

# The MORICHE

*...Tree of Life*

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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## WHY UTT? Interview with Prof. Ken Julien

*The Moriche* interviews Professor Kenneth S. Julien (Emeritus), TC. Professor Julien is a respected international academic and achiever in the world of energy who has over 35 years' experience as an educator. During those years, he presided over the smooth development of UWI's Engineering Department. He is currently Chairman of the Board of Governors and President of The University of Trinidad and Tobago.



Prof. Ken Julien (UTT President)

*The Moriche (TM):* Professor Julien, let us begin with the most obvious of questions: why was there need to establish The University of Trinidad and Tobago?

**Professor Kenneth S. Julien (KSJ):** For some time now, we have recognised that the opportunities for tertiary level education in Trinidad and Tobago were grossly inadequate. At the turn of this century, in the year 2000, a mere 7% of our population had acquired tertiary level education. In the developed world, at least 30% of the population had acquired tertiary level education. Even our neighbour and Caribbean partner, Barbados, boasted of an 18% level of tertiary level education. So, in the budget speech of 2003, the Prime Minister announced the Government's intention to establish The University of Trinidad and Tobago which would focus

on national requirements in tertiary level education.


**TM:** But Professor, why could we not have simply expanded UWI?

**KSJ:** The short answer is that UWI is a regional university and therefore does not specifically cater to the needs of Trinidad and Tobago. The time frame required to negotiate the expansion would have meant that the requirements of T&T would not have been met for a long time. In addition, the vision of UTT differs from that of UWI as UTT's primary focus is on the development needs of this nation.

**TM:** So how is UTT different?

**KSJ:** As I said before, UTT focuses on the needs of the people of T&T; our current needs as well as our future needs. Initially, we focused on programmes in engineering and technology to satisfy the expressed needs of our energy and industrial sectors which distinguish Trinidad and Tobago from the region. In order to ensure that we continue to be relevant, we established advisory councils comprising captains of the various industries for which we are preparing our students.

*Continued on Page 4*



*Tree of Life*

The Moriche Palm, also known as the "Tree of Life", is an elegant and majestic palm tree that can grow to a height of 35 metres. The Moriche Palm towers over most of the surrounding flora and is easily a focal point in its natural setting. This palm tree is found in the forests of Tamana, the site of the University's Signature Complex and Main Campus, Tamana InTech Park.

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) is planting a seed in the lives of citizens through tertiary education. Education is the pathway for self-development and success, and as a result, it plays a pivotal role in positively affecting both the individual and the country.

Like the **Moriche Palm**, UTT is a conduit to a better **quality of life**. Rooted in the ideologies of relevance in education, maintenance of relationships with stakeholders and the continuity of research, UTT is well equipped in providing, "Education with a Global Vision."

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### MILESTONE

- UTT was launched in 2004. The intent of UTT is to expand opportunities for nationals of T&T for university-level education and learning in applied sciences, engineering and technology.



# UTT launches Student Guild

*The University of Trinidad and Tobago students take the oath at the launch of the Student Guild.*

By Michael Clarke

The Student Guild is a newly formed organisation. The first Guild elections were held in October 2007, with Executives and Elected Representatives nominated and elected by students at each campus of the University. The main function of the Guild is to represent the students of UTT to the Faculty, the Government and the nation by extension. The Student Guild is a vital and active element of university life.

The aim of the Guild is to be involved in every aspect of the university in an effort to ensure that each student's university experience is fulfilling and memorable. The Guild wishes to inform fellow students that feedback is necessary for the further development of the university. Feedback provides valuable information on how we can improve our university and what direction we should take in the future. We are aware that our university is young, and as such we have much growing to do. Although we have accomplished a great deal in a relatively short period, there is still more work that needs to be done. For this reason, it is obligatory for each student to offer input and feedback.

In recognition of the adage that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy", the Guild is therefore

committed to providing extra-curricular activities that are not only highly enjoyable, but also add to the quality of campus life. We the students have displayed interests and abilities in a wide range of activities. Where several of us share the same interests, the next logical step is to meet and have discussions with peers in a formalised setting. To this extent, the Guild facilitates and endorses the formation of student clubs and organisations, offering whatever assistance may be necessary.

By the Guild's definition, "extra-curricular" is not limited to clubs and organisations, or to sporting and physical activity. In our definition of the term, the student's personal development is essential. Since UTT is relatively young, we the students can be considered its tangible output. It is therefore crucial that we are properly prepared for study and for what lies ahead when we leave to contribute to the wider community.

The greatest contribution one can make is to be of benefit to one's fellow man. The Guild is comprised of a team of dedicated students working together, representing the voice of the student to their fullest ability.

We strive for your support and look forward to seeing you next semester.

Visit our website at: [www.u.tt/guild](http://www.u.tt/guild)



## www.u.tt

### A more user-friendly online presence

The UTT website was re-designed and re-launched in July 2007. Since then, the number of daily visits to [www.u.tt](http://www.u.tt) has almost trebled. UTT prides itself on the unique delivery of its knowledge products; as a result, the website is not the typical "navigation down the left and banner ad to the top" website. UTT has taken a distinctive approach to its online presence, and the new look and feel is a good mix of design and usability, backed by open-source technology.

#### Content

The website's home page is a gateway to the university's various centres of learning, for example, the Academy of Sports and Leisure (ASL) and Centre for Assessment and Learning (CAL).

The top of the home page showcases images which represent these centres. Clicking on the centre's thumbnail directs the user to either its website or to a downloadable brochure. Visitors to [www.u.tt](http://www.u.tt) can read of the university's history, approach, strategic alliances and programmes. Users can also keep abreast of upcoming events and peruse press releases. The university's Photo Gallery and Video section feature hundreds of photos and over a dozen video clips of recently held events.

#### Navigation

The main body of the website contains links categorised so that users can quickly and easily find what they need without having to wander through a labyrinth of two- and three-tier navigations. Before new information is posted online, the entire navigation schema is re-evaluated to ensure users enjoy the most user-friendly experience.

# Getting to know UTT

## The Mission, Vision and Strategy

**UTT is an unwavering proponent of nation building and national development. The vision of the university is comprehensive and coherent as UTT aspires to be the National Institution of higher learning and research for socio-economic and technological development that:**

- (a) Inculcates in the graduates a set of overarching skills – metaskills – that help them navigate the new and emerging technologies in the national and global contexts, and
- (b) Through its R&D activities, brings and keeps Trinidad and Tobago in the vanguard of engineering and technology in niche areas of key importance, such as natural gas is to the nation."

Ever mindful of its role as a pioneer in the area of research, the mission of UTT is "To be an entrepreneurial university designed to discover and develop entrepreneurs, commercialise

research and development, and spawn companies for wealth generation and sustainable job creation towards the equitable enhancement of the quality of life of all individuals, families and communities of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean."

UTT supports the need for a national productive sector that continuously adapts to trends and occurrences in the international environment. The university will also provide expertise to policy-makers and ultimately, contribute to national development while maintaining its standing as a beacon of research and learning in the academic community.

# Forging a Security alliance

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), in collaboration with stakeholders in the security industry, is seeking to forge a greater alliance.

The process began in May 2008 when the first in a series of consultations on Security and Public Safety was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Port of Spain. It is spearheaded by Dr. Ramesh Deosaran, Professor Emeritus, who heads the UTT Criminology Unit. At the official launch, Attorney General, Senator the Hon. Mrs. Bridgid Annisette-George stressed the need for collaboration between both the public and private sector companies involved in the security industry.

Arising out of the public consultation, a 26-member Working Group has been set up with the mandate:

- to consider key proposals made at the consultation
- to assist in the implementation of a needs analysis
- to assist in the development of training programmes
- to promote a sustained partnership between UTT and the stakeholder, and
- to consider and make proposals to assist the Government in drafting policies and legislation for the industry.

At the first meeting of the Working Group held in June 2008, four major strategic planning teams



Participants at the Security and Public Safety Consultation.

were appointed to deal with the following issues:

- Certification, Accreditation, Regulation and Legislation
- Training and Human Resource Development
- Professionalism and building career paths in the industry
- Needs analysis and partnerships

The implementation plan of the working group was held on July 12, 2008 and sought to promote personal safety and security issues for action by the Government, UTT and the various stakeholders. The objective was to strengthen and improve the security industry and the wider society.



Left to right: Mr. Zameer Mohammed (Senior Manager – Marketing and Community Relations), Prof. Ramesh Deosaran (Head, Criminology Unit, UTT), Prof. Ken Julien (UTT President), Mr. Oliver Flax (Senior VP) Student Affairs and Human Services.



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The University of Trinidad and Tobago  
O'Meara Campus  
Lots 74-98 O'Meara Industrial Park  
ARIMA

The University of Trinidad and Tobago  
John Donaldson Technical Institute  
Wrightson Road  
PORT OF SPAIN

The University of Trinidad and Tobago  
San Fernando Technical Institute  
Tarouba Road  
SAN FERNANDO

Office of the School Supervisor III  
Division of Education Standard's Building,  
3rd Floor Milford Road, Scarborough  
TOBAGO

For further information, contact us at  
(868) 642-8888 Ext. 21077 or visit our website at  
[www.utt.edu.tt](http://www.utt.edu.tt)



Deadline for submission of application forms:  
Wednesday August 20, 2008

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: 1st Degree in Engineering, Pure or Applied Science, Agriculture or a Related Field**

## UTT described as a research University

*Continued from Page 1*

**TM:** Is that still the focus of the University – engineering and technology?

**KSJ:** Actually we have expanded quite rapidly into other areas of need. Shortly after we opened our doors, we started our programme in Maritime Studies to prepare our young people for a career aboard ship. Although we are two islands, we have never capitalised on the proximity of the sea except for small-scale fishing. It is estimated that, collectively, approximately 2,500 ships dock at the Point Lisas and Point Fortin ports each year.

**TM:** UTT has been accused of watering down university education by admitting persons with ‘O’ Levels into its Bachelor’s programmes. How do you respond to that?

**KSJ:** That is not correct; persons wishing to enrol in our Bachelor’s programmes must have qualified at CAPE level. But UTT also offers Diploma programmes for which the entry requirement is five CXC passes.

This is another way in which UTT is non-traditional; while traditional universities accept only those who have ‘A’ Level type qualifications, rejecting those who do not have those qualifications; UTT provides opportunities for persons with lower level qualifications (a much wider cross-section of the population) to enter the Diploma programmes and then progress seamlessly into the Bachelor’s, Master’s and PhD programmes. In fact, even those who do not have the required CXC passes can enrol into our Pre-University Programme and we will coach them so that they can enter into a Diploma programme. So, a student can enter the UTT PUP programme, and five years later obtain a first degree from the university. That is educating a nation.

**TM:** Professor, how else is UTT different?

**KSJ:** We are different in many other ways. UTT offers four-year programmes which are completed in 12 semesters or 144 credit hours, whereas the more traditional universities offer three-year programmes over six semesters, with students obtaining a first degree with less than 100 credit hours. Another example that sets UTT apart from traditional universities is through our co-operative programme, our students must complete a part of their time in the industry or profession for which they are preparing themselves. For example, the Maritime students must spend time on board major ships and teachers must spend time in the schools. The time spent is for credit and is considered an integral part of the learning process.

Much of our learning is Problem-Based Learning. Students don’t just sit and listen to lectures; they are presented with real-life problems which they must solve by applying the theory they have learnt.

As a result of these and other initiatives, we aim to produce entrepreneurs who will lead in the transformation of our society. So, we see UTT as an important agent of social transformation. Already, industry is demanding a UTT-type graduate.

**TM:** You also describe yourself as a research University. Why is that necessary? Is it cost-effective to do research? Would it not be cheaper just to buy the solutions?

**KSJ:** I am concerned about that attitude as it serves to limit the creativity of our people and condemn us always to use only the innovations that others develop for themselves. In fact, there are many areas of research



*Excited students at UTT Open Day.*



*The UTT Maritime Campus at Chaguaramas.*

that T&T needs and which are not being done elsewhere. Our energy industry has challenges that demand our own research; there is so much that needs to be researched to improve our food production processes and these are just two areas that offer opportunities for fruitful research. There is also research to be done in our social systems and we are carrying out that research as well. In fact, although we are just four years old, we have an active research agenda in a number of areas.

**TM:** Professor, the sceptics have questioned whether UTT will be accepted as a university. How do you respond?

**KSJ:** Fortunately, the sceptics are relatively small in number and that number is dwindling. The international university community has a lot faith in us. We have established alliances with some of the world’s top universities: The University of Cambridge, the University of British Columbia, The University of Texas at Austin, the Danish Technical University, to name just a few.

In addition, we have been flooded with applications from international professors who are excited by what we are doing and want to work with us. Judgement of our success lies in the quality of UTT graduates, and UTT research programmes; such as the NGIA – Natural Gas Institute of the Americas, the Mechatronics Research etc.

**TM:** Have you had a similar level of interest from students?

**KSJ:** The response has been, quite frankly, overwhelming. We had expected to achieve an enrolment of about 5,000 by 2010. In fact, we surpassed that number last year and had to refuse entry to an additional 2,000 who wanted to register with us.

**TM:** Why was it necessary to refuse entry?

**KSJ:** Quite simply, a limitation of capacity. In the first three years of existence, we built two campuses; one at Chaguaramas and another at O’Meara. We have been upgrading the institutions that have been assigned to us: the Teachers’ Colleges at Corinth and Valsayn, SFTI, JSDTI and ECIAF. Although we teach at eight locations across T&T, we still struggle to accommodate all those who want to learn.

**TM:** What plans do you have to solve this problem?

**KSJ:** We have begun the construction of our signature building at Tamana InTech Park at Wallerfield and we have presented a plan for the construction of our Tobago campus.

*Continued on next page*

# Sport and Leisure Academy launched

*Continued from Page 4*

**TM:** Professor, you mentioned earlier that the original focus was on engineering and technology. Is that still the case?

**KSJ:** Now we are focusing on several other programmes. These programmes can be best appreciated by identifying the UTT centres of learning and research. These include the Centre for Engineering Systems including energy and offshore technologies and the Centre for Environment, Agriculture and Life Sciences, e.g. Biosciences and Food Technology.

We have several schools of learning including:

- School for Learning, Cognition and Education
- School of Science, Engineering and Technology
- School of Postgraduate Studies, Research and Development

The most recent additions are the Academy of Performing Arts, the Academy for Arts, Letters, Culture and Public Affairs, the Academy for Sport and Leisure and the Caribbean Institute for Fashion and Design.

**TM:** We understand that you have embarked on what some describe as non-traditional programmes?

**KSJ:** (chuckling) Yes, indeed! We have been the victims of our own success and we have been asked to expand our offerings quite substantially. As stated just now, we have launched our Sport and Leisure Academy in which we have offered scholarships to over 100 young athletes in 10 disciplines. They receive professional coaching and must follow one of our academic programmes. Through Sport, we have an ambitious Community Outreach Programme.

**TM:** How has that been going?

**KSJ:** Very well, indeed! Our young athletes have been winning both locally and regionally and still following their curricula. Recently, our volleyball team was crowned champions of the Trinidad and Tobago Volleyball Federation International Women's league.

**TM:** Any other new programmes?

**KSJ:** Oh, yes! We will soon be launching our programmes in Fashion and Design; the Performing Arts; Biosciences, Agriculture and Food Technology and Commerce, just to name a few.

**TM:** Professor, how do you see the future of UTT?

**KSJ:** UTT will move from strength to strength because what we are doing and how we do it have struck a responsive chord, not only with citizens of this nation but also regionally and internationally. Many of our colleagues and friends in the other universities internationally have complimented us on our innovative approach to tertiary education and have pledged their continuing support. With this universal vote of confidence, how can we not succeed in rapidly becoming a university of excellence? ■



*A cross-section of interested students at UTT Open Day.*



## ADVERTISEMENT FOR STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

**The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) is currently seeking suitable off campus student accommodation in the environs of Valsayn, Port of Spain, St James, San Fernando, Corinth, Point Lisas and O'Meara.**

**Click on link below to download an application form.**

<p><b>UTT at San Fernando Technical Institute</b> Tarouba Road San Fernando (868) 653-4451</p>	<p><b>UTT O'Meara Campus</b> Lots 74-98 O'Meara Industrial Park Arima 642-8888 Ext. 21124</p>
<p><b>UTT at Corinth Campus</b> Corinth Road Ste. Madeleine (868) 652-4445</p>	<p><b>UTT Pt. Lisas Campus</b> Esperanza Road, Brechin Castle Couva 636-4125 ext. 4113</p>

**All applications should be to the attention of:  
Senior Manager, Student Affairs.**

[www.u.tt](http://www.u.tt)



[www.utt.edu.tt](http://www.utt.edu.tt)

# UTT hosts postgrad hopefuls

It is an exciting time for those wishing to pursue postgraduate education in Trinidad and Tobago. Never before has there been so much to offer prospective students. Yet, indecision usually accompanies this choice. To allay the inevitable qualms, and to provide relevant information on this pursuit, UTT hosted its Postgraduate Forum at its O'Meara campus. On Saturday 7 June, 2008 the university opened its doors to over 100 members of the public whose interest in postgraduate studies was registered online.

Participants had the opportunity to engage in group and one-on-one sessions with programme professors. The presence of current postgraduate students bolstered the sessions and added a practical element for the prospective students. MSc programmes being offered include Industrial Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Management (IEM), Petroleum Engineering,

Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Environmental Science and Management, Health Administration and Engineering.

Prospective PhD students were advised about the Doctorate of Philosophy with research opportunities in Information and Communication Technology, Petroleum Engineering, Process and Utilities, Environmental Studies, Civil Engineering and Construction Systems. There was much interest in both the Masters and PhD programmes. A cross-section of The ICT and IEM programmes elicited high visitor interest, prompting one student to switch programmes immediately.

UTT is aware of the benefits derived from information sharing. This initiative is tailored toward directing vacillating students to postgraduate programmes that will be advantageous to both themselves and the university.

## energy + education equals excellence



Everything starts with a partnership, a way to work together to ensure the best results are achieved. Atlantic LNG and The University of Trinidad & Tobago understood this idea - developing in the community of Point Fortin a university level plan by creating a campus for tertiary education.

Efforts from Atlantic LNG and The University of Trinidad & Tobago are intended to energise the abilities of students, fostering the dreams of the next generation in the country's significant southwest peninsula.

The Getenergy Award – presented at the 2008 Energy Conference in London – recognises new partnerships between energy companies and universities investing to build capacity and the potential of communities.

GETENERGY AWARD 2008  
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Celebrating excellence in global education  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AUGUST SCHEDULE OF SHORT COURSES

#### 18-22 August

##### **BUSINESS COMMUNICATION AND PRESENTATION SKILLS** UTT Pasea Campus

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**  
This course will consist of lectures, class discussions, group activities, individual and group oral presentations. To this end, participants will be introduced to the basic principles and practices of communication through lectures. Following this general introduction, they will have the opportunity to apply this knowledge as they engage in class/group discussions. Finally, participants will be required to demonstrate their competence in communication by delivering an oral presentation on a business-related topic using appropriate presentational aids.

#### 25-28 August

##### **PRIMARY CEMENTING I** UTT Pasea Campus

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**  
Cementing is a key factor in the well construction plan. The course is designed to give a good understanding of how the cement slurries are tested and under what conditions, depending on given well parameters. This course also addresses internal and external casing hardware, cement blending, cement additive blending (dry and/or liquid), on-site mixing equipment and job execution on location.

#### 25-29 August

##### **OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND TROUBLESHOOTING OF PUMPS** UTT Pasea Campus

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**  
This training course addresses factors that prevent pumps from achieving their optimum performance and life. Starting with an initial understanding of fluids and applications, the course also details specifications, design and correct pump type, selection, operating, troubleshooting and care of pumping machinery. Also included is the understanding of the pump hydraulics, sealing and bearing lubrication. Participants can address problem solving and troubleshooting methods and will be given the opportunity to discuss their own pumping problems in workshop sessions.

##### **BASIC PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY** UTT Pasea Campus

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**  
Basic Petroleum Technology is a five-day course designed for non-technical personnel and managers. It presents a practical understanding of the petroleum industry in an interesting, effective and efficient manner. Topics covered include the basics of the industry from terminology through basic technology and from geology through processing of the petroleum product. The emphasis of this course is understanding the technology. Participation results in greater job confidence, enthusiasm and productivity.

#### 02-23 September

##### **UTT Employee Satisfaction Survey 2008**

#### 22-27 September

##### **Animae Caribe Workshop** St. James Amphitheatre P.O.S.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**  
Animae Caribe Animation and New Media Festival is celebrating its seventh year as the most dynamic and emerging festival in the Caribbean region. Animae Caribe 2008, will be celebrating Cuban animation with a screening of work by prominent Cuban animators. Several venues will be utilized for this animation workshop.



# Robotics Revealed

## The Technology of Mechatronics

By Prakash Persad  
Professor of Mechatronics

The term “mechatronics” might be new to many. It is derived from the words “mechanical” and “electronics” and as the name suggests it is a multidisciplinary field that incorporates both electrical/electronic and mechanical engineering technologies.

This new technology can be found in many everyday devices, appliances and technologies. Electronic ignition/fuel management systems found in modern cars are examples of mechatronics, as are devices such as the hard drive systems of computers. Even more interesting applications are in entertainment robotics with millions being sold worldwide.

Robotic toys are increasingly popular. Many engineers, who saw the movie *Ironman*, are of the view that a more appropriate name would have been “Robotman”.

UTT has a state-of-the-art mechatronics lab with an active Mechatronics Research Group. Projects include a robot that plays the tabla (drums used in East Indian music), a robot that can play the steel pan and a fast-bowling robot.

The tabla-playing robot is capable of playing different rhythms and is intended to be used to either accompany a singer/musician or as a teacher. A keyboard player was accompanied by the robot and the music was recorded. The keyboard player then played

the same melody and again was accompanied by a drummer, only this time it was a human drummer and the music was recorded.

Both pieces were played sequentially to a random selection of university students who were asked to differentiate the piece in which the robot played. The majority, over 60 percent, could not tell the difference. The ones who were able to tell the difference were all musicians.

When asked how they were able to differentiate between the human player and the robotic player they indicated that the speed of the robotic player was constant whereas the human player’s speed varied. Indeed, most drummers, at least locally in East Indian music and in live performance particularly, speed up upon return to the chorus from the verse.

Only the very accomplished musicians tend to maintain a constant speed for the duration of the song or musical piece. A second, more advanced version of the robot tabla player is under-active development.

A major goal of the research that straddles both the arts and engineering is the development of a robotic ensemble. This would include a robot that plays the steel pan and one that plays the tabla.

As mechatronics is the fusion of several engineering disciplines, this project reflects the fusion of two cultural streams in the media of music and engineering.

Students of the SWAHA Hindu College explore robotics at UTT.





# TAKING SPORTS TO A NEW LEVEL

## WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

Coach Francisco 'Panchee' Cruz, and members of his victorious University of T&T (UTT) women's volleyball team show off their awards and medals won after beating IGECON Glamorgan in the US\$4,000 final of the T&T Volleyball Federation International Women's League at the Jean Pierre Complex, Mucurapo on Saturday.

UTT won 28-26, 25-23, 21-25, 26-24. In photo stooping from left are Courtnee-Mae Clifford, Shanna Ferreira, Shari Beharry and captain Carleen Williams.

Standing from left is Rheeza Grant, Donile Hamilton, Delana Mitchell, Solangel Aquino, Sofia Mercedes, Krystle Esdelle and Coach Cruz.

Recognising the value of fitness and health to students' achievement of academic excellence, as well as its contribution to the development of sport as outlined in the National Sports Policy, UTT established the Academy of Sports and Leisure (ASL) on August 25, 2007.

The ASL upholds the idea of a sound mind and body and is dedicated to serving the university through academic, recreational and high-performance sporting development. It is the goal of UTT to be the institution of learning for elite athletes.

The Academy has impacted significantly on sport in Trinidad and Tobago. Notable in-roads have been made in sporting disciplines such as volleyball, golf, swimming and cricket. Krystle Esdelle and her UTT colleagues copped the inaugural T&T Volleyball Federation International Women's League top prize from rivals Igecon Glamorgan, winning accolades and the US\$4,000 prize. While Mitchum Jasper excelled in golf, the UTT Men's Relay Team smashed swimming records at the XVII Aquatic Centre International in Barbados. Success has also been

experienced in the field of cricket and the strategic alliances forged in this arena.

The joint venture between the Australian Sport Outreach Programme (ASOP) and UTT has exposed nationals to the experience and dynamism of two of Australia's top cricket coaches, Darren Holder and Mike Young. Former West Indies cricket captain Brian Charles Lara has lauded the initiative, which fulfils his desire to see, "sports and academics marry in the way it is being done now." Lara, a consultant to the ASL, has fully endorsed the programme and was instrumental in organising and planning the June 3<sup>rd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> clinic, which focused primarily on aspects of fielding and training techniques.

While the recent clinics honed fielding and training skills, Lara alluded to the possibilities of renowned Australian fast-bowler Dennis Lillee and former Australian cricket captain Alan Border also participating in the programme.

Lara commented, "it's not that we don't have able coaches in the Caribbean, but we must be able to rub shoulders with the best in the world." The practical workshops enable cricketers to train and

receive counsel from iconic figures in Australian cricket.

Lara said the resounding defeats which were suffered by the Australians in the 1970s, '80s and early '90s was impetus for them to, "... [do] their homework ... which has led to their current supremacy in the game." Hence, the ASOP grant is a channel for restoring West Indies cricket to the acclaim and elevated position it once enjoyed.

Co-ordinator at UTT ASL, Ken Butcher, reiterated that cricketers are in preparation for "competition with players on the world stage" and not only at the local and regional levels. As a result of this, a holistic approach has to be taken to achieve the desired outcomes. Former test players and UTT cricket coaches Larry Gomes and Tony Gray have fully endorsed this approach.

Gray stated that "the programme was a huge success." At the closing ceremony held at the University of the West Indies Sport and Physical Education Centre (UWI Spec), he emphasised the need for continuity of this initiative both locally and in the wider Caribbean region.

### Scheduled Dates for Orientation of new students for Academic Year 2008-2009

Campus	Orientation Dates
Pt. Lisas	August 26th & 27th
JSDTI	August 29th September 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th
ECIAF	September 2nd & 3rd
O'Meara	September 3rd, 4th & 5th
SFTI	September 2nd, 3rd & 4th
Corinth	September 2nd, 3rd & 4th
Valsayn	September 2nd, 3rd & 4th