



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES · ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2011



In My Father's Kingdom



In my father's kingdom there are many houses of music. There are no locks on those doors and no keys either. – Pat Bishop

PHOTO BY DEREK GAY

THE FORMIDABLE MS BISHOP

“I consider myself fortunate to have had Pat Bishop as a teacher. She taught me Art and History while at Bishop Anstey High School. Her classes were like entertainment as she had an amazing way with words. Being chastised by Ms Bishop was a different experience; you almost admired her language while she was dressing you down. She continued to be an inspiration to me even though in her presence I always felt like a naughty student. I admired her forthrightness, her confidence, her brilliant use of language and her sense of humour and always wished that I could be like her. I know now that that was never to be. There could only be one Pat Bishop. It was an honour to have known her.” – **Professor Rhoda Reddock**, Deputy Campus Principal and Professor of Gender Social Change and Development, The UWI, St. Augustine

(More on Pat Bishop on Pages 10&11)



Don't go for Gold. The Black Notes sound better. Try Them! – Pat Bishop

PHOTO BY DEREK GAY

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CAMPUS NEWS

GOVERNANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE



Sitting with Campus Principal, Prof Clement Sankat (left) is Professor Lino Brigulio of the University of Malta, who presented a guest lecture on September 12, titled, “Economic Vulnerability and Resilience in the Caribbean Small States.”

Professor Lino Brigulio of the University of Malta, presented a guest lecture at the St. Augustine Office of the Campus Principal on September 12, which was titled, “Economic Vulnerability and Resilience in the Caribbean Small States.”

Prof Brigulio’s presentation began looking at structures, dependence on international trade, and growth rates and the impact of the recession on Caribbean Small States, and then explored the concept of economic vulnerability and resilience.

He outlined a framework for the measurement of economic resilience, which he developed in collaboration (Cordina, Vella and Farrugia) in 2006, where they constructed a resilience index, consisting of four broad components: macroeconomic stability; microeconomic market efficiency; good governance (and good institutions); and social development.

“Good governance is essential for an economic system to function properly and hence to be resilient. Governance relates to issues such as rule of law and property rights. Without mechanisms of this kind in place, it would be relatively easy for adverse shocks to result in economic and social chaos and unrest. Hence the effects of vulnerability would be exacerbated. On the other hand, good governance can strengthen an economy’s resilience,” he said.

He presented an index of good governance, which had been modified from the Economic Freedom of the World Index with an additional component apart from those covering judicial independence; impartiality of courts; the protection of intellectual property rights; military interference in the rule of law; and political system and the integrity of the legal system. His collaborators have included institutions and soundness of the banking system.

“Social development is another essential component of economic resilience. This factor indicates the extent to which relations within a society are properly developed, enabling an effective functioning of the economic apparatus without the hindrance of civil unrest. Social development can also indicate the extent to which effective social dialogue takes place in an economy, which would in turn enable collaborative approaches towards the undertaking of corrective measures in the face of adverse shocks,” he said.

Prof Brigulio outlined some aspects of their resilience index and country categorization which revealed that “countries which fall in the ‘best-case’ quadrant are mostly the large developed countries; countries which fall in the ‘self-made’ quadrant include a number of small states with a high vulnerability score, including Malta; countries which fall in the ‘prodigal-son’ quadrant include mostly large third world countries; and countries which fall in the ‘worst-case’ quadrant include a few vulnerable small countries with weak economic governance.”

Confessing that they did not have “much data” on the resilience scores of Caribbean Small States, Prof Brigulio noted that they only had for six countries, and “according to our updated calculations” he concluded that “Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago (but marginally) would fall in the self-made category – very vulnerable and somewhat resilient; Jamaica and Guyana would fall in the worst cast category – very vulnerable and not sufficiently resilient.”

He however warned that “these results should be interpreted with some caution.”

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our Private Sector Partnerships



A month ago, at the “Founding Fathers Event” hosted by the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business (GSB) I took the opportunity to discuss the unique partnership between The UWI and the private sector. Let me once again congratulate, Joe Esau, Thomas Gatliffe and the late Gordon Draper for their roles in building this Institution, formerly the UWI Institute of Business.

In 1989, a joint venture between The UWI and the private sector of Trinidad and Tobago, was set up to provide primarily postgraduate education and training in business and management via the GSB. I think this institution has and continues to

serve Trinidad and Tobago very well, but significant changes in the global and local landscape have since emerged – in the economy, in the needs of our private sector companies, in the composition and profile of our student population, in the growth of external providers of business education, etc. These and many other factors therefore impinge on the objectives, strategy and positioning of any institution.

The spirit of the partnership to support indigenous capacity in business management is still vibrant, but we need to adjust to the changes in the environment, including growth at the St. Augustine Campus itself.

We also cannot ignore the important role of academic quality and brand in such a partnership. Having a brand that represents high academic quality is something we have worked hard to attain and understandably, we are protective of this brand.

The regional character of The UWI adds another dimension for our students and our partners in the private sector and brings a whole new opportunity for them. For instance, we have had great relationships in the past with bpTT and BHP Billiton in Petroleum Geoscience and with other energy and manufacturing companies.

This spirit of the UWI partnering with the private sector continues to evolve. We begin the new academic year with a new undergraduate programme in Journalism, made possible through the private sector and I thank Ken Gordon, Anthony Sabga, Dawn Thomas and Sunity Maharaj, all leaders of the industry for their support. There are exciting opportunities available at The UWI for win-win partnerships with the private sector as the Campus grows and expands into Penal-Debe, Tobago and Orange Grove; opportunities that go beyond teaching and learning opportunities for research and development and for the provision of services to our nearly 18,000 students. It is through a partnership with our Government and the private sector that we can build a university that is sustainable and delivers on its mission.

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Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal

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A Tribute to Hard Work

The 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.

From October 27 to 29, the celebrations will be at the St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad, where the honorary LLD will be conferred on **Mrs. Helen Bhagwansingh, Professor Anantanand Rambachan, Mr. Reginald Dumas, Sir Fenton H. Ramsahoye, Mr. Brian Lara** and **Ambassador**

Kamaluddin Mohammed, while **Mr. Donald 'Jackie' Hinkson** and **Mr. Roy Cape** will receive the honorary DLitt.

The ceremonies begin on October 15th with the Open Campus Graduation to be hosted this year in Antigua, where **Dame Pearlette 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.

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.

Anna Walcott-Hardy, editor of STAN magazine, asked three of the eight St. Augustine awardees how they felt about being conferred this honorary degree.

■ Mr. Kamaluddin Mohammed

"Well I feel very humbled about it... I feel greatly honoured that the university authorities have recognized my contribution and following on the granting of the highest award of the country, which was the [Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago], which I got last year... I feel very humbled but very gratified that they have recognized the work and I would say it is a tribute not to me, but to the people who contributed to my success."



■ Mrs. Helen Bhagwansingh

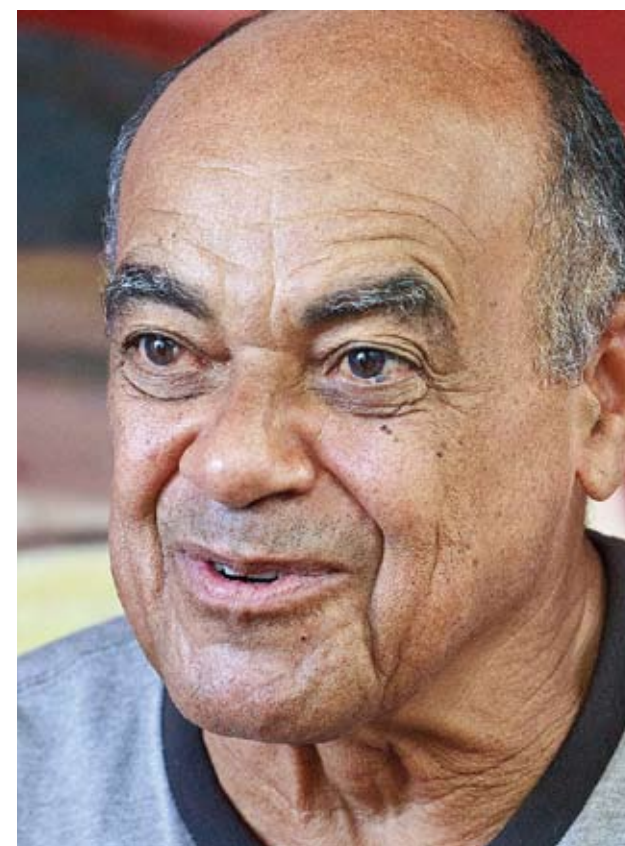
"I feel very honoured. It shows that when you work hard it helps and you could be rewarded for it."

Why did you decide to support Diabetes research by investing substantially in the Diabetes Education, Research and Prevention Institute (DERPI) at UWI?

"Because Diabetes is spreading a lot now and a lot of people have diabetes, a lot of kids, and it's a silent killer. And with Diabetes I think you can help, you can help somebody a lot, you can change their diet from when they're young, give them medicine instead of... amputating a lung or giving a kidney [instead] you can go to the schools and educate the [children] from young ...you can tell the parents what they should eat and shouldn't eat and whoever we have found with Diabetes we follow-up...once we diagnose a child with diabetes we go to their home and we check every member of the family...I think it's a marvelous thing, the [Foundation] and the research is doing so well."

■ Mr. Donald "Jackie" Hinkson

"I am grateful. I appreciate the honour. It's always nice to be honoured. But any artist, particularly of a fairly advanced age, like where I am now, is acutely conscious of the need to focus on his work, is increasingly aware that peripheral things like awards and honours are just that, peripheral things. But I am very happy to receive this honour in particular since it is possibly the only one that I respect. In fact, over the past few years I have been telling my family that I do not want them to accept honours on my behalf. But one or two persuasive friends have convinced me that awards are not only about the recipient, they also have meaning for the wider public. It is an argument that I could not refute. So in the end I am happy."



Intellectual Emergencies in Early Childhood Environments

During the period September 4-9 2011, the Faculty of Humanities and Education, School of Education, in collaboration with UNICEF, conducted its first International Study Visit (ISV) to the UWI Family Development and Children's Research Centre (UWI-FDCRC).

The theme of the visit was Intellectual Emergencies in Early Childhood Environments: An Assessment of Theory, Culture and Practice. The keynote address was given by Dr Lilian Katz, a leader in early childhood for more than 25 years.

Policy makers and Early Childhood Care administrators and practitioners from 11 countries were given the opportunity to be part of the UWI-FDCRC experience. Participants came from Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Guyana, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica, India, Sweden, Holland, Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago. Visitors accessing the study visit had opportunities to observe projects undertaken by the UWI-FDCRC's children and staff. The ISV also permitted persons to examine and reflect on the context of culture and heritage on high quality early education in their various communities. The programme culminated with an exhibition which focused on the unique documentation of children's work at the centre which has made it a quality practice site globally. This day also marked the official launch of the Caribbean Research Collaborative.

■ The following four themes guided the week's activities and learning events:

1. **Teaching in Perspective and the Rights of the Child**
2. **Multiple Intelligences and How Children Learn**
3. **The Environment as a Source of Learning**
4. **Reflection and Documentation: Respecting the Learner.**



Dancing at the farewell lunch with live Parang entertainment hosted by UNICEF

■ CAMPUS NEWS

Best Young Designer

Kirie Ishmael, a student of the Visual Arts Unit of the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA), of The UWI, was adjudged the “Best Young Designer” at the Design Caribbean show which took place from September 1-4 in Santo Domingo, in the Dominican Republic. Kirie won this award for her Design 3 project, Ibis-inspired jewellery.

The DCFA was well represented at the show, as five students (including Kirie) displayed work at the design fair. The other four students (and recent graduates) with work at the show were Jade Achoy, Anyah McNeill, Natrisha Gangapersad and Ann Marie Samsouard. The students benefitted from the opportunity to discuss their work with practitioners, international buyers and meet creative people from all over the Caribbean.



The Visual Arts Unit of the DCFA also played a major role in the Contemporary Caribbean Collection project which was very well received at the show, through the collaboration of design lecturer, Lesley-Ann Noel and Italian design consultants Giulio and Valerio Vinaccia, and eleven local artisans and designers. This was made possible through a collaborative effort between the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Caribbean Export Development Agency, the National Entrepreneurship Development Company (NEDCO) and the Visual Arts Unit of the DCFA.

This collaboration has already begun to bear fruit, with some of the artisans and designers being invited to work more closely with the students during the semester through guest lectures and joint product development. Ms. Noel and Mr. Vinaccia will also continue to work together, as Ms. Noel will spend two weeks in Canada in October doing research with Mr. Vinaccia and Dr. Anne Marchand of the University of Montreal through the Faculty Leadership Pilot Programme.

“The students benefitted from the opportunity to discuss their work with practitioners, international buyers and meet creative people from all over the Caribbean.”



Kirie Ishmael won with her Ibis inspired jewellery.



■ STUDENTS GET A KICK OUT OF BOOT CAMP

In the last week of July 2011, The UWI hosted its first annual Computer Science and IT Boot Camp for secondary school students. Dr. Permanand Mohan, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computing and Information Technology (DCIT), had envisioned a month-long camp in computing for high school students. It was meant to expose students to the Department’s degree options and to provide hands-on experience with some leading technology trends.

Organized by lecturers and postgraduate students from DCIT, this first camp covered a wide variety of areas, including Programming, Web Development, Mobile Development, Wireless Networking, Database Systems, Hardware and Software, Mental Mathematics and Computer Forensics. From 9am to 4pm, each day was filled with a mixture of seminars, hands-on labs and demonstrations.

This year’s participants were also exposed to information technology (IT) companies, namely Microsoft Trinidad and Tobago and Fujitsu Caribbean, whose representatives offered insight into their business functions as well as IT job opportunities. The Trinidad and Tobago Computing Society also gave a presentation on the organization of the society and explained its major functions.

Apart from the classroom and lab activities, a field trip was organized to the Fujitsu Data Centre and Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission, so participants could observe their daily operations: how data was stored and secured for some major IT applications and how the electricity bill is generated periodically. There was also a social evening where participants were able to see technology at play through various Local Area Network (LAN) games and the popular Kinect Xbox station.

At the end, all the participants said they would recommend this camp to their friends and family. What did they like most? One said, “The friendly nature of the camp, and the insights into the applications of what was learnt in school to the real world of computer science and IT.” Another student was most excited by “robots, web page designs, the mental mathematics and parts of the field trip” and yet another was impressed by its interactive nature. “I liked how everyone in the UWI was involved,” said this student, and the practical aspect as well as the way it related information to people “not accustomed to dealing with computers on a more advanced level.”

For the next camp, DCIT seeks more involvement and collaboration with other academic institutions and partners in the industry. The Department is also exploring the possibility of a stay-on-campus option to get more participation from students throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

For news on the 2012 DCIT Boot Camp, please visit the DCIT website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/fsa/dcit/>



Participants racing some robots using programming

RESEARCH

Speaking from the Brain

Novel computer interface offers another wave of co

BY PROFESSOR CHANAN SYAN

It is common for patients in the late stages of the neurodegenerative disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), to suffer a total loss of neuromuscular control that renders the individual incapable of using his/her limbs. When this happens, ALS patients can still perceive the world around them, but they are unable to move and communicate. They are said to be 'locked in' and their only recourse is to rely on an attendant for assistance in performing daily activities.

However, Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs) can allow 'locked in' and similarly disabled individuals, such as quadriplegics and recovering accident victims, to communicate and interact with their environment, which reduces the need for an attendant and returns a measure of independence to the individual.

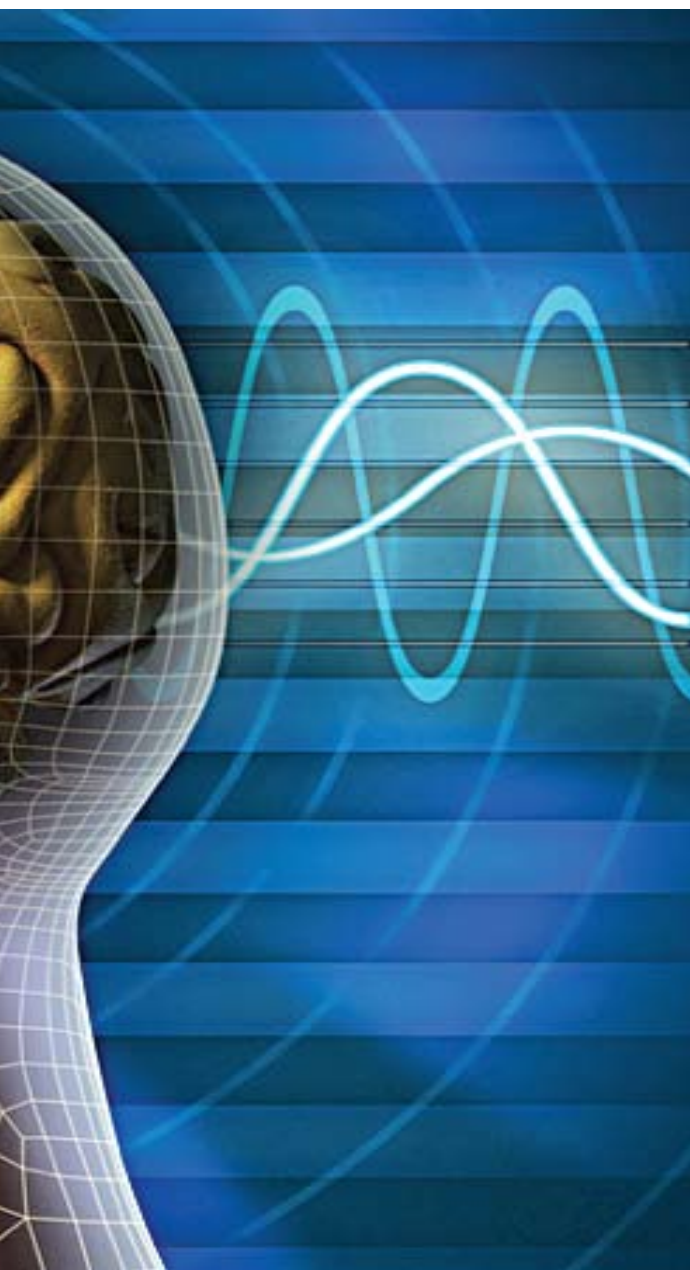
BCIs are a relatively new and exciting technology that allows individuals to control external devices using only their inherent brain activity. External devices in this regard can be virtual keyboards and wheelchair navigation systems, and using a BCI to control such systems creates a class of assistive technology for the disabled. The significant upside to BCIs is that they



PICTURE 1
g.tec g.MOBILAB EEG acquisition apparatus

The UWI BCI uses Electroencephalography (EEG) to register the user's brain activity. A range of other data collection methods can be used, but EEG is cheaper, more portable and requires less technical support for operation. EEG involves the collection of electric potentials at multiple points on the scalp. The measured electric potentials reflect the electrical correlate of brain activity. The EEG itself is a widely used tool in the clinical setting. It is commonly used for the diagnosis of mental conditions such as epilepsy and dementia. **(PICTURE 1 & 2)**

However, BCIs are not 'one size fits all'. The BCI needs to be tuned to the user's unique brain activity and this is done using dedicated subject training sessions. In general, these training sessions are time-consuming. In the context of BCI operation, lengthy subject training times are problematic because prolonged exposure to BCI Paradigms induces mental fatigue in BCI users, which degrades the quality of recorded brain data. The BCI research at UWI mainly focuses on the reduction of subject training times as well as the improvement of command identification accuracy. Misclassified subject



ommunication

“BCIs are a relatively new and exciting technology that allows individuals to control external devices using only their inherent brain activity.”

commands are problematic since they either result in the execution of the wrong command or they require corrective action, which is very time-consuming and prohibits a wider use of the BCI approach for health, business and commercial applications.

Hitherto, the research has succeeded in addressing these two main issues. The research led to an average classification performance increase of 19.33% and a 67.5% reduction in subject training time. These subject training times are the lowest reported in the BCI literature. The UWI BCI research is therefore state-of-the-art with regard to subject training time requirements. These findings are significant as the obtained performance benefits are application insensitive. This means that they apply equally to BCIs used for mouse and keyboard control and for wheelchair navigation. They therefore impact significantly on the entire BCI field.

The current focus of the research is to integrate an autonomous vehicle controller shown in the image below to the existing BCI. The BCI will be used to wirelessly drive the vehicular system using commands sent from the user. As vehicular control systems are scalable, the successful completion of this segment of the research will serve as a proof of concept for the control for larger vehicular systems such as wheelchairs using the UWI BCI. This application platform also spotlights the applicability of BCI technologies for the able-bodied in the form of novelty consumer electronic items such as BCI-driven remote-controlled vehicles. (PICTURE 3)

The UWI BCI utilises the P300 wave as a carrier of information to relay subject instructions. There are other brain signals that could be used for this, however the P300 is advantageous because it can be evoked with little subject training and minimal stress. The Stimulus Presentation Paradigm (SPP) that is used to evoke the P300 wave to relay user instruction in the UWI BCI is embodied in the screenshot below. This screenshot is used to explain how the P300 is used in conjunction with nine symbolic commands (the Speller Matrix) for an autonomous vehicle controller. (PICTURE 4)

The SPP presents the user with a collection of nine symbolic commands. The subject is instructed to focus on a particular command and all nine commands are flashed in a random sequence. The P300 wave is elicited when the command at which the user is gazing is highlighted. The BCI inspects the post-stimulus segments of the EEG in order to identify the presence of the P300 waveform and therefore the subject command. The system therefore allows the user to select a command visually without the need for any significant mental and/or physical exertion.

In the UWI BCI example, these commands are motive instructions sent by the user to an autonomous vehicle controller. However, the commands and target device can be changed to allow for BCI-based mouse control or virtual keyboard control. Additionally, since there are no limitations on the type of device that can be controlled by the BCI, the applicability of BCI technology is not limited to assistive and rehabilitative uses. Current research in the BCI field focuses on application areas that cater to the able-



PICTURE 2
Collection of EEG (Electroencephalogram) for Brain-Computer Interfacing at UWI



PICTURE 3
Quanser Qbot Autonomous Vehicle



PICTURE 4
Screenshot of the Stimulus Presentation Paradigm users view during BCI usage

bodied population, such as virtual reality, gaming and home environmental control.

For example, the NEILab group at Italy have managed to integrate the classic two-player competitive game ‘Pong’ to their BCI using EEG. Control signals are extracted from the recorded EEG and are translated into vertical paddle position that replaces the joystick input from the original game. Additionally, g.tec (Guger Medical Engineering, Austria) has developed a virtual reality research system that allows a user to navigate and select objects within a virtual environment using BCI. This technology could be tailored for the control of smart homes.

The Joiner of Dots

BY KENWYN CRICHLAW

“I need you to look at these paintings and talk to me about what I am doing. I need a crit,” Pat said a few weeks ago. She was preparing for the Schubert’s Winterreise production.

Her painting connects to the music rehearsal process. It was her way of discovering Shubert’s intentions, painting informed her searching for the ways his music may be conveyed in the connections between Eddie Cumberbatch the tenor, and Lindy-Ann Boddan-Ritch the pianist. She knew this collaboration between instruments, people, musical score and perceptions of an audience was key to “joining the dots” in musical performance as painting is to drawing out the possibility of a form in art.

Painting was her private practice, in the sense it activated a space at the heart of her artistic practice. It provided the inner point from where her wide ranging cultural work was to do everything and more than that everyone wanted her to do.

She thought it was her responsibility to Beryl McBurnie that the Little Carib Theatre return as an outstanding performance space. She knew it was her official duty to work with Ministerial committees; to supervise academic research at the Carnival Institute and the Department of Creative and Festival Arts. It was her pleasure to make music with the Desperadoes and Exodus steel orchestras, especially to sit in the “engine room” knocking her cowbell to get players to hear themselves. She assumed that it was her responsibility to provide the best examples of world musical heritage to the Lydians, as well as to listen to Robert Greenidge, Boogie Sharpe, Raf Robertson, Hyacinth Nichols and whoever was making sophisticated music. This inner point was also a departure into a seclusion in which she felt most vulnerable. For example, I knew she would ask Leroi Clarke to look at her paintings, but never on the same day that I was expected. Two critical opinions would be too much bruising.

I had a long association with Pat Bishop, not as long as Robert Las Heras or Peter Minshall or Jackie Hinkson or Leroi Clarke; I met her during her time with the Solid Waste Company. She was the driving force of the public education campaign to clean up Trinidad and Tobago. Everyone was



The Keys to the Keys of the Songs in the many Keys of Life (with apologies to Stevie Wonder)

familiar with her ‘Charlie’ character. She acknowledged that for a little time “Chasing Charlie away” entered the public attention and animated a genuine concern for the physical state of the surroundings.

I first met and co-opted her into a committee to recover public interest in the Trinidad Art Society. The ensuing event at the Tent Theatre on the same day Maurice Bishop died was an inspiration for her painting of the Grenada Trilogy. A three-panel mural. I remember her tears of sadness in the central panel, the “thirty pieces of silver”, which addressed the tragedy of political betrayal. In that moment, she felt free to unburden herself; “painting is too hard”.

Her recent sad, but unsurprising death awakens a memory of her interpreting Boogie Sharpe’s “Pan Rising” music and me taking the painting opposite onto the neighbor’s fence so that he could see the crescendo in the shape of her painting. The Pat Bishop of a few weeks ago was no different, incisive and profound. The mural size of her earlier paintings has come to whatever she could make on the table she constructed over her bed. I wryly joked it was “her last”, in the sense of a cobbler’s workbench from where she painted, wrote, read, ate, met, planned, phoned, rehearsed and counselled so many persons. It was from there she created the collection of paintings she named “She sells on the sea shore”. We spoke of comparisons between this collection and an earlier show in Barbados. She was anxious not to be thought of as doing the same thing again. She was not; this upcoming presentation was full of her memories. I observed this in her process of long introspections about her growing up with Gillian, Ena and Sonny in Woodbrook, her happy days at Tranquillity School and riding to Bishop Anstey High School, learning oil painting from sessions with Cicely Forde, her meeting with Billie Miller of Barbados in northern England. She was a source of information about art history, Caribbean politics, Gillian’s designs, the disposition of pianos and personalities from all over the region.

She was quite brutal in the review of her work. I have watched her eviscerate perfectly reasonable paintings. She never let up on herself, always questioning her expectation of how a painting should look or how it was to be seen. Pat felt a strong affinity between her art and the heritage of mas-making: she connected her practice of “a thing well-made is a thing worth making” to the work of dress-makers like her mother, Meiling and Claudette from Laventille. She was uncommonly adept at seeing relationships between art, writing, speaking, music, cooking, penmanship and nearly everything else. She wanted her work to look outward, but never too far inward. Art was for people to see reflections of themselves.

She knew that her birth in Woodbrook and life as artist was to reach out to others – in her last days, even as her soul seemed to be weighed down, terminally exhausted. She persevered to live up to the expectation of a “cultural icon”. Some have wondered why, given the many ways those in ‘authority’ could ‘dumb-down the place’ without even raising a sweat. She never answered. She dreamed instead of curating an exhibition of the art and designs of the several graduates of the Visual Arts course of The UWI. She imagined their work could be the best celebration of our 25th anniversary within the national 50th anniversary of Independence at the renovated Museum of Port of Spain. She thought that the national community needs to know more of our graduates. I agree.



The Mississippi delta was shining like the national guitar

A formidable speaker, perhaps because she had access to so many dimensions of the artistic mind, **Pat Bishop** would write to her “God-given brother” **Derek Gay** in 2007, “If I cannot speak it, I can paint it.” And Derek would photograph the images she made, lovingly transferring them from one medium to another.

On this page (and the cover) are paintings photographed by **Derek Gay** (a civil engineer and lecturer at The UWI) and taken from her 2007 exhibition, “I belong to the house of music.”

■ IN MEMORY OF PAT

Teacher, Friend *and* Mentor

BY JENNIFER JOSEPH

There are many who can claim Pat Bishop as friend and mentor. I consider myself to be one of those persons so privileged, for the past 40 plus years. Pat was first my teacher at Bishop Anstey High School in the 1960s. She taught me both History and Art. I was really hopeless at the Art but certainly benefitted from her teaching skills and guidance in History in fifth and sixth forms. She provided us with what she called the perfect formula for writing papers and passing history exams, advising that it was not sufficient to have knowledge of the subject matter, but that the opening paragraph/statement was most important and must carry the analysis and answer to the question posed; this then had to be topped off with an excellent conclusion. She drilled us in this art of writing instead of merely documenting facts. Thanks to her, we all did well in the exams. I adopted it as a lifelong formula.

But I think it was during the period 1966-1967 when she was my form mistress that the foundation for the long years of friendship and mentorship was laid. Pat was no ordinary form mistress. On the first day, she strenuously advised the group of us (27) who were repeating fifth form in order to get better grades in general or better grades for our sixth form subjects that *"Dey really don't want all yuh in dis school – so we have to show dem."* She proceeded to take a personal interest in each one of us, advising that she would deal with any teacher who was 'giving trouble'. She assisted each one of us in developing a study plan and we had to give her weekly, individual reports of our progress or heaven forbid, the lack thereof. Some of those sessions were really tough as Pat was always a hard taskmaster and didn't



"Every valley shall be exalted" ...and so they were one jouvay morning on Bertie Marshall's electric pan. This painting was specially chosen by Pat Bishop for the author when she moved into her new home, The Pansion.

put water in her mouth to say anything! Nevertheless, she provided us with invaluable guidance and support and we were motivated to succeed through that personal interest and the fact that we were, in effect, co-conspirators. The small group of us who went on to pursue history in sixth form continued to benefit from her vast knowledge and expert teaching skills. We were her 'girls' and she was our friend. We were privileged to be invited to her house and to meet her parents, not simply as students, but as friends. She left shortly thereafter for Jamaica.

When Pat returned from Jamaica a few years later in 1974, we reconnected. I was then a final-year student at UWI and she was tutoring in History. I was a member of the birdsong Steel Orchestra that comprised UWI students and staff. Practice sessions took place at the old Guild Hall, now Daaga Auditorium. I don't recall exactly how Pat came to birdsong, but I suspect that it may have been the Hilarian connection since there were several of us from Bishop Anstey whom she knew. There began a long relationship between Pat and birdsong. Even before the revival of the national steelband festival in the 1980s, she was trying to teach classical music to birdsong. We struggled with 'Malaguena', and a few other pieces. She also wrote an opera for pan and voice entitled "The Swamp" and we were the chosen band. Unfortunately, that particular opera never got to the stage but she continued to persevere.

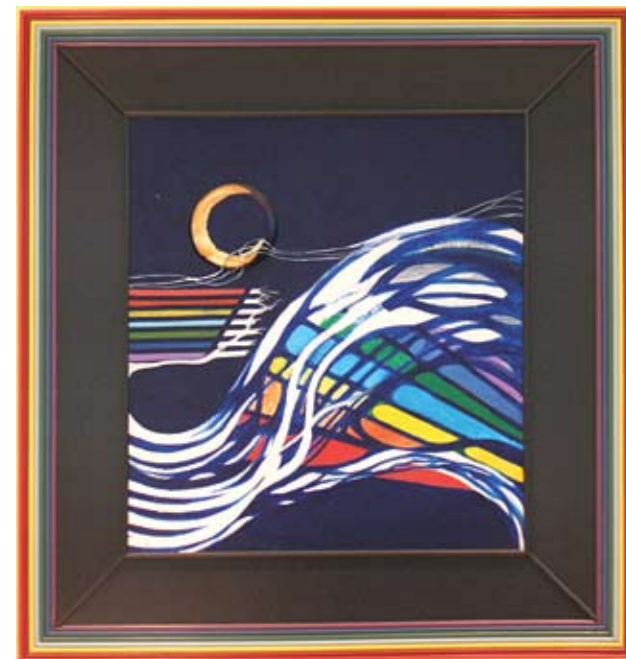
Our friendship consolidated in those early years of birdsong. We shared a common interest in music and pan in particular. We were both living in St. James and most times, would drive up to Campus together. In 1982 and 1984, Pat conducted birdsong for the National Steelband Festival and we made it to the finals and were adjudged winner of the Best Test Piece. And this, I think, is one of Pat's greatest strengths – her eye for detail and her drive for perfection which, no doubt propelled Lydians and Despers to great heights and enriched her work as an artist.

As a frequent visitor to her house, I have been privileged over the years to listen to her as she developed the germ of an idea for a painting, an art exhibition, or a Lydians concert; or to listen to classical music as she chose items for Despers and any other band that asked her. Sometimes I would receive an urgent call to find some remote bit of information in a library as she worked on her various projects (which also included people!).

I was really pleased and proud to have assisted her as she took Despers through the paces for their return to the national steelband festival in 1986. And while I never sang a note in the Lydians, I occasionally turned pages for the accompanist or, on Pat's insistence, played the glockenspiel in the orchestra for one of the operas! One could never say no to Pat. But then, she also appeared incapable of saying no to her friends or to any cause that she considered noble. I really don't know how she made the time, but Pat was always available to assist me in my own activities and endeavours, ranging from writing speeches, preparing music for my Sunday School children, or planning Library Association activities during my tenure as president – to developing a fund-raising project to restore the pipe organ at the Tranquillity Methodist Church. We spent many hours discussing life, local, regional and international issues. Pat possessed a wry sense of humour and a dry sarcasm which she brought to many a discussion. In moments of depression and despair, she has provided that word of comfort and

inspiration as well as the reprimand. I remember her once literally ordering me not to pamper myself over seeming illness because there was "so much work to be done in the society". This, of course, was the way she lived her life to the very end.

In effect, I would say that Pat Bishop has had a very positive influence on my life, teaching me that through perseverance and commitment, one can achieve what may have seemed impossible; that one should never settle for mediocrity but should always strive for excellence; and that friendship means sharing and support.



Hanging in the Main Salon of the Office of the Campus Principal, The New Moon Rises.

Pat was no ordinary form mistress. On the first day, she strenuously advised the group of us (27) who were repeating fifth form in order to get better grades in general or better grades for our sixth form subjects that *"Dey really don't want all yuh in dis school – so we have to show dem."*

■ NATIONAL AWARDS

Doing Good Things for the Love of It

AT THE ANNUAL NATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY held on Independence Day, August 31, two members of The UWI family were presented with the Public Service Medal of Merit (Gold). **Surujpal Teelucksingh**, a Professor of Medicine, and **Dr Noel Kalicharan**, a Senior Lecturer in Computing and Information Technology were recognised for their contributions to medicine and education, respectively. In our February issue, we carried a profile of **Prof Teelucksingh**, who is also the Public Orator for the St. Augustine Campus, which can be read at http://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/archive/february_2011/article11.asp. In this issue, we take a look at **Dr Kalicharan's** role as an educator at The UWI.

“If you do things because it is a good thing to do, it will come back to you,” says Dr Noel Kalicharan with karmic satisfaction. His office is piled with books and papers, some authored by him on programming, and the general ambience is that of an academic's den.

Dr Kalicharan has a somewhat public voice, if not face; he is a regular writer of letters to newspaper editors on diverse subjects, including cricket and, of course, education. He often pops up on internal university communication channels, sharing information, scolding colleagues, and offering suggestions to improve efficiency. It can range from eating habits to teaching methods, and the responses can be just as varied. One way or another, Dr Kalicharan provokes thought, and perhaps that is the educator in him.

He's not cocooned by theories; he considers himself an innovative, practical man, empowered by academic training.

“I'm practical,” he says. “Theory has value when you put it to practical use. I always like to do things that benefit others. Sometimes the research that is done is merely in pursuit of academic advancement. That's why I've written books rather than papers,” he says with typical bluntness.

Thirty-five years ago, he was the first person to be appointed as a full-time lecturer in computer science at UWI. It was 1976, computer science was a fledgling subject, and although mathematics remains his first love, he jumped into this newish field enthusiastically. He helped formulate the first version of the computer science degree which started formally in 1979 with an intake of 53 students, and remained involved in all revisions as well as the introduction of new programmes such as the BSc in Information Technology and the MSc in Computer Science. Practically everyone who has graduated in computer science from The UWI has passed Dr Kalicharan's way.

“My role as an educator is to produce learners. My goal is to empower others to learn how to learn. Part of that process is to emphasize principle rather than fact. It is far better to learn a principle from which many (perhaps, infinitely many) facts can be derived than to learn a few isolated facts. The world is constantly changing and only those who can adapt easily to change will survive.”

“Having said that, it is becoming more and more difficult to teach principle. In my early years of teaching, it was very easy to teach principle, to produce thinkers. I remember one graduate going to an interview for a programming job. He was asked if he knew the programming language COBOL. He said no but he could learn it (on his own) if he was given two weeks. That's because he learnt the principles of programming—the language was almost irrelevant. He was a learner.”

“The modern graduate would simply say no. He would be happy to attend a workshop on COBOL where he might gain some superficial knowledge of the subject, but no deep understanding. That's because hardly anyone learns principles any more. From primary school, the emphasis is on producing 'regurgitators'. Such students have to learn everything from scratch. They cannot build on previous principles because they have not learnt any. It's almost like learning the answer to every addition problem rather than learning how to perform addition.”

With his strong views on the way people learn, Dr Kalicharan has willingly sat on several committees dealing with computer science education at the secondary and tertiary levels. Among these were the NIHERST Steering Committee, the National Training Board Advisory Committee and the Ministry of Education Advisory Committee in the 1980s. These committees formulated policy and laid the foundation for computer science education in the country outside of UWI.

Dr Kalicharan has been heavily involved in the assessment of computer science/information technology at all levels. Apart from his role as examiner at UWI, he has been the moderator for computing courses examined by the National Examinations Council (1984-1993) and NIHERST (1989-1993). From 1992-2000,



President of the Republic, His Excellency Maxwell Richards, pins the Public Service Medal of Merit (Gold) to the lapel of Dr Noel Kalicharan at the National Awards Ceremony on Independence Day. PHOTO COURTESY GISL

he served as the Chief Examiner in Information Technology for the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC).

In 1998, the Ministry of Education approached Dr Kalicharan to formulate a programme of training for high school teachers to enable them to teach CXC's Information Technology. He has done this as well for Grenada.

Since 1993, Dr Kalicharan has been almost solely responsible for Trinidad & Tobago's participation at the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI). This is an annual computer programming competition for high school students. He runs the local leg of the

competition (sets the problems and grades the responses), trains the top few students and acts as Delegation Leader to the IOI.

In 1988, he was commissioned by Trinidad & Tobago Television to develop, produce and host a 26-programme series entitled *Computers - Bit by Bit*. In 1996, he was commissioned by the Guardian newspapers to write a 26-part series of articles on the Internet. In the 1990s, he developed a computer program to process the results of competitions run by the National Carnival Commission (Calypso Monarch, King and Queen of Carnival, etc.).

Dr Kalicharan has won many major competitions with his work. Among these are the National Macintosh Open Competition sponsored by Apple Computer, the NIHERST Technology Innovators Competition, Prime Minister's Awards For Invention and Innovation in 2000 and 2002 for the invention of games designed to teach thinking/numeracy skills and the Google Placement Challenge organised by BrightHub, open to entries from all over the world.

In 1985, Dr Kalicharan published his first book, *Computer Studies - Fundamentals Plus*. This was also the first book on the subject by a Caribbean author. Since then, he has written 14 more books on computer science. His first major international successes were *Introduction to Computer Studies* and *Computer Studies for GCSE*, published by Cambridge University Press, 1988. They later published his widely-acclaimed success, *C By Example*.

In 2010, NIHERST designated him a *Trinidad & Tobago Icon in Computer Science*. Part of his citation read: “A pioneer in computer science education in Trinidad & Tobago and the wider Caribbean, Noel Kalicharan's contributions in diverse areas have had a lasting impact on the standard and quality of Information Technology locally, regionally and internationally.”

For the little boy from rural Lengua, who had to spend three years in Standard Five because he was too young to do the 11-plus examination, who came from a place where even a trip to Princes Town was a big excursion; to become a computer science expert is a marvellous story of the wondrous things that come from a mind willing to learn.



Prof Surujpal Teelucksingh is congratulated by Prime Minister The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, after receiving the Public Service Medal of Merit (Gold) from President of the Republic, His Excellency Maxwell Richards at the National Awards Ceremony on Independence Day. In the congratulatory line is Dr Gregory Bissessar, and Chief Justice Ivor Archie. PHOTO COURTESY THE TRINIDAD GUARDIAN

■ INNOVATION



This PIE is not in the Sky

BY MILLA COZART RIGGIO

Despite Trinidad's undeniable Pan legacy to the world, a burning question has remained since the mid to late 1980s about who would ultimately reap the benefits for the continued development of Pan. Most of the actual degrees in Pan Studies are abroad (at places like Northern Illinois University, USA, where Liam Teague is on the faculty). And despite the continued role of Panland Trinidad and Tobago LTD (formerly Trinidad and Tobago Instruments LTD) and other more individual entrepreneurs, even Pan production is often located abroad. Nevertheless, Trinidad sustains its impregnable position both as the inventor of Pan and as the unique culture that best showcases the instrument. Sanch Electronix, under the direction of Simeon Sandiford, has established the world standard for recording Pan, an instrument that because of its acoustic nature has presented huge challenges for those who wish to record, as well as amplify, it. Even with these achievements and advantages, it remains to be asked how Trinidad can establish its leadership in the multiple areas of Pan development, education, and distribution.

It is in this context that we must welcome – after eight years of development – the finally unveiled project known as PIE, or Pan in Education. Produced by Sandiford and engineer, composer and arranger Mark Loquan, PIE is a hybrid educational and marketing programme.

It is an indigenous ICT-derived innovative product, soon to be available on interactive CDs fully compatible with both PC and Mac operating systems. The double-CD set contains 13 music arrangements (disc 1) with scores, curriculum, a National Occupational Standard (NOS) for creating Music Producers, tasks, assignments, and associated material (disc 2) that work to educate students, not only in music literacy, but also in much broader areas of literacy and skill. The overall programme covers the areas of music, business, technical English, ICT, audio engineering and social studies. Each area provides a curriculum in itself. There are, for example, 40 curriculum modules presented in PowerPoint format to support the 44-unit NOS. The newly upgraded second CD provides backward linkages to an already existing, self-instructional interactive software developed by Sandiford and produced by Sanch Electronix, in which an animated instructor called Pete the Panstick (PETE) walks students through introductions to the Steelpan – replete with musical examples, scores, definitions

and other aids – to a large number of musical genres, including of course Calypso and Soca. Much credit is due to Trinidadians Martin Haynes, who created the dual Mac/PC compatibility as well as the PIE interface and to animator Camille Selvon Abrahams who created PETE.

In addition to basic music instruction, one of the key features of PIE is the way it links music and business, an important bridge in a nation that sometimes does better at inventing than at developing and protecting its own interests. The Business of Music curriculum is divided into Music Literacy and Entrepreneurial Development. In keeping with the Trinidad base and electronic sophistication of PIE, the acoustic Steelpan and the Percussive Harmonic Instrument (PHI) are the preferred instruments for use in the Music Literacy component of the curriculum. While students are learning music, they are also honing the skills that enable them to sustain ownership of and develop the national musical instrument of Trinidad and Tobago. Following the Business of Music curriculum, they will learn and nurture the entrepreneurial skills that will enable them to play the Global Music Industry with a wide range of Caribbean rhythms. But the aim of this educational venture is broader than simply learning to understand and create music. The Technical English component of the curriculum has been developed specifically to improve English literacy across the board in all other curricular areas. And the business skills emphasized are also those that can be used in many different contexts and situations, not just the development of Pan. In this sense, while PIE is training students particularly in music education and marketing, it is also offering them skills that are transferable to other areas of interest.

Even in their anticipatory stage, PETE and PIE have received not only recognition but some initial funding support by grants from the Centre for Development of Enterprise (CDE), the Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA), Trinidad and Tobago Film Company, and the Ministry of Trade. Endorsements have come from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), European Union (EU), The University of the West Indies (UWI), The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), Inter American Development Bank (IDB), the Commonwealth Secretariat (COMSEC), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC).



PUT ON YOUR RUNNING SHOES

The Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC) of The UWI, St Augustine Campus launched its signature UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon on September 20, 2011 at the Office of the Campus Principal. First Citizens is the presenting sponsor of the UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon 2011, which is carded for Sunday October 30, 2011.

Ms. Lystra Francis, Director of the UWI SPEC (Ag.) and Race Director welcomed guests and the Honourable Anil Roberts, Minister of Sport, then addressed the gathering. Mr. Warren Sookdar, Chief Information Officer (Information and Communication Technology) at First Citizens, then presented the \$450,000 sponsorship cheque to host Professor Clement Sankat, St. Augustine Campus Principal.

An estimated 1,000 local, regional and international athletes will compete in the 2011 race, which includes specific categories for UWI students, UWI staff, and physically challenged competitors. The Half-Marathon, which is the only traffic-free race in the region, has grown tremendously from 300 participants at its inception in 2004 to 1,000 in 2010.

The race will be electronically timed and any records broken in this Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS)-certified, and International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF)-accredited race will be recognised 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.

Race registration takes place from September 20 to October 25, 2011. There will be no registration on race day. Local participants may register 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. Only athletes residing outside of Trinidad & Tobago can register online at www.active.com. The deadline for online registration is October 20, 2011.

■ To download photos of the **UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon**, click <http://www.flickr.com/photos/theuwi/collections/7215762210269577/>

For more information contact The UWI SPEC at (868) 662-2002 Ext. 83771, 82660, 83556 or 83571 or specinfo@sta.uwi.edu

Milla Cozart Riggio is James J. Goodwin Professor of English, Coordinator, Trinity-in-Trinidad Global Learning Site. This is an edited excerpt of her review of PIE; the full text can be read at <http://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/default.asp>

UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2011



UWI/GUARDIAN LIFE PREMIUM OPEN LECTURE 2011
30 September, 2011
Daaga Auditorium
UWI St. Augustine Campus

The Instructional Development Unit at The UWI,

collaborates with Guardian Life of the Caribbean Ltd, to host the UWI/Guardian Life Premium Open Lecture 2011. This lecture is themed *Maximum Impact: Using Feedback to Drive Assessment*, and will feature key speaker Dr. Maryellen Weimer, Professor Emeritus of Teaching and Learning at Penn State University, Pennsylvania, USA.

For further information, please visit www.gloc.biz or Instructional Development Unit at 662-2002 ext 82611, or via email: idu@sta.uwi.edu



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

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

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

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2011

18 October, 2011
Hyatt Regency Trinidad

The Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business hosts another instalment in its Women in Leadership Series, the Women in Leadership Conference 2011: Advancing Women in Business. This conference features world renowned speakers, Dr. Carol Kinsey Goman and Dr. Lois Frankel, and aims to offer insight into how women can excel in the workplace and assume even greater leadership roles.

For further information, please e-mail conferencing@gsb.tt.



UWI ST. AUGUSTINE GRADUATION 2011
27-29 October, 2011
SPEC
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

For further information, please contact Examinations at 662-2002 ext 82155 or 83008.



COTE 2011
5-8 October, 2011
Learning Resource Centre
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.

For further information, please contact The Department of Economics at 662 2002 ext. 83231, 83582, or via e-mail at uwi.cote@gmail.com.

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