

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES - ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS



SUNDAY 31ST JULY, 2011



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Professor of Gender and Cultural Studies and Campus Co-ordinator of the School for Graduate Studies and Research at The UWI, Professor Patricia Mohammed, shows off the commemorative publication, "Decades of Research: UWI St. Augustine at 50"

AN OASIS OF IDEAS

As part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the St. Augustine Campus, a number of events had been held in 2010, and on June 28, 2011, one of the final ones took place. The Office of the Campus Principal hosted the launch of the publication, "Decades of Research: UWI St. Augustine at 50" and the screening of the film, "An Oasis of Ideas, Leadership and Learning UWI St. Augustine at 50," at the Daaga Auditorium on June 28.

This film was directed by Professor Patricia Mohammed, Professor of Gender and Cultural Studies and Campus Co-ordinator of the School for Graduate Studies and Research at The UWI, and Francesca Hawkins, television and radio broadcaster.

The event was chaired by Dr Christine Carrington, Deputy Dean, Graduate Studies

and Research, Faculty of Medical Sciences, and brief comments on the book were made by Professor John Agard of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, and Professor Ian Robertson of the Faculty of Humanities and Education.

Professor Agard noted that the book, which essentially lists the qualifications and past and current research being done by members of staff, broadened his knowledge of some of the work being done by his colleagues on the campus. He remarked that it was often the case that research was being carried out so quietly that no one was the wiser and he lauded the book for shedding some light on the projects.

After the film was screened there was a short session for questions.

Both the book and the DVD are available at The UWI Bookshop.



Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of the St. Augustine Campus, Professor Clement Sankat, chats with the directors of the film, "An Oasis of Ideas, Leadership and Learning UWI St. Augustine at 50," Professor Patricia Mohammed (left) and Francesca Hawkins at the launch on June 28, 2011.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Support for Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer



By their very nature, universities are sites of ideas, research and creativity. In fact, it is the stated goal of this St. Augustine Campus to become recognized for research, particularly research that leads to finding solutions to the problems of the region, and that enhances the quality of life of our people. It has been our policy to encourage such work as vigorously as we can, because we understand the changing role of the university in modern times, especially in developing societies such as ours.

Our Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris, recently made the point that the university must take on some of the roles filled by governments in other societies in tackling social problems in areas as diverse as gun crimes, school dropout rates and the preservation of forests.

This view of "applied research" is one that I endorse fully, and it extends to that which helps to increase our economic competitiveness in the global environment. The work we have done has been fairly extensive, although much of it is still not widely known. For instance, a substantial boost to the cocoa industry has been generated by the Cocoa Research Unit; food security is constantly being addressed in ways such as pigeon peas that can grow all year round and disease resistant crops. And we are trying to enhance the commercial aspects of small industries, like the anthuriums we feature in this issue. I myself spent many years working on the storage of tropical crops like the breadfruit and the development of machines for processing – the nutmeg in Grenada, for example.

The list of contributions is long and varied and includes non-tangibles, which is why since 1998 The UWI developed an Intellectual Property Policy which deals with issues of ownership and control of our creative outputs and matters such as copyright and inventions.

It provides a framework for protecting rights and clarifying some of the gray areas that often occur in complex situations where multiple researchers and sponsors are involved. The bottom line is that regardless of the specifics of each circumstance, ownership can only be determined through discussion and mutual agreement.

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

EDITOR

Ms. Vaneisa Baksh

CONTACT US

The UWI Marketing and Communications Office Tel: (868) 662-2002, exts. 2013. 2014 Or email: uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu

BLUE NOTES FOR THE ANTHURIUM

BY PROFESSOR PATHMANATHAN UMAHARAN

When you think of tropical flowers, doesn't the Anthurium immediately pop into your mind? It is that ubiquitous bloom that warms your heart wherever you find it, whether it is at home, a restaurant, in your favourite hotel, or even in those attractive bunches calling out to you at the open-air markets. Indeed, it is truly tropical in that it is indigenous to the Caribbean and tropical America and is a part of the rich tradition of Trinidad and Tobago.

Cultivation of Anthurium as a crop began in Trinidad and Tobago in 1915, when Eugene André introduced *Anthurium andraeanum* Linden Ex André here and to the rest of the Caribbean. It quickly graced every cocoa plantation (and some citrus as well) as a companion crop becoming an integral part of the landscape of Trinidad and Tobago. The Anthurium industry however was soon to fade away with the demise of the cocoa industry.

Breeding in Hawaii and the Netherlands took Anthurium to a new level. With attractive shapes and an ever-widening colour range, which includes shades of white, coral, orange, pink, red, green, brown, and various patterns, Anthurium quickly climbed the popularity charts – becoming second only to Orchids among tropical flowers.

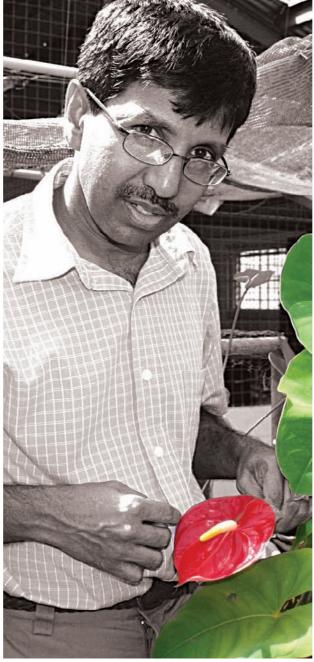
Anthurium flowers are about 3 mm in size and develop crowded in a spike on an axis called a spadix. This spadix can take on many forms (club-shaped, tapered, spiraled, and globe-shaped) and colours. But the most attractive part of the Anthurium bloom is the large heart-shaped spathe that surrounds the spadix. It is this that comes in many shapes, colours and patterns and warms our hearts.

Propelled by the availability of exotic Dutch Anthurium varieties, intensive shadehouse technologies and a growing North America market for tropical ornamentals, there was a renaissance of sorts in the Caribbean in the 1980s. Cultivation expanded rapidly, increasing production volumes and bringing significant foreign exchange earnings to the countries. But by the mid-1990s, the industry was again facing serious challenges, this time, from bacterial diseases and nematodes, resulting in a steady decline. In early 2000, most Anthurium plantations had either collapsed or were on the verge of collapsing.

Ironically, the early local Anthurium varieties, although not appealing as the Dutch hybrids, were resistant or tolerant to these plagues. It was almost as though the Dutch had inadvertently bred out characteristics so important for tropical adaptability. It is an ever-repeating story of inappropriate technologies fuelling the collapse of industries.

Every challenge however brings opportunities. And our opportunity was "to create a new line of tropically adaptable varieties" towards supplying the growing need for such products in the tropics – the emerging economies. Researchers at The UWI, St. Augustine, joining with Kairi Blooms Ltd, one of the larger Anthurium production outfits in Trinidad and Tobago, began working towards developing bacterial resistant varieties of Anthurium. The novel methods developed are part of a patent application.

The collaboration between UWI and Kairi Blooms Ltd is a successful example of a university-private sector



Professor Pathmanathan Umaharan

partnership. The outputs could not have been obtained without bringing together the strengths of both parties to create a product that would be immediately applicable to the industry.

New Anthurium research at UWI is set to take another bold step forward. The stock colours existing up until now were created through traditional breeding approaches by crossing different but related species of Anthuriums. These methods could not produce colours beyond the range that already exist. The bioengineering approach that we are adopting seeks to achieve new colours, beyond this range.

UWI researchers are investigating the internal circuitry (biochemical) and switches (genes) involved in producing the chemicals responsible for the various colours

- anthocyanins. Can we modify the internal circuitry of the plant by changing the switches to produce novel colours such as yellows, blue and purples, which are not part of the existing range of colours?

In another twist to the story, research has now shown that the ultimate colour is not only dependent on the pigment present, but also on the cell shape, metal ions present and cellular acidity (pH). Have you wondered why "Morning Glory" changes in colour from reddish purple to blue over reflecting changes in pH? Switches that control the pH can now be used to add a novel flavour to the colour. UWI researchers saw a similar parallel in Anthurium with higher pH associated with lighter colours. The research shows that corals, which have the highest pH among the colour groups, may be best suited as targets to develop blue Anthuriums.

Researchers at UWI have outlined some of their recent publications on the theoretical basis to modifying colours. This is not a pipe dream. If the researchers can convert the theory into practice, this major breakthrough may not be far away. Novel colours fetch significant premiums compared to the traditional colours and hence can only augur well for developing a competitive Anthurium industry.

The development of new colours as well as resistance to bacterial diseases and nematodes is part of plan to create a competitive Anthurium cut-flower industry in Trinidad and Tobago. The new varieties can pave the way to producing anthurium blooms cheaply for export, without the associated risk factors of pests and diseases which have served as major deterrents to farmers. Furthermore, the novel colours can significantly improve the price of blooms, and thus their profitability and competitiveness.

The larger question is: can we harness these developments to create an Anthurium planting material industry to cater for the planting material needs of the tropical world, all of which are plagued with bacterial and nematode problems?

Successfully done, this can provide opportunities for the development of economically viable enterprises, each capable of creating employment opportunities – a breeding industry producing tropically adapted Anthurium varieties, micropropagation units, which multiply the material to large quantities using tissue culture techniques, marketing organisations, marketing the planting material throughout the tropical world, cut-flower production outfits, exporting cut-flowers to various North American destinations and an e-commerce facility to facilitate retailing of Anthuriums to their very homes. These can create a cluster of industries, each supporting each other and creating sustainable employment opportunities for the country. It can serve as one of many opportunities that we must grasp if we are to effectively diversify the economy and come out of the tailspin we have found ourselves in.

We are living in a knowledge world and if we are to create a successful niche for ourselves, we must embrace building such knowledge-based industries. We need to put the nuts and bolts together to ensure that such successes do not remain pipe dreams that just go down the drain.

THE HOODIE THAT CAME FROM THE BIN

BY JEREMY CALLAGHAN

In 2009, Ireland won the 6 Nations Championship, the Triple Crown and the Grand Slam (we are talking rugby union here, dear reader). I was rather chuffed, therefore, when my sons gave me a 'hoodie', with the shamrock and all, as a Christmas gift: it was smart, emerald green, acceptably tribal, cheap (I discovered the price later at the supermarket) and made of plastic bottles!

At St Augustine, we have been recycling material since 2010 and I thought it might be interesting to do some research into what happens with the stuff we chuck in the bins on campus. The first thing that happens is that too much of it annoys and inconveniences people. If you are collecting glass or plastic for a recycling company, you don't want to sort through the maggoty remains of convenience food to get to the material you need; nor do you want to put aside wrappings, polystyrene or any of the other kinds of household rubbish that is not yet recyclable here. Our recycling bins are clearly marked for the only material they should receive; as a community it would be very helpful if we could all respect these designations.

Recycling in Motion Ltd (the company we use) recycles all kinds of plastic materials, although in practice the essential items are bottles and containers. Every Friday, their $\,$ vehicle comes onto the Campus and collects the stuff placed in the 21 large blue cube-shaped bins and transports it to the factory in San Juan. The material is hand-fed into mincers where it is converted into a confetti-like heap before being shipped in large bags to companies in India and China. There it is processed into a variety of useful commodities, in addition to hoodies. These include translucent plastic folders, plastic rulers, mouse pads, lunch boxes, garden furniture, shoelaces, trash cans, shoes, patio decking, tote bags, plastic mugs, housewares, key rings, pet dishes, notebook covers, coasters, electric cover plates, cushions, fly swats, picnic blankets and ...well, I guess human inventivity provides the only limit.

"At St Augustine, we have been recycling material since 2010 and I thought it might be interesting to do some research into what happens with the stuff we chuck in the bins on campus."



Unlike plastics, all the glass bottles we send for recycling get turned into – yet more glass bottles. We send them on their way by depositing them in some 12 green drums on the main campus, a further six at Mt Hope, or four larger skips in strategic locations (Milner Hall, Medical Sciences, Life Sciences and the Staff Club). In theory, when the drums are three-quarters full, someone calls Carib Glass (the recycling company) to collect the material, but this works less than well in practice (people are shy of ringing the number clearly painted on the drum) and precautionary collecting tends to be the (wasteful) norm. The glass takes the short journey to the works in Champs Fleurs to be made into new bottles, many of which are sold on to Carib Brewery to be filled with the divine nectar that sometimes goes by the mundane name of beer.

Carib Glass has a little leaflet on 'Recycling Facts' with some interesting information, including the observation that if recycled glass is substituted for half of the raw material (in the manufacture of glass) waste is reduced by more than 80%. Again, recycling "causes 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than when a new bottle is made from raw materials". Bottles and jars are 100% recyclable.

RIM and Carib Glass measure what they collect. Since November last, 2,475 lbs of our plastics have been minced in San Juan, and for the year 2010, 3,435 kilogrammes of glass suffered the metric equivalent of the same fate, incidentally earning us about \$1,000 in revenue.

There is much to be done, of course. An education campaign is a necessity; a more sophisticated approach to depositing recyclables is urgent; and what about other recyclables: batteries, printer cartridges and so on? But a start has been made. And it might just be, as you huddle into your hoodie on a cold day at Queen's Park Oval, sipping a Carib, that you had a hand (or should that be two?) in making it.

Jeremy Callaghan is a member of the Environmental Committee.

CAMPUS NEWS

ADOPT-A-STUDENT PROGRAMME

Have you ever wondered if there were any more good Samaritans out there? Have you ever wondered if there is anyone who would lend a helping hand in your time of need? Well, six years ago these issues struck the Director of Student Advisory Services, Deirdre Charles quite forcefully as she observed student life. She was so moved by what she saw that she implored her UWI colleagues to make monthly contributions to help students in need, and the Adopt-a-Student fund was formed.

It started off with 32 staff members, who heeded the call and contributed to the fund in July 2005; it has now grown to over 100 staff members making monthly contributions. Contributions range from \$5 to \$500 per month and are made through salary deductions.

The Adopt-a-Student fund encourages both Administrative and Technical Service staff and Academic staff members to make monthly contributions to help students. Any money donated is disbursed to students who are experiencing financial difficulty when required. Students apply to be recipients of the programme and are assessed by Student Advisory Services for eligibility.

Ms. Charles is responsible for Student Advisory Services, a Department that provides a group of essential support services for an average of 16,000 students. Recognising the sometimes unseen hardships, she developed this fund to help students in financial need, some of whom encounter situations where they are unable to afford the barest necessities. Through her campaigning, she was able to get help.

"There have been many companies who have contributed to the Adopt-A-Student Programme and two have been continuous with their support: The Rotary Club of St. Augustine and The UWI Development & Endowment Fund (D&E Fund). The Rotary Club has made significant contributions totaling approximately \$40,000 to date. Apart from the Club making donations, individual members such as Mr. Ajay Khandelwal and Mr. Pradeep Kumar, amongst others, have made and continue to make personal contributions to the programme. We sincerely appreciate and value the Club and these individuals for their invaluable assistance to our students. All of this was possible in part to former Deputy Principal Prof. Gurmohan Kochhar. Prof. Kochhar was instrumental in making the initial link by introducing me to the Rotary Club where I was allowed to make a presentation about Adopt-A-Student. Similarly, the UWI D&E Fund has also been supportive and has contributed approximately \$35,000 to the programme over the years," she said.

Many students have been beneficiaries of the fund and have expressed appreciation for the financial assistance.

"The programme helped me and my family as well. My father's salary is small, so I was able to pay for items which I would not be able to afford otherwise," said one student.

"I have benefited from the 'Adopt-A-Student' programme tremendously, so much that without it I would have been unable to attend school. My financial position is not very secure. I strongly support this programme and I am very grateful," another enthused.

Student Advisory Services influences all aspects of students' lives, enabling students to achieve maximum benefit from their university experience. They provide a range of services and programmes, which include accommodation, careers, placement, employment, orientation and financial assistance.

"The Adopt-a-Student fund encourages both Administrative and Technical Service staff and Academic staff members to make monthly contributions to help students."



Director of Student Advisory Services, Deirdre Charles "One of the many success stories regarding Adopt-A-Student is a female student who was accepted into the Faculty of Engineering back in 2005. She was excited yet worried about her acceptance as she lacked the financial resources to start at UWI. However, after being placed on the programme for her entire study period she was able to successfully complete her studies and graduated with honors."



■ POLITICS, POWER AND GENDER JUSTICE

"Because I am a woman, I must make unusual efforts to succeed. If I fail, no one will say, 'She doesn't have what it takes.' They will say, 'Women don't have what it takes." (Clare Boothe Luce). It is this attitude, amongst other factors, that has propelled women of all kinds to do what was once seen as impossible and sometimes still viewed as abnormal, which is, become politicians.

The steady increase of women in Caribbean governance as political party leaders, ministers, prime ministers and presidents, is a phenomenon which warrants much attention and research. The Institute of Gender and Development Studies (IGDS), The UWI, St. Augustine, in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), is providing an opportunity for such research, through their project "Politics, Power and Gender Justice in the Anglophone Caribbean: Women's Understandings of Politics, Experiences of Political Contestation and the Possibilities for Gender Transformation".

It has often been argued that women's participation in democratic political systems has enhanced the active pursuit of equality and social justice for all members of a society (WRC and IDRC 2009). Yet, direct correlation cannot be assumed between women's participation in politics and improved gender equality (Meintjes 2010). Dr. Gabrielle Hosein, the project's director, says that this is one motivation behind the initiation of this research. The study aims to investigate the impact and effectiveness of feminist strategies which promote democratic governance, women's rights and gender equality in the Caribbean. Its main outcome is the publication of an edited book collection on women's rights, gender justice and democratic governance in the Anglophone Caribbean. Dr. Hosein hopes that the book "will expand the spaces for realizing women's rights and gender equality, create greater capacity (among women and men) to achieve transformed gender relations, and shift the gender ideologies that present resistances to women's effective political participation and leadership... Hopefully, after this book, politics and governance will no longer be taught in androcentric ways."

The IGDS research team, Dr. Hosein, Dr. Jane Parpat and Ms. Tisha Nickenig, is in the process of recruiting researchers for this study, which will be conducted over a period of 24 months. Motivated by the need for further research into the relationship between strengthening democracy and struggles for women's rights and gender equality; the team invites both senior and junior social science researchers with relevant experience to contribute a chapter to one of the following thematic areas: Women's Political Leadership; Quota Systems; National Gender Policies and Feminist Advocacy. The project will take place in Dominica, Guyana and in Trinidad and Tobago in partnership with IGDS, UWI, Mona Campus and also its UWI Cave Hill

Interested persons are encouraged to contact Ms. Tisha Nickenig, Project Coordinator at igds. politics@gmail.com for a copy of the terms of reference. Kindly review and submit a statement of interest, CV and cover letter by August 08th, 2011. For further information contact Ms. Nickenig at 868-662-2002 ext. 2123/3573.

A TOUR THAT CHANGES A WAY OF SEEING

When I first heard about Campus Tours at The UWI, St. Augustine, I thought, what better way to learn about the premier academic institution of the Caribbean, not to mention the largest main campus of the three physical ones? Filled with beautiful architecture, almost every building has a history behind it, from a story of a great Professor (Sir Arthur Lewis) to a former U.S. President (JFK) to the first UWI Librarian (Alma Jordan). The list is long.

Established in 2010, UWI Campus Tours seeks to provide an insight into student-life, facilities, campus culture, and of course, academics and programmes. In addition, it gives a glimpse into the history behind the University, its buildings, its people, resources and future.

When you get there, there is a bit of a briefing before the tour begins. You can take the tour, either by walking for approximately 90 minutes, or driving – a shortened version that takes anywhere over 30 minutes using the UWI Shuttle Service. The driving tours also cater for persons who are differently-abled. The Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex (EWMSC) also facilitates tours for the Faculty of Medical Sciences, so too does the Department of Creative and Festival Arts and The UWI Field Station in Mount Hope.

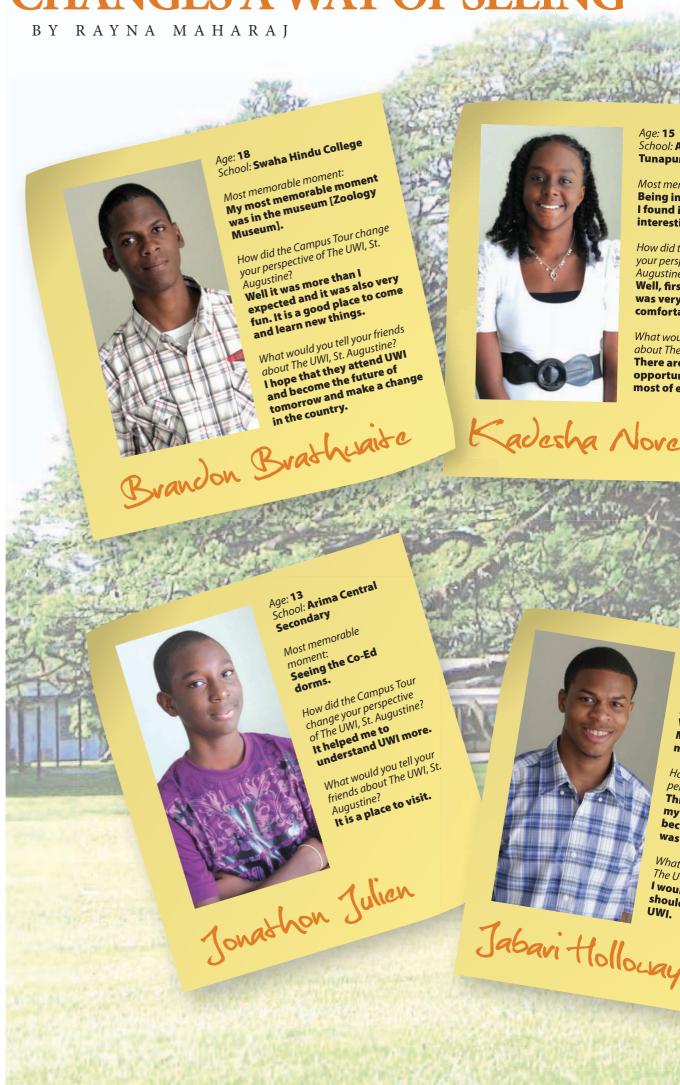
To guide these tours well, only after rigorous training and preparation can one hope to qualify as an Admissions Student Advocate (ASA). These personable ambassadors must do an examination first and at the end they are fully equipped with the knowledge to educate the 'tourists,' who range from primary to secondary school students, as well as exchange visitors and academic professionals.

"UWI have everything!" This was the phrase I heard the most as I walked along on some of the tours. From the dorms, mini mart and eateries offering different cuisines, to the SPEC, pool, tennis court, and Zoology museum, The UWI offers a great mix of both academic and social life. UWI Campus Tours provides the perfect opportunity for anyone to gain knowledge of the St. Augustine Campus and the numerous amenities, services and resources they offer.

Gaining knowledge is invaluable. Meeting new people and visiting new places also falls into the same category. It can either be for your benefit or to your detriment; you choose.

WANT TO TAKE A CAMPUS TOUR?

If you interested in having a Campus Tour of The UWI, St. Augustine, please send your email to **campus.tours@sta.uwi.edu** OR visit Student Advisory Services at the New Administration Building, UWI, St. Augustine. Tours accommodate persons of any age and nationality, and are done in small or large numbers, depending on availability of space on the day.





CAMPUS NEWS



Mr. Errol Simms, Head of the Department of Management Studies; Nancy Foran, CEO of CMA Nova Scotia, Bermuda and the Caribbean; Professor Clement Sankat, UWI St. Augustine Campus Principal; Dr. Hamid Ghany, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, at the signing of the MOU between UWI and the CMA New Brunswick.

NEW DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTING

So you've been to college or university and graduated successfully. After putting yourself through three to four years of 8am classes, demanding professors, umpteen-page papers, make-or-break exams and way too many all-nighters, you now hold an undergraduate degree that can get you one step closer to your dream career. But now you've changed your mind and want to take another path... or maybe you just want to add to your qualifications. Either way, it's time to make a decision – obtaining your first undergraduate degree seemed to take quite a while; do you really want to do it all over again? For some this can be a difficult question to answer, unless your new career choice is as a Certified Management Accountant.

Why? Well, The UWI's St. Augustine Campus has teamed up with the Certified Management Accounting (CMA) body of Nova Scotia, Bermuda and the Caribbean, to offer a joint undergraduate Diploma in Accounting to persons with an undergraduate degree in another field. This programme, offered under the Department of Management Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, is just two semesters long

and covers the foundational knowledge required of one seeking to become a professional CMA. It entails courses in accounting and management and equips graduates of the programme with, not only a Diploma in Accounting, but with the necessary skills to successfully challenge the CMA Entrance Exam.

This programme replaces the CMA's Foundational Studies Programme, which had been offered at The UWI since 2008 through a relationship between the institutions that began nearly two decades ago.

The CMA, established in Canada in 1920, boasts a membership of over 40,000 institutions across the globe. It is recognised in Trinidad and Tobago by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad and Tobago (ICATT) for the issuance of practising certificates.

To learn more about the undergraduate Diploma in Accounting, please call Mrs. Pavitra Moonsammy at 662-2002 ext 2105, or Ms. Sherry Katwaroo-Ragbir at 662-2002 ext 3502, Department of Management Studies, UWI, St. Augustine.

"This programme replaces the CMA's Foundational Studies Programme, which had been offered at The UWI since 2008 through a relationship between the institutions that began nearly two decades ago."

Accrediting Engineering

The new Caribbean Accreditation Council for Engineering and Technology (CACET) had its first engineering accreditation visit to the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering at The UWI St. Augustine Campus in May. This Department graduated 62 students last year.

The Mechanical and Civil Engineering Departments are expected to have CACET accreditation visits later this year or in early 2012.

Accreditation signifies that a programme maintains standards that qualify its graduates for professional practice or for admission to higher institutions of learning. Typically, it can take as long as a decade to set up a new accreditation system for a country or region, but CACET did it in just three years.

CACET and its work were endorsed in February by CARICOM, which, as one of its mandates, is responsible for establishing standards and measures for accreditation, and for mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates, and other qualifications for various professions, including engineering. The CARICOM endorsement means that CACET is the preferred accrediting body for engineering and technology programmes.

Organizing an accreditation system was the brainchild in 2007 of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) members employed by The UWI, along with the chair of the IEEE Trinidad and Tobago Section, Prof Chandrabhan Sharma. Also included were IEEE Member Prof Brian Copeland, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, and Clement Imbert, the deputy Dean.

"We wanted to ensure the quality of the region's engineering and technology programmes," says Sharma, who led the effort to establish CACET and is now its president.

CACET's accreditation visit to The UWI coincided with a visit by the Institution of Chemical Engineers. IChemE, an international professional membership organization headquartered in London, had been accrediting that programme for 20 years

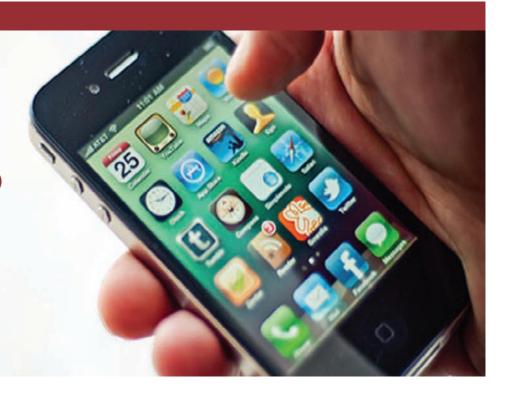
"The British institutions that have historically provided accreditation in the Caribbean are very far away and very expensive to retain," Sharma said. "There also was a proliferation in the Caribbean of new businesses offering engineering and technology programmes, so it was essential that the region have a group that could provide independent reviews of the programme's quality."

This article was adapted from an article written by Kathy Kowalenko for The Institute, an IEEE newsletter. RESEARCH

GRASSROOTS CALL FOR MOBILE APPS

Students show how technology can fit everyday people's needs

BY CANDICE SIMONTA-DYER



On June 15, Jesse Bartoo heard the news that he was the overall winner of the CICMAD competition and he was ecstatic. Jesse, at 21, was one of the youngest competitors in the the Caribbean Innovators Challenge: Mobile Applications for Development, a component of the Caribbean ICT Research Programme Trinidad and Tobago (CIRP) in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at UWI, St. Augustine.

In the first phase of the competition he was just 20, and a first-year undergraduate student of Electrical and Computer Engineering, but he was as excited as the rest at the prospect of using mobile technology to find solutions to earthly problems.

This programme is led by Dr. Kim Mallalieu, Senior Lecturer and Leader of the Communications Systems Group, and is funded with the aid of a grant from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa, Canada.

The extensive mobile penetration among the Caribbean poor, the tremendous versatility of mobile applications and the relatively low-cost and rapid deployment of mobile applications, all made compelling cases for mobile innovation. These led Dr. Mallalieu to offer CICMAD as an ideal model for capacity-building among Caribbean Tertiary Level Institutions (TLIs).





Dr Kim Mallalieu, leader of the Communications Systems Group, presents winner Jesse Bartoo with his certificate

Three Phase 1 winners were selected to advance to Phase 2 of the competition and each received US\$3,000 to be used towards the development and deployment of their proposed mobile application. They were each also assigned an Alumnus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to serve as their Mentor throughout Phase 2.

Jesse had described his project, Farmlink, at the end of Phase 1. "Farmlink embodies realistic solutions for the real life problems faced by farmers, through the effective implementation of mobile technology."

Phase 1 winners also include Salys Sutan with 'mDSMS', which is designed to provide diabetes self-management support to persons living with diabetes through the use of mobile technologies, and Ramone Graham with 'e-Report' which is designed to allow parents to consistently monitor their children's performance in school and facilitate vital communication between parents and teachers.

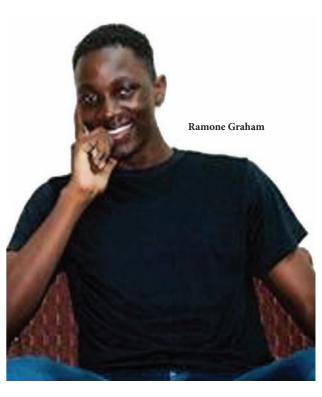
Phase 2 of the competition required Phase 1 winners to develop and deploy their proposed mobile application, submit a proposal and video that convincingly demonstrated the operation of the mobile application, in six months.

Judging criteria for the final report included relevance, potential for impact, sustainability, metrics proposed

by author to measure progress against strategic goals, originality, demonstrated fitness for purpose and structured methodology. The evaluation procedure was extremely rigorous during each phase of the competition and included four high-level industry judges.

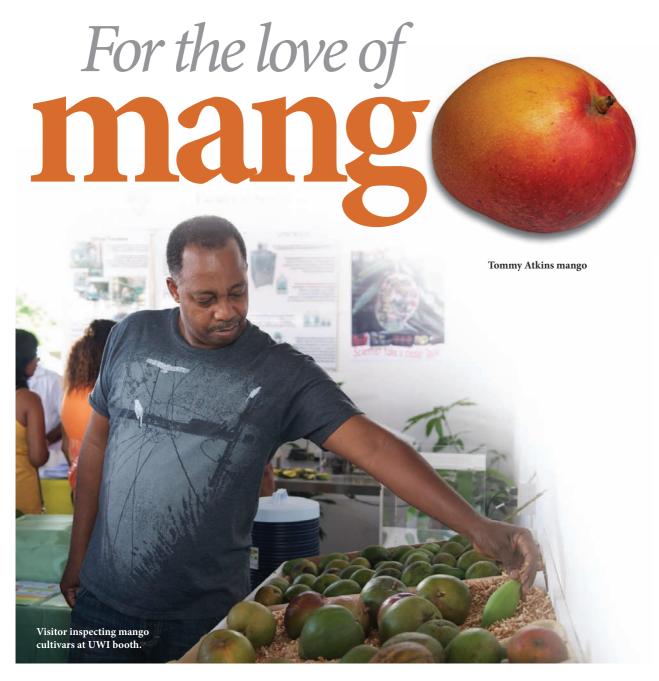
Jesse and his team will be awarded up to a total of US\$16,000. They will receive US\$2,000 for further development of their application, US\$5,000 for further deployment of their application, up to US\$3,000 to attend and present at a regional conference and up to US\$6,000

For further information on CICMAD. please visit https://www.edu.tt/cirp/cic/



"The extensive mobile penetration among the Caribbean poor, the tremendous versatility of mobile applications and the relatively low-cost and rapid deployment of mobile applications, all made compelling cases for mobile innovation."

CAMPUS NEWS



At the beginning of July, The UWI joined the Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago (NRWPTT) in hosting the third annual Mango Festival at the University Field Station in Mt. Hope.

Themed "A Celebration of Diversity and Utility of

the Mango," this year's festival was well attended as guests witnessed milking exhibitions, grafting demonstrations and a mango market, as well as other forms of entertainment.

Photographer Terry Sampson was on hand to capture some images of the festival.



Chanelle Joseph, Assistant Lecturer (Life Sciences) demonstrating mango cuisine at UWI exhibit.



UWI Open Campus Principal gets OBE

Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald, Principal of The UWI Open Campus, has been named an Officer of the Order of British Empire (OBE) in the Queen of England's Birthday Honours List for her service and contribution in the field of education.

The OBE is awarded for distinguished regional or country-wide role in any field; outstanding achievement or service to the community or high professional achievement. Honours are given by Her Majesty on the advice of the Government of the relevant country.

Prof Simmons-McDonald has had a 40-year career in academia, beginning in 1970 as a teacher of language and literature at the St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School in her native St. Lucia and spanning service at the St. Lucia Teacher's Training College and the Advanced College at Morne Fortune, as coordinator of the United Nations Educational & Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Language Arts Project and Instructor in English Literature and General Paper and as Secretary in the Committee for drafting education regulations under the 1977 Education Act, from 1983-1984.

At The UWI, Prof. Simmons-McDonald steadily advanced from Acting Resident Tutor, School of Continuing Studies, St. Lucia; Professor in Applied Linguistics and Head, Department of Humanities & Education to her appointment in 2007 as Pro Vice Chancellor and the first Principal of The UWI Open Campus, a primarily virtual campus, launched in 2008, which offers programmes using multi-mode methodologies, including online and face-to-face modalities.

Prof. Simmons-McDonald has done extensive research on reading and literacy in Grenada, St. Lucia and Barbados and has written primary school texts and resource material in English and Kweyol. She has produced a significant body of work which now forms part of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) syllabus and the new Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Harmonized Language Arts curriculum and Teachers' Guides, Grades K-6.

A NECESSARY EVIL?

BY SERAH ACHAM

Did you know there's no evidence that race and colour were among the sources of prejudice that led to slavery in ancient times? Rather, such prejudice was based on "natal alienation," i.e. being of a different land, language and religion. This is according to Ms. Nardia Thomas, Administrative Officer at The UWI's Faculty of Humanities and Education, in her newly published book, The Intellectual Roots of Slavery in the British West Indies, where she explores ideas behind slavery.

"My question is – why was slavery and all its horrors allowed to exist?" she said during our interview. "The world is full of so many people, how could everybody stand by and watch other human beings being enslaved and killed, being coerced and forced, and violently so, into a system?"

The giant, rusty lock on the book's cover sets the sombre tone of its contents. To me it screams LOCKDOWN. Thomas says that she specifically chose it because that's "what slavery is. It's lockdown, ancient, old. It's a lock on a huge iron gate - that can say 'oppression' ... I really like the cover," she proclaims, adding that, "it doesn't speak to only one race or culture because slavery is throughout space and time."

But, why was slavery allowed to happen? Many studies have been done on the same question. However, they're economic studies, Thomas says, citing works by Eric Williams as an example. "Ok, fair enough," she reasons, "it was economically successful, but why? Did everybody just think in dollars and cents?" Therein lies the impetus for her research.

A UWI postgraduate student reading for her Master's of Philosophy degree in History, she was met with the task of writing a thesis and she chose this topic.

A couple pages into the book, I notice the inscription, *In memory of Dr. Fitzroy Baptiste.* "He supervised my thesis," Thomas explains. Dr. Baptiste was a lecturer in History at The UWI who taught some of her undergraduate courses. "He taught history as it should be taught ... he really had no prejudices ... he would share knowledge with you." She'll always be grateful to him, she says, "for that respect for history he gave to his students ... don't be judgemental ... let your research form your opinion ... The research must lead you to your conclusion and I think that is like truth."

Eight years later this thesis, housed in the West Indiana section of the Main Library - the fate of all theses churned out by successful UWI graduates - was picked up by a representative of the Lambert Academic Publishing House, who contacted her to find out if she'd like to publish her

"It's a little bit different to how you get published," she admits. "Normally you seek out a publishing house ... they found me which I thank God for."

After a year-long editing process, Thomas' book was published this April.

"I always thought that the work was meant to be shared." The breadth and scope of the information is tremendous and if people knew about it, the world could be a better place, she asserts. "I believe that knowledge on the whole is meant to be shared ... history is very powerful. If you have to create change in anyway, you have to know your past ... the past successes and past failures." Thomas continues



that most historical works focus on the negative aspects of history, enforcing the rule that mistakes should not be repeated, "and it's valuable like that, yes, but I also believe it's valuable in that we can learn what worked and how to continue or improve it."

Applying these ideas to her research on why slavery was allowed to exist, she discovered that the institution didn't stem from just one person, culture or country, but instead, that "it existed in all cultures, all major religions - all major civilisations had the concept of slavery and so my research ended up taking me into ancient times ... and the institution of slavery was always there." As time progressed, it developed into modern slavery and this is the focus of the book, "that development throughout time and across cultures."

The book begins with a definition of slavery and an exploration of its origins. It delves into the characteristics of slavery and even addresses the idea of "slavery as a necessary evil."

In the following chapters, the definition of slavery is explored more widely and applied to the Greek, Roman, Indian and African cultures. The book ends by "tying all of that into the British West Indian slavery. Because, remember what we're really seeking are the intellectual roots that caused or allowed slavery in the British West Indies to exist."

This is important for people to know, she says, because the ideas that supported modern slavery still exist. "There is slavery in its true form, in the sense of holding a person against their will, forcing them to work and holding violence as the whip over them. It still exists today ... in every institution, in every country, in every culture, in every religion."

Her research isn't complete, however. Thomas admits, "one thing that's sadly lacking is the concept of slavery, as defined in the book, in China and the far East." But she assures me that she's not going to leave it at that. "I hope ... whether it's a paper or a book ... to eventually do that research."

■ The Intellectual Roots of Slavery in the British West Indies is now available online, at various websites including Amazon and Morebooks.



The Intellectual Roots of

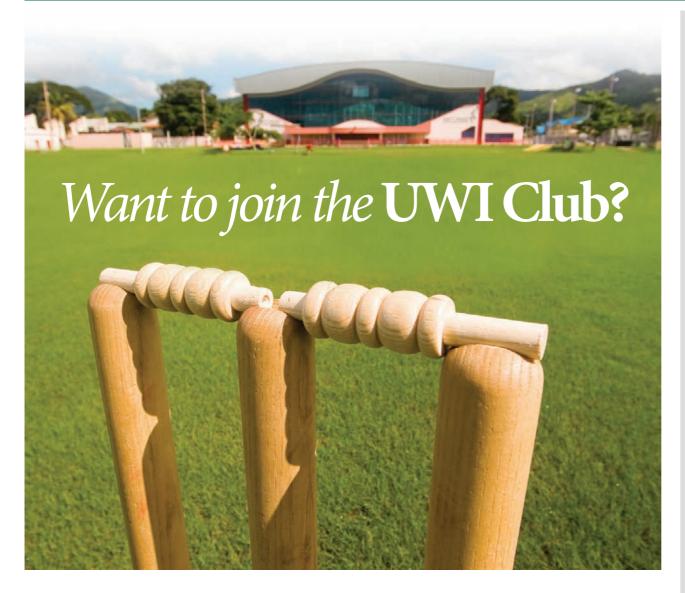
LAMBERT

The Intellectual Roots of Slavery in the British West Indies,

Nardia Thomas

LAMBERT **ACADEMIC PUBLISHING HOUSE**

SPORT



What is the most essential 'accessory' you grab while racing out the door: your bookbag or your sports equipment gear?

If you choose both, then you fit the profile that former national cricketer, Richard Kelly, and present Coach of UWI St. Augustine cricket team approves.

Successful athletes and students share similar traits such as discipline, determination and diligence, and Kelly believes these traits can come from being involved in a team sport such as the cricket for which he is responsible at the Campus.

UWI's cricket is divided between two associations: the UWI team and UWI club team. There are plans however to disband the two teams in September and have just one: the UWI club team. This will render UWI students eligible for not only UWI games but also external competitions.

New players are recruited at the beginning of the first semester. Advertisements for new recruits occur mainly during orientation week. Once you are successfully a part of the UWI cricket team you should expect to undergo intense training.

"Preparation for any game is not an overnight process," says Kelly. "We train three days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Between September and December our preseason training is a lot of physical and technical work to

prepare for the competition."

Players should also expect to play practice matches against well established teams like Alescon Comets and Moosai Sports and review tapes of their games as part of their training.

Many are still skeptical about how students can successfully integrate team sports with academics.

Kelly pinpointed the lack of integration or balance between the two as one of his challenges.

"One of the biggest challenges is the availability of players to train on a consistent basis..." he said. The inconsistency comes as a result of their class schedules. He feels that the ideal system would be where the schedules allow some flexibility to students.

The inability to practice consistently may hamper the general growth and performance of a player. However, this limitation did not affect the cricket team's performance at UWI Games 2011. Even though they tied with Mona Campus for second place, they were able to avenge themselves at the 5th annual Inter-Collegiate 20/20 cricket, competition placing first. The competition was held immediately after the Games at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados. The victory was even sweeter for UWI St. Augustine as it was their first time at the competition.

"UWI's cricket is divided between two associations: the UWI team and UWI club team. There are plans however to disband the two teams in September and have just one: the UWI club team."



Larry Romany, President of the Trinidad and Tobago
Olympic Committee (TTOC)

OLYMPIC DAY

Sports students manage the show

Responsibility plus failure can add up to a learning experience if you treat it wisely, was the advice from Larry Romany, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Olympic Committee (TTOC) as he gave some pointers on successful event management. Leadership, structure, hard work, communication and dedication were the winning combination, he said, a credo now etched in the minds of The UWI postgraduate Sports students who, under the guidance of Lecturer, Dr. Spiro Doukas, were given the challenge of managing the 2011 Olympic Day as part of their practicum for the course, SPMA 5005 - Event Management in Sports. Olympic Day, which was held on June 25th 2011, at Chagville Beach, Chaguaramas and was attended by approximately 2,000 people.

Being part of the worldwide observance of Olympic Day and ensuring that the Olympic spirit is kept alive in the hearts of athletes, the TTOC hosts an annual event where participants take part in a range of Olympic-related activities, from wheelchair races and ballroom dancing to aerobics.

Romany has noted that the event had traditionally been managed in-house, but this year was a first, as the TTOC teamed up with the FIFA/UWI/CIES Events Management in Sports class where students were given the opportunity to put theory into practice by demonstrating their organizational skills. Romany said that Olympic Day strategically uses sport as a tool to build confidence and highly praised the students for their efforts.

The SPMA 5005 – Events Management in Sport is a compulsory course in the 24-credit Postgraduate Diploma in Sports Management offered at The UWI, St. Augustine Campus. The other courses include Management in Sports, Law and Sports Finance, Sport Facilities Management, Sport Marketing, Communication in Sports and Human Resource Management in Sports and are meant to enable the holistic development of students in the dynamic environment of sport management. To fill the missing niche for sports training and management in the Caribbean, The UWI collaborated with the Centre International D'Etude Du Sport (CIES) and FIFA to design this programme, the only one of its kind in the region. July examinations concluded the first ever FIFA/UWI/CIES Postgraduate Diploma in Sports Management.

Total Effort toward a Total Fitness System

BY SHABBIR R. MOHAMMED







Great things have happened at the Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC) at the Gym for this year. The first half of 2011 has seen a total effort toward a total fitness system being installed at the St Augustine Campus gym by department heads, staff and students under the keen stewardship of senior administrator and SPEC spearhead,

Having previously referred to the gym as a "plant," Supervisor Orlando Griffith has now changed the harsh usage of Max Weber's bureaucratic ideology of organization processes to a more sleek and strategically streamlined solution to achieve his department's and organization's objectives.

"I am pleased with the improvements, but the University would be able to maximize its potential by increasing the space with better quality products for a healthier student population, which increases the student potential to study longer. This will produce smarter, fitter individuals for the



world and the country's benefit," he says.

The value was strengthened by undergoing several

A floor space of approximately 2500 sq ft has had its wooden laminate surface upgraded to an aesthetically resounding high impact metallic blue surface.

A high definition widescreen TV with DVD capability has been installed to deliver fitness programmes and marketability.

The addition to the strength training capability of the 'Glute-Ham' machine and squat rack has arrived.

To top off the total system, student assistants of sporting disciplines - academic and competitive - were targeted to gain hands-on experience and the correct attitude for work in a sporting environment.

"It's an idea I had for a long time because I too did a similar internship and this has helped me function as a better quality trainer today," says Griffith.

UWI staff, students and alumni are encouraged to seek and enjoy the benefits of such a facility. The gym's growing database records 1662 patrons for the year 2011 alone.

Registration for students and alumni for the 2010-2012 academic year is now closed.

Members of staff now have the opportunity to capitalize on having all of the facility and its services for the entire of August at the same hours of operation. Registration for all other patrons will restart at the beginning of September 2011 for the 2011-2012 academic year, which will take place each day at the Student Administration Building's Bursary Department during office hours.

Shabbir R. Mohammed has a BSc (Hons) in Sport Management (UWI) and is currently working on his MSc in the same

GYM TIMES

■ EXTENDED HOURS

Beginning August 6, 2011, the Gym will be open as follows:

SATURDAY: 7:00am-2:00pm SUNDAY: 7:00am-12noon

■ NEW OPENING HOURS

Commencing September 5th 2011, the new Gym hours are as follows:

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 5.30am-9.30pm SATURDAY: 7:00am-2:00pm SUNDAY: 7:00am-12noon

High Notes

UWI St. Augustine's women's tennis team won their division in the East Zone Club Championship in June. The student winners were Ornella Sequea and Nalini Maharaj from the Faculty of Science and Agriculture and Dhanielle Smith from the Faculty of Social Sciences

SWIMMING

Two students of The UWI Open Campus (trained under Coach Maurice Faria) have qualified to participate in the locally held Goodwill Games and Asian Games in August 2011. Jenice Makayla Armstrong will take part in the Goodwill Games, while Noelle Smith will go to the Asian Games in Beijing.

UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS AUGUST - OCTOBER 2011

SOCIAL INSECTS

1-4 August 2011 Lecture Theatre B, Frank Stockdale Building, UWI St Augustine

The Bolivarian Section of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects (IUSSI) holds its eighth research conference, which is a forum for the discussion of research results and organizational questions relating to social insects in Latin America and the Caribbean. The languages of the conference will be English, Portuguese and Spanish.

For further information, please contact Dr Christopher Starr at 662-2002 ext 3096. The conference's site is at https://sites.google.com/site/iussibolivariana2011home/

DISCOVERY CAMP 2011

8-27 August, 2011 Department of Creative and Festival Arts, Agostini Street UWI St. Augustine

Arts-in-Action, the Applied Creative Arts Outreach Unit of the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA), hosts its annual Discovery Camp for children between the ages of five and 13. In keeping with the UN declaration of 2011 as the year for people of African descent, this year the theme will be "SARAKA!" The title itself marks a creative attempt at conceptualizing the idea of giving back/thanksgiving, while showcasing our local African heritage through the visual and performing arts. Campers will enjoy a camp experience inclusive of Mas making, storytelling, drama, folk-dancing, drumming and music workshops and performance. Weekly visits to the pool and field trips are included in the camp package.

For further information, please contact Alicia Goddard, Camp Coordinator, at 663-0327 or 663-2002 ext. 2377, or via e-mail at email@artsinaction. org.

30TH ANNUAL WEST INDIAN LITERATURE CONFERENCE

13-15 October, 2011

The UWI Department of Liberal Arts hosts the 30th Annual West Indian Literature Conference, themed "I Dream to Change the World": Literature and Social Transformation. This conference will take place from the 13th-15th October, 2011.

For further information, please contact Dr. Geraldine Skeete at Geraldine.Skeete@sta.uwi.edu, or Dr. Giselle Rampaul at Giselle.Rampaul@sta.uwi.edu.

REASSEMBLING THE FRAGMENTS

25-27 August, 2011 9 am Centre for Language Learning (CLL) Auditorium UWI St. Augustine

The Departments of Liberal Arts and History, at the Faculty of Humanities and Education, will host Reassembling the Fragments, a conference held in honour of three retired UWI professors - Prof Barbara Lalla, Prof Bridget Brereton and Prof Ian Robertson. This conference provides a forum for scholars and practitioners to interrogate the body of work compiled by these intellectual spade workers, examine the socio-cultural contexts which framed and informed their endeavours and evaluate the tangible out workings of their enquiries. Its theoretical objective is also to highlight broader interdisciplinary research during the period and new insights as the region and the institution enter the first decade of the 21st century. Registration begins at 8am.

For further information, please contact the Department of Liberal Arts at 662-2002 exts. 2031 or 4235.

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

Conference on the Economy 2011

COTE 2011

5-8 October, 2011 Learning Resource Centre UWI St Augustine Campus

This year's Conference of the Economy (COTE 2011)

pays tribute to Dr. Eric St. Cyr, a former Lecturer and Head of the Department of Economics. It will focus on the challenges facing regional economies as these seek to establish a path to sustainable growth and development in the existing volatile economic environment. COTE 2011 will highlight the key economic, and related developmental issues facing the region in this context.

For further information, please contact The Department of Economics at 662 2002 ext. 3231, 3582, or via email at uwi.cote@gmail.com.



UWI LIFE

1-3 September, 2011 Sport & Physical Education Centre (SPEC) UWI St. Augustine Campus

Show your true colours! Be part of the UWI life orientation experience! Join us at UWI Sport & Physical Education Centre (SPEC) for:

■ THURSDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER AT 6PM UWI LIFE SUPPORT

for parents, guardians, spouses of first year undergraduate and postgraduate students ONLY

■ FRIDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER AT 9AM UWI LIFE STUDENT

for first year, full time undergraduate students ONLY

■ SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER AT 9AM UWI LIFE EXTENSION

for first year part time, evening, mature undergraduate students ONLY

■ SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER AT 1PM UWI LIFE POSTGRADUATE

for first year postgraduate students ONLY

For more information on UWI Life 2011 and orientation activities:

Log on to: www.sta.uwi.edu/uwilife Join: UWI St. Augustine on Facebook Email: uwilife@sta.uwi.edu

