

Azara Hosein - *The Faculties of Humanities & Education and Sport*

Azara Hosein has been dancing since she was five years old. Seventeen years later, she is a budding choreographer with the Metamorphosis Dance Company, and over the past three years she has been carefully choreographing another demanding performance: balancing a Double Major in Spanish and French, leadership roles, rehearsals, performances, and an active university life.

Azara credits much of her success to maintaining a healthy life balance. She loves to move, so while her language studies demanded countless hours of reading, research and preparation, dance remained a constant source of discipline, creativity, and joy.

That balance was put to the test during her final year, when she found herself juggling coursework, her Final Year Research Project, some of her most challenging courses, and her responsibilities as Rehearsal Director at her dance company, all while preparing for two major dance showcases. The timing was far from ideal, with both performances taking place just one weekend before coursework exams were due.

Behind the scenes, family support was key. Her mother stayed up late to keep her company while she studied. Her father often waited through rehearsals in Port of Spain so he could follow her safely home to Charlieville. Her elder brother, Chad, was always a few steps ahead, helping to guide the path, while her grandmother's wisdom helped set the tempo.

"She always encouraged me to balance my time between academics and extra-curricular activities, take breaks where needed and reminded me that I always had what it took to achieve excellence."

With those words in mind, she rose to the challenge and earned an A grade on her HUMN 3099 Final Year Research Project, which was later selected for publication in the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics Research Notes, Issue 8 (2026).

Like many students, she discovered that some of the most valuable lessons at UWI were learned outside the lecture room. Through the Division of Student Services and Development's Student Champions programme and the Spirit Team, she found a community that transformed her university experience. As Spirit Team Captain for two years, she embraced opportunities that ranged from performing in the UWI Games Opening Ceremony to unexpectedly co-hosting a Carnival Warm-up.

She also leaves UWI with memories of impromptu games of hide-and-seek in the Student Activity Centre, late-night walks around campus during exam season, and a Spanish Literature short-film project that produced far more bloopers than successful takes. Friends know her as someone who is always willing to try something new and make the most of every opportunity.

As the curtain comes down on her undergraduate experience, Azara plans a brief interlude. She wants to take a year off to find her passion, gain experience, travel, explore career possibilities, and prepare for postgraduate studies. Then, when the time is right, she will step back into the spotlight and begin choreographing her next act.

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