



THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The MORICHE

...Tree of Life

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ISSUE NO.3 – April 2009

UTT Re-Registered for three years



ACTT representative greets Professor Fredrick Emshousen at the O'Meara Campus. Looking on are John Randall (left) and Curtis Floyd (partially hidden) also of ACTT.

United Kingdom and included Professor Frederick Emshousen (a Consultant-Evaluator with the Higher Learning Commission, USA and a former director of the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET Inc.) and Carol Keller, former Dean of the School of Education, The University of the West Indies. This was the same team that evaluated UTT a year earlier. Mr Curtis Floyd, Manager, Registration of ACTT accompanied the team.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has appointed the following persons to the Board of Governors of The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT):

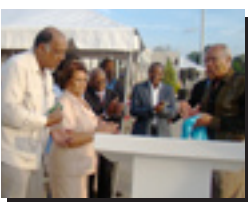
- Professor K. S. Julien-
(Current Chairman)
- Mr. Kenneth Gordon
- Dr. Wilhelmus K. Hilwig
- Professor Andrew Ramroop
- Ms. Margaret A. Richardson

The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) has re-registered The University of Trinidad and Tobago for a period of three years. UTT's current registration will therefore expire in 2012.

On June 10, 2008, The University of Trinidad and Tobago was registered by ACTT for a period of one year. During the period April 20 – 23, 2009 a team of external evaluators appointed by ACTT visited UTT to review

the University's operations and to make a recommendation on the re-registration of UTT. The team was chaired by John Randall, former Executive Director of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education in the

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Tree of Life



Like the growth of the Moriche palm, The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) has experienced tremendous expansion during its nearly five-year existence. Between 2005 and 2007, UTT has graduated over 1,300 students and, at present, the University's student population is 6,450.

Job Offers for UTT Students in Turbulent Job Market

At the Centre for Engineering Systems-Maritime Studies, a Diploma in Maritime Studies is offered in either the navigating or engineering disciplines. This course provides the underpinning knowledge required to enable students to obtain professional qualification. Students who wish to pursue a sea-going career as Merchant Marine Officers are required, under International Legislation, to spend a period of time at sea in addition to classroom work and practical application in simulation exercises.

The requirement for on-board training has required the Centre to create alliances with shipping companies in order to secure ship-board placements for our students. One such company which not only owns ships, but manages them for other companies, is EXMAR Ship Management; a Belgian-based Company operating and managing gas-carrying ships world-wide.

Over the past four years, from the start of the maritime programmes, EXMAR has developed a close relationship with the Centre and has shown and maintained great interest in providing berths for our students registered for the Diploma Courses. Senior operational and Human Resource managers of EXMAR have paid regular visits to the Centre, interviewing our students and assessing their suitability for employment on their ships, once qualified. They have also provided training in the form of specialised short courses at our Centre using their own teaching personnel. These courses have greatly enhanced the knowledge required when the students arrive on board and have ultimately led to satisfactory and, at times, outstanding performance by our students.

The first three students to be placed with EXMAR joined a ship in Zeebrugge that was trading to North Africa and they were away for five months. The manner in which these students responded to this experience has paved the way for the continuing co-operation that we enjoy today. Since then,

the students have sometimes joined ships trading to Trinidad but, in many cases, have joined ships abroad and have been repatriated from abroad at the end of their ship-board training.

In support of this type of on board training, feedback from our cadets has indicated that the senior officers on board the ships have been fully involved with training our students. This is a compliment to the quality of officers that EXMAR employs on their vessels, as such, training is over and above their normal duties.

From the beginning of their association with the University in 2005, EXMAR has provided sixty-three berths on many of their twenty-four available ships both for navigating and engineering students. These numbers may seem small, but they must be appreciated in the context of the competition from other more established maritime

training centres worldwide trying to secure berths for their students. At EXMAR's last visit senior managers interviewed all UTT students that have spent some time training aboard their ships. As a consequence of these interviews, twenty-four (24) students have been offered employment contracts that will enable them to have a secure start to their sea-going careers with one of the leading shipping companies in the world. This is a major success story for UTT. The prospects for the year 2009 are very encouraging as the collaboration continues.

The willingness and enthusiasm on the part of EXMAR has served as the mainstay in the process of training sea-going officers at the Centre for Engineering Systems-Maritime Studies of The University of Trinidad and Tobago.

By Professor. Colin Stevenson

Visit of Indian High Commissioner to UTT



High Commissioner for the Republic of India, His Excellency, Mr. Malay Mishra signs the visitor's log. Looking on are Professor K. S. Julien and Mr. Darren Braithwaite.

On Thursday March 26, 2009, High Commissioner for the Republic of India, His

Excellency, Mr. Malay Mishra, visited The University of Trinidad and Tobago O'Meara Campus to meet with Senior Staff, as well as, the nationals of India who have joined UTT. Mr. Mishra was greeted by the President of UTT, Professor K. S. Julien. Mr. Mishra expressed interest in what UTT has offered in the area of fashion and specifically, in the Academy of Caribbean Fashion and Design.

After viewing DVD presentations on the University, a brief reception followed. Mr. Mishra was then invited to tour the O'Meara campus which included a demonstration in the Mechatronics laboratory headed by Professor Prakash Persad.

Je' Danse!

The Ballroom and Latin dance group was forged through an initiative of UTT's HR Unit, as a part of its 2009 theme: "Enhancing the Employee's Experience", with over 30 members of staff registered and enrolled. The group was officially launched on Tuesday March 3, 2009 at the Pt. Lisas Campus. This entailed a showcase of dances from UTT personnel and professional dancers. The club is currently comprised of members of staff, both male and female, all of the Pt. Lisas Campus.

Je' Danse utilizes the expertise of two professional dance instructors with a combined fourteen (14) years of experience. The vision of the dance group is simply, "to foster a balanced employee through the exposure to the art and discipline of dancing." The objectives of the group are as follows:

- encourage integration amongst staff

- throughout the varying campuses
- facilitate the learning of a social activity
- facilitate a medium of expressing creativity and culture
- encourage exercise and fitness through fun and relaxation
- give staff an opportunity to relieve stress through a healthy avenue
- encourage discipline
- encourage service and charity to the wider community

The long term goals for the membership is to see each major campus within the University facilitate a similar programme and for that programme to be extended to the student body as well. Future involvement in Latin dance competitions are also not out-ruled as the members believe that, with enough practice, they too have a good shot at winning titles and competitions as hosted by the local, regional and international

dancing fraternities. Not to be swayed by titles alone, the group also hopes to participate in service oriented and charitable events within the wider community.

Je' Danse directed by Davanne Edwards, Nancy Solomon and Carissa Daniel.



Latin dance exhibition at Pt. Lisas.



Dancers go through their paces.



Avanelle Peters and Davanne Edwards announces winner of door prize.



Crosssection of dancers showing off basic steps of Latin dance at the Pt. Lisas Campus.

Careers for Youths in Protective, Defence and Security Services

Background and Objectives

On March 20, 2009, UTT hosted a major Stakeholders' Consultation at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Port-of-Spain, with eighty (80) of the nation's top resource personnel. This consultation was held in an effort to develop actionable plans to stimulate and sustain interest and enthusiasm in youths from an early age (12-18). The Stakeholders' Consultation sought to identify avenues for career opportunities to youths and to develop appropriate values, attitudes and competencies in defence, security and the protective services. The consultation was a means to establish a working partnership between UTT and the stakeholders in this regard.

This is the second such consultation for programme development. The first was a consultation with stakeholders in the security industry held at the Crowne Plaza on May 3, 2008 where the main speakers were Senator the Honourable Bridgid Annisette-George, Attorney General, Professor K.S. Julien, President, UTT and Mr. Gregory Aboud, President, DOMA. Professor Ramesh Deosaran (Emeritus) chaired the proceedings. Over 100 stakeholders participated in this exercise.

Why did UTT initiate Project Career TRACK?

UTT wants to collaborate, where possible, in the provision of the best training (recruitment) and re-training opportunities for the protective, defence and security services. This will not only benefit these institutions, but also contribute to the more efficient and effective services that these institutions provide daily to citizens and visitors to our country.

Participants

Representatives from the protective, defence and security services, for example,



Professor Ramesh Deosaran (Emeritus) addresses the members. Fellow panelists from left are: Ms. Margaret Richardson, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, Professor K.S. Julien, Professor David McGaw.



Participants at the Stakeholders' Consultation held at the Crowne Plaza.

the police, prison and fire services and the defence force were in attendance. Leaders of the cadets, scouts, girl guides, Civilian Conservation Corps, etc. also participated.

various government ministries, non-governmental organizations, youth groups, teachers and students were also present.

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Key speaker, Ms. Margaret Richardson, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, addresses the gathering.

Key speakers at the Formal Session included Ms. Margaret Richardson, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, Professor Emeritus K.S. Julien, T.C., C.M.T., President, UTT and Professor David McGaw, Provost, UTT. Professor Ramesh Deosaran (Emeritus) was the Chairperson of this event.

The Way Forward:

Establishment of 4 Working Groups

Arising from this first consultation was the establishment of four (4) Working Groups to delve deeper into many of the issues raised by the stakeholders. Each group has its own Terms of Reference, Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The following are details:

Working Group No. 1

Government Ministries and Career Paths in Protective, Defence and Security Services
Chair: Ms. Desdra Bascombe, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Security

Vice-Chair: Professor Anthony Joseph, UTT

Working Group No. 2

Police, Prison and Fire Services and Career Paths in Protective, Defence and Security Services

Chair: ACP Stephen Williams, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service

Vice-Chair: Mr. Naya Rampersad, Acting Divisional Fire Officer, Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service

Working Group No. 3

The Military Career Paths in Protective, Defence and Security Services

Chair: Lieutenant Colonel Lyle Alexander, Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force Reserves

Vice-Chair: Major Ronald Jeffrey, Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force

Working Group No.4

Paramilitary and Other Institutions and Career Paths in Protective, Defence and Security Services

Chair: Major David Benjamin.

Vice-Chair: Dr. Lydia Jones, UTT

By Professor Ramesh Deosaran (Emeritus)

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Members of the team were welcomed by the Chairman and President, Professor K.S. Julien and spent four (4) days meeting with management, faculty and staff of UTT. They also had the opportunity to meet with undergraduate student representatives and graduate students. The team members were pleased with the many improvements that had taken place since their last visit and UTT's response to recommendations made in the following areas that are aligned to ACTT's criteria for registration:

I. Governance and Administration

- II. Quality Management System
- III. Resource Management
- IV. Teaching-Learning Process
- V. Review
- VI. Continuous Improvement

They were particularly impressed with the progress made in the area of internal communications, work done by programme validation panels and review teams established over the past year. The team engaged in lively discussion with some of the panel members when they visited the Uni-Bio Plant at Pt. Lisas and the campus at the Eastern Caribbean Institute of Agriculture and Forestry (ECIAF).

Registration for three years is granted to in-

stitutions on the strength of their Quality Management System. In this regard, the team was satisfied that with the establishment of the Office of Quality Assurance and Institutional Advancement, UTT has the capacity to implement and sustain its quality improvement initiatives.

All members of UTT's community celebrate this achievement and look forward to the accreditation of the University and its professional programmes by reputable national and international bodies.

*By Dr. Ruby S. Alleyne
 Vice President, Quality Assurance and Institutional Advancement (QA&IA)*

Classical Music at its Finest- UK Musicians visit UTT



Visiting musicians perform at “An Evening of Music” at the auditorium, UTT Maritime Campus at Chaguaramas on Saturday 11 April, 2009. Conducting the group is Prof. Simon Wills (back to camera)

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) in April, hosted more than twelve high profile musicians from the United Kingdom on a ten day visit to Trinidad and Tobago. Their visit facilitated the auditioning of local musicians who applied to be members of The Academy at UTT Philharmonic Orchestra. More than fifty (50) musicians, playing a variety of instruments, were invited to audition over a three-day period at the Graduation Pavilion, O’Meara Campus.

In addition to these auditions, the foreign musicians conducted midday concerts at the Campus culminating in a grand concert, ‘An Evening of Music’, on Saturday 11 April, 2009. This concert was held at the auditorium of the Maritime Campus in Chaguaramas and the musicians were

ably led by Professor Simon Wills. Professor Wills, a theatrical composer and conductor, has served for many years as a member of the London Symphony Orchestra and was a principal player in the Chamber Orchestra of Europe. His work as a soloist and chamber musician is broadcast throughout the world. Prof. Wills was elected a Fellow at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2000.

Excerpts from the biographies of some of the musicians at ‘An Evening of Music’ are as follows:

Jonathan Storer A founding member of the Glarean Ensemble, the Ashton Piano Trio and as co-leader of the Augsburg Symphony Orchestra; Mr. Storer has gar-

nered many awards as an accomplished violinist.

Katy Gainham attended the prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama, she was appointed the Professor of Flute in 1994. She has worked extensively with English Touring Opera and other Chamber and contemporary music ensembles.

Antony Cross: Born in Bristol, Mr. Cross studied at The City University and The Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He served as co-principal trumpet for the Bergen Philharmonic in Norway and has worked with the Royal Philharmonic and the London Philharmonic orchestras.

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Adam Walters: A graduate of the Cambridge University and the Royal College of Music, Mr. Walters freelances as a horn player. He has appeared on stage providing music for numerous productions by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Aidan Chamberlain: From 1995 to 2001 Mr. Chamberlain served in the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra where he also set up the Hong Kong Brass Ensemble. He was the trombone professor at the Academy for Performing Arts and Baptist University and is a past student of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.

Eleanor Ryan: This native of Wellington, New Zealand, has had an extensive career as a violinist. Ms. Ryan studied the classics at Victoria University before moving to the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

Manab Naskar: Brought up at the Oxford Mission, Mr. Naskar received his education in Mission School and was a member of the Calcutta Chamber Orchestra and Delhi Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Naskar was a self taught cellist in India. He served as a member of Calcutta String Quartet from 2000-2001.

Simon Browne: A principal violinist in Northern Sinfonia, a chamber orchestra, he also played the viola in Trio Orfeo. With the Sinfonia, Mr. Browne has performed concertos and numerous chamber recitals. He has also enjoyed an eclectic range of music with leading classical, jazz, folk and popular artists. Mr. Browne studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and University of Manchester, winning awards and concerto appearances at both.

Sarah Harris: At the age of six, she began her viola studies in Jersey, Channel Islands. Ms. Harris attended the Purcell School of Music in London from 1983, followed by a five year period of study at the Royal Academy of Music. Since leaving the Academy, Sarah has performed widely as a chamber musician and is a busy freelance orchestral player.



Cross-section of invited guests at "An Evening of Music".



Sitar virtuoso Dr. Mungal Patasar, with Dave Marcellin on piano.

Dave Marcellin: Coming from a very illustrious musical family in Trinidad and Tobago, the son of Mano Marcellin, he has studied music and played with celebrated Jazz musicians including Al Green and Stephanie Mills, to name a few.

Mr. Marcellin has produced music for Na-

tional Panorama and has produced for notable music maestro, Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe.

Dr. Mungal Patasar: This Sitar virtuoso has spent his entire life working on a special type of music, 'Pantar Music'. He has toured extensively throughout the world and has played in numerous jazz festivals.

Calling All Heroes!

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) in conjunction with the Heroes Foundation, hosted the fifth Heroes Convention 2009 at the Graduation Pavilion, O’Meara Campus. The convention themed, “The hero in you ...discovers the volunteer within...” ran from April 24-25 and showcased the talents of local artists in the areas of animation, including comic book character creation and animation videos.

The highlights of the two day convention were lectures delivered by Nick Lowe, Editor extraordinaire with the world famous Marvel comics; home to the likes of Spiderman, Ironman and the Incredible Hulk. Mr. Lowe also conducted one-on-one interviews with local talent, which included the members of UTT’s animation programme.

Despite a two year absence, the Heroes Convention 2009 garnered significant attendance over the two day period. More than one thousand six hundred (1600) visitors of all ages interacted with representatives of the respective sponsors and the many patrons present.

Artists provided an array of their work, which included paintings and drawings of favourite comic book and movie characters. Some lucky attendees even walked away with portraits of themselves as tokens.

Skits put on by student groups were well received and the interactive games available throughout the Convention provided many light hearted moments.



Heroes Convention scores big with volunteers.



Students interested in volunteerism at Heroes Convention.

Energy Relationships

On Tuesday March 24, 2009, The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) was the recipient of a cheque from Methanol Holdings (Trinidad) Limited (MHTL) valued at US\$2.75 million. Derived from a desire to add, “To the development, enhancement and expansion of tertiary education in Trinidad and Tobago”, MHTL’s contribution to the University resulted from a partnership with UTT which began in 2006.

Methanol Holdings (Trinidad) Limited (MHTL) is, “confident in the University’s role in providing requisite skills for the industry, as well as in crucial areas of research and development...”

The two companies have previously worked on the Methanol to Power research project which tested the technical feasibility of using methanol as a direct fuel in power generation.



MHTL’s CEO, Mr. Rampersad Motilal, presents the cheque to Professor K.S. Julien. Also present: MHTL’S CFO, Nello Ramkissoon, Rene Monteil, Ravi Ji and Frank Look Kin.

UTT Host ICHPER.SD Caribbean Regional Congress

1st ICHPER.SD Caribbean Regional Congress & Exposition

May 27-31 2009 - Cascadia Hotel & Conference Centre

“Building a Caribbean Legacy for Sport & Physical Education”

At the last International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance (ICHPER.SD) World Congress, held in Japan in June 2008, the Board of Governors approved the establishment of the Caribbean as the eighth region of ICHPER.SD. Following meetings between ICHPER.SD President, Dr. Dong Ja Yang and UTT President, Professor K.S. Julien, it has been agreed that the Academy of Sports and Leisure Studies at UTT would have the honour of hosting the ICHPER.SD Caribbean Secretariat. Additionally, it has also been agreed that UTT will host the Inaugural ICHPER.SD Caribbean Regional Congress in Trinidad on May 27-31, 2009. The Congress will cater for three hundred (300) delegates from the local, regional and international arena in the field of sport and physical education.

Opening of UTT O’Meara Sporting Facility

The brand new state of the art sporting facility at the O’Meara campus of The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) was formally opened by His Excellency Professor George Maxwell Richards, the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Chancellor of UTT, on Sunday, April 26, 2009. His Excellency, the President, also unveiled a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion.

The formal ceremony, which was chaired by Mr. Oliver Flax, Senior Vice President, Student Affairs and Human Services, began promptly at 5.00pm with the arrival of their Excellencies Professor George Maxwell Richards and first lady Dr. Jean Ramjohn-Richards. Students of the Pan Literacy Programme of UTT led by Desmond Waithe and accompanied by Leon ‘Smooth’ Edwards provided the steelpan fanfare to mark the President’s arrival, as well as, the musical entertainment for the day.

Among the specially invited guests were the Honourable Gary Hunt, Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs, and Mrs. Hunt; The Honourable Fitzgerald Jeffrey, Minister in the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education; the Honourable Penelope Beckles, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Member of Parliament for Arima; cricket icon Brian Charles Lara; cricketing legend Gordon Greenidge; top executives of the University and other distinguished persons. In welcoming the guests, President of UTT, Professor K.S. Julien gave an overview of the work done by the Academy of Sports and Leisure Studies (ASLS). While doing so, he acknowledged the efforts of Executive Manager, Ken Butcher; Research Officer, Mark Mungal; and Brian Lara, Special Advisor to the Academy.

UTT’s President expressed his hope for the successful continuation and the fruition of the ambitious project of the ASLS of developing the full potential, both academic and



His Excellency, Professor George Maxwell Richards, unveils commemorative plaque. Looking on from left are: Professor K.S. Julien, Dr. Jean Ramjohn-Richards, Minister of State in the Ministry of Science, Technology & Tertiary Education, Honourable Fitzgerald Jeffrey, Gordon Greenidge and Brian Lara.



Cricket Icon Brian Lara bats the first ball at the opening.

athletic, of the 130 scholarship students of the University. These students are pursuing their tertiary education in their chosen field, while at the same time, receiving the opportunity to train in their particular athletic

disciplines under the very best local and international coaches. He also spoke of the tremendous potential for the university, the country, and the entire region which will be realized

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Cross-section of scholarship students at the opening of UTT O'Meara Sporting Facility.

once the state of the art laboratory and research facilities for sports and leisure studies, as part of the Tarouba Stadium Complex project, are completed. Professor Julien also lauded the various national, regional and international successes of UTT's Volleyball and Swimming teams among others.

In bringing greetings from the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, Minister Gary Hunt stated, "this opening marks yet another high performance facility in East Trinidad which is all part of the Government's 20/20 vision to achieve a geographical spread of sporting facilities." He said that the Government recognized the abundance of talent in Trinidad and Tobago and was keen to do all possible for this talent to be fully realized.

The Honourable Fitzgerald Jeffrey, Minister in the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education gave the feature address in which he declared the following: "This may seem like a simple state of the art facility but sport is a theatre where a sinner can become a saint." He envisioned that at UTT's sports facility many wonderful games would be played both at the amateur and professional levels. He also predicted that the Academy would do a great job in improving sports in T&T. He praised the

University and its Academy of Sports and Leisure Studies for striving for and also achieving both academic and sporting excellence. He pledged his Ministry's full support for all such initiatives of UTT and ASLS. The Minister offered his sincere appreciation to Professor K.S. Julien and the staff of the Academy of Sports and Leisure Studies whom he described as prime examples of people pursuing academic excellence and thriving on good sportsmanship.

The vote of thanks was given by Mr. Ken Butcher who praised God Almighty, Baba and Allah for his great bounties and thanked all the dignitaries for their attendance and their respective contributions to the success of the occasion of the formal opening of UTTs' O'Meara Sporting Facility.

The highlight of the day's event soon followed as the Twenty/20 cricket match got underway. The exhibition match featured the Chancellor's XI, under the patronage of the Chancellor of UTT, President George Maxwell Richards, versus the President's XI under the auspices of the President of UTT, Professor K.S. Julien.

Cricketers from UTT's High Performance Team played under the banner of Chancel-

lor's XI with Brian Charles Lara as their non-playing captain while an All Campus Team comprised of UTT students and staff members played for the President's XI team under the leadership of non-playing captain Gordon Greenidge. Professor Julien bowled the first ball to Brian Lara to symbolically open the Twenty/20 cricket match.

Having won the toss, Gordon Greenidge and his team elected to bat first. Their final tally was 118 all out in the allotted 20 overs. Spectators were treated to a special performance as the two star batsmen Lara and Greenidge entered the match to rescue a struggling President's XI team.

The game picked up pace thereafter with Lara scoring 19 runs with two fours and a six. He was bowled by Keon Isaacs, an athlete on scholarship at UTT's High Performance Unit. Gordon Greenidge, who was Brian Lara's batting partner, added 16 runs inclusive of two fours. Brian Lara's High Performance Team then took command as they made light work of the score piled up against them. They made the required 119 runs to win the match with the loss of just four wickets.

FINAL SCORES:

UTT All-Campus Team - 118 all out (20 overs) Devindra Narinesingh 24, Brian Lara 19, Gordon Greenidge 18, Curtis Morton 5 for 16, Keon Issacs 1 for 22 and Marlon Richards 2 for 15. UTT High Performance Cricket Team - 119 for 4 (16.3 overs), Keon Issacs 43, Alden Daniel 30.

All of the dignitaries followed the cricket match with keen interest and great enjoyment, ensuring that a great time was had by all who attended the opening ceremony and the cricket match. The Academy of Sports and Leisure Studies plans to make this cricket event an annual fixture in their sporting calendar.

The Academy wishes to thank everyone for their attendance and participation in this gala event.

*By: Sumita Broomes,
Manager Communications and
Chronicles – ASLS.*

Lara Bats for ASLS at International Forum



Mr. Lloyd Lazar – President of the Organization of Caribbean Administrators of Sport and Phys Ed (OCASPE), Mr. Ken Butcher, Executive Manager, Academy of Sports and Leisure Studies (UTT), Dr. Dong Ja Yang, President of the International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance (ICHPER.SD), cricket icon Mr. Brian Lara and Mr. Mark Mungal, Research Officer, Academy of Sports and Leisure Studies (UTT).

The American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) held its 124th Annual Convention in Tampa, Florida from March 31 to April 4. Each year, the AAHPERD National Convention brings together thousands of professionals in the allied fields of health, physical education, recreation, sport and dance to share in current research and best practices in the field. It is estimated that there were over seven thousand (7000) delegates attending the Tampa Convention.

During the first two days of the AAHPERD Convention, the International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance (ICHPER.SD) organized an International Forum, with selected speakers from each of the eight regions of the world, presenting topics under the broad theme of “Many Voices – One Mission”.

Brian Lara, Special Advisor to the Academy of Sports and Leisure Studies (ASLS) teamed up with ASLS Executive Manager Ken Butcher for a joint Caribbean presen-

tation entitled, “Promoting the Values of ICHPER.SD through the Glorious Game of Cricket”.

Mr. Ken Butcher opened the batting, presenting a colourful depiction of the rich historical and cultural traditions of the region, highlighting the strong link between sport and the unique heritage of the Caribbean peoples.

The master batsman, Brian Lara then stepped into the crease to deliver yet another brilliant and memorable innings, speaking from the heart - of his personal, life experiences – the challenges and triumphs; the disappointments and the sometimes lonely road to greatness. His message was sincere and though it was sometimes emotional, the message was always crystal clear – there is no substitute in life for hard work, discipline and dedication.

*By: Mark Mungal
Research Officer
Academy of Sports and Leisure Studies*

UTT’s successful Rugby Team

The University of Trinidad and Tobago Rugby Sevens programme competed in its 3rd Sevens event as an official University team against two (2) Colombia University sides (NY, USA) and a Rainbow team fresh from three consecutive Sevens Championship victories.

UTT started the round robin tournament against Colombia #1 (NY, USA) and continued their winning trend against Colombia #2. The third game, however, was played against UTT’s strongest competition in T&T and, as always, it proved to be a real nail biter. UTT started the game very tentatively and according to UTT’s Rugby Coach, David Mays, “against a team like Rainbow, [that error] comes back to haunt you”. Two early mistakes based on ‘pushing play’ instead of ‘respecting possession’ created two scoring opportunities which Rainbow duly obliged by scoring. A further lapse just before the break (creating a kick and chase opportunity for Rainbow to kick through and score), was awarded by referee Paul Mowser, (even though he was 40 meters back in play and would not have seen the knock to incur on grounding)! The score of nineteen (19)- zero (0) at the half was reminiscent of the National Sevens back in November where UTT turned around seventeen (17)- zero (0) down.

After a talk from Coach Mays and a few squad changes, UTT came out on fire in the 2nd half. Within two minutes it was nineteen (19) to seven (7), after 5 minutes nineteen (19) to fourteen (14). Could UTT make it back? The answer was yes. In the last two minutes of play, a half break by Joseph Quashie saw Dwayne Sandy scamper over in the corner and run around under the posts for Carlton Felix to drop over the conversion for a 21-19 victory. The previous two (2) try scorers were Joseph Quashie and Nicholas King, with Felix converting both tries.

A good day for UTT’s athletes and some positive progression after three (3) months of hard work and hypertrophy in the gym. A relieved coach Mays summed it up best, “It was nice to blow off some cobwebs”!