



We've got the whole world..

From left: **Kavita and Karissa Singh** are twins, not identical, but sharing a zest for life so evident in their eyes. The two were part of the hundreds of matriculating students attending the formal ceremony on September 13. Kavita is in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, and Karissa, the new Faculty of Law; both received Additional Scholarships. PHOTO: VALDEZ BROOKS

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Pioneer of the Newsroom

■ Therese Mills



ECOLOGY – 11

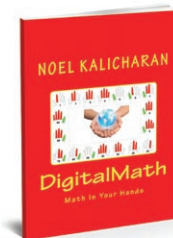
The Call of the Wildmeat

■ Forest food

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Naughty Pleasures

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Your Fingers will never be the same

■ Arithmetic solved

CAMPUS NEWS



Dr. Gelien Matthews



Dr. Chalapathi Rao



Dr. Geraldine Skeete



Professor Surendra Arjoon



Dr. Sandra Reid

REWARDING PREMIUM TEACHING

Two years after the Memorandum of Agreement was signed, the first UWI/Guardian Life Premium Teaching Award was presented in 2000. Signatories were the then President of Guardian Life, Mr. Richard Kellman and Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Compton Bourne, Principal of The UWI, St. Augustine. They were supported by efficient teams led by Mrs. Betty Ann Rohlehr, former Programme Coordinator of The UWI's Instructional Development Unit (IDU) and Mrs. Maria Mc Millan, herself a UWI graduate, and former Manager, Corporate Communications, Guardian Life of the Caribbean Limited.

The awards, under the leadership of Dr. Anna-May Edwards-Henry, IDU's Director, now occupy a premier position on the Campus calendar.

This year's awards were presented on September 28 at Daaga Auditorium on the St. Augustine Campus to five members of the academic staff. The awards are given to lecturers who inspire independence, control and critical or original thinking in students; encourage intellectual interests in new students and stimulate senior students to creative work, and exhibit concern and respect for students.

The 2012 awardees are **Dr. Geraldine Skeete**, Dept. of Literary, Cultural & Communication Studies; **Dr. Gelien Matthews**, Dept. of History; **Professor Surendra Arjoon**, Dept. of Management Studies; **Dr. Sandra Reid**, Psychiatry Unit, Dept. of Clinical Medical Sciences; and **Dr. Chalapathi Rao**, Pathology and Microbiology Unit, Dept. of Para-Clinical Sciences.

Dr Skeete is co-editor of *The Child and the Caribbean Imagination*, and has been published in the *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies* and *The Caribbean Teaching Scholar*. Dr Matthews is the author of two major publications, *Caribbean Slave Revolts and the British Abolitionist Movement* and *History of the Church of the Nazarene Trinidad and Tobago*. Professor Arjoon is recognized internationally as a leading author in business ethics research. Dr Reid has received several international grants for research in substance abuse and HIV, gender sexuality and HIV, and addiction education. She pioneered the Caribbean Regional Certificate Programme in Addiction Studies, and is Director of the Caribbean Institute on Alcoholism and Other Drug Problems. Dr Rao has taught for more than 25 years. He pioneered the pathology museum and clerkship manual at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, which has served as a teaching-learning and assessment resource for more than a decade.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Starting a New Journey



Two weeks ago, this St. Augustine Campus formally received just over 5,000 new students at our traditional matriculation ceremony. It was an occasion of great solemnity that we hoped conveyed the significance of the transition from secondary school to university.

In addition to building technical and professional competence, we recognise our duty in the academic community to instil a strong set of values and civic responsibility in our young charges, who we hope will be good citizens who

carry themselves purposefully into their societies so as to improve the quality of life in whatever discipline they may have been trained.

We try to accommodate students with good, upper-level matriculation qualifications, but unfortunately in some programmes, and because of intense competition, many qualified students are not accepted or may be given deferred entry. It is all very competitive, but it is the way of the world, and resilience and perseverance are virtues.

They are the cornerstones of leadership, which is what Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nigel Harris asked students to aspire to at the Matriculation Ceremony. "Our goal," he said, "is to create graduates who will be lifelong learners, who will have the people and leadership skills to cope with whatever the world throws at them."

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training had reminded students of the Government's major investment in their education but cautioned that, "GATE is not a right, it is a privilege which students in many developed countries do not have."

The economic climate will certainly demand agility at many levels.

As we welcome our new students onto our Campus, and build a cadre of leaders for the next fifty years of our journey as an independent nation, it is important that we instil the virtues of discipline, respect and hard work. We become what we repeatedly do and thus values that are embedded in our UWI philosophy and that can build and sustain a great nation: integrity, honesty, generosity and care for those less fortunate, must be practised.

CLEMENT K. SANKAT

Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal

EDITORIAL TEAM

CAMPUS PRINCIPAL
Professor Clement Sankat

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
Mrs. Dawn-Marie De Four-Gill

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS (Ag.)
Mrs. Wynell Gregorio

EDITOR
Ms. Vaneisa Baksh

CONTACT US

The UWI Marketing and Communications Office
Tel: (868) 662-2002, exts. 82013 / 82014 Or email: uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu

■ MATRICULATION 2012



A Defining Moment

The annual **Matriculation** ceremony is one of the UWI traditions that seeks to imbue incoming students with a sense of the gravitas of their status as university students and of academic life.

The ceremony, which was held on September 13, at the JFK Quadrangle on the St. Augustine Campus, was led by the Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris, and UWI Pro Vice-Chancellor and St. Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat, who formally recognised incoming students as new members of academia, invited them to sign the Matriculation Book (the symbolic signing was done by John Lee) and to take the Academic Vow, led by Kevin Ramsewak, UWI Student Guild President.

Addressing the students, Professor Sankat told them that the nation needs “value-based leadership”

and exhorted them to be dedicated to moral values and ethical principles. “Remember that every time we move away from solid principles we contribute either directly or indirectly to the ills of society,” he said.

The Vice Chancellor too gave them solid advice.

“Work hard, commit to learning new things throughout your life, try to be inventive and seize opportunities as they come, re-invent yourself as the moment may demand, but whatever you do, preserve your integrity; commit to doing what is right; speak up against the corrupt and unethical. Strive for success, but do what is right to achieve that success and to preserve your soul,” said Professor Harris.

A formal procession of the University Council opened and closed the ceremony.

“Remember that every time we move away from **solid principles** we contribute either directly or indirectly to the **ills of society.**”

PROFESSOR CLEMENT SANKAT

UWI Pro Vice-Chancellor and St. Augustine Campus Principal

■ Pioneers

Lloyd Andrew Philbert, of Curaçao, received a scholarship from the Government of Curaçao, which, his parents say is part of a pilot programme to have a group of 25 students study in the region. Lloyd is the only one coming to the St. Augustine Campus, where he has been accepted to the Faculty of Science & Technology to do a BSc in Information Technology.

Another singular figure is Ji Hwan Park, whose family relocated to Trinidad last year.

A Korean national, Mr. Park is the first Korean national to apply to The UWI, where he has been admitted to read Sociology in the Faculty of Social Sciences.



Lloyd Andrew Philbert, of Curaçao (left), is welcomed by UWI Pro Vice-Chancellor and St. Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat

SEA Matriculation

She signed her name in full – Rebecca-Ann Shania Jattan – at the end of her hand-written responses to some questions we’d asked. The careful script and the orderly presentation suggested that she had laboured somewhat over it because it was a grand moment of her life – which was The UWI’s intention when it first began honouring the top SEA performers ten years ago at its Matriculation ceremony.

“I am extremely honoured to be a guest of honour at the UWI Matriculation Function because to be only eleven years old and to be honoured by such an institution, I truly am grateful,” wrote the country’s top placed SEA scholar. She’d maintained a “continuous study pattern,” that did not mean shutting down extra activities.

And what does Rebecca-Ann see for her future?

“For now, I am thinking about becoming a veterinarian, this is because I love animals and the science field. I also like Law and French.”

Rebecca-Ann was one of 16 students celebrated by The UWI at the Matriculation ceremony on September 13. Deputy Principal of the St. Augustine Campus, Professor Rhoda Reddock presented her with a token from the University she might one day attend.



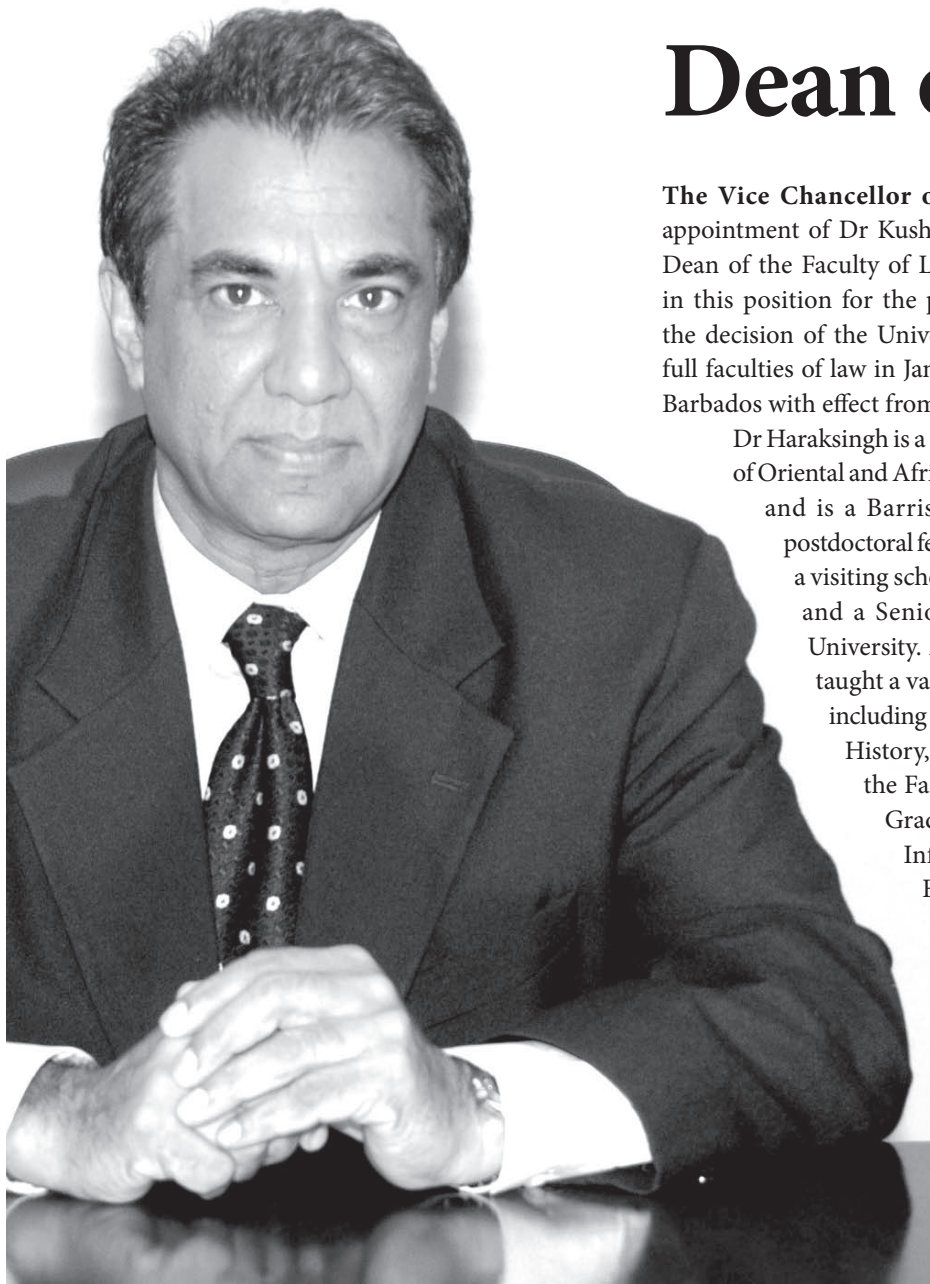
■ Research Awards

The **inaugural UWI St. Augustine Research Awards Ceremony** takes place on October 3, 2012 from 5.30pm at the Daaga Auditorium.

This ceremony is an initiative organized by the Office of the Campus Principal in collaboration with the various Faculties, the School for Graduate Studies and Research, Marketing and Communications Department and other Departments of the UWI St. Augustine Campus. It celebrates outstanding and accomplished researchers (both staff and graduate students) from the various Faculties. It is also about building awareness of the research at the Campus in the minds of our wider communities.

Two types of Research Awards will be presented at the ceremony: Faculty Awards and Campus Awards. The recipients of grants under the highly competitive UWI-Trinidad and Tobago Research and Development Impact Fund will also be recognized. This Fund is supported by dedicated funding from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Dean of New Faculty of Law



The Vice Chancellor of The UWI has approved the appointment of Dr Kusha Haraksingh as the foundation Dean of the Faculty of Law at St. Augustine. He will act in this position for the period of one year. This follows the decision of the University Council to establish three full faculties of law in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados with effect from August 1, 2012.

Dr Haraksingh is a graduate of the prestigious School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and is a Barrister of Lincoln's Inn. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Michigan, a visiting scholar at the University of Warwick, and a Senior Fulbright Fellow at Harvard University. At The UWI, Dr Haraksingh has taught a variety of multidisciplinary courses including Law and Society, Law and Business History, and Ethics and Jurisprudence in the Faculty of Medical Sciences. At the Graduate level, he has taught Spatial Information Law and Policy in the Faculty of Engineering, Advanced Caribbean Integration Law in the Faculty of Law, for more than 10 years has conducted the Globalization Seminar in the Institute of International Relations, and has produced several doctoral students.

Dr Haraksingh is an experienced university administrator who has been Chairman of the Institute

of African and Asian Studies, Head of the Department of History, a member of the University Council and Senate, as well as Chair of a variety of University committees. He advises the University on Pensions law and chairs the University Standing Committee on Ordinances and Regulations.

In public life Dr Haraksingh has been a trade union leader as President of the West Indies Group of University Teachers, a Senator in the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, Chairman for many years of Caroni Limited, Chairman of the Central Regional Health Authority, and Chairman of the Sugar Association of the Caribbean. Dr Haraksingh is also a member of the Cariforum and Caricom College of Negotiators and the region's Lead Negotiator for legal and institutional issues and for dispute settlement. He has been involved in a number of lobbying missions on behalf of the Caribbean, especially in Washington, Brussels and Geneva. Dr Haraksingh has been engaged as a consultant with several international organizations including UNCTAD, FAO, the Common Fund for Commodities, ILEAP [International Lawyers and Economists against Poverty], and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

In a series of successful arbitrations on behalf of West Indian cricketers Dr Haraksingh helped to establish their right to the ownership of their own intellectual property, paving the way for a revolution in their earning capacity.

For five years, Dr Haraksingh was a Caricom Arbitrator and Conciliator under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. He has been a Commissioner and founding Chairman of the Caricom Competition Commission since 2008, an appointment which he holds from the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission.

TWO TRINI PEPPERS

Battle for Hottest Title

Research traces the trail of the heat

BY MARISSA MOSES

Be it the thick, ripe clusters hanging invitingly from the shrub, the spectrum of colours in glistening market heaps, or a fine mince liberally sprinkled over a mango chow, to a true West Indian there seems to be no other that can put that special gleam in the eye or drool to the mouth like hot peppers.

As reported in the June 2011 issue of UWI Today, the Trinidad Scorpion Butch T pepper surged into the international spotlight as the fiercest stinger, capturing the title of “hottest pepper in the world,” and setting a blistering record in chemical tests. A few months ago, Trinidad peppers were once again thrust into the world news, as the Trinidad Moruga Scorpion, dethroned the former and took its place as the Stinger Royale, setting a new Guinness World Record of 2,009,231 SHU on the pungency scale. The frenzy that it created worldwide can be gleaned by simply Googling the word ‘scorpion’. But can this siren heat that beckons both researcher and the general public at large, improve the livelihood of our peppers farmers today? We believe it can.

If you are one of the diehard enthusiasts who believes that no other pepper in the world smells, tastes and burns quite like what is found in the Caribbean then you would be absolutely correct. West Indian varieties such as Scotch Bonnet, Congo, Seven Pot, Scorpion, Pimento, Tiger Teeth, Bonda Majaque and Bazouka belong to a different class or species to the mainstream peppers like chili, sweet pepper, jalapeño, banana pepper, serrano and cayenne, commonly consumed around the globe.

Scientifically, local peppers are called *Capsicum chinense*, a misnomer from the days when the fruits were believed to have originated in China or when the West Indies were thought to actually be China (depending on which book you read).

Recent research at The UWI, featured on the cover of the July 2012 issue of the Journal of the American Society of Horticultural Science, has firmly established these peppers as native to the Caribbean and northern parts of South America, giving us every reason to be proud of this heritage.

This landmark article using molecular (DNA) fingerprinting techniques clearly establishes the existence of a distinct Caribbean cluster or gene pool, which is a reservoir of raw genetic potential that can be used to build novel varieties. The article traces the Caribbean pepper’s origin through historic contributions from the Upper Amazon gene pool, indigenous to the region encompassing Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Colombia and extending into the Guianas and Venezuela. Another distinct Lower Amazon gene pool from Brazil has also been identified for the first time. This may not sound particularly earth-shattering to the average reader but to the plant breeder this information is exactly what is needed for the efficient conservation of this genetic wealth and to devise strategies to create better pepper varieties.

Like building a jigsaw puzzle, the publication also pieces together the molecular fingerprinting data with archeological evidence gathered by UWI’s History Department, to trace the likely dispersal pathways for pepper from South America into Central America and the Caribbean. One such pathway takes pepper from its Amazon basin through the Guianas into Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago and the Lesser Antilles by the early migrating Indians. Another pathway takes the



West Indian peppers are in a class of heat by themselves. PHOTO COURTESY THE RESEARCH DIVISION, MINISTRY OF FOOD PRODUCTION

pepper northwards through the Panamanian neck into Central America and the Greater Antilles.

Amidst all these exciting discoveries, researchers at the University are mainly occupied with the question of how these native varieties can be used to build a hot pepper industry that Trinidad and Tobago can be proud of; just as we are proud of our petrochemical industry that exploits our oil and gas reserves.

UWI researchers are committed to using the unearthed genetic resources to develop high-yielding, disease-resistant varieties capable of spawning a profitable hot pepper industry in the Caribbean and a global seed industry. What better way to paint the world red, white and black, than to build a future on the proud heritage of our natural resources!

The work on hot peppers is carried out by a team from the Department of Life Sciences of the Faculty of Science and Technology led by Prof. Pathmanathan Umaharan and including Dr. Winston Elibox and graduate students Marissa Moses, Sarah Bharath, Khalil Ali and Rabindra Ramjattan.

Marissa Moses is doing a PhD in Plant Science and is interested in investigating the diversity and population structure of *Capsicum Chinense*. She was the author of the article featured on the cover of the July 2012 issue of the Journal of the American Society of Horticultural Science (<http://journal.ashspublications.org/content/137/4/250.full.html?ijkey=VhQgOhho6d8m1sn&keytype=ref>)

“A few months ago, Trinidad peppers were once again thrust into the world news, as the **Trinidad Moruga Scorpion**, dethroned the former and took its place as the Stinger Royale, setting a new **Guinness World Record of 2,009,231 SHU** on the pungency scale.”

■ UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2012 HONORARY GRADUAND – THERESE MILLS

I JUST WANTED TO WRITE STORIES

The UWI St. Augustine Campus will confer an honorary DLitt on journalist, **Mrs. Therese Mills**, during its graduation ceremonies in October 2012. Mrs Mills shared some of her pioneering journey with UWI Today.

When did you know journalism was your calling?

I sat the Cambridge School Certificate, as it was then called, in 1944. I was 16 and I simply wanted a job to earn some money. My school principal was an Irish nun who taught English Literature and who frequently gave me an 'A' for school essays. She knew the editor of the *Catholic News*, an Irish priest and gave me an excellent recommendation to him. He was friendly with another Irishman who was then Editor of the *Port of Spain Gazette*. It seemed the word of one Irish nun to an Irish priest to an Irish layman was good enough to get me a job at the *Gazette*, even though it was not as a writer. I was assigned to the Library, which meant I had to do a great deal of filing of newspaper stories. To file, I had to read, and being naturally curious I became very involved in all that was happening in Trinidad. I believe it was that curiosity that hooked me. It became my wish to be a good reporter (the word journalist was yet to emerge). I wouldn't use the grand name "calling," I just wanted to write stories.

You've seen newsrooms from decades ago to now. Aside from the technology, what changes would you say have been the most significant?

The first major change is the role of women, who have taken the lead in the modern newsroom. Unfortunately this role does not always equate with senior management status.

When I started writing I was confined to covering weddings, tea parties, fashion shows. The hard news coverage was the prerogative of men. That has changed over the years and women now hold their own in every area of the media today. In fact, good male reporters are an endangered species, which is not in the best interest of the country generally.

Another major change is the way reports have to be concise, which means it is a good thing I was taught the importance of being able to précis. In the old days, verbatim reports were required for coverage of courts, legislative council and city council meetings and these reports filled long, boring columns. Readers certainly had more time than they have today. Even funerals required detailed reports of who attended, who were pall bearers, who sent wreaths, etc. Long lists of the attendees were included and all names had to be correctly spelt. Today, reporters pay little attention to the correct spelling of names, even when just two or three names are mentioned.

In addition to poor spelling, grammar has sadly fallen by the wayside. Anything goes and there are times when I pity the poor reader who tries to figure out exactly what the facts are in any report. Reports that should be the essence of simplicity are now confused, convoluted diatribes that raise more questions than provide information. Reports seem to want to impress rather than inform; but that is not surprising, since many in the media today tend to see themselves as "personalities" rather than as news reporters.



MRS. THERESE MILLS

Frequently, the reporter makes himself/herself the "news" inserting personal opinions in reports and leaving the reader sometimes at sea as to where the report begins and the reporter's opinion takes over.

What were the biggest challenges of being a woman, a mother and an ambitious journalist? Women today are saying that you really cannot have it all...

My biggest challenge was holding my own among a bunch of men, who, in the mid-1940s, considered themselves utterly superior to women. Work done by hopeful women reporters like myself was scoffed at and dismissed and frequently never made it to a page, unless it was a fashion show or wedding or a good recipe for pelau. I refused to be cast in a mould and decided the route to the newsroom was via feature stories about people of interest—which were reluctantly accepted—but fortunately, which readers liked. So my plan appears to have worked and acceptance of my work began.

I paid close attention to what was going on in the country, whether politics, business, social issues, even sports. I tried to keep my eye out for an interesting story to tell and went out of my way to get to know people, and what they did, from the highest to the poorest.

My real challenges began when I got married and had three children. My husband, Ken Mills, was what today we call the "academic" or "intellectual" with two first class honours degrees in Philosophy from London and Oxford Universities.

The "family" was my responsibility not his. This put extreme pressure on me as I was determined to have my own career as a journalist. (By now we were no longer reporters.)

There are times when I question whether I had bitten off more than I could chew! My work was growing more demanding. I was working longer hours. I got tremendous support and help from my widowed mother, but there are days when I firmly believe I should have given more time to my two daughters and son. They all did well at school, all graduating with Master's degrees. My first daughter is now completing the PhD in Education at Bristol University. I am very proud of them and their achievements, but I do believe I lost a lot of their growing up because of the time, effort and attention that I had to give to my career.

Now, if I had had a different type of husband... well, who knows! But I thank God for my children who have been such a source of joy and happiness. I thank God for my seven grandchildren and now I even boast of great-grands! I think women can have it all, but they need support from their partners.

Do you believe the standards of journalism have fallen as many complain?

Yes, standards have fallen—terribly. But it goes back to the education in our schools today. We are reaping the effects of poor teaching, poor parenting, and indeed and ironically, the technology that has made everything so instantly attainable. Take the ancient art of letter writing with pen and paper, where handwriting was practised as seriously as grammar, spelling and punctuation. Now one sends "text" messages which invariably allow no room or time for expression much less spelling or grammar. I am of course very old fashioned.

Do you believe that increased social media threaten the life of print?

I do not believe this at all. What a lot of social media has done is help to spread misinformation which is taken as gospel truth. People believe then can say anything about anybody and get away with it. I don't see how this can go on much longer as people will begin to sue for libel. Social media encourages instant response without thought and consideration or analysis. This is also true of course of print media but not to the same extent and hopefully the pleasure of holding a good newspaper in one's hand will always be available.

What does this honorary DLitt mean to you?

It means a lot to my family who have never accepted my fears that my career deprived them in any way. I personally have never been interested in awards or even recognition for doing a job that has given me so much pleasure for so many years. No other career could have given me the excitement, the satisfaction I have experienced. Do you know what it is to wake up every day, leave home for work and not know what the day will bring in terms of drama, excitement, good news, bad news?

■ UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2012 HONORARY GRADUAND – DEOKINANAN SHARMA

OPENING A WIDER SPACE FOR INDIAN CULTURE

The UWI St. Augustine Campus will confer an honorary LLD on cultural activist, **Mr. Deokinanan Sharma**, during its graduation ceremonies in October 2012. Mr Sharma talked about the assimilation of Indian culture into the national psyche.

You returned to Trinidad from your studies in India in 1962, the year of Independence. In those fifty years you have been involved in opening a wider space for Indian culture within the society. What was its public space like during the first decade after Independence?

On my return from India in 1962, where I was a student for six years, I had little information of what had happened in Trinidad and Tobago. My only contacts over those years were through letters, the blue aerogram kind, from my father and brother and were mainly news of family matters essentially. There was no internet, television, telephone so I had virtually lost touch.

Once home I discovered that the Indian cultural group that I had started in Debe, my home town, called Society of Indian Art and Music (SIAM), and the Indian orchestra bearing the same name had vanished. Inadequate leadership, lack of interest and funding were some of the major reasons given to me. I discovered that key persons from the groups had migrated to greener pastures in North America.

My village had shown remarkably little growth. It was still a very agricultural village growing watermelons, bodi, pumpkins, tomatoes, and so on, with employment still hinged around the sugar industry. Telephones and television had not yet invaded Debe. Electricity was available and radio, through Radio Trinidad and Rediffusion, was accessible for those who could have afforded the costs. A half-hour Indian cultural programme on radio had been minimally increased to one hour per week. A gas station and a primary school, the Debe Hindu School, were new additions to the Debe landscape. The Hindu school was the former Krishna Mandir built by my father and handed over to the Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha in the latter's frantic drive to build as many schools as possible to take care of the still largely neglected education of the Hindu/east Indian children. Business in the village comprised a Chinese-run grocery and rumshop, two smaller versions of the Chinese shop run by east Indians, a blacksmith and a shoemaker run by Africans.

That is what I met in the months following Independence in my village and which I later found out mirrored to a large extent the situation in many of the rural areas in our country.

Indian culture was still on the backburners of the cultural mainstream with little or no recognition given by Government officially. A trophy or two would have been the major contribution by the Government to East Indian cultural ventures. East Indian culture was left largely to those persons who, for the love of the culture, ensured that it did not pass into oblivion. These activists in 1964



MR. DEOKINANAN SHARMA

formed the National Council of Indian Music and Drama, later to emerge as the National Council of Indian Culture (NCIC).

Indian culture was mainly a small village affair, practised at weddings, village temples, and at religious gatherings like Yagnas, Pujas, Divali celebrations, and so on. It was exclusively within the East Indian community with little effort made to go beyond.

Then came the declaration of Divali as a national holiday in 1966. The Maha Sabha through Bhadase Sagan Maraj organized the first national celebration of an East Indian festival at Gopaul Lands in Marabella, taking it out of the confines of the East Indian village. I was an active member of the organizing committee. It was a tremendous success, ran for three consecutive years, and had the effect of alerting the wider community that there were other strong cultural practices in our nation.

For the 10th anniversary celebrations of our

Independence, the NCIC organized a series of cultural performances throughout the country. We approached the Government for financial assistance, and a delegation comprising Hans Hanoomansingh, Narsaloo Ramaya and myself met with the Minister responsible for the celebrations. He offered the princely sum of \$10,000 with the proviso that at no time were we to announce that the Government had supported the NCIC's programme as East Indian culture was not considered as part of Trinbagonian culture. This was the public space in which East Indian culture operated during the first decade after independence.

What would you most like to see in the development of Indian culture in Trinidad and Tobago?

I would like to see our culture in its traditional forms retained and propagated alongside the new developments in our cultural practices. Too many of our cultural traditions have been lost forever. Local Indian classical singing is one of our traditional cultural forms that has thus far survived, but is in danger of being lost. This has been recognized and strenuous efforts are now being made to ensure its survival. I would also like to see the NCIC cultural complex in Chaguanas develop fully, making it a cultural mecca second to none, where patrons and visitors can come, experience and participate in the rich culture of the Indo-Trinbagonian in all its glory. Finally, I would like to see equitable treatment of the culture. The policy of multiculturalism is a step in the right direction but I would like to see this policy properly defined, explained, debated and made official government policy.

What does this honorary degree mean to you?

To me it means that Indian culture is taking its rightful place in the cultural space of my country, Trinidad and Tobago, as premier institutions such as The University of the West Indies take note of the efforts of those who have toiled voluntarily for most of their lives to ensure the survival and growth of an intrinsic part of the culture of our beloved homeland.

I am the son of an East Indian indentured labourer who came to Trinidad in search of a better life, a labourer who was totally unlettered in the English language and who toiled on the sugar plantation at Williamsville. That his son today is being honoured by such a prestigious institution is cause for much satisfaction to me personally, my family and my ancestors.

I have been taught to live by the dictum enunciated by Lord Krishna in the Bhagwat Gita as follows: "Your right is to work only, but never to the fruit thereof."

I have followed this injunction as faithfully as I could and though I never looked for rewards, I gratefully and humbly accept the honorary degree as recognition of my lifelong voluntary work in the promotion and preservation of our culture. There is much more to be done and I vow to continue as long as I can.

(Please visit our website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/default.asp> for the full version of this article)

■ UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2012 HONORARY GRADUAND – MICHAEL MANSOOR

TO DO MORE WITH LESS

The UWI St. Augustine Campus will confer an honorary LLD on banker, **Mr. Michael Mansoor**, during its graduation ceremonies in October 2012. Mr Mansoor shared some thoughts on a country that may have come of age.

As a former Campus Council Chairman, you probably take a close interest in the development of The UWI, if you had to identify two areas where you think it needs to put special attention in terms of regional development, what would they be?

First of all I believe UWI is a Caribbean success story and one of the institutions that is a source of West Indian pride. UWI has over the decades met and often exceeded reasonable regional expectations.

That said, UWI, like all developing organizations, is a “work in progress” and therefore has to continually adjust and adapt its strategic objectives programmes and initiatives to remain relevant in a globalized and ever changing world.

One major challenge is the reality of global competition and the obvious need to ensure that our educational output is world class and prepares our graduates for the fiercely competitive arena that globalization has created. The reality is that in just about every field of endeavour our graduates have to match their skills and acumen with the best in the world because the world has become a small village and more and more, customers have ready access to global choices. Even cultural artefacts and mementoes get manufactured elsewhere because of quality, cost and scale.

I have no doubt that our students have the ability and the smarts to be among the world’s best. The challenge for UWI today and the future is to ensure that our students get the best in terms of course content, faculty, research opportunities, and the often very costly infrastructure that having the best entails. For us with limited size and scale and island economies that are often stressed, this is often not readily achievable and requires that we do more with less. The choices and decisions are however, not simple and straightforward, and even obvious solutions like specialization in this or that field have to be rationalized with the need to be “all things to all men” in a region where students have limited opportunities.

Another area of opportunity is to explore the efficiencies of more integration among the various campuses. We have seen the phenomenon of several business houses in the region attempting to create West Indian organizations rather than a series of individual businesses in different countries with some degree of success.

The possibilities and the problems are similar to those that have bedevilled other attempts to regionalize trade, economics, jurisprudence and the hugely more complex minefield of political governance. However, I sense that UWI is perhaps one of the few major organizations that can benefit greatly from the exploration of this option as in the end it will make it easier for us to compete globally because of the benefits of specialization, scale and focus.



MR. MICHAEL MANSOOR

None of this however makes me alter my view that UWI has achieved far more than we could have hoped for over its relatively short history.

What or who would you say has been the most powerful influence on your life?

An accurate answer about the single most powerful influence in one’s life perhaps requires a level of self knowledge and introspection that may have eluded me.

In my case, my dear mother was the greatest teacher and motivator and perhaps understood best how to get me to stay on the narrow road. She taught the values and the qualities of the “heart” that guide me to this day.

She also knew and taught life’s skills, and indeed I remember clearly the exact time and place when she finally

impressed upon me that doing well academically was the only way I could make a “success” of life.

If I had to single out one teacher who altered my outlook and perspective on life’s possibilities, it was Father Pedro Valdez at St. Mary’s College. Despite his over arching responsibilities as Principal of the College he had the ability to reach and motivate individual students at critical turning points in their journey. Clearly there were others and I am particularly grateful to Father Knolly Knox and Fr Toba Valdez for their most significant interventions.

The early influencers are the most powerful, but of course, lifelong friends, mentors and most importantly, Maureen, my wife of 42 years, and our two children, Allan and Natalie, mould and shape life’s experiences.

I am grateful to all.

At 50, where would you say Trinidad and Tobago has done its best?

At 50, Trinidad and Tobago has done well to preserve our democracy and has managed well the fundamental difficulties of diversity in ethnicity, religion and relative achievement, broadly defined.

Clearly we had our skirmishes with disorder, but we can be proud of the maintenance of the most important of our political institutions in those times of stress. The peaceful transfers of executive power between the major political groups over the years in all this diversity constitute a major accomplishment.

We can also, I think, be very proud of our economic and cultural achievements. The deeper monetization of our natural resources, the creation of the petro chemical sector and our credible successes in light manufacturing and the service economy are major achievements and we can be very proud of the people who made this possible, both from the public, and local and international private sectors. Culturally, we are easily defined and easily differentiated and the evolution of our art forms and modes of expression attests to the richness and uniqueness of our core identity and our innate creativity.

In the end, it is our people that we have to be most proud of and the talents and acumen and the diversity that they individually bring to the table and I am thinking of so many of our citizens who have done so well right here in T&T and abroad.

You have not asked the question as to whether we can safely say that we have done our best or what we could have done better. That of course is a much more challenging question particularly if one is asked for precise and detailed prescriptions to remedy any perceived deficiencies... more challenging, but more in line with the national discourse and dialogue as I hear it.

What does this honorary LLD degree mean to you?

There are the usual emotions of surprise, humility and gratitude. In the end one gets to a realization that to those whom much is given, even more is expected. Essentially the award is a challenge to do more and to contribute more. A challenge indeed!

■ ENVIRONMENT

Where The Wild Things Are



Trinbagonians are connoisseurs of wild meat: agouti, lappe, wild hog, deer, maniocou. It matters not the price; which ranges from \$40 per pound for agouti to up to \$150 per pound for wild hog. Trinidad and Tobago's population looks forward to the hunting season (October to February) every year to acquire their portion of wild meat. Hunter return cards for 2010 to 2011 at the Forestry Division indicate that over 7,167 agouti, 2,797 lappe, 1,193 wild hogs and 3,081 deer were harvested from our forests. The figures are unsustainably high. Even the hunters complain that it takes longer to catch an animal and they have to go further into the forests to do so.

On September 8, Minister of Environment and Water Resources, Ganga Singh, revealed that the reported overall figure for the past year was 20,000, but said this was more realistically around 50,000. The Minister noted that these were unacceptably high figures that threatened the ecological balance of the islands and recommended that we look towards neighbours like Guyana as possible sources for importing the popular meat.

There are other options as well.

Professor Gary Garcia, a Livestock Production Specialist in the Department of Food Production at UWI's Faculty of Food and Agriculture, has been rearing and encouraging the rearing of wildlife since 1994. He has had the foresight to initiate research and collaboration with several local wildlife farmers and neo-tropical countries in

Latin America to share and discuss information on some of the animal species indigenous to this region. He and 10 of his graduate students, together with four UTT staff and students, attended the 10th Conference on Amazonian Wildlife [XCIMFAUNA] in Salta, Argentina recently.

CIMFAUNA is the International Congress on the Management of Amazonian and Latin American Wildlife, which was organized to help advance and improve the management of wildlife or neo-tropical animals (non-domesticated animals of the New World: Central America, South America and the Caribbean). This is the only conference of its kind in the world which focuses solely on neo-tropical animals. Progress in wildlife management has been made through a variety of initiatives that focused attention on studies and management programmes that integrated information on wildlife populations with the socio-economic human population around them, recipients of direct wildlife resource use, in order to benefit from the lessons learned, evaluating the achievements and constraints encountered in developing them.

This year, the organizing committee approved the unanimous recommendation for Trinidad and Tobago to host the XICIMFAUNA in August 2014. The XICIMFAUNA will be hosted by The UWI, under the new Faculty of Food and Agriculture in collaboration with UTT as well as other stakeholders.



Prof. Gary Garcia (centre) and the contingent celebrate after winning the bid to host the next conference. Fifteen persons comprising lecturers, PhD and MSc students, journeyed to Salta, Argentina in May 2012. This was the largest contingent from a non-Spanish speaking country to ever attend the CIMFAUNA since its inception in 1992.

Wise Use of Our Water

By Rajesh Kandhai

The environmental issues associated with water consumption include resource depletion as well as the impacts associated with treating water to bring it to a quality fit for consumption. In Trinidad and Tobago, this involves chlorination (destroying pathogens in the untreated water) and use of flocculants (removing sediment).

Additionally the impacts of water shortage are well known. We have experienced severe dry spells in the past. According to the ODPM, a severe drought was experienced in the last three months of 2009 extending into the first quarter of 2010. Individuals should adapt lifestyles to more fully integrate water conservation practices into daily routines as these can ease the effects of a drought.

In many parts of Trinidad we are still paying fixed water rates domestically. There are now efforts to install meters and charge consumers based on actual consumption, which will eventually drive consumption behaviors. The following are tips from the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) regarding domestic water conservation.

■ CHECK FOR LEAKS

- Inspect all pipes and taps and repair leaks as soon as possible.
- Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food colouring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, colour will appear in the toilet bowl within 30 minutes.
- Repair dripping faucets. A faucet dripping at a rate of one drop per second wastes 10,000 litres per day.

■ THE UTILITY ROOM

- Operate automatic dishwashers and clothes washers with full loads.
- Hand wash. Soak clothing with the smallest possible quantity of low sudsing detergent. Pre-soak very dirty items overnight.
- When buying a new washing machine, select one that uses the least water per pound of wash and check energy consumption.
- Re-use rinse water for watering plants and lawns.

■ THE KITCHEN

- Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or use the defrost setting on your microwave.
- Use a vegetable brush for fruits and vegetables.
- Hand sprayers should be used sparingly with short bursts of water.
- Hand wash efficiently. Soak pots and pans overnight if very dirty. Cut down on clean-up by serving more single dish meals.

■ WASTE GENERATION

According to the Sustainability Report 2012 for Trinidad and Tobago, approximately 1000 tonnes of waste reaches our landfills daily. The waste generated per person ranges from 0.55kg in rural areas to 1.75kg in commercialised areas reducing our domestic waste generation can be achieved in the following ways:

- Reuse, Reduce, Recycle, Repair, e.g. choose reusable water bottles instead of a new one everyday; reuse bottles, smarter purchasing, choose items with less packaging, use and install recycle bins (many recycle collection companies operate locally now).
- Composting (much of the waste reaching landfills are items that can be composted and used as fertilizers at home).

Reducing our impact on the environment is a collective effort and requires people who care and who are informed.

Rajesh Kandhai is Manager, Occupational Health, Safety and the Environment, UWI, St. Augustine.



MY UWI



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The University of the West Indies would like to acknowledge and thank all of our major partners who made UWI Life 2012 a great start to a new chapter in our life.

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**First Year
EXPERIENCE
2012-2013**



■ COCOA RESEARCH UNIT MARKS 50 YEARS



Death by Chocolate

BY SERAH ACHAM

Death by Chocolate
PHOTO: MARK GELLINEAU

She opens the door to the tiny workshop just off her kitchen and instantly my spirits leap. The smell is divine. I feel like a child walking into Granny's kitchen, the scent of her famous chocolate cake wafting from the oven.

For Gina Hardy entering the Trini chocolate scene was accidental; I think it was fate.

"Let me put out some chocolates for you," she says. A minute later she sets down a plate holding a row of three little balls: her chocolate truffles.

"Ooh La La," she begins, indicating the pink speckled one. It's made with cranberries and currants which have been soaked in apricot brandy and then rolled in pink powdered sugar.

"I soak it for a couple of days, let it get all nice and plump and it just flavours the chocolate so well. It's incredibly fruity."

The Pom Pom, her newest, is a vegan version, made with organic coconut oil, cayenne pepper and PAMA Pomegranate Liqueur, rolled in pure chocolate and cranberries.

The Death by Chocolate is made with 70 per cent cocoa, scotch whiskey and double cream and rolled in cocoa.

"Go ahead. Try it," Gina says, and for a few minutes, I'm in heaven.

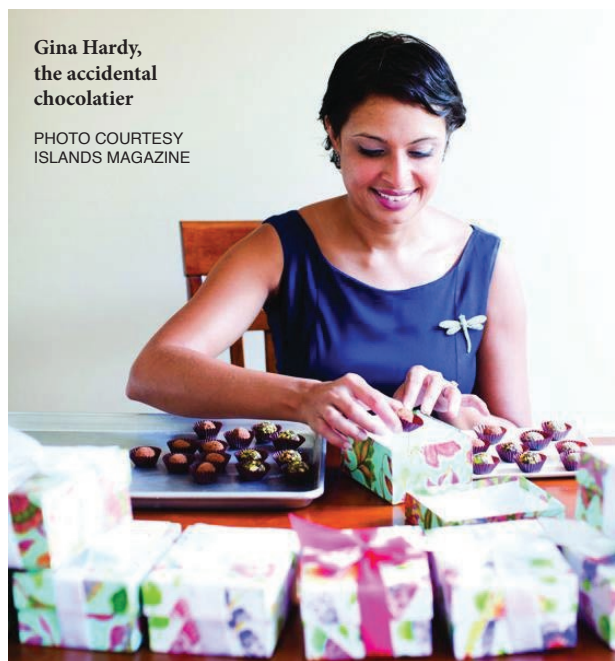
It has to be fate.

How else would a Singaporean who studied law and economics in England, then worked at a bank there, become a chocolate truffle maker in Trinidad?

"I don't know," Gina says. "I suppose I fell in love with a Trinidadian and here I am." She met her husband while working in England and came to Trinidad with him in 2007. It was a chance to "do something completely different," and like so many things Trini, it all began with a party.

Her mother-in-law decided to throw a dinner party in honour of their move to Trinidad and "she asked me what I was going to contribute to the party and I said 'well I'll make some chocolate truffles.' Rather arrogant," she reflects, "because I never made truffles in my life."

Nonetheless, she tried her hand at it and can now tell the story of the unplanned conception of Gina's Chocolate Truffles.



Gina Hardy,
the accidental
chocolatier

PHOTO COURTESY
ISLANDS MAGAZINE

"My first batch of truffles I made for that party, and that was what would become the Trini Truffle," made with rum, almonds and rolled in toasted coconut.

"It was a success at the party," she says, and, filled with confidence in her newly discovered talent, she made more.

"I would start packaging them up to take as little gifts, like to someone's house for a party," or as a gift to the hostess. One day, a friend suggested that she should start taking orders, "and I said 'no,' it's just something I'm dabbling in." It took some inveigling on her friend's part, but "I finally started taking my orders in December 2008 ... and it's just kind of gone from strength to strength from there."

"I've always loved chocolate," she says. "Even as a child I would save my pocket money to buy really good quality chocolate," French, Swiss "and dark chocolate, that's what I love."

Though she had no formal training, her interest in the culinary arts was all she needed. She did lots of research and "loads of experimenting with different ingredients and techniques," to create the truffles that have been described as "the best I've ever eaten" by Brian MacFarlane and likened to "sex and candy" by one Facebook fan.

Gina says her truffles are all handmade and she uses local ingredients as far as possible. "I use Trinidadian rum in my Trini Truffles and I use organic coconut as well which is also from Trinidad, which I toast and process myself," she says, "and you know you can't live in Trinidad for very long without finding out that Trinidad's got some of the finest cocoa in the world." Trinitario cocoa beans.

Initially it was impossible for her to find refined chocolate made from Trinidad's cocoa beans, so she imported chocolate from Belgium. However, "the plan was always to use Trinidad cocoa eventually," she says and so, once she was able to secure a supply of ready-made Trinidadian dark chocolate from Cocobel, she was happy to make the switch.

"My truffles have definitely improved," she says, from the flavour and the texture, to "the feedback that I've been getting from my customers. They absolutely love it ... it's obviously of a much higher quality."

She didn't know about Trinidad's cocoa when she first started out, much less the Cocoa Research Unit (CRU) at The UWI. It was during her research that she encountered the name. When people learned that she was living in Trinidad and making chocolate truffles, they'd immediately mention Trinidad's high quality Trinitario beans.

"It seems to be embedded in the national psyche that Trinidad has the best cocoa in the world ... so I just thought well, let me try it out."

But she needed to learn more. She went online, did some research and came upon "a professor in the States," who told her that UWI's CRU is one of the best in the world and referred her to Dr. Darin Sukha. She gave him a call and set up a meeting. That was in 2009.

"I remember taking a sort of amateurish looking box of chocolates to him," she recalls, "and we just had a good old chat about what was going on in the Cocoa Research Unit and how they could help me." From then on, she worked intensively with the CRU to develop Gina's Chocolate Truffles and they've been "invaluable in their support and guidance."

Gina has gotten a lot out of her relationship with the CRU, including making connections with other chocolate makers in Trinidad who share her passion for Trinidad's cocoa and helping to rejuvenate the country's cocoa and chocolate industry and "to further the name of Trinidad cocoa internationally. If we all work together," she says, "we can market it as a tremendous product, which is what we're trying to do."

This year, the CRU celebrates its 50th anniversary and Gina's looking forward to being a part of the festivities. She's especially excited about participating in the training sessions on the use of chocolate in cooking.



A selection of Gina's personally handmade truffles
PHOTO: MARK GELLINEAU

Gina's Chocolate Truffles can be found at Malabar Gourmet Shop in Maraval, Stetchers at Piarco, and Petit Gourmet in St. Clair.
She also takes direct orders via her Facebook page or e-mail (ginastrinidad@gmail.com).

■ BOOKS

A Revolutionary Way to Count

Dr Noel Kalicharan, Senior Lecturer in Computer Science, recently published his seventeenth book, “DigitalMath – Math In Your Hands.” His other 16 have been in computer science, this being his first in mathematics and, in particular, arithmetic.



And even though some of his computing books are used at several universities around the world, he thinks that DigitalMath could be his most important work. Why? Because it has the potential to revolutionize the way everyone, of all ages, does arithmetic.

We’ve all grown up with the notion that we can count to ten on our fingers. By counting the joints, we can go a bit further. With DigitalMath, you can easily and quickly count up to 99 and beyond without taking off your shoes.

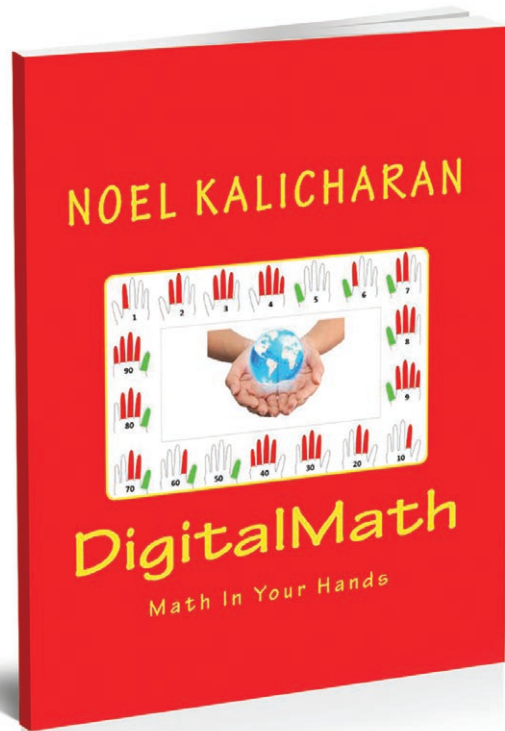
But it’s not really about counting. It’s about being able to do real arithmetic (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) using only the fingers of both hands. For example, can you add the numbers: 4, 9, 5, 8, 3, 7, 9, 8, 8, 6, 5 as fast as they are called or multiply 48×8 or 89×7 quickly?

After just a few hours with DigitalMath, you will be able to do these and more quickly and accurately, in fact, faster than someone using a calculator, says Dr Kalicharan.

He worked with nine and ten-year-old students of Jordan Hill Presbyterian School during the last week of the school term and the first few weeks of the vacation, two to four hours per week. A video of the students doing fairly complex calculations with amazing speed and accuracy is impressive. (You can see it here <https://docs.google.com/open?id=0BzCwv8VO4MpYenZ2a1F6dHNoVTA>)

Two things stood out. One was that almost all the children were giving the correct answers to the problems. This was a far cry from the typical class where only the brighter students usually answer. The second was that they all seemed to be enjoying what they were doing. How often can you say that about a typical math class?

“Numbers play a big part in our everyday lives and those who are good with numbers are normally regarded



as more intelligent than those who aren’t. This becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. The book gives everyone a unique opportunity to become good with numbers,” says Dr Kalicharan.

He believes that those who say they dislike, or even hate, mathematics really hate the idea of not being able to do it well. Most likely, they had difficulties early on and these were never resolved. If we try our hand at something and we fail, we don’t try so hard the next time, especially if our efforts are ridiculed and discouraged by teachers, parents and peers. So we fail again. After a little while, we give up, thinking we are no good at this. It is this emotional and mental road-block, not lack of ability that prevents most of us from doing well in mathematics, he says.

The state of numeracy in most countries is abysmally low. Untold billions of dollars have been spent trying to redress this, but the problem seems to be getting worse. DigitalMath is the new fun kid on the block and, with it, Dr Kalicharan hopes to have everyone tapping away on their fingers while they learn to perform the elusive operations of arithmetic with speed and accuracy.

New chairs of Hindi and Indian studies

The UWI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations for the establishment of ICCR Chairs of Hindi and Indian studies at the St. Augustine Campus.

The Chairs, deemed long-term, would be held for periods of two academic years at a time with an option to extend for another year.

Setting up these Chairs is part of a broad purpose to develop and strengthen the relationship between India and Trinidad and Tobago, which itself is part of a wider focus on expanding the University’s relationships with various countries and higher education institutions.

To this end, the Office of Institutional Advancement & Internationalisation has been involved in arranging several interactions in partnership with foreign institutions. In the case of India, this has included conferences on the Diaspora, Ayurveda, Hindi and Culture. There have also been research collaborations with various institutes, such as the medical sciences programme with Manipal University. Scholars have come and gone, through exchanges such as the newly agreed Chairs in Hindi and Indian studies, and Indian academics spending time at the St. Augustine Campus, learning and training staff in different disciplines.

The exchanges have been many, with cultural programmes featuring Indian artistes from different genres and film festivals that weaken the concept that Indian film strictly follows a Bollywood formula.



St. Augustine Campus Principal, Prof Clement Sankat, signs the MOU with Indian High Commissioner, Malay Mishra.

Huanggang Normal University – A Confucius Institute



From left: St. Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat; Vice-President of Huanggang Normal University, Professor Peng Jin; Director of the International Office, Professor Duan Shaomin; and Beverly-Anne Carter

of the Centre for Language Learning at UWI St. Augustine roll out the scroll that was presented to St. Augustine during a recent visit.

The People’s Republic of China has established Confucius Institutes (CI) to promote the dissemination of Chinese language (specifically Mandarin) and culture. The Centre for Language Learning has been running a small programme for over six years and a CI on the campus will give the country a focal point for Chinese language and culture. A CI is embedded at a university and is run as a partnership between the local university, a Chinese partner university and the Office for the Teaching of Chinese as a Foreign Language. CLL’s partner in this venture is Huanggang Normal University.

Students leery of 'new' IMF

BY TERRI-ANN THOMPSON

Only a few weeks into his appointment, Associate Director of the IMF's Western Hemisphere Department Saul Lizondo faced what must have been his most tenacious audience yet as the 'new IMF' engaged a young generation of critical thinkers at The UWI. On September 5, collaborating with The UWI, a panel of representatives from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) sought to give the nation's tertiary students an unprecedented opportunity to actively contribute to the discourse on key economic issues facing the region. More importantly, the Town Hall format gave the nation's budding economists and commentators the chance to ask the IMF all the tough questions. In summary they all amounted to one common position; an outright challenge of the notion of a 'new' IMF.

The panel consisting Associate Director Lizondo; Deputy Division Chief of the Western Hemisphere Department, Therese Turner-Jones; the IMF's Senior Resident Representative in Jamaica, Dr. Gene Leon and UWI St. Augustine's Economics Department Head, Mr. Martin Franklin was eased into the discussion as they were invited to speak on the role of the IMF and regional perception of the Fund.

Mr. Lizondo outlined three key functions of the Fund as surveillance, and the provision of financial and technical assistance noting that the Caribbean receives approximately 11% of the technical assistance provided by the IMF. In his contribution, Dr. Leon quickly dispelled the perception of the Fund applying 'cookie-cutter' policies in various regions. He explained that countries coming to the IMF when crisis has already hit are likely to receive similar treatments, he argued that this was significantly different to the approach of the IMF when the Fund is engaged outside of situations of economic crisis.

Fielding the first question from the audience seemed to put the Associate Director a little on the backfoot. The panel was asked to present an example of how the new 'touchy-feely' IMF has taken a different approach to treating



The discussions went on outside as well as students connected with the Deputy Director of the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department, Gilbert Terrier. PHOTO: RICHARD SPENCE.

with a Caribbean country within the last five years, citing the approach applied in Trinidad and Tobago in the 1980s. Mr. Lizondo found himself conceding that his opening statement "I think some things do not change..." was not the ideal way to begin; the student audience certainly agreed. He did however go on to explain that the new IMF is developing more flexible policies and paying particular attention to protecting social spending in the countries in which the Fund intervenes.

Dr. Leon, anticipating that the recent Jamaica intervention must have been on the minds of many attendees, provided evidence of a new IMF by referencing the Fund's policy in a Jamaica where 140% of GDP represented the country's debt. The policy applied in the Jamaican context included debt exchange to reduce the payments on interest and containment of Government spending among other strategies. He noted there was no devaluation of the Jamaican dollar and the Fund insisted that expenditure on social protection programmes was actually increased rather than decreased as part of overall expenditure.

Whether the students were satisfied with the evidence supporting the concept of a new IMF remains unclear as many of them asked, only in different ways, whether a leopard can indeed change its spots. What was obvious, however, was that the 'new generation' came prepared to say to the IMF that it was well informed of the Fund's history in the region and would continue to hold it up to close scrutiny.

The sizeable IMF contingent, including the panelists welcomed one-on-one engagement with attendees at the end of the session.

The IMF/UWI Town Hall Meeting was held at the Daaga Auditorium, UWI St. Augustine. It followed a similar forum hosted at the UWI's Cave Hill campus in Barbados. Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat brought welcome remarks and the forum was moderated by journalist, Vernon Ramesar.



From left: Associate Director of the IMF's Western Hemisphere Department Saul Lizondo, UWI St. Augustine's Economics Department Head, Mr. Martin Franklin, Deputy Division Chief of the Western Hemisphere Department, Therese Turner-Jones, St. Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat, IMF's Senior Resident Representative in Jamaica, Dr. Gene Leon and Dr. Marlene Attz, Lecturer Sustainable Economic Development Unit, UWI. PHOTO: RICHARD SPENCE.

"Whether the students were satisfied with the evidence supporting the concept of a new IMF remains unclear as many of them asked, only in different ways, whether a leopard can indeed change its spots."

COTE 2012

Life after 50

By Timothy Woolford

It has been said that an expert is not someone who is highly trained, qualified or even ably skilled, but rather someone who has made every possible mistake and so knows exactly what not to do. It may be argued that one never truly reaches the mark of being an expert, but rather grows in expertise over time. From an economic standpoint the same can be said of the concept of development. Much has been said on this concept and yet no definition of the term has come to be universally accepted as a norm to which all countries aspire. Instead many nations are called to answer the simple question posed by J.L. Anderson "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

It is along these lines that the Conference on the Economy (COTE 2012) has been organized. The theme of this year's conference "**50 years of Managing for Development in an Ever-changing Economic Environment: Lessons Learnt and the Way Forward,**" highlights its significance, particularly as the nation marks its golden anniversary of independence.

COTE 2012 will begin with a feature address by the former Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago Ewart Williams. The honoree this year is Professor Compton Bourne, former Head of the Department of Economics and a former Principal of the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI. Professor Bourne was President of the Caribbean Development Bank for 10 years and served as a former Director of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago. He is currently Executive Director of the Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance.

The Conference will continue what it initiated last year in featuring an essay competition for secondary schools as well as a debate competition for undergraduate students of the Campus. Postgraduate students can participate in a poster competition.

This annual event of the UWI St. Augustine, Department of Economics will take place at the Learning Resource Centre on the St. Augustine Campus, with the main conference set for October 11 and 12. There will be evening sessions each day, and topics to be discussed are "Education and Workforce Development" and "Civil Society and Social Economics." The evening sessions are free and open to all.



UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

AUGUST – OCTOBER 2012

A NATION'S IDENTITY

3 August-12 October, 2012
The Alma Jordan Library
UWI St Augustine Campus

The Alma Jordan Library marks the 50th anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago's Independence with a special display titled, 'Forging the Nation's Identity: Trinidad and Tobago in 1962.' All are invited to view the display at the ground floor of the Library until 12th October, 2012, as well as online until December, 2012.

For further information, please contact the Alma Jordan Library at 662-2002 ext 82132, 82131, 84030.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN AFRICA

15 October, 2012
Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex
Mt Hope

UWI's School of Veterinary Medicine hosts a seminar by Dr. Wouter van Hoven, Professor in Wildlife Management, University of Pretoria, South Africa, titled "The Future of Wildlife Conservation in Africa and the Importance of Veterinary Services." This seminar will focus on the threats to wildlife and the decline in numbers of most species on the African continent.

For further information, please contact Dr. Karla Georges at 645-2640 ext. 4226/4341, or via e-mail at karla.georges@sta.uwi.edu.

COTE 2012

11-12 October, 2012
Learning Resource Centre
UWI St Augustine Campus

The Department of Economics hosts its sixth annual Conference on the Economy. COTE 2012 is an annual landmark event of the Department at which findings from quality research and other studies are presented to inform stakeholders on economic and social policy. This year, COTE 2012 coincides with the 50th Anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago's Independence and the conference will focus on the theme '50 years of Managing for Development in an Ever Changing Economic Environment: Lessons learnt and the way forward.'

For further information, please contact the Conference Secretariat at 662-2002 Exts 83231, or via e-mail at cote@sta.uwi.edu.

UWI SPEC INTERNATIONAL HALF-MARATHON

28 October, 2012
Sports and Physical Education Centre
UWI St. Augustine Campus

The UWI St. Augustine Campus once again hosts its signature UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon sponsored by First Citizens. This year the 13.1 mile route of the Half-Marathon remains unchanged. The race will continue along the traffic-free Priority Bus Route (PBR) to the La Resource Junction in D'Abadie, before doubling back to UWI SPEC. The course will be complete with markers and water stops at every mile for the running convenience of the athletes from around the world including the Caribbean, USA, Latin America and Europe.

For further information, please contact The UWI SPEC at (868) 662-2002 Ext. 82660, or 83556 or specinfo@sta.uwi.edu.



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



GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS

8-12 October, 2012
Institute of Critical Thinking
UWI, St. Augustine Campus

The Caribbean Centre for Competitiveness (CCfC) hosts a workshop titled 'Global Value Chains and Industry Competitiveness in the Caribbean; Identifying Opportunities for Growth,' at the Institute of Critical Thinking. At this workshop, participants will gain an understanding of how to map value chains and identify lead firms, key markets and trends occurring in specific industries, in addition to other skills.

For further information, please contact the CCfC Secretariat at 662-2002 ext 83938, 84134, 85481, or via e-mail at ccfc@sta.uwi.edu.

UWI ST. AUGUSTINE GRADUATION 2012

25-27 October, 2012
UWI-SPEC, St Augustine Campus

THURSDAY 25TH OCTOBER, 2012:

- 10am – **STRICTLY** for graduands of the Faculty of Science & Agriculture/Pure & Applied Sciences
- 4pm – **STRICTLY** for graduands of the Faculties of Engineering & Law

FRIDAY 26TH OCTOBER, 2012:

- 10am – **STRICTLY** for Undergraduate graduands of the Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS) with surnames beginning with the letters A-L and graduands of the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business (ALJGSB)
- 4pm – **STRICTLY** for FSS Undergraduate graduands with surnames beginning with the letters M-Z and Postgraduate graduands from the Departments of Management Studies, Economics, Behavioural Sciences, Institute of International Relations, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social & Economics Studies and the Institute of Gender & Development Studies

SATURDAY 27TH OCTOBER, 2012:

- 10am – **STRICTLY** for graduands of the Faculty of Humanities and Education
- 4pm – **STRICTLY** for graduands of the Faculty of Medical Sciences

For further information, please contact Examinations at 662-2002 ext 82155 or 83008