



# UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES · ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

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PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM



## All You Need Is Love

On top of the world, a student at the Family Development and Children's Research Centre

As the society reels from its violent wounds, there seems no immediate way to staunch the torrents of blood. Many of the perpetrators of violent acts are barely out of their teens and several citizens have succumbed to the temptation to dismiss that generation as lost, but not everyone is so pessimistic about the present or the future.

Commenting on the mental state of the society in our last issue, psychiatrist **Professor Gerard Hutchinson** contended that more should be done to help these young people.

"I think a lot of them could be reached if we had systems and structures in place to reach them, it is not that they don't care but they have been taught or conditioned not to care. Once they're taken out of that environment, they

become concerned again about the things that most people in society are."

Mentorship at many levels was an important aspect of reaching them, he said.

"People recognise that the younger people in whichever context, professional, school, religious, need that kind of guidance. The key thing there is stability, as many people have said, single parent homes are not a new phenomenon, he said, noting that single parent homes in the fifties and sixties didn't produce children who could be branded as "bad" on the same scale.

The School of Education's Head of Department, Early Childhood Education, **Dr Carol Logie**, shares that outlook, believing that the earlier a child is surrounded by a

nurturing, warm environment, the more likely they will feel valued and build a sense of belonging to the society.

Both UWI experts also agree that the high degree of instability at every level has contributed significantly to a practically dysfunctional society, but do not feel that all is lost for a recovery project.

This issue, we feature the **School of Education's Family Development and Children's Research Centre (FDCRC)**, where Dr Logie is administrative director, and its distinctive approach to early childhood education, which stresses a "loving" environment that empowers children to develop critical thinking and responsible behaviours as they learn from very early how to take charge of their lives.

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# Conference on THE ECONOMY



At COTE '08: Professor Patrick Watson, Gregory Mc Guire, Eric St Cyr and Dr Lester Henry, listen to Dr Shelton Nicholls, Deputy Governor, Research and Policy, Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Department of Economics of The UWI, St. Augustine is hosting its third annual **Conference on the Economy (COTE '09)**, October 1-2, at the UWI School of Education Auditorium, Agostini Street, St. Augustine.

Each year, the Department, through COTE, provides a platform whereby national, regional and international economic and development issues can be explored, thus creating an environment in which meaningful dialogue is encouraged and collective solutions can be advanced.

The conference is designed to be both useful and pragmatic for decision and policy makers as well as for technocrats, private sector representatives, academics and students with respect to issues in the Caribbean Economy.

COTE '08, which was also a tribute to **Dr Trevor Farrell**, former Head of the Economics Department, revolved around the theme "Economic Planning in a Turbulent Environment." For 2009, COTE continues to address the situation of local and regional economies within the present volatile economic climate. This year's conference will take the form of a series of sessions, each covering a specific theme around three key headings: **Situational Assessment, Response Framework, and The Way Forward**. Situational Assessment, the opening session, provides a review of the present and projected economic

situation. Among the issues to be addressed in this session will be **Trends in the Global Economy, State of the Financial Sector, Trends in Export Sectors and its Fiscal Implications, and Employment and Social Sector Impact**.

This will be followed by the Response Framework, which will address the parameters for responding to the present and projected economic environment. Speakers will critically assess both the macroeconomic and governance frameworks required.

The final session, **The Way Forward**, is to be an interactive session involving dialogue amongst various presenters and all participants as they examine the required responses for moving toward sustainable economic development.

Speakers at COTE '09 include staff of the Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, and related Centres and Units at the University.

Among them will be:

- **Professor Dennis Pantin**
- **Professor Patrick Watson**
- **Dr Lester Henry**
- **Dr Roger Hosein**
- **Dr Marlene Attzs**
- **Mr Gregory Mc Guire**
- **Mr Kelvin Sergeant**

Representatives of other regional universities as well as key agencies are also expected to participate in the conference proceedings.

## EDITORIAL

# PIONEERS IN OUR MIDST

As I welcomed thousands of new students to the St Augustine Campus earlier this month, I reminded them that education is a lifelong journey and that the difference between a student and a true scholar is the commitment to use knowledge and research to uplift society and to make a contribution to development.

As an institution, a university is therefore not merely a place dedicated to higher learning. It is a place where scholarly research helps to shape and develop a civilization, with a focus on building a better future. At The UWI, we have pioneers in our midst working on a range of issues that affect our daily lives—lifestyle diseases, climate change and sustainable development, diversification of our economy, creative and festival arts, steel pan research and marketing, food and agricultural science, to name a few.

The UWI has intensified its efforts and increased its funding for research and development work, because we firmly believe that this is the cornerstone of an innovative and competitive society. In support of the Government's national Vision 2020 Plan, we are concentrating even more on demonstrating the relevance of the research we do to the needs of our society.

In this issue, we feature one element of pioneering work in early childhood education being done at the Family Development and Children's Research Centre (FDCRC). For just over 20 years, the FDCRC has been developing teaching methods and has become the model school for the State's current investment in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) centres throughout the country. We have also supported the University School which, for more than 60 years, has produced many scholarship winners but more importantly, very rounded children steeped in the arts, culture and sports with a strong sense of civic pride.

In a nutshell, The University of the West Indies is much more than undergraduate teaching. Knowledge creation and dissemination, research, innovation and strong partnerships are all at the core of what we are about. Let us celebrate all those who continue to work steadily at building this institution and our nation.

## CLEMENT K. SANKAT

*Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal*

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## ■ INNOVATION

# ON THE CUTTING EDGE

*Little laser points the way ahead*



PHOTO COURTESY: DR. COMPTON BOURNE

The first local patient to go under Dr Compton Bourne's laser.

Time was when the idea of a doctor waving around a 10-ft long laser in surgery was impressive, but how the times have changed and how quickly! That same doctor, who impressed young student, Compton Olatunji Bourne, with his maxillofacial techniques at the Royal London Hospital, is probably using the same laser principles but instead of an unwieldy two-ft wide instrument, he is likely to be using a sleek, pen-sized laser like Dr Bourne uses in his orthodontics practice.

Keeping abreast of technological developments is an essential aspect of staying on the cutting edge and for Dr Bourne, who returned to Trinidad in 2000 to practise and teach orthodontics at the School of Dentistry of The UWI's Faculty of Medical Science, it is as important for teachers and students as it is for practitioners.

"As a lecturer at the University I try to make sure that I am doing my bit for the University to keep abreast of the most recent developments, and to at least expose all undergraduate clinical dental students and those interns and teaching assistants who are interested in orthodontics," he said as he demonstrated the finesse and precision of the laser at his private practice, bluntly named Braces, in St Augustine.

The laser is used for minor oral surgical procedures, such as gingivectomy, and in addition to the better visibility which reduces chances of mishaps, and the shorter

procedural times, there are several benefits for patients. It leaves no scarring, there is little or no bleeding, and post-operative pain is negligible.

It also shortens the time between procedures, thus reducing cost significantly. Many people, he said, believe orthodontic costs are prohibitive, especially as they see it as a cosmetic procedure, more than a corrective one. Most patients come in because they want to improve the way they look. Fewer come because the improper positioning of their teeth causes discomfort.

Dr Bourne said that it was also more common for parents to bring their children in first, and after they have had their treatment, then the parents take turns coming for attention. He surmises that it is not that they use their children as test cases, but more likely that they prefer to look after the young ones first, and then seek personal care.

Often, because they imagine it to be very expensive, they defer it and when they discover that it really ranges between \$13,000 and \$20,000 over a two-year period covering about 15-20 visits, they decide to take the plunge.

It's never too late to do it, says Dr Bourne, though the earlier treatment is begun, the better. When people feel that they look good it affects their self-esteem and confidence, and their sense of wellbeing. A happy countenance reflects that, so it is no wonder the first thing he notices in a person is their smile.

*"As a lecturer at the University I try to make sure that I am doing my bit for the University to keep abreast of the most recent developments, and to at least expose all undergraduate clinical dental students and those interns and teaching assistants who are interested in orthodontics"*



PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

Dr Compton Bourne

## ■ Do you need an Orthodontist?

Orthodontics is one area of specialty in dentistry and it is primarily concerned with treating malocclusions (bite) occurring because of improperly positioned teeth or overcrowding. In the past, orthodontists were associated primarily with braces, which were also thought to be only for children. Orthodontics offers a range of treatments that includes repositioning teeth and roots and supporting crowns.

Generally, people seek orthodontists to improve their appearance, and treatments are often considered cosmetic enhancements, especially in cases where they reshape the jaw, neck and lips.

## ■ What is a Gingivectomy?

The orthodontist or surgeon will numb your gums with a local anaesthetic—of differing strength depending on the scope of work and the time to do it—then using either a laser or other cutting instrument, will remove or restructure loose or diseased gum tissue.



## Noel Norton and Man Crab

In the August issue of *UWI Today*, the credit for our cover photograph of the 1983 Peter Minshall costume, *Man Crab* did not appear due to a printing error. The photograph was taken by Noel Norton. We apologise for the omission.



## ■ UWI HALF MARATHON

## A RUNNER'S PARADISE

PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM



St Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat receives the cheque for TT\$350,000 from Anthony Alexander, Corporate Manager, First Citizens.

The UWI's St Augustine Campus will host its signature UWI SPEC International Half Marathon 2009 on Sunday 1st November, 2009. This year, the Half Marathon begins at the UWI SPEC from 6 a.m. with the 13.1 mile route remaining unchanged. The race will continue along the traffic-free Priority Bus Route (PBR) to the La Resource Junction in D'Abadie, before doubling back to the UWI SPEC. The course will be complete with markers and water stops at

every mile for the running convenience of the athletes from around the world including the Caribbean, USA, Latin America and Europe.

Over 1,000 local, regional and international athletes will compete for over TT\$135,000 in prizes, including specific categories for UWI students and staff, and wheelchair as well as physically challenged competitors. This year, a new team category will be introduced. Teams must have a minimum

of 15 athletes. Team members are allowed to also enter in the individual categories.

Participation has grown over the years from 300 at its inception in 2004 to more than 750 in 2008. "The half marathon is touted as the best organised road race in the region especially since it is the only traffic-free distance event, said Dr Iva Gloudon, UWI's Director, Sport & Physical Education.

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

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

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

Registration has been taking place since September 10th and runs to October 23rd. Registration will automatically close, however, when 1,000 persons have registered for the race. There will be no registration on race day.

Only athletes residing outside of Trinidad and Tobago can register online at [active.com](http://active.com). The deadline for online registration is Friday 16th October, 2009.

First Citizens is the presenting sponsor of the UWI SPEC International Half Marathon and presented a cheque for TT\$350,000 to St Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat at the official launch. The event is also supported by the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT).

*"Over 1,000 local, regional and international athletes will compete for over TT\$135,000 in prizes, including specific categories for UWI students and staff, and wheelchair as well as physically challenged competitors."*

## RESEARCH &amp; COMMUNITY

# Why PHI?

*This latest synthesizer  
is worth its weight*

PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM

**It looks like a steel pan,** it sounds like a steel pan, and it travels like a tenor pan, but the PHI is no steel pan. PHI stands for Percussive Harmonic Instrument and is more akin to an electronic synthesizer; so why does this new instrument have this strong pan character?

It was part of a marketing strategy to brand the instrument so as to immediately invoke Trinidad and Tobago, the home of the steel pan. There are other reasons, such as the desire to make it a modern version of the pan in the hope that it would appeal to this and the next generation. Apart from that, the circular shape lent to more versatility when compared with the linear structure of the conventional synthesizer.

The PHI is the latest development to emerge from the Steelpan Research Lab of the Faculty of Engineering at The UWI. The last was the G-Pan, currently being patented, for which Engineering Dean Prof Brian Copeland has received a national award.

The PHI has been ten years in the making, since its conception by Keith Maynard, Prof Copeland, Earl Phillips and Marcel Byron. In 2000, Byron began developing the ideas and two years later, the MIDI Pan emerged. MIDI, the acronym for Musical Instrument Digital Interface, is the communication facilitator of electronic music synthesizers.

With their pan foundation, the collaborators wanted to take something indigenous into modern technology with all its enhanced capabilities for sound reproduction, mobility, ease of access, recordings and interface, the MIDI Pan evolved into the PHI, and became the first pan not to be a pan.

Speaking at the Lab, now physically located at the Trincity Industrial Estate at Macoya, one member of the young team directly engaged in its development, Jeevan Persad, explained that the PHI, can reproduce all the notes of a pan and indeed, can be played with pan sticks, but its range as a synthesizer makes it possible to sound like virtually any instrument.

Designed with a 36-note layout in 12-note concentric circles, the interface follows the spider-web layout of the 4ths and 5ths tenor. This makes it easy for pannists to adapt. But you don't need to be a pannist to feel at home with it, you don't even need pan sticks, your fingers will do the work of selecting either preset modes or simply switching from one instrument to the other then caressing the white interactive panels to deliver sound ranging from pan to string, wind and percussion instruments, and more..

Inside the studio, where continuous testing goes on, Randall Ali demonstrated the range, pointing out how simple it was to operate. Once you have a power supply of 115V, you can plug in and play, using headphones or PC speakers, and if you have software such as Cakewalk or Sibelius, you can easily record your compositions. If you have Ableton or Logic Studio, premium industry-based software, once you connect your PHI, you can record, mix, produce and distribute your own music.

Earlier, with a charming mix of youthful enthusiasm, science, and knowledge of trends in today's techno music and home studio markets, members of the team, including the marketing duo of Anushka Mahabir and Allende Lee Lung, had taken turns making the case for the PHI as the super instrument for their generation.

Later, Marcel Byron, the lead developer and an inventor himself, supported their reasoning.

"The local music industry is lacking that kind of experience and technical know-how to actually produce and mix songs," he said. "We are opening that whole realm to the pannist. It's like giving them a bigger tool chest of opportunity. Now the pannist can move beyond the pan and become like a one-man band."

He recounted how Len Boogsie Sharpe put together three songs in two and a half hours, recording each instrument himself, at the studio, and how the possibilities excited him.

The shift from the MIDI Pan actually came about through patent issues, so they decided to refocus the patent and make it more general and applicable and relevant to the steel pan. The evolution to the PHI was gradual.

"The MIDI was an exact replication of what the [conventional] steelpan was, just with current technology applied to it. The PHI has extended the possibilities, a lot of the ideas, features and capabilities incorporated into the PHI were not even thought of in the MIDI Pan," said Byron, who coordinates all activities of the team involved in its production, research and development and marketing and distribution.

"The third ring in the middle came about because we didn't have the limitations of working a piece of steel and trying to fit everything in a small space. Since it was

electronics, you could actually do everything you want to do inside there. That's how we came up with the 36 notes."

With all this technology, and the potential it offers, one imagines it will be an expensive investment when it hits the streets.

"It is a fraction of the cost of a recording studio," said Byron, "around US\$3,000, and that is in the same ballpark as a high-end synthesizer."

The enterprise is not simply about making money though. The group has been taking the PHI out to communities; their short-term targets are Embcadere, Enterprise, Patna and Pinto, and wherever they have gone, they've created a stir.

"They are amazed, because of what you can do with the instrument, they realise it is not a pan, and they can play everything. By the time they realise the full potential of the instrument, you see the WOW effect, regardless of where you go," he said.

The community outreach programme is in partnership with the Citizens Security Programme, out of the Ministry of National Security.

"The idea was that steelpan came from the communities and it was responsible for reducing a lot of crime [decades ago], and it gave the pannist an avenue to go out and travel and express themselves. It is the same idea, there is so much crime and violence, we were trying to provide an alternative to young people by introducing them to a new instrument, and an alternative way of expressing themselves," said Byron.

The pannist inspired the PHI and now the PHI is inspiring pannists—as it was in the beginning, so it is at the end.



The PHI team shares a moment at the Steelpan Research Lab. Standing from left: Derron Ellies, Jeevan Persad, Rehana Mohammed, Marcel Byron, Wade Ramcharan, Dwayne Caberrea. Sitting: Timothy Lobin, Anushka Mahabir, Randall Ali, Edwin Jairam, Joel Castagne and Allende Lee Lung.



## RESEARCH

# Early Pioneers of CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

*“Parents don’t understand the importance of being a role model, they think children only pick up best practices.”*

One of the areas appearing to withstand the rigours of a shrinking economic pie is early childhood education. In the recent national budget presentation, the Minister of Finance announced that the 50 Early Childhood Care Centres (ECCE) promised in the last fiscal year would be completed in this new one, and that an additional 50 would be started.

The focus on early childhood education has been so politically marked that one could easily imagine that its foundation stones had been laid only when the first ECCE came to pass a couple years ago.

It goes way back actually, 21 years ago this month, to the pioneering days of 1988, when the School of Education of The UWI opened up its first “learning lab”, formally known as the UWI Laboratory Pre-school, at the current site at St John’s Road in St Augustine.

Back then, the School of Education (SoE) enlisted the help of two Fulbright scholars from the US to design an educational system for the region that recognised that the first seven years in a child’s life were crucial in terms of development.

The current administrative director of what has since been renamed the Family Development and Children’s Research Centre (FDCRC), Dr Carol Logie, was a fundamental part of this daring new initiative in early childhood education and she speaks with a creator’s pride of its evolution.

To explore new ways of learning, new ways of teaching had to emerge. No tertiary level programmes existed regionally, so the SoE busied itself with designing and introducing first the Certificate in Early Childhood Care and Development and then the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.). In 1996, when the B.Ed. was introduced, there were nine students, today, with the degree offering two separate specialties—Primary and ECCE—student enrolment is at 120.

“We’ve been able to tie what we’ve been doing with the growth and development in the region,” said Dr Logie, as she explained how they could expand to the post-graduate level and offer masters and doctoral degrees as well as post graduate diplomas in education.

The FDCRC, as part of the SoE, is more than a school for young children, it is actually a training centre for students of education, many of whom will actually be employed at the State-run ECCE centres. Within an environment carefully designed to appeal to all of the sense, teachers and students interact in a marvellous routine that enables both parties to learn from each other.

The notion of learning communities forms the theoretical foundation of the Centre, based on psychologist Lev Vygotsky’s theory of social interaction’s role in the development of cognition. The Centre encourages everyone—parents, teachers, students, family members—who moves within the orbit of the child to see their relationships as opportunities for two-way learning at every level. Theoretically, people become each other’s students.



Dr Carol Logie, FDCRC’s Administrative Director, has served on various boards and organisations related to early childhood education. She has chaired the **National Council for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCECCE)**. She is part of the **Bernard van Leer Foundation**-sponsored Caribbean Support Initiative, and sits on the Executive Board of the **World Forum for ECCE**. She has been an international education consultant to the **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)** and worked with the **World Bank** to develop the first survey of early childhood provision in Trinidad and Tobago. She is the Head of Department, Early Childhood Education, School of Education, UWI.

Thus, the approach at the Centre emphasises early empowerment of children to make decisions and take responsibility for decisions and to find socially appropriate ways of interacting with each other.

Dr Logie, who has been working at various levels in the area of early childhood education, has a broad and uniquely detailed knowledge of its complexities and its relationship to national development. In conversation, she connects every strand of thought to development, and it is as clear that she has had to make the case several times as it is that she firmly believes in the link.

People don’t quite see that link, she says, don’t realise that the state of Trinidad and Tobago, which everyone complains about, and the behaviour of the youth which they lament, are connected to their own misbehaviours.

The children are looking at the adults, and we have to look at the state of parenting, the values you carry, she said. “It’s not about whether you’re single or not,” it’s about the values you communicate.

“Parents don’t understand the importance of being a role model, they think children only pick up best practices,” she said. “We can see it on the roads, we can see it in the way they relate to children at home,” we can see it in the poor relationships that children witness.

“We have to stop as a society and examine what we are doing,” she said, citing the use of corporal punishment as one sure way to perpetuate violence. “Children have to understand that they have to find other ways to deal with problems,” she said. “We need our children to understand [what it means to have] a caring, loving, warm environment, and to bring a new learning experience to them.”







Children at the Centre

## UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

“We live in a fishbowl,” says administrative director, Dr Carol Logie, repeatedly, as she guides a tour of the facilities at the Family Development and Children’s Research Centre (FDCRC) on St John’s Road in St Augustine.

Although most people refer to it as the UWI Pre-school, it is much more than a school, as its formal name indicates. Founded by The UWI’s School of Education in 1988, the FDCRC is practically a learning lab in many ways. While its design and ongoing upgrades are meant to integrate and

express a specific philosophic and theoretical approach to early childhood education, it is also an active classroom for trainees in the field.

The physical structure has been recently upgraded, presenting a charming façade that is idyllic to a fault. The serenely cheerful spaces—areas earmarked for every possible activity, all built on the scale that suits 3-5 year-olds—must make parents wish that they could transpose this completely into their households.

The Centre is not, as many people think, exclusively for the children of UWI staff, and although the waiting list is long, Dr Logie says people are welcome to come and have a look at it to see whether its “distinctive approach” appeals to them. They have an annual open day and a book fair which provide ideal opportunities for exposure.

“Parents have invested heavily in their children,” she says, adding that they see it as a site of investment (instead of a carnival costume) and so they do what it takes to pay for enrolment.

It was just a few days into the new term so the children were all fresh at it, but they seemed very able to adapt to the expectation that they set their own places at the table, washed up after themselves, chose their own activities and took responsibility for their choices.

Even so, amidst all the freedoms and ownerships on offer, it was obvious that it wasn’t a free-for-all and the adults were guiding and monitoring them constantly. The children are kept within adult supervision of a 10:1 ratio, and there is a discreet overhead observation deck where students can study the children from behind a glass window without interrupting their activities.

Everything is worth studying in this laboratory of ideas.

It’s a fishbowl in there.



Diane Phillips is the Centre’s Supervisor and an integral part of ensuring that things run smoothly on a daily basis.

### ■ The Centre holds:

A respectful image of all children as competent, capable, and equipped with an enormous potential for development

That children’s rights are to be respected

The belief that all adults in the environment are co-researchers and co-constructors in the educational process

The child’s role in constructing knowledge through exploration and relationships

The value of observation, documentation, and individual and group processes as important elements of the programme

Its environment as a source of well-being and an educational force that will work in the best interest of every child

The importance of fostering self-expression, learning and communication through the use of a wide range of media

The value of collaboration among stakeholders in the educational system

The importance of the relationship among school, community, family life and values

The reciprocal influences of diversity, ethnicity, and family norms on high-quality early childhood care and education





■ ALUMNI



# She's got the WHOLE WORLD IN HER HANDS

**Angela Sarojini Cropper, is United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and has worked with various organisations promoting sustainable development. A graduate of **The UWI**, she holds a BSc in Economics and an LLB. She is founder of the **Cropper Foundation**. She is one of five persons receiving honorary degrees at the St Augustine campus next month. She was in Nairobi, and about to travel again when **UWI Today** contacted her, but managed to answer our questions.**

***Where were you born?  
What was your childhood like?***

I was born in Aranjuez, though I have no recollection of that period of my life. I grew up mainly in Princes Town and Penal; we moved back and forth.

[I grew up] within a very large family: 11 siblings, from three marriages of my mother; who over her lifetime was widowed three times. Circumstances were always very lean, not destitute, because my mother found ways to be a single parent in between marriages and to keep her large household together. In [such] a very large household everyone had a contribution to make, and did so, as my mother was pretty strict. Nothing exceptional about my childhood: sparse in terms of material provisions; many and large family gatherings; restricted in terms of leisure activities and opportunities to “do” things, like develop skills and talents; made do with little.



**Why did you choose the career path you did? It is not a straightforward path. Was there something specific in your mind? Were you simply trying to shape public policy to align development with environmental concerns? How did you get here (your current position)?**

I elected to do Economics when I had the opportunity to go to UWI because I wanted to contribute to changing the world, especially to removing poverty and inequity. I thought that as an Economist I might be able to influence Development. I was soon corrected of this fantasy when the first job as an Economist required me to be preoccupied with the “internal rate of return” for entrepreneurs and my disposition to assess social and environmental dimensions of the business activity was not appreciated. I concluded that the discipline was too narrow for me (especially for a person who was tutored by Lloyd Best) and I deserted that profession. However, the intellectual framework of Economics remains with me to this day and I have drawn upon it indirectly in the course of my career. When I was at the CARICOM Secretariat as Director of its Division of Functional Cooperation (which was a very diverse portfolio) I enjoyed the context of working within a broad set of intellectual domains, and especially exploring how they interrelated. I then added to the portfolio the area of Environment and Development—I could see the intrinsic linkages and the way in which this relationship would be so vital for Caribbean development.

I guess it is from my CARICOM portfolio that it crystallised for me that I enjoyed “making the linkages,” thinking broadly rather than disciplinarily. And I made the conscious decision that I would want to develop the lateral thinking skills, seeing the whole not just one or other part. The subject of Sustainable Development added dimensions of equity, poverty, participation and governance, to the issues strictly of Economics, or Environment, or to Environment and Development. That is where I have focused since then.

I then realised over time that most of the professional community thinks in a sectoral or disciplinary way; and so the added value I came to bring to many discussions is the lateral, holistic thinking about Development that goes beyond meeting present material needs for those who can afford and devil take those left behind.

Not surprising that upon retirement from the United Nations system and [my] return home, when my husband and I set up The Cropper Foundation, the first major substantive event we did was an international conference on “Development as if Equity Mattered.” So, no, the path is not straightforward. Intellectually, the Environment and Development portfolio is very complex, the issues are challenging and urgent, and they are of vital importance to a form of development that is sustainable and equitable.

How did I get to this position? I guess precisely because I do not fit a single disciplinary mode of thinking or analysing. It is this background and tendency, coupled with objectivity and balance, for which I have, I think, become known internationally, and for which I have been invited to serve on many policy processes and the governance bodies of major global organisations concerned with Sustainable Development. All my professional occupations since the early eighties are in this field, whether in policy or management. It is the breadth of undertaking that I think appealed to the recruiters for the position that might have motivated them to seek me out.

However, agreeing to be considered and accepting the job were motivated for me by a very, very personal consideration. The colleague who is the Executive Director

of the United Nations Environment Programme had served with the World Conservation Congress (IUCN) at the same time as me, and we knew each other from the early nineties.

When I served at UNDP at its Headquarters in New York, he served in Washington DC for IUCN at its DC Office. We kept a close axis. When he served as the Secretary-General of the World Dams Commission, located in Cape Town, South Africa, I responded to his need for help and went out to help him on a short-term assignment basis. He then became Director-General of the World Conservation Union. So I knew his ability and integrity, and that for him UNEP would not be business as usual, but that it might be exciting to partner with him in this enterprise.

Also, I felt that issues of Environment and Development had come to a new and interesting juncture: surely the political leaders and policy makers could no longer bury their heads in the sand—perhaps it would be an opportune moment for intensifying the effort.

But more than the above: on December 22, 2001, this colleague (who was still with IUCN at the time) was already on Christmas leave with his family in Germany, but came to Port of Spain to stand by my side, as I gave meaning to it somewhat in lieu of my son (who had died at age 20 three years earlier) as I went through the motions of burying my mother and cremating my husband and sister—he was there in my time of need. The least I could do to reciprocate that gesture was to come to UNEP to help him in his vision here when he indicated he had a need for my services and support. Very personal motivation. I was already retired from the UN System for 10 years. But trying to do the same kind of work on the ground via The Cropper Foundation.

**Interesting idea that you think of transcending the limits of a single disciplinary mode. Would you say that you are a strand seeker? Would you say that you consciously try to find the strands that connect things, and your objective is to weave them together?**

No. I do not think I am a strand seeker. I think I search for the Whole. It does require connecting the strands and weaving them together.

**Do you feel that your current position enables or empowers you to fulfill your personal mission?**

I do not have a personal mission. But among all the purposes for which one might work, I feel that sustaining our planetary home and in ways that contribute to human dignity and equity among groups and peoples transcend everything else. It is for me a most noble mission. I do like to leave a place somewhat better off by virtue of my having been there.

**Finally, what does the honorary doctorate from The UWI mean to you?**

I am deeply honoured by this. Even though I think I am undeserving of it, in terms of academic accomplishments. I made the decision early that I did not want to pursue a career in Academia (even though Lloyd Best sought to persuade me to that), because I wanted to change the world. Every employment option I have chosen over my life since university has been seen as an opportunity to continue to change the world. In that work I do draw heavily on the work of academics, but I try to put it to use for the larger public interest.



**The Marks of Childhood**

The practice of my mother to put aside something for those who were absent ...later on in my life and professional work I came to associate that with the concept of “intergenerational equity” i.e. taking care of the needs of those who were not present

- The example of my mother for hard work, duty to her family
- Transcending ethnic divisions and perspectives because among our household friends were people of various ethnic backgrounds
- The proselytizing of the Christian denomination into which we were baptized in order to be eligible for a place in the Church-run primary school; accompanied by name change which relegated parental given names to middle names (hence, Angela Sarojini), and later on in my professional life the realisation that that was my first encounter with the concept of “tied aid”
- The almost accidental access to secondary school education
- The first among my siblings to attend secondary school
- The first among my siblings to attend University
- My mother’s generosity to others despite having very little of material value—she could always “feed another mouth,” she used to say
- The expectation on me to help to “provide for the family” after high school, which I did, and also after university, for the younger ones... the incredibly indelible influence on me from reading Sophocles “Antigone” at a young adolescent age while at high school and the crystallisation for me of the principle of duty, which became the most central of the principles by which I am guided
- The years of contribution to the household and the progress of my younger siblings (while deferring my own university education) was the first crystallisation and demonstration of my emergent “social conscience”



# UWI SPEC INTERNATIONAL HALF-MARATHON 2009

PRESENTED BY

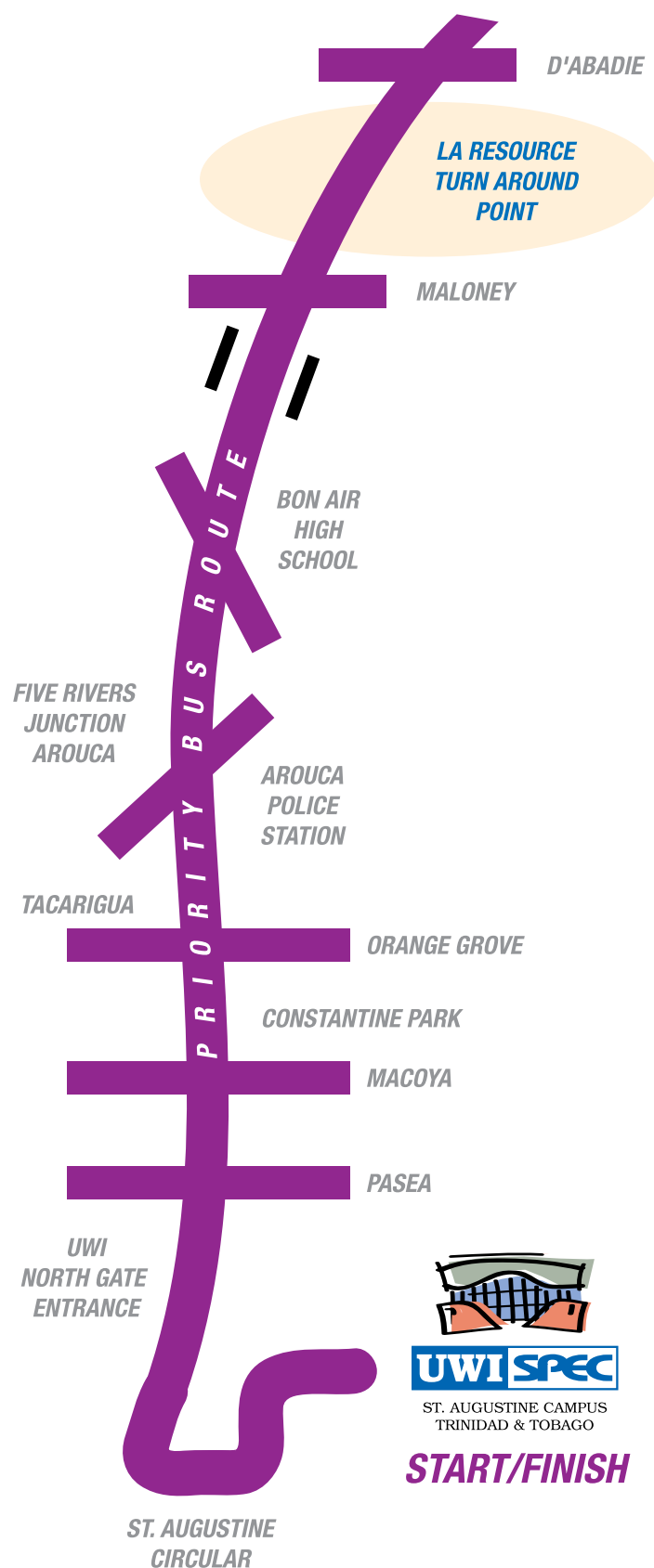


First Citizens

## SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER, 2009 AT 6:00 AM

UWI SPORT & PHYSICAL EDUCATION CENTRE, ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

### MAP OF THE ROUTE



**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:**  
**FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2009 AT 5:00 PM**  
**OVER \$130,000**  
**IN CASH PRIZES**

**MILE MARKERS WILL BE PLACED ALONG THE ROUTE**

**RACE ELECTRONICALLY TIMED**

**ATHLETES WILL BE PHOTOGRAPHED CROSSING THE FINISH LINE**

**WATER STOPS AT EVERY MILE**

**RACE PACKAGES AVAILABLE AT UWI SPEC FROM 8 OCTOBER TO 31 OCTOBER 9AM – 5PM AFTER REGISTERING AT ANY FIRST CITIZENS BRANCH**



## CAMPUS NEWS



### UWI & ACTT MAKE STRIDES FOR QUALITY EXCELLENCE

**Making a bold commitment** to improving quality, The University of the West Indies has submitted its accreditation candidacy to the **Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT)**. As one of the first tertiary institutions of its size and reach to bid for accreditation, **UWI Campus Principal and Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor Sankat** believes that institutional accreditation would not only provide further endorsement of the quality standards at UWI but would also contribute to a process of continuous quality enhancement at an institutional level. The UWI already has its programmes registered and accredited, but is embarking on the self study assessment of its entire operations.

While important to many stakeholders, institutional accreditation has two main purposes: quality assurance and institutional improvement and it provides assurance to the public, and in particular to prospective students, that the university is meeting the agency's requirements and criteria.

The Campus management team is dedicated to using the opportunity of this self-study exercise to conduct an institutional assessment within the framework of the UWI Strategic Plan, 2007-2012 against the background of the specific accreditation criteria and standard.



### EARTH SCIENCE WEEK

The **Seismic Research Centre (SRC)** of The UWI, in collaboration with the American Geological Institute (AGI) will be celebrating Earth Science Week 2009 during the period October 11-17.

The SRC theme for the week is "Tsunamis and Other Coastal Hazards." During that period, the SRC (which monitors earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis for the English-speaking Eastern

Caribbean), will have a student workshop on the theme, to which students from Mayaro Secondary School have been invited. Students will have an opportunity to learn the causes, hazards and safety precautions for tsunamis directly from a SRC scientist.

In partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the SRC will plant 50 trees suited for coastal areas with students from Cedros Secondary School.

### HISTORY JOURNAL LAUNCHED

**In a greater effort to bring local**, regional and international attention to the scholarship of history, the Department of History at The UWI, St Augustine has launched an in-house journal.

Contributions are hereby solicited from a wide cross section of scholars and advanced graduate students in and outside the Department of History, undergraduate students with works of exceptional quality as well as non-university researchers and writers of history.

The journal, which will be published annually and made available via the UWI institutional repository (UWISpace), will be of considerable benefit to a wide cross section of scholars and students, libraries in addition to members of the public interested in history.

UWISpace is a platform being implemented by UWI's Main Library to capture, store, index, preserve and redistribute research material in digital formats. The journal will be part of an interactive web site embracing available multimedia and web 2.0 technologies (RSS feed, blogs, podcasts, video streams, hyperlinked resources, etc.)

History is not only based on written records but on all human actions, including those recorded orally and reflected exclusively in the archaeological record. The Journal's Editorial Committee therefore invites diverse contributions on documentary history, archaeology, personal narratives (based on oral interviews), ethnography, historical geography, historical linguistics and cultural landscapes.

Contributors are actively encouraged to submit multimedia data in support of their respective papers, should the need arise. In order to expedite the process of publication, this journal will not be peer-reviewed. However, all submissions will be assessed by the Editor and members of the Editorial Committee to determine their suitability for publication. The Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. Contributors, especially students, are gently advised to guard against plagiarism and copyright violations. Full paper submissions must be no more than 2,500 words and must each have a bibliography and endnotes. Paper submissions must adhere to the Chicago Manual of Style [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

The first issue is carded for March 2010. Abstracts of no more than 150 words should be submitted to the Editor, Dr Basil Reid, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology in the Department of History, U.W.I., St. Augustine no later than October 30, 2009. Once the abstracts are approved, full paper submissions should be made no later than December 31, 2009. Dr Reid's e-mail contacts are [Basil.Reid@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Basil.Reid@sta.uwi.edu) and [breidster@gmail.com](mailto:breidster@gmail.com).

The members of the Editorial Committee are:

**Dr Basil Reid** (Editor)

**Dr Claudius Fergus**

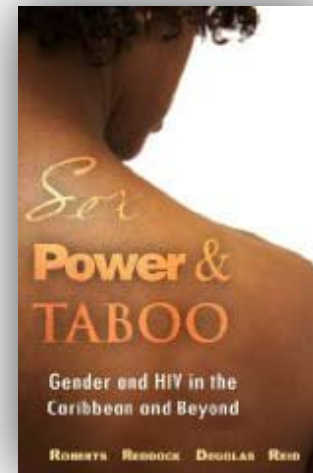
**Professor Bridget Brereton**

**Dr Michael Toussaint and**

**Mr Frank Soodeen**

(UWI Main Library's Representative)

## BOOKSHELF



### SEX, POWER & TABOO GENDER AND HIV IN THE CARIBBEAN AND BEYOND

Eds. Dorothy Roberts,  
Rhoda Reddock,  
Dianne Douglas,  
Sandra Reid  
IAN RANDLE  
PUBLISHERS

**Proceeding from the premise** that gender influences sexuality and sexual behaviour, "Sex Power and Taboo" provides an interdisciplinary exploration of how gender affects HIV risk and prevention.

The paradigm of HIV and AIDS research is shifted by illuminating the influence of gender ideologies, norms and power relationships on sexuality and the impact of gender on HIV risk and prevention within and outside of the Caribbean.

From diverse Caribbean and international perspectives, the contributors investigate the relationship between gender and sexuality for academics, public health workers and advocates and social policy makers. Sex, Power and Taboo contributes to the research-based interventions to prevent HIV infection as well as the design, implementation and evaluation of programmes addressing the AIDS epidemic.

*The book is available at bookshops nationwide.*



### ISLAND QUINTET

Raymond Ramcharitar  
PEEPAL TREE  
PRESS LTD

**In four short stories** and a novella that convey a complex vision of the Caribbean, this breakthrough collection is written with a profound and disturbed sense of the

history that shapes the region and rejects all serene and sentimental images of the islands and its people. Imaginatively and honestly presenting how human relations have become distorted as a result of the class and racial divides wrought by colonialism, these acerbic narratives create highly fragmented but authentic characters who are driven to test both their boundaries and their personal identities. Emphasizing the urbanized population of Trinidad, especially its trendsetters, these stories also explore how sexual transgression can be viewed as a commentary on a society's fundamental character, a topic about which many past Caribbean novelists have generally maintained a discreet silence. Decidedly ambitious and contemporary, these edgy and unrestrained tales explore the deepest issues regarding island existence.

*The book is available at bookshops nationwide.*



UWI LIFE 2009

# I UWI LIFE



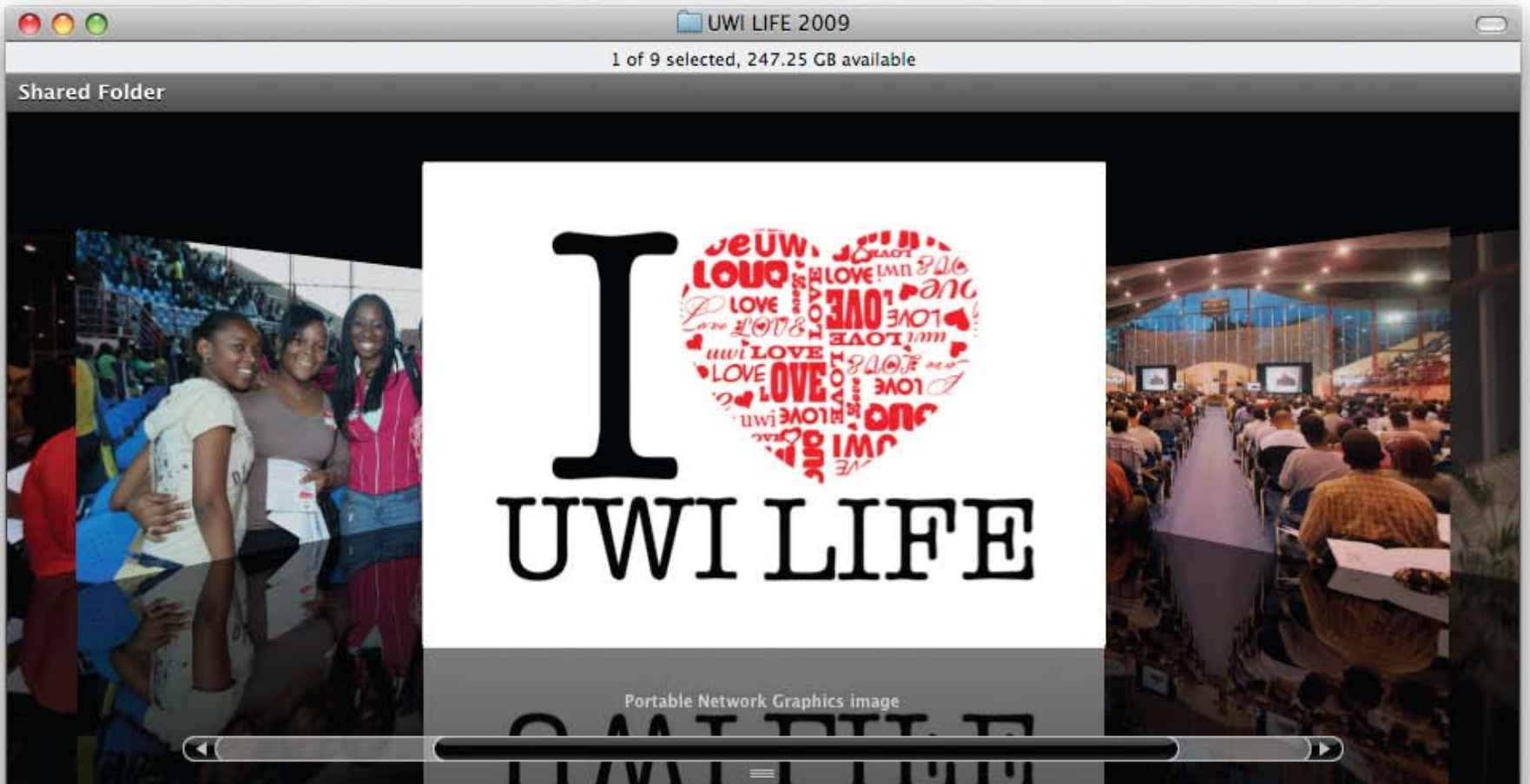
The ubiquitous **UWI cheerleaders** provided a rousing start to the morning's proceedings.



Marketing & Communications' own **Renata Sankar** presents **Ultra Malt** hampers to lucky winners.



A faithful supporter of UWI events, **Richard "Chynee" Valentine**, delivers his hilariously riveting martial arts exposition on the final day.



PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM AND YOHANN GOVEIA



There's **Deidre Charles** (left), Director of Student Services, giving some advice on the post-graduate programme at the **UWI Life Extension**.



Ten years later, at least the excitement and thrill hasn't faded. Doesn't this new batch of students remind you of us?



Clinical Psychologist, **Dr Dianne Douglas** was an enormous hit as her delivery was anything but dry. **Dr Douglas** came loaded with information and advice which she presented under several hats: mother, counsellor, lecturer, and, of course, former student.



Send Attach Insert Priority Signature **I UWI LIFE** To Do Categories Projects Links

To: [rhea@uwi\\_pals.com](mailto:rhea@uwi_pals.com)  
Cc:  
Subject: **UWI owes me a refund!**  
Attachments: **UWI LIFE PICS**

Verdana 14 B I U T

**Dear Rhea,**

Just a quick email to touch base since we haven't spoken for some time. Hope since you moved to London it's a little warmer than Manchester. Indian summer or not, you'd better enjoy it before the single digit degrees kick in. I don't think I even mentioned that I'm now with **UWI's Marketing & Communications Department**. Actually, it is this new post which allowed me to witness what I consider the most amazing evolution in life last week. I couldn't wait to share it with you.

Take your mind back let's say, a decade, when we donned our hipster jeans and tank tops and enrolled in this place of higher learning for our undergrad degrees. At the end of it we loved the experience and only spoke highly of it. And I guess it's because it was all we knew at the time. But last week, I was pleasantly surprised. What we had was chick feed compared with what I witnessed.

Anyway, enough nostalgia, there I was, my first week of UWI as a staff member witnessing a jaw-dropping, invigorating phenomenon, called **UWI Life**. And no Rhea, I'm not using the phrase **UWI Life** as a simple noun. That's a branded title describing three days of activities that celebrate, coach & challenge new students. And it's not just three arbitrary events filled with speeches and academic "how to's"

It's a strategic project aimed at introducing incoming students to the academic, physical and cultural environment of UWI. These three days are separated according to the audience type so that even parents and spouses, are involved and it's fully interactive. Can you believe that?

Gone are the days when you pay, line up to register and wait for that first class to begin. *(BTW did you know that students attend UWI free now...lucky huh?)*

The week starts with **UWI Life Support** which (as it connotes) involve the people who make up the support system for students. Well, these supporters (parents, guardians, spouses) attend what I'd call an energizing and enlightening three hours, where they learn the true meaning of campus life. The supporters were educated about the real deal once their loved ones started campus life, and were treated to anecdotes about "draftin late," having to "live" in the library and the countless pleas for the phone card money to be increased.

As a new parent myself, I thought this was exceptionally useful especially as I now see life through different lenses where money is not that disposable. Jokes aside though, it's also instructional to the parents and spouses to understand the commitment needed and the physical, financial and even emotional backing necessary.

The following evening, **UWI Life Extension**, was for post grad and more mature students. The big shebang though is the culmination of the three days, and this was actually the one that really blew me away. Aimed at helping students glide easily into UWI, this all-day event was explosive and interactive and tickled all senses.

Remember in our day there was the Dance Theatre? Well, it's still up and running and the dancers performed more modern versions of what we did in the **JFK Hall** (As an aside, I don't think you have seen it yet, but JFK is so passé, everything is now held in a state-of-the-art facility called **UWI SPEC**—an indoor stadium which can seat over 2,000). Anyway, so the dancers evolved and I was pleased to see this. But Rhea, what fascinated me was the **UWI Cheerleaders** who apparently perform at all sporting events.

The addresses by campus management were very informative, warm and engaging. Their mentoring words were seasoned by a presentation that received standing ovation—a no-holds barred orientation into this phenomenon called **UWI Life**. Delivered by **Dr Dianne Douglas**, clinical psychologist, this feature dealt with sex and sexually transmitted diseases, money management, time management, substance abuse and emotional disorders, to name a few.

Of course, there was free lunch *(which UWI student would not love that?)* and during the break, students were treated to an **Information Village** which displayed all the services available at UWI—from health to security and even banking. What a great way to initiate them!

You'd think that was it, right? No siree. The afternoon was kind of like a **SUI fete** in the quad back in our day, but times 10. The games, the giveaways and the gaiety were largely due to this upsurge called event sponsorship that's taking over as T&T becomes more and more commercial, firms like **Digi-Data, Digicel, Mario's, Republic Bank Ltd, and E-City** were all represented. As the perfect target audience for corporate T&T, Generation Next(ers) were in receipt of every possible branded merchandise from cups, to bandanas and the much needed stationery. This was accompanied by prizes which ranged from MP3 players, stereo systems, phones and the biggies: laptops. Just remember how only 10 years ago—we huddled in the computer labs to use the machines, and now every other student has a laptop.

I was even speaking with one of the two President's Medal winners, **Nadeemah Mohammed**, at the event and she had high praises. She admitted that the euphoria of her national achievement (only a day before) was matched by the wonderful experience she was having at **UWI Life**, if that's not a great testimonial, what is?

Girl, while the students experienced their baptism into **UWI Life**, so did I, and what a great orientation it was for me. I learnt about the rudiments of the campus from the structured speeches, I had fun with the interactive games and most important I became engaged with my UWI community. And Rhea, if you think I'm, exaggerating just because I work in the Marketing Department, check it out on **flickr**. In fact, I'll also attach some for you to see what we've missed out on. I don't know about Unees in the UK but from my experience at **UWI Life** I'm thinking about enrolling in another course to get in there in 2010.

**Gotta run, we'll chat later on FB**  
**WG**



# UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

## OCTOBER – NOVEMBER

### COTE 2009

**Conference on the Economy**  
Thursday 1 and Friday 2, October, 2009  
UWI School of Education Auditorium,  
Agostini Street, St Augustine

The Department of Economics of The UWI, St. Augustine is hosting its third annual conference, which will take the form of a series of sessions, each covering a specific theme around three key headings: Situational Assessment, Response Framework and The Way Forward. Speakers at COTE '09 include Professor Dennis Pantin, Professor Patrick Watson, Dr Lester Henry, Dr Roger Hosein, Dr Marlene Attzs, Mr Gregory Mc Guire and Mr Kelvin Sergeant.

*For more information on COTE '09, kindly contact the Secretariat at: Tel: 662 2002, Ext 3852, 3055. Fax: 662 6555, Email: cote\_2009@sta.uwi.edu or Department of Economics, UWI, St Augustine.*

**Anniversary Celebrations**  
October 1-15, 2009  
Faculty of Medical Sciences, St Augustine at  
Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex

The Faculty of Medical Sciences will celebrate its 20th anniversary during the first two weeks of October. Celebrations include a series of lunchtime concerts, cultural displays, faculty student clubs' displays and other entertainment. Also honouring the pioneers of that first graduating class (Class of 1994), both staff and students. Medical alumni are invited to participate.

*For further information, please contact 645-2640 Ext 5021*

### UWI TODAY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

UWI TODAY welcomes submissions by staff and students for publication in the paper. Please send your suggestions, comments, or articles for consideration to [uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu).

**Community School of Arts**  
Sept 12 to November 21  
The Department of Creative and Festival  
Arts, Gordon Street, St Augustine

The Department of Creative and Festival Arts opens registration for their Community School of Arts for children of ages 4-12, to be held from September 12th to November 21st.

*Registration information is available at DCFA Agostini/Gordon Street, St. Augustine.*



### UWI SPEC INTERNATIONAL HALF-MARATHON

**UWI SPEC International  
Half Marathon 2009**  
Sunday 1st November, 2009  
6am, UWI SPEC, St Augustine

The UWI's St Augustine Campus will host its signature UWI SPEC International Half Marathon 2009 starting at the UWI SPEC from 6 a.m. with the 13.1 mile route remaining unchanged. The race will continue along the traffic-free Priority Bus Route (PBR) to the La Resource Junction in D'Abadie, before doubling back to the UWI SPEC. Registration takes place from September 10th to October 23rd, 2009. There will be no registration on race day.

**Presentation of Graduates 2009**  
Friday 30 and Saturday 31 October 2009  
Sport and Physical Education Centre, St  
Augustine Circular Road, St Augustine

Annual ceremonies for the Presentation of Graduates 2009 will be held over a two-day period at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus.

**Friday October 30, 2009**  
10am – Faculty of Humanities & Education  
4pm – Faculties of Science & Agriculture and  
Medical Sciences

**Saturday October 31, 2009**  
10am – Faculties of Engineering and Law  
4pm – Faculty of Social Sciences

**The UWI/Guardian Life  
'Premium' Open Lecture 2009**

Friday 2 October, 2009  
5.30pm  
Daaga Auditorium,  
UWI, St Augustine Campus

Feature Speaker at the Open Lecture is Dr Stephen D. Brookfield, Distinguished Professor of the University of St Thomas, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dr Brookfield will speak on "Reflective Practice—The Core of Quality Teaching."

*For further information, please contact the Instructional Development Unit, Tel: 663-9236; 662-2002 ext 2611, or email: [idu@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:idu@sta.uwi.edu)*

**Brazilian Film Week**  
October 1st to Sunday 4th October  
The Centre for Language Learning (CLL),  
UWI St Augustine

The Centre for Language Learning (CLL), UWI St Augustine will host a Brazilian Film Week, which is open to the general public.

Following is the schedule of the Festival:  
**1ST OCTOBER**  
7.15pm screening of "Behind the Sun" –  
(Drama/2002/95 min) Direction: Walter  
Salles

**2nd OCTOBER**  
7.15pm: screening of "Romance - The movie"  
– (Drama/2008/105 min) Direction: Guel  
Arraes

**3rd OCTOBER**  
5.30pm: screening of "Elite Squad" – (Thriller/  
2007) Direction: José Padilha

**4TH OCTOBER**  
5.30pm: screening of "Lisbela and the Prisoner"  
– (Comedy/2004/106 min) Direction: Guel  
Arraes

*For more information, please contact: Vanessa Williams, Centre for Language Learning at [Vanessa.Williams@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Vanessa.Williams@sta.uwi.edu); Ext. 3896; Tel/ fax 662-0758.*