



# UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES · ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER, 2010



PHOTO: PIPS



## The Beauty of Education

**It is a testament** to the phenomenal growth of the St Augustine Campus that the 2010 Graduation exercises had to be conducted over three days, with two separate ceremonies on each occasion. With 3,600 graduates emerging from the university this year – a figure we believe will continue to grow – we know the workforce

will soon begin to reflect the increase in graduate level professionals with more skills available.

We believe that our students get a sound tertiary level education at this institution, and we believe that the development of the mind brings a beauty that cannot be cosmetically applied.

This issue reflects on the graduation ceremonies just past, featuring the honorary graduates, the valedictorians and some of our historic graduation moments. On our cover are some of this year's graduates, who were so radiant, they exemplify our assertion that knowledge is beauty.

### GRADUATION - 12

#### *Loving, Helping Hands*

■ Graduation Ceremonies



### GRADUATION - 17

#### *A Shared Journey*

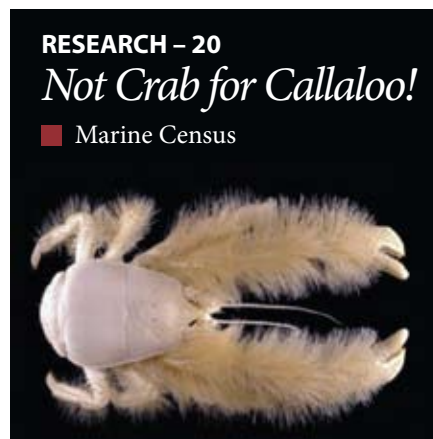
■ Valedictorians



### RESEARCH - 20

#### *Not Crab for Callaloo!*

■ Marine Census



FIFTY AND FORGING AHEAD  
1960-2010



## CAMPUS NEWS

# SIMON CONQUERED



In the end the results were not surprising as from long before, the toss-up was between the two Kenyans who have been the dominant forces for the last two years in the **UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon**. **Simon Sawe** eventually took the lead (1:07:07.1) but **Alfonsi Yatch** was right behind (1:08:30.6), with T&T's **Richard Jones** placing third (1:08:32.8).

The race took place on October 31, with **Roger Daniel**, **George Bovell III**, **Jehue Gordon** and Commonwealth Games 2010 Paralympic athlete **Shantol Ince** at the starting line for the pistol shot at 6am for one thousand runners who registered to take off in the only traffic-free race in the region.

In photo, Simon Sawe has the pleasure of being first to enter his name on the board



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## Values We Cherish



Every year, the university pays tribute to outstanding individuals by conferring honorary degrees upon them. It is a way of recognizing their accomplishments as well as the principles and values that guide them in their contribution and service to society. It is our method of saluting them.

This year, the St. Augustine Campus paid tribute to four such outstanding individuals – **Mr. Doddridge Alleyne (LLD)**, **Mr. Thomas Gatcliffe (DSc)**, **Mrs Diana Mahabir-Wyatt (LLD)** and **Mr. Hans Hanoomansingh (LLD)**. Each of these individuals comes from different professional backgrounds, but each exemplified commitment to cause throughout their careers, as diverse as they were.

**Mr. Alleyne**, who sadly passed away on October 8 before the formal conferment, was a leading figure in the public service, giving forty years of pioneering work in many areas, including the energy sector. **Mr. Gatcliffe** has been a towering figure on the business landscape and is well-known for his penchant for creativity and innovation. **Mrs. Mahabir-Wyatt** has crusaded for the rights of the vulnerable in our society – particularly, women and children – and has represented them at every possible forum. **Mr. Hanoomansingh** has used the airwaves to constantly push for more cultural inclusivity in programming. Each of these individuals is profiled in this issue of the paper, as well as our six valedictorians, and I hope that by reading about them you will recognise in their sterling attributes qualities that this Campus upholds, respects and cherishes.

As the premier regional tertiary education institution, the UWI St. Augustine Campus is focused on producing leaders in all spheres. This year, we conferred degrees on 2,679 students at the undergraduate level and 939 students at the graduate level, including 34 doctoral degrees. A remarkable achievement indeed, but more importantly, we do look towards our young scholars and leaders going on, in their own way, to make outstanding contributions to national and regional development. One of our valedictorians shared a quote by Robert F. Kennedy with her fellow graduates which I found aptly captured the spirit of determination to be agents of change, that we would like all our graduates to take with them as they move on: “Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation”.

**CLEMENT K. SANKAT**  
Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal

## EDITORIAL TEAM

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# Jubilee Week OF CELEBRATIONS

## ■ INTERFAITH SERVICE

“Discourse and diversity of opinion are hallmarks of the academic tradition. Good universities are committed to the thesis that all individuals have a contribution to make to society and in addition believe that it is part of their role to ensure that individuals from different backgrounds achieve the appropriate self-actualization. Good universities celebrate diversity in teaching, in the composition of teachers and ensure that their company of masters and scholars represents diversity of backgrounds.”

– UWI Chancellor **Sir George Alleyne** at the Interfaith Service held at the beginning of the week of activities celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the St Augustine Campus. The Service was held at the Daaga Auditorium on October 10.



## ■ PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

President of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, **Maxwell Richards** and his wife, **Jean Ramjohn-Richards** hosted a reception in honour of the fiftieth anniversary of the St Augustine Campus of The UWI. In this photo, Their Excellencies greet the Campus Principal, **Prof. Clement Sankat** and his wife, **Dr Rohanie Maharaj**.



## ■ BOOK LAUNCH

Just before she retired, Professor of History, **Bridget Brereton**, delivered a magnificent keepsake to The University of the West Indies. Written especially to mark the fiftieth anniversary of its St Augustine Campus, the book, “*From Imperial College to University of the West Indies: A History of the St Augustine Campus*,” was launched on October 12 at the Central Bank Auditorium.



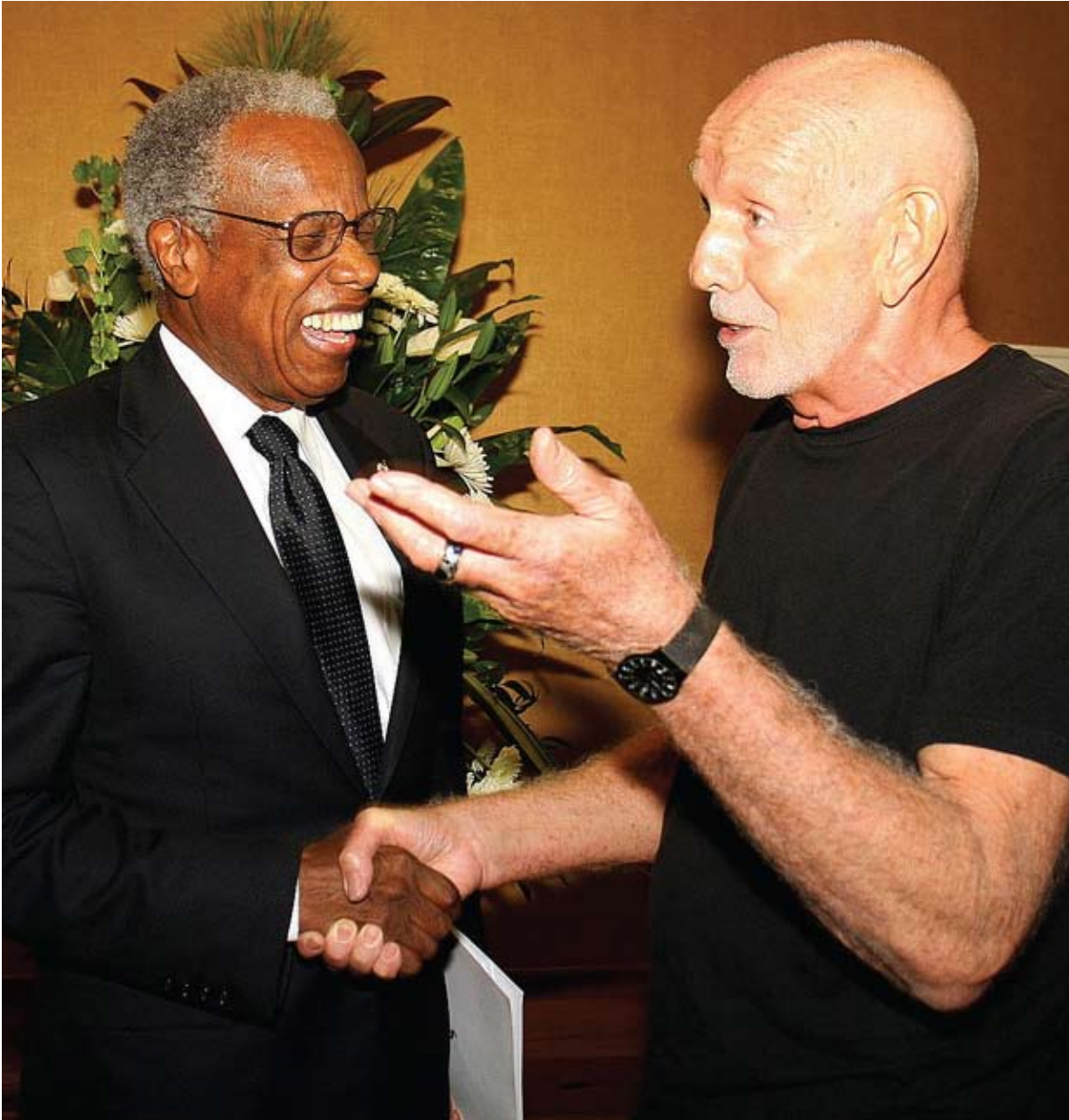
## ■ THE GATHERING

Closing off the week of celebrations was a special edition fete called **The Gathering**, which was held on the grounds of the Campus Principal's Office on October 17. Hundreds attended the event, which featured entertainers like Karma with Ravi B, Roy Cape, Gayatones and Birdsong Steel Orchestra. In photo, University and Campus Director for Marketing & Communications, **Mrs. Dawn-Marie De Four-Gill** and her husband **Dexter**, were a well-matched pair at the fete.





# *Jubilee Week* OF CELEBRATIONS



## ■ PANEL DISCUSSION

“At a certain scholarly remove, my work has been the subject of some analysis, mostly “from foreign”, but almost always this analysis has been anthropological, or sociological, not aesthetic, not artistic.

“As a consequence of this situation, we as a society do not know what art is. We certainly do not know what good art is. And we do not know—we have not done the work to establish— what are the critical terms of reference by which our own indigenous art forms can be assessed. This puts our artists and our culture—a culture that is inherently creative, and creatively participatory—at a terrible disadvantage. Artists cannot build on precedents if the precedents have not been identified. Artists cannot meet standards of quality if the standards have not been articulated.

“Now, I know little about how a university goes about setting its curriculum and developing its academic program. But it just seems to me that in the area of critical analysis a university can and should have a role to play. And it also seems to me that in a small place like an island, a university should not be an ivory tower set apart from the rest of the community, but can and should have its intellectual activities integrated into the cultural life of the island community.

I know there are programs at the university that teach art. This is good. But I wonder if more could be done to teach not only how to do it but what makes it good, or not. And certainly more could be done, beyond trying to produce people who can make art, to develop a culture of aesthetic analysis, critical rigour, to scour the international field for the most rigorous standards and then to incorporate these into our island experience and to develop our own rigorous standards.”

– Renowned artist and thinker, **Peter Minshall**, one of four panellists at a discussion on “The Future of the University” on October 11, at the Daaga Auditorium. In the photograph, Mr Minshall is greeted by UWI Chancellor, **Sir George Alleyne**, who moderated the discussion.



# CARICOM SCIENCE AWARD

The 2010 CARICOM Science Award was presented to Professor Hall by Senator the Honorable Frank Alexis-Bernadine, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Grenada.



**Professor Lincoln Hall**, former Professor of Chemistry at the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies and Consultant at the University of Trinidad and Tobago was awarded the prestigious Annual CARICOM Science Award for his outstanding contribution to the field of science and in particular for his innovative studies in Analytical/Environmental and Inorganic Chemistry. Professor Hall has published widely in prestigious journals and has been a visiting scholar to a number of universities including the University of Chicago and Imperial College, London.

The CARICOM Science Award is a joint effort between CARISCIENCE and the CARICOM Secretariat and is meant to give recognition and visibility to outstanding scientific achievements made by individuals from the CARICOM countries. The past awardees including: Dr. Raymond Wright (Jamaica), Prof. Harold Ramkissoon (Trinidad) and Prof. Sean Mc Dowell (Barbados).

## Applications Open for Journalism Certificate

**Caribbean journalists**, both practising and prospective can now apply for the new one-year, full-time Certificate in Journalism programme, scheduled to begin at The UWI, St Augustine Campus, Faculty of Humanities and Education, in January 2011.

“The assumption is that this programme is not just going to talk about Journalism, but that learning activities will be very experiential in their orientation,” said Ms Patricia Worrell, Programme Coordinator, speaking at the programme launch on October 27.

Worrell explained that one highlight of the programme would be a six-week internship with a media organisation selected by the student and approved by the University. The internship is designed to provide students with authentic experiences of what it is like to work as a journalist. Interns will also have the opportunity to learn from the practical experiences of persons who know the challenges and the benefits of following a career in journalism.

The Certificate in Journalism programme will be staffed by lecturers from the UWI, as well as by experienced media practitioners. It incorporates different approaches to on-campus course delivery: in addition to traditional



Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat (right) speaks with Mr Ken Gordon at the launch of the Certificate in Journalism programme. Mr Gordon, a former journalist, said the programme was long overdue.

lecture formats, students will take part in workshops where they perform different roles and functions as writers and editors. They will also have access to online material and discussions.

Worrell emphasised that the focus of the Certificate programme was not limited to developing foundational and technical competence, but included issues such as the ethical values and legal framework undergirding the profession.

Professor Sankat described the new programme as an example of the University’s ongoing commitment to respond effectively to the demands of the evolving Caribbean

society. The guiding philosophy of the programme, said Professor Sankat, is an understanding of the critical role of a competent and independent media in sustained regional development. Professor Sankat thanked Mr Ken Gordon for his financial support, without which, he said, the programme launch would not have been possible.

*For more information, please contact Patricia Worrell, Programme Coordinator, at [patricia.worrell@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:patricia.worrell@sta.uwi.edu) or (868) 388 6299 or 663 1334 Ext. 3405.*



# Time to put food on the table

*The University of the West Indies celebrated World Food Day 2010 with a Food Fest and a Candlelight Vigil on November 12 and 13. At the opening ceremony, the Campus Principal, Prof Clement Sankat welcomed participants. This is an excerpt of his remarks.*

As many of you know, the UWI St. Augustine Campus celebrated its 50th anniversary last month. Our Campus was born out of the merger of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture and the University College of the West Indies in 1960. The Faculty of Agriculture was the founding Faculty on our Campus, followed by the Faculty of Engineering.

So agriculture is a subject area that has been at the core of our university teaching, research and scholarship from the very beginning. One may argue that its importance and relevance to national and regional development is even more central today than it was fifty years ago, given the challenges we face as small island developing states with regard to food production, food security and our high food import bill, natural disasters, competition for agricultural and farming land, disease and pest control, poor rural infrastructure, an ageing community of farmers and the lack of interest shown by younger generations in the study and practice of agriculture and rearing of livestock.

As a scholar and researcher myself, who is passionate about agriculture and especially food and agricultural engineering, I am deeply concerned by these developments. I have said on previous occasions that I feel that just over ten years ago, we gave up on sugar, bananas and other estate crops without thinking about the impacts on our countries, our communities and the livelihoods of thousands of families, without thinking through what to do next and putting in place a viable framework for sustainable agricultural development and food security. But there is nothing to be gained by lamenting the past. What we need to do is to continue to aggressively pursue viable options

for agricultural development if we are to reduce our food import bill, contain inflation in food prices and put our society on a clear path towards enhanced food security for future generations. But the benefits are so much larger – the stability and viability of our rural communities and the improvement of the lives of our people and giving them a sense of hope for the future. We are at an exciting juncture in our development where our policy makers are speaking about diversification of the economy. This is therefore a time to put food and agriculture at the forefront.

The UWI St. Augustine Campus is committed to doing our part by providing a supportive learning environment for agricultural studies and research. We recently appointed a new Director for the School of Agriculture, Dr. Chelston

Brathwaite, whom I expect will bring his vast expertise and experience to bear on structuring and equipping our school so that it can deliver on its promise to the agricultural sector and in particular, to reinvigorate the programmes, research, development, technology transfer and service coming out of the School of Agriculture: our Cocoa Research Unit, our University Field Station, and our research in areas such as hot peppers, improved cocoa varieties, legumes and root crops, breadfruit and other tree crops, ornamentals, wildlife and small ruminant production (including rabbits, sheep and goats, etc.). The list is much longer!

This is where the university has been making and can make an even greater contribution especially with the support of the government, international institutions, the private sector, civil society organisations, and especially our farmers. We hope to be able to achieve even more.

Such collaborations and partnerships provide a greater multiplier effect for our efforts and resources and are the real manifestations of the theme “united against hunger” as we collectively work to fight hunger, malnutrition and poverty. None of us can do this alone.

It is only through partnerships that the value of research and its application is realised and creative work can be seen to improve the lives of people.

Let us not forget whom we are here to serve – improving the livelihoods of our farmers and processors, etc. must be a top priority. Let us examine their needs and work with them towards solutions. This is the most effective way for technology transfer.

I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, Professor Dyer Narinesingh, and his team for their dedication and commitment to the success of this event. I would like to thank the Minister of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs and officials of the Ministry for also sharing this vision of a partnership with The UWI and other stakeholders for progress in food and agriculture. I am also thankful to the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agricultural Organization and other organisations represented here today for their support of the work of The UWI St. Augustine Campus. I firmly believe that through our research, innovation and partnerships, each of us will help to shape policy and influence decision making for more sustainable agricultural development and the wellbeing of the people of Trinidad and Tobago and the region.



Hundreds attended the Food Fest at the JFK Quadrangle in November.





# GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2010

H O N O R A R Y G R A D U A T E

## Pioneer of Public Service

**Doddridge Alleyne** had known that The University of the West Indies had conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, before he passed away on October 8, just 20 days before the official ceremony.

Professor Bridget Brereton has written something of the man, whose achievements were phenomenal.

*By Bridget Brereton*

**Doddridge Alleyne**, who died on October 8, 2010, just weeks before he was to receive an honorary degree from UWI, St Augustine, was born in Charlotteville, Tobago, in 1927. This fishing village on the north coast of the smaller 'twin island' of the then British colony of Trinidad & Tobago was remote and isolated at the time (and for long after), separated by a long and difficult journey from the little island capital, Scarborough, and almost impossibly distant from the colonial capital, Port of Spain.

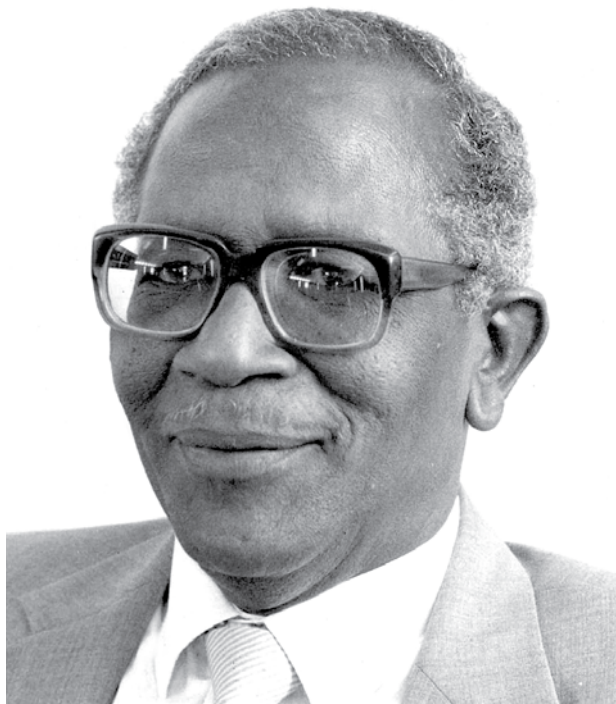
The boy went to Charlotteville Methodist School; like many Tobagonians, he was brought up in the Methodist church, a denomination traditionally of great influence in the island. He went to Trinidad for his secondary education, attending a private school in Port of Spain, where his academic promise was recognised, and he attended Queen's Royal College, the premier boys' school, to study for his Higher School Certificate in the mid-1940s. Nearly sixty years later, in 2003, he was inducted into the Queen's Royal College Hall of Honour, a tribute bestowed on very eminent 'Old Boys'.

After working in the public service for some time, Alleyne received a Colonial Development and Welfare scholarship which took him to the hallowed halls of Oxford University, reading for the famous 'PPE' – Philosophy, Politics and Economics – at Balliol College, acquiring the BA and MA degrees. In 1958, he submitted to Balliol a thesis of well over 400 pages, which has now, fifty years later, been published. His alma mater recognised his distinguished career in 1999 by making him an Honorary Fellow of Balliol.

Straight out of school, the young Alleyne joined the colonial civil service, working through the era of decolonisation and independence, giving forty years of selfless and distinguished service. With the assumption of power by the People's National Movement led by Eric Williams in 1956, and especially after independence in 1962, he became one of a small group of dedicated public servants who worked with the government to lay the foundations of the modern state and economy. Their salaries were small and their perks were few; they worked with a notoriously mercurial leader; their hours were long and irregular, and family life was often sacrificed to the demands of public service.

Alleyne was one of the most outstanding members of this group. He rose to the top of the heap, serving as Permanent Secretary in the three crucial Ministries: Petroleum & Mines, Finance, Planning & Development, and then as Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister and Head of the Public Service. In all these positions, he was central to remaking Trinidad & Tobago in the 1960s and 1970s, and he worked very closely with Williams.

Alleyne was one of the founders of the nationally owned energy sector which has done so much to shape the modern economy. With little directly relevant training, and few blueprints to follow, he led the 1968 negotiations which led to the purchase of the gas stations belonging to British Petroleum, and the subsequent creation of NP. Then with the start of the oil boom in 1973-74, Alleyne led negotiations



The Late Doddridge Alleyne



The Late Doddridge Alleyne and Sir Ellis Clarke

for the purchase of Shell Trinidad and the creation of TRINTOC to manage Shell's assets. After Williams' death, he was at it again in 1985, when he participated in the purchase of TEXACO Trinidad -- the largest oil producer and refiner in the country – and TESORO. It was entirely fitting that during the commemoration of the centenary of

commercial oil production in Trinidad & Tobago (2009), Alleyne was recognised as a 'Pioneering Hero' for his work in these negotiations, and more generally, for his efforts to bring about national control of the country's petroleum industry.

He also led the discussions which led to the purchase of the local branch of the Bank of London & Montreal, and the subsequent creation of the National Commercial Bank, owned by the government, in 1970 – the forerunner of today's First Citizens. In carrying out these complex negotiations, and for other purposes, Alleyne travelled the world pursuing his country's interests, often in very difficult circumstances.

Working with Williams was never easy, and Alleyne was perhaps the most distinguished member of that coterie of senior public servants who surrounded him, to fall victim to his often inexplicable bouts of anger and vindictiveness. This eminent and manifestly honourable man, Head of the Public Service, was accused in 1975-76 of serious infractions of public service rules, interdicted by the Public Service Commission, put on three-quarters salary, and told to prepare for a formal hearing by a special tribunal. When the tribunal was finally convened, all the charges against him were suddenly dropped. Alleyne had been exonerated and returned to work; but Williams never spoke to him again, and he remained in the proverbial wilderness for several years to come.

In the last year of Williams' life, he gave permission for Alleyne to serve as a United Nations Petroleum Adviser to the Government of Kenya (1980-82). Here he drew on his experiences at home in establishing the framework and structure of the National Oil Company of Kenya. This international exposure helped to prepare him for the major assignment given to him (after Williams died) by the PNM government of George Chambers: to serve as his country's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations (1983-88). Here he sat on the Security Council for a term and actually presided over that body for brief periods in 1985 and 1986. He also chaired the Committee on the Arms Embargo against South Africa in the dying years of the apartheid regime. As Chairman of the Committee of Non-Aligned Countries, he helped to craft a Resolution on the Iraq-Iran war, which eventually led to the end of the conflict. His years at the UN representing his country certainly marked a fitting conclusion to his career in the public service. No one could question his claims to one of the nation's highest awards, the Chaconia Medal (Gold), for 'long and meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago'.

Doddridge Alleyne always showed a keen interest in UWI. For several years after his retirement, he was an Honorary Fellow at SALISES, St Augustine, and participated in many of its activities. Fittingly, his Oxford thesis has now been co-published by the UWI Press and SALISES. His posthumous book, *Export/Import Trends and Economic Development in Trinidad, 1919-1939*, will be launched by SALISES on December 6.



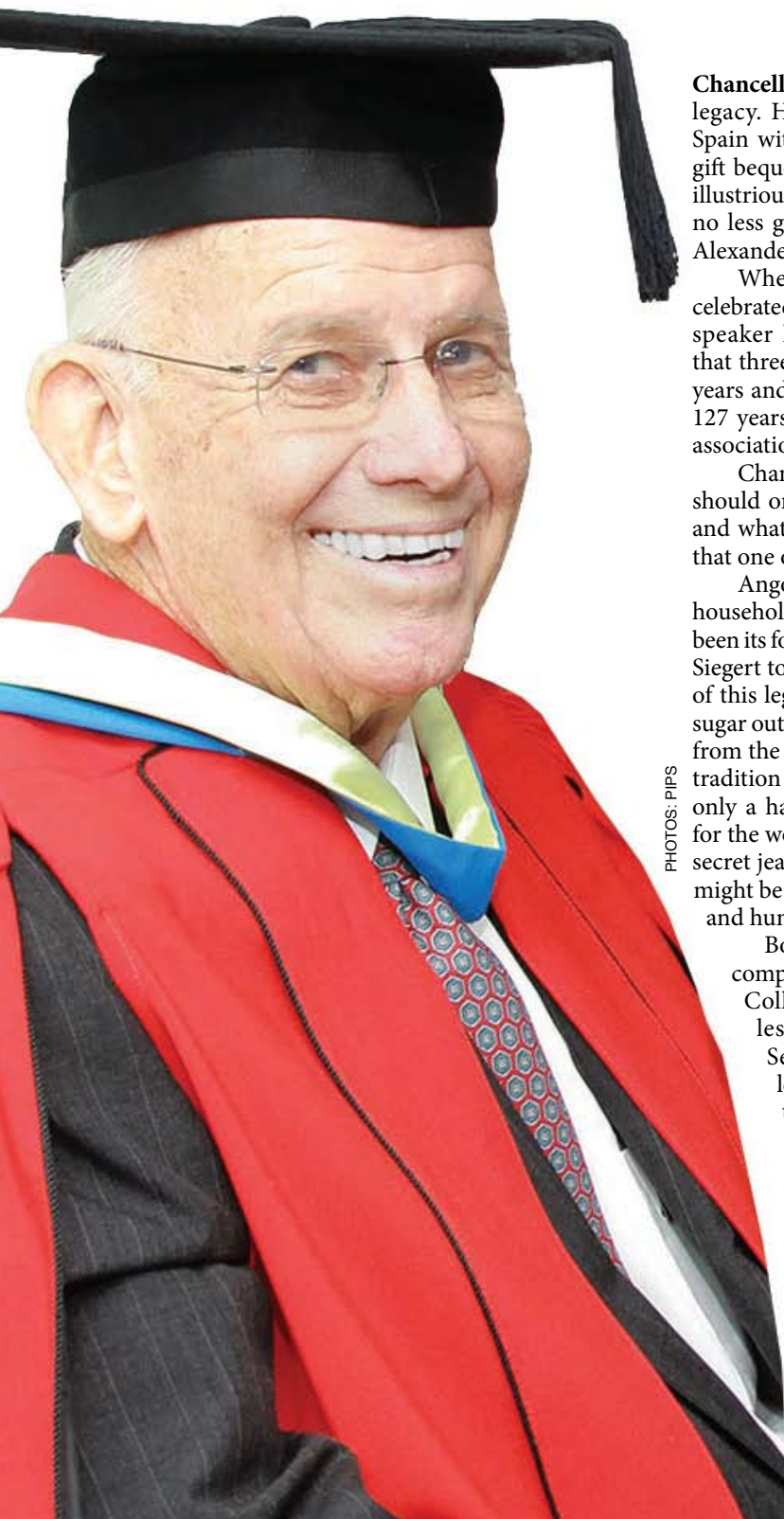


# GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2010

H O N O R A R Y G R A D U A T E

## A Truly Fine Spirit

This is the citation for the conferral of the degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa on **Thomas Gatcliffe**, delivered by the Public Orator of The UWI, Professor Surujpaul Teelucksingh, at the graduation ceremony on October 28, 2010.



PHOTOS: PIPS

**Chancellor, the Peschier family** left us a rich and lasting legacy. How difficult it would be to imagine a Port of Spain without the Queen's Park Savannah! – a generous gift bequeathed to all the peoples of this fair land by this illustrious family. But they left us another boon which is no less generous nor enduring – their progeny, Thomas Alexander Gatcliffe.

When the Trinidad and Tobago Business Chamber celebrated its 127th anniversary, Mr Gatcliffe, as the guest speaker had these words to say: “when one considers that three out of five business ventures fail in the first five years and few survive 50 years, it is easy to conclude that 127 years is an immense span in the life of any business association.”

Chancellor, 127 years is indeed a long time, but what should one say of a business that has survived 180 years, and what should one say about one man who has served that one organization for 60 years!

Angostura – a 180-year-old organization – is both a household word and a global company. Siegert may have been its founding father but Thomas Gatcliffe – the first non-Siegert to lead the company – has been the guardian angel of this legendary company. For beet may have beaten the sugar out of our economies but the fine spirits that emanate from the stills of Angostura have kept the great Caribbean tradition of rum-making alive. Thomas Gatcliffe is one of only a handful of people to possess the complete recipe for the world famous Angostura Bitters and he guards this secret jealously. And if keeping a secret is a fault then that might be his only one, for here is a man of modest stillness and humility and gentleness in success.

Born in British Guiana, he moved to Trinidad and completed his secondary education at Queen's Royal College where he would have obtained important lessons in leadership both as Head Prefect and Sergeant Major of the Cadet Corps. These early lessons were to prepare him for greater leadership at the highest levels and to prepare him for captaincy – a captain of industry.

He has chaired 11 blue chip companies and was a board member of 15 others. He has been President of the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce, the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Swimming Association. He has been a member of the National Advisory Council, National Productivity Council and Tax Performance Committee. He gave new and renewed meaning to the term captain of industry and his contribution to the business sector is incomparable.



It has been said that to repeat what others have said requires education, to challenge it requires brain, but to change it requires tact. It was during his stint as an independent senator in the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago 1971-1976 and at a time when the parliamentary opposition was in complete disarray, he assumed the role of a one-man crusader against an archaic taxation regime, tactfully arguing the case for modernizing our taxation system. The changes that ensued led to one of the most progressive taxation regimes in the region and positioned our country at competitive advantage, the benefits of which we still reap today.

It is not surprising that for all that he has contributed to nation-building he was awarded the Chaconia Medal, Gold for his contribution to business. When in 2007 he was inducted into the Business Hall of Fame his citation read in part:

“Many men go through a lifetime as good people, without making a significant change or contribution to the lives of those around them. Tommy is undoubtedly a good man, but he has also improved the lives and prospects of a great number of people, both inside Angostura and within the country and region generally. His working life has been one of achievement allied with humility and courtesy which is rare in a person of his position, and the standards of behaviour which he has set, not only for himself but for everyone working with him, have been quite remarkable.”

For all his undertakings, as many and diverse as they have been, he has been a man geared not only for success, but he has been a man of value. In the same way that it would be difficult to imagine Port of Spain without a Savannah, it would be equally difficult to imagine the business-scape without a Thomas Alexander Gatcliffe. Our University, in recognizing him today, is living up to its pledge to honour those amongst us who have stood tall and often silent.

It is with these thoughts in mind Chancellor, that I beg you to receive Thomas Gatcliffe – a man of modest stillness and humility and confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa.





# GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2010

H O N O R A R Y G R A D U A T E

## A Golden Voice

“I wish to point out that the suppression of a people’s culture, whatever the reason, cannot build a nation, regardless of inspirational tenets in anthems and speeches on national occasions.”

–*Hans Hanoomansingh addressing graduating students of the Faculty of Humanities and Education*

*This is the citation for the conferral of the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa on Hans Hanoomansingh, delivered by the Public Orator of The UWI, Professor Surujpaul Teelucksingh at the graduation ceremony on October 30, 2010.*

**Chancellor, no one will blame you** for not having any idea of where Cunupia stands. For it is neither north nor south, nor east nor west. It is not even central. Indeed that honour is singularly Chaguanas, the Naipaulian town just three miles to the south. Cunupia is neither Indian nor African. Yet for all its undifferentiation and apparent confusion, today our University in all its wisdom has singled out a quintessential Cunupian for celebration: Hans Hanoomansingh, one of Cunupia’s most illustrious sons. When the air was pierced by the shrill cry announcing his birth, there would have been little indication of the voice that was in time to emerge.

Chancellor, it may have taken 70 million years of evolution to create the human voice but it took Hans Hanoomansingh two decades to perfect it. For when he speaks it is as if melody wafts from some magical flute. But Chancellor, a pair of gilt-coated vocal cords is an innate and God-given gift and it would require much more to derive the honour that is about to be bestowed upon him here today.

So what brings this Cunupian before you? It is simply because he has led a prodigious life dedicated to journalism in radio and television. And as a journalist he was as versatile as he was competent – having worked as an announcer, producer, editor, news analyst and as anchor of then Trinidad and Tobago Television’s flagship news programme, “Panorama”. During his illustrious career he has interviewed hundreds of personalities, including South Africa’s indefatigable anti-apartheid warrior, Bishop Desmond Tutu and Calcutta’s angel of mercy, Mother Teresa.

He has produced, narrated and directed an enviable list of documentaries on people including all our past



PHOTO: PIPS

Presidents. Some use the airwaves to divide but he has used it to build – reconstructing lives of citizens and places. His pioneering programme “From the Silver Screen” was the most listened to programme on radio in the 1960s. He could produce documentaries on subjects as diverse as the Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha and the Spiritual Baptists; Christmas and Divali. This speaks of an ecumenism that is surprising for one who grew up in a remote village 50 years ago.

This ecumenical spirit must have arisen very early and from a most peculiar but highly advantageous spot. His home lay just opposite the Hassarath Road cemetery. This unofficial space was encircled by places of worship: the Roman Catholic Church to the east, a Spiritual Baptist tabernacle to the west and Mr Shoonon’s home – hardly a house – but a place where two to three hundred would congregate to hear stories from the “Ramayan.” In that village and from his perch on a front gallery, surrounded by places of worship and overlooking the cemetery, he would have a first-hand view to gain an invaluable lesson; that whatever our station in life, how equal we are when the journey ends!

Doubtlessly a consummate professional, it is his unparalleled contribution to culture that stands him apart. The 1990 award of a Hummingbird Gold Medal recognised his long and meritorious service in the areas of culture and broadcasting.

The Divali Nagar is but a lasting legacy of his vision, for 25 years after he first conceptualised and initiated this endeavour, it continues to flourish and to attract tens of thousands of participants annually to a place and a space for cultural expression. Its impact on the cultural landscape was recognised by Prime Minister Basdeo Panday in an address in 2000 when he remarked: “Few gifts of greater value have been given by a single citizen to this nation, this region and this hemisphere, than this wondrous annual Divali Nagar celebrations. Hans Hanoomansingh deserves his nation’s gratitude and our lasting love for the enduring service he has given to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. One of the striking achievements of Hans Hanoomansingh’s life of service is that while he has earned wide renown as

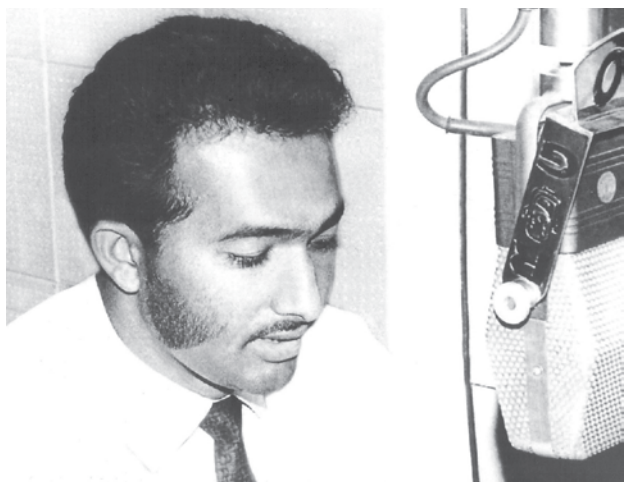
the President of The National Council of Indian Culture, he has been a significant crusader for multiculturalism in our society.”

His may seem simply a story of repeated triumph but there was early tragedy when, at age 11, he lost his father. His early years though harsh, could have been worse, were it not for a discerning primary school teacher who spotted his talent and encouraged him to recite on stage. It is truly amazing that an act so casual and seemingly insignificant could have such profound consequences. For when just a teenager with an incomplete education and the need to become a provider, he turned to public broadcasting, emboldened by the confidence shown in him by this primary school teacher. This message should not be lost on all teachers for they hold that immense power to shape and mould the future.

He was also to tempt fate when in 1966, at age 24, he went into national politics and became the youngest member of parliament in the Commonwealth. But he must have quickly become aware of the charms and dangers of politics. For aren’t we warned that all successful political careers end in failure? With this in mind, he quietly exited after a single term and turned instead to promotion of local culture.

Chancellor, when you rise to honour him you are recognising a Cunupian who has excelled as a broadcaster, cultural activist and businessman and who would want it to be said, very loudly, that he will graciously accept this most outstanding honour in the name of all single mothers like his own and of all primary school teachers like Mr Kenneth Phillips (RIP) who silently and often thanklessly, sow the seeds of greatness in young citizens.

Many make a life by what they get but Hansley Hanoomansingh has, by what he has given. And so, by the power vested in you by the Council and Senate of our beloved University, I invite you, Chancellor, to confer upon one of Cunupia’s favourite and most beloved sons, the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.



Mr. Hanoomansingh’s photos of his early and later days in the broadcast studio.



PHOTO: HANS HANOOMANSINGH





# GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2010

H O N O R A R Y G R A D U A T E

## The Rights We Cherish

*This is the address to graduates from the Faculty of Social Sciences delivered by honorary graduand, Mrs Diana Mahabir-Wyatt, on October 29, 2010.*

**I would like to begin** by thanking the University for this honour. To me, it is the greatest honour that I have ever received or will be likely to receive in this life.

I am also gratified to have been asked to address this gathering of new graduates. I have been to more graduation ceremonies than I can count, including a couple of my own, and I can't remember a single word of a single speech that any speaker uttered in any of those ceremonies. So I don't expect you to remember anything any of us say here today, including what I am about to say.

So instead of making a speech, I thought, since it is, after all, a cause for celebration, I want to pass on to you a couple of gifts that have helped me on my way.

The first gift is a gift that reflects an aphorism from the famous Danish Mathematician and philosopher, Piet Hein:

*Here is a thought  
That should make you  
Live longer.  
Whatever doesn't kill you  
Outright  
Makes you stronger.*

That first gift is to recommend that you be not afraid of making mistakes. You don't really learn anything much if you get things right all the time... it is when you really mess up and have to figure out what you did wrong, how you did it wrongly and how to make up for it that you really start learning about life. The more you mess up early in life and find out how to recover from it, the better the rest of your life is going to be.

The second gift I want to pass on is to tell you that, whether you know it or not, and the chances are that no one has ever told you, because most people in authority over you will never want you to know, you have Rights. Human Rights. Rights that can never be taken away from you. They are yours by virtue of the fact that you were born. They apply to all people everywhere, in school at work, at home, or in the community, and they cannot be taken away from you, although many people will try. If they are denied, you can seek redress.

Even children, weak and powerless as they so often are, have rights, although adults often deny this. The abuse of children in this society is endemic because adults do not respect the rights of children, not even the right of a child to be heard in their own defence, and so they are abused physically, sexually and emotionally. If you object to child abuse, you are already on the way to becoming a human rights activist. Beating children, like sexually abusing them is a denial and abuse of human rights.

Find out what your rights are and when someone tries to deny you or someone else around you the exercise of those



PHOTO: PIPS

rights, make up your mind to either accept the curtailment or to speak up and take action. You have a choice. Only you can truly decide to fight for your rights and for the rights of others or to give them up.

If you do nothing when someone else's rights are being abused, you will be creating the environment that will allow yours to be denied and abused when the wheel turns your way. Remember we are all only temporarily able-bodied. What goes around comes around.

That is the important thing about the observance of rights. If you want yours to be respected, you have to respect the rights of others. You have to actually listen to other people when they defend themselves against accusations, whether they be personal and intimate or public and organisational. It is up to you as adults to find out what your rights are, and learn that for every right you have, you have a corresponding responsibility.

The last gift that I have to pass on is the knowledge that all that life is, is about relationships. Everything you strive for is really to obtain, build and sustain relationships. If you want a home, it is to house relationships. If you want a career, it is to build and sustain relationships. If you want to look good, sound wise, to be impressive in your life, it is to build and sustain relationships. Spiritual power, financial power, intellectual power, political power ...are all about

relationships, and at the core of successful relationships is the observance of the rules of natural justice and the observance of human rights.

There is no other way. And make no mistake about it, Trinidad & Tobago, with all its faults and weaknesses is one of the countries in the Commonwealth where the respect and observance of human rights is greatest. The freedom of expression that is enjoyed here over talk shows, in print and e-mail would land people in jail in most other countries. Do you know of another country where the Chief Justice has been brought before the courts as well as the Leader of the Opposition? Where Ministers of State are fined for reckless driving and those who led a revolt against the State ended up being given scholarships to study abroad, and returned to head state enterprises? Where most of the Magistrates and a substantial chunk of the Judiciary are female?

Look around you.

Sometimes we forget what we have. But we must work hard not to lose it. Not to lose what we have through the entropy that the Chancellor spoke about a few minutes ago, and work hard to prevent the erosion that happens when people abuse power. There is no other way. Ensuring the knowledge and observance of human rights is the only way that we can pay back the country for what it has given you and me here today.



## HELPING HANDS



### Diana Mahabir-Wyatt

Diana Mahabir-Wyatt has been an untiring champion for the rights of domestic workers, women, children and the elderly for more than three decades. Born in Toronto, Canada in

1941, she grew up in northern Quebec, and at the age of 17, enrolled at McGill University in Montreal, graduating in 1962. She has lived and worked for most of her adult life in Trinidad and Tobago. Her first jobs were in education, first at St. Augustine Girls' High School and then at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus.

She is a human resource and industrial relations consultant, but her public profile associates her powerfully with social activism.

Mrs. Mahabir-Wyatt is co-founder of the Shelter for Battered Women and Children and the Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She has served on the boards of SERVOL and the National Self-Help Commission. She was a founder member of Junior Achievement and the Trinidad and Tobago Development Foundation, and is a member of the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research, the National Caucus of Women and the Network of NGOs for the Advancement of Women.

With this deep involvement in such organisations feeding her knowledge and concern, she wrote weekly newspaper columns for 15 years on related subjects, and produced and presented a 12-part television series on violence against women and children.

She continued her campaigns when she was appointed an Independent Senator in 1991, lobbying over her 12 years of service for amendments to laws relating to industrial relations, equal opportunities for minorities, children (the Children's Authority Bill), the Domestic Violence Act, the Sexual Offences Act, and the Cohabitation Act.

Mrs Mahabir-Wyatt was also a founding member of the National Insurance Board, serving as a director from 1972 to 1985, as well as chairing its Personnel, Public Relations and Art Committees.

She joined the Employers' Consultative Association in 1966, three years later becoming a director with responsibility for industrial relations consultancy, statistical research and publication, government relations, guidance to employers in labour and social security legislation, and workers' participation in management and supervisory and management training. She served as chief executive officer of the ECA and the Caribbean Employers' Confederation simultaneously for a period of around 15 years.

She was an employers' delegate from Trinidad and Tobago to the International Labour Organisation Conference in Geneva for 13 years, and she also served on an advisory committee to the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations.

Indefatigable campaigner, advocate and reformist that she is, she has established the Caribbean Centre for Human Rights, even as she remains the managing director of PMSL Caribbean Limited, a management consultancy firm focused on human resource management development.



PHOTO: PIPS



PHOTO: PIPS

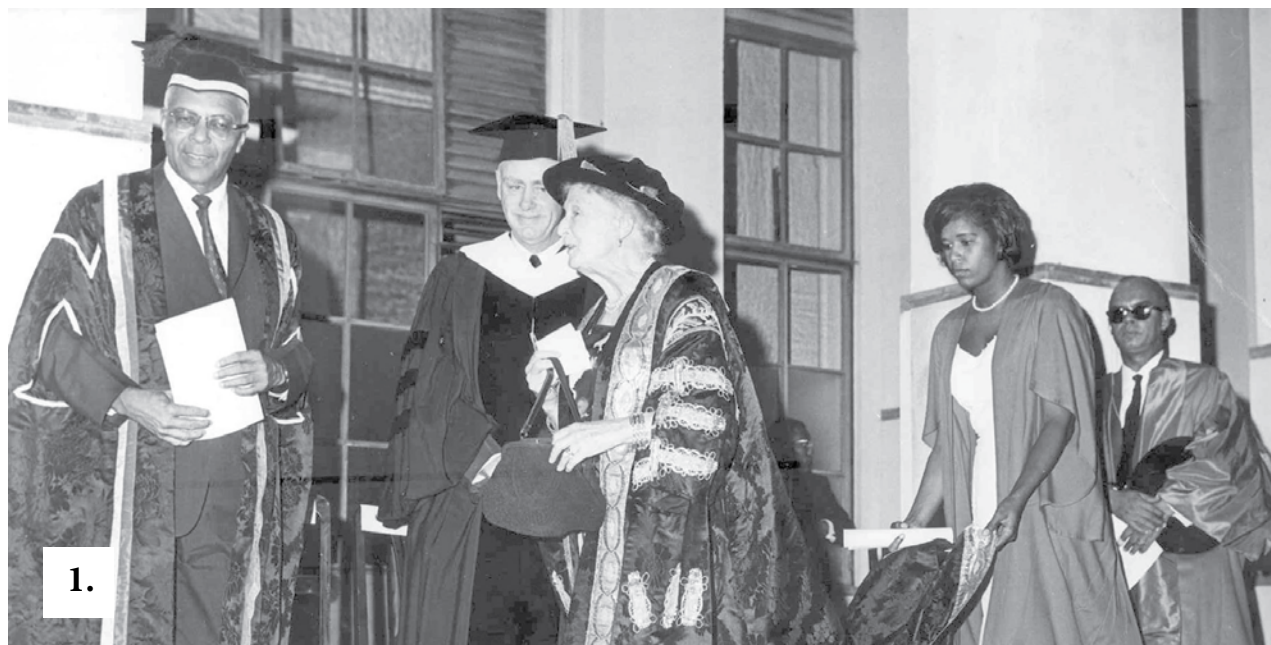




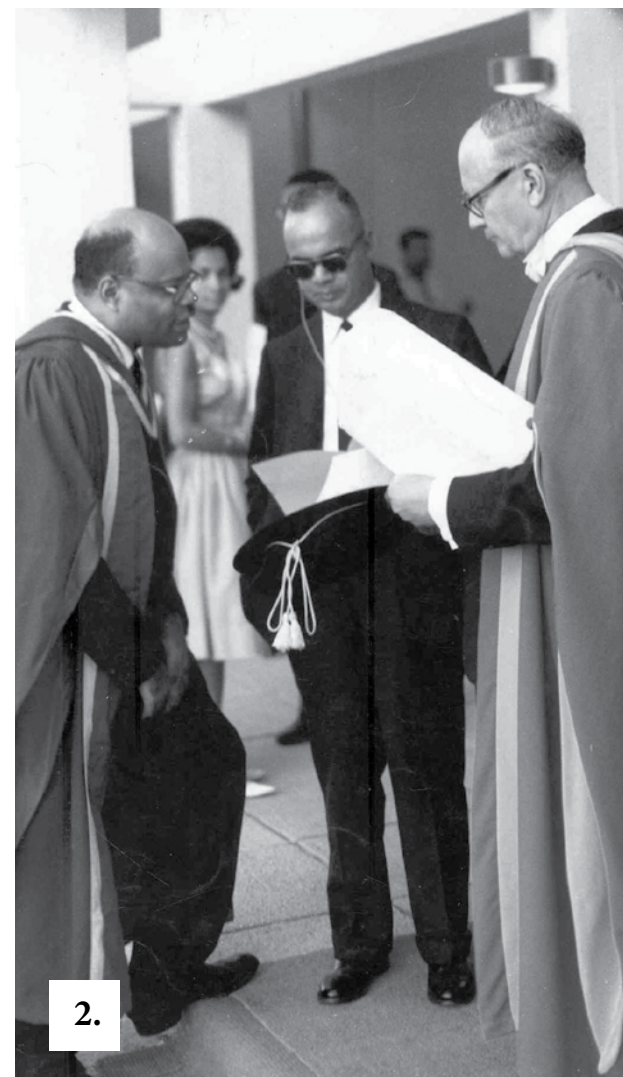
# GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2010

## Past Graduations

*Graduations of the Past courtesy the Main Library, West Indiana Collection*



1.



2.



3.



4.

1. The University College of the West Indies became The University of the West Indies in 1962. This was recorded as a March 1964 graduation ceremony. Principal Dudley Huggins who took over from Sir Philip Sherlock in 1963, with the Chancellor, HRH Princess Alice and Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams after the ceremony at St. Augustine. HRH Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone and granddaughter of Queen Victoria (1883-1981), was the first Chancellor of The UWI, and attended all convocations until she retired in 1971. She was succeeded by Sir Hugh Wooding.

2. Philip Sherlock, Dr Eric Williams and Sir Arthur Lewis (*undated*)

3. Dignitaries walk across the red carpet towards the rostrum as graduating students create an aisle for the first UWI Chancellor, HRH Princess Alice and the first Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr Eric Williams, to go by. The mace bearer leads the way.

4. At the convocation ceremony for the 1965/66 graduates, the new blue gowns of the University were worn by postgraduates for the first time.





# GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2010

## VALEDICTORIANS

### Go forth as Dreamers and Innovators

E R L E W R I G H T

If you are a student with family responsibilities and a job, you have to learn how to negotiate within the home to get support for your programme. Things will change around the house, and family members will feel you are neglecting them as you juggle work and study demands.

Erle Wright, valedictorian for the Faculty of Humanities and Education, dealt with all of those issues (and will continue as he pursues his MEd) and has some advice for students in similar circumstance.

“Learn to prioritize, know what is important and what is not,” he says. “Deal with perceptions of neglect quickly, honestly and openly. Gain the support of all members of the family. Spend quality time with them. Talk to them about what you are experiencing and make time to listen to them and their problems.”

Erle, who has been a teacher for more than 31 years, has two children, Michelle and Stephen, both of whom have graduated from The UWI, and knows what it is like to be on the degree treadmill, both as a parent and a student. With encouragement from his wife, Cheryl, he decided to return to studying to reduce the lethargy induced by the empty nest, and to “retool in order to keep abreast of modern learning theories and approaches in education.”

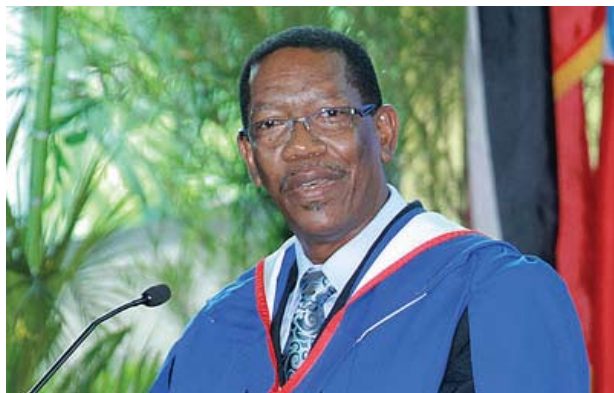


PHOTO: PIPS

At 56, he didn't find it too difficult to adapt, as he found that the “School of Education caters to teachers' professional development and thus age is not really an impediment to success.”

As an educator, he has a thirst for knowledge, telling his graduating class, “I must reject all barren conceptions of learning. ...I do not make reference to those lifeless,

mindless, sterile, quickly forgotten ideas, hurriedly crammed into our minds to pass exams. I am not speaking about those notions of self-importance, which we often imprudently and impudently arrogate to ourselves because we surmise we now “know.” He said it was about “enduring understandings” which contribute to development. “The education we have received should be to us a living, growing entity because we have learned how to learn.”

With his years of experience within the education system, Erle felt he wanted to get more involved in administration.

“Doing the BEd was precipitated by my perception of the sorry state of school administration and education in Trinidad. I am not sure however, whether the BEd has alleviated or heightened my distress over the present state of affairs in the field of Education. It would appear the without a fresh vision, the present policies, direction and archaic hierarchical structures will continue to drive the education system into the quagmire of despair.”

Erle is now pursuing the MEd with concentration in Youth Guidance at UWI, and perhaps by the time he is finished, there will be more optimism.

### Clean, Focused Energy

N A K I T A N O E L

Nakita Noel, valedictorian for the Faculty of Science & Agriculture, told fellow graduands that she was sure that theirs was “the most student-oriented faculty in the whole university.”

During her address she looked back at the transition to university life.

“Sometime very soon after the fun and relaxation of orientation week was over, we were struck with the harsh reality that this was no longer secondary school. Classes were in full swing, and the everlasting lab sessions began. The days of being spoon-fed in the classroom, seemed so far gone it was almost a figment of our imagination. The library became our close and personal friend and the stress levels began to rise. After all, I suppose they didn't call it ‘reading’ for a degree, for nothing.”

Confessing that she did not feel she was in a position to offer advice to her peers, she focused on some of their shared experiences and tried to extract lessons from them.

“We may not yet fully comprehend the value of all the things we have learned here, but recognise that if we do the things we are capable of, we would astound ourselves. The world requires a new generation of scholars who will effect a positive change and go beyond the call of duty; we are part of that generation. It is our responsibility to go into the world and do our part in bringing about this change by effectively



PHOTO: PIPS

applying our skill sets, making not only ourselves, but our families and our University proud,” was her conclusion.

Nakita, who was awarded a BSc Major in Physics and Chemistry degree with First Class Honours, intends to have a PhD within four years. It would require a lot of the dedication and prioritizing skills she learned while doing her first degree, as she thought the most challenging aspect was coping with the workload.

“To be honest, it seemed fairly overwhelming at times, which may be due in part to the fact that I was always picking up extra Environmental Physics courses. Some weeks I would have three lab reports due in addition to

tutorials and coursework exams. I think the only thing that got me through the stress was that I genuinely loved what I was doing.”

She was never daunted by people saying things were difficult.

“It has been my experience that the people who tell you that courses or subjects are hard and that the failure rate is very high or the material is impossible to cover; are often people who aren't particularly good at handling that particular subject matter. That in no way means that you will not be excellent at it.”

Nakita is now doing an MPhil in Chemistry, in pursuit of an ideal to help produce clean energy.

“Solar energy is currently the most promising source of renewable energy, having the potential to satisfy the long term energy demands of the growing global population. The main reason why it is not more widely used is that it is very expensive. The cost per kilowatt-hour is still quite high, mainly due to inefficiencies of current solar cell technologies. Finding some way to increase the efficiency of the technology would bring about a corresponding decrease in its cost, making solar energy more economically feasible for widespread use by the general public. I am currently working on developing novel quantum dots, semiconducting nanocrystals, which I hope would succeed in increasing solar cell efficiency.”





# GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2010

V A L E D I C T O R I A N S

## Touched by Threads

N I C H O L A S S E E M U N G A L

**Nicholas Seemungal**, one of the two valedictorians for the Faculty of Social Sciences themed his address on building relationships, not simply in the sense of networks that further professional advancement, but links that help to foster greater understanding.

He identified tangible gifts of their UWI experience (degrees, diplomas, certificates and expertise in their fields) and the greater, intangible gifts: “the art of expression through writing, the nature of critical thinking and the dance of group project dynamics” and maturity, lasting relationships and a great network.

“Were I to illustrate it visually, I would see it as a thread of energy linking me to the graduand seated first, and continuing to the last. The thread would have been here when we arrived, a connection left by those who assembled yesterday, as we will leave a connection for those who will congregate here tomorrow. The distinctive nature of the thread analogy is that we are all connected to one another,” he said to graduands.

He urged them to be mindful that the impressions they make on people would be of substantial benefit as they take their places in the world.



PHOTO: PIPS

“To build a network of true majesty is a journey that requires a lifetime,” he said. Nicholas concluded his speech by thanking those who had begun building the university threads and those who kept the connections: lecturers, academics, administrative staff, families and friends.

Nicholas was awarded the BSc Management Studies (Major) degree with First Class Honours and feels that with his solid base he would like to go abroad to do an MBA. Like all of the six valedictorians, the greatest challenge of his programme was working with others on group projects.

Some found it distressing when others did not pull their weight; all agreed that having to do it taught them important lessons in teamwork.

“A diverse group pulling together as a unit to complete a task can be rather daunting. Historically I’ve been more of a silent follower but pretty early on I ended up in leadership roles, and I decided to stick with it. The only greater challenge than working with such a diverse group, is in helping lead one,” was his response.

Like all the valedictorians, he also feels that it is best to find something one loves and pursue that as a profession or it becomes never-ending drudgery.

His advice to students is that they forge strong bonds with their lecturers. “As a budding professional trying to educate oneself, forging strong ties with lecturers can prove a huge boon; this goes beyond post-graduation references. Even during your programme you can learn a lot that would never come up in class just by getting to the point where you can approach and freely speak to them. I’ve received considerable advice and guidance on general development issues and even on projects from other courses. How many students ever do that? Not enough I’d reckon.”

## Love What You Do

R O B E R T S H I R L E Y

**Robert Shirley**, valedictorian for the Faculties of Engineering and Law, told his graduating colleagues that he had done a little survey of their feelings about their Engineering degree programme and they were unanimous that it was stressful, but they were equally unanimous that they would do it again.

The most important quality imprinted on them by the programme, he said, was endurance.

“Throughout our time here there were obstacles. But we pushed on through. And we are here because we carried on. My encouragement to you is that when you meet more problems, to face them head on and grapple with them until you accomplish everything that you have set out to achieve, my encouragement to all of us is to strive on. Many of us are currently searching for jobs and are becoming dismayed. But even in disappointment let us not lose heart. As one wise man once said, ‘If opportunity doesn’t come knocking, build a door,’” were his words of advice.

Robert, who was awarded the BSc (Eng.) Chemical and Process Engineering degree with First Class Honours, would like to become involved in management while still using his technical skills as an engineer. He plans to move on to a Master’s degree in Chemical Engineering.

Already he is getting the kind of experience he needs at PCS Nitrogen, where he has been working as a chemical



PHOTO: PIPS

engineer for a few months and applying the principles he learned to practical matters.

“It is a completely different thing when you study how heat exchangers works as compared to physically seeing an exchanger wide open and figuring out why it’s not performing as it should,” he said.

For those curious as to what his job entails, he collects and analyses data to monitor the plant’s performance; identifies reasons and solutions for problems that occur throughout the plant, and he identifies and implements means of improving the plant’s efficiency either by increasing production or by reducing the energy consumption.

Managing has been easier because of the lessons he learned at UWI, especially in terms of time management and teamwork.

“My degree often involved working in all different kinds of groups. I learnt to find each member’s strengths and to allow him or her to do what he/she does best. I recognized that it is important to trust and be willing to depend on others to do their own job and that it is better to motivate them rather than take away their responsibility if it doesn’t get done the first time.”

One profound lesson to him was learning to trust in being himself.

“In a large institution with large classes, it can be very easy to do what everyone else is doing. It can be easy to study from the same books in the same way that they do, organize your time the way they do or to do projects in the same way that they have always been done. I used note-taking and study techniques that were most effective for me, I kept a very open mind when starting projects or solving problems, I boldly asked for assistance/clarification when I needed it once it was appropriate to do so and I associated with people who were also open minded and who were as determined as I was in achieving my goals.”

His advice to students? Love what you study.





# GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2010

V A L E D I C T O R I A N S

## Cultivate Compassion

P R I Y A S A H A D E O

**Priya Sahadeo**, valedictorian for the Faculty of Medical Sciences, had been working for two months by the time she addressed her graduating class and brought her new experiences and insights to offer her comrades.

“I see people come in every day, distraught with their pain, and even after having sought medical care, they still feel as though there is nowhere to turn to – they still feel dissatisfied. These are the people who have interacted with every one of us, and my colleagues, they have expectations. People want us to listen; people want us to pay attention to them, to treat them as priority. We are professionals and we must accept the responsibilities that come with the path we have chosen.”

As she reminded them of the nobility of the medical profession, she urged them to keep a balance of “heart and mind.”

“We must cultivate compassion and empathy within ourselves, and endeavour to maintain those virtues throughout our lives, for far too often, the trials of our daily routines makes us immune to human suffering. We are all members of what I like to call the ‘Compassions Sector.’ We care, yes, but what exactly does it mean to care?”

Priya, who was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy with First Class Honours, had earlier described her passion for clinical pharmacy in an institutional setting.



PHOTO: PIPS

“I aspire to be part of the healthcare team alongside doctors, offering professional advice, and tailoring therapy and medication regimens based on each patient’s specific medical conditions and needs, in order to effect the best possible outcome. To best equip myself, I would like to pursue a PharmD (Doctor of Pharmacy) which is a professional doctorate degree and then do my PhD in a specialized field.”

Priya has always been fascinated with pharmacology, “I would read every bit of information available to me about a

drug before its administration. Then, I would marvel at the ‘magic’ of that pill I just took and its elusive mystery would only fuel my inquisitive nature.”

Whether it was her passion for reading (“My mother always told me that since I was a very small child I liked books...she even has a picture of me at the age of two walking around ever so proudly in the yard with a book that I obviously could not read.”) or a specific fascination with the magic of medicine, Priya found herself increasingly enamoured of the world of pharmacy studies.

Despite this, she believes that it is people and building good relationships that make sense of all we do.

“University for me was more than just a forum for academia. I devoted my time and energy to student organizations, committing myself to the Trinidad and Tobago Organisation of Pharmacy Students as the Public Relations Officer. With this experience came the opportunity to work alongside various noble charities. I have also taken an active role in my community via the Las Lomas #2 Women’s Group which seeks to foster the development of individuals within the community via various projects and events.” At The UWI, she also did a Certificate in Interior Decorating and a Leadership and Service extra-curricular course.

“I have found that when you love what you do, the word ‘work’ just does not seem right,” she says.

## An Instrument of Change

V A N D A N A S I E W S A N K A R

**Vandana Siew Sankar**, one of two valedictorians for the 2010 graduating class of the Faculty of Social Sciences, says she wanted to do a BSc in Psychology because, “I wanted to understand people and why they do the things they do, and I wanted to understand myself.”

It is the kind of broad response that only intrigues the questioner. She’d done English Literature, French and Economics at CAPE, something a little more specific must have been acting on her. Pressed, she reveals that her parents had both worked in different capacities at mental health institutions – her mother Leela was a secretary and her deceased father, Harold had been a nurse. Ever since she was very young, she believed she was adept at sussing out people quickly. She felt she was highly intuitive, and her interaction with others reinforced that feeling, and coupled with her exposure to the world of mental health, she felt psychology might be a good professional choice.

She graduated with first class honours and has already begun her MSc in Clinical Psychology at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex in Mt Hope.

Vandana has decided to modify her approach to her Master’s degree though. This time around, she plans to find a little more of that balance between study and leisure (the



PHOTO: PIPS

balance she has counselled so many others to seek) and to give herself a little more breathing space.

“I’ve always been convinced that you should do what you feel passionate about,” she says, but she also knows that her passions have made her a very driven individual. She is the kind of person who combined her studies with a range of community and religious activities. She thinks that she might have overdone it a bit, forgotten how restorative it can be to just relax.

She wants to change the world, she’s ambitious and has always been a go-getter. Maybe it is connected to the fact that her father died unexpectedly of a heart attack when she was just 12, and as an only child she felt a push to responsibility. Her vivacity, she says, come from her “passion for life and hunger for success,” but although that has not diminished, she is ready for an “attitudinal change.”

“I’ve decided not to pressure myself to excel at a certain level... I am going to excel, but I was driven by musts and oughts, and those things will drive you insane. I have to learn how to take care of the carer.”

Vandana says she does not feel her school days were as happy as they could have been because she was so driven. She didn’t give enough time and care to friendships and she regrets that. “My life can only be meaningful if there are people to share it with. I need to enjoy the journey, and that’s what the Bachelor’s taught me.”

As she stood before her graduating class, her parting advice was “visualize what you want for the world, and use yourself as an instrument for achieving that change, even if you do so, one person at a time.”



## RESEARCH



1.

# UWI Marine Scientist involved in Global Census of Marine Life

*A million species in the oceans*

Dr Judith Gobin, UWI lecturer (Marine Biology) was one of only 400 international delegates invited to attend the historic “*The Census of Marine Life’s – A Decade of Discovery Celebration*”. This event was recently held (4<sup>th</sup> to 7th October) in London at the Royal Institute, the Royal Society and the Natural History museum where senior scientists gathered to share their results and to consider their implications.

In one of the largest scientific collaborations ever conducted, more than 2,700 Census scientists from more than 80 nations spent over 9,000 days at sea, on more than 540 expeditions, plus countless days in labs and archives. Dr. Judith Gobin was one of these scientists (now known as the Census community) who contributed to this project and which culminated in an exciting celebration, as they presented to the world- the most up to date information on the numbers of species in the oceans.

The idea of such a census was born in the late 1990s when leading marine scientists shared their concerns that our understanding of what lives in the oceans was really quite inadequate. A Census of Marine Life (CoML <http://www.coml.org/>) was proposed (and began in the year 2000), the aim of which was to assess and explain the diversity, distribution, and abundance of marine life. The census was organized around three questions: What *did* live in the oceans? What *does* live in the oceans? What *will* live in the oceans? The census community agreed to report on findings in the year 2010.



2.

## RESEARCH KEY FACTS

You can find some of the key facts revealed by this timely census here: ([http://origin.coml.org/pressreleases/census2010/PDF/Census-2010\\_Public\\_News\\_Release.pdf](http://origin.coml.org/pressreleases/census2010/PDF/Census-2010_Public_News_Release.pdf))

- Estimated number of species in the oceans: one million+
- Species formally described in science literature (all-time): ~ 250,000
- Species listed to date in World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS): 200,000+
- Species described since 2000 worldwide: ~ 16,000
- Species described by Census scientists from specimens collected since 2000: 1,200+
- Estimated new species collected during the Census but not yet described: 5,000+
- Estimated percentage of species not yet described by scientists: Europe: 10%; South Africa 38%; Antarctica: 39 to 58%; Japan 70%; Mediterranean deep-sea 75%; Australia 80%
- Species with pages in the Encyclopedia of Life with vetted content: >90,000
- Species with DNA barcodes for their identification: 35,000



3.

The following projects were carried out within the Census (adapted from <http://www.coml.org/Highlights-2010>):

The **Natural Geography in Shore Areas (NAGISA)** project which “initiated the first global nearshore biodiversity inventory, sampling in seagrass beds and rocky shore communities using a standardized protocol to establish baseline information and long-term monitoring of nearshore sites. The project discovered new species and recorded species and habitats where they had not been previously found”.

It was on this rocky shore project that Dr. Gobin worked with the regional group (Caribbean and South America) led by senior scientist **Dr. Patricia Miloslavich** of Simon Bolivar University in Venezuela.

1. A close-up photograph of the sea cucumber *Enypniastes* caught at 2,750 metres on the continental margin in the Celebes Sea between Indonesia and the Philippines reveals its mud-filled intestine through its transparent body. Image: Laurence P. Madin

2. *Pholadomya candida*, the only remaining species of a genus of deep-water clams that flourished worldwide for more than 100 million years and were thought during the 1800s to have vanished long ago. Image: Juan Manuel Diaz.

3. Species thought to be extinct have been rediscovered. For example, Census scientists found a Jurassic shrimp, *Neoglyphea neocaledonica* thought to have become extinct 50 million years ago, and they also encountered a living Caribbean fossil. Image: Bertrand Richer de Forges and Joelle Lai.



## RESEARCH

**ROCKY SHORE SPECIES DIVERSITY (NAGISA PROJECT)**

A typical field sampling day starts at the crack of dawn – packing gear for snorkeling, scuba diving and sampling (like quadrats, forceps, YSI meters (to measure pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen, etc.), plastic containers, alcohol for preserving specimens, camera, GPS, notepads, data sheets.).

Leaving the University, the team (me and at least three assistants) endures the pleasant but long drive to Salybia, Toco. The time of departure is based on the low tide chart and we often need to be there by 7am which means starting off at around 5am. This invariably includes stoppage time for doubles or aloo pies along the way.

Once there, the sampling gear comes out. Everyone knows his or her job and we are all prepared to get wet. (In this photograph, three research assistants are sampling the quadrats (eg. 1m x 1m).) They are using prepared data sheets to fill in data such as: % cover for different species, numbers of species, species names, etc. Depending on the measurements or observations we need to make, the sampling may be extractive (where we actually take specimens away). These samples will be for taxonomic identification and/or verifications, and weights (these values may be used to determine productivity). Photographs of all quadrats are taken and the GPS location is noted; with all data compiled before leaving the field. After a hard (and long) day on the coast, the job is far from complete. Back at the laboratory, all specimens (plant and animal) must be prepared or preserved for future measurements and examinations, weights noted, etc. At a later date the specimens will be identified and catalogued and eventually placed in the Department's museum.

**INVASIVE/ALIEN SPECIES PROJECT**

Invasive/alien species (those that do not naturally belong to an area) pose serious threats to all marine and coastal environments. Marine vessels (ranging from oil and gas tankers to recreational yachts) continuously bring such aliens to Trinidad and Tobago and this may have considerable negative impacts on our ecosystems. Alien species are known worldwide to compete for resources (food, light, oxygen, space) and their survival and success cause disruptions in the overall ecosystem structure (such as relationships between organisms). Here in Trinidad and Tobago, two well-known marine invasives are the green mussel (*Perna viridis*) which was possibly introduced attached to ships (or in ballast waters) and the tilapia fish



**SPECIES ON BOATS:** The variety of faunal species which were attached to some of the vessels.

# LOOKING FOR ALIENS AND OTHER SPECIES

BY DR JUDITH GOBIN



**SAMPLING QUADRATS:** Three research assistants sample the quadrats.

(*Tilapia mossambica*) which was released accidentally from fish farms.

Our team surveyed (and sampled) approximately 32 recreational vessels arriving at two marinas (Peakes and Power Boats) in Chaguaramas. These vessels originated in countries such as Australia, France, the USA, Ireland, etc. As the vessels were hauled onto dry dock, the team was allowed

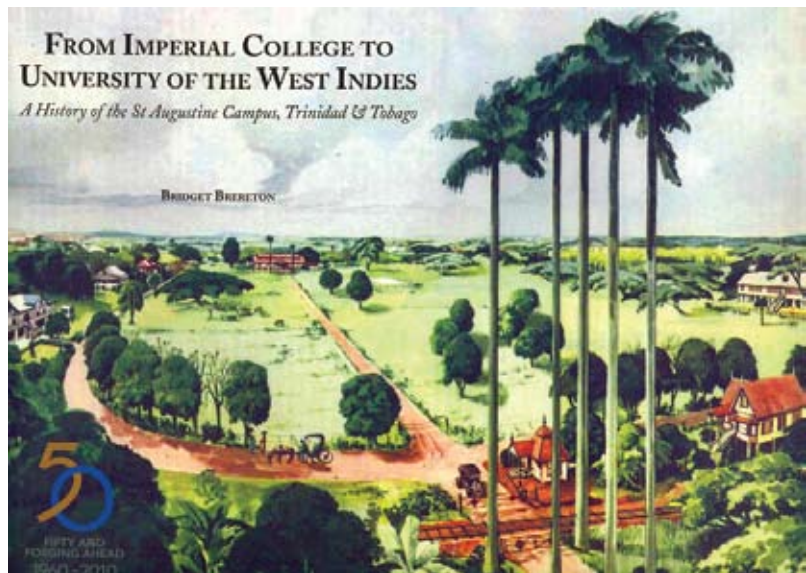
to scrape areas of the hulls (removing attached fauna and flora), take photographs and interview the boat's custodian. The structured interview contributed information on the make of boat, origin and itinerary (including port stops) of the vessel including cleaning activities.

All samples were placed in plastic bags and preserved in the field. The photograph below shows the variety of faunal species which were attached to some of these vessels. They include barnacles, mussels, worms, arthropods and crustaceans, algae, sponges, soft corals, bryozoans etc. A complete data set (including determination of alien species) is being compiled. To date results suggest that alien species coming to our waters from Australia, France, the United Kingdom, Spain, etc. are indeed using marine vessels as a pathway, hitching a ride.

Field sampling in the marine environment (the rocky shore as above) is very important for us to acquire knowledge about our tropical environments. It provides us with data and knowledge on: biological diversity (which we are still updating, eg. the CoML program), organisms and their interactions (eg. species interactions) and good baseline information. Such baseline information becomes extremely useful when there are episodic events such as the recent massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico (GoM). For example, the impacts of oil pollution on proximal GoM rocky shores could be determined by comparison of data from a "pre-spill" survey with that of a "post-spill" data set. Additionally, data from the Invasive species project will assist Trinidad and Tobago in better understanding the impacts of invasive species on local ecology and with the development of a management strategy.



BOOKSHELF



**From Imperial College to University of the West Indies: A History of the St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago**

*Professor Bridget Brereton*  
As part of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, the St Augustine campus of The UWI commissioned its illustrious Professor of History (who has now retired) Bridget Brereton to document the life of this campus. Her book, “From Imperial College to University of the West Indies: A History of the St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago,” was launched in October at the Central Bank Auditorium.

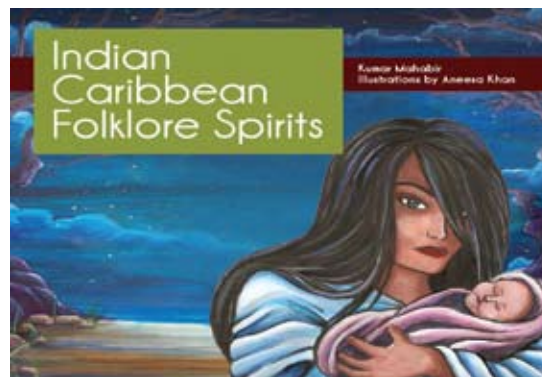


Professor Bridget Brereton signs a copy of her book, “From Imperial College to University of the West Indies: A History of the St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago,” for Angella Persad, first female President of the T&T Chamber of Industry & Commerce, and a member of the Board of Directors, Arthur Lok Jack GSB, while the Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat looks on.



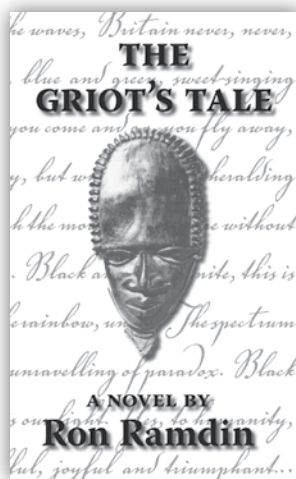
**Export/Import Trends and Economic Development in Trinidad, 1919-1939**

*Doddridge Alleyne*  
This book was co-published by the UWI Press and SALISES, and will be launched by SALISES on December 6. The work, essentially the Oxford thesis of Doddridge Alleyne, who passed away on October 8, is described as being as relevant today as it was when it was submitted to Balliol College in 1958.



**Indian Caribbean Folklore Spirits**

*Kumar Mahabir, Illustrations by Aneesa Khan*  
This book provides details of the presence of a brood of spirits believed to roam the Caribbean since the abolition of slavery. This compilation identifies some of these supernatural beings, such as the raa-khas – a deformed, demonic newborn child, the chu-rile – a spirit of a deceased pregnant woman, the saap-in – a woman who transforms into a snake, Dee Baba – a mythical protector of the house and land, and the jinn, Sheik Sadiq – a spirit who can be captured in a bottle to grant wishes. Written for readers of all ages, every page of the five stories is illustrated.



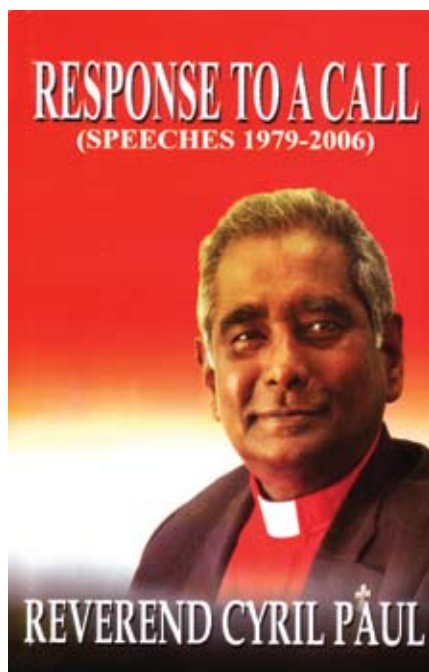
**The Griot's Tale**

*Ron Ramdin*  
In this atavistic historical novel set in the heyday of the British Empire, grand universal themes frame the lives of rich and poor, powerful and weak. Ramdin weaves an oriental carpet of one hundred and one adventures of five generations spanning five continents and two oceans. Through work and pleasure, spirituality and materialism, they experience love and hatred, good and evil, crime and justice, tolerance and bigotry, joy and sorrow, hope and fear, inclusion and discrimination. (Sally Radford)



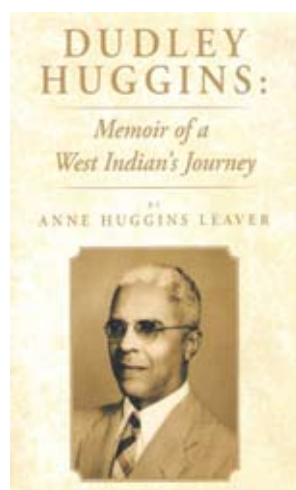
**God's Servant from India**

*Dr. Elisha Tikasingh*  
Dr Elisha Tikasingh, scientist and former lecturer at UWI, has compiled an affectionate biography of his father Butler, an Indian Christian, press-ganged as a schoolboy for indenture on Buen Intento sugar estate. This fascinating narrative follows the Tikasingh lineage from the crossing of two oceans on the S. S. Clyde, through hardships and education as a catechist in the Presbyterian mission. His children enjoyed academic success and prosperity in modern Trinidad. This beautifully illustrated volume is a blueprint for other Asian families to research their ancestry in the subcontinent. As ethanol from sugar becomes an ethical commodity to combat global warming, these families can take pride in their achievement in the New World. (Sally Radford)



**Response to a call: Speeches 1979-2006**

*Reverend Cyril Paul*  
Once Presbyterian Chaplain to UWI, Rev. Cyril Paul is a retired pastor of the Presbyterian Church and, in the tradition of clergymen, has published his thought-provoking sermons. His courageous stance appeals to democratic Presbyterians who view the state of modern society with dismay and despair. This sombre book will comfort those seeking solace in a troubled world. (Sally Radford)

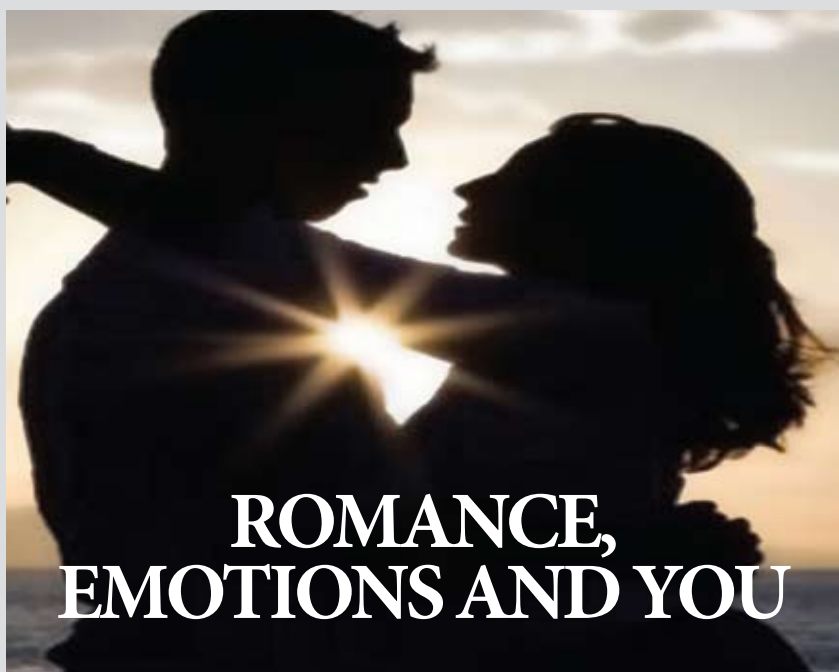


**Dudley Huggins: Memoir of a West Indian's Journey**

*Anne Huggins Leaver*  
This is an account by the daughter of a former principal of the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies, Dudley Huggins (1963-1969). Spanning a period of roughly one hundred years, it traces his life from his birth in Nevis, to his stay in Jamaica, where he was head of ISER, and his time at the St. Augustine Campus. It was originally meant to be a family story written for her English children and grandchildren, but somehow evolved into a story of the making of the West Indies.



## RESEARCH



**Have you ever snapped** at your spouse after having a rough day at work, and then wondered whether you could have stopped yourself from doing so? If you are having a good day, does your significant other's annoying habit seem less annoying? Emotions play an important role in our everyday lives. If we are upset or if we are happy, it influences the way we interact with others, the way we behave, and what we think.

**Mrs. Sideeka Ali**, a graduate student at The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, is pursuing an MPhil in Developmental Psychology under the supervision of **Dr. Nicole Albada**. Her research focuses on how emotions affect romantic relationships. Participants in the research are asked to fill out questionnaires about themselves, their emotions, and their relationship, as well as to think back on emotional experiences with their spouse or significant other. It takes approximately one hour and fifteen minutes to complete and all information is completely confidential.

Data collection has just begun and continues until December 21st, but Mrs. Ali still needs research participants. All individuals participating in the research will receive a stipend of TT\$100 for their time. Interested individuals must be over the age of 18. Mrs. Ali is particularly interested in participants who have been in marriages or romantic relationships for a long time, as much can be learned about emotion and relationships from these long-term commitments. Thus, individuals over 60 are especially encouraged to apply. It is also required that interested participants are in a committed romantic relationship for more than two years OR they must be married.

If you are interested in participating in Mrs. Ali's research, you can contact her at the following: [sideekaali@yahoo.com](mailto:sideekaali@yahoo.com) or you can leave a voicemail message at 662-2002 ext. 2401. *Please consider taking the time to participate in this research.*

## CAMPUS NEWS

## 3 NEW PROFESSORS

**Three Senior Lecturers** at The UWI, St Augustine Campus have been promoted to the rank of Professor.

On October 13th, 2010, the University Appointments Committee endorsed the nomination of Doctors **Dave Chadee, Hariharan Seetharaman and June George** to the rank of Professor.

"We congratulate Doctors Chadee, Seetharaman and George, and we extend best wishes for their continued success, as they seek to promote good scholarship at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus," said **Mr C. William Iton**, University Registrar and Director of Administration.

Dr Chadee is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Life Sciences, Faculty of Science and Agriculture. Dr Hariharan Seetharaman is a Senior Lecturer in the Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Unit of the Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences, Faculty of Medical Sciences. Dr George is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Education, Faculty of Humanities and Education.



Professor Hariharan Seetharaman



Professor June George

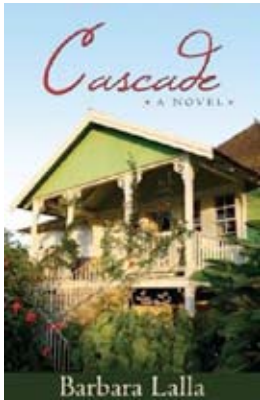


Professor Dave Chadee



# UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

## DECEMBER 2010 – MARCH 2011



**CASCADE LAUNCH**  
 Tuesday 7 December,  
 2010 at 6pm  
 Centre for Language  
 Learning Auditorium,  
 UWI St Augustine

*“Do not go gentle into  
 that good night.” “I write  
 this in blood on the walls  
 of my mind....”*

Barbara Lalla, Professor  
 of Language and Literature at the Department of  
 Liberal Arts, will launch her new book, *Cascade*,  
 which received a UWI Press Award in September  
 2010.

Prof Lalla is the author of a number of scholarly  
 books and articles, most recently *Postcolonialisms:  
 Caribbean Re-reading of Medieval English Discourse*;  
 and she has collaborated in editing several others,  
 such as *Created in the West Indies*, *Caribbean  
 Perspectives on V. S. Naipaul* (edited Jennifer Rahim  
 and Barbara Lalla). She also served the St Augustine  
 Campus as Public Orator for many years.

For further information, please contact  
 Professor Lalla at [Barbara.Lalla@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Barbara.Lalla@sta.uwi.edu)

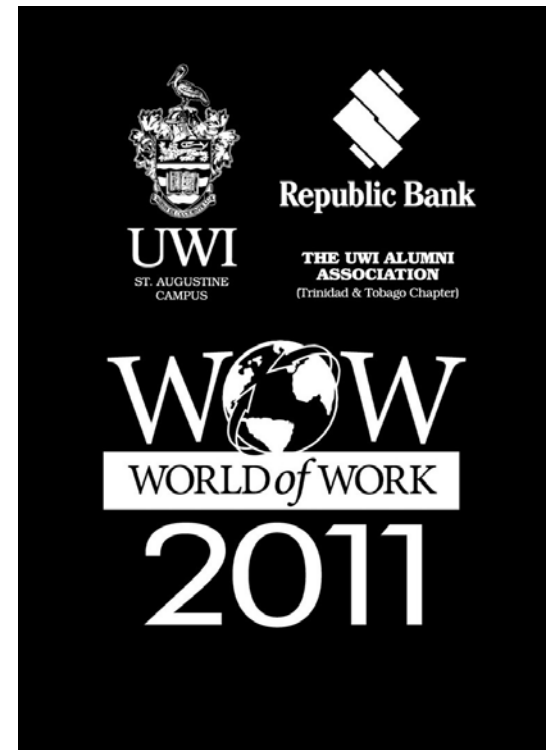
**SALISES BOOK LAUNCH**  
 Monday 6 December, 2010  
 Office of the Campus Principal, UWI St. Augustine



The Sir Arthur Lewis  
 Institute of Social and  
 Economic Studies  
 hosts the launch of  
 the book written by  
 the late Doddridge  
 H.N. Alleyne,  
 former Head of the  
 Trinidad & Tobago  
 Public Service,  
 titled *Export/Import  
 Trends and Economic  
 Development in  
 Trinidad 1919-1939*  
 (UWI Press). This

launch will take place on Monday 6th November,  
 2010, at 6 pm, at the Office of the Campus Principal.  
 Mr Alleyne, who passed away on October 8, was  
 conferred with an honorary doctorate by The UWI  
 this year.

For further information, please contact SALISES at  
 (868) 662-6965 Fax: (868) 645-6329, or visit the  
 website: <http://www.sta.uwi.edu/salises>.



**WORLD OF WORK (WOW) 2011**  
 26 January-18 March, 2011  
 UWI St. Augustine

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the annual  
 World of Work (WOW) programme, hosted by **The  
 UWI, the UWI Alumni Association (UWIAA) and  
 Republic Bank Ltd.**

**WOW 2011 SCHEDULE**

■ **WOW REGISTRATION**  
 26 January-2 February

■ **WOW INTERVIEW PREPARATION**  
 3 February

■ **WOW SEMINAR**  
 5 February

■ **WOW MOCK INTERVIEWS**  
 Faculties of Science and Agriculture,  
 Medical Sciences and Engineering  
 12 February

■ **WOW MOCK INTERVIEWS**  
 Faculties of Humanities and Education  
 and Social Sciences  
 19 February

■ **WOW RECRUITMENT FAIR**  
 17-18 March

For further information, please contact  
 Mr Chandar Gupta Supersad at 662-2002 ext. 2360  
 or via email at [Chandar.Supersad@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Chandar.Supersad@sta.uwi.edu).

**A CEREMONY OF CAROLS**  
 Saturday 4 & Sunday 12 December, 2010  
 Daaga Auditorium, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad

The UWI Arts Chorale, along with the National  
 Sinfonia Orchestra, will, for the first time in  
 Trinidad, give a complete performance of Benjamin  
 Britten's celebrated Christmas classic, *A Ceremony  
 of Carols* – a full length work for choir and harp.  
 The concert takes place on Saturday December 4  
 at Daaga Auditorium, UWI St Augustine campus  
 at 7.30pm, and Sunday December 12 at St Paul's  
 Anglican Church in San Fernando at 5pm.

For further information, please call 743-0841,  
 398-8576, or email [uwi.arts.chorale@gmail.com](mailto:uwi.arts.chorale@gmail.com).



**UWI FETE**  
 Sunday 6 February, 2011  
 Grounds of the Office of the Campus Principal,  
 UWI St. Augustine

Mark your calendar for the premier Carnival fete  
 that goes to a worthy cause. Proceeds from this  
 annual affair go towards the **UWI Development  
 and Endowment Fund**, which offers scholarships  
 and bursaries to students from all faculties except for  
 year one students. More details in the new year.



### UWI TODAY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

UWI TODAY welcomes submissions by staff and students for  
 publication in the paper. Please send your suggestions, comments,  
 or articles for consideration to [uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu).