



# UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES · ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 30TH OCTOBER, 2011



## RUN for your Life!

TODAY, 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.

### EXCELLENCE - 5

#### Lucky 7

■ Recipients of the VC's Awards



### INNOVATION - 6

#### Sweet Tradition

■ Elbow deep in chocolate

### OUTGOING - 8

#### Valedictorians

■ At the end of the trip



### INCOMING - 12

#### Matriculation

■ On the threshold

## NEW PROGRAMME

# A Degree in Insurance and Risk Management

“Although a degree in Insurance and Risk Management is not required to work in the industry, the reality of the market place is that first degrees (at least) have become a non-negotiable,” said Prof Surendra Arjoon at the launch of the BSc in Insurance and Risk Management at the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI on October 14.

Prof Arjoon, Head of the Department of Management Studies, noted that in the US alone, 36 colleges and universities are

currently offering a Bachelor’s degree in this field.

Developed by the Faculty of Social Sciences in partnership with the Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Institute (TTII) and the local insurance industry, the new programme aims to provide students with analytical and problem-solving skills for addressing complex issues in the insurance sector; leadership skills to meet local, regional and global challenges that may arise; and the academic foundation to pursue postgraduate studies in a related discipline.

“Over the years, the UWI has moved toward a stakeholder approach to governance in responding to the needs and requirements of the business and wider society.” In this regard, said Prof Arjoon, as part of its Strategic Plan, “the Department is setting up an advisory board which will comprise key players in the business sector so that together we can better respond to their needs in the designing and executing of curricula and training programmes.”

The launch was attended by Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, Fazal Karim, and was also addressed by Dr. Hamid Ghany, Dean of The UWI’s Faculty of Social Sciences, Errol Simms, Deputy Dean of Planning and Programming at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. Clement Sankat, Pro Vice Chancellor and St. Augustine Campus Principal, and Douglas Camacho, Chairman of the Board of Governors, TTII.



PHOTOS BY ANEEL KARIM

Douglas Camacho, Chairman of the Board of Governors, of the Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Institute addressed the launch of the new BSc in Insurance and Risk Management degree programme.



The Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Institute presented a cheque for \$250,000 to The UWI to help fund the BSc in Insurance and Risk Management programme, and The UWI has sponsored a position for a lecturer for it.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## In Celebration of Excellence



**Graduation ceremonies** across our four campuses have been taking place over the past few weeks – the UWI St. Augustine Campus held the last of its six ceremonies yesterday, and Mona’s will be held at the end of the week.

Given the increasing numbers of students graduating annually, we have had to hold six separate functions to accommodate them. This year our total number of graduates is 4,324: 3,296 undergraduates and 1,028 postgraduates. Of those, 2,791 students have graduated with first degrees and it is a tribute to the quality of our students

and academic staff that 166 of them attained first class honours and 497 upper second class honours, nearly a quarter of the total.

It is heartening to see that while our enrolment continues to increase, providing more opportunities for talented students, graduation numbers are also steadily rising, with many graduates achieving levels of distinction. For the 2011/12 academic year, we welcomed 3,652 undergraduate and 1,611 postgraduate students, an increase of 6% and 9% respectively over the previous year. I am therefore truly pleased that students continue to make this Campus their first choice in an overwhelming vote of confidence. Of the 384 national scholarships awarded this year, 237 scholarship winners are registered at the UWI St. Augustine Campus!

Our thrust to widen our programmes to continuously meet the needs of the times has also yielded a positive impact.

Just two weeks ago, our Campus launched a new BSc in Insurance and Risk Management, a programme that is surely of great professional relevance in light of the economic climate and the vulnerabilities of the insurance industry.

So we continue to do all we can to be an institution that offers leadership in these areas, and to encourage and support excellence in all fields of endeavour.

For the 2011 Graduation ceremonies, we have conferred honorary doctorates on eight members of the Caribbean community whom we felt deserved to be recognised for their invaluable contribution to our societies. **Prof Anantanand Rambachan, Brian Lara, Helen Bhagwansingh, Reginald Dumas, Roy Cape, Sir Fenton Ramsahoye, Jackie Hinkson and Kamluddin Mohammed** join the hall of the distinguished.

With great pride I salute them, and their unflagging quest for excellence.

To our graduates, I offer my congratulations and confidence that you will do UWI proud wherever you go.

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

## EDITORIAL TEAM

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## ■ CAMPUS NEWS

# Principal Pays Tribute to PRESIDENT JAGDEO



In a rare event that was eloquent because of its unusual nature, Guyanese held a tribute to their outgoing President, His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo, before he had actually demitted office. Titled, “A World of Thanks to President Jagdeo,” it was held on September 16, 2011 in Georgetown, and Campus Principal and Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor Sankat, presented a tribute.

Prof Sankat began by outlining President Jagdeo’s academic and professional training and then listed his contributions during the 13 years of his presidency.

Referring to President Jagdeo’s vision of an integrated Caribbean, Prof Sankat remarked that through his leadership, “Guyana has become a leading light at CARICOM, though not a part of the regional University of the West Indies, which epitomizes Caribbean regionality and solidarity. This is therefore an opportunity for Guyana and especially, its talented students and academics; and something that should be revisited,” he said.

Crediting him with being among the region’s leading spokespersons, Prof Sankat said it is indisputable that President Jagdeo has given the Caribbean a voice on critical global issues and a presence in international fora.

He outlined some of his contributions as President, citing the “Jagdeo initiative” and the new agriculture vision which aimed for development that went beyond food production and would help “agro-businesses, creating employment, increasing export earnings of our countries as

well as income for our farmers and other stakeholders.”

He said President Jagdeo is widely recognized as the leading Caribbean advocate on environmental protection. “The Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation mechanism, commonly known as REDD, are now held up as a model for countries everywhere, of how the battle against deforestation can be waged and won,” said Prof Sankat.

Calling him a “big voice for small states,” Prof Sankat said that by “engaging multilateral institutions, President Jagdeo has led efforts to make these institutions more relevant and representative, more responsive and accountable...”

He also noted that, “Guyana has expanded the regional agenda far beyond CARICOM, paving the way to strengthened relations with Brazil, in particular, one of the rising global economic players in today’s world, and other South American countries,” predicting that President Jagdeo “has placed Guyana as a bridgehead for the Caribbean’s entry into Brazil.”

Prof Sankat said that President Jagdeo has encouraged “other Caribbean leaders to re-think development strategies and create a new economy,” he said he had also been challenging the region “to think outside of the box.” Recommending diversification himself, Prof Sankat said, “Rice, sugar, bauxite and mining sectors are all important, but President Jagdeo strongly urged the region to think far beyond, to sectors such as sustainable energy, tourism,

IT, food production and new forms of services, that will generate prosperity for our future generations.”

“In fact, few will deny that this pursuit of new and creative economic strategies has produced impressive results! President Jagdeo has been credited with substantially reducing Guyana’s national debt, undertaking critical fiscal and tax reform and passing legislation to support increased transparency, better procurement and competition. Rehabilitation of the health system, land reform, significant expansion of the housing sector, major improvements to the water and sanitation systems, large-scale development and extension of road, river and air transport networks, and in the area of education, significant wins in the area of widening access and improving quality – these are all gains that have been attributed to his leadership and from which the Guyanese people are benefitting,” he said.

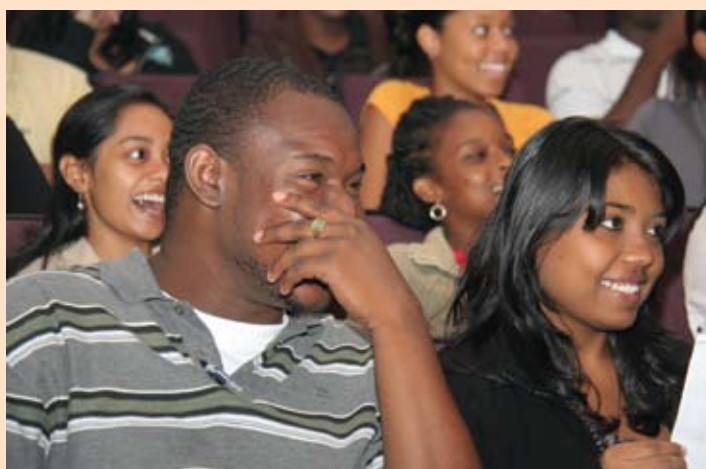
As he continued enumerating his achievements, Prof Sankat concluded that, “whether it has been by reviewing the global financial architecture for our small states, trying to avert the dangers posed by climate change and global warming, advancing proposals for food security in Guyana and the region, stretching the boundaries of regionalism, increasing opportunities for education or just thinking outside the box to come up with innovative policies and solutions, one thing is certain, and that is, President Jagdeo’s creativity and leadership in charting a new course for the development of our people and the Caribbean.”

*“President Jagdeo has been credited with substantially reducing Guyana’s national debt, undertaking critical fiscal and tax reform and passing legislation to support increased transparency, better procurement and competition.”*

## ■ COTE 2011

The audience at the Opening Ceremony of The UWI COTE 2011 enjoys a skit honouring Dr. Eric St. Cyr put on by members of The UWI Arts In Action, at The UWI St. Augustine Campus on October 6. This year’s conference paid tribute to Dr. St. Cyr, a former Lecturer and Head of the Department of Economics, UWI.

COTE is an annual landmark event of the Department through which findings from quality research and other studies are presented to inform economic and social policy. This year’s theme, “Managing for Development in a Volatile Economic Environment: Addressing the Challenges before us”, focused on regional economies in the prolonged volatile economic environment.



## ■ CAMPUS NEWS



## Vice-Chancellor's Awards 2011

Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, Professor E. Nigel Harris, presented awards to seven outstanding University staff members at a ceremony held at the St. Augustine Campus on October 5.

Professors Kathleen Coard, Minerva Thame, Anthony Clayton and Mrs. Eda Martin of the Mona Campus; Dr. Anna-May Edwards-Henry and Professor Vijay Naraynsingh, St. Augustine Campus, and Professor Julie Meeks Gardner of the Open Campus, were this year's recipients of the prestigious Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence.

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence was established in 1993 under former Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alister Mc Intyre to recognize high achievement by academic and senior administrative staff of The UWI. Awards are given in the following areas: Teaching, Administration and Research Accomplishments, Service to the University Community, Contributions to Public Service, and All-round Excellence in a combination of two or more of the five core areas.

*The 2011 Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence were presented to:*

■ **PROFESSOR ANTHONY CLAYTON**  
*Institute of Sustainable Development, Mona, for Public Service*

■ **PROFESSOR KATHLEEN COARD**  
*Department of Pathology, Mona, for Teaching*

■ **DR. ANNA-MAY EDWARDS-HENRY**  
*Instructional Development Unit, St. Augustine, for Service to the University Community*

■ **MRS. EDA MARTIN**  
*Office of Finance, Vice Chancellery, Mona, for Service to the University Community*

■ **PROFESSOR JULIE MEEKS GARDNER**  
*Caribbean Child Development Centre, Open Campus, for All-round performance in Research & Public Service*

■ **PROFESSOR VIJAY NARAYNSINGH**  
*Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences, St. Augustine, for Research*

■ **PROFESSOR MINERVA THAME**  
*Department of Child Health, Mona, for Research*

## RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE



# Hot Cocoa Tea and Memories of Granny

BY SERAH ACHAM

## What does a chocolatier do on World Cocoa and Chocolate Day?

Astrida Saunders followed her passion. She spent October 1 as she spends every Saturday: at her workshop, elbow deep in chocolate. For the founder and managing director of Exotic Caribbean Mountain Pride, and the source of the company's delectable creations, it was business as usual.

"Saturday is my dirty day, or work day," she says, "the day that I will be doing the roasting and the shelling of the beans ... and it can be very dirty and dusty." Since much of the process is done manually, it's a lot of hard work, but "it's the most important part of the chocolate process."

First, the beans are fermented. Next they're dried, roasted and set aside to cool. Then it's time to shell them, and for this she uses her own self-taught method. "It's very effective, but it's a lot of work."

"Or," she continues, "if I have done it before it's the day to actually be making the chocolate ... I will be grinding the beans, mixing my spices, pouring it into moulds, putting it into the freezer."

It seems arduous, but she isn't complaining. "I have a really comfortable workshop," she explains, crediting all who helped construct it. "They did it with love ... so when I sit in my workshop I am very comfortable."

Comfort is a good thing; in just one Saturday session she produces 600 chocolates.

Don't be mistaken though, Saunders' creations aren't your regular 'open a box and pop one in your mouth' chocolates. They're "traditional chocolates," she declares. "It's what people grew up with – the chocolate that was used to make the traditional hot cocoa tea." It's her specialty, and as long as it's a part of the Exotic Caribbean Mountain Pride brand, "it must have the taste of long-time."

A sip must bring forth memories of childhood and

granny's kitchen.

"We try very hard to keep that taste."

Saunders' entered the chocolate world through her grandparents.

"I grew up in a family that was always involved in cocoa," she explains. "We are from Tamana ... which grew a lot of cocoa ... my grandparents had estates which they passed on to my parents ... so we (Saunders and her brothers) are inherently the owners of the estate now." While her brothers deal with the production of the beans, she decided "to take it a step further ... than just sell cocoa beans," by turning them into chocolate.

She didn't know how to make the chocolates that are so popular today. She hadn't learnt because she never foresaw a future in chocolate. Or maybe she did. She'd dreamed of

becoming a florist and studied Agricultural Management in Venezuela.

Although she couldn't make chocolate, she thought of what she could produce out of her cocoa beans. "So we said ... long time they used to make a kind of chocolate that people no longer get so let's try to make that – the chocolate that people knew long time."

"They had a mortar and a pestle and they used to pound beans and that is exactly how we started."

That's where her training in Agricultural Management came in. "It was a practical school. You had to work hard and think of how to make your job easy, so developing this chocolate I had to use a lot of my skills from Venezuela ... because it's a practical product."

After visiting "one or two little open days" with her

## WORLD COCOA AND CHOCOLATE DAY – OCTOBER 1

The day was first declared by the London based International Cocoa Organisation (ICCO) and then the Académie Française du Chocolat et de la Confectionnerie (French Chocolate and Confectionery Academy) to recognize and raise global awareness of the efforts of cocoa growers around the world, their living conditions, and the need for a long-term self-sustained cocoa economy.



Astrida Saunders offers some of her Exotic Caribbean Mountain Pride cocoa tea to St. Augustine Campus Principal, Prof. Clement Sankat, while Dr. Darin Sukha of the Cocoa Research Unit (CRU) checks out one of her products on display at the celebration of World Chocolate Day, hosted by the CRU on September 30.

## RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE

product, she discovered that “people loved it.” This cemented her decision to create what is now Exotic Caribbean Mountain Pride.

Initially, she admits, “the passion (for chocolate) wasn’t there.” But she wanted to create something that people would love. Answer one question and up pops another: how could I make this product without so much labour? ... without so much work? ... easier?

She became focused on finding a way to produce in bulk without the intense labour. It was complex and draining.

“There were all these factors involved so you couldn’t have passion for the product. You had to have passion for machinery, infrastructure, electricity, getting it to the market, getting people to know it.”

“I’ve overcome that challenge,” she says. Now her passion is for her chocolate. With her brand gaining increasing recognition, she’s ready to move forward.

“I want to get as much information as I can so that I can develop the product, put more finesse into it,” and The UWI’s Cocoa Research Unit (CRU) is ready to help.

“They have embraced me really,” Saunders says of her relationship with the CRU. “I met them after I started making the chocolate.” The CRU had invited her to an open day that they hosted for the Friends of the Botanical Gardens, “and I brought my tea and samples ... I served my hot chocolate to them and they saw the standard of my display and so on.” Today she works with Professor Pathmanathan Umaharan, Dr. Darin Sukha, and Ms. Naailah Ali at the CRU to develop her chocolate. “They love the product. They give it out as gifts sometimes to people who come to the Cocoa Research Unit and I am very happy for that.”

She says that she appreciates the link that she now has with The University and looks forward to learning from “the

wealth of knowledge that they have with regards to cocoa and chocolate.”

“Out of all who work with us at the CRU, she’s the only one that makes drinking chocolate,” says Ali, “and she’s really good at it.”

She won’t stop there; she’s preparing to join “the edible market,” and is working with the CRU to help her take off with that, hopefully by 2012.

“My aim is to take the same taste that we have as the traditional drinking chocolate and make it into edible bars, so...our bar will taste like long-time cocoa ... which will be something different.”

Exotic Caribbean Mountain Pride produces six flavours of drinking chocolate: original, mint, lemon grass, ginger, chilli and orange, “as well as a liqueur, Astrilique,” for Astrida’s Liqueur, Saunders explains. “We also do a liqueur in cream which is like ponche de crème or cocoa crème,” she continues, letting me know that it may be on grocery store shelves soon, “we’re looking forward to start selling it this Christmas.”

Where can you find her chocolate?

“Today it’s in most of the major supermarkets in Trinidad, she says.

And it’s certainly making its way around the world.

“There’s a guy from Alaska who sent for 15 lbs of chocolate ... he emailed me and said it was the best gift he got for father’s day ... I have had emails from Switzerland and Switzerland is the home of chocolates and somebody from Switzerland is telling me that they love my product. That has to be amazing ... It’s nice when you offer somebody or somebody purchases it and they call and say ‘Wow I love this product’ ... it makes you feel good inside and it’s what stirs you on to keep going.”

## The Cocoa Research Unit celebrates CHOCOLATE

*The celebration of World Cocoa and Chocolate Day on October 1 will become a permanent part of the calendar of events of the CRU.*



PHOTOS BY ANEEL KARIM

Visitors were encouraged to sample some of the chocolates on display at the exhibition held by the Cocoa Research Unit.

The Cocoa Research Unit (CRU) celebrated world Cocoa and Chocolate Day (October 1) on September 30 with an exhibition and sales event at the Sir Frank Stockdale Building, Faculty of Science and Agriculture. There was no formal agenda for this event but staff and students were free to mingle and see product displays, sample delectable morsels of local chocolate and truffles and purchase products from local chocolate and confectionery producers as well as local origin chocolates (including Cocoabel, Exotic Caribbean Mountain Pride, Delft Cocoa Plantations and Tobago Cocoa Estate W.I. Ltd.). There were also static displays from Gina’s Hand Made truffles and CacaoAtlana.

The educational link between cocoa and chocolate was made with displays from the Cocoa Research Section of the Ministry of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs Research Division, the Cocoa and Coffee Industry Board of Trinidad and Tobago and our very own Cocoa Research Unit.

There was a special chocolate tasting session from noon were interested individuals were involved in consumer testing of four signature lines of International Cocoa Genebank origin chocolates produced in house by the Cocoa Research Unit. The celebration of World Cocoa and Chocolate Day on October 1 will become a permanent part of the calendar of events of the CRU.

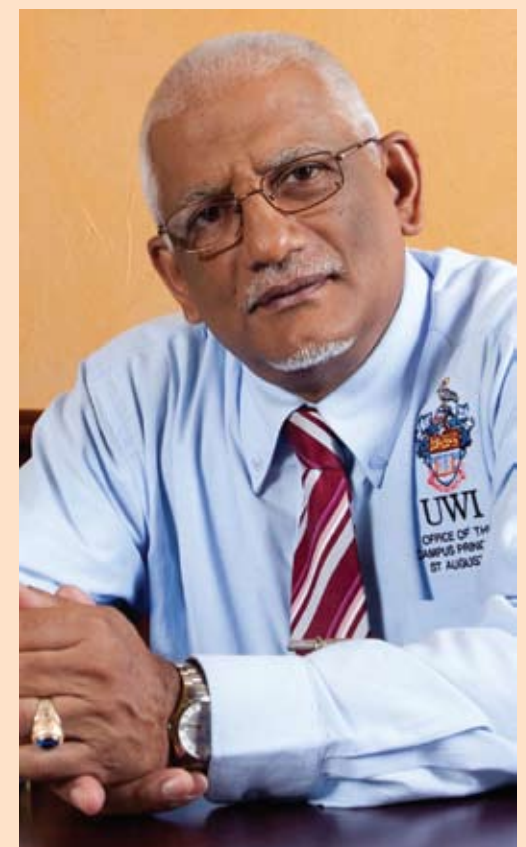
## Crown of Honour for Principal Sankat

The very prestigious Cacique’s Crown of Honour has been awarded to Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI, **Professor Clement Sankat**, as well as to the **Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris**. It is the third highest national award of Guyana, the place of their birth.

According to the instrument of appointment for Prof Sankat, it makes him a “Member of the Order of Service of Guyana” for his “outstanding service to the CARICOM Region in the field of education.”

Prof Sankat, who is a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago, left Guyana when he was 18, and has served The UWI for many years. Before becoming Principal of the Campus, he was Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. At a lavish ceremony on October 21, at the National Cultural Centre in Guyana, the national awards, which had been proclaimed on May 26, the country’s Independence Day, were presented by outgoing President of the Republic, **His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo**.

Prof Sankat said that he is indeed “honoured and humbled” by the award from the land of his birth. Prime Minister of Guyana, **Sam Hinds** was conferred the Order of Excellence (OE), the nation’s highest award. **Dr Arlington Chesney** of CARDI was conferred the Golden Arrow of Achievement (AA), as was **Dr. Edward Greene**, former CARICOM Assistant Secretary-General.



# I'M GRADUATING!

BY RAYNA MAHARAJ



**Whether it is kindergarten,** primary or secondary school, graduation day is memorable and joyful. Yet, nothing beats the thrills of a University graduation. I am 22 years old, but I have been waiting on this day for the past 17 years. As a child, my parents always instilled in me the value of education to the highest level. I always thought about the day I would graduate from The UWI, simply because it would have meant I successfully attained my degree. It's been three years of sitting through interesting and boring lectures, over 30 examinations and living away from my family, but most of all, knowing the possibility of being a future CEO, businesswoman or even Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

I remember my first day at UWI in 2008, feeling so lost, not knowing where to find my class; the mix-up in timetables; the weird looks at us, the first-year students and total confusion about the purpose of certain classes. That soon dissipated as the semesters wore on, and I kept focused on the notion that I had to stand the grind for only three years and I would graduate in 2011. So said, so done.

Looking back at the past three years, I have certainly grown, both academically and personally. Throughout that time, I wrote countless essays; read more than I ever imagined; ate too much Ramen noodles, Mac and Cheese, KFC and pizza; lived on probably the lowest budget of my life; met inspirational lecturers, made great friends and opened my imagination beyond limits. Sadly, I also lost my father, who passed away right after I completed my first semester. Nevertheless, I set my mind to overcome (not forget) that obstacle to reach my finish line: Graduation 2011.

From the moment graduation application information became available online, I swiftly confirmed my attendance. Paying the \$750 for the rental of my gown and DVD had me smiling from ear to ear. Although I was not over-impressed by the retro look of the graduation gown, I was still honoured to know I would be wearing it. I figured my feeling that it lacked the glamour I had imagined for all those years, would find compensation in the sophisticated feeling I would get when I put it on.

My years at The UWI have been the most enlightening, enriching, emotional and enduring of my life, thus far. While it sheltered me at first, it gradually introduced me to the real world. I was forced to grow up, which wasn't a completely horrible thing. I've started working at the Marketing and Communications Office so I'm still here at UWI, but on the other side, in a sense. Two weeks before the big day, as I address invitations to Academic Staff, it only meant one thing: the day was practically right in front of my eyes.

Every graduation has been special, but naturally, this graduation seems extra special. While I miss the fact that I won't have my father to share this day with me, I know he'd be proud to have seen me reach this far. I'm even more proud of myself for having reached this day, given all the obstacles throughout the years. It is indeed the end of one phase, and the beginning of another. I can breathe a sigh of relief as I hear my name being called and collect my certificate.

It's a small sigh though; I know the journey continues.

*“My years at The UWI have been the most enlightening, enriching, emotional and enduring of my life, thus far. While it sheltered me at first, it gradually introduced me to the real world. I was forced to grow up, which wasn't a completely horrible thing.”*

# VALEDICTORIANS 2011



## ■ MEERA RAMPERSAD-JANGLEE

*Faculty of Engineering  
BSc in Chemical & Process  
Engineering, First Class*

**“You have the power to achieve anything that you put your mind to,”** were the words that drove Meera Rampersad-Janglee. Full-time wife, mother and student, she has a lot to celebrate this particular October; her

son turns two on the 25th and two days later, she officially graduates.

Meera attended St. Stephen's Anglican and later St. Stephen's Anglican College in Princes Town. From there she went on to do a diploma in Chemical Engineering Technology at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). Meera said her teachers at UTT encouraged her to pursue Chemical Engineering at The UWI.

Teachers weren't the only inspiration to further her studies. Meera is inspired by her son who she says is “so vibrant that he encourages and influences my daily actions to secure a brighter future for him.”

Her plan for the future is to acquire a job where she can practice what she learnt. She also intends to start her Masters in Chemical Engineering soon.

Meera enjoys reading, spending time with her family and advocating charity work.



## ■ DEXNELL PETERS

*Faculty of Humanities and  
Education  
BA History with a minor in  
Political Science, First Class*

**Dexnell Peters began with a plan** to enrol for just one year in the Faculty of Humanities & Education, then transfer to the Faculty of Law. By the end of that first year he had earned the grades for the transfer but had lost his heart to history.

It was not a particularly surprising development. He says he has always been intrigued by history and his own interest was stoked by the thought-provoking history he encountered while a student at Trinity College, Moka. The youngest of four children, Dexnell says he has been inspired by the people around him: family, peers and teachers at school, church community and friends.

From T20 to Test matches, Dexnell is an avid cricket fan. He also plays pan, favouring jazz and calypso. While a student at university he joined the History Society and served on the Society's executive during all of the three years spent pursuing his undergraduate degree. He credited this group on their role in building his leadership capacity on a platform of ethics and values.



## ■ FAMEEDA LORRAINE MOHAMMED

*Faculty of Social Sciences  
BSc in Management Studies  
(Special) with Finance, First  
Class*

**Born in Orange Field Settlement,** Carapichaima, Fameeda Mohammed went to Waterloo Secondary School for seven years, pursuing business subjects. Her decision to pursue the BSc in

Management Studies (Specials) with a minor in Finance came from the advice from her teachers who assured her it would supplement her knowledge in the field.

Fameeda recalls many memorable experiences at the UWI; like her two favourites: Campus Carnival and Orientation Week, and she looks back fondly at the everyday experiences such as “the teamwork and hustling to complete projects to get them printed on time.”

She readily acknowledges the teaching staff at Waterloo High for their help and support throughout her studies at UWI, as well as her mother. She is involved in Latin and belly dancing; a form of art she describes as exciting and a great avenue for self expression. She is also a hiking aficionado. In her spare time, she loves to shop and go to the cinema.

Fameeda intends to continue her studies in the areas of law, finance and economics.



## ■ ANAÏS VIOLETTE JULIETTE JOSEPH

*Faculty of Social Sciences  
BSc Accounting with Finance,  
First Class*

**Focused, passionate and versatile,** Anaïs's interest in accounting was fostered as a child and grew with motivation. She believes her success came from her parent's support, her love for reading and her persistence and time management skills.

Unlike most, Anaïs had the unique experience of living in many places. She was born in the US, lived England, Congo (Africa) and France, before her family settled in Tobago where they operate an ice cream factory called J'n'J Homemade Ice Cream. Anaïs learned bookkeeping and other financial aspects of her family business.

Her secondary school Principles of Accounts teacher helped her “ignite a passion for accounting.” And now it seems that even her extra-curricular activities at UWI involved accounting. While residing on Trinity Hall for three years, she was the Treasurer for the Trinity Hall Committee (2009-2010). She was also the Social Sciences Representative for the Catholic Students' Movement. Travelling, reading and spending time with her friends are some of her hobbies.

She is pursuing ACCA certification and intends to obtain her MBA in a few years.



## ■ BERNICE LINA ROBINSON

*Faculty of Science and  
Agriculture  
BSc Major in Geography  
& Environmental Resource  
Management,  
First Class*

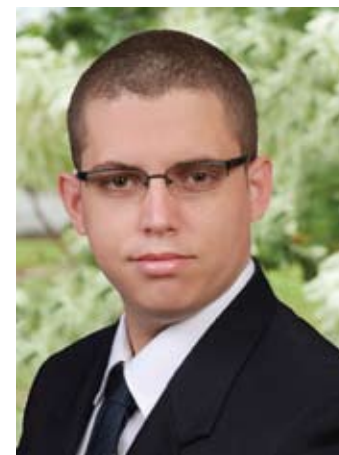
**Bernice Lina Robinson is no stranger** to academic excellence as this is not the first time she is a valedictorian – she graduated as most outstanding student and valedictorian at Micoud Secondary School.

Bernice said her source of success is her family; for their prayers and motivation throughout her entire school life. Born in Mon Repos, St. Lucia, Bernice chose UWI St. Augustine for her studies because of its legacy of excellence. She acknowledges UWI as “the avenue for the youth of the islands to learn, to un-learn and re-learn together.”

At UWI she engaged in numerous extra-curricular activities. She recalls cooking and sports competitions organized by the St. Lucian Association of Students (LuSATT) and Milner Hall committee. She was also involved with UWISTAT for about a year planning events for CSME week, World AIDS Day and the Campus Principal's Children's Christmas party.

Her most memorable experience at UWI was the support from faculty and students following Hurricane Tomas which devastated St. Lucia in 2010.

She plans to read for a Masters Degree in Environmental Law.



## ■ DAVID MILNE

*Faculty of Medical Sciences  
MBBS, First Class*

**David's path to medicine was not clear cut.** After completing sixth form at St. Mary's College he took a year off and worked as a waiter; which brought him communication skills. His career goal was to become a Biologist but due to last minute changes, fate introduced him to medicine.

David quickly grew a passion for medicine, solidified by his interaction with patients. They inspired him to excel as his “knowledge or lack thereof can mean the difference between life and death.”

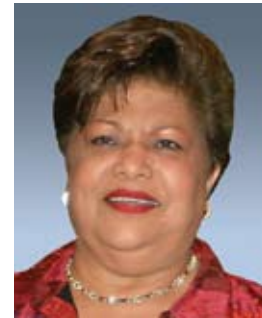
Among all the significant moments at UWI writing his final MBBS exams stood out. Although motivated, David recalls the information overload and nervousness he felt. Nonetheless it was pacified with the bond he and his classmates shared from sharing information and helping each other.

David was also very active in UWI club affairs. He served in the Medical Students Council (MSSC) in different capacities from 2007-2011 and was the UWI Guild counsellor representing the Faculty of Medical Sciences. He felt privileged to serve the student body and describes it as a rewarding experience.



# 2011 HONORARY GRADUANDS

The University of The West Indies,  
St. Augustine Campus  
GRADUATION CEREMONIES



## Mrs. Helen Bhagwansingh

**Philanthropist and entrepreneur,** Helen Bhagwansingh's contribution to the nation spans over fifty years. Her father was a pioneer in steel merchandising in Trinidad and Tobago in the fifties, and she began selling

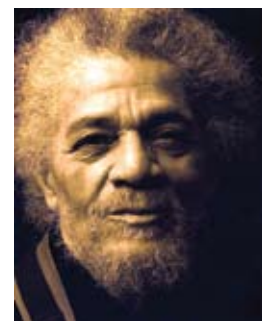
construction blocks.

After acquiring the business from her father, Bhagwansingh and her husband, Hubert, created their own empire that included steel manufacturing, hardware retailing, transportation, construction, real estate, light manufacturing and portfolio investments, and now employs over 1,200 persons.

She is well known for her philanthropic and charitable support to organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Lantana Heights of Gran Couva and the Bridge of Hope Children's Services.

Her donation of TT\$ 5 million to the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI led to the creation of DERPi (Diabetes Education, Research and Prevention Institute), as the organizing trust and with it a substantial amount of research work in screening has already been accomplished.

Bhagwansingh's economic and philanthropic activities earned her many awards including the nation's highest award, the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, she was the first woman to be inducted into the Business Hall of Fame from the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce.



## Mr. Roy Cape

**With a CV that boasts** a musical career of 52 years, Roy Cape has taken calypso and soca music from local pan yards to stages in Canada, the USA, England, and parts of Europe, including the 2006 World Cup Soccer Finals in Germany.

Cape began his foray into music when he was just 11 years old and bought a tenor pan. Today, though recognized for his many musical talents, his renown lies mostly in his forte on the alto saxophone.

Cape's career as a professional musician with local brass bands began in the 1960s when he joined Frankie Francis. From there he moved on to Clarence Curvan's Orchestra, the Ron Berridge Orchestra and then to Sparrow's Troubadors.

After playing American and Caribbean popular music in New York for some time during the 1970s, he returned to Trinidad and created the Roy Cape All Stars.

During his time as a musician, Cape's talent has earned him a number of awards and recognitions, including Trinidad and Tobago's Humming Bird Gold Medal in 2004, the Gayelle Pierrot Grenade award in 2005, and awards at the Plymouth Jazz Festival in Tobago in 2008 and at Dominica's World Creole Music Festival in 2009.

## GRADUATION 2011



### Mr. John Reginald Dumas

**Humanitarian advocate, Reginald Dumas** is a graduate of Cambridge University and was a Carnegie Endowment Fellow at the Institute Universitaire de Hautes Etudes

Internationales in Geneva.

For many years, Dumas has actively participated in multilateral negotiations dealing with specific concerns of his home country and the Caribbean Community.

From 1987 to 1988, he was Ambassador to the USA and Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the Organization of American States. From 1985 to 1987, he served as High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

Prior to his appointment as High Commissioner to Canada, from 1980 to 1984, he served as his country's High Commissioner to India, with concurrent accreditation to Sri Lanka, Singapore, Indonesia and Japan. Between 1973 and 1976, he was Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to Ethiopia, with concurrent accreditation to Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

Serving as the Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister, head of the Public Service from 1988 to 1990, and chair of the Public Service Reform Task Force, Dumas is also the author of two substantial books: "In the Service of the Public" (1995), which contains written or spoken material of his tenure as a senior public officer and "An encounter with Haiti: notes of a Special Advisor," (2006).



### Mr. Brian Charles Lara

**Brian Charles Lara** was born on May 2, 1969, but his cricket career began when he was just six years old and was enrolled at the local Harvard Coaching Clinic. In 1990, he became Trinidad and Tobago's youngest captain, and enjoyed

some success there before making it to the West Indies team.

1994 was a big year for Lara, earning him global acclaim as the Prince of Port of Spain. He broke the world record for highest Test innings with 375 at the Antigua Recreation Ground, a record he broke again with 400 in 2004.

He became one of just three cricketers to be awarded the BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year, he was named the Wisden Leading Cricketer in the World by Wisden Cricketers' Almanack (for which he copped the award the following year as well), and he was presented with the Trinity Cross, the highest national award in Trinidad and Tobago.

In September 2004, now captain of the West Indies cricket team (a position he held three times), he was appointed T&T's Ambassador for Sport.

Lara retired from international cricket in 2007. In 2008, he was awarded the Order of the Caribbean Community in recognition of his accomplishments in and contributions to the sport and the Caribbean.

In 2009, Lara was made an honorary member of the Order of Australia.



### Professor Anantanand Rambachan

**University administrator, teacher and scholar, Professor Anantanand Rambachan's** journey focused on paving the way for the co-existence of religious diversity. His

contribution spans the fields of arts and letters as well as the public and civic sphere.

After graduating from The UWI in 1972, Rambachan pursued graduate studies in India and later at Leeds University, United Kingdom where he obtained his PhD in 1984.

During the years 1983-1986, the BBC invited Rambachan – the first person from the Hindu tradition – to deliver a series of 20 lectures on Hinduism.

From 1987 to 1997, he delivered the annual lectures sponsored by the National Council of Indian Culture (NCIC).

He currently serves on the Theological Education Steering Committee, a team within the American Academy of Religion which meets the scholarly and professional needs of theological educators by creating programmes and services and enriching the work of theological educators.

In 2007, he was elected head of the religion Department of Saint Olaf College in Minnesota, USA.

Rambachan is the author of many religious books and journals and has produced multimedia works for educating teachers and students on Hinduism.



### Mr. Donald Jackie Hinkson

**Jackie Hinkson has led regional art** development, devoting his life to the creation of a body of art that is distinctly Caribbean.

He studied painting at the Académie Julian in Paris, and earned a degree in fine

arts, with distinction from the University of Alberta in Edmonton. After earning a Diploma of Education in 1970, he was invited to live and teach in Canada, an offer he declined in order to return to Trinidad to become the first art teacher in the long history of his old school, Queen's Royal College.

Sixteen years later he resigned in order to devote himself to his art. The versatile artist has worked successfully in water colours; oil and acrylic paintings; pencil sketches; large-scale charcoal and crayon work; murals; and wooden sculpture.

Hinkson emerged as a mature creator at his second public exhibition in 1971. His first solo exhibition in 1974 classified him as perhaps the finest watercolorist in Trinidad history. He earned such wide respect for his drawings and paintings of our older, often humble, buildings that the government commissioned him in 1982 to execute a hundred of such drawings and watercolours.



### Mr. Kamaluddin Mohammed

**Kamaluddin Mohammed is well known** for his outstanding political and government services, religious, culture and community work, for which he has received the Order of the

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mohammed produced and presented the first Indian radio programme on Radio Trinidad and organized numerous Indian orchestras, recorded their songs and music and featured them on the radio.

He is a member of the Tackveeyatal Islamic Association, and was chairman of the Nur-e-Islam Mosque Board – the board responsible for the construction of the largest Masjid in the Western hemisphere.

At the age of 24 he contested a seat in St. Ann's Ward for Local Government elections and won, defeating many seasoned candidates at the time. Mohammed holds the record for being the longest Government Minister in any Commonwealth country, covering thirty years from 1956 to 1986. As Minister of West Indian Affairs from 1967-68 he was one of the architects of the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA).

In 1974, he was appointed Chairman of the United Nation's World Health Assembly. He has been a strong advocate for the Caribbean Court of Justice and the Single Market and Economy.



### Sir Fenton Ramsahoye

**Born in Demerara, Guyana** Sir Fenton Ramsahoye attended primary school on the West Coast of Demerara and then attended secondary school in Georgetown. Sir Fenton was elected a Member of Parliament of Guyana and

served until 1973. He was Attorney General of Guyana from 1961 to 1964 and a member of the Board of Governors of the University of Guyana from 1962 to 1964. He was appointed Senior Counsel in Guyana in 1971 and from 1972 to 1975 he was Deputy Director of Legal Education for the Council of Legal Education in the West Indies and head of the Hugh Wooding Law School as a professor.

Sir Fenton is a Queen's Counsel and member of the Bars of England and Wales, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Jamaica, the Territories of the Eastern Caribbean including Montserrat, and the British Virgin Islands. In his book, "The Development of Land Law in British Guiana" (1966), he analyzed the growth of a complex system of rules governing the acquisition and transfer of rights in land. Sir Fenton was knighted in 2006 by Governor General Sir James Carlisle during a ceremony at Government House in Antigua.

■ CAMPUS NEWS

## MATRICULATION MOMENTS

Eleven of the top Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) performers for 2011 were recognized by The UWI, St Augustine, as part of its annual Matriculation and Welcome Ceremony. This year, Senator Fazal Karim, Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education delivered the feature address at the event, which took place on September 15.

Top A-Level/CAPE student, Ms. Amrita J. Annamunthodo, signed the symbolic register on behalf of the students, and Mr Amilcar Sanatan, UWI Student Guild President, invited students to take the Academic Vow.

Professor E. Nigel Harris, UWI Vice Chancellor and Professor Clement Sankat, UWI Pro Vice Chancellor and St. Augustine Campus Principal, also welcomed new students as members of the academic community.



## HISTORY IN ACTION

The September 2011 issue of the *History in Action* Journal is available at <http://www.mainlib.uwi.tt/epubs/historyaction/index.htm>

Those interested in submitting articles for the March 2012 issue can send abstracts up to October 31, 2011. Book reviews are particularly welcome, as are abstracts relating to documentary history, oral traditions, ethnography, socio-cultural anthropology, archaeology, cultural studies, historical geography, historical linguistics, etc.

Please feel free to review back issues of the Journal <http://www.mainlib.uwi.tt/epubs/historyaction/issues.htm>



## WELCOME TO UWI

It was a very welcoming month at The UWI, spanning mid-August to mid-September as incoming students were greeted by a new orientation programme that set out to cover as many aspects as could be envisaged. It aims to assist students with their transition to university life, as well as to help them manage their lives throughout their UWI careers, by addressing four distinct categories: UWI Culture, Personal/Social Development, University Administration, and Learning Management/Academic Development.



## Managing Intellectual Property and Innovation Clusters



Prof. Brian Cockburn, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Science and Agriculture in conversation with Prof. Wayne Watkins, Vice-President for Research, University of Akron, Ohio at the Regional Seminar on Management of Intellectual Property and Innovation Clusters. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

**One issue engaging policy makers** at The UWI is the need to produce more impactful research and to engage more directly in technology transfer. As part of this effort, the UWI Business Development Office in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) hosted a Regional Seminar entitled Management of Intellectual Property and Innovation Clusters at the St. Augustine Campus on October 11 and 12, 2011.

The aim of the Seminar was to provide guidance to universities in the region on the establishment of Technology Transfer Offices and to create awareness on the importance of intellectual property management in innovation and research and development strategies.

Over 60 participants from the region attended, including representatives of higher education institutions from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Presenters included Prof. Wayne Watkins, Associate Vice-President for Research, University of Akron, Ohio, Dr. Thomas Ewing, Strategic IP Counselling, Tulsa, Oklahoma, United States of America and Dr. Ali Jazairy, Head of WIPO's Innovation and Technology Transfer Section. Regional expert presenters included Mr. Malcolm Spence, Senior Coordinator on Intellectual Property, Science and

Technology Issues, CARICOM Secretariat, Mr. Richard Aching, Intellectual Property Office, Ministry of Legal Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, and Ms. Mary-Ann Richards, WIPO Consultant and Regional Coordinator.

The Seminar included presentations on the valuation of intellectual property, the identification of clusters in economies, and the creation of value from innovation clusters. Business models for managing innovation clusters were discussed. Presentations were also delivered on the establishment of technology transfer offices and on the commercialisation of R&D results.

Presenters stressed the key role of governments in driving science and innovation. They highlighted the importance of significant investment in R&D at the University level, given that the majority of innovation and invention is conducted there.

Prof. Watkins advised universities to consider focusing on innovation in the area of alternative energy. He stated that the key to innovation in this area was to use existing technology but to find ways to make it cheaper. He suggested using technology that was freely available, that is, technology that was not patented in the country, and making it better.

Presentations delivered at the regional seminar are available online at [www.sta.uwi.edu/bdo](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/bdo)



Participants at the Regional Seminar on the Management of Intellectual Property and Innovation Clusters. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM



### NEW SEISMIC HEAD

**Dr. Joan Latchman** was recently appointed Director (Ag.) for The UWI Seismic Research Centre (SRC). Dr. Latchman replaces **Dr. Richard Robertson** who served as Director of the Centre for seven years. Dr.

Robertson has resumed duties as geologist at the Centre. Dr. Latchman joined the Centre in 1972 as a seismology technician. She graduated in 1980 with a BSc in Mathematics and Computer Science.

An earthquake sequence near Tobago in 1982, for which the relevant authorities were put on alert, started her interest in Tobago seismicity. In 1988, from an international cadre of seismologists, she was selected to join the team of seismologists at the International Seismological Centre in the United Kingdom, for two years, analysing global seismicity.

In 1998, she completed an MPhil Degree, which examined *"The Seismic Potential of the S.W. Tobago Fault System"*. In 1999, she was appointed to the academic staff at the Centre and in 2008 she earned a PhD looking at *"Tobago and Earthquakes"*.

### 3 PROFESSORS APPOINTED

**Three new professorial** appointments have been made at The UWI, effective October 5, 2011. The announcement was made by University Registrar/Director of Administration, **Mr. C.W. Iton** following the recently concluded University meetings held at The UWI St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad. At these meetings the University's Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GPC) agreed to the promotion of **Dr. Anderson Maxwell**, St. Augustine and **Drs. Beverley Bryan** and **Henry Ellis**, both of the Mona Campus, to the rank of Professor.



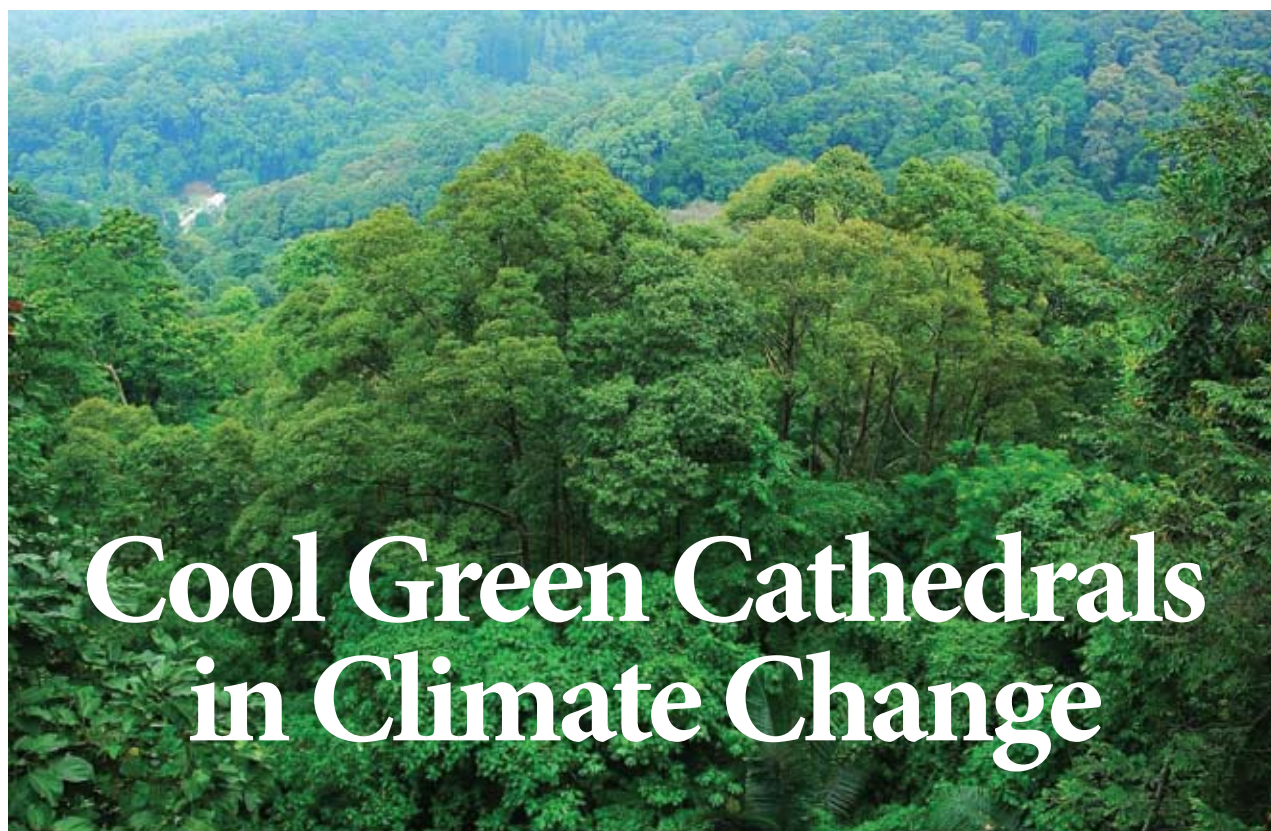
### CHANCELLOR'S MEDAL TO FORMER CHANCELLOR

**Sir Shridath Ramphal**, Chancellor Emeritus of The UWI, regional statesman and former Commonwealth Secretary-General, was awarded the Chancellor's Medal at a ceremony at the

Cave Hill Campus in Barbados on October 20.

The Chancellor's medal is a special award of distinction made by The UWI Chancellor to a person who has made a signal, substantial and lasting contribution to the welfare and development of The UWI, or has enabled access to the University to resources for the achievement of its mission of unlocking the region's potential through delivering quality higher education through teaching, outreach, service and research.

Previous awardees have been **Sir Philip Sherlock**, **Sir Alister McIntyre**, **P. J. Patterson** and most recently, Vice-Chancellor Emeritus, the late **Professor Rex Nettleford**.


 ENVIRONMENT


# Cool Green Cathedrals in Climate Change

BY MIKE OATHAM

**The image of tropical rainforests** as cool green cathedrals teeming with countless plants and animals is often invoked to justify efforts to prevent vast tracts being destroyed. But there is another reason why the average world citizen should be concerned about degradation and destruction of these temples to biodiversity. That reason is global climate change.

Most people concede that climate change is occurring but the most heated debate is over whether humans are responsible and what should be done. Many governmental and international organizations are trying to mitigate against extreme climate change. With predictive global climate models run on super-computers, a clearer idea of what is in store for the planet is emerging. The models indicate that boundaries of biomes and agriculture will shift with global climate change, and it is likely that many species will become extinct and that human society will be disrupted, with starvation and conflict in some parts of the world and severe economic recession in others. Researchers suggest that the extent of disruption to natural and human ecosystems can be moderated if greenhouse gases such as carbon are released into the atmosphere at a slower rate and if carbon is removed from the atmosphere at a faster rate than it is at the moment. A key to these two critical processes are tropical rainforests.

Tropical rainforests play an integral role in the global carbon cycle as has been demonstrated in a recent article in the journal "Science" by Yude Pan of the US Dept of Agriculture. Dr. Pan and other scientists compiled and analyzed data from long-term growth studies from forests around the globe, including tropical forests, and found that they were the best at stripping carbon from the atmosphere of all terrestrial ecosystems.

They found that the main area of carbon accumulation were the temperate forests of North America and Asia that are being allowed to regenerate, but they found that tropical forests were also taking up carbon enough to balance the amount of carbon being released in tropical forest degradation. If the rate of deforestation and degradation of tropical forests could be reduced (currently the area the size of a football field every hour) then a large source of carbon

being released into the atmosphere would be removed and tropical forests would act as a huge sponge soaking up carbon from the atmosphere and reducing the severity of global climate change.

As far back as 1992, governments agreed to try and slow down global climate change this way under the Kyoto Protocol. Trinidad has one of the few projects in the world under this protocol, the World Bank-funded Nariva Swamp Restoration initiative which is a collaborative project between the EMA, Forestry Division and The UWI. This project aims to reforest large areas of swamp forests cleared illegally in the 1990s, and in so doing, capture tons of carbon from the atmosphere into the woody trunks of the restored trees. It is also providing important research information to refine the accurate carbon accounting involved in these sorts of projects which will be necessary in the developing global market for carbon credits. At the moment there is no legal obligation for carbon emitters to offset their carbon released by buying credits from carbon absorbers but a niche market has sprung up where companies voluntarily offset their carbon released. This has become an important marketing tool in some countries where consumers can select companies that can show zero or negative release of carbon into the atmosphere. Many airlines and car rental companies now offer a carbon offset fee that customers can pay voluntarily. Ultimately the global society will have to make it compulsory for carbon emitters to pay carbon absorbers if the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere is to be controlled. This is being planned and implemented in European countries and with great controversy in Australia.

As the effects of global climate change make themselves increasingly felt, the urgency of finding ways to moderate these impacts will increase. Tropical forests will form a vital component of these mechanisms and the potential of forests of this region to earn income from these new markets is great. However, management of those forests to keep them intact needs to be strict, and creeping degradation and deforestation must be eliminated. It is a challenge for the whole society.

## INNOVATION IN EXTENSION Major Conference in Kenya



The School of Agriculture at The UWI will partner with the Technical Center for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation in Agriculture (CTA) to host a conference on innovations in Extension and Advisory Services at the Nairobi Hilton, Kenya, November 15-18, 2011.

Extension is a very old discipline which seeks to extend scientific knowledge and technologies. More recently Extension has revisited indigenous knowledge which can be appropriate to modern agriculture. Extension's most popular form, Agricultural Extension, has significantly contributed to assisting farmers and other agricultural stakeholders to improve the productivity of agriculture globally. There will be four cross-cutting themes: Policy, Capacity Development, Tools and Approaches and Learning Networks.

There will be many scholarly presentations from Trinidad and Tobago. Dr Carlisle Pemberton and staff members will be discussing the successful Caribbean Agricultural Extension Project (CAEP). There will be a presentation on the extension models of the Ministry of Food Production, Lands and Marine Affairs and that of the National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation. Professor Gary Garcia's thinking with regard to a new model for teaching agriculture will be presented in a poster session. There will be a detailed analysis of the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) of Jamaica. Norman Gibson of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) will discuss the institute's work with sheep and goats. From Antigua, Ms Jennifer Maynard will discuss the new concept of Extension for Agro Tourism and from the Sir Shridath Ramphal Institute at the Cave Hill Campus, Neil Paul will present a new vista for extension in the field of trade liberalisation. Post graduate Agribusiness student from Dominica, Malcolm Wallace, teamed up with staff Drs Govind Seepersad (UWI) and Ardon Iton (CARDI) to present a discussion on Extension challenges to assist farmers in marketing Windward Island bananas in a fair trade market.

There will be field trips to successful agricultural projects in Kenya and an exhibition which will display the operations and achievements of many international agencies which are involved in Agriculture. The St. Augustine Campus will host Caribbean booth. The conference website features blogs, other discussion groups, videos, photos and a list of registered participants at <http://extensionconference2011.cta.int>. The conference is on Face book and Twitter.

## ■ CAMPUS NEWS



# Easing Poverty

BY DR. RONALD MARSHALL

**The phenomenon of poverty alleviation** is global. Poverty is a social problem that has attracted a lot of descriptions, not all accurate. The literature demonstrates that the phenomenon defies a single acceptable definition. Some believe that poverty is due, in the main, to lack of access to basic resources such as water, a reliable job, a good education, and the like. Others believe it relates to more direct financial matters, such as the inability to purchase foodstuffs, or to commute, or to send their children to school. The question of poverty in this regard, is one that needs to be seriously examined because one has to be careful of the messages that could be sent to the poor namely, the creation of a dependency. On the other hand, we may want persons to get out of poverty by providing the opportunities, or materialistic support for them to do so. In this regard, the framework within which this could best be accomplished is through community support. From a social and sociological perspective, community support translates to community empowerment. In this way a community of needs will experience a distillation of values which would be transmitted from one individual to the next as they work together to eradicate the common goal called poverty. At the same time, one has to appreciate that a common objective is facilitated through the cohesiveness of the community which is the repository of a common set of values even if those values in the first instance, need to be transformed. Because a community not only live the experience of poverty and poverty alleviation strategies, the long term goals have within them the ability to influence successive adherents and family members since it determines what works and what does not. Put another way, poverty alleviation would be structured, articulated, and practised within a system of norms and values, consistent within the needs, and certainly the outlook, of the community.

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved without some degree of sustainability and this means that the structure within which poverty alleviation is framed ought to have the ability to expand and provide the kind of output and expectations that could be used as a template for similar communities faced with the challenges of poverty, and poverty alleviation, the permanency of which amounts to poverty eradication.

Sometimes one has to look below the surface to determine the indicators of poverty: How many people are losing jobs, how many children are dropping out of school,

and for what reasons, how many people are on welfare, and if it is growing. How many people are attempting to live above their means, which will have long-term consequences.



*Dr. Ronald Marshall is a senior lecturer in the Sociology Unit of the Department of Behavioural Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, The UWI, which hosted an International Conference on Poverty Alleviation, from October 20-21 at the Learning Resource Centre Auditorium, UWI. For further information on the Conference on Poverty, please contact Dr. Marshall or Ms. Fareena Alladin at (868) 662-2002 ext. 83506 or at [ronald.marshall@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:ronald.marshall@sta.uwi.edu) or [fareena.alladin@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:fareena.alladin@sta.uwi.edu)*

## ■ DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

**His Excellency the Acting President Timothy Hamel-Smith** (right) on September 10, 2011 formally launched Senator **Professor Harold Ramkissoon's** Book "Differential Equations" at the Alma Jordan Library, UWI, St. Augustine.



## Students Shine at TTF



Natalie Wei won the People's Choice Award for Best Short Film for her film "Chinee Girl." Minister of Trade Stephen Cadiz offers a congratulatory hug.

As the **Trinidad and Tobago** Film Festival closed, it was clear that students and alumni from The UWI had made a good impression.

Nadissa Haynes' *Pashan of the Froot*, which was made for the Film Programme's second-year documentary course, was selected to open the Festival. This is the second film by a UWI Film student that has been chosen to open the Festival, the first being Thomas Jemmerson's *Queen of the Brands* in 2009.

Other works by UWI Film students selected for the Festival included Marian Bradshaw's *La Parranda*, Mandisa Pantin's *Shushed*, *Social Injustice* by Kivonne Ramsawak and Zahra Gibbons, Lynnessa Parks' *Losing My Religion* and Renee Pollonais' *Sweet Fries*. Film Programme alumni Christopher Din Chong and Mikkell Khan had their debut feature, *3 Line*, selected for the Festival. *Rooted in Dreams*, a documentary about the University itself, which was co-directed by alumna Francesca Hawkins, was also featured. Many of the works of students and alumni were shown on campus as parts of the UWI Film Festival, which ran simultaneously.

The festival's honours and awards were handed out on October 2 and a number of UWI students walked away with top prizes. The Jury Prize for Best Local Short Film was awarded to Renee Pollonais for her film *Sweet Fries*. *Sweet Fries* was also awarded the Jury Prize for Best Local Actress, for its star (and DCFA Student) Dionese Sylvester. Natalie Wei, an MPhil student in Gender and Development Studies, won the People's Choice Award for Best Short Film for her film *Chinee Girl*. Also, Francesca Hawkins received the inaugural bpTT Graduate Film Development Award for her outstanding contribution to local film culture.

Commenting on the performances of UWI students at the Festival, Dr. Christopher Meir, the director of the UWI Film Programme said, "We in the UWI Film Programme are extremely happy and proud to see our students and alumni making such great contributions to the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival. Given the talent on display in this year's Festival and the performance of students' work in recent years at regional and international festivals, we are confident that UWI students and alumni will help to lead the way forward for local and regional film culture."

# UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

## OCTOBER 2011 – JANUARY 2012

### VET SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

10-11 November, 2011  
9am-6pm  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
Faculty of Medical Sciences, EWMS, Mt Hope

The School of Veterinary Medicine is having its biannual Open House at the School of Veterinary Medicine, Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex. The Open House is meant to enhance public awareness of the role of the School and the veterinary profession in T&T. Prospective students are welcomed as are pet owners and pet lovers. The event is free and open to the public.

For further information, please contact Alice Young at [alice.young@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:alice.young@sta.uwi.edu) or call 6452640, ext. 4250, 4213.

### THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

2 November, 2011  
5-7pm  
Daaga Auditorium, UWI, St. Augustine

This Panel Discussion is hosted by The UWI, the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT), and the Ministry of Science Technology and Tertiary Education. (MSTTE). It will be moderated by Dr Sandra Gift, Quality Assurance Unit, UWI and the panelists are: Rodney Amar, MSTTE, Emmanuel Gonsalves, COSTAAT, Dr Freddy James, School of Education, UWI, Leela Ramdeen, Catholic Religious Education Development Institute (CREDI) and Gerald Frederick, Student Guild, UTT.

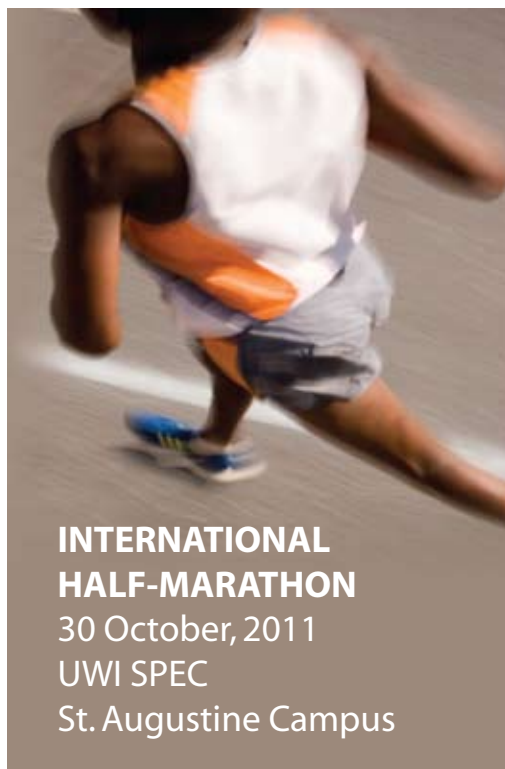
For further information, please visit the ACTT website at [www.actt.org.tt](http://www.actt.org.tt), or email [customerservice@actt.org.tt](mailto:customerservice@actt.org.tt), or [sandra.gift@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:sandra.gift@sta.uwi.edu).

### STRATEGIC PLANNING COURSE FOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

31 October-4 November, 2011  
St. Augustine Campus

The University Office of Planning and Development hosts a certified, 3-step Strategic Planning Course for Colleges and Universities. Offered through the Society for College and University Planning (SCUP), this course is primarily for persons engaged in strategic planning in higher education institutions.

For further information, please contact Ms. Carol Grant at 662-2002 ext. 83574, (868) 645-5795 or [planning@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:planning@sta.uwi.edu).



### INTERNATIONAL HALF-MARATHON

30 October, 2011  
UWI SPEC  
St. Augustine Campus

Today, 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 call 662-2002 ext. 83771, 82660, 83556 or 83571 or e-mail [specinfo@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:specinfo@sta.uwi.edu).

### CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT

9 November, 2011  
Hyatt Regency, Port of Spain

The Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business hosts the 1st Regional Forum on Cluster Development in the Caribbean, themed "Opportunities for Competitiveness and Growth." This forum brings together key experts and development partners in cluster development, as well as leaders in business and Government, to identify regional opportunities for cluster development and share key insights for execution.

For further information, please contact the Regional Forum on Cluster Development team at 645-6700 ext 173, 662-9894 ext 352, or via e-mail at [r.persad@gsb.tt](mailto:r.persad@gsb.tt) or [s.lezama@gsb.tt](mailto:s.lezama@gsb.tt).

### TOURISM CONFERENCE

18-21 January 2012  
Learning Resource Centre, UWI, St. Augustine Campus

This international conference will provide a forum for industry stakeholders, executives, consultants, government officials, tourism practitioners, members of the various creative industries, professional associations and groups, networks of cultural actors, graduate students and civil society organizations to focus on a broad range of topics that are related to tourism, culture and the creative industries and to explore issues of mutual interest at all levels.

For further information, please contact Dr. Acolla Lewis-Cameron at [acolla.lewis-cameron@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:acolla.lewis-cameron@sta.uwi.edu), 6622002, ext 82621, or 7897656 or visit the website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/12/tourism/>

### GANGS, VIOLENCE AND GOVERNANCE

3-4 November, 2011  
St. Augustine Campus

The Department of Behavioural Sciences at The UWI St. Augustine Campus raises the issue of the intrusion of 'gangs' into the sphere of money laundering and drug trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago, at an International Conference it will host on the theme, 'Gangs, Violence and Governance.'

For further information, please call Nisha Alladin-Motilal, Secretary Department of Behavioural Sciences 662-2002 ext. 3234, or via e-mail at [nisha.alladin.motilal@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:nisha.alladin.motilal@sta.uwi.edu).

### THE SCOURGE OF NCDs AND THE LUNG

10 November, 2011  
5.30pm  
Learning Resource Centre,  
UWI, St. Augustine

Professor of Medicine, Terence Seemungal at The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, will deliver his Professorial Lecture, "The Scourge of NCDs and the Lung" at the LRC.

Diseases affecting humans may be easily classified as communicable and non-communicable (NCDs). There is now world-wide agreement that NCDs are: diabetes, cardiac disease, common cancers and chronic respiratory diseases mainly COPD. In 1990, COPD was the 6th leading cause of death. In 2020 it is expected to be the 3rd leading cause of death.

For further information, please contact Prof Terence Seemungal at 6634332 or [Terence.seemungal@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Terence.seemungal@sta.uwi.edu).