



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, WEST INDIES

OFFICE OF THE CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Clement Sankat, *BSc (UWI), MSc (UWI), PhD (Guelph), FIAgrE, CEng, FAPETT*

The UWI/Guardian Life Premium Teaching Awards 2010

“Teaching Excellence and Social Media”

Friday 1st October, 2010 5.00 pm

Daaga Auditorium, UWI St. Augustine

Welcome Remarks by the Campus Principal

Salutations

- Thank you Chair, Professor Margaret Rouse-Jones
- Mr. Ravi Tewari, Group President, Life, Health and Pensions, Guardian Life of the Caribbean
- Ms. Caira Cudjoe, Manager Corporate Communications, Guardian Life of the Caribbean
- Dr. Anna-May Edwards-Henry, Director, Instructional Development Unit, UWI St. Augustine Campus
- Dr. Brian Croxall, Council on Library and Information Resources, Postdoctoral Fellow and Emerging Technologies Librarian, Woodruff Library, Emory University
- Campus Management, Colleagues
- Distinguished Guests
- Members of the Media

- A very pleasant good evening!
- It is indeed my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies for this year's UWI/Guardian Life Premium Teaching Awards 2010. Here at St. Augustine we remain committed to providing a supportive environment that rewards excellence and therefore this evening, we recognize excellence in the class room by honouring the members of our academic staff that are dedicated and committed to our students through their teaching!
- Before I go on, allow me to recognize and thank the Director of the University's Instructional Development Unit (IDU), Dr. Anna May Edwards-Henry and the rest of the UWI team for the hard work involved in consistently staging this important event. Let me also take this time to acknowledge and thank our corporate partners at Guardian Life for their partnership and support throughout the years. This year's ceremony marks the 12th year of this collaboration and the 6th Premium Teaching Awards since the partnership between the UWI St. Augustine Campus and Guardian Life began in 1998. We at the St. Augustine Campus are deeply appreciative and grateful for this partnership to promote

excellence in teaching and we thank all the representatives present from Guardian Life for this!

- I would also like to specially welcome to the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies, Dr. Brian Croxwall who has a wealth of experience particularly in teaching and media. Dr. Croxwall – welcome, it is indeed a pleasure having you with us this evening.
- As the leading higher education institution in the region, I truly believe that the UWI in **particular**, has a responsibility to ensure quality standards in teaching. In fact, the IDU was created in 1996 for this very purpose - to ensure that high quality standards in teaching are not only met but are also maintained! Since becoming Campus Principal, I have been a strong advocate for transforming the culture of the St. Augustine Campus into one that is “student centered” and “quality driven”. Therefore we are continuously working on maintaining the highest quality standards in teaching and learning. This is not only reflected in St. Augustine’s stride towards Institutional Accreditation which has allowed us to be reflective and critical of our processes including that of teaching and learning, but more so, we have also ensured that all new lecturers are trained and certified to deliver higher education programmes efficiently. The

implementation of the UWI Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning and the Masters in Higher Education Tertiary Level Teaching and Learning are testament to this focus on teaching.

- As some of you may know, here at The University of the West Indies the matter of teaching and learning is one of the key areas on which our 2007 – 2012 Strategic Plan focuses, in addition to graduate studies, research and innovation and outreach. While these areas are all important to us, I want to especially emphasize this evening the importance of teaching and learning – as it is indeed at the very heart of our business as a tertiary education provider.
- The University is a great institution for social change and our researchers, lectures and instructors are our greatest assets in this regard. Universities and their teachers have therefore always been the catalyst for human progress throughout history as knowledge, brought about by teaching and learning has created the world in which we live. Today, the knowledge that teachers impart and the graduates they create continue to shape our modern world and to profoundly affect our daily lives. The excellent teachers therefore understand that when one teaches today, it is to improve lives tomorrow.

- To this end, I would like to congratulate and recognize the recipients of this year's UWI/Guardian Life Premium Teaching Awards - Dr. Charlene Roach from the Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Grace Sirju-Charran from the Faculty of Science and Agriculture and Dr. Shivananda Nayak from the Faculty of Medical Sciences. On behalf of the UWI community, I want to sincerely thank you all for your stellar contributions to our University. I thank you for being exemplary lecturers. I should also mention that these awards maintain the highest standards as the international judges use specified, explicit criteria independently. The process is not only objective but clearly meets teaching standard assessment criteria internationally. These teaching awards therefore clearly show how as a higher education institution **we do in fact match up globally!**
- As I am sure you are all aware, the UWI St. Augustine Campus is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. Maintaining excellence in teaching is how we will continue to produce distinctive UWI graduates who are exceptionally well-grounded in their disciplines and who possess superior problem solving and critical thinking skills. This is also how we will maintain our leading edge as an institution. Our nation and region are depending on us to develop a knowledgeable and innovative citizenry. You must therefore appreciate that

such an end begins with a well-educated student population through the inspiration of our very own teachers.

- Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you.