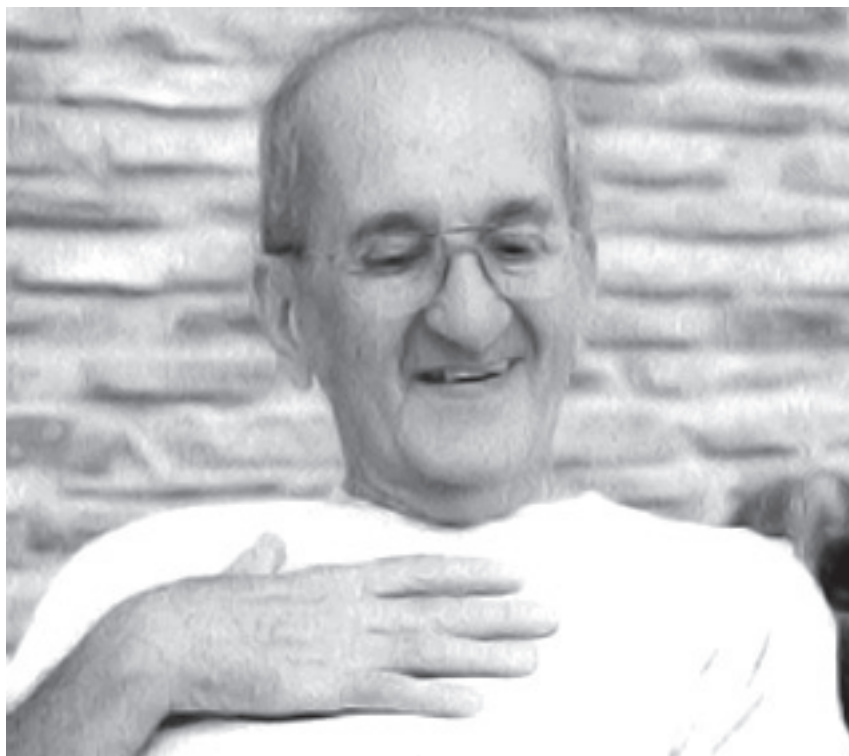
**Environmentalist**, scientist, senator, writer and a gentleman; The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine mourns the loss of one of the University's finest minds, Professor Julian Kenny on August 9, 2011.

Professor Kenny was a member of the Campus community from 1963 until his retirement in 1990. He began as a lecturer in zoology in the Faculties of Agriculture and Natural Sciences and through his groundbreaking works and research, rose to the ranks of Professor and Head of Department. He was an active member of the Campus community, participating in several university committees and playing the role of supervisor to many M. Phil. and Ph.D. students.

Professor Kenny's national contribution also adds to his legacy. His positions as an Independent Senator, Chairman of the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) and a respected and popular newspaper columnist, continued to display his willingness to use his intellect for service. Professor Kenny was awarded the Chaconia Medal (Gold) for environment conservation at the 2010 National Awards on Independence Day.

In his 81 years, Professor Julian Kenny made a profound impact on our University as well as Trinidad & Tobago that will never be forgotten. It is with deepest sympathies we bid him farewell. The University community extends its condolences to his family. ■

**ISSUED BY:** The UWI Marketing & Communications Office, St. Augustine  
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COURTESY: TRINIDAD EXPRESS

In his 81 years, Professor Julian Kenny made a profound impact on our University as well as Trinidad & Tobago that will never be forgotten.

**UWI STAN** welcomes Tributes for members of our community from colleagues; please send to:  
[marketing.communications@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:marketing.communications@sta.uwi.edu)

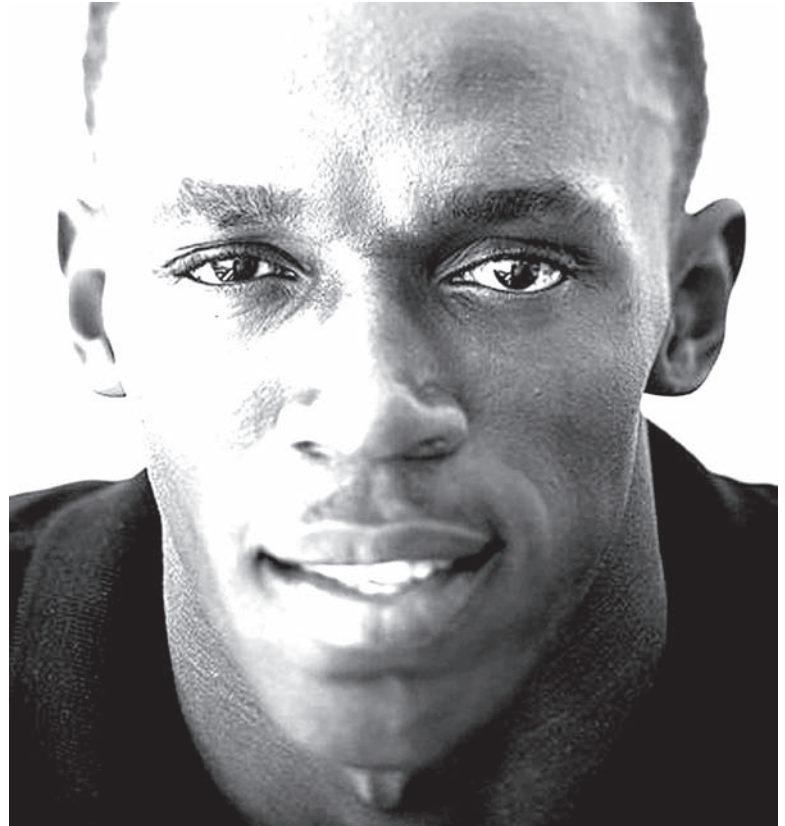
## [ QUOTABLE QUOTES ]

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### ON GREATNESS

"Frankly, I doubt whether I will ever call myself great."

UWI Honorary Graduand 2011, St. Augustines Campus, world record holder and former West Indies Cricketer/ Team Captain, **Mr. Brian Lara**. Known to his fans as The Prince of Port of Spain, he holds several world records including the highest individual score in both first-class cricket (501 not out for Warwickshire against Durham in 1994) and Test cricket (400 not out for the West Indies against England in 2004).



### ON OLYMPIC HOPES

"Thank you everybody. My aim is the Olympics in 2012 in London."

**Mr. Usain Bolt**, Jamaican sprinter and three-time Olympic gold medalist, speaking after winning the 2010 Laureus World Sportsman of the Year award in March 2010. Mr. Bolt is a Jamaican sprinter, three-time Olympic gold medalist winner, who holds the world record for the 100 metres, the 200 metres and, along with his teammates, the 4x100 metres relay. He will be honored by UWI, Mona Campus in 2011.

### ON THE ENVIRONMENT

"One of the serious problems we face as a nation is that while individually some may have a good understanding of aspects of a phenomenon, natural or otherwise, collectively we display an inability to bring together those minds who can explain the nature of the issue, so as to devise, if not a solution, at least some palliative measures to minimise distress to citizens."

UWI Professor, environmentalist, independent senator and writer, **Julian Kenny**, quoted from his column in The Trinidad Guardian newspaper article 'Canute Commands', July 2010.



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*\*\* For all other programmes, late applications will not be accepted.*

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