



# STAN

ST. AUGUSTINE NEWS

JANUARY – MARCH 2012

## THE ARCHBISHOP OF PAN

Petrotrin Phase II Pan Groove's tribute to the legendary Pat Bishop



## GLOBAL JAM SESSION

KES gets up close & personal

## GOD, RELIGION & THE SEARCH FOR MEANING...

Connect with Professor A. Rambachan

## HALF EMPTY, HALF FULL

Dr. Neil Singh on the dangers of binge drinking and the new alcohol policy

UWI STUDENT  
**JEHUE GORDON**  
seeks Olympic gold

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# STAN

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES  
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

**January – March 2012**



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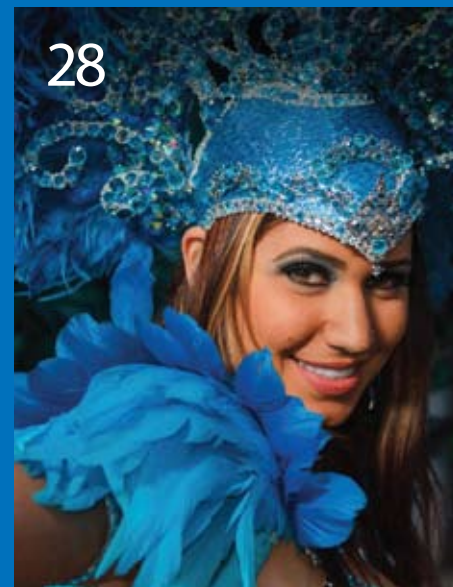
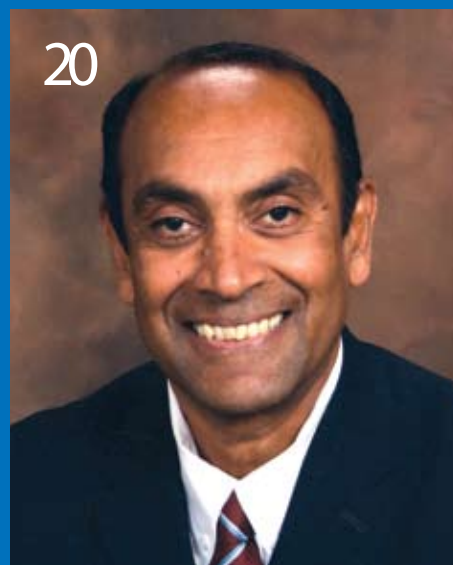
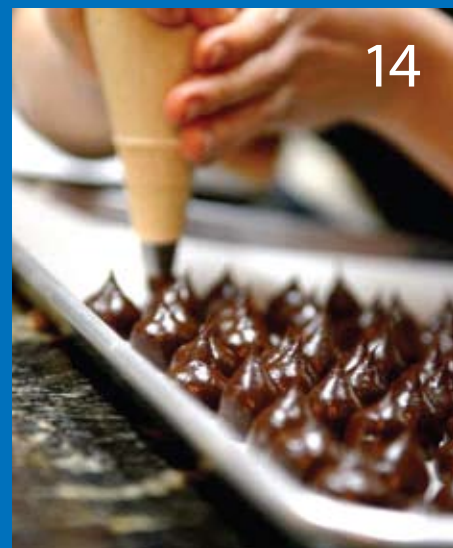
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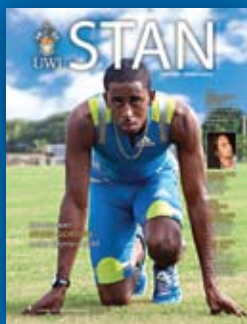
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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY  
BY ARTHUR SUKHBIR

### ON THE COVER

UWI St. Augustine undergraduate student and track champ **Jehue Gordon** has his "eyes on the prize" as he looks to bring home a gold medal from the 2012 Olympics in London, England.

Read more in this issue of **UWI STAN**.



**Brian Lara**, who was recently honored by the UWI, gave some pertinent advice to the graduating class of 2011. "There is no short cut to achievement," the former West Indies cricket team captain and world record-holder stated. "One must make an honest and conscious effort to consistently give of one's best. If this approach becomes a habit, you will undoubtedly succeed."

In my recent travels through India I was able to see paradoxes of that country – the high rise sky-scrapers of the business districts of Mumbai and New Delhi, bordered by impoverished, crammed slums. But I also saw some of the magnificence of India, and its rich history. The profound selflessness of many of the people in the cities as well as the countryside, including the professionals, professors and students, was obvious and unrelenting. The desire of the students to learn, to gain information and excel reminded me of our students here, as was the desire of the professional classes, determined to take India into a new era of prosperity. Their love of cricket, which was often played in the streets or parks, also made me think of my beloved Caribbean, and I was always reminded of the great West Indian cricketers of the recent past.

My ten day visit to the Indian Institute of Technology (Delhi and Mumbai), the Indira Gandhi National Open University (India's largest open university), Jawaharlal Nehru University, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (India's premier medical school), the National University of Education Planning and Administration, The Energy Resource Institute (a leading alternative energy research and training institution), and the Agricultural Scientists Research Board, The National Law University and the Shriram Institute (the country's leading industrial research institute) was highly productive.

The meetings in New Delhi produced a number of tangible outcomes, such as the setting up of demonstration laboratories at The UWI in the near future, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of India through its Department of AYUSH on January 6th, 2012 for the provision of a Professor in Ayurveda (holistic medicine) to The UWI and the immense possibilities for building capacity at the UWI through the training and exchange of staff and students.

# Jaffa

*(Cricketing term: meaning exceptionally well-bowled)*



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

On returning to this beautiful Campus, I was struck by the continued academic achievements of my colleagues and our students, in the face of daily socio-economic challenges. I was proud of the determination and the commitment of lecturers to provide a high-quality education to our more than 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students during times of global economic instability. I was even more mindful of the sacrifices made by many students and their parents to ensure they attend classes and succeed. The efforts of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to support free tertiary education through the GATE Programme represent a large investment by our country and present an opportunity for building our people, country and region. Therefore our students must be mentored to give back, for such opportunities do not exist in other parts of the world. We must always remember that opportunity and responsibility are two sides of the same coin.

As we enter this new period of strategic planning and implementation, we should focus on taking a closer look, beyond the surface, the superficial, into the realities that surround us—these are tough times and impactful, long-term, holistic strategies are required. In 2012, our team will focus on four facets of development at St. Augustine: **Responsiveness; Relevance; Responsibility and the Repositioning of UWI.**

When I accepted this job to serve as Campus Principal, I made a promise to myself and the society that I would focus on expanding the reach of the Campus and in so doing enhance our ability to respond to the needs of our country and region. Our new South Campus

at Penal/Debe and our deeper engagement in Tobago are two initiatives that I am proud to say have been making remarkable progress thanks to the leadership team of our Administrators, Deans and Heads as well as the support of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Our development of 27 new undergraduate and 11 post graduate programmes, underscores this commitment to continuing to be relevant. Another strategic goal is ensuring that through impactful, timely research we remain relevant to our societies. We continue to find means of partnering with the corporate sector and international agencies to fund our key projects in the Faculties.

With half-a century under our belt, we look to celebrate with Trinidad and Tobago a similar milestone in 2012, fifty years of independence. But, our independence is meaningless without a sense of community, industriousness and integrity, of maturity of thought and action. We must love what we do and do it well – play the game of life with honesty and passion, build a vision of where we want to be and make the sacrifice that is required to get there, follow through on our commitments and rest assured we will emerge as winners every time. In the next innings I know that we at the UWI will continue to build relentlessly our quality and our capacity to better serve, so that we can celebrate another 50 years of this Campus, not just for this institution but for this country and the Caribbean; that will be our legacy as proud alumni of The University of the West Indies.

*I look forward to hearing from you and I hope you enjoy this issue of UWI STAN. ■*

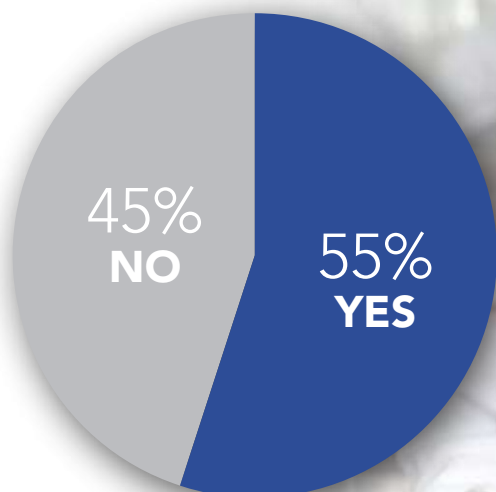




**We're on the eve of celebrating** a decade of the remodeled **UWI STAN** magazine which would not have been possible without the support of our dedicated readers and corporate sponsors. Once again, the August – December (2011) sixty-six page, bumper-issue, was chock-full of articles that sought to share the many programmes, special events and research projects at the St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago. Our features *"It's About the Journey: a Q & A with the Campus Principal"*, *"Connect with Jackie Hinkson"*, *"Five Lessons with BC Lara"*, *"Dragon Boat Racers"* and *"From Japan with Love"* generated a range of comments as did our **UWI STAN** Poll.

We enter the New Year excited about the launch of our **UWI STAN** Cover Photography Competition in March and hope that readers will go online to learn more about entry requirements and the prizes offered (1st place:\$4,000; 2nd place: \$1,500; and 3rd place: \$1,000). We look forward to reading your comments on our UWI STA Facebook page, email ([marketing.communications@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:marketing.communications@sta.uwi.edu)) or you may call us at (868) 662-9387. We enjoy hearing from you, thanks for your support. ■

UWI STAN ONLINE POLL  
**DO YOU THINK THE  
 RESEARCH AT UWI  
 HAS MADE AN IMPACT  
 IN THE LIVES OF  
 CARIBBEAN PEOPLE?**



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY – DECEMBER 2012

## 12th Pan American Congress on Applied Mechanics

2-6 January, 2012

UWI, St. Augustine Campus

Organised through the Faculty of Engineering, the 12th Pan American Congress on Applied Mechanics brings together researchers and practising engineers from North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, to facilitate discussion of the advances made in the field of Applied Mechanics. This conference aims to strengthen the links between scholars in the Pan American region by offering participants the opportunity to share their scientific, technical, computational and experimental ideas.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,**  
please contact **Dr. Jacqueline Bridge, Conference Co-chair** at (868) 662-2002 Ext. 83166, or  
via e-mail at [Jacqueline.Bridge@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Jacqueline.Bridge@sta.uwi.edu), or  
contact **Roxanne Timothy** at (868) 662-2002 Ext. 82497, or  
via e-mail at [Roxanne.Timothy@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Roxanne.Timothy@sta.uwi.edu), or  
visit the conference website at [www.pacamxii.org](http://www.pacamxii.org)

## UWI 2nd International Tourism Conference

18-21 January, 2012

UWI, St. Augustine Campus

The Department of Management Studies collaborates with The Ted Rogers School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Ryerson University, Canada, and London Metropolitan University, UK, to host the 2nd International Tourism Conference, themed "Tourism, Culture and the Creative Industries: Exploring the Linkages."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,**  
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via e-mail at [acolla.lewis-cameron@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:acolla.lewis-cameron@sta.uwi.edu)

## UWI Fete 2012

22 January, 2012

UWI, St. Augustine Campus

After another sold-out year in 2011, UWI Fete – the original all-inclusive – celebrates its 22nd year on Sunday 22nd January, 2012, with a journey to Africa! This year's much anticipated fete is themed "Zangalewa." With offerings of exotic music, food and drinks, and African inspired décor by Randal Halfhide of Another Idea, UWI Fete 2012 brings to life the rich cultures of Africa.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,**  
please contact **Dennis Ramdeen, Pepper Advertising**, at 329-2777.

## Semester II 2011/2012 begins

22 January, 2012

## Teaching begins

23 January, 2012

## AFUWI New York Gala

25 January, 2012

USA

The American Foundation for The University of the West Indies' (AFUWI) prepares to host the 2012 AFUWI Gala. The Annual Gala is the American Foundation for The University of the West Indies' (AFUWI) premier fundraising event in the USA. At the Gala the prestigious Legacy Awards are conferred on notable individuals who represent high levels of achievement within their respective fields of industry and enterprise.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,**  
please contact **Ms. Ann-Marie Grant** at (212) 759-9345, or via  
e-mail at [amgrant@afuwi.org](mailto:amgrant@afuwi.org)

## Conversations with Prime Ministers – Basdeo Panday

25 January, 2012

UWI, St. Augustine Campus

The University of the West Indies, under the auspices of the Open Lectures Committee, hosts the second in its four-part series of Conversations with Prime Ministers, featuring former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Basdeo Panday. During this conversation, Mr. Panday will share his views on the independence experience, his stewardship as Prime Minister, his vision for the future and related matters. He will also answer questions from the audience.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,**  
please contact **Marlyn** at 662-2002 Ext. 82391





## Caribbean Open Data Conference and Code Sprint

### 26-27 January, 2012

### UWI, St. Augustine Campus

The Faculty of Engineering, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, hosts the local segment of a landmark regional initiative, "Developing the Caribbean." As the first of its kind, the three-country event will be streamed live from the host countries: Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic. The Trinidad segment comprises the Caribbean Open Data Conference and Code Sprint which will take place on the St. Augustine Campus. The event is aimed at raising awareness of the critical role that open data can play in the design and development of software solutions to address social problems indigenous to the region. The local segment is coordinated by the Faculty of Engineering's Caribbean ICT Research Programme (CIRP).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,**  
please contact **Candice Simonta-Dyer**, Caribbean ICT Research Programme at [candice.simonta-dyer@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:candice.simonta-dyer@sta.uwi.edu) or (868) 662-2002 Ext. 82637.

## Jouvay Ayiti

27 January, 2012  
UWI, St. Augustine Campus

Offered by The UWI's Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA), Jouvay Ayiti is a transformative Carnival Project which melds Haiti's culture and Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival. It begins with a 'Mas Camp Lime,' carded to begin on January 27th and continuing every Friday at 8 pm, until Carnival Friday. It features traditional mas-men Carlyle and Penco, who have more than 50 years of experience in J'ouvert between them.

Following the 'Mas Camp Lime,' is Jouvay Ayiti's band launch, themed, '50 Years...Mud, Fete and Tears!' featuring entertainment by DJ Lapo and the Culture Market Rhythm Section. It will take place from 7pm-midnight, at the DCFA, Agostini Street, St. Augustine.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,**  
please contact **Marissa Brooks** at 645-1955, or via e-mail at [marissa.brooks@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:marissa.brooks@sta.uwi.edu)

## DCIT 2nd Annual Computing Forum

2 February, 2012  
UWI, St. Augustine Campus

The Department of Computing and Information Technology hosts its 2nd Annual Computing Forum, titled "Fostering Collaboration through Awareness for Research and Technological Development," on Thursday 2nd February, 2012, from 9am-3pm, at Room B, Frank Stockdale Building, Faculty of Science & Agriculture.

The DCIT Computing Forum is an avenue for researchers within The University and the computer industry to share current research within the context of collaboration, future development and innovation.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,**  
please contact **Kris Manohar** at 726 2292 (mobile), 662-2002 Ext. 82299 (office) or via e-mail at [Kris.Manohar@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Kris.Manohar@sta.uwi.edu)



## T-20 Knockout competition

26 January-30 March, 2012  
UWI, St. Augustine Campus

The St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies (UWI) will be staging a T-20 Knockout competition, beginning on January 26th, 2012. The competition will involve 16 teams, including the top ten cricket teams in Trinidad, including the Queen's Park team, Merry Boys, PowerGen, Comets, Moosai, T&TEC, Central Sports, Preysal, Bamboo and Club Crusoe representing Tobago.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,**  
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## **The Old Yard** *(formerly Viey La Cou)*

12 February, 2012

The Gayelle, DCFA, Agostini Street, St. Augustine

The Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) hosts its annual masquerade show, The Old Yard (formerly Viey La Cou), on February 12th, 2012, from noon-6pm, at the Gayelle, DCFA, Agostini Street, St. Augustine. Situated at an actual yard, complete with an architectural style reminiscent of long ago, this event will offer a dynamic mix of a journey into cultural history and a carnival masquerade showcase within the format of a heritage fair.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,**  
please contact **Louis McWilliams** at 663 2222, or  
via e-mail at [LouisMcWilliams@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:LouisMcWilliams@sta.uwi.edu)

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## **World of Work (WOW) 2012**

11 February-23 March, 2012

UWI, St. Augustine Campus

It's time, once again, for the annual World of Work (WOW) programme, hosted by The UWI, the UWI Alumni Association (UWIAA) and Republic Bank Ltd. WOW 2012 Schedule

- WOW Seminar – 11 February
- WOW Mock interviews – Faculties of Science and Agriculture, Medical Sciences and Engineering – 3 March
- WOW Mock interviews – Faculties of Humanities and Education and Social Sciences – 10 March
- WOW Recruitment Fair – 22-23 March

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,**  
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at 662-2002 Ext. 82360, or  
via email at [Chandar.Supersad@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Chandar.Supersad@sta.uwi.edu)



## **DCFA 25th Anniversary celebrations**

1-28 April, 2012

UWI, St. Augustine Campus

The Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) celebrates its 25th Anniversary with a series of events, including concerts and a tour to Barbados.

### **DCFA 25th Anniversary schedule of events**

#### ***Percussion Ensembles in Concert***

1 April, 2012

Daaga Auditorium, UWI St. Augustine

This concert features the UWI Percussion Ensemble and the UWI Drumming Ensemble. This concert is carded for 6 pm.

#### ***UWI Arts Chorale and UWI Steel Tour to Barbados***

7-15 April, 2012

Barbados

The UWI Arts Chorale and UWI Steel visit Barbados and perform at the Frank Collymore Hall and the UWI Cave Hill Campus.

#### ***UWI Guitar Ensemble in Concert***

21 April, 2012

Department of Creative and Festival Arts,  
Gordon Street, St. Augustine

This concert begins at 4 pm and features a guitar ensemble repertoire.

#### ***Music of the Diaspora***

28 April, 2012

Daaga Auditorium, UWI St. Augustine

Music of the Diaspora begins at 6 pm. It incorporates a variety of the Department's musical groups, including the UWI Intermediate Steel Ensemble, the UWI Indian Classical Ensemble and the UWI Caribbean Contemporary Ensemble.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,**  
please contact **Josette Surrey-Lezama** at 645-0873, or  
via e-mail at [Josette.Surrey-Lezama@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Josette.Surrey-Lezama@sta.uwi.edu)

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**Teaching ends**

20 April, 2012

**Examinations begin**

30 April, 2012

**Examinations end**

18 May, 2012

**Semester II 2011/2012 ends**

18 May, 2012

**SALALM LVII Conference**

16-19 June, 2012

Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre  
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

The Alma Jordan Library hosts the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM) LVII Conference. This conference follows the theme "Popular Culture: Arts and Social Change in Latin America."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,**  
please contact Ms Elmelinda Lara, SALALM Conference  
Coordinator, at 662-2002 Ext. 83414, or via e-mail  
at [elmelinda.lara@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:elmelinda.lara@sta.uwi.edu)

**5th European Conference of Poeciliid Biologists**

25-28 June, 2012

Daaga Auditorium, UWI, St. Augustine Campus

The Department of Life Sciences hosts the 5th European Conference of Poeciliid Biologists. This conference is held every two years and this year, for the first time since its inception, it will be held outside of Europe. Approximately 100 delegates from USA, Canada, Mexico, South America, Britain, Europe, India and Australia will visit The UWI St. Augustine Campus to attend the conference, scheduled to take place from 8 am-5.30 pm each day.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, please contact**  
**Dr Amy Deacon or Professor Indar Ramnarine**  
**via e-mail at [poeciliid2012@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:poeciliid2012@sta.uwi.edu)**

**Teaching begins**

3 September, 2012

**In The Fires of Hope: 50 Years of Independence in Trinidad and Tobago**

13- 15 September 2012

UWI, St. Augustine Campus

In commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Independence in Trinidad and Tobago, the Department of History at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus will be organising a yearlong series of activities culminating in a 3-day international conference. This conference, entitled "In The Fires Of Hope: 50 Years of Independence In Trinidad And Tobago," is designed to investigate all facets of the theme of Independence with emphasis on Trinidad and Tobago. It aims to generate new discussion on the changing realities of independent societies by gathering thinkers and academics involved in examining the economic, political, historical, literary and social aspects of independence from the nascent stages to present day.

**UWI Open Campus Graduation ceremony**

13 October, 2012

**UWI Cave Hill Campus Graduation ceremony**

20 October, 2012

**UWI St. Augustine Campus Graduation ceremony**

25-27 October, 2012

**UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon**

28 October, 2012

**UWI Mona Campus Graduation ceremony**

2-3 November, 2012

**Teaching ends**

30 November, 2012

**Examinations begin**

5 December, 2012

**Examinations end**

21 December, 2012

**QUESTIONS or COMMENTS?**

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UWI VALEDICTORIANS  
FOCUS ON BECOMING

# AGENTS OF CHANGE



## DAVID MILNE

Faculty of Medical Sciences  
MBBS  
First Class Hons.

**This graduate** of St. Mary's College took a year off and worked as a waiter just before entering UWI. He enjoyed his days on Campus being actively involved in several UWI clubs, none more so than when he became a UWI Guild Counsellor. With the knowledge that life would certainly bring greater challenges on walking through those University gates, the Faculty of Medical Sciences graduate believes that UWI taught him how to achieve the seemingly impossible. He has set his sights on becoming a doctor that fights against all odds to deliver the best in quality health care to his patients. ■



## BERNICE ROBINSON

Faculty of Science and Agriculture  
BSc Major in Geography & Environmental  
Resource Management  
First Class Hons.

**A stellar student** at her alma mater, Micoud Secondary High School, Bernice was born in the fecund village of Mon Repos, St Lucia. While studying at UWI she believed that along with her fellow students, they could make a profound difference in the world. Now, armed with a degree in Geography and Environmental Resource Management, she is determined to bring about sustainable, environmentally-friendly change in the region. One of her favourite memories at UWI- the wide-spread aid given by the Campus community for those suffering in her homeland after Hurricane Tomas tore through the island in 2010. She now looks to pursuing a Master's degree in Environmental Law. ■



## MEERA RAMPERSAD-JANGLEE

Faculty of Engineering  
BSc in Chemical & Process Engineering  
First Class Hons.

**What do you do** with the opportunities that a UWI degree brings? You pledge to bridge the gaps that exist so that the nation gains greater diversity and equity. For Meera, a mother, wife and now University graduate with a degree in Chemical and Process Engineering the opportunities are endless. She has sought to look beyond the oil and gas industry and is focused on hopefully collaborating with colleagues to develop alternative sources of energy to sustain our economy. ■





### DEXNELL PETERS

Faculty of Humanities and Education  
BA History with a minor in Political Science  
First Class Hons.

**The journey is** just as important as arriving at the destination, the process as important as achieving the answer for this graduate of Trinity College. This was the clear message sent by Dexnell at the 2011 graduation ceremony. An avid cricket fan, jazz enthusiast and pannist, with a passion for History, he also emphasised the need for altruism and integrity among the class of 2011. “As we offer our services we must constantly check the reason for doing so. We should always operate with an element of selflessness and genuine desire for [the] benefit and development of others,” he added during his speech at the UWI Graduation Ceremony. ■



### FAMEEDA LORRAINE MOHAMMED

Faculty of Social Sciences  
BSc in Management Studies (Special)  
with Finance  
First Class Hons.

**“I urge you,** employ your analytical skills and sound judgment and become the liberators of tomorrow, create a level of sustainable development in your home countries that will allow us to advance economically, socially and politically.” Fameeda’s advice was well-received by her fellow students at the Graduation Ceremony in the UWI SPEC. She spoke of the highs and lows of Campus life and the many challenges they’ve experienced, but also asked that those seated in the auditorium realise how fortunate they are, as UWI graduates and take to heart the advice of the great leader Mahatma Gandhi - “We must become the change that we expect to see in the world”. ■



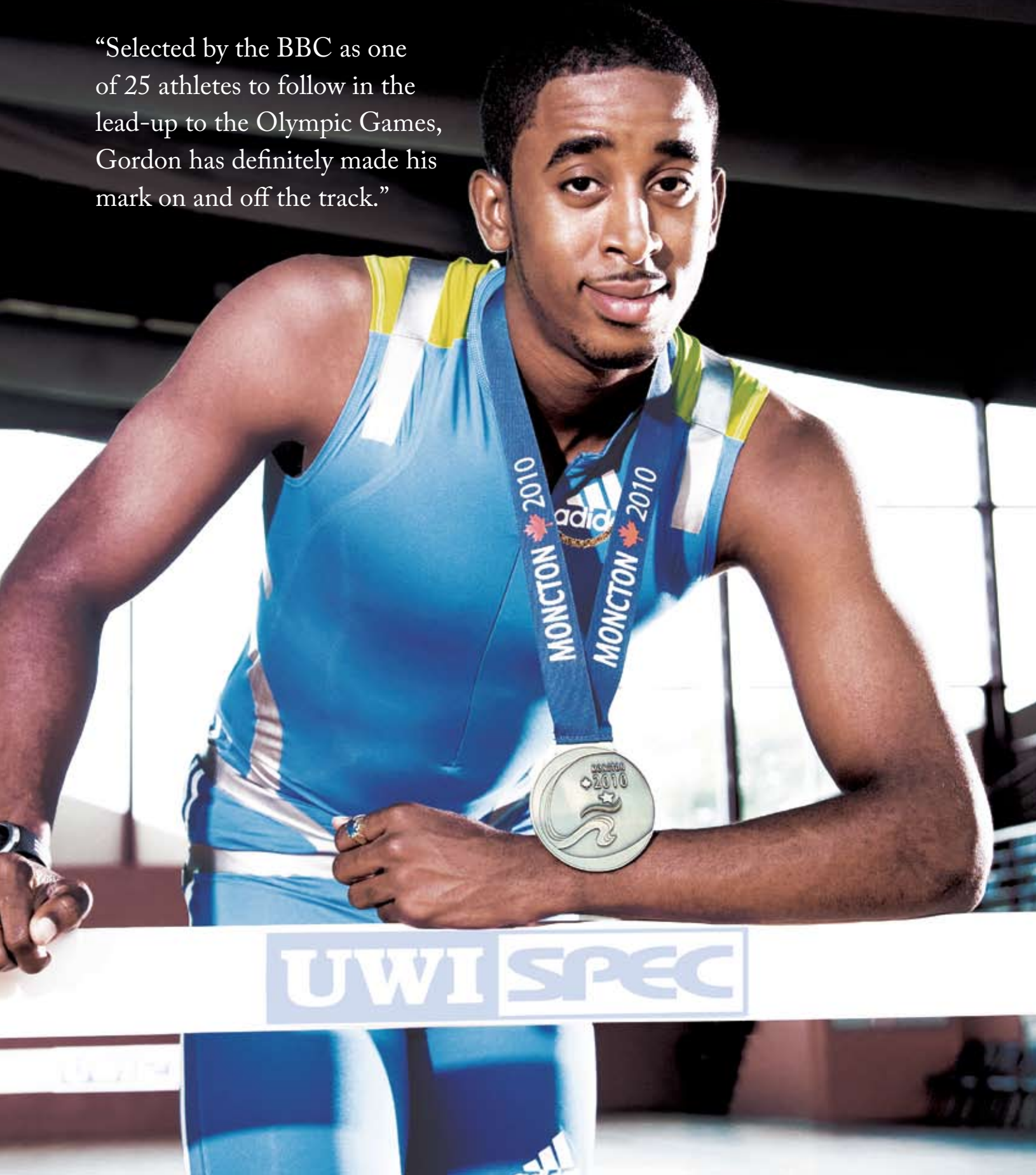
### ANAÏS VIOLETTE JULIETTE JOSEPH

Faculty of Social Sciences  
BSc Accounting with Finance  
First Class Hons.

**An avid reader** with a love for numbers, Anaïs has had the unique experience of living in several countries across the globe. Born in the US, she lived in England, Congo (Africa) and France. She learned book-keeping by helping to manage the accounts of the family business, an ice cream factory nestled in Tobago. Her passion for accounting has been fuelled by a love for travel. She hopes to gain an MBA and further accreditation in the future. ■



“Selected by the BBC as one of 25 athletes to follow in the lead-up to the Olympic Games, Gordon has definitely made his mark on and off the track.”



**UWI SPEC**



# Olympic Dreams

**“My hope, my dream** is to win a medal, the Olympic gold-medal,” UWI Student and T&T Olympic hopeful, Jehue Gordon stated in a soft, yet rather matter-of-fact tone during a brief interview with UWI STAN in March.

Selected by the BBC as one of 25 athletes to follow in the lead-up to the Olympic Games, Gordon has definitely made his mark on and off the track. The twenty-year old undergraduate student won gold in the 400-metre hurdle at the World Junior Championships in Canada in 2010 in an impressive 49.3 seconds, beating closest rival, Japanese hurdler Takatoshi Abe.

He sky-rocketed on to the international arena at the age of 16, placing fifth in the 2008 World Junior Championships Athletics. Later that year, Gordon took home a bronze medal in the 400-metre hurdles at the 2008 Carifta Games and won gold the following year. In the 2009, at the World Senior Championships in Athletics in Berlin, Germany, he set a world-age best record and a senior

national record with a 48.26 second 400-metre hurdle run.

A graduate of Belmont Boys Secondary School and Queen’s Royal College, he spoke of the influential role both his parents, Vincent Gordon and Marcella Woods have played throughout his athletic career. Gordon also added that he was grateful for support given by his friends at UWI while he tried to balance his university studies with a rigorous training schedule.

“So far [at UWI, St. Augustine] things started off on good terms – seeing that I chose to do subjects while training for the Olympics. But my friends, Makenson David, Darlene Lewis, Cassie Jacob and Britney Johnson, they supported me in all my endeavours.”



The Gordon family has had its challenges, a couple of years ago they lost most of their household items because of a landslide which almost destroyed their home in Papia Village, Morne Coco Road, Maraval. But the young track star has remained optimistic about his future- and is determined not to return home from the London Olympics empty-handed. An inspiration to many, we wish him the best of luck! ■ –AWH

# a Delectable Feast *for the Senses*

*The Cocoa Research Unit helps Isabel Brash to dream in chocolate*

By Serah Acham



**Open a box of Cocobel** Chocolates and you face a delicious dilemma. Each hand-decorated morsel is such a work of art that it is as much a feast for the eyes as the palate. Pink and purple flowers, green and orange leaves, shimmery dust, toasted coconut flakes and even a bluish green fin adorn these confections. They're the creations of Isabel Brash, architect gone chocolate.

Isabel was working as an architect with Geoffrey Maclean in mid-2008 when she decided to try her hand at making chocolate. Work was slow and "I was always looking for projects to do," she says. "Cocoa was one of the things that I started playing around with ... I just wanted to try and make chocolate."

She did her research and got some cocoa from her brother's estate at Rancho Quemado. "I didn't even know they had cocoa," she admits. Once she had her stock

in hand, she wasted no time. "I started playing around with them and I just got hooked." It's akin to Alice's plunge into the rabbit hole, she says. "It's like falling into this thing that you never knew about before and as I kept researching I just became more and more enthralled with it." And the deeper she fell into the hole, the more people jumped in with her; for that Christmas she found herself giving her chocolates to family members as presents. They gave her chocolates to their friends, who began asking if she could cater their events.

While investigating opportunities to learn more about the art of chocolate making, "just for fun," she discovered Ecole Chocolat, an online school which teaches chocolatiering as a business. She learnt about the history of chocolate, the history of the industry and the distinction between fine and commercial chocolate.

"That course really opened me up to the whole industry and really got me thinking – 'maybe I could do this as a little side business'."

Suggested by her father for its similarity to her own name, and approved by Isabel for its origins and meaning, Cocobel was established in the middle of 2009.







“Her sorrel chocolates have cloves in them, *‘because that’s how we make our sorrel.’* She also makes a mango pepper flavoured chocolate, one with a cashew and coconut filling and, possibly the most intriguing, one filled with salt, pineapple and shadon beni.”

“I didn’t want to name it after myself,” she says. “That’s just not me. I like to make a product that’s its own.” She really wanted a name that had a deeper meaning and was indigenous to Trinidad and Tobago, so she began to research “old cocoa gods ... and I also went into Patois, because you know it’s such an indigenous thing for us.” As fate would have it, ‘Cocobel’ was exactly what she was looking for. During a fishing trip with his friends from Paramin who spoke Patois, her father asked their

opinion on the name. “They said ‘oh that’s a great name! It means beautiful brown woman, or nice brown *t’ing*,” she relates. “So I was like ‘that’s perfect’ because it’s chocolate. It’s dark and brown and beautiful and I just wanted a name that meant something deeper ... like dark beauty or earth beauty.” Once established, Cocobel “definitely took over,” she adds.

UWI’s Cocoa Research Unit (CRU) has been very helpful in the process, Isabel

says. She first visited the CRU that year, after an invitation by the Friends of the Botanical Gardens. “They took us on a tour of the [International Cocoa] Genebank. I didn’t know anything about all that ... and I was fascinated to see all these trees from all over the world. That’s when I really got to know Prof [Pathmanathan] Umaharan and Darin Sukah and Naailah [Ali] and Frances Bekele,” Isabel says. A relationship developed and since then they are always





available to answer her questions or send her useful information.

"I always say they're the heroes," she declares. "In Trinidad, they're the people who sincerely care about the industry."

In 2010, Isabel enrolled in Ecole Chocolat's Master's programme which took her to France and to the factory of her favourite chocolate maker, Michel Cluizel.

"I love his chocolates more than any other fine chocolate I've ever tasted," she says. "I love their company ethos, how they do business ... their business etiquette." At Michel Cluizel, the chocolates are named after the estate which produces the beans, "so the estate gets recognition for the beans," and the farmers are paid directly; another benefit to the estate. "I saw that they were doing a course with them and doing a tour of that factory ... that was why I went." It turned into the experience of a lifetime. She met Marc Cluizel (son of Michel) and found the courage to share a piece of her chocolate with him. He opened it in front of the class, "which I didn't want him to do," closed his eyes and tasted it. He was silent for a moment and then began listing the flavours he encountered, "bananas and vanilla and berries," she remembers. He told her that it was, "very good chocolate, very good chocolate." Her hand-made packaging reminded him of his grandmother's hand-made paper wrapping for their company's first set of chocolates. "That was the high point of everything. It's like meeting a rock star... the ultimate."



The programme included a visit to the factory of another renowned name in fine chocolate, Barry Callebaut, as well as a workshop on what a day in the industry is like – creating recipes, working with people and using machinery for making truffles and bonbons. Since she had already begun to make her own chocolates, "going there helped my confidence a lot ... I started to do things a lot faster when I came back."

It's a good thing since she has so much business now that it's a challenge making enough chocolate to keep her customers satisfied. "People get really frustrated if they can't get their chocolate today," she says, but she won't let that get in the way of the quality of her chocolates. "I'm not going to sell you something that's halfway or just for the business. It's by order and I do everything fresh." She did so well for Christmas that "I've completely run out of my stock of chocolate," so she started the year with a new batch.

"Right now," she says, "I'm roasting and shelling and grinding beans repeatedly," and it's the process of grinding that produces chocolate. Isabel explains that each cocoa bean consists of approximately 50 per cent fat, so when it's ground, the

beans become liquid. “I always say that’s when the cocoa jumbie sort of took over because you’re seeing this turning into liquid chocolate ... and that you’re making chocolate and that’s really cool.”

She grinds them into a semi-liquid which she then grinds with sugar depending on the type of chocolate she’s making. “I do a white chocolate, a milk chocolate and two different dark chocolates,” she explains. One of the dark chocolates is for her confections, which need to be firmer and so has a bit more cocoa butter than the other which is “a darker, richer chocolate,” for her plain dark chocolate bars. After leaving the chocolate in a refiner for “at least a couple days” to get her desired “quality, fineness and smoothness,” the chocolate is finished. “After I make the chocolate, I would put it in trays and let it harden and then use it when I need to make the other things.” At that point, she melts the hardened chocolate and tempers it “in order for the chocolate to look presentable.”



“I do things on different days,” she says, recounting her Christmas creations. “I had all these different flavours,” sorrel and ginger rum among them, “so I would take some days and just make the centres.” She’d cut them, put them aside and return the next day to coat them with the prepared chocolate.

“Any kind of fruit that I use in the centres I also do myself,” Isabel specifies. Her sorrel, and honey passion fruit chocolates are made with real fruit. “It’s all fresh,” she says, “like the coconut. I buy the coconuts whole and shell and grate them.”

She also uses mainly local flavours. “I do believe that we have such great fruits and great spices ... it’s a pity that immediately people think of strawberries when they think of chocolate. But we have so many

fun things that go so well with chocolate too, like guava and passion fruit.” Her recipes are “based on our local palate,” she says. Her sorrel chocolates have cloves in them, “because that’s how we make our sorrel.” She also makes a mango pepper flavoured chocolate, one with a cashew and coconut filling and, possibly the most intriguing, one filled with salt, pineapple and shadon beni. This one is called Mermaid’s Kiss, she says, because one bite evokes memories of a day at Maracas beach.

Right now she makes her chocolates primarily by order since she uses fresh ingredients like cream and butter and fruits. However, when her shop is ready, “That’ll be a whole different thing. I’ll be making stuff all the time and people can just come in and buy.”

Not to worry if you can’t wait that long. Her chocolates can be found at Malabar Farms. “They’re the only ones I distribute to at the moment. I’ve had a lot of requests but I’m very particular because of the temperature.” While other stores may turn their air conditioners off at night, at Malabar Farms, “they keep it on all the time. When you walk into that place it’s like walking into a fridge, so I trust it there.” She’s also very particular about placing expiration dates clearly on the packages so that consumers get them fresh.

“It’s like your child you know?” Isabel says. “When you put so much work into it ... I care about what people think when they buy it.” ■

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<http://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/article1.asp>



# Breaking the LANGUAGE BARRIER

THE BRITISH COUNCIL IELTS EXAM NOW OFFERED AT UWI

**Are you planning to study**, travel or work abroad? Do you need to raise your standard of English? Then you may be interested in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam which is currently offered at the Centre for Language Learning (CLL) at UWI.

Amina Ibrahim- Ali, CLL lecturer and IELTS Administrator and Joleen Bruce, administrative aide, explained that kicking-off on March 10th, IELTS preparatory courses and examinations which were previously administered by the British Council, will be offered at UWI. Two modules will be available at the UWI St. Augustine and Mona Campuses: General Training and Academic.

The British Council has advised that the Academic test is for those who want to study at a tertiary level in an English-speaking country; while the General Training test is for those who want to gain work experience or do training programmes, secondary school or migrate to an English-speaking country. All candidates take the same Listening and Speaking tests but different Reading and Writing tests.

IELTS is designed to assess the language ability of candidates who need to study or work where English is the language of communication. It covers four language skills – listening, reading, writing and speaking. Recognised world-wide by



The IELTS team with Dr Carter (second from left), Mrs Ibrahim-Ali (centre) and Joleen Bruce (to her left) at the CLL

universities and employers in many countries, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States, IELTS is also acknowledged by professional bodies, immigration authorities and other government agencies.

UWI has been selected to offer the IELTS programme on behalf of the British Council and the IELTS Administrator had to undergo extensive training in London in preparation.

“This is a very high stakes exam and to ensure that fraudulent means are not used we have to follow strict guidelines,” Ali explained. These include training in the use of the IELTS Web Administration System (IWAS), Online Registration System (ORS), and Identity Authentication Management programme (IAM) which makes use of photos and fingerprints all to ensure that certification is world-class.

Amina Ibrahim-Ali thinks that the programme is a significant opportunity for the university, as does Joleen Bruce.

“It ensures that UWI remains competitive and it once again raises the reputation of UWI...the British Council had a site visit and they were very happy that UWI was selected,” Bruce added. “There are very specific conditions for the exams, we have put everything in place, for instance making special provisions for the hearing or visually impaired, the spacing between desks...the examination material has to be stored in a fire proof, double-tiered safe, second markings must be done to the papers and exams must be shredded two days after they are given.”

This is the first time that the test is offered by an agency other than the British Council and the UWI CLL team is focused on making it a success.



Colombian students enjoy lunch together

The CLL was established in 1997 to enable students and staff at the St. Augustine Campus to develop proficiency in a foreign language. Walk through the halls on any given day and you will meet students and lecturers from around the world, as well as Trinidadians and Tobagonians focused on learning a new language.

CLL Director and a key member of the IELTS team, Dr. Beverly-Anne Carter, explained that French and Spanish are the two most popular language courses, but students can also learn Arabic, (Mandarin) Chinese, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Yoruba; and of course English as a Foreign Language which is taught to international students and professionals.

“Although our courses emphasise oral and aural competence, learners are able to develop all four skills - speaking, listening, reading and writing - to be immersed in the culture of a language and to gain an understanding of its grammar. Our teachers are native speakers or very proficient non-native speakers who

make language learning interesting and enjoyable.”

With its state-of-the-art facilities, small, highly interactive classes, dynamic staff and supportive learning environment, the CLL continues to grow in popularity and programme offerings; IELTS is yet another leap forward. ■ – AWH

*For further information on IELTS visit [ielts.britishcouncil.org/UWISIA](http://ielts.britishcouncil.org/UWISIA) or contact the IELTS Office at the Centre for Language Learning at [TT120.administrator@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:TT120.administrator@sta.uwi.edu)*

# The Search for Meaning

## Why Religion May Have Less and Less to Do with God

### **Professor Anantanand**

**Rambachan** is the author of seven books on religion and the Chair and Professor of Religion, Philosophy and Asian Studies at Minnesota's St. Olaf College where he has been teaching since the mid 80's. A graduate of The University of the West Indies, Rambachan was awarded an honorary doctorate during a convocation exercise at the St Augustine campus last October. He told STAN that the award was significant because it symbolised the recognition of a journey he began years ago when he took the road less travelled and pursued an area of academic study that most of his peers found puzzling.

"This award recognises the importance of the scholarly academic study of religion and in a larger sense, the recognition of the significance of religion in our lives, in our nations and in the world."

Professor Rambachan remains deeply optimistic about the role that religion can play in solving some of the world's most pressing problems and told **Judette Coward-Puglisi** that the definition of religion does not necessarily have to include God but always centres around the search for meaning.





**JUDETTE COWARD-PUGLISI (JCP):**

People fight wars and strap themselves with bombs in the name of religion. When your students ask for a definition of religion what do you say? I find it such a controversial, contested term.

**ANANTANAND RAMBACHAN (AR):** The definition of religion depends on the discipline that one pursues. I offer a theological definition of religion and the one that I love the best is by the American theologian Paul Tillich. Tillich spoke of religion as matters of ultimate concern. In other words his definition of religion has to do with what concerns a person ultimately? Some questions that help that definition are: 'What do you value the most?' 'What is at the centre of your world view?' If you think about it, your life is going to be shaped by what is of ultimate concern to you and this gets diffused in other dimensions of your life so I think this is a very good working definition of religion.

**JCP:** I am surprised that from a theological standpoint that the definition does not encompass the word God, that there is not some component of deity or the divine in your explanation.

**AR:** The reason is that religion historically has a lot do with the deity but at the same time we have to acknowledge that when we look at the world of religions that there are vital living religious traditions that do not speak about God as a creator of the universe and yet they have very deep and profound answers to the human condition. I am thinking in particular of a tradition like Buddhism. You will see in Buddhism an understanding of the human problem which is suffering caused by greed and overcome by being on the path to nirvana. Nowhere in the Buddhist understanding of the human problem and the solution do we find the word God but the Buddhist has something of ultimate concern, which is the attainment of nirvana. So we have to speak of Buddhism as a religion in that sense.



“The reason is that religion historically has a lot do with the deity but at the same time we have to acknowledge that when we look at the world of religions that there are vital living religious traditions that do not speak about God as a creator of the universe and yet they have very deep and profound answers to the human condition.”

**JCP:** Is salvation then the whole premise of religion?

**AR:** I think it is a fair conclusion, I think when we look at the religions of the world they share a structural similarity, and that structural similarity I think is four fold. They each have a certain understanding of what is the human problem, what is the human predicament? They all give an account of what is the cause of the human problem. In Buddhism that human problem is defined in the language of suffering or dukkha. If you ask a Christian he or she may speak in the language of sin; a Muslim may say disobedience to God so there is clearly a certain understanding of the human problem. Secondly, there is some attempt to account for this problem, the origin and its source? Thirdly, more precisely to your question, each of them offers a solution. All of the religious traditions are in some deep ways optimistic that the human problem can be overcome. Fourthly, they all point to what that solution is. A religious tradition would be pessimistic if it gave an account of the human problem and said there was no resolution to it. All of the living religions offer some form of resolution. It may not be the same but they do offer some sort of solution.

**JCP:** They may be structurally similar yes but their philosophical differences can account for so much of the conflict we see today in the world. I am talking here about the problem in Ireland, Sri Lanka and the conflicts in the Middle East, Israel and Palestine.

**AR:** Now here is the complexity of your question. It is true that in all of these situations of conflict there is a religious dimension. Religion defines very often the identity of the people who are in conflict

so we have the Hindu Tamil and Sinhalese Buddhist in Sri Lanka, Israeli Jews and Christians or Muslims in Palestine, Irish Protestants and Catholics, so there is a religious dimension. But at the same time all of these situations are very complex in that in addition to religion I think the problem is when religion gets too closely identified with nationalism, with ethnicity, with race, then religion becomes a servant of those kinds of interest. Religion in my own understanding, sensible religion, ought to be able to overcome the boundaries of nationalism, ethnicity and race and can speak meaningfully to a human community that is inclusive, that does not exclude anyone. When it becomes tribal it loses its prophetic voice.

**JCP:** And of course permits people to questions its relevance in their lives...

**AR:** I think all the conflict can lead people to dislike the term religion or at the very least think religion may be irrelevant to their lives. I am very much in agreement with the anthropologist Ernest Becker who said that all culture, all art, all drama is essentially religious even though we may not use that term. Because all of these are expressing this human anxiety in some way or the other with the idea of mortality. Whether we put up statues of great leaders, whether we write books with our names on them, on some deep level, we want to be, we want to affirm existence in the face of death. As long as we remain the kind of self conscious beings that we are I think religion would always be important. It would not always be institutional or organisational religion as we understand it. But as long as humans beings continue to ask questions about meaning I think religion will always be part of our lives.

**JCP:** How can so much diversity among the world's religions lead to opportunities for a more meaningful and energetic engagement?

**AR:** I think religious diversity is a great opportunity for learning, for growing in wisdom. All of our world religious traditions that are with us today have endured because they have very vital insights about the human community and we need to learn from each other and we need hear each other's world views and to be instructed by it. So we ought to develop a very positive attitude towards religious diversity as a great opportunity for learning. Not that we have to cease being committed to the traditions that we value and honour. I think our diversity today calls us to a new way of being, which is to learn to practice commitment with openness, to learn from the wisdom of other religions. I speak these words because in my own personal experience I have been tremendously enriched and I continue to be enriched by my deep relations with friends who are Buddhists, Muslims and Christians. I will not give up the wealth of those relationships because they mean so much to me. ■



# A Season To *Celebrate*

Celebrations to mark the end of one year and the beginning of another



## Staff Celebration

In December, the Campus Principal held a majestic end-of-year celebration for staff to thank colleagues for their dedicated service throughout 2011. “Unconfirmed reports” show that the well-attended event hosted at the Office of the Campus Principal was enjoyed by many, with dancing, live music and overall merriment extending well into the evening. ■





## ZANGALEWA UWI Carnival Fete

On Sunday 22nd January, thousands came to celebrate the season and support one of the key fundraising events for student bursaries. The UWI Development and Endowment Fund, established in 1989 has awarded over 3,000 bursaries to assist UWI students and facilitate student interchange between the Campuses of the University. This year the event themed “Zangalewa” brought the African culture to the St. Augustine Campus with a range of exotic music, food and drink.

“Last year we introduced two stages and it worked so well, we are doing it again,” the Fete’s Chairman Dennis Ramdeen confirmed in January. “The additional stage allows us to enhance our guest experience by providing more space and comfort to partygoers and we are really focused on that. In fact, we will also be including large screens so that visitors to Zangalewa don’t miss a beat.”

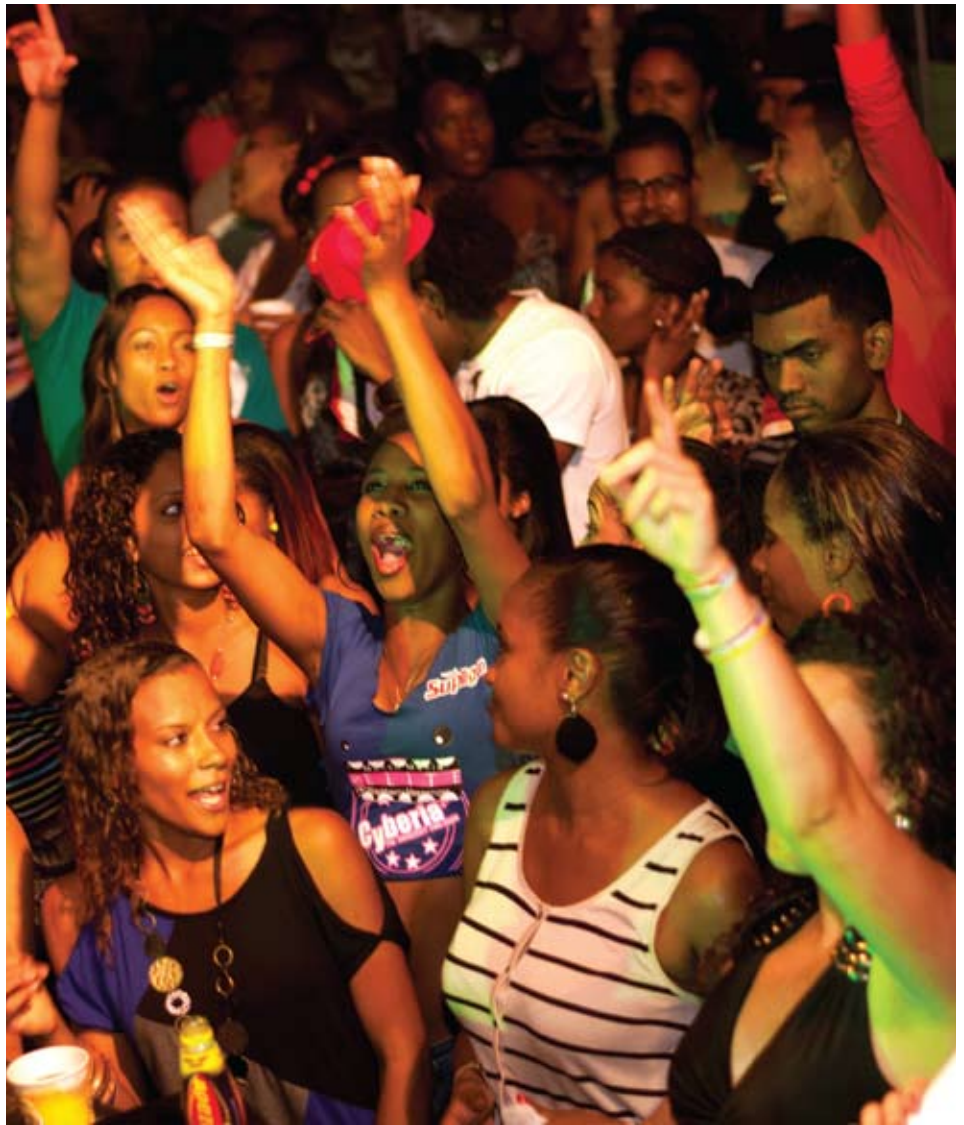
This promise was delivered in HD, with the party once again being a sold-out affair with a stellar line-up of entertainers including: Kes the Band, Karma, Dil-E-Nadan, Roy Cape and his All Stars; as well as a special back-in-times session, featuring Nelson, Stalin and Ronnie McIntosh. ■





## UWI Guild of Students Make Mas'

What is Carnival without Mas': The University's Guild of Students' Campus Carnival events did not disappoint. In February the Guild hosted a series of projects including the Carnival Food Festival, which was organised in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute; the student-led discussion titled "Caribbean Reasonings – The 'F' Word," on February 6th, from 7-9 pm, at the Daaga Auditorium which examined the failed Federation and its impact on Caribbean society; while "Women in Soca," a public discussion on the messages and lives of women in the soca industry was held on February 8th, from 7-9pm at the Daaga Auditorium. On February 9th, the Guild hosted a Calypso Competition on the Greens, where both staff and students shared their musical talents. The UWI Credit Union also hosted its annual Calypso and Ole Mas Competition, on February 10th, at the car park of the Dudley Huggins Building, from 6pm-midnight; special guests included Shurwayne Winchester and Crazy. ■







## Jouvay Ayiti

In January, staff and students sought to celebrate the season with a true blend of traditions: one of these was Jouvay Ayiti, a project that kicked off in January, which was billed as a transformative Carnival Project which melds Haiti's culture and Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival. The Friday 'Mas Camp Lime,' featured traditional mas-men known as Carlyle and Penco, who have more than 50 years of Carnival experience between them. Next we need to congratulate the Jouvay Ayiti's award-winning band themed, "50 Years...Mud, Fete and Tears!" The band featured DJ Lapo and the Culture Market Rhythm Section. Campus Carnival came to a close with the DCFA's popular annual production, The Old Yard (formerly Viey La Cou), on February 12th at the DCFA, Agostini Street, St. Augustine, featuring traditional Carnival characters, live and on-show in the Gayelle. These were just some of the many offerings of the DCFA this year. ■





# The Accidental Tourist

UWI Conference looks at cultural tourism and the shift from “goods to experiences”

By Anna Walcott Hardy

A SECTION LEADER FROM THE POPULAR LOCAL HARTS CARNIVAL BAND (2012)

**“Almost every tourist is a cultural tourist...cultural tourism is no longer a niche, but is embedded in tourism.”**

Professor Greg Richards was fully aware that he was preaching to the converted as feature speaker at the 2nd International Tourism Conference at Daaga Auditorium, UWI St. Augustine in January.

The Professor of Leisure Studies at the University of Tilburg in The Netherlands added that countries across the world are experiencing greater competition in the industry as tourists are no longer looking to “flop on a beach”. There is a great shift towards learning, experiencing and becoming more engaged in the culture of the country – a veritable movement from “goods to experiences”.

Creative Tourism can be encapsulated by that well-known quotation by the Chinese philosopher Confucius:

*I hear and I forget*

*I see and I remember*

*I do and I understand*

The phenomenon is worldwide and yet also localised, Professor Richards added and you can see it on a mega scale at Disney World and on a minor one at your local Starbucks (or Rituals) coffee shop. Well, I thought, it would seem that we have this market cornered, look at our Carnival, Our Tobago Heritage Festival our Phagwa and Hosay celebrations. Not so fast – as the Professor detailed, there needs to be a way that the average tourist can access the experience when they enter the country and not rely on a “partner” or family member for access to information and unique experiences.

The most successful countries have developed inter-related networks, rather than a linear value chain (from product to consumption), there is instead a comprehensive inter-connected network where “power” relationships are clearly defined and well managed, although at times they may shift or become interchangeable. The good news he added is that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago seems to “be on board” and so basically the entire country needs to be part of the production – consumers, producers, policy makers, local entrepreneurs etc.

This year’s conference is a collaborative effort among three campuses of The UWI (Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago) along with the London Metropolitan University in the UK and the Ted Rogers School of Hospitality

“In Trinidad for instance, he suggested that a tourist may want to be able to learn to play the steelpan and have this become less of *an accidental encounter* and more of *a planned event*.”

and Tourism Management, Ryerson University in Canada. The theme for this year's conference 'Tourism, Culture & the Creative Industries: Exploring the Linkages' was approached from a variety of angles. Prof. Richards shared both academic theories with real world scenarios which made his presentation particularly engaging.

For the past decade or more tourist industries have grown in unique niche markets: Gastronomy, Language, Literature – some tourists tour the vineyards of France to become wine connoisseurs, others may choose to cycle through the Italian countryside and enroll in Italian language or cooking courses. The industry has become multi-tiered and more sophisticated over the years.

Several models have been ascribed to in the Caribbean and globally including the:

Creative Industry model (value created through intellectual property); Creative Class model (value added by placing creative people in a community – but then the question arises as to who selects these individuals and often the research and selectors may be skewed along north-south divisions); Creative Cities (Charles Landry, the author of “The Creative City: A Toolkit for Urban Innovators”, argues that entire cities need to become creative to attract tourists).

To some degree all may be lacking, Prof. Richards explained because “creativity is not about a city or class or place but about developing relationships...the Alan Scott model has relationships at the Centre”.

In Trinidad for instance, he suggested that a tourist may want to be able to learn to play the steelpan and have this become less of an accidental encounter and more

of a planned event. This is where website development and online marketing may become key to “grabbing the attention” of tourists. It may seem casual and genuine, but there is a great deal of networking and planning behind the scenario.

“Within recent years, research on the cultural and creative industries has grown exponentially and more destinations are realising that in order to re-engineer their tourism products, a stronger link between tourism, culture and the creative industries is needed. Notwithstanding the fact that the boundaries of creative industries have not been clearly defined, what has been established is a solid foundation for the nexus between these three areas. Against this background, this conference seeks to explore the potential links between tourism, culture and the creative industries and how such connections can contribute to a destination's sustainable, economic, social and human development,” the conference news release stated.

In fact, the series of lectures, panel discussions and workshops were well attended and from all accounts effective in promoting greater dialogue and research on creating a policy and planning framework. ■

*For further information on the 2nd International Tourism Conference, visit the conference website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/12/tourism/index.asp> or contact Dr. Acolla Lewis-Cameron at (868) 662-2002 ext. 82621 or at [acolla.lewis-cameron@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:acolla.lewis-cameron@sta.uwi.edu)*





# REPUBLIC BANK supports **UWI STAN** Photo Competition

The winner of The University of the West Indies (UWI) St Augustine News (STAN) Cover Photography Competition was presented with a \$2,000 cheque courtesy Republic Bank Limited and a gift hamper on Tuesday (13th March). RBL UWI Branch Manager, Maria Fraser, presented the award to Rhoda Bharath (who accepted on behalf of the competition winner, Sarah Bass).

The photo which is entitled 'You-We: The Canvas of Culture', was selected by judges as the top choice among scores of entries in the 2011 competition. The portrait of a young man whose face is dusted with gold and blue a *beer*, after taking part in the annual Phagwa festival in Kendra Village, Trinidad, was featured on the April-July 2011 magazine cover.

A post graduate student in the Faculty of Humanities and Education, Sarah Bass (who is currently abroad) explained that, "a number of UWI students [took part] in the celebration and the Calypso/Chutney performances". She added that the image "spoke poignantly to UWI's reach, and the immersion and influence of the student body in the cultural expression of Trinidad and Tobago as they extend beyond the physical boundaries of the university".

It was not an easy choice for the judges to select from the numerous entries, UWI STAN Editor Anna Walcott-Hardy explained.

"We were pleased with the interest the competition generated, as well as the technical proficiency and versatility shown by the photographers. Choosing a winner was a difficult process because the students and staff at UWI provided such engaging images. The good news is that the Marketing and Communications

Department has decided to expand the offerings to winners of the 2012 competition to include a first prize of \$4,000, as well as a second prize of \$1,500 and third prize of \$1,000. We are pleased that in the past, corporate sponsors such as Republic Bank Limited have supported these creative initiatives and look forward to continuing this tradition in the future."

The UWI STAN seeks to encourage the Campus Community to appreciate the landscape, architecture, people and/or special events that are linked to UWI and capture this in a high quality digital photograph. The 2012 competition is open to students and staff at the St Augustine Campus- entries are welcome from 26th March – 1st June 2012 at 4:00pm.

The UWI STAN magazine has won four international awards including an Association of Commonwealth Universities Award (ACU) for excellence in publishing and an International



Winning image as seen on the cover of the April – July 2011 edition of STAN

Association of Business Communicators Silver Quill Award. Over the past decade, contributing writers have included: Jonathan Ali, Gerard Best, Ira Mathur, Alake Pilgrim and Dr. Giselle Rampaul. To read more about UWI STAN and the photography competition for 2012 please visit: [www.sta.uwi.edu/stan](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/stan) ■



(R-L) Ms. Rhoda Bharath accepts STAN Photography Competition First Place Prize on behalf of Ms. Sarah Bass from Ms. Maria Fraser, Manager, The UWI RBL Branch and Mrs. Dawn-Marie De Four-Gill, University & Campus Director, Marketing & Communications

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# The boy who wouldn't take basket

UWI student overcomes  
daunting odds and creates  
new possibilities for visually  
impaired students

*By Vaneisa Baksh*

**Heft a can of pigeon peas.** It weighs just about a pound. That's how heavy Anil Waithe was when he was born at six months and two weeks. He was also sightless. Back in 1986, the prognosis was not good (yes, that's more than 25 years ago), and his mother, Sandra was not offered much hope for his survival.

But survive he did, with such an indomitable spirit that even as you marvel at it, your instinct is to reach out and help clear his way. Anil is now in his final year at The UWI where he is about to gain a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science; just one Math and one Foundation course separate him from this goal.

He had successfully completed one of the co-curricular courses (COCR1028) in Outlook and staff members at the Microsoft IT Academy were so proud of his success that they wanted to share the good news. But the news was not only that he had done it within a month, or that he was pursuing another COCR; it was also that he was reshaping the way for the visually impaired.

Having difficulty with the Math, he created a programme to help the visually impaired and is currently working on an audio CD which will be a tutorial for Office. It is all about accessibility, providing ways for the visually impaired to gain greater access to opportunity and possibilities.

In a sense, many of his choices have been based on the overarching desire to improve the lot of persons with disabilities. He chose his field of study because, "I wanted to prove that visually impaired people can do it. I wanted to open the way for other students. With my experience I can point out accessibility issues."

*“I wanted to prove that visually impaired people can do it. I wanted to open the way for other students. With my experience I can point out accessibility issues.”*

For instance, when he began a Programming course, the examination time he was allotted was still not enough (20 minutes extra per hour). Through him, the time has been extended to 10 additional minutes per hour. He has been instrumental in bringing issues like these to the attention of bodies like ASDLU [Academic Support/Disabilities Liaison Unit] so that the system may be adjusted.

Going through the degree programme has been challenging; sometimes because supporting technology was not available, sometimes because people could not grasp his differently nuanced needs. The JAWS screen reading software that had been obtained after great effort actually conked-out on him during an examination. Anil didn't alert the invigilator and as he was not allowed to have someone with him, he couldn't finish. The next time he was allowed to have Geeta Kissoon, an ICT

Trainer from the Microsoft IT Academy, in the examination room and he passed.

As Anil talks about his Campus experiences and his ambitions, Geeta sits beside him, bantering and reminding him of details he might have overlooked. She comes across more like a big sister than a tutor, and he evidently trusts her.

He believes that each obstacle can be a platform from which one can either dive or soar, and he chooses to soar. So it takes Geeta's interjections to help me realise what it really means when he says something innocuous like: “Sometimes JAWS doesn't behave.”

The challenges were more complicated than he allows, and yet he selected this particular degree programme because he had something to prove.

During the six months he spent at the School for the Blind in his early years, he was made to understand that the only livelihood he could aspire to was in basketry (a craft that with his long, elegant fingers and slender wrists, he might have mastered with ease). But to be told that that was all his life should contain filled him with outrage. He might not be able to see but he could think, and he was determined not to be relegated to a lifetime of mechanical functions.

So Anil began to walk a different road. A solitary one. He studied hard. His ability to gather and retain information very quickly is remarkable. I ask him why he thinks that is so and he suggests he might have a photographic memory.

*Courtesy UWI Today, for more visit:  
<http://sta.uwi.edu/urwitoday/article12.asp>*



Anil Waithe with Geeta Kissoon,  
ICT Trainer from the Microsoft IT  
Academy at CITS, Campus IT Services.



## [IN FOCUS]

"I pay more attention to things than sighted people," he said.

"In school I had a tape recorder, people read for me. I can memorize a menu [on a computer or phone] and send texts and emails," he tells me, adding, "I play video games too."

He even watches wrestling on TV, says Geeta. He also founded an online radio station, CCV Radio.

As a reward for getting into Hillview College in 2000, he was given a computer by the Torres Foundation for the Blind (a non-profit organisation). The computer was a refurbished one [The Foundation accepts donations of computers and adds "assistive technology" before passing them on] and this one had seen better days.

"I had to use a nail to turn it on," he remembers, recalling how he got tired of the trips to technicians because "sighted people would not take certain things into consideration when repairing." He took matters in his own hands.

"I can build a computer by myself from scratch," he says. "I learned to reinstall Windows by listening to the spring of the CD-ROM." Geeta interjects: "When he was doing it, I thought he was sighted that day!" Anil grins, a rare moment when his head is not slightly bent.

"I made an unattended installation of Windows. I wrote a backscript and that contains the necessary settings to get Windows running."

His mother came to meet him just as we were wrapping up and I told her I had enjoyed talking to him, and that I found him to be an intelligent young man. "He got nine subjects at Hillview College," she says, her eyes glistening, "but it was rough there." Students were not always kind.



Anil Waithe, with neither a cane nor a dog, he relies on human hands to help him make his way around, yet when his hands move on a regular computer keyboard, you'd never guess he was visually impaired.

One bit him hard for showing them up at exams. She tells the story of his birth, how she was a single mother, looking after her son and her 89-year-old mother and making do on his disability grant which is a paltry \$1300 a month.

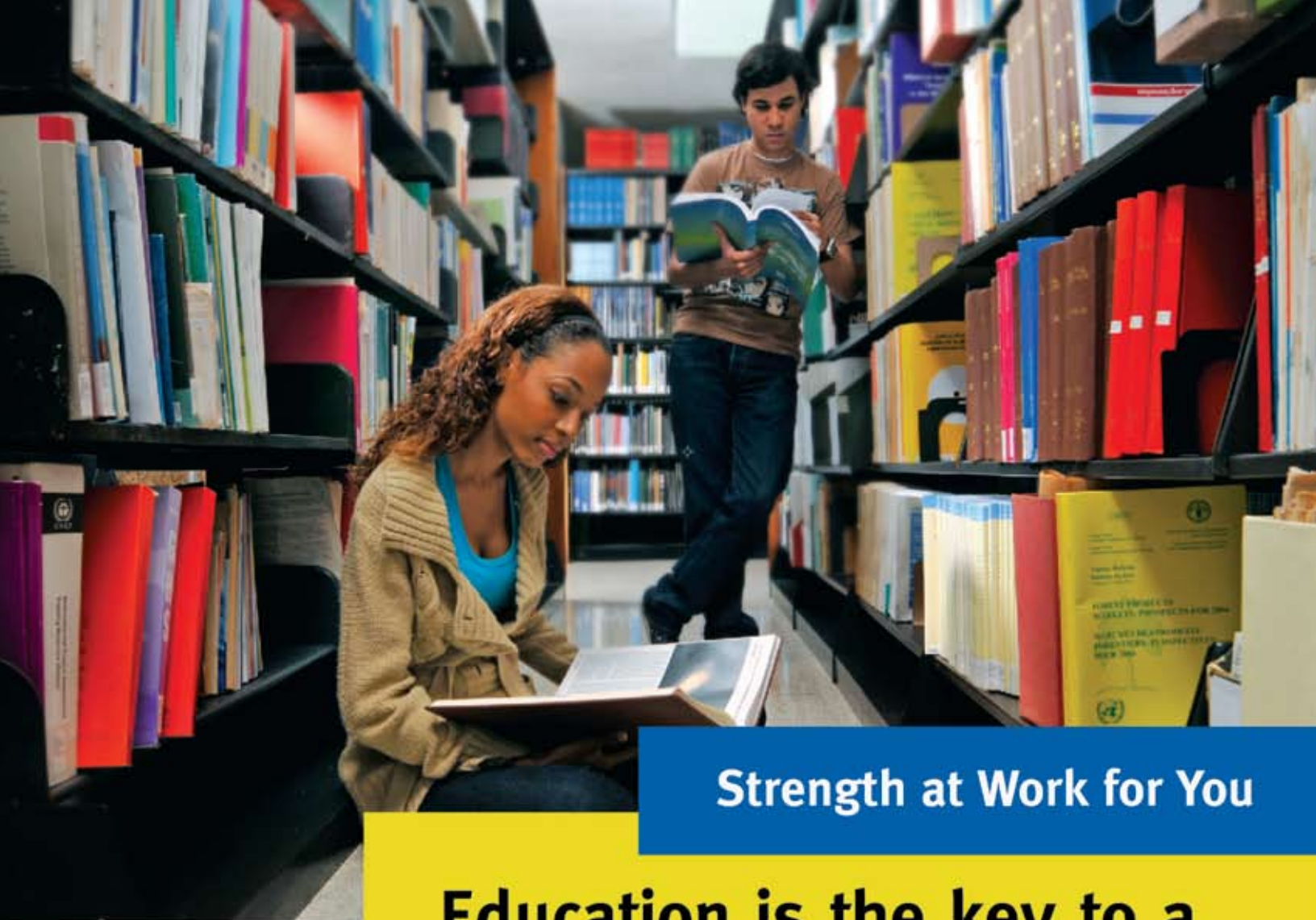
"I would do anything for my child," she said.

Given Anil's sunny air, the way his mind seemed wholly focused on positive things, it had not occurred to me that there were other hardships on his plate. Had it not been for the input of his mother and Geeta, Anil would have glossed over the tribulations. I suppose the indomitable spirit would not be overwhelmed. His mind is fixed on a future of equal access. He knows he is going to wrap up the degree this year, and then he wants to do a master's degree.

"I haven't decided on what yet, but it would have to be in the computing area because I want to help people. At the end of the day, knowledge is only useful if you share it."

It is his goal in life to develop some kind of training centre where he can help people with disabilities to have access to the technologies and opportunities that could open their minds.

It is also his wish that by doing things that people did not imagine possible for the visually impaired he would open their eyes. ■



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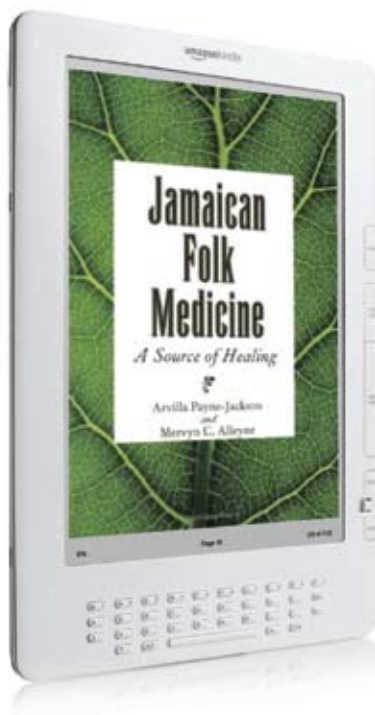


# UWI Press launches e-books for Kindle

**In the New Year**, The University of the West Indies (UWI) Press launched five e-books for its Kindle customers. The e-book project provides an opportunity for the organisation to disseminate excellent scholarship to a virtual marketplace in a quick and affordable format.

The five e-publications currently available are: *Cascade* by Barbara Lalla; *Inna di Dance Hall: Popular Culture and the Politics of Identity in Jamaica* by Donna P. Hope; *In Miserable Slavery: Thomas Thistlewood in Jamaica, 1750-86* by Douglas Hall; *Jamaican Folk Medicine: A Source of Healing* by Arvilla Payne-Jackson and Mervyn Alleyne; and *Abandoning Dead Metaphors: The Caribbean Phase of Derek Walcott's Poetry* by the late Patricia Ismond.

The UWI Press is a not-for-profit scholarly publisher of books in 13



academic disciplines. It is particularly well known for its work in Caribbean history, Caribbean cultural studies, Caribbean

literature, gender studies, education and political science. Founded in 1992, the Press has more than 350 books in print. Its books are peer-reviewed and approved by an editorial committee of local and international scholars.

“Our goal is to provide superb Caribbean scholarship in a variety of formats,” Linda Speth, the Director of the UWI Press explained. “During the next year, we will make more than 60 books available in electronic forms for a variety of tablets, readers and devices. Our customers want a choice in how they gain access to our content and these and other initiatives will allow our customers greater access to and usability of our peer-reviewed books.” ■

*The UWI Press is a member of The Association of American University Presses (AAUP) and over the last 18 years has won over 65 regional and international awards.*

---

## Uncivil Unrest

I am young apathy in morning blossom.  
I am collective conscience bloated in a ravine.  
I am bug-eyed voices in a Lilliputian doctor's office.  
I am dirty, distorted dream versions of you,  
Doing things you could never do,  
Turning men and horses blue,  
Clinging to the moss under  
the water in a trough.  
You called for me,  
I am here.

I am coffins barren of reason.  
I am roasted terra cotta on a sidewalk.  
I am simmering mania on a two-burner stove.  
I am laden vessels missing from the docks,  
I am hours stolen from your clocks,  
I am glass encrusted onto rocks,  
Bloodied in the tongue  
from my own tooth.  
You called for me  
I am here.

**AMY BAKSH UWI**  
*Undergraduate student,  
Faculty of Humanities & Education*

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# KEES DIEFF

# GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

## Jam Session with Kees

**In December**, the UWI Campus was buzzing about the pre-exam treat organised by The UWI International Office (IO) St. Augustine Campus - a virtual, interactive jam session with Trinidad and Tobago's international soca superstar, **Kees Dieffenthaler**.

# ENTHALLER



## [MUSIC]

On December 1st, Kees, accompanied by music producer Klase (hit maker for Kees, Machel and others), was on stage at The University's Daaga Auditorium for over two hours being interviewed by Sharan Chandradath Singh, Director of UWT's IO, as a part of the Office's Global Citizenship Dialogue (GCD) project. Needless to say the auditorium was filled to capacity and the veteran musician, composer, writer and "choir boy" surely sang, laughed and even danced with some quite ecstatic students, for his supper.

"The GCD project is an important tool for the Campus to directly address the way that our students view the world around them and understand how they might interact with it, on their own terms," Sharan Singh explained recently.

"The event with Kees allowed us to get a unique window into one of our own young Trinbagonians who is making a mark for himself in this society and around the world. He opened up tremendously and showed us what makes him tick, what motivates him, how he thinks today and where he wants to be in the future. Our hope is that his words would have connected personally with those in attendance and that this would have created new awareness and excitement about their own potential and possibilities in the future."







“The GCD project is an important tool for the Campus to directly address the way that our students view the world around them and understand how they might interact with it, on their own terms,”

*Sbaran Singh*

The project is a forum for exposing UWI students to matters of global importance, focusing primarily on empowering them and developing their social consciousness. The events take the form of a conversation between The IO Director and guests of international acclaim before a live audience.

During the Global Citizenship Dialogue: A Jam Session with Kees, the 2011 Groovy Soca Monarch spoke of his source of musical inspiration and the creation process. The audience also had an opportunity to participate in the creation of a new song, and potential 2012 soca track with Kees and Klase. At the end of the session, Kees gave a memorable ‘freestyle’ session over the new track, but not without the assistance of some highly “inspired” members of the audience. ■

*For further information, please contact the International Office at (868) 662-2002 ext. 84184 or log onto [www.sta.uwi.edu/international/gcd.asp](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/international/gcd.asp)*



“The project is a forum for exposing UWI students to matters of **global importance**, focusing primarily on **empowering them** and developing their **social consciousness**.”



# The Archbishop of Pan

*A steelpan tribute to the legendary artist, musician,  
lecturer Pat Bishop leaves a lasting impression on a nation*

*By Margaret Walcott*

**It is the week before** the Panorama Competition semi-finals. They turn off the main road into Hamilton Street and down the poorly lit path that leads to the 'Village' the pan yard of 'Petrotrin Phase II Pan Groove'. In pairs, in groups, they move to their favourite spot, on the bleachers, on the far side, near to the pans. These are the hard core, the pan lovers who in the carnival season come night after night to hear the progress of their band's arrangement.

Gradually the crowd swells, here come the tourists, the local Carnival crowd, others, inquisitive, slightly out of place, but excited to be in this environment. There is the familiar background of pan players rehearsing their individual arrangements

simultaneously, a cacophony of noise, an indistinguishable rumble that is perhaps distracting to the uninitiated. But this year there is a special *buzz* in the pan yard. The heightened interest is in the Phase II selection for the Panorama Competition. In August last year Pat Bishop died. At 71 she had passed away during a meeting of Government's High Level Expert Panel to guide the Implementation of Arts, Cultural and Entrepreneurial Projects and Patriotism Project. Her close friends and artistic colleagues Peter Minshall and Donald 'Jackie' Hinkson were seated nearby when she collapsed.

At the beginning of the year, four outstanding talents had come together to

produce the band's pan tune which was to be a tribute to the departed musician; this is after seeking the blessing of her sister, Gillian Bishop, for the undertaking. Phase II Pan Groove leader Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe had approached Gregory GB Ballantyne to provide the lyrics for the composition. GB had collaborated with Boogsie Sharpe on many pan tunes over the years. He researched diligently and his lyrics spoke movingly and directly to Miss Bishop's personality:

*she never minced words, communication, stating  
honestly what she think and understand  
she conducting hands in de air. She stop a  
practice to tell a man doh lash de pan*



nt Bishop



The lyrics were sung by the Lydian Singers, the choir that Ms Bishop had led for the past 11 years. Leston Paul, an accomplished musician, was the arranger of the instrumental version of the song. At first the song was called "The Bishop of Pan", but then the composers approached Peter Minshall who recommended that 'The Archbishop of Pan' was the more appropriate title.

Pat Bishop was an extraordinary, multifaceted person. She was musician, artist, lecturer and educator who also served her country in many diverse fields. She is perhaps best known for her interest and pioneer work with the steelband and as music director and conductor of the highly regarded 'Lydians Singers' and 'Lydian Steel'.

She could be described as a driven artist who worked tirelessly exhorting her fellow countrymen to take responsibility for their lives and their great cultural heritage. She used her formal education, her considerable talent, and her vision to teach, encourage and explore. She also utilised her fabled skill as a speaker; she possessed a wide, extraordinary vocabulary, a compelling turn of phrase and a keen wit. As lecturer and critic she addressed innumerable fora. But in the end she tired, in her hope for her fellow men "that seems now to be so remote as to be impossible". Disconsolate at the slow rate of progress and change, she talked "of retiring, of leaving this world, and soon with serenity and a quiet mood".

This formidable woman was a national scholarship winner from Bishop Anstey High School, she obtained a BA in Art at King's College, Durham University and a MA in History at UWI Mona Campus in Jamaica.

In time she lectured at both the St Augustine and Mona campuses of The University of the West Indies and at the Jamaica School of Art.

*"Boogsie Sharpe's arrangement of the 'Archbishop of Pan' respects and reflects the lyrics... Sharpe is paying homage to this strong woman, who brought her classical training to the steel pan music which in turn influenced her work... Glory, Glory, Allelujah, her soul goes marching on."*



In the early years of her love affair with the steel band she focussed on the 'WITCO Desperadoes Steel Band'. As its conductor and music director she took this Laventille band on eight major tours of the USA, gave major concerts at Carnegie Hall and the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and she conducted 'Despers' and the New York Pops Symphony in the mid 1980s.

She loved participating in the Panorama Competitions and the classical Steel Band Festivals. And in her later years, she started work with other steel bands 'to drill and clean up' Panorama arrangements and to do critical pan commentary for the Radio. She was particularly interested in the music composed specifically for the steel pan and she worked with several outstanding arrangers of pan music including: Jit Samaroo, Ken Philmore, Ray Holman and Boogsie Sharpe.

Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe had formed 'Phase II Pan Groove' in 1972 with six other musicians from 'Starlift Steel Band', they were seeking a more experimental sound for the instrument. They pioneered the decision to perform original compositions for Panorama, the National Steel Band competition, and year after year 'Phase II' elected to play pieces specifically composed and arranged by their talented leader.

Keith Mitchell, Phase II tenor pannist says that, "Pat saw the vibrancy of his (Boogsie's) music and would encourage him, not to be afraid for he is an *outlier*, way ahead of everyone in this business. She described his music as *urban contemporary*".

Boogsie Sharpe's arrangement of 'Archbishop of Pan' respects and reflects the lyrics. The sound is of an orchestra, a church organ, as Mitchell says "the bass pans singing in a male voice". Sharpe is paying homage to this strong woman, who brought her classical training to the steel pan music which in turn influenced



her work, whose training was classical but whose spirit was caught-up in the new sound of the steel pans. Sharpe samples clips from Handel's "Hallelujah" Chorus, a favourite of Bishop's, and the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" - *Glory, Glory, Allelujah, her soul goes marching on.*

As for the Lydian Singers, her great love, she had taken-over the leadership of the choir, formed by Joyce Spence the music teacher of Bishop Anstey High School, in 1987 when Spence fell ill. The choir swept through the bi-annual Music Festival of Trinidad and Tobago. Bishop was always a firm supporter of the Music Festival and had herself been a successful competitor. She prepared the members of the choir for the Festival and to this day they compete with consistent success. The 'Lydians Singers' have developed a diverse and challenging repertoire of music under her leadership

not only European but nearer home, Cuban and South American. She formed the 'Lydian Steel', 20 young pannists, who would address the problem of musical literacy among pannists and the blending of the pans with conventional instruments.

On the Sunday night of the Panorama semis, Phase II is in their usual spot on the track in the Queen's Park Savannah on their way to the BIG STAGE. The atmosphere is electric, as fans, artists, musicians, the Lydians in their distinctive t-shirts, greet each other 'Happy Carnival'. The band plays 'Archbishop' at a slow pace and then at the competition tempo. It is impressive. Choreographer Noble Douglas, a longtime supporter of the band and friend of Pat Bishop is sitting with Pat's sister Gillian, she says quietly "the feeling it gives me is one of sadness, it is really a very beautiful, sad piece".

Although the 'Phase II Pan Groove' topped the semis, they did not win on the final night. But for sure 'The Archbishop of Pan' is an important piece of music that will endure long after the Panorama competition, now in the repertoire of the 'Lydian Singers', one feels that it will be performed regularly, a tribute to their beloved Pat Bishop. ■



# HALF EMPTY OR **HALF FULL**

New policy  
& counselling  
seek to deter  
binge drinking





**It's an issue** that universities across the world seek to wrestle with – alcohol abuse by students and the impact on their well-being: academic performance, psychological state and social behaviour. The UWI prides itself on being a student-centred institution and so in 2009, after mounting complaints of the repercussions of student forays

with alcohol on Campus by Security Services and the Counselling and Psychological Services, **Dr. Neil Singh** and his team at the **UWI Health Services Unit** conducted a survey on alcohol consumption among UWI St. Augustine Campus students.

2,194 students took an Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT), revealing that 69 per cent of UWI students drink alcohol, 25 per cent consume enough to be classified as having an Alcohol Use Disorder and members of that group are five times more likely to be men.





**Dr. Neil Singh** spoke with **Serah Acham** on alcohol use on Campus and the introduction of a proactive policy, prevention programme and counselling.

**(Serah Acham) Can you tell me about the use of alcohol on this Campus?**

**(Dr. Neil Singh)** There are four types of people. There are those who don't drink, those who drink responsibly, those who have an Alcohol Use Disorder, which can be one of three (things) - hazardous users, they drink and drive, they are risky; harmful users, they drink to the point where they get drunk, binge drink and can harm themselves; and those who are dependent on alcohol, a very few, who can't do without a drink.

Our survey identified students who have an Alcohol Use Disorder – on average 25 per cent of the students, but 50 per cent of the Campus males.

**What irresponsible behaviours have been noticed?**

What triggered the whole approach to alcohol on Campus was the number of rumours and incidents that have occurred in the past. Security Services were quite concerned about the level of alcohol abuse and damage to the University property that was occurring over the years. The Counselling Centre was concerned about the number of students who were presenting alcohol problems and associated depression and anxiety. But the Campus administration was also concerned about the abuse of alcohol at carnival time and I was actually present the last carnival (at the Campus Carnival parade of the bands) and the (noticed) number of students, females, who were (intoxicated) to the point of loss of consciousness.

**Are some students entering the University as alcoholics or with these tendencies?**

Students are coming in not being alcohol abusers as much, but during their transition on Campus, the third and fourth year students are showing the highest prevalence of alcohol use. You have to understand the context of teenagers and young adults and their behaviour. It is a time of freedom, of experimentation, where they are transitioning between teenaged years and young adulthood and with this freedom comes a number of behaviours which may not be healthy. Alcohol abuse is one of them ... it's not something that is new to young people or unique to Trinidad and Tobago. It's common amongst all universities and we know of the ill effects of irresponsible alcohol use. It can lead to irresponsible sexual behaviour, unwanted pregnancies, violence, poor academic performance, acute depression and a whole host of other issues ... as a responsible administration, we need to introduce guidelines and policies to help limit the abuse and educate and treat, if necessary, those who have problems.

**What's the distinction between 'social' and 'binge' drinking?**

Binge drinking is considered to be drinking five or more drinks in any one sitting. 38 per cent of our students confess to that and that is a significant Alcohol Use Disorder that needs to be addressed ... On average 2 drinks per day is considered responsible drinking.

**What infrastructure do we have on Campus to help students who have alcohol problems?**

We are now embarking on an alcohol prevention programme which is geared to sensitise the student population. We'll be putting the AUDIT questionnaire online for students to assess themselves and if students believe that they have scored positively, they can make an appointment at the Counselling Centre to see one of the counsellors.

If a student recognises that his/her friend has a drinking problem, he/she should encourage the student to make an appointment with the Counselling Centre or the medical doctor at the Health Service Unit. All our consultations are confidential and are designed for initial screening and to develop a management plan for the student.



The student has to voluntarily come [in to the Centre]. There are occasions where students may be in violation of the policy or University regulations and are asked or compelled to come. In those cases, we still work with the student to develop a management plan, but we much prefer if the students come voluntarily and not [come] because of an adverse event.

### Is there more or less drinking on Campus now than in the past? Why do you think this is?

That's the purpose of the study ... three years down the road I want to redo the study to compare whether the alcohol policy [had] an effect.

I can say yes, there is much more drinking, but that's all rumour, it's not scientific. I will tell you 20 years [ago], while I was a student on campus here, I abused alcohol and alcohol abuse was prevalent, so I don't think it is something that is changing, it has always been there.

### What do you think about there being a bar on Campus?

Many studies have been done. (Banning alcohol) has shown to make no difference to alcohol consumption. It is the policy that regulates responsible drinking that's

more important. What we would like to see is our students drink alcohol on Campus, where we can regulate the amount they drink, the hours that they drink, and we can recognise their level of intoxication. They are safer, they are protected here. What we are concerned about are our students who are going outside and drinking – the drinking games, the all-inclusive fetes, the drinking at the bars and the risk of crime.

I would like to see a well established pub on Campus, that students can call their own. Students and staff can go. We know they're safe, we know the operating hours, we have responsible bartenders, we recognise those who are in trouble we can assist them in many ways if they can't drive.

As a matter of fact, I intend to buy a breathalyzer here on Campus. The purpose of the breathalyser is two-fold – one, to randomly spot students who are drinking and driving, and two, for staff and students to come and do a test after consuming alcohol to see if they need to cool-out for a while before they go and drive again ... they can come and do a test right here, free of charge. If their levels are high, they can go and cool off for a couple hours and come back.

The bar is not an issue, the bar should be a plus ... we prefer students drink on campus ... the better place for them to do it is within the environs of the school. Having a bar on campus isn't encouraging drinking. In fact we are discouraging alcohol abuse. Those who make a choice to drink should do so responsibly, in a safe environment.

Thank you ■

## THE AUDIT

(ALCOHOL USE DISORDER IDENTIFICATION TEST)

The AUDIT (Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test) questionnaire numerically rates a person's level of alcohol use. An AUDIT score of less than five is considered normal and responsible drinking. Scoring above five (a positive AUDIT score) indicates hazardous or harmful drinking. Here are some of the facts questionnaire uncovered:

- 69 per cent of UWI students drink alcohol;
- UWI's St. Augustine Campus has a 31 per cent abstinence rate, i.e. 31 per cent of students do not drink alcohol. In UK and US universities the average abstinence rate is approximately 15 per cent;
- The average audit score of females on campus who drink alcohol is 2.44, while for males it's 6.0;
- 25 per cent of all UWI students have an Alcohol Use Disorder and this includes 50 per cent of the males on Campus;
- Third and fourth year students, or those between 21 and 25 years old, have a higher prevalence of Alcohol Use Disorder as opposed to first year students;
- Students in the Faculty of Engineering have the highest prevalence of Alcohol Use Disorder;
- Students who live at home are more likely to be responsible drinkers compared to those who live on or around Campus;
- 38 per cent of students admit to binge drinking.

"Our survey identified students who have an **Alcohol Use Disorder** – on average **25 per cent** of the students, but **50 per cent** of the Campus males."



## Deputy Principal to be honored in South Africa



Prof. Rhoda Reddock

**On March 15th** an Honorary Doctorate will be conferred on UWI Deputy Principal for the St. Augustine Campus by one of the leading tertiary level institutions in South Africa. Professor Rhoda Reddock is well-known for her innovative research, scholarship and community service. She will be honoured at one of the graduation ceremonies at the University of the Western Cape in Bellville, South Africa.

The University has a formidable list of past honourees including Nelson Mandela, Basil Davidson, Oliver Tambo and Graca Machel. The University's Chancellor is Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.

Rhoda Elizabeth Reddock is professor of Gender, Social Change and Development and former head of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies at The UWI St. Augustine campus, Trinidad and Tobago. She currently serves as Deputy Principal of the campus. She

holds a BSc Social Administration from The University of the West Indies (St. Augustine and Mona campuses) (1975); a Masters of Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague (1980) and a Doctorate Social Sciences (Applied Sociology) from the University of Amsterdam (1984). A graduate of Bishop Anstey High School, Trinidad and Tobago, Professor Reddock's academic career began as lecturer, Cipriani Labour College and associate lecturer at the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague. She began her UWI career as research fellow at the Institute for Social and Economic Research of the UWI St. Augustine campus in 1985, then became lecturer in the Department of Sociology in 1990. She was actively involved in the process leading up to the institutionalisation of gender studies at UWI and assumed her former position as head, Centre for Gender and Development Studies, St. Augustine in 1994.

Professor Reddock's research and teaching interests have been multidisciplinary but have been concentrated in the broad areas of development studies, women, masculinities and gender. More specifically this has included the examination of women's labour and social movement history; the gendered implications of global economic development; gender, race/ethnicity and citizenship; feminist theory; environmental studies; gender and sexualities and Caribbean masculinities. She has served as consultant to a number of regional and international agencies including - the CARICOM Secretariat, European Union (EU), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), AWID and the government of Trinidad and Tobago. ■

## The Faculty of Engineering hosts *'Technology Education Curriculum' Seminar*

The Faculty of Engineering hosted a Public Seminar on 'Technology Education Curriculum' (TEC) on 26th November 2011. It was organised in collaboration with the Education Society (EdS) and the Technology Management Council (TMC) Chapters of the IEEE Trinidad and Tobago Section (IEEEtt).

Education technology is the study and practice of facilitating learning and improving performance by creating, using and managing appropriate technological processes and resources.

"We regard Education technology as an important means to achieve the ultimate end of technology education. On the other hand, technology education is the teaching of technology to solve practical problems. It is multi-faceted and incorporates science, technology and vocational areas," UWI Professor and committee member, Kit Fai Pun explained.

Facilitated by **Dr. Ruel Ellis**, Immediate Past Chairman of EdS Chapter, IEEEtt, **Professor Kit Fai Pun**, Deputy Dean (Postgraduate & Research) of the Faculty also delivered the welcoming addresses. Guest speakers covered a wide range of topics. "Issues in Moving Towards a Blended Learning Curriculum in The UWI Context" was examined by **Dr. Anna-May Edwards-Henry**, Director of Instructional Development Unit, UWI; while "Technology and Engineering Education: Discovery Learning and Group Dynamics" was the focus of **Professor Adel M. Sharaf**, Vice Provost for Post Graduate Studies and Research, The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). **Dr. Sanjay Bahadoorsingh**,

"We regard Education technology as an important means to achieve the ultimate end of technology education."

Prof. Kit Fai Pun

Lecturer of the Faculty of Engineering, UWI discussed various technologically-oriented initiatives in his presentation entitled "Enhancing Active Participation by Integrating Technology into the Power Engineering Curriculum"; and "Towards Improved Cognitive Load - Increasing Knowledge Retention Outside the Classroom" was addressed by **Mr. Ronald A.D. Dyer**, Senior Business Consultant of Business Development Company Limited. "Issues Affecting the Implementation of IT in the Secondary School Classroom" was examined by the fifth speaker, **Ms. Alice Thomas-Martin**, Teacher of St. Benedict's College.

Some 60 participants including invited guest speakers, teaching professionals, academics, students, and delegates from the industry attended the Seminar. Feedback from participants was

overwhelmingly good. Over 80% of returned evaluations rated the Seminar either 'Very Good' (35%) or 'Good' (46%), and 17% of participants rated it as 'satisfactory'. Many participants commented that the presenters were very knowledgeable about their areas of expertise and the presentations were interactive and informative. The Faculty is considering making the TEC seminar series an annual event. ■



# bpTT, UWI AND HABITAT JOIN HANDS FOR HEMA'S HOME

**It was energy in action** as volunteers from bpTT and the UWI-based chapter of Habitat for Humanity worked seamlessly to construct the Habitat for Humanity home for Hema Benny and her family.

Over the weekend, sweat and smiles triumphed over sun and rain as 40 volunteers from bpTT and The University of the West Indies chapter of Habitat for Humanity teamed up to lay the foundation for a home for Sangre Grande resident Hema Benny and her five children. The occasion marked another step in the project set in motion last November through a collaborative effort between bpTT and Habitat for Humanity Trinidad and Tobago (HFHTT). Initially, the initiative, which is fully financed by the energy company, will see the construction of four homes over two years at a cost of \$600,000. Working alongside 20 bpTT volunteers was Ronda Francis, corporate responsibility manager. "There is nothing more fulfilling than giving back, especially to needy people like Hema and her kids. Having served as the first national co-ordinator for Habitat, I know firsthand the feelings of accomplishment that go with a project like this. "What we are witnessing here is energy at work. Everyone is contributing their time and energy that will build more than just a home—it will build a dream. This is why bpTT and its employees are so enthusiastic about partnering with Habitat to build homes and change lives," Francis explained.

Although the sod was turned at the end of last year, construction was delayed because of inclement weather. However, powered by the weekend volunteers from bpTT and UWI since February,



the foundation for the three-bedroom home is almost completed. The bpTT and Habitat volunteers will come out until Benny and her family step into their new home, at Adelaide Settlement, hopefully for Easter. Directing efforts on site was Julian Chester, volunteer and alliance clerk, HFHTT. Chester explained what the volitional workers meant to the success of the project: "These volunteers make this and every Habitat initiative possible. It is gratifying to experience the synergy these representatives of bpTT and UWI have brought to the project. This is truly an ideal reflection of what we refer to as the concept of 'sweat equity'. In terms of labour costs, they are worth thousands of dollars, but in terms of the hope given to Hema and her kids, the efforts of these volunteers are priceless."

The volunteers divided into teams to do manual tasks such as tying steel, backfilling and mixing concrete for the foundation. As part of the honorary "concrete crew," Deon Baptiste of bpTT's operations department, was enjoying the "sweat." "People might think that this is hard but with the laughter and teamwork, it hardly feels like work. We're building a home

and building relationships and making a difference. I don't have much free time, but I can't think of something better to do with it than volunteer for a service like this," Deon explained. Dizzanne Billy, co-ordinator of the UWI chapter of HFHTT, explained their contribution to the initiative. "We've been in operation for two years and in that time we've had many successes including completing a project on our own. Despite exams and academic demands, we are always inundated with volunteers from every department. As students, we also want to learn life lessons and there is no better classroom than a Habitat project." Lending a hand was Benny herself, accompanied by her three youngest children. An emotional Benny said, "There are no words to describe what I am feeling, seeing all these people working so tirelessly. From now and for the rest of my life, I will never forget what bpTT, Habitat for Humanity, UWI and every other volunteer are doing for my family." ■

*(Article courtesy the Trinidad Guardian, March 2012)*

## Capturing UWI's Green

**Congratulations** to Avinash Phagoo winner of the "Capturing UWI's Green" photo competition. Competition judges – renowned photographer Mark Lyndersay, Professor Emeritus Julian Duncan, and Amilcar Sanatan, UWI Guild President – agreed that Phagoo's image deserved the first prize of a UWI Bookshop voucher worth \$1000 and an all-expense paid trip for four to the Asa Wright Centre.

Nerissa Ramesar's photo of the Samaan tree near to the Sir Frank Stockdale Building, won the second place prize of a Bookshop voucher for \$500, with third-place hamper being given to Donovan Jordan, a member of the UWI Photography Club. There were 58 submissions and great interest in the next instalment of the competition. ■



## UWI hosts WOW 2012

**The University of** the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, hosted its annual World of Work (WOW) programme from February 9th to March 23rd, 2012, at the UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC).

UWI partnered with Republic Bank Ltd once again to host WOW which, since its inception over ten years ago, has provided an increasing number of UWI students with the right tools for long-term success in the globalised work environment. The Bank believes in WOW's objective of developing the career path of students, especially those on the eve of graduation.

Each component of the WOW 2012 programme is specifically intended

to develop a targeted skill set. The Interview Preparation Workshop teaches participants interview skills necessary to impress prospective employers; the WOW Seminar provides advice from leading professionals on Financial Planning, Dressing for Success and Becoming an Entrepreneur; while the Mock Interview session allows each student to practice interview skills with real business professionals and gain valuable feedback; the Networking Workshop, which made its debut last year, introduces students to socialising for business success; and the Recruitment Fair showcases companies and organisations from a variety of fields who will recruit students for either vacation or graduate employment. The Recruitment Fair will take place during the final two days of WOW 2012, with one day designated to all returning students and the other, restricted to final-year, graduating students. ■



*For further information, please contact Mr. Chandar Gupta Supersad, UWI Student Advisory Services at (868) 662-2002 Ext. 82360, or via e-mail at [Chandar.Supersad@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Chandar.Supersad@sta.uwi.edu), or visit the WOW website at [www.sta.uwi.edu/wow](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/wow)*



## UWI dedicates buildings to *'Pioneers of Engineering'*



(L-R) Mrs. Kathleen Anderson, daughter of Prof. George Moon Sammy; His Excellency President Prof. George Maxwell Richards; MP. Mr. Colm Peter Imbert; Prof. Brian Copeland, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, The UWI, St. Augustine; Prof. Clement Imbert, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Engineering, The UWI, St. Augustine; Mr. Phillip Julien, son of Prof. Kenneth S. Julien and Prof. Clement Sankat, PVC & Campus Principal, The UWI, St. Augustine unveil commemorative plaques.

**The St. Augustine Campus** of The University of the West Indies (UWI) has dedicated a cluster of buildings at its Faculty of Engineering to some of the Faculty's esteemed former members – His Excellency President George Maxwell Richards and Professors Ken Julien, George Moon Sammy and IDC Imbert.

This dedication of the buildings is a part of the Campus' 50th anniversary celebrations, said Professor Clement Sankat, Pro Vice Chancellor and UWI St. Augustine Campus Principal, in his opening address at a commemorative ceremony held at the Campus on Tuesday 29th November, 2011. Recalling the recent dedications of the Campus' former Main Library and Health Economics Unit as the Alma

Jordan Library and the Sir George Alleyne Health Economics Building, he said that he embraced the opportunity "to have (the Campus') history, those who made it happen and the landmarks of this Campus, all captioned for generations to come."

The Faculty of Engineering is "one of the founding Faculties of this Campus," and at the time of the honourees' schooling, the Engineering degree was only offered at The University's St. Augustine Campus, he continued. Thus President Richards and Professors Julien, Moon Sammy and Imbert were among "the pioneers of Engineering in the region."

They all joined the Faculty during the early stages of its development and were

instrumental in the growth of the field of Engineering and the teaching, research and scholarship of their respective professions: President Richards to Chemical Engineering, Professor Julien to Electrical Engineering, Professor Moon Sammy to Food Science and Technology and Professor IDC Imbert to Civil Engineering.

Accordingly, the Chemical Engineering Building is now the Max Richards Building, the Electrical and Computer Engineering Building has become the Kenneth S. Julien Building, the Food and Technology Laboratory will be the George Moon Sammy Building and the Civil Engineering Building is now called the IDC Imbert Building. ■

## Geoscience Programme a boost to oil industry

**The BSc in Petroleum Geoscience** programme offered at the Department of Chemical Engineering was established in 2001 to meet a dire need for these professionals in the local industry. Funded largely by companies within the petroleum sector, who provided financial aid and lecturers for the various modules, the programme has produced 112 graduates. bpTT has been a consistent, major contributor to the programme donating over TT\$10 million in the past twelve years. In December 2011, the energy company presented a cheque for TT\$1.3 million to The UWI as its ongoing contribution to the initiative.. The three-year undergraduate programme, with an emphasis on Petroleum Geology and Petroleum Geophysics, was established with the support of the Government, members of the industry, the Geological Society of Trinidad and Tobago and The UWI. The BSc is accredited by the



At the presentation of bpTT's latest contribution to the Department of Chemical Engineering, (from left) bpTT's Subsurface Learning and Development Manager, Azim Ali, Geoscience Programme Coordinator, Professor Wayne Bertrand, bpTT's Vice President Communications and External Affairs, Giselle Thompson and Director of the Office of Research Development and Knowledge Transfer, Dr David Rampersad.

Geological Society in London and the Energy Institute. The Master of Science Degree in Petroleum Engineering is also accredited by the Energy Institute and was recently re-accredited by the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, and by the Institute of Chemical Engineering.

"The UWI graduates have generally performed admirably at bpTT," says Ali. "Those who have participated in our internships made a seamless transition when they joined bpTT with some being

sought after by our international locations such as Indonesia, US, Canada and the UK."

bpTT continues to provide all staffing for the final-year Formation Evaluation course as well as TT\$30,000 in scholarships annually – in 2011, four were awarded; as well as a research grant to one staff member, and the salary of one instructor. Additionally, the company accepts graduates into its Challenger programme. ■

## Seismic Research Centre hosts a Global Earthquake Model (GEM) Session

**The UWI Seismic Research Centre** (SRC) participated in the 6th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management, at the Hyatt Regency from December 5th to 9th, 2011, by hosting the Global Earthquake Model (GEM) Session.

GEM is a global collaborative effort that brings together state-of-the-art science, national, regional and international organisations and individuals to establish uniform and open standards for calculating and communicating earthquake risk worldwide.

The session was targeted to assist engineers, disaster management officials, urban planners and social scientists, with the primary goal of



UWI Seismic Research Centre hosts a Global Earthquake Model (GEM) Session

making the Caribbean's key practitioners and stakeholders more aware of GEM's mission, vision and objectives within the region. It also aims to raise awareness of the prevailing earthquake risk in their respective territories and to highlight the need for a more organised multi-disciplinary approach in promoting cost-effective earthquake mitigation measures. ■

*For further information, please contact Stacey Edwards at (868)-662-4659 ext. 23, or via e-mail at [staceyedwards@uwiseismic.com](mailto:staceyedwards@uwiseismic.com)*



# LLOYD KING

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**Lloyd, Lloyd King**, a fine gentleman, a stalwart of The University of the West Indies, academic, scholar, educator. He is still here on this campus, ready to perform his role again as my mentor, my benefactor for the third time, ready to procure a place for me at this university. The first time was in 1968. I was a postgraduate student at the University of Madrid and was in Trinidad doing field research. I met Lloyd, a Spanish lecturer in the Faculty of Arts, and he offered me a part time position to teach Spanish language in the evening programme. I gladly accepted. Classes were held at the Arcon building adjacent to the Works Department. Two years later I joined the full time staff as Assistant Lecturer in Spanish Language.

Lloyd was always kind and sympathetic, interested in my comments and opinions. I myself was always eager to hear him. We conversed just outside his office, on the ample corridor of the new Faculty of Arts building; we would talk about the current trends in Hispanic Literature. Lloyd usually produced some novel insights into the works of Guillén, Carpentier, Gabriel García Márquez, among others. I recall his deep knowledge of Octavio Paz the Mexican poet...

Lloyd spoke slowly, with deliberation, with pauses. Having been used to the rapid pace of Peninsular Spanish, I was often impatient when listening because of the style but not the content of his speech. The substance was what mattered and I went away enriched by his ideas and his originality.

Lloyd was my benefactor for the second time in 1996. I had resigned eight years earlier and had gone abroad. Now on my return to Trinidad Lloyd played a key role in my being employed once more at the UWI, St Augustine...

Lloyd believed in my ability, he respected my own views and appreciated my contribution to knowledge. I have always been grateful to him for this, especially because I admired him as a sound scholar and academic. That's why, even though I am now a retiree, I still imagine that Lloyd will somehow manage to have me return to the UWI St Augustine for

the third time to continue making my contribution to learning.

Lloyd, we will never forget you! We remember your profound commitment to the university, and to your country, your generosity and your selflessness. We thank you! May you be ever blessed. Amen! ■

**Dr. Sylvia Moodie-Kublalsingh,**  
*Senior Lecturer, Spanish and Former Director  
of the Centre for Language Learning*

"Lloyd spoke slowly, with deliberation, with pauses. Having been used to the rapid pace of Peninsular Spanish, I was often impatient when listening because of the style but not the content of his speech. The substance was what mattered and I went away enriched by his ideas and his originality."



**Mr. King, or Uncle Lloyd** as he was more affectionately known to me, was a great mentor and inspiration. As an undergraduate double major in French and Spanish, I did not have the honour of taking classes with him but our paths would soon meet and he would leave an indelible mark on mine.

It was at a Faculty Prize giving that I discovered that my father and Mr. King had known each other well. They used to ride home from St Mary's together as teenagers. Mr. King had just recently completed his tenure as Dean and his reputation as a superior intellectual mind and a demanding lecturer was well known. He asked my [father] how come he never even knew that I was a Spanish major and told him that he intended to remedy the situation. When I started my MPhil in Spanish, even though I was not his student, Uncle Lloyd took me under his wing. He was generous to a fault with his knowledge and advice. He supported me through my first conference presentation in 1998, discussed my thesis with me and gave me material to read. He was persistent in helping graduate students and giving them the guidance and opportunities that he himself did not have. He would invite a few of us up to dinner at his home and I have never forgotten the lessons he taught us. He helped us transition from undergraduate to postgraduate and to understand the new relationship between lecturers and students. Although I was a Part-time lecturer in Spanish Language while pursuing my MPhil, he always treated me as a colleague.

I [audited] his classes eager to drink-up what he taught. One day he decided that I should give a few tutorials. I had never taught literature at that point and was half scared to death. He told me to take something from my own work and showed me the real value of teaching: it was not a collection of pieces of information learnt. In fact, one could learn and teach from anything that was valuable. I will never forget how he let me use his chair in his office to give the tutorial while he sat quietly in one of the student chairs. He stayed silent and even after it was finished he told me nothing. I conquered my fears a few days afterwards to ask him what he thought and with a slight smile he said it went well. He always believed in me and encouraged me, gave me suggestions for projects, ran ideas by me. Our relationship was one of mutual respect- something I have never forgotten in my own teaching.

Mr. King gave me so many books, which now make up half of my own library and have become even more precious to me now. He has inspired me in my teaching to help every student that I can, as well as to have a special, encouraging and demanding relationship with postgraduate students.

Mr. King encouraged me to apply for the Fulbright scholarship and to study my PhD abroad and we stayed in touch while I was away. He even helped a classmate of mine from Taiwan who was working on Buddhist Mysticism in the works of St Theresa.

He was a Zen Buddhist that taught this staunch Catholic so much about spirituality, wholeness, health and well-being. He showed a genuine care and concern for others that went beyond the call of duty. I never felt like a Student ID number.

One thing that I will never forget about Mr. King was how he taught us not to become so intellectual that you forget the beauty of the natural and sensual world. He would always say if you are reading, take time to feel the paper of the page between your fingers...

Uncle Lloyd continues to live on through me as he does through so many others. My teaching is imbued with his spirit and every time I turn a page, I stop to feel and I remember...the poetry readings and the excited look when he was about to give an anecdote in class are all cherished memories.

Thank you, Uncle Lloyd, for all that you did, taught and loved! Be at peace and be with God. You will never be forgotten. ■

**Anne-Marie Pouchet**

*Lecturer, Spanish*

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





## ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

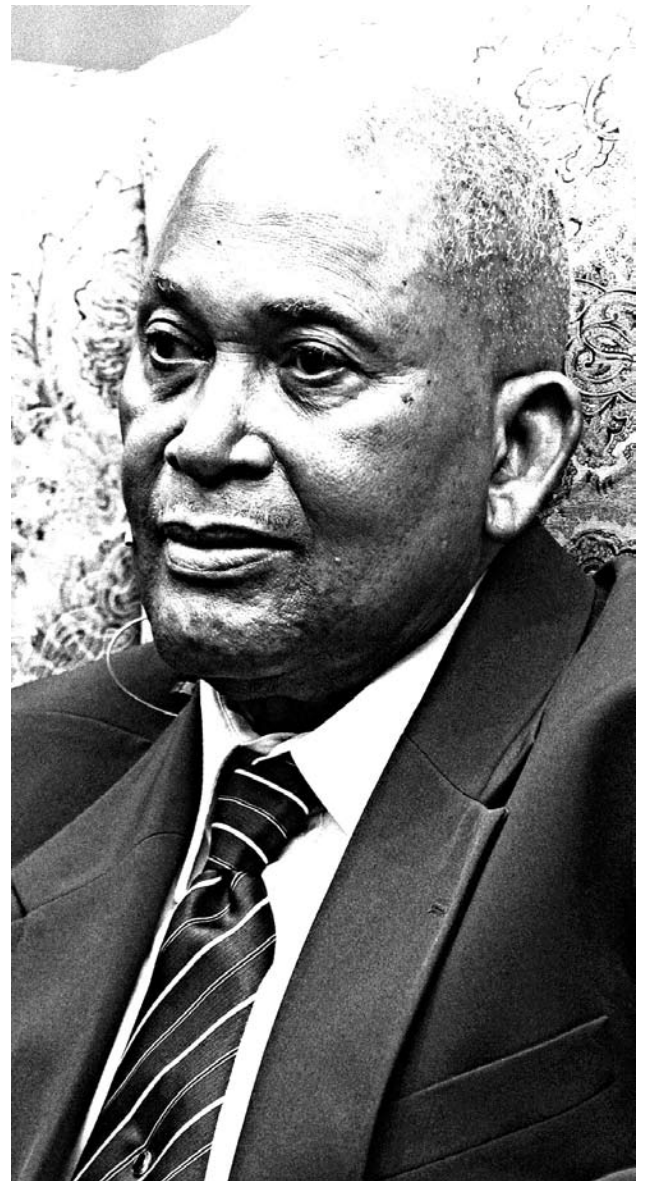
"The process by which we approach to reform the constitution is the key to successful constitutional reform...we cannot begin by engaging a group of lawyers to sit down around a table to produce a draft in legal language which is then put before the ordinary people for comment. The constitution must be so designed to solve the problems of the society and promote its growth and the happiness of our people, then the exercise in constitutional reform must begin with identifying the problems that the people face from day to day."

**Former Prime Minister, The Honorable Basdeo Pandey** stated during the "Conversations with Prime Ministers" event hosted by the UWI Daaga Auditorium in January 2012.

## ON THE COUP & THE ECONOMY

"The Treasury was empty. Our external balances had been depleted. Not only did we have to meet the expense for current activities in the public service and in the protective services, we had to service loans that had been entered into with foreign countries."

**Former Prime Minister and President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, The Honorable ANR Robinson** explained during the "Conversations with Prime Ministers" event at UWI in November 2011. He was asked to explain why on gaining political power in 1986, the NAR party reduced ministers' salaries by ten percent as well as the wages of approximately 18,000 public servants, then introduced the Value Added Tax.



# *Your only limit is your imagination.*



**DR. CHRISTINE CARRINGTON**

*BSc Hons University of London, PhD University of London, Trinidad and Tobago Government Scholar (1986) and Commonwealth Fellow*

Dr. Christine Carrington imagined saving lives. Her research on RNA viruses, such as Dengue and other mosquito-borne viruses has been instrumental in providing a better understanding of the emergence, spread and maintenance of these viruses in human populations. Dr. Carrington is a senior lecturer in the Department of Pre-Clinical Sciences and Deputy Dean for Graduate Studies and Research in the Faculty of Medical Sciences.



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# UWI STAN COVER PHOTO 2012

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We welcome entries to the second **UWI STAN** Cover Photo competition for students and staff. The New Year brings bigger, better prizes and an opportunity for you to share your image of UWI with us. We're looking for high quality digital photos that focus on what you like about UWI Life.

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