



# STAN

ST. AUGUSTINE NEWS

JANUARY - MARCH 2008



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PR Marketing and  
Communications 2006/2007  
Award Winner

The Association  
of Commonwealth  
Universities



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# STAN

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES  
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

January - March 2008



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### ON THE COVER

Few countries in the world share in the peaceful celebration of religious festivals as we do in Trinidad and Tobago: Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Shouter Baptist to name just a few. The recently celebrated Shia Muslim festival of Hosay, also called Hussein (in memory of the grandson of Mohammed) is a wonderful street event which combines several art forms including the music of the Tassa drums, the craftsmanship of the intricate model mausoleums or Tadjahs, alongside the theatrical street fights and 'Dancing of the Moon'. The festival is staged in remembrance of Hussein who was assassinated by Yazid in Karbala. It lasts for three days ending with the Tadjahs being offered up to the sea. Hosay, which has been traced back to 1854, eleven years after the arrival of the first indentured labourer from India to the island, is captured in all its beauty by award-winning photographer, Abigail Hadeed, when she traveled to Cedros, South Trinidad. Visit STAN online for more.

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research and outreach activities accomplished over the years by the UWI community. This is a time for reflection and also looking ahead. As you may know, our strategic plan focuses on four key areas: Teaching and Learning; Graduate Studies; Research and Innovation; Service to UWI -12 and other underserved communities.

And we are pleased to share with you advancements in each of these areas. In this issue of UWI STAN we focus on the Interpretation programme in the Faculty of Humanities and Education. We continue our focus on our Valedictorians as well as the achievements of current and retired staff and students including Professor Ramkissoon, Dr Pinto Perreira and Ms. Joanne Sewlal among others. Our newly appointed Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences shares his Vision with readers and the integral work of units and departments are also highlighted. The visit of Prince Charles was interesting in its timing, as we have age old ties to that family, as our first Chancellor was Princess Alice.

Apart from these key initiatives which will be at the forefront of our agenda, I would also like to share with you **six major objectives** that have been identified for immediate attention at the St. Augustine Campus:

- Building Internal Capacity (Human, Physical and Financial);
- Developing Effective Teams on Campus;
- Developing supportive, collaborative partnerships with stakeholders ( UWI Centre, other Campuses; Governments, Private Sector and other Tertiary Level Institutions);
- Establishing Quality in our plant, processes and output;
- Strengthening the regional character of UWI St Augustine;
- Ensuring that we have a positive impact on the Community we serve through effective communication and the receipt of timely feedback.

Our vision can only be achieved by us working together, for the time is “now” for us to collectively accept the challenge, responsibilities and rewards. I look forward to discussing these issues and others at our upcoming **Staff Forum**.

In closing on behalf of the St. Augustine campus and the University, I wish to thank Professor Bridget Brereton for her contribution to and leadership of the Campus over the last five months of 2007. I wish her all the best on her sabbatical. I also must recognize PVC Bhoendradatt Tewarie’s stewardship of the Campus over the period.

I hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to your feedback.

Professor Clement Sankat  
Pro Vice Chancellor & Campus Principal

# The road less travelled

*“I celebrate myself, and sing myself,  
And what I assume you shall assume,  
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.”  
Walt Whitman*

It is an honour and privilege to have been asked to serve as Principal at a campus that has been part of my life for almost 40 years. I wish to thank all of you who sent me congratulatory messages and best wishes. I was particularly touched by my colleagues from WIGUT. I am also grateful for the congratulatory messages from external stakeholders.

In my interactions with all staff and in my leadership at other levels I intend to ensure transparency, due process, fairness and to operate by the rules and best practices of our University. I also expect to be guided by colleagues, those at the senior management level, Deans, and Directors, and hope to gain advice from our lecturers, administrative, technical and professional staff. With your support, I am confident of a productive and fruitful tenure.

I am also very excited about our sixtieth anniversary celebrations in 2008 which will highlight the iconic individuals, landmark



## THE UWI MISSION

The St. Augustine campus of The University of the West Indies is committed to the development of Caribbean countries. At all times, it will seek to contribute to that development by producing graduates and research of high quality, relevance and usefulness in sufficient quantity and at minimum cost.

The St. Augustine campus, by the conduct of its own staff and students as well as by the content of its academic programmes, will strive towards the inculcation of social values of shared communal responsibility, social justice, and respect and tolerance for differences in beliefs, philosophy, ethnicity and culture.

The St. Augustine campus aims at being an intellectual bridge to the wider Caribbean region and the rest of the world, assisting its member countries to benefit from the rapidly growing and constantly changing world stock of ideas, knowledge and expertise, and itself contributing to that stock in ways that enhance the international standing of the Caribbean.

2008 has opened with a bang as our Campus celebrates with the region six decades of higher education on the anniversary celebrations of our regional University. We would also like to thank our readers and congratulate Keisha Pauline Pritchard of Toco, a UWI student who took part in our online 2007 UWI STAN e-survey. We hope you enjoy your ipod shuffle which will be presented to you in April 2008.

*Enjoy!*

### Foreign Affairs & congratulations

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission wishes to acknowledge receipt and to express the appreciation of your very informative News Magazine - STAN 2007. We wish to extend also our congratulations to The University of the West Indies on the commemoration of your 60th Anniversary and our best wishes for the celebration of this historic year.

Best wishes,

**Victoria Mendez-Charles**  
High Commissioner

### An amazing story

Dear Editor,

I am an avid reader of your STAN magazine. I find it very interesting and consider it a high quality magazine and pertinent to developing the image of UWI. STAN magazine has motivated many students to be better persons and to appreciate that the "impossible" not only possible, is being done right here at UWI.

Noting the potential impact of STAN magazine and with the hope that STAN continues to maintain its standard and impact, I therefore express concerns about the most recent publication of the STAN Magazine (Jan-March 2008). Particularly with the section on the Valedictorians. Why were only the Valedictorians from Humanities and Social Sciences highlighted? Why weren't the valedictorians of Science and Agriculture and Engineering not highlighted? Is this a tradition? What is the justification for this tradition? I ask these questions principally because looking through the collection of STAN magazine[s] that I have, I have never seen an interview with the valedictorians from Science and Agriculture and Engineering. Correct me if I am wrong! I share this concern because I felt that these particular two gentlemen who were named valedictorians of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture and Engineering respectively were most outstanding and have an amazing story to tell; one that many of us from these respective faculties would like to hear.

I really hope that I may be over reacting and that it is already part of STAN Magazine plan to interview these two valedictorians for the next edition of Stan Magazine (Apr-June). This would be refreshing. Looking forward to your respon[se].

**Best personal regards**

**A concerned reader (via e-mail)**

The October-December 2007 issue of UWI STAN highlighted two of the four Valedictorians from the Class of 2007 with the intention of highlighting Mr. Stoute (Faculty of Engineering) and Mr. Chaney (Faculty of Science and Agriculture) in the January-March 2008 issue. We apologise and realize that a note explaining this should have been included in the previous issue.

The Editor.

**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?** Contact us at (Tel) 662-9387 (Fax) 662-3858 (Email) [markcom@admin.uwi.tt](mailto:markcom@admin.uwi.tt) or visit us online at [www.sta.uwi.edu/stan](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/stan)



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### **School of Veterinary Medicine Open Day**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2008

The Faculty of Medical Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine will host an open day for Secondary Schools and the general public from Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>-Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on both days.

Facilities at the Veterinary School will be highlighted in addition to a number of booths and displays from national stakeholders related to Veterinary Medicine will be showcased.

The purpose of this event is to increase visibility of The University of the West Indies, School of Veterinary Medicine to High School/Science students and the public.

**For further information please contact Mr. Dane Coombs at [dcoombs@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:dcoombs@sta.uwi.edu) or Ms. Jenelle Johnson at 645-4481 or 363-3263.**

### **Professorial Inaugural Lecture: "Sneezes, Wheezes and Uptight Lungs"**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2008

The UWI Open Lectures launches its Professorial Inaugural Lecture Series with Professor Lexley Pinto Pereira, Professor of Pharmacology, who will present her Lecture entitled, "Sneezes, Wheezes and Uptight Lungs" on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mount Hope, Amphitheatre A from 5:30 p.m. This lecture will take a historical journey into the family tree of Pharmacology. Focusing on the study of asthma in children in Trinidad, it delves

in asthmatic children's visits to the emergency room, triggers of disease exacerbations, treatments and patient perceptions of wellness.

**For further information please contact the Marketing and Communications Office at Ext. 2013/2014.**

### **CCFA's Community School of Arts**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2008

The Centre for Creative and Festival Arts (CCFA), is aiming to provide quality instruction in the various Arts disciplines through the Community School of Arts. The School of Arts targets the public, particularly children. Saturday classes will be offered at the Centre and the public is invited to take part in this creative and educational programme.

Programmes include Adventures in Art, Recorders, Folk Choir, Music Learning Activities, Steel Band and Drama. Classes begin Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 and end Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.

All classes are at the CCFA, Gordon Street, or Agostini Street, St. Augustine.

**For further information please call 663-2141 or 663-2222.**



### **World of Work 2008**

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2008

The UWI, St. Augustine, will host its World of Work programme (WOW 2008) from Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2008. Geared towards equipping final year UWI students with the necessary tools for long-term success in the globalised work environment, WOW 2008 will include five main events, Resume Writing, WOW Seminar, Recruitment Fair, Professional Etiquette and Mock Interviews. Many of the main events are carded to take place at the UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC). Registration runs from Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2008. WOW is fully sponsored by Republic Bank Limited. Each component of the WOW 2008 programme is specifically intended to develop a targeted skill set. The Resume Writing Workshop will teach participants how to make their resumes more competitive in the global job market; the WOW Seminar will address issues of entrepreneurship. The Mock Interview session allows each student to practice their interview skills with real business professionals, while The Recruitment Fair which will take place over two days, has companies and organisations from a variety of fields to recruit students for either vacation or fulltime employment.

**For further information, contact Mr. Chandar Gupta Supersad, UWI Student Advisory Services at Ext. 2360, Ms. Marva Belfast Ext. 2098, or Ms. Sabrina Pierre Ext 2325.**





### Sir Arthur Lewis Symposium and Lecture

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2008

UWI Faculty of Social Sciences will host a one day symposium and lecture to celebrate the Year of Sir Arthur Lewis. The Symposium will be on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Faculty Lounge. Speakers will include Professor Dennis Pantin, Dr. Patrick Watson, Dr. Sandra Sookram and Dr. Hamid Ghany. The symposium will be followed by a Distinguished Lecture at 7:00 p.m. at the Learning Resource Centre (LRC).

**For further information please contact the Marketing and Communications Office at Ext. 2013/2014.**

### Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Conference

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2008

UWI Department of Surveying and Land Information will host workshops, plenary, technical and business sessions for the Tenth International Conference for Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI 10) at the Learning Resource Centre (LRC), St. Augustine Campus from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2008. Support is being provided to GSDI 10 by UWI as part of the Department of Surveying and Land Information's celebration of its 25th Anniversary. **For further information please contact Dr. Jacob Opadeyi at 662-2002 ext 3313 or email jopadeyi@hotmail.com or visit <http://gsdi.org/GSDI10/index.html>**

### Professorial Inaugural Lecture: Professor Timothy Lewis

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2008

The Faculty of Engineering will host a Professorial Inaugural Lecture on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2008 at the Faculty of Engineering Room 101 from 5:30 p.m. The lecture will be presented by Professor Timothy Lewis and is entitled, "Economics and Construction." The lecture will investigate the eight Millennium Development Goals, with specific milestone dates set, the interplay of economics and engineering will determine success or failure. It is this interplay that will be highlighted by Prof Lewis, as it has been the subject of his research for more than three decades now.

**For further information please contact the Marketing and Communications Department at Ext. 2013/2014.**

### Professorial Inaugural Lecture-Professor Surujpal Teelucksingh

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2008

UWI will host a Professorial Inaugural Lecture presented by Professor Surujpal Teelucksingh entitled, 'Show me your skin...and I will tell you who you are.' Dr. Teelucksingh, will make known how our skin's appearance can give crucial clues to our health. The lecture will be held at Amphitheatre A Faculty of Medical Sciences on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 from 5:30 p.m. All staff, students and the public are invited.

**For further information please contact the Marketing and Communications Office at Ext 2014 or visit <http://sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar/event.asp?id=317>.**

### "Reinventing the Political Economy Tradition of the Caribbean"

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2008

The University of the West Indies, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) will host their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 at the Mona's Visitors Lodge, UWI Mona. The Conference will be held in honour of Professor Norman Girvan for his sterling contribution to the University,

the Institute and the Caribbean region. The conference deliberations will include all the many research areas in which Professor Norman Girvan has contributed to the academic wealth of The University. **For more information please visit the conference website at: <http://salises.uwimona.edu.jm:1104/salisesconf/salisesconf.html>**

### The Association of Commonwealth Universities HR Network 3rd Biennial Conference

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2008

UWI in conjunction with the Association of Commonwealth Universities HR Network Steering Committee will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Conference from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at the Hilton Hotel, Tobago. The conference will feature addresses from highly respected and renowned speakers including Mr. Bryan Gould, Foundation Chair of the National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence; Mr. David Arkless, Special Envoy of the End Human Trafficking Now! Movement; and Mr. Norm Smallwood, co-founder of the RBL Group. This conference will offer an excellent opportunity to examine the challenges facing University HR departments and is structured around three sub-themes: Developing Leadership and Management capability, Managing Performance, and Enhancing the Institution. **For further information please contact Mrs. Deborah Souza-Okpofabri at [Deborah.souzaokpofabri@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Deborah.souzaokpofabri@sta.uwi.edu).**

### Residential Workshop for Caribbean Writers

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2008

The fifth Caribbean Creative Writers' Residential Workshop sponsored by the Cropper Foundation in partnership with the Centre for Creative and Festival Arts CCFA at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, will host the 5th Caribbean Creative Writers' workshop from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2008. The workshop will focus on fiction, playwriting and poetry. **For application forms and further information please contact Dr. Dani Lyndersay or Ms. Marissa Brooks at the UWI CCFA 662-2002 Ext. 3539 fax: 663-2222 or via email [mbrooks@fhe.uwi.tt](mailto:mbrooks@fhe.uwi.tt).**

# CONNECT

*Sixty years ago 33 pioneers in the Medical Sciences were the first students of the UWI at Mona, Jamaica. Today at the St Augustine Campus there are 208 Medical school students enrolled in the Medical degree (MBBS) programme; in Dentistry 33; Pharmacy 54; Nursing 60 in the BSC. The faculty has also introduced a new course in oncology being delivered in conjunction with Mc Master University, as it constantly looks towards meeting the changing needs of the society and region.*

*This accredited Faculty has continued to grow and produce some of the leading medical practitioners locally as well as internationally. Yet with changing global requirements and legislation and the demand for medical practitioners growing at home and abroad, the recently appointed Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences speaks of the Vision, Mission and challenges facing the FMS with Anna Walcott Hardy.*

## Dean Samuel Ramsewak





## Why do you think UWI Medical programme graduates do so well at home and abroad?

Well number one, we have a very good product to start with here. We have very much the brightest students coming to our faculty, so we start with a good building block. I would like to think we are carrying forward the great reputation the UWI medical faculty has had over the years, starting with Jamaica...At St Augustine primarily, we have a Faculty originating from our own University, and so we understand the level of work that is required, the level of standard of the degree... and the reputation of the degree is well recognized.

## Let's talk generally about the changes in Admissions policy for students?

...The Faculty has embarked upon changes in the admissions criteria...This policy fits in with the system which applies at Mona (Campus, Jamaica) and therefore it is part of the harmonisation process that is taking place across the region and in fact will be also part of the implementation of the admissions policy at Cavehill...Of course this is considered to be valuable because one would like to have an all-rounded professional, not just one who is academically inclined, knowing full well of course, that this is an academically challenging profession and so therefore, being academically sound, or being outstanding is one of the academic requirements of embarking on such a course...We are looking of course at the admission criteria across Medicine, Vet and Dentistry. We are looking at finding

the person who shows characteristics of leadership, of community service, of other extra-curricular activities, whether it be in music or sports or similar [areas] this will account for certain amount of points in the admissions [process]...at the moment 75 % [of the points account for] academic and 25% non-academic... the other change is the actual subjects ... so that physics is no longer considered essential, as chemistry is and this will be implemented in the academic year 2010/2011. But the non-academic criteria will [be implemented] from 2008/09.

## How active is the research at the University in terms of analyzing and understanding as well as finding solutions to diseases that affect our region like diabetes- I know there is the Diabetes Trust?

We are looking at all the chronic non-communicable diseases and of course diabetes is one of them... there is a lot of work going on at the moment...which will take some time before these [initiatives] come to fruition. There is the Diabetes Trust as you mentioned which is being headed by Professor Teelucksingh; ...we want to work to fulfill the mandate of the Caricom Heads of Government thrust in research in non-communicable diseases.

## And what about in our hospitals - we hear about the great demand for doctors and nurses – is there a shortage really?

Well there must be because we produce 150 doctors a year and yet there is a shortage because there are many doctors that come from other countries to support

the health service here, as you know... and this is primarily because most of all, our doctors will find spaces for further qualifications, further training abroad... this is something we have to look at very carefully because we at the University have been mounting postgraduate programmes- we should be able to up-take many of these people who want to do further training.

## What is your Vision for the Faculty?

"I'll just touch on a few points : an over-riding Vision really, would be, producing a product, product I suppose in inverted commas – a product which has international standing and which will allow for graduate training at the highest level and widest manner. I think that one of my main mandates is the development of the graduate programmes for this Faculty... also we need to move another step-up where we can attract grants from international bodies. But having said that, we are obtaining grants and we do have some very active researchers in this Faculty obtaining significant grants. However, the thinking has to be more institutionalized... We have been fortunate to have acquired grants from the Government recently, quite substantial amounts, each one is \$500,000 (TT) and I think we got three of them as well as some international grants as well...Also I think a very important part of my Mission or Vision is the development of relationships and to work with all the stakeholders including the hospitals, Government Ministries, Regional Health Authorities, our staff and of course our students and I am in continuous dialogue with principal people in these institutions.

## RISING STARS AT MUSICANOVA

Congratulations to these UWI musicians for their award winning, original steelpan compositions : **Atiba Williams** who won the most prizes including the overall most outstanding composition *Pan Sunrise*; **Nigel Diaz** who gained four prizes; and **Vanessa Headley** who won first place in two categories. They all excelled at the Musicanova competition hosted by the Music Literacy Trust in collaboration with The University of the West Indies Centre for Creative and Festival Arts (CCFA), and The Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), Cultural Centre's Cultural Development Programme.

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2007, winners were announced at a prize-giving ceremony at the CCFA. Prizes were donated by the IADB – Cultural Development Programme and included a most outstanding composition award of \$5,000; \$1,000 first prizes

in eight categories; cash prizes for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places; as well as trophies and certificates. The competition is an undertaking of the Music Literacy Trust chaired by Mr. Mark Loquan. Winning compositions were performed at the second Musicanova concert on Sunday February 10<sup>th</sup> 2008.

**Mr. Satanand Sharma**, Head of Centre for Creative and Festival Arts, notes that "Participation of 24 composers in the Musicanova competition made the intervention a success, an intervention that places Music Literacy as an integral part of the creative process in generating musical works written specifically for the steelpan and piano, giving the composers the opportunity to explore the possibilities of the instrument combinations and to give full rein to their music notation vocabulary." For more information on the concert please call 663-2141 or 663-2222.

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## UWI RESEARCHER GETS ANTSY

A second-year student from The University of the West Indies has been selected by the **Royal Entomological Society** as the second prize winner of its annual Student Award. **Jo-Anne Nina Sewlal**, from Trinidad, was awarded the accolade for her article 'Ants: Who is Using Whom?' which explains how a variety of plants and animals including insects, arachnids and humans exploit ants for their own benefit.

The RES Student Award invites entrants to write a clear and concise article on any entomological topic that would be of interest to the general public. The competition is open to all undergraduates and postgraduates, on both full and part-time study. In "Ants: Who is Using Whom?", she details how ants are used by other living things to provide protection against predators, in exchange for rewards of food, or a home. Ants are also used by humans for medicinal and agricultural purposes.

A PhD student in Zoology at The UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad, Sewlal joked, "I was once told that I write too much, and I guess the practice has paid off!"

For her efforts she was awarded a cheque for £200 and recognition for her winning article with a submission to *Antenna*, the quarterly newsletter of the RES.

Award judge and Fellow of the RES Peter Smithers said: "Jo-Anne has written an interesting, informative and well researched article concerning the complex relationship between ants, other animal and the plants on which they live. Her enthusiasm for the subject shines through in her text".

The overall winner of the Student Award was John Wilson from the University of Guelph, Canada, who was commended for his article 'Biodiversity in Crisis: Butterflies get Barcodes'. For more information on the Royal Entomological Society please visit [www.royensoc.co.uk](http://www.royensoc.co.uk).



# TRINIDADIAN SCHOLAR HONORED

A standing ovation for **Professor Harold Ramkissoon** who was recently celebrated at the first Conference of the Latin American & Caribbean Congress of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (LACCOTAM) which was held at the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies in February. At the Conference, he delivered the first Keynote Address entitled “**A Journey into the Past**”. Several eminent international scholars participated in the Conference including Prof. K. Sreenivasan, Director of the Institute of Theoretical Physics (Italy), Prof. N. Gupta, Henry Ford Chair Emeritus Professor of the Indian Institute of Technology (India), Prof. F. Malpica, former Rector of the Universidad de Simon Bolivar (Venezuela), Prof. E. Pelinovsky of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia), Prof. Hendrik Kuhlmann (Austria), Professor Roberto A. Kraenkel (Brazil) and Prof. J. L. Mansot (Guadeloupe).

Professor Ramkissoon is often lauded as one of the world’s leading experts in the mathematical theory of a class of complex fluids called micropolar. A prolific writer and researcher of over seventy-five international publications,

with twenty-five focussed on micropolar fluid theory, he has also referred and reviewed numerous research papers and books for international journals.

For his contribution to research he has been the recipient of a Personal Chair in Applied Mathematics at The UWI, (the first West Indian to be so honored), an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship (Germany), a Fulbright Fellowship (U.S.A), a Third World of Academy of Sciences Fellowship (China), A CARICOM Science Award, the Academic Gold Medal of Universidad de Simon Bolivar, The Chaconia Gold Medal and membership in the Academy of Sciences of Cuba, Venezuela, The Caribbean and the Third World. He has been an Invited Scientist to several leading universities including Princeton, Cambridge, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Goettingen and the Indian Institute of Science.

In addition, the retired Professor will be celebrated by scores of his past students at an “**Evening of Appreciation**” on April 19, 2008. For further information on this event, contact Ms. Janice Joseph at 620-5288.

# SHAW ELECTED TO ISA

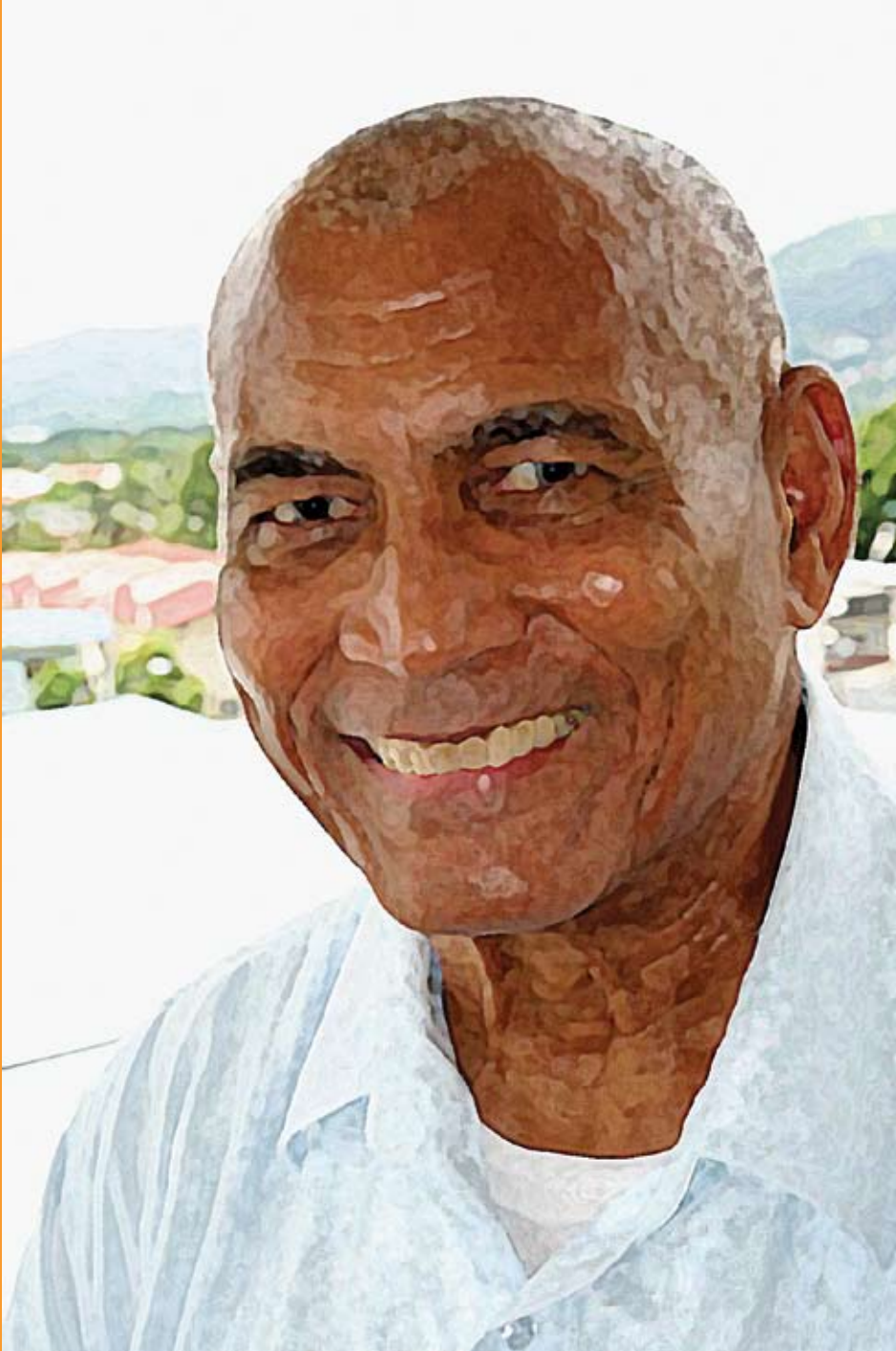


**Congrats to Professor Timothy Shaw**, Director of Institute of International Relations at UWI, on being elected as a non-North American representative to the Governing Council of the International Studies Association (ISA) to serve in 2009 (New York) & 2010 (New Orleans). The International Studies Association elects annually three Non-North American members-at-large to serve on the Governing Council for a two-year term, staggering the terms of office for the six representatives. Any ISA member may nominate a Non-North American ISA member to serve on the Governing Council; however, only Non-North American ISA members may vote in the election.

The elections for the 2009-2010 term were held November 30 through December 14, 2007. Final voting was by electronic and mail ballot. **Theo Farrell, King’s College, London** and **Gunther Hellman, University of Frankfurt** were elected along with **Timothy Shaw, The University of the West Indies**. A graduate of Princeton University, Professor Shaw is also Professor Emeritus, University of London Visiting Professor, Mbarara University of Science & Technology & Makerere University Business School, Uganda, and Senior Fellow, Centre for International Governance Innovation, Waterloo, Canada.

## CARL STOUTE

### FACULTY OF ENGINEERING



“At The University of the West Indies, we are fortunate to have educators, not just lecturers but educators,” explained Carl Stoute, Valedictorian for the UWI graduating Class of 2007.

At age seventy, Stoute represents the growing number of mature students who have embraced tertiary education in the region. The growth in enrollment for professionals who wish to advance their skills and knowledge base has been a continuing trend at UWI, one that the institution has welcomed. A graduate of the Faculty of Engineering, the personable and very popular Stoute majored in Environmental Geotechnics in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. He is now continuing in that field at the postgraduate level, not just as a student but also a Graduate Research Assistant in Geotechnical Engineering. He praises his alma mater for having quality “educators - people who are concerned with furthering your education and preparing you for admittance to the real world of engineering after you leave”.

However, academic pursuit does not monopolise his time. The septuagenarian also offers weight training at his professional-grade home gym, which is fully equipped with power rack, leg press hack squat machine, T-bar row, lat pull-down machine, leg extension and leg curl machine, Scott bench, Smith machine, hyperextension machine, bench press bench, abdominal machine, dip machine, seated calf raise machine and three dumbbell racks. “Fully” being perhaps an understatement.

Athletic and outgoing, he refuses to take himself too seriously, an attitude that has earned him valuable and enduring friendships with classmates.

“My experience was crystallized in the final year. We had to do a final year project, which included a group presentation and individual projects,” he explained recently. He went on to recount exactly how the academic rigour of the undergraduate programme fostered an enduring relationship between himself and three classmates—a St. Lucian, a Barbadian and a fellow Trinidadian.

“I loved the group project. Our group was like a mini West Indies. We worked really hard and that generated a bond. We will remain friends forever.”



"I'm very interested in exploring the link between Agriculture, Food, Nutrition and Medicine."

At 26, Chaney St. Martin knows exactly what he wants to do with his life. He is already working on his MPhil, *"To Improve Soil, Plant and Environmental Health by the Use of Compost and Compost Tea"*, which he hopes to upgrade to PhD in June 2009 and complete by June 2010.

The St. Lucian-born Chaney completed the two-year Associate Degree programme at Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, Castries, and then traveled to Cuba, where he finished two years of a six-year Agronomic Engineering programme at the Universidad Agraria de la Habana. By the time he entered The University of West Indies Faculty of Science and Agriculture, Department of Food Production in September 2005, to pursue an Agriculture (General) major, he had already co-founded the Hewanorra Organic Agricultural Movement, an agricultural awareness organisation which has received grants to introduce young St. Lucians to the best practices in organic agricultural production.

Among his fondest memories of The UWI are monthly moonlit bonfire sessions of poetry, dance and song in Diego Martin, and one particular Level Three course in Field and Vegetable Crop Production, taught by (retired) Professor Richard Braithwaite.

"He was very straightforward and raw and practical. Although you were in the classroom, his mode of presentation transported you to the field. It was very easy to imagine things when he spoke about them."

St. Martin also capitalized on the study abroad programme offered by UWI and spent a semester at The University of Wisconsin in the USA. He spoke enthusiastically about the programme explaining that it helped him to become a more "rounded student" as he enjoyed both art and social science courses.

As for the future – over the next five to ten years he looks towards furthering his studies, as well as owning an organic farm. He went on to add that he is grateful for the opportunities gained through the study of agriculture at UWI, describing it as a holistic experience as he now has a grasp of a range of disciplines in several areas including business, the arts and sciences. Overall, he explained, with a soft laugh, it helped "me to develop a sense of duty" in life.

## CHANEY ST. MARTIN

### FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE





Presidential celebration: (from left) UWI Vice Chancellor Professor E. Nigel Harris, UWI Chancellor Sir George Alleyne, T&T President Prof. George Maxwell Richards and UWI Pro Vice Chancellor Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie.

# PRESIDENT RE-ELECTED

**Congratulations to former Campus Principal, Professor George Maxwell Richards, TC, CMT, PhD** on being re-elected to a second five-year term as President of Trinidad and Tobago by the Electoral College on February 11, 2008.

Born in 1930 in San Fernando, he is the fourth President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. A chemical engineer by training, he previously worked for Shell Trinidad Ltd. before joining the Department of Chemical

Engineering at The University of the West Indies in 1965. From 1980 to 1985 he served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Principal of the University. He then served as Acting Principal of the St. Augustine Campus from 1984 to 1985, and was confirmed in the position in 1985. He effectively met and found solutions to several socio-economic challenges during his tenure as Principal. In 1966 he retired as Principal, although he continued to teach as Professor Emeritus until he was elected President.

President Richards has also served on the Boards of many Trinidad and Tobago companies including that of the state-owned oil company, *Trintoc* (now *Petrotrin*), the *National Gas Company* and the *Trinidad Publishing Company*.

In 1977, he received the **Chaconia Medal of the National Order of the Trinity, Class 1 Gold** (the *Chaconia Medal, Gold*) for his contributions to Trinidad and Tobago and was honoured by the UWI two years ago.



## "Fatal Attraction"

Congratulations to UWI lecturer and researcher Professor Teelucksingh on what the media is calling his "power-packed" professorial lecture in which he focussed on a disease that is taking its toll in the region.

"Fifty percent of deaths occur due to diabetic complications", he explained. He also went on to state at his recent lecture at Amphitheatre A, Faculty of Medical Sciences at Mount Hope, that there is a syndrome of "fatal attraction" occurring in the country linked to obesity and poor health. Professor Teelucksingh explained that while more people are focussed on the skin's epidermis as they look for creams to treat blemishes, the real "enemy" lies within - the metabolic syndrome. How does this syndrome manifest itself? He revealed that signs include expanding waistlines (circumferences of more than 35 inches in men and 31 in women) combined with two or more of

either diseases – diabetes, hypertension or dyslipidemia, abnormal levels of fat in the blood); while manifestations include obesity, narcolepsy, heart attacks and hypertension. The growing numbers of diabetics in the country are of great concern among health professionals including the increase in obesity in children. Recommendations for prevention include regular exercise and a healthy diet. The Professor, heralded as a "scholar and gentleman" by Dean Ramsewak was also praised for his "feat of achieving professorship during the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations". It is no surprise that he received a standing ovation from the audience and of course, kudos from UWI STAN.





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# Found in Translation



Celebrating on graduation day  
(from left) Maria Jose Iino, Gennike Mayers, Programme Coordinator Eric Maitrejean and Daniela Jodhan.

## *Gerard Best talks with Eric Maitrejean about the new, in-demand diploma in Interpreting Techniques*

The Postgraduate Diploma in Interpretation (due to be renamed Interpreting Techniques), which recently graduated its first cohort in November 2007, received dozens of applications for its September 2008 programme. The new programme's first incarnation, offered by UWI St Augustine in 1994, was a Certificate in Conference Interpreting.

"That programme was very short-lived," recalled Programme Coordinator Eric Maitrejean. "It was offered only for one year, in collaboration with the University of Central London (now Westminster), with instructors being teachers of UCL and also staff interpreters at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France."

"The reason why UWI decided to revive it in 2006 was the fact that we noticed a lot of events taking place in Trinidad and Tobago—multilingual events involving regional and international organisations—and we realised that a lot of the interpreters were actually coming from the outside, not only outside of Trinidad and Tobago, but outside of the Caribbean. We realised that there was an untapped potential right here in Trinidad, with its large cosmopolitan society."

All the same, when the new programme was advertised in late 2005, it did not only attract locals, but also applicants from Argentina, Venezuela and Colombia.

"It was very interesting to see the different backgrounds [of the applicants]. This was exactly what we wanted for the programme," Maitrejean said. "We didn't want to teach people to interpret into English alone and have

only English-speakers enrolled. The richness of the programme came from the different profiles of the applicants."

Of the 26 applicants, 16 were selected, 12 completed the programme and 6 graduated. The 50 per cent pass rate met expectations, as the rigorous programme was the first of its kind in the English-speaking Caribbean.

"It's really something that demands that you be in tune with the foreign language," said Maitrejean, who made an important distinction between casual conversational interpreting and the more rigorous demands of the formal, professional activity, which requires in-depth knowledge of a variety of fields, a huge range of vocabulary and a facility with language learning.

He went on to add that the new UWI programme is comparable to similar programmes in Mexico, California, Venezuela, Paris, Geneva, Brussels and London, but students in the UWI programme have an "edge", Maitrejean explained, because of the amount of practical experience available to them in Trinidad. For example, the recently graduated cohort gained valuable real-world experience at a number of high-profile international events, including the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) meetings at its Port of Spain headquarters, and the 2007 Haiti Now! Art, Film and Literature seminar hosted by UWI St Augustine, among many others.

"We had students in mixed teams (sharing the booths with seasoned interpreters) at the European-Latin American Summit on Drugs, which was hosted in Trinidad, and the delegates came to congratulate the team as is done





Testing 1,2,3:  
In booths at the University, interpreters Gennike Mayers and Daniela Jodhan.

traditionally when the job is very well done, but when they heard that some of the interpreters were students, they were very, very impressed,” said Maitrejean. He added that of the six graduates of the new programme, four had already interpreted at conferences following the completion of the programme.

Maitrejean also explained the meaning of the Programme title ‘Interpreting Techniques’. The word “Techniques,” he said, refers to the four main professional competencies that the course aims to develop, namely Consecutive Interpreting, Simultaneous Interpreting, Whispering Interpreting and Oral Translation.

Consecutive Interpreting, he explained, is a technique in which interpreters use their memories and holophrastic notes to render whole speeches from one language to another. Simultaneous Interpreting, on the other hand, takes place in conferences and seminars, where professional interpreters sit behind closed doors in discrete ‘fishbowls’ and use headsets and microphones to instantly relay spoken translations to conference participants. Whispering Interpreting (also called Liaison Interpreting) applies in an outdoor or roving configuration, where interpreters perform their task without the help of interpreting equipment, (hence the term ‘Whispering’).

Interpreting, which always involves speech, is distinct from translation, which typically deals with the written word only. Oral Translation, however, is an interpreting technique which involves the instant translation and oral rendering of written passages. This technique is also called Sight Translation, since interpreters are required to render translations of written passages on sight.

Fortunately, the new Interpretation programme has also benefited from another landmark initiative, the recent establishment of the Caribbean Interpreting and Translation Bureau (CITB). This was established by the UWI Faculty of Humanities and Education in 2005 in response to increasing demands from the academic community and the business sector. The CITB has been able to capitalize on the local and international opportunities for the provision of qualified services in translation and interpreting. Ultimately, the Bureau has been able to harmonise individual and institutional efforts in the provision of these services, allowing for a centrally managed Faculty and Campus resource.

“When the CITB quoted for an event, we mixed the students with seasoned interpreters. So not only did students get a chance to practice, but they got a chance to listen to experienced

interpreters working at a real event,” said Maitrejean.

Over the past three years, the Bureau has provided interpreting services at several high profile events in the business and public sectors, including the ARPEL Emergency Response Planning Working Group Meeting, the Ministry of Housing’s 2006 Colloquium, and the 31st Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference. The CITB has also translated marketing and promotional material for several state and private sector organizations including, eTeck, Tourism Development Co., Blue Waters, Petro-Canada Ltd., and the Caribbean Health Research Council.

CITB Director, Dr Beverly-Ann Carter, explained that providing an avenue for students to gain real-world exposure, has always been part of the Vision of the CITB: “The CITB was intended to act as an incubator for proficient undergraduate linguists from the degree programmes, or recently qualified interpreters from the postgraduate Diploma in Interpreting, who could be attached as apprentices to the qualified and experienced translators and interpreters contracted by the CITB.”

The Bureau is situated at the Centre for Language Learning (CLL), the locus of language services on the St. Augustine Campus. The CLL, which is directed by Dr Carter, is one of the two buildings on the St Augustine campus which have been outfitted with cutting-edge DIS (Danish Interpretation Systems) equipment, the preferred simultaneous interpreting apparatus, used by the World Bank, the Caribbean Court of Justice and other national, regional and international agencies. It’s apparent that the infrastructure is in place to usher the programme to the next phase of its evolution.

“I think the future of the programme is internationalising it, offering it to people outside of Trinidad and Tobago,” reflected Maitrejean. “We now have the potential to advertise it in French-speaking and Spanish-speaking countries, as well as Caricom territories, so that it can also attract people who are not based in Trinidad and Tobago.”

# THE *Female* drivers' PLAN

*“Having been crowned Miss Universe in 1998, my aim in life both then and now, is to be an example to adults and children and to help make the world a safer place. I have travelled all over the world, where customs vary as much as the climate. Yet, one fact is consistent wherever I go – Female Drivers are Safer Drivers!”*

– Wendy Fitzwilliam

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# COMING HOME:

**Disney Animator looks beyond 'the next big thing'**





Beowulf's tale of seduction and battle may now be more closely associated with Angelina Jolie than the Anglo-Saxons. The movie, based on a thousand year old epic poem, features animated characters which look closer than ever to their real-life counterparts, crossing swords with monsters as scary as any we've imagined. Its mass appeal speaks to the power of the global multibillion dollar film industry to shape the imaginations of millions around the world.

At the 6th UWI Animae Caribe festival held in October 2007, Olun Riley, a Trinidadian animator working at Walt Disney Feature Animation, revealed some of the behind-the-scenes work that goes into making on-screen magic. During his presentation, which was packed to capacity with high school and university students, as well as local professionals, it became immediately apparent that animation on this scale is a team effort involving experts with skills ranging from storyboarding, sound recording, 3-D modeling, to set design, layout, lighting and special effects.

Riley himself has worked in different capacities on a long list of well-known films including the fully animated *Monster House*, *Meet the Robinsons*, *Polar Express* and *Anastasia*, as well as live action films such as *Vanilla Sky*, *13 Ghosts*, *Spy Kids 2* and *The Core*. Before Disney, he gained invaluable experience working at a smaller company in Hollywood (Cinesite) on projects such as the robot in *Red Planet*, expanding the Cerebro room in *X-Men 2* and creating the elevator shaft in *Ocean's 11*.

At the same time, while "smaller studios want employees who can cross over and have more than one skill", Riley points out that it is good to have a specialization. His interests led to him becoming an EFX artist/Lighting TD at Dreamworks Animation, then a Senior Lighting Technician at Sony Pictures Imageworks and now, Walt Disney.

But how did Riley become an animator? It all started with a love for comic books. "I read comics all the time and one day I decided to contact the writer for the Super Friends Comic Book. I was looking for a kindred spirit and he encouraged me." At Queen's Royal College, the principal Mr. Carter was "a lynch pin" in his career, allowing him full access to the computer room even though he was not an IT student. "It was great having someone vindicate you." Unfortunately, he explained that although resources and expertise in the field were limited he was able to make choices that would support his career; "there was no way of formally pursuing animation here, but I made [subject] choices that I thought would lead that way, such as Physics."

For those interested in careers in animation and film, Riley made the encouraging observation that "You don't have to take a straight path... whatever discipline you pursue, you can find a way of applying it to the medium."

His opportunity to study animation at the tertiary level came as a result of persistence and serendipity. "Back then some friends of mine and I would go to the Canadian and US



Animator Olun Riley

*"[A Trinidadian,] Riley has worked in different capacities on a long list of well-known films including the fully animated **Monster House**, **Meet the Robinsons**, **Polar Express** and **Anastasia**, as well as live action films such as **Vanilla Sky**, **13 Ghosts**, **Spy Kids 2** and **The Core**".*



Embassies and read magazines and books.” That was where he came across a prospectus for Sheridan College that offered a “Diploma in Classical Animation in the Disney tradition”. Before embarking on this course of study, however, his parents encouraged him to do a first degree at the University of Toronto which he now sees as beneficial. “Don’t forget that general life experience plays a big role in making you who you are...” he reminded students at the UWI lecture. “Even things that you may not like, you may have to take a minute to take them in”, in order to learn and develop. Now, he says, the search for opportunities in animation has become much more rapid and far-ranging. “You have the internet. Google is your friend! But you have to be persistent and have faith in yourself. Don’t let anyone tell you, you can’t do something. There are ways to get to what you want, but you have to find them. You have to be vigilant.”

For instance, he explained that there are different ways to develop an idea for a script or for production. One way is to find places that support filmmaking such as the Trinidad & Tobago Film Company ([www.trinidadandtobagofilm.com](http://www.trinidadandtobagofilm.com)) and submit a proposal for funding. Another way is to enter scriptwriting or production competitions. He also suggests attending film festivals here and abroad in order to meet people and share ideas. To access equipment, he advocates talking to experts in the field and approaching companies for used items. In the United States for example, animators working at Kodak sometimes get leftover film at low or no cost. Studios might sell old equipment to their employees, or donate to schools.

*“People gravitate to films because there is something primal about [them]; from cavemen sitting in a dark room looking at shadows on a wall. We’re still sitting in the dark looking at shadows that tell us something about ourselves and our lives, about what it means to be human.”*

Bear in mind, Riley says, that an important skill in this industry is learning how to deal with rejection. After graduating, he sent applications to all of the studios and was turned away by every one. “But I took rejection as an impetus to improve”, fueling his attitude of “I can do better. I can do more.” He advises students to “Constantly ask yourself questions: What is it I want to do? What am I trying to achieve? And keep improving. Don’t rest on your laurels.” “Focus on life around you. See what you can take in to inform your work. Stay open to different styles, ideas and possibilities. Stay in dialogue with the world.” He added that this is crucial in a field like animation where art meets technology in a state of constant evolution.

For some animators, pushing the envelope is about creating a cyber human image that is indistinguishable from live actors. Personally, Riley does not see animation as trying to recreate the real world, but creating an impression of reality that is believable

to the audience. “This is what makes the story so critical to any film [but] the power of filmmaking goes even beyond the story. People gravitate to films because there is something primal about [them]; from cavemen sitting in a dark room looking at shadows on a wall. We’re still sitting in the dark looking at shadows that tell us something about ourselves and our lives, about what it means to be human.”

Here in Trinidad & Tobago and the Caribbean, as small as we may seem, we have unique stories to share with the world. And while the high cost of major box-office hits in the US (in the hundreds of millions) may seem daunting to filmmakers locally, Riley suggests not being turned off by those figures. “Look at *The Simpsons*; a low budget cartoon, but superior to many others because of the quality of the writing. You don’t always have to have high production costs. What you do should be sincere and believable. It shouldn’t be about the next big thing.”

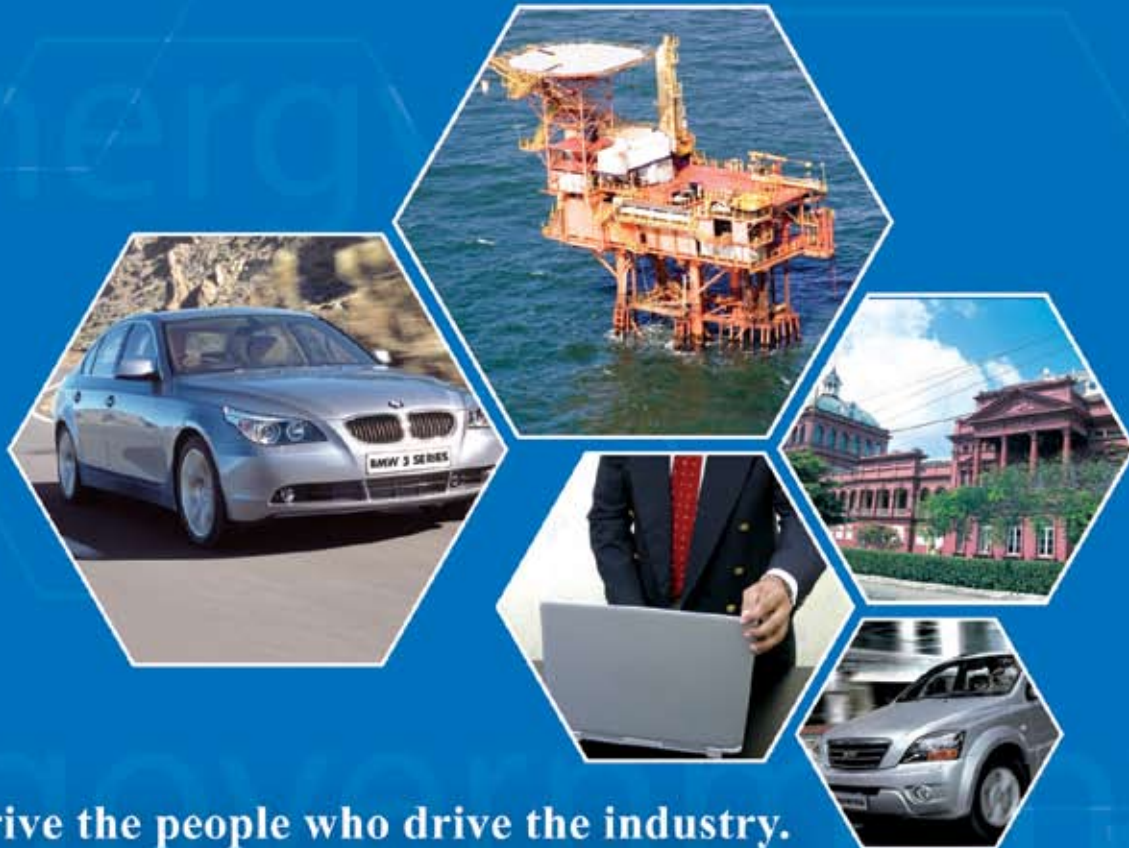
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8. Page 24 – University Librarian, Professor Rouse Jones gives a guided tour of the University's 60th anniversary exhibition to Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall during a recent visit to the Campus.

# UNVEILING HIDDEN TREASURES

**Professor Rouse Jones uncovers  
the invaluable articles housed  
at the UWI libraries**

Good evening everyone. I appreciate your support on this occasion, which undoubtedly marks a significant moment in what has been both an enjoyable and at the same time challenging career as historian and librarian. Of course, the traditional role of the librarian in searching out and providing access to information overlaps with that of the historian's craft which is to analyze and evaluate evidence to recreate the past so that it makes sense in the present. The fourteen years which I spent as Librarian with responsibility for the West Indian and Special Collections Division here at UWI St. Augustine, allowed these two streams of my life to blend and flow together so smoothly, that I am convinced that it was divinely orchestrated.

In the course of developing its West Indian Collections to support the teaching, learning and research needs of the University, the Libraries have acquired a vast resource of material. However, in developing countries such as ours, the University library also has to play a role in national and cultural development. The Library does this by accepting some responsibility for the preservation and identification of a national culture by building up strong heritage collections of primary source materials, literature and publications. The three Campus Libraries of the UWI have been successful in varying degrees in fulfilling this role.

*In a June 3 1953 letter, Arthur Lewis confided to his brother Earl that he had spent three weeks in London and had attended the "Federation West Indian Conference in the silent role of adviser." He found it to be very disappointing as "there was not the least sign of leadership in any quarter- just an excessively talkative squabble."*

This evening, I will share some of the exciting discoveries I made while working with the Caribbean Heritage Materials, mainly held here at St Augustine, but I will also include brief examples from materials at the Cave Hill and Mona Libraries. The research and information which I will unearth will underscore the importance of our unique Caribbean materials in pushing the frontiers of knowledge and adding to the information about the past. It is therefore imperative that these materials be publicized and made available for scholarship and research....

...We leave Christian's story for the moment and we turn now to Dr. Hastings Dudley Huggins who had a long association with The University of the West Indies, first as Director of Institute of Social and Economic Research (from 1948 -1963) and then as the first Principal of the St Augustine Campus from 1963 until his retirement in 1969. Prior to that, he worked as an economist both in Guiana and Jamaica.

What his Curriculum Vitae does not tell us, is that he explored the possibility of migrating to the Gold Coast in the mid 1920s. We found this out quite by chance. The Library had acquired a collection of his papers which were amassed during his tenure of office as Principal and some of these were put on display when his daughter visited the Library a few years ago. She was serendipitously looking through one of the folders and the Librarian on duty, Dr. Taitt heard her remark "Look, a letter from George James Christian." This was of course most exciting from the perspective of both the historian and the librarian.

There were in fact five letters in all, one from George Francois and three from Christian, one of which included a letter from Mr. M.D. Reece of Trinidad. Huggins, who worked with the Sugar Planters Experiment Station in British Guiana was interested in working in the Gold Coast and had made enquiries and sought advice about taking a position in Agriculture there in the mid 1920s via correspondence with George Francois and George James Christian.[i]

These letters allow us some insight in to the migration process and in particular the issues with which the West Indian migrants to the Gold Coast had to contend. Judging from their replies, it was evident that a West Indian, being also of African descent, could be appointed as "native," which carried with it a stigma of inferiority. Huggins was advised that he should ensure that he was being employed under the same regulations which applied to Europeans which included leave traveling

allowance. Generally, white colonials were hired in positions and Huggins was advised that "to get on at all as a coloured (sic) man one will have to be very tactful." [ii] Although the West Indian could expect annual increments to his salary, it was unlikely that he would rise to become a Head of Department.[iii] This evidence further suggests that as a group, the West Indian community in the Gold Coast was homogenous, providing services, social life and support to one another. The way in which advice was given to Huggins and the fact that Christian referred him to others and followed up by sending on correspondence supports this.

Huggins did not go to the Gold Coast, but took up an appointment as Assistant Superintendent in the Agriculture Department in British Guiana.[iv] I have shared this excerpt about Huggins, to show that it is possible to have cross-fertilization of information among the heritage materials. As keepers of these resources, we do have a responsibility to know what they contain in order to guide researchers as to their potential usefulness. Thus the inventory and indexing and metadata issues are of primary importance.

Huggins tenure as Principal of St Augustine overlapped with that of Dr Eric Williams who had the distinction to serve UWI as its only Pro-Chancellor, between 1963 and 1971.

Williams, as we know was also historian, politician and former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, and an extremely important figure in the politics and history of our twin islands, Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean region.

His papers and memorabilia are also here on deposit at the Main Library. The Eric Williams Memorial Collection, as it is officially named, was opened to the public in 1998.

In 2004, the Library of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies in London, while in the process of preparing an exhibition of on-line materials relating to Caribbean Studies, searched without success for the archives of the West Indian Students' Union (WISU).[v]

As far as I am aware these archives have not been located, but there were a few items related to the West Indian Student' Union among the EWMC Papers. They provide details about the establishment of the Union as well as about Eric Williams at that moment in his life.

The West Indian Students' Union (WISU) was established in the United Kingdom towards the end of World War II, following on a two day



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*“The experience of the Calypso tent obviously had a significant impact on this Englishman.”*

conference held on December 28 and 29, 1945 which brought together over one hundred (100) students, drawn from all parts of the Caribbean region. These students were of the view that an organization was needed to address their concerns as well as to further the aspirations of many West Indian students in Britain at the time. [vi]

Very early in its life, the WISU sought to publicize its existence and its desire to encourage “*the active interest and cooperation*” of persons resident both in the United Kingdom and in the West Indies. The Executive prepared a cyclostyled one page letter in February 1946, outlining the WISU’s history and purpose and naming the executive. This letter, together with a copy of the constitution, was sent out to persons whom they felt could be instrumental in publicizing the existence and intentions of the Union. Two copies of this letter were sent to the Oxford graduate, Dr Eric Williams who was then on staff at Howard University in Washington, DC. One of them also included an invitation to him to be an honorary member of the Union. [vii]

When the letter reached Dr. Williams, he was already actively engaged in the work of the Caribbean Commission and was on an assignment for that body in the West Indies. His response, some four months after receiving the letter from WISU was very detailed: three typed pages long, in single-line spacing. He expressed the hope that its length would make amends for

his tardiness in responding.

Here is an excerpt from Williams’ letter to Winifred Birkbeck, Secretary of the West Indian Student’s Union:

*First of all, let me congratulate you students on your very significant and timely step in forming the Union. I wish you all success in your venture, and if I may be frank, I hope that your Union will be more vital and exert a more powerful influence in West Indian affairs than similar organizations of West Indian students at McGill and at Howard here in Washington. It is very gratifying to see on your Executive the names of such old friends of mine as Kenneth Sealy, Ray Charles and Lloyd Brathwaite. Please give them my very kindest regards.*

*I accept with very real pleasure your kind invitation to become an honorary member of the Union. I am sure that you will believe me when I say that, in view of the task which I have set myself in the cause of West Indian development, this is no idle or meaningless phrase. I consider it a very great privilege that West Indian students should be so familiar with the work I have done as to confer this honour on me.*

Williams must have viewed this group of West Indian students as a captive audience and so he took the opportunity to update them about his efforts to publish and disseminate his work. His letter drew attention to the publication history, readership response and status of his two published works, **The Negro in the Caribbean** and **Capitalism and Slavery**. **The Negro in the Caribbean** which had been published in England in the preceding year had received “*malevolent criticism*” from an interest group of “*the plantocracy and their representatives in London.*” He had not been successful in getting an edition of **Capitalism and Slavery** published in England and he had therefore made arrangements with the publishers, to give a forty percent discount. He made a stirring request for their assistance in publicizing his work in general. He wrote in part as follows:

*“I take this opportunity of requesting your assistance in publicizing my work among the students of your Union. If I were a novelist, I would not request such assistance, but would let my books fight their way. As you know, however, I am a student of history and an ardent West Indian nationalist. I write particularly for West Indians. My books are not intended as erudite academic disquisitions without meaning for the present. They are motivated by one dominant idea: that it is imperative to begin, here and now, the task of developing an indigenous West Indian culture. In that task the study of West Indian history in the past, as a guide to the*

*comprehension of the problems of the present and to a perspective for the future, occupies a fundamental position. Because of this I have no hesitation whatsoever in soliciting your aid.”*

The WISU did not disappoint but lived up to Williams expectations and placed an order for “*a first consignment of fifty (50) copies.*”

The WISU was also extremely interested that Williams’ work on **Education in the British West Indies** was ready for publication, as it echoed an area in which the Union held strong views. At one of their meetings, a session was devoted to a discussion of the proposed university and the following resolution had been passed:

*“That this Conference views with misgiving and concern the undue delay in establishing a West Indian University in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission on Higher Education. This Conference asks that a deputation from the West Indian Students’ Union be received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies as early as possible.”*

Williams’ response to the WISU arrived two days before the General meeting. It therefore became a subject of discussion with the general membership. The WISU were undoubtedly pleased at Williams’ acceptance of their invitation to be an honorary member and he was “*enrolled as such*” at their meeting of the executive in August 1946. [viii]

This little vignette involving Dr. Williams, not only gives us more details about his thinking, the different experiences of novelist versus the historian in marketing their works, but the documents are important because they also fill a gap in the history of the West Indian Student Union.

We now turn to some other documents on the general subject of higher educations in the West Indies, namely. *The Report of The West Indies Committee of the Commission on Higher Education in the Colonies* (Irvine Committee Report). This Committee was set up to advise on the establishment of the University, and its report has become an important and well known document. Apart from the Irvine Committee Report itself, historian Carl Campbell who has worked in the area of the history of education, in one of his articles, has identified what he considered to be “*neglected source materials, namely the evidence which was presented to the Irvine Committee itself.*” [ix] This additional material is held at the Mona Library in their West Indies Collection and includes a two volume journal of a three month visit to the West Indies by the Committee. The Journal was

kept by one of the members of the Committee, Dr. Raymond E. Priestley who was the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham. Titled "West Indian Journey," the two volumes record, inter alia, useful information about the work of the Committee and include interesting details about each society visited, with comments on places, institutions, the people and their customs. The following gem from Priestley's account of the second day in Trinidad caught my attention:

*"From 5 pm to 7 pm we held the first of what I hope may be a series of informal discussions. ... We went at it hammer and tongs on the vital question whether we are to recommend one single central fully developed university, in spite of local prejudices and rivalries, or a series of half-baked affairs of one or two Faculties in all the principal centres. ... 'I only had time for a scrap of dinner as I wished to accompany Sherlock to hold down the seats he had reserved for us at the last but one session of the Victory Calypso, the Trinidadian festival of song. We had some difficulty in keeping seats for the "tent" (actually a felt-roofed wooden structure) packed as I have never seen a theatre packed before. It would have given any English Inspector seventeen fits, ...*

*"It is quite indescribable unfortunately. It consists of home made songs, humorous and sarcastic, on all the burning questions of the day. The best example of the impromptu nature of the performance is the fact that today the governor announced for the first time the forthcoming dispatch of a West Indian contingent to the active fronts. The same night a calypso was sung on the subject. ... As a result of my experience tonight, I am pro-Calypso most definitely. We sat on very hard seats, crowded together like fish in a can, in sweltering heat, for two and half hours. We were not bored for a minute of that time and I never felt uncomfortable because I was*

*so wrapped up in the performances and the audience."*

The experience of the Calypso tent obviously had a significant impact on this Englishman. Priestley, summarizing his experience wrote as follows: *"No single experience could have contributed so much to the background study which is essential if we are to get anywhere with our job".*[x] Here was someone who on his first exposure to the Calypso is understanding and appreciative of its social value. In this example, we see the value of primary source materials to highlight another facet of an important experience. In this case, we have unearthed the kind of information which did not make it into the academic discourse about the establishment of The University of the West Indies, but which sheds light on the very real human element in it all.

The outcome of the Irvine Committee's deliberations was the recommendation for the establishment of the University College of the West Indies in Jamaica in 1948 which later became the regional University of the West Indies.

The St. Augustine Campus, has among the Memorabilia and Papers of Earl Lewis, (brother of George Stanley Lewis, whom I spoke of earlier and Sir Arthur Lewis) eleven letters from Sir Arthur Lewis who was Head of the University College of the West Indies between 1959 and 1963 and winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1979. An excerpt from one of these letters is revealing about the West Indies Federation, a regional institution whose existence was short-lived.

In a June 3 1953 letter, Arthur Lewis confided to his brother Earl that he had spent three weeks in London and had attended the *"Federation West Indian Conference in the silent role of adviser."* He found it to be very

disappointing as *"there was not the least sign of leadership in any quarter- just an excessively talkative squabble."* In his view, none of the participants *"dared to return home and report failure so they eventually agreed to have a federal government"*, provided it was *"a government with hardly any functions or money."*[xi]

In an intellectual biography of Lewis, the author, Robert Tignor details how Lewis was an "avowed enthusiast for the political federation for all his life." As Vice-Chancellor of UWI, he was in charge of an institution that needed a political federation behind it and that might fail if the islands of the West Indies went their separate political ways."[xii] Tignor details the lengths to which Lewis went in 1962 to keep the federation idea alive.

He took a leave of absence from the University and visited all the islands, meeting with politicians, without success. As the saying goes, the rest is history indeed! One is left wonder whether Lewis ever recalled his 1953 misgivings. The Arthur Lewis letters in general, can be of significance to researchers, given the heights to which their author attained.

***Excerpt from-Unveiling Hidden Treasures: An Exploration of our Caribbean Heritage Materials***

***Professorial Inaugural Lecture by Margaret D. Rouse-Jones***

***Venue: Institute of Critical Thinking, Centre for Language Learning Building***

***Thursday, November 29, 2007***

[i] Three letters from George James Christian, one containing and attachment and one from George Francois, were found among the Dudley Huggins Papers which are also held at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. Dudley Huggins had a long association with The University of the West Indies. He became the Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research, Mona, Jamaica, from 1948-1963 and Principal of the St Augustine Campus from 1963-1969.

[ii] Geo. J. Christian to H.D. Huggins 2nd September 1927. Dudley Huggins Papers, UWI, St. Augustine, Main Library (hereafter Huggins Papers)

[iii] George Francois to Mr. [Dudley] Huggins, 25.8.26. Huggins Papers,

[iv] Huggins was appointed as Assistant Superintendent in the Agriculture Department, in British Guiana.

Geo J. Christian to H.D. Huggins 17th October, 1928. Huggins Papers.

[v] David Clover, *"Dispersed or Destroyed: Archives, the West Indian Students' Union, and Public Memory,"* in The Society for Caribbean Studies Annual Conference Papers, edited by Sandra Courtman, Vol 6. 2005. ISSN 1471- 2024. <http://www.scsonline.freeseerve.co.uk/olvo16.html>

[vi] For a discussion of the general subject see Lloyd Braithwaite, *Colonial West Indian Students in Britain* (Jamaica: The University of the West Indies Press, 2001).

[vii] Typed Letter from Winifred Birkbeck, Secretary of the West Indian Students' Union to Dr. Eric Williams, Howard University, 14th February 1946, 1p (with attachment)

[viii] Letter from Birkbeck to Williams, 8th August 1946, p.1

[ix] " 'The University of our Dreams': Centralisation Versus Decentralisation in the Planning of the University of the West Indies, 1943/1944", in *The Jamaica Historical Review*, Vol.. XVI, 1988 [Special Issue] In tribute to the 40th Anniversary of The University of the West Indies 1948-1988, pp. 17-32.

[x] West Indian Journey, 1944 by Raymond E. Priestley, 2 Volumes (Held at the UWI Library, Mona, Jamaica)

[xi] Arthur Lewis to Earl Lewis, Letter, June 3, 1953

[xii] Robert L. Tignor. *W. Arthur Lewis and the Birth of Development Economics*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006), p. 230-231.





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# UWI and the Prince of Wales celebrate sixty years



Prince Charles chats with Campus Principal Clement Sankat before the presentation on Climate Change.

The royal visit of the Prince of Wales coming in the very year that The University of the West Indies marks its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the one that the Prince celebrates his sixtieth birthday seemed like a well-timed reunion.

The UWI has strong links with the University of London and the royal family. In 1950, Her Royal Highness, Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, a grand-daughter of Queen Victoria, was appointed by King George VI to be the first Chancellor of the University College of the West Indies, (the precursor to UWI) which was established by Royal Charter.

As Chancellor, Princess Alice presided at all the convocations and graduation ceremonies until her retirement in 1971. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, was an honorary graduate, having been awarded the D. Litt (*Honoris Causa*) in 1965. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the Visitor of the University.

And so on March 5<sup>th</sup>, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall were warmly welcomed by the University community during their royal visit to the St Augustine Campus.

Their Royal Highnesses arrived at the steps to the entrance of the JFK Quadrangle at

approximately 12:30 p.m. and were formally received by Pro Vice Chancellor and Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat; and The Hon. Marlene Mc Donald, Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs. The formal reception party also included Prof. Gurmohan Kochhar, Deputy Principal; and Mr. Junior Regrello, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs.

First, Professor Sankat and Prof. Margaret Rouse-Jones, University and Campus Librarian, escorted Their Royal Highnesses to view the UWI 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition. Subsequently, Prof. Brian Copeland, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Mr. Jessel Murray of the UWI Centre for Creative and Festival Arts delivered a short presentation on the Genesis Pan ("G" Pan) and invited Their Royal Highnesses to play the tenor pan.

Next, the party was invited to view a presentation on climate change by the Arts-in-Action Group, led by Mr. Brendon La Caille of the UWI Centre for Creative and Festival Arts. At the end of this presentation, the Campus Principal presented Their Royal Highnesses with tokens of appreciation.











# The Journey

A photography exhibition by the class of Film 1101

Introduction to Photography is a new first year course that is part of the B.A. Film Programme. Prolific film director, producer and photographer, Dr. Bruce Paddington teaches the course to a class of students that range from veteran producers, journalists and actors, to rookie cameramen and self proclaimed “amateur” film-makers. The result – see for yourself in this recent exhibition held at the Centre For Language Learning.







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- 1 *Journey into Self*  
Renée Pollonais  
Year 1 Student  
*Renée took a series of self portraits, depicting various emotional/ psychological states. Renée is a freelance television editor and producer.*
- 2 *Francesca Hawkins*  
Year 2 Student  
*Francesca is a well-known television presenter and producer.*
- 3 *Piano*  
Dionne Hopkins  
Year 1 Student  
*Dionne is an enthusiastic photographer who took a series of photos of musical instruments for her final project.*
- 4 *Hands*  
Christian James  
Year 2 Student  
*Christian is a previous first place winner for St. Mary's College at the 2005 Movietowne Secondary School Film competition.*
- 5 *Journey into Manhood*  
Ernest Ché Rodriguez  
Year 2 Student  
*Ché is a freelance television producer, presenter and writer who has worked in St. Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago.*
- 6 *Streak*  
Sigmond Cromwell  
Year 1 Student  
*Sigmond is a veteran freelance television producer and writer.*
- 7 *Graffiti*  
Michael Tang Yew  
Year 1 Student  
*Michael works as a Video Editor at a local television station.*
- 8 *Steelpan*  
Naomi Howard  
Year 1 Student  
*Naomi has produced several musicals for her church group as well as numerous puppet shows.*



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**Call to Attention:** (from left) Celebrating in NYC, Thomas Moran, Chairman/CEO of Mutual of America; Michael Flanigan, Chair AFUWI; Denis O'Brien, CEO of Digicel and Prof. E. Nigel Harris Vice Chancellor of UWI.

## BELAFONTE, O'BRIAN, AMONG HONOUREES AT UWI GALA

The UWI Gala must be among one of the most elegant award ceremonies around. The regal ball room of the Waldorf Astoria is filled with iconic West Indians from Prime Ministers to entrepreneurs, CEOs to world famous artists including legendary singer/actor, Dr. the Hon. Harry Belafonte.

Coming in from the cold, windy streets of New York City, guests are welcomed with great food and entertainment and a chance to "give back" to an institution that many have hailed as key in the development of the West Indies. In 2008

Harry Belafonte and Digicel CEO & Founder, Dennis O'Brian, topped the list of awardees honoured at the gala in New York on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2008. Dr. Belafonte, Patron of the event since its inception, was recognised for his commitment to UWI for the past ten years, and in celebration of his 80th birthday.

Established in 1956, the annual gala is a stellar event on the programme of AFUWI, developed as an endowment fund in the USA for The University of the West Indies. With popular television

personalities, Maurice Dubois, Co-Ancor of CBS2 News and Brenda Blackmon, Lead Anchor, WWOR-TV as Masters of Ceremonies, the event serves as the primary vehicle for the UWI in its capital campaign and fundraising efforts there.

Each year reflects the wealth of talent in the Caribbean as those honoured have made integral contributions not only to the region but to the international arena. For example at this year's gala special awards were presented to three UWI Lecturers for their contributions to the Inter-Governmental Panel for Climate



**Nobel prestige:** (from left) UWI Scientists Drs Nurse, Chen and Agard. (other caption is in place)



Control (IPCC), which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with the former Vice President of the United States, Al Gore.

Dr Anthony Chen, a retired Jamaican Professor in Physics at UWI Mona Campus, Jamaica; Dr Leonard Nurse, a Barbadian Lecturer in Coastal Management at UWI Cave Hill Campus, Barbados; and Dr John Agard, a Trinidadian and Senior Lecturer in Life Sciences at UWI St Augustine Campus, Trinidad, and Chairman of the Environmental Management Authority

(EMA) were on hand to receive their awards.

Luminary Awards which are given to Caribbean persons who have made outstanding contributions in their respective fields were awarded to Dr. Rollin Bertrand, CEO of TCL Group of Companies; Winston Bayley, Chief Financial Officer of The University of the West Indies; Paul Altman, Managing Director, Altman Real Estate; Vincent HoSang, Founder and CEO, Caribbean Food Delights and Stephen Cozier, Vice

President for Caribbean and Central America at the Bank of Nova Scotia.

The Vice Chancellor's Achievement Awards for persons of Caribbean heritage in North America who are rising stars in their organizations were awarded to Marc Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League; Reggie Canal, First Vice President of HSBC; Noel Hankin, Sr. Vice President of Moet Hennessy; Ray Goldburn, Executive Vice President of Black Entertainment Television; Colbert Narcisse, Chief Administrative Officer of





Caribbean Luminaries: Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, Sir George Alleyne (right) with recipients of American Foundation for the University of the West Indies (AFUWI) 2008 Luminary Awards, L-R Paul Altman, Dr. Rollin Bertrand, Mr. Vincent Ho Sang, Ms. Minna Israel, Mr. Stephen Cozier and Mr. Winston Bayley.

Merrill Lynch and Roy Hastick, Founder of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc.

Mr. Kenneth DeGhetto, Retired Chairman of Foster Wheeler Incorporated and former chairman of the American Foundation for The University of the West Indies was recognized for his service to the Foundation and the University.

Successive AFUWI galas have honoured a host of individuals and organizations linked to the Caribbean who have made

exceptional contributions to the world around them. They have included: **Maya Angelou, Colin Powell, Sidney Poitier, Whoopi Goldberg, Johnetta Cole, Cicely Tyson, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Al Roker and Hon. Dr. Jimmy Cliff.** Several companies including AMOCO, ALCAN, Chevron Texaco, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Bank of Nova Scotia, Citibank and Atlantic LNG, have also been recognized.

Seven Caribbean Prime Ministers were honoured in 2002, including: The Rt. Hon. P.J. Patterson, Jamaica; Dr. the Hon.

Kenny Anthony, St. Lucia; The Rt. Hon. Owen Arthur, Barbados; Dr. the Hon. Denzil Douglas, St. Kitts & Nevis; Dr. the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, The Hon. Patrick Manning, Trinidad & Tobago and Dr. the Hon. Keith Mitchell of Grenada.

AFUWI has over the past decade provided many scholarships and grants and funded special projects to foster the development of the UWI. For more information, please contact Marcia Erskine at (876) 960 3170.



# GOODSTART

UWI staff, alumni and students make a difference with a mentorship programme that's close to "home"



In 2004, a group of UWI lecturers, alumni and students crafted a small, community based mentorship programme that truly made a difference. The initiative was designed to 'instil values of good citizenship and community service, while improving the quality of life' of children in underprivileged communities. They started with a school close to the Campus, the St. Benedict's RC Primary School, on St John's Road, St Augustine – this was their base.



The essence of the innovative programme is one-on-one mentorship which focuses on supporting children who need improvement in their Science, Math and Language skills (spelling, creative writing, reading, etc.). But the programme is not all about academics, it is all encompassing, with academic, personal development as well as sporting initiatives (including field trips) rolled into one. For a child to be able to participate in the programme the parents, Principal of the Primary School and the

child himself must all consent. In order to get parents more involved, mentors visit the homes each semester to discuss the child's progress with the parents and to solidify the parents' support.

The mentors, all students at the UWI, are not substitutes for teachers, but support the teachers and the students. The mentor is essentially a "big brother". The university student essentially acts as a positive role-model for the child and this

in turn helps the mentor to feel a sense of fulfillment, knowing that he is making a difference in the lives of others.

The programme kicked-off when a group of university students from UWI St Augustine Campus decided to participate in a weekly social work activity. Thursday afternoon from 2:30 to 4:30 pm was agreed as the most appropriate time. The commitment was to spend two hours with a primary school boy in a voluntary mentoring programme.

In order to provide training for the mentors, UWI lecturers together with resources from North Hall were used; **Clyde Abder** (Engineering), **Surendra Arjoon** (Social Sciences), **Gerard Pounder** (Engineering), and **Romulo G. Fernandez** (Humanities & Education) volunteered their services.

Over the years, the programme has expanded beyond the classroom to provide support for families; for instance in December 2005 and 2006, *GoodStart's* mentors collected hampers to give to the mentees' families in the villages of St. Michael and St John. In 2007 mentors began construction of a small house for the family of one of the children.

For the mentor, it continues to be very a very rewarding experience. The altruism of one of the programme's members was recognised in 2006 when one of the mentors, **Christopher Castagne** won a UWI award for social work related to his participation in *GoodStart*. Among the mentors are **Sanjiv Samaroo** (Petroleum Geosciences), **Sheldon Bowman** (Engineering), **Daley Sirjuesingh** (Engineering), **Christopher Lum Kin** (Natural Sciences), **Kevin Singh** (Natural Sciences), **Corey Jackman** (Engineering), **Joel Castagne** (Engineering), **Josh Drayton** (Social Sciences), **Jameon Thomas** (Engineering) and **Riad J** (Law), **Anning Hoo** (Engineering), **Vickash R** (Engineering), and **Andrei Edoo** (Social Sciences). There are plans to expand the programme to other needy areas of Trinidad and Tobago by increasingly tapping into this spirit of social awareness in the University community. To learn more about *GoodStart*, visit <http://www.goodstart.page.tl>

# ‘Walking

**UWI World of Work  
attracts record number  
of students and  
companies**

WOW gives UWI Students the opportunity to learn more about leading companies including RBL. (Top ); (Bottom Left) A student gains feedback during the seminar; (Bottom Right) Feature speakers (from left) Ms Wendy Bosse of Republic Bank Limited and Mr David Ramkissoon at the WOW seminar.

“We have a very high percentage of graduates gaining employment soon after graduation, over 90%, but what the World of Work programme also creates is job satisfaction and the ability to craft an effective career path for the graduate, as well as ensuring a right fit and effective management of human resources for the employer. It’s a win-win situation,” explained Dawn-Marie De Four-Gill, Director of Marketing and Communications at UWI.

The annual World of Work programme, which is designed to equip final year UWI students with the necessary tools for long-term success in the globalised work environment ran from Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2008. Since its inception over ten years ago, the WOW programme has attracted an ever increasing number of participants. More than 1150 final year students participated in WOW 2007, compared to 850 in 2006. This year over 1200 students took part. Many local, regional and international companies have participated in previous installations of this highly anticipated annual event, and this year



promises an even greater participation from companies based in CARICOM territories. Over 50 companies and organisations from a wide variety of fields will once again be invited to recruit students for either vacation or graduate employment.

Each component of the WOW 2008 programme is specifically intended to develop a targeted skill set. The Resume Writing Workshop taught participants how to make their resumes more competitive in the global job market; the WOW Seminar addressed issues of entrepreneurship. The Mock Interview session allowed each



student to practice his/her interview skills with real business professionals, while The Recruitment Fair which took place over two days, with one day open to all students and another restricted to final year students, has enabled companies and organisations from a variety of fields to recruit students for either vacation or fulltime employment.

At the WOW Seminar, Mr. Dave Ramkissoon of Electrical Industries Limited (EIL) shared his entrepreneurial experience with UWI students. Mrs. Wendy Bosse, Marketing Manager, Republic Bank Limited shared inspirational words at the Seminar, which



# the Walk'



continues to be one of the most highly anticipated events in the WOW 2008 calendar. For another consecutive year, the WOW programme is being fully sponsored by Republic Bank Limited.

“Once again I have to thank Republic Bank Limited for their integral support of this landmark programme and also many thanks to the inspirational presentations by our feature speakers including, Dave Ramkissoon, CEO of Electrical Industries Limited (EIL),” added Mrs De Four-Gill.

EIL is one of the leading private sector companies in Trinidad and Tobago. As part of the WOW 2008 Seminar, Mr. Ramkissoon gave UWI final year students a first-hand account of his experience as a Caribbean entrepreneur. A self-made businessman who started off in 1981 conducting retail of miscellaneous items in Cocoyea, San Fernando, he formed Electrical Distributors Limited, (EDL) in 1986, which within a few years evolved into the leading wholesale electrical distribution company in South

Trinidad. In 1987, he later acquired Trinidad Cables Limited, (TCL) which was an enterprise specialising in the manufacture of electrical cables. By 1988, Mr. Ramkissoon had successfully turned TCL around and by 1989; it was merged with EDL under Trinidad Electrical Manufacturing Corp. Limited (TEMCO). TEMCO Ltd. competed with a Neal & Massy Limited cable manufacturing company - Electrical Industries Limited (EIL), until 1997 when Mr. Ramkissoon acquired EIL, thereby becoming the largest electrical cable manufacturer in the Caribbean. Through strong leadership; Mr. Ramkissoon achieved quick financial turnaround by putting EIL back on a profitable track. Today, EIL stands out as one of the leading private sector companies in Trinidad and Tobago.

For further information on WOW, please contact Mr. Chandar Gupta Supersad, UWI Student Advisory Services at (868) 662 2002 Ext. 2360, Ms. Marva Belfast Ext. 2098, or Ms. Sabrina Pierre Ext 2325.



(Top left) Crossing Over: Mr Chandar Gupta Supersad, Deirdre Charles and Gerard Best of UWI accept the \$400,000 sponsorship cheque from Ms Tisha Lee, Corporate Communications Manager, Republic Bank Limited. (Top right) In closing: Mr Chandar Supersad; (Bottom right) Mr D. Ramkissoon, CEO of EIL.



Graduation Celebration: Campus Principal Huggins greets Dr Eric Williams and Sir Arthur Lewis.

## UWI launches Year of

The West Indies may be considered small when compared to many other countries around the world, yet per capita, these islands seem to have a high concentration of genius. Between St Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago there are three Nobel Laureates, all being celebrated by UWI. Ironically, two laureates lived on the same street, attended the same schools and share the same birth date; Sir Arthur Lewis and Derek Walcott. In St Lucia the entire country celebrates Nobel Laureate week every year and renowned writers including Arthur Miller, Joseph Brodsky and Seamus Heaney have taken part in the celebrations for Lewis and Walcott.

Both men also have strong ties to UWI, so it is not unusual that Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat spoke of the benefits of celebrating these West Indians during the launch of The Year of Sir Arthur Lewis at the Office of the Campus Principal in January.

"I believe that, hidden in the lives of great men like Sir Arthur Lewis are the keys to the continued success of this relatively young University. And I say "young" because, compared to other, older institutions of higher education, our sixty-year-old University is still, perhaps, the new kid on the proverbial block. It's good to know that at age sixty, one can still be considered a youth!"

Former Prime Minister of St Lucia and UWI Lecturer, Professor Vaughn Lewis, also spoke of the many benefits that these events would bring to the University and region.

The first event in the Year of Sir Arthur Lewis celebration was a landmark, one-day symposium on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February, hosted by the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Faculty Lounge. Speakers included Professor Dennis Pantin, Dr. Patrick Watson, Dr. Sandra Sookram and Dr. Hamid Ghany.

Born in Castries, St Lucia, on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1915, Sir Arthur Lewis became Director of the Caribbean Development Bank in 1970.

A former UWI Lecturer and Vice Chancellor, Sir William Arthur Lewis was knighted in 1963, and won The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel in 1979. His prize winning work is an economic model that examines the problems facing developing nations. His historic dual sector model explains why in developing nations wages typically remain low and capital rents high, even as development continues at a pace. In 1991, he died and was buried on the grounds of the St Lucia community college named in his honour.

The University's celebration of Lewis is part of the ongoing UWI Nobel Laureate Celebrations, which began in 2007 with the Year of V.S. Naipaul, and which is scheduled to end in 2009 with the year of Derek Walcott. In April 2007, Trinidad-





(From left) Former Prime Minister Williams and Nobel Prize Winner Sir Arthur Lewis at a reception at the Office of the Campus Principal.

## Sir Arthur Lewis

born Nobel Laureate Sir Vidiadhar Surajprasad (V.S.) Naipaul, was a guest of honour at the St. Augustine campus. One of the region's most celebrated writers, he was awarded the Trinity Cross, the country's highest honour, in 1989, was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1990, and won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2001.

An alumnus of The University of the West Indies, Derek Alton Walcott has been heralded as the "Homer and Ulysses of our time." Walcott, who has been awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry (1988), the Trinity Cross (1993) and the Premio Grinzane Cavour (2006), received the 1992 Nobel Prize in Literature "for a poetic oeuvre of great luminosity, sustained by a historical vision, the outcome of a multicultural commitment." For more information on the UWI Nobel Laureate Celebrations, please visit the official Nobel Laureate Celebrations website at <http://www.sta.uwi.edu/nlc>.



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# UWI VET SCHOOL HOSTS OPEN DAYS

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2008, The University of the West Indies (UWI), School of Veterinary Medicine (Vet School), hosted an Open Day for secondary schools and the general public at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Mt Hope.

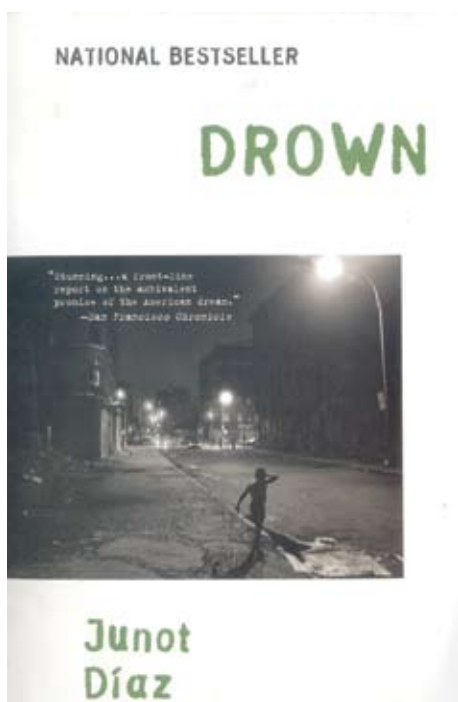
As part of the Open Days, fifth and sixth form students interested in veterinary medicine as a career were able to enjoy guided tours of the Vet School and view veterinary exhibits, demonstrations,

animal displays/booths and even get 'up close' to the animals at the petting zoo.

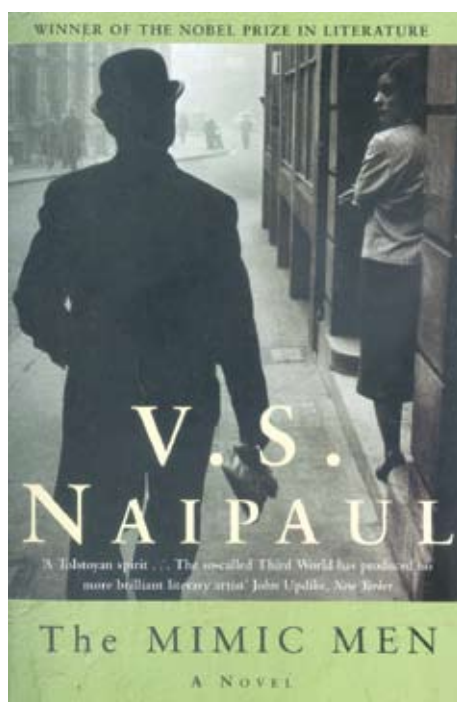
The event is part of the year long celebrations marking the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the University. The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations were launched at a formal Opening Ceremony on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 at UWI Cave Hill, Barbados. There will also be a special Convocation Week on July 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at UWI Mona, Jamaica. Proceeds

from all UWI 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary initiatives will be channelled into a special UWI Regional Endowment Fund, which will be launched during the 2008 celebrations. This fund will facilitate infrastructural projects across the region, such as a Commuting Students' facility for students at UWI Mona; a new Hall of Residence to accommodate 800-1000 students at UWI St. Augustine; an Inter-faith Chapel at UWI Cave Hill and a Cultural Studies Institute for the UWI-12 territories.

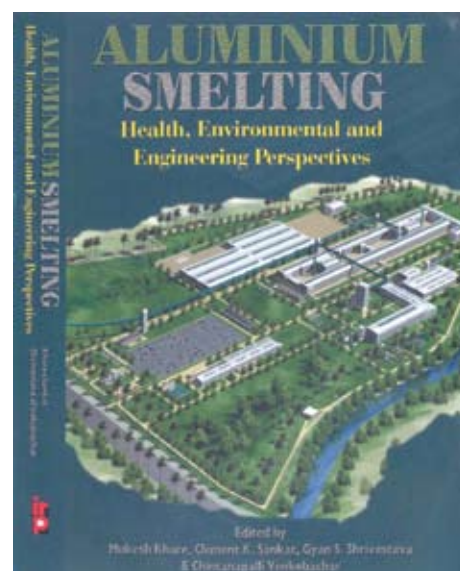




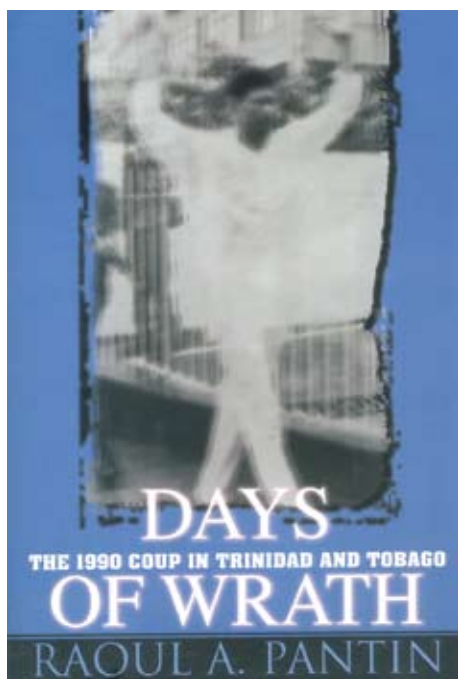
Junot Díaz  
Drown  
Riverhead Books



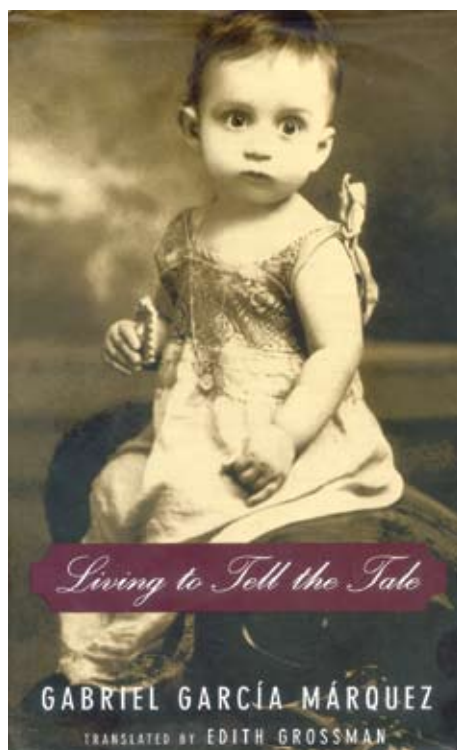
VS Naipaul  
The Mimic Men  
Picador



Aluminium Smelting  
Edited by M. Khare, C. Sankat, G. Shrivastava and C. Venkobachar  
Ian Randle



Raoul Pantin  
Days of Wrath  
The 1990 Coup in Trinidad & Tobago  
iUniverse, Inc



Gabriel García Márquez  
Living to Tell the Tale  
Knopf

Over the past two years there have been several arguments for and against the construction of an aluminium smelter in the country. 'Aluminium Smelting: Health, Environment and Engineering Perspectives' has a multi-faceted approach to this controversial issue. The thirteen chapters look at a multitude of topics including Land Use and Physical Planning; Health and Aluminium Smelting; Ecosystem and Industrial Development and Engineering Perspectives of Industrial Development. Bringing a global perspective, the editors have selected articles from writers/ researchers from across the world, including Australia, Canada, India, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom, to explore these diverse issues. With a foreword by former Campus Principal, Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, (currently PVC Planning and Development) and a review by Professor Alan Davison, Emeritus Professor at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne (UK), the publication is a must read for anyone interested in this area.

**Now available at the UWI bookshop.**



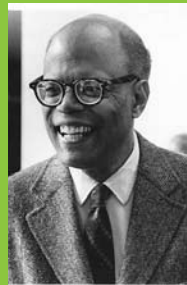
20. Page 46: In Celebration (from left) From left : Dr Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Dr Funso Aiyejina, Dr Steve Bennett, Prof Clement Sankat, Prof. Samuel Ramsewak and Prof. Bridget Brereton at the Opening of the new UWI Faculty of Medical Sciences building in honour of the Buffalypso creator and celebrated scientist.

## JUNOT DIAZ

Heralded as a “major new writer”, whose world “explodes off the page”, Junot Diaz has captured the voice of those in exile, the Caribbean immigrant in the twenty first century, with a staccato, bi-lingual style. *‘Drown’*, his first book of short stories, offers brutally honest, prickly and quite voyeuristic snap-shots of the lives of others - from the pornographic-driven encounters between teenage kids in the Bronx, to the struggle of ‘barrel children’ in a Santo Domingo barrio. Diaz is able to give an engaging voice to unlikely characters, from the sentimental, love-sick, druggie in *Aurora* to the disfigured masked adolescent boy in *No Face*. His is a gritty, unforgiving world; his prose as fresh and unapologetic as that of Annie Proulx. His brilliance is underscored in the way he is able to evoke empathy for characters that have historically been the ‘bad boys’ of West Indian lit. - having accomplished some of the most heinous crimes imagined; unapologetically, he removes the scabs that so many of us hide. Born in the Dominican Republic but raised in New Jersey, Diaz’s second book, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* has been shortlisted for several prizes.

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