



THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The MORICHE *...Tree of Life*

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ISSUE NO.2 – March 2009

CUTTING EDGE Research in Food Production at UTT

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) is spearheading research in the field of food production. UTT, in collaboration with bpTT, is conducting research which validates the buffalypso as a food resource. Building on foundational research from Dr. Steve Bennett, a team of researchers under the direction of Project Leader, Dr. Aphzal Mohammed and Dr. Marlon Knights, has embarked on a plan to, "investigate methods to improve the reproductive performance of the buffalypso."

"Artificial Insemination (AI) and Embryo Transfer (ET) For the Cattle Industry" are two (2) exploratory programmes offered by UTT,


which provide training in reproductive management techniques. Participants from Antigua, Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, have been exposed to procedural correctness in the collection and storage of the semen sample, as well as, the collection, evaluation, and transfer of frozen embryo.

Buffalypso crossbreeding began in the early 1960s by Dr. Steve Bennett, from five (5) buffalo breeds originally from India. The animals were crossbred with an aim to achieving distinctive physical characteristics thereby producing, according to Dr. Mohammed, an, "elite type of genetic stock." The buffalypso, an excellent source of beef and

milk, is being closely studied by the University's researchers with special focus being placed on nutrition, reproductive and health management practices.

International facilitator for the AI and ET programmes, Professor Paul Lewis, Professor of Reproductive Physiology and Director of the Division of Animal and Nutritional Sciences, Davis College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, West Virginia University, stated that the practice of Artificial Insemination leads to animals that are, "genetically superior as good semen samples can be shipped globally for the local herd."

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Tree of Life

The Moriche Palm, also known as the "Tree of Life", is integral to the natural setting of Tamana InTech Park, the Signature Complex and Main campus of The University of Trinidad and Tobago. As a beacon in the forest, in part to the magnificent heights which the palm can reach, the Moriche Palm is a testament to the University's commitment to environmental preservation.

The University of Trinidad and Tobago has, and continues to produce, students who have a positive impact on their communities and that of the wider society. Like the students of UTT, the fruit of the Moriche Palm is versatile and effective in many applications. Our graduates continue to make meaningful contributions in various local industries, and it is this fruit, the graduates of UTT, which distinguishes the University from others. Through Research, Relevance and Relationship with our stakeholders, UTT strives to empower its students and to positively affect the quality of life of the population.

Honorary Doctorates and Distinguished Fellows presented to a select few

UTT's 'Ceremony for the Presentation of Graduates 2008' took place on December 6th at the Graduation Pavilion, O'Meara Campus. The ceremony marked another significant milestone in the University's history. At this event, UTT lauded the achievements of four (4) individuals who have made significant contributions in their respective spheres of work. The Chancellor of UTT, His Excellency, Professor George Maxwell Richards, T.C., C.M.T.,

PhD., Hon. LLD (UWI) received the graduands and inducted the honorees.

Two Honorary Doctorates were bestowed. Mr. Kenneth Gordon received the Degree of Doctor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation while Mr. LeRoy Clarke was presented with the Degree of Doctor of Fine Arts. Mr. Kerston Coombs and Mr. Eugene Joseph were both conferred Honorary Distinguished Fellows. A glimpse into the achievements of these noted gentlemen follows: **Kenneth**



Gordon, a former student of St. Mary's College, Port-of-Spain, has worked tirelessly in the Broadcast Industry of Trinidad and Tobago for nearly five decades. Starting his career as a Broadcast

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MILESTONE

November, 2005

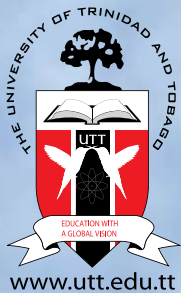
The Chairman and The Board of Governors announced His Excellency, Professor George Maxwell Richards, T.C., CMT, PhD, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, as the Institution's first Chancellor.



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Accelerating the Growth of the Manufacturing Sector

The development and growth of an innovative manufacturing sector is central to Trinidad and Tobago's goal to achieve Developed Nation economic status. The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) is committed to supporting the growth of a robust, globally competitive manufacturing sector through a collaborative, integrated approach involving Education, Research and Engagement with Industry.

On 03 February, UTT brought together a number of stakeholders in the local manufacturing sector. The seminar was organized as a means to engage and interact with stakeholders across industry, business support agencies, government and academia, in the identification and prioritisation of the support needed to enable the substantial economic growth of Trinidad and Tobago's manufacturing sector. The information garnered will be used to inform the development of the University's Industry Links Unit, which will lead UTT's engagement with the manufacturing sector and will stimulate manufacturing growth through business and education support interventions for SMEs and Early Stage Firms.

Speakers at this result-oriented seminar included Peter Templeton, Director of the Industry Links Unit at the University of Cambridge and Tom Ridgman of the Institute of Manufacturing at the University of Cambridge. Also addressing the participants was Mrs. Natasha Mustapha-Scott, Executive Officer at the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA). Tackling the issue of 'Managing through a



Peter Templeton, Director of the Industry Links Unit at the University of Cambridge addressing participants.

Recession', the attendees were provided with fundamental information on ensuring viability in cash management, strategic re-appraisals of businesses and strengthening the performance of key business capabilities. In these present economic circumstances, however, the participants were reminded that there was no 'magic bullet' available for success in business.

Multiple Workshops ensued with the purpose of assessing the support needed to foster the development

of successful new firms and new ventures in existing firms. The workshops also sought to identify the role of an Industry Links Unit, given the present local and international business phenomenon. An appraisal of the capabilities, policies and infrastructure that SME's need to grow from being nationally competitive, to conducting business regionally, internationally and globally was also undertaken with an aim to improving the present standing of local business institutions.

The Great Debaters -UTT Bests UWI in debate



Victorious UTT Team with Moderator Andy Johnson

The South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce (STCIC) hosted the Trinidad and Tobago Petroleum Conference at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad from 02-04 February, 2009. In addition to the Energy Tradeshow, the Chamber facilitated a debate between students of The University of the West Indies (UWI) and The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). The debate was used as a forum to stimulate discussion among the nation's youth on important issues of national [and global] concern.

Representing UWI were Sharane Simon, Nwoma Grant and Sherezz Grant, while team UTT consisted of Randall Ballack, Patrice Joseph and Brendon Davy. The moderator of the evening's proceedings was Mr. Andy Johnson. The six (6) debaters are currently pursuing first degrees in Petroleum Geosciences at their respective universities. The students were asked to contemplate the following: *"Be it resolved that Trinidad and Tobago's position in the global competitive*

index (GCI) ranking should be an issue of concern."

First at the podium was Nwoma Grant of UWI who, along with her colleagues, argued in support of the resolution. She stated that the country's global competitive ranking (92) was cause for concern and that, "the ranking is a representation of [the country's] slow development." This position was reiterated by her colleagues as they took their turn at the podium.

Team UTT took an opposing view to the resolution and the first speaker, Randall Ballack, insisted that the analysis of the sub-indices was the pervading issue and not the actual ranking of the country. Mr. Ballack affirmed that, "the solution is not in the rank but in the sub-indices, for it is at this level we can define change." Members of the respective teams held firm to their positions, with Sharane Simon of UWI declaring, "a low ranking means that we [Trinidad and Tobago] cannot

attract businesses or investments." This point was rebutted by Brendon Davy who challenged the very nature of the ranking. He stated, "the rank does not reflect Trinidad and Tobago's competitiveness." Team UTT further went on to reflect that the ranking also did not reveal Trinidad and Tobago's strengths in the manufacturing industry as the country was the largest exporter of light manufacturing goods in the CARICOM region.

The spirited debate saw UTT emerging victorious with a score of 539 to UWI's 511.

CUTTING EDGE

Research in Food Production at UTT

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Dr. Justin Rhinehart of Mississippi State University, concurred and added that, "shipped semen, rather than live bulls, means less diseases as the semen is treated with antibiotics before being frozen and exported to its intended country." Both men indicate that the benefits to the local cattle industry are far-reaching and that improve performance of the herd, disease control and quality beef and dairy output, are the desired end result for all stakeholders of the industry.

The University is also forging efforts to combat shortages in food production. UTT, along with the Estate Management and Business Development Corporation (EMBD) and the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB), is spearheading the development of a strategic plan aimed at achieving twenty-five percent (25%) import reduction in rice. Global shortages in food production dictate that a proactive approach be taken; therefore, consultation with stakeholders and proper planning for the rice industry is paramount.

UTT Honorary Doctorates and Distinguished Fellows

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Journalist, he has since been involved in every aspect of his profession- Radio, Television, and Newspaper. He is credited for transforming The Express Newspaper into the Caribbean's largest Media House and he played a key role in establishing an indigenous privately owned Media in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Guyana and Jamaica. Mr. Gordon also pioneered the formation of CANA-The Caribbean News Agency. For his ground-breaking efforts, Mr. Gordon has been the recipient of numerous awards. Among the accolades are the Commonwealth Press Union Award, The Columbia University Maria Moors Cabot Gold Medal Award and the Chaconia Gold National Award.

Mr. Gordon served, for the period 1986-1990, as a Government Minister in the Ministry of Industry, Enterprise & Tourism and at the end of his Ministerial tenure; he assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer/ Chairman of the Caribbean Communications Network Ltd. Mr. Gordon has acted as Chairman for many Organizations including British West Indies Airways (BWIA), Neal and Massy Holdings Limited, and First Citizens Bank. He has recently held the position of President of the West Indies Cricket Board and Chairman of ICC Cricket World Cup 2007. An avid cricket fan, Mr. Gordon is affiliated with Queen's Park Cricket Club and has penned the autobiography: Getting It Write-Winning Caribbean Press Freedom.

Mr. LeRoy Clarke who was born in Belmont, Port-of- Spain, is considered one of Trinidad and Tobago's finest contemporary artists. Self-taught, Mr. Clarke's prowess as a visual artist grew from a compunction to "see and to go deeper than surfaces allowed." Using his hometown of Gonzales as his training ground, Mr. Clarke was able to express visually the attributes of his environment that impacted his life.



Mr. LeRoy Clarke

As a boy influenced by the rituals of the Shango Yard, Hindu ceremonies, Hosay, Shouter Baptists and Pan, Mr. Clarke used his life experiences to shape the world view to which he, as an artist, champions today. A man of many talents, Mr. Clarke has a background in teaching and was a member of the popular singing group, "The Beamers." Showcasing his first solo art exhibition "A Labour of Love" at the age of twenty-seven (27) at the Bank of Nova Scotia, Mr. Clarke proved himself to be above the rest. He honed his artistic skills in the United States where he was the first Artist-In-Residence at the Studio Museum of Harlem during the period of 1972-1974. A proficient writer, Mr. Clarke has contributed many essays on issues of national importance and is the author and publisher of four books of poems.

For his body of work, LeRoy Clarke has been recognized with numerous awards, titles and tributes. He is one of only two artists to be named 'Master Artist' by the National Museum and Art Gallery of Trinidad and Tobago. In addition to him being confirmed as a 'National Living Treasure' he was also the previous recipient of an Honorary Distinguished Fellow award from The University of Trinidad and Tobago in 2005. Mr. Clarke cites the title of Chief Ifa Oje Won Yomi Abiodun of Trinidad and Tobago bestowed on him at the Shango/Oshun rain Festival of 2005, as the crowning event of his life.

Mr. Kerston Coombs was born on the island of

St. Vincent and schooled at its Grammar School before graduating from London University with a B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering. Returning to the Caribbean, he chose Trinidad as his base and in 1964 began an eighteen year (18) career with Federation Chemicals (now YARA, Trinidad).



Mr. Kerston Coombs

Mr. Coombs has had a long and distinguished career in the local energy sector particularly in the area of petrochemicals. He has performed in various positions in engineering, management and project development in ammonia, urea and methanol projects.

He has held positions in organizations both locally and internationally within the industry and he is the former President of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce. In addition to this, he has served as Chairman of the Trinidad Nitrogen Company (Tringen) and was a member of the board of several companies.

Through his consulting firm Entech Ltd., and his membership on the Energy Committee of the Chamber, Mr. Coombs continued his interest in energy matters. From 1982-1985, he joined the National Energy Corporation (NEC) to spearhead the implementation of the first Methanol plant built in the country.

His various associations with Clico/ C.L. Financial and Process Plant Services Limited (PPSL), the first locally owned and managed, management and operating company for petrochemical plants, cemented his credibility and contribution to the field. Mr. Coombs has also held the position of Chairman of both Ventrin Petroleum Company Ltd. and Information Support Services Ltd. (ISSL).

Mr. Eugene Joseph Born and schooled in Corbeaux Town, Port-of- Spain, Joseph very early identified the Dance, as practiced by his mentor Aldwyn Boynes, as the career path that he would follow, establishing his own dance group at San Fernando in 1966 at the tender age of 22. Later, he would complete courses with the Arthur Murray Dance Studios, Canada (1967), and at the Royal Academy of Dance in England (1985). In 1988 he completed the Aerobic Instructor's Certificate Course in the United States, and eight years later, the Master Certificate in American Style Rhythm Dance.



Mr. Eugene Joseph

Eugene Joseph is credited with choreographing over one hundred and fifty (150) ballets in Trinidad and Tobago and abroad and has been an instrumental force in mobilizing the cultural talents of the communities through Best Village shows and with cultural development projects both locally and internationally. Over the years, Mr. Joseph has assisted Government Ministries, both at home and abroad, with their cultural programmes. He has also co-coordinated and produced major National Cultural events for visiting Heads of State and other dignitaries from foreign countries.

For his four-decade-long contribution to the Arts and Culture, as dancer/ performer/ tutor/ choreographer/ cultural ambassador/ administrator/ and entrepreneur, Eugene Joseph was, in 2001, awarded the Humming Bird Medal (Silver).

Engineering Strategic Relationships at UTT



Sarah Buck, President of IStructE, greets UTT officials

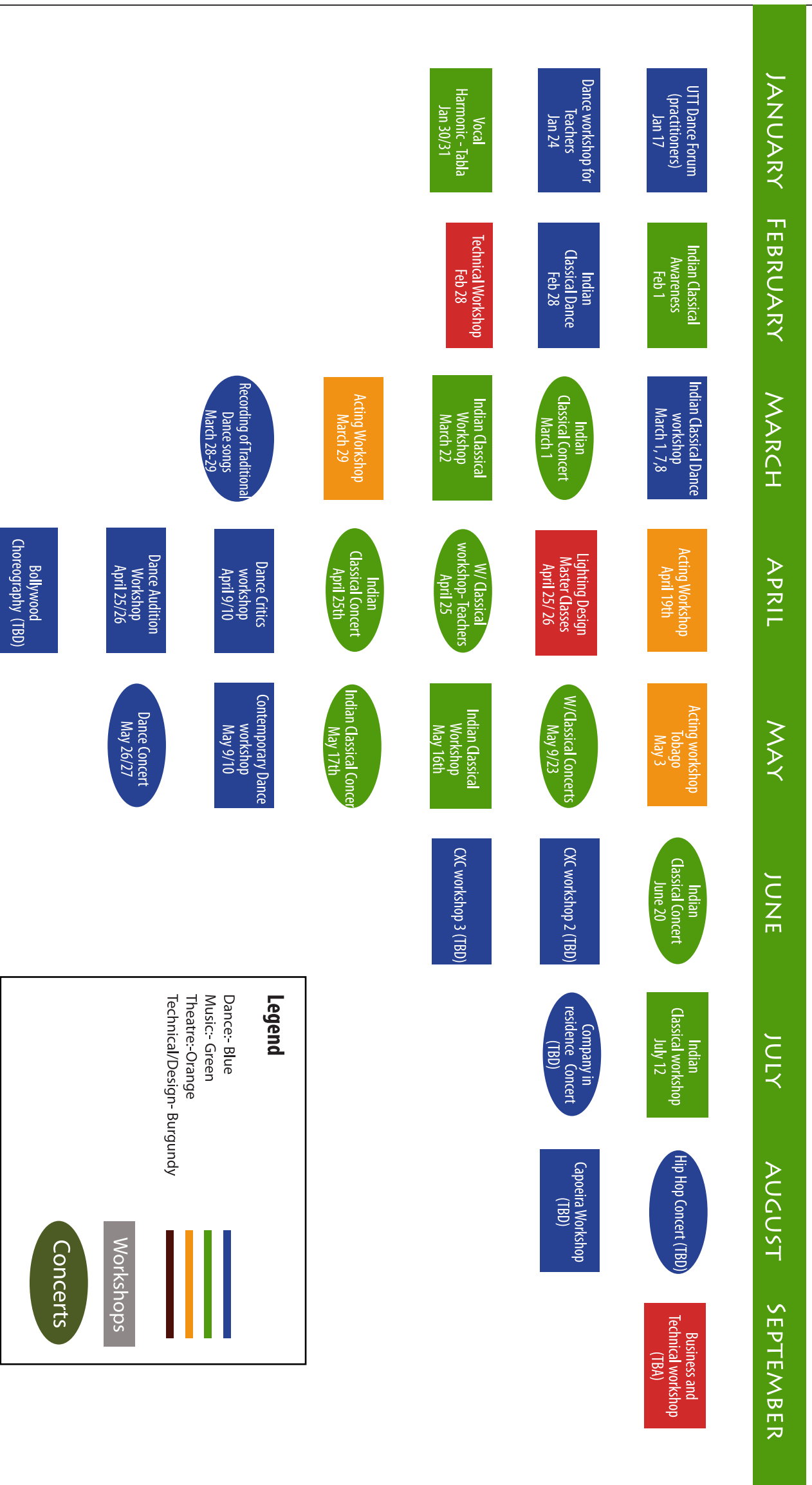
Executives from The Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE) recently visited The University of Trinidad and Tobago's (UTT) O'Meara campus. Sarah Buck, the first female President in the history of IStructE, took the opportunity to chat with aspiring Engineers as she addressed a cross-section of students currently enrolled in engineering programmes at the University. Structural Engineering, whilst not an Engineering discipline at UTT at this time, is a growing engineering field as there is great progress in the structural design of buildings the world over.

The Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE) is the world's leading professional body for structural engineering with over twenty-four thousand (24,000) members in one hundred and five (105) countries worldwide. Celebrating one hundred years of existence, the institution which held its inaugural meeting at the Ritz Hotel, London in 1908, now boasts of membership in all continents with a heavy concentration of members hailing from Asia.

IStructE is involved in a series of activities aimed at benefiting the engineering fraternity, as well as, academic institutions. Initiatives undertaken by the body to achieve excellence in structural engineering include accreditation of academic courses, qualifying of structural engineers (by means of rigorous exams and professional testing), providing technical publications and offering continuous professional development courses. Ms. Buck has vowed, "To attract the right people, support them [in the profession] and to enthuse them". She made mention of the great achievements in structural engineering taking place around the world, drawing specific reference to the magnificence of the Bird's Nest and Water Cube in China, and the Burj Tower, the world's tallest skyscraper, in Dubai.

Prof. David Mc Gaw, Provost at UTT, reiterated that forging relationships with professional bodies, such as IStructE, is not only beneficial but relevant to the University.

The Academy for the Performing Arts Workshop Road Map - 2009



Legend

- Dance:- Blue
- Music:- Green
- Theatre:-Orange
- Technical/Design- Burgundy
- Workshops
- Concerts



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Netting it Big in Basketball



The opening of UTT's second Annual Basketball League was held on 06 February. Assistant Vice President- Student Affairs, Mr. Stephen Sheppard, welcomed the enthusiastic crowd and imparted some words of encouragement to the participants. An impressive Parade of Teams kicked off the event with the University of Southern Caribbean USC winning the March Past Trophy.

There was heavy crowd participation in the 'Dunk Out' competition as players were judged according to crowd reaction, creativity and execution of skill. The final dunking confrontation between Kestler Modeste of JSDTI and Maurice Billy of SFTI was a display of skill and theatrics as they each tried to out-do the other to claim the top spot. Kestler Modeste was ultimately adjudged the winner as his leap over two players to score a basket was enough to crown him champion of the Dunk-Out Tournament. In the three-point shootout competition, Dion Bramell of USC trumped all competitors by completing twelve (12) shots in the space of one (1) minute. Several four-minute exhibition games followed. The patrons were treated to the music of Destra Garcia who entertained the crowd with a medley of her hits, much to the delight of all in attendance.

UTT Scores Big In Sport



The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) continues to score big in sport. The University has dominated in several sporting disciplines and continues to make incredible in-roads in national and regional sporting events.

The UTT Football League opened the new football season at the Marvin Lee Stadium in Tunapuna before a very enthusiastic group of spectators and supporters with some 1500 persons in attendance. The Opening Ceremony consisted of a very colourful parade of teams with COSTAATT leading and VTC at the end. There were a total of nine (9) teams on parade, namely, COSTAATT, SFTI, JSDTI, TTHTI, UWI, Pt. Lisas Campus, O'Meara Campus, ECIAF and VTC.

The eventual winner of the parade was VTC who, dressed in black and orange uniform, marched in unison to the beat of the background music. The Best Supporters Trophy went to the students of UWI while the Cheerleaders' Trophy once again went to the students of JSDTI. Two games were played on the night. SFTI came up against UWI in the opening game, which ended in a goal-less draw while ECIAF played COSTAATT in a thrilling match which ended 3-2 in favour of COSTAATT.

Senior officials from all of the participating institutions attended and took in the exciting action on the field. Ms. Patricia Butcher, Executive Director of TTHTI, Dr. Merle Hoyte, Dean of Students at COSTAATT, UTT Football Coach, Gally Cummings and the Head of the Academy of Sports and Leisure Studies, Mr. Kenneth Butcher, took the salute and inspected the parade of the teams.

UTT - UNIPET- TTASPE Cricket Camp



The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), in partnership with UNIPET, Trinidad and Tobago Alliance for Sports and Physical Education (TTASPE) and Sport for Life T&T ran a 15-Day Cricket Camp at the First Citizens Clarke Road United Cricket Club, Penal during the latter half of 2008.

Some seventy (70) children from the catchment areas of Penal, Debe, Barrackpore and Moruga participated in two categories of Under 15 and Under 10. The participants benefited tremendously from this Community Outreach Programme as many experienced cricket coaches and senior players were brought in to teach both theory and practical lessons to give the campers a holistic appre-

ciation and understanding of the game of cricket.

The modules included Cricket Coaching, Cricket Scoring, Cricket Umpiring, Teamwork and Cricket Game. The organizers of the camp employed the Sport for Development model to provide not only training in cricket, but also teaching the young athletes life skills such as responsibility, team work and fair play. Furthermore, an etiquette training session was conducted on hygiene and general good behaviour.

Ron Milford, C.E.O. of UNIPET, Dr. Allan Sammy, Chairman of Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation, Andre Collins of UTT, and other dignitaries attended the closing ceremony.