



The MORICHE

...Tree of Life

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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UTT's 1ST Art & Design Show

“Art washes away from the soul, the dust of everyday life.”
Pablo Picasso.

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) revealed a distinctive creative side on Friday 05 May, 2009 with what, one can only hope, will become an annual event. “UTT Art and Design Exhibition” held on the premises of UTT at John S. Donaldson campus, exhibited an impressive array of work by first year students; ranging from textile designs and handbags, to drawings, posters and short animated film clips.



From left: The Honourable Christine Kangaloo, Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education along with Ms. Carol Mongoo, view the handiwork of students at the Art and Design Exhibition.

Upon arrival, visitors were greeted with a burst of colour radiating from a central installation of vibrant, hand painted silks which were suspended from the ceiling. Each panel showed off a multiplicity of techniques from the classic batik to innovative designs using

devore (acid etched), shibori, foiling, stenciling, heat fusion, clamp dye, watercolour and free style painting.

First year studies in the BA Fashion Design programme,

include basic exercises in colour and design theory, academic drawing and basic garment construction. Projects from these classes included fanciful hanging mobiles which drew influence *Continued on Page 4*

Tree of Life



The Moriche Palm stands resolute. It is able to withstand the winds of a hurricane and it provides ample shade for other flora. Like the Moriche Palm, The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) remains steadfast and immovable in its commitment to provide quality tertiary education to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

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\$15,000 in Prizes for UTT Business Ideas Competition

The Business IDEAS Competition, which was held in collaboration with the Venture Capital Incentive Programme (VCIP), is the fore-runner to UTT’s Business Plan Competition. Both of these competitions uphold the University’s mandate to support the growth and development of knowledge and technology based manufacturing, innovation and technologies.



From left: Mr. Oliver Flax, Senior Vice President-Student Affairs & Human Services, Deenish Babi (co-winner for White Board Marker) and Professor David McGaw-Provost

The Business IDEAS Competition tapped into the University community’s vast talent and creativity. Innovative products and services were received from students, faculty and staff, with ideas ranging from recycling to hydroponics and solar energy initiatives.

Twelve semi-finalists - Darilyn Smart, Yadav Hanooman, Sajjad Hamid, Simone Rahaman, Nikeisha Maharaj, Deenesh Babi, Jason Price, Renyson Harcharan, Dave Sankar, Kamel Singh, MKS Sastry, Damion Duncan and Kester Bremnor were chosen from among the twenty-six (26) entries received.

The competitors were asked to submit posters of their ideas and deliver a three minute ‘Elevator Pitch’ to attempt to bring their ideas to life. These deliveries were made to a room packed with peers, faculty, judges and international visitors. The judging panel, which consisted of representatives from venture capital companies, economic development organizations, investment and lending agencies, voted on the winners and also selected the popular ‘People’s Choice Award’.

Grand Prize winners:

- ❑ **1st prize - \$5,000**
Jason Price & Deenesh Babi for White Board Marker
- ❑ **2nd prize - \$3,000**
Sajjad Hamid for Creole Soup Pac

- ❑ **3rd prize - \$2,000**
Darilyn Smart for Eco Lodge and Nature Site

Special Prize winners:

- ❑ **People’s Choice Award - \$500**
Jason Price & Deenesh Babi for White Board Marker
- ❑ **UTT Innovation - \$1,500**
Dave Sankar, Kamel Singh, MKS Sastry for the LPG Compactor
- ❑ **Vision 20/20 - \$1,500**
Darilyn Smart for Eco Lodge and Nature Site
- ❑ **Most Novel - \$1,500**
Jason Price & Deenesh Babi for White Board Marker



Mr. Deenish Babi receives a cheque from Mr. Kyran Grant of the Venture Capital Incentive Programme

UTT Gains Membership in INQAAHE and CANQATE

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) has become a member of both the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) and the Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE). CANQATE was established in 2002 as a sub-regional network of INQAAHE, which is an association of over 200 accreditation agencies and institutions that actively work towards quality assurance and improvement in higher education.

UTT's decision to seek membership in INQAAHE must be understood in the context of the pivotal role of quality assurance and continuous improvement in the global higher education environment. The internationalisation of higher education has made affiliation with bodies like CANQATE and INQAAHE critical to the sustained growth and development of higher education institutions. These networks enable institutions to share best practice and expertise that promote continuous improvement. Additionally, participation in regional initiatives like CANQATE can leverage an institution's standing through the benefits of supranational collaboration and advocacy in a competitive international environment.

Institutional membership in INQAAHE creates easier access to current trends, information and practical tools for the evaluation and improvement of quality in higher education. It enhances UTT's international profile and creates opportunities to strengthen international partnerships with other reputable higher education institutions. It also provides a forum for the international recognition of UTT qualifications, potentially enhancing the mobility of our students both intra- and extra-regionally.

Established in 1991, INQAAHE has ten sub-regional networks that focus strategically on strengthening higher education in their respective geo-political regions. CANQATE, as the network for the Caribbean, has committed to work with external quality assurance bodies, higher education institutions, governments, CARICOM, professional associations, student organisations, employers and other stakeholders to sustain and enhance the standards and quality of tertiary education in the Caribbean. Membership in CANQATE provides a forum for discussion and collaboration on issues of interest to small nation states in the region. In the context of regional integration efforts

and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), CANQATE has played an important role in advancing issues related to the intra-regional mobility of skilled persons, the development of a regional qualifications framework and establishing mutual recognition agreements between the national quality assurance agencies in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Jamaica. CANQATE actively promotes the interests of the regional higher education community in the global quality assurance arena. It is anticipated that as the work of the sub-network expands, the international credibility of regional quality assurance systems and the recognition of higher education institutions and qualifications will also increase.

UTT's leadership in the national higher education thrust positions the University as a key player in the development of higher education in the Caribbean region. It is a role that UTT has embraced. For more information on CANQATE and INQAAHE please visit their websites at www.canqate.org and www.inqaah.org

Article by Jason Stafford, Manager, Institutional Advancement

African Ministers visit UTT

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) welcomed Ministers of the African Union as well as a representative of the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) on May 13, 2009 at the O'Meara Campus. During this visit presentations were made by Professor David McGaw, Professor Adel Sharaf and Rodney Jagai, demonstrating the relevance of UTT's programmes in relation to the energy sector. "Professional Education Development" was also highlighted by Zameer Mohammed, who emphasised the significance of UTT's short courses and the energy industry. After the presentations, the Ministers were taken on a tour of the O'Meara Campus.

The visit comes after a proposal was put forward by the Honourable Prime Minister,

to have a collaboration between the energy sectors of Trinidad and Tobago and seven (7) countries in East, West, Central and Southern Africa, namely: Chad, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Republic of Congo and Angola. Benin, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda were subsequently added to this initiative at their requests.

The Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) in facilitating meetings between Trinidad and Tobago and West African nations has provided a link that enables the Government of our country to collaborate with those nations desirous of moving forward and accepting Trinidad and Tobago's offer of assistance.

Member states of the ECOWAS also held discussions with government ministers and other members of the energy industry. Resulting from these meetings was the agreement for Trinidad and Tobago to

host the Ministerial Conference of African Energy Ministers.



African Ministers view model of Tamana InTech Park



Delegation along with Professor K.S. Julien

UTT's 1ST Art & Design Show

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from the works of artist, Calder and from Carnival 2009. Masks, feathers, figurines, birds and even a dark blue devil borrowed from J'ouvert, provided a playful element to the design show. Paper dresses reminiscent of the 1960s were also on display. These pieces were representative of the various principles which the students learned throughout the school year. Overlooking this showcase of talent were great ball-gowns sculpted out of newspaper and segments of brown cotton dresses draped over chicken wire dress forms.

Impeccably finished garments begged to be turned inside out. Life drawing and fashion drawings which lined the walls, led visitors to rooms filled with small works of art and fashion accessories cloaked in motifs, indicative of Asian, Middle Eastern and African design. Cloth handbags; from small dressy clutch bags to oversized canvas totes, were particularly noteworthy. The students impressed after a mere ten (10) weeks of instruction.

This exhibition was not limited to those interested in fashion and textiles. The space was also shared with the Animation programme which lent a multimedia edge

to the show. Students who were present were quite proud to show off the various steps involved in creating an animated film clip. On display were animated character sketches, charcoal figure studies, character design and story boards. Studies in the Animation programme are designed not only to encourage individual creative talent but also to provide a practical mastery of animation techniques in the art of figure animation, expressive movement and well paced editing. A key element of story development– the qualities that underlie all good animation- is prominently tackled in the programme. This part of the exhibit demonstrated some of the processes involved in the creation and development of an animation production. In another room, visitors had the option of watching short video clips entirely conceived and executed by the students.

Graphic Design impregnates our daily visual landscape with everything from signage to the packaging of the products that we purchase. The Visual Communications Design (VCD) students provided an eye-popping graphic edge to the show with an advertising campaign which promoted HIV/AIDS awareness. Children's book

illustrations, book covers, identity systems and stationery were also utilized by these students to showcase their work. Here too, basic elements that create a foundation of core subjects revealed the rigorous preparation needed for the graphic design world; from life drawings, to letter-forms as designs, to photo montage and block printing. The VCD programme integrates state-of-the-art technologies which currently transform the field of communications design to arrive at optimum visual solutions for advertising, corporate identity, illustration, publications, packaging and web design.

Both the VCD and Animation programmes are two-year Diploma offerings at UTT. The Caribbean Academy of Fashion and Design at UTT (CAFD) offers a four-year BA in Fashion Design, a two-year Diploma in Fashion Design and a two-year Diploma in Fashion Management.

For more information on these programmes, entry requirements and application deadlines please refer to our website: www.utt.edu.tt



Ball gown made of newspaper



Displayed clothing produced by a UTT student



The Honourable Christine Kangaloo, Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, Professor K.S. Julien, President and Chairman of UTT, and Ms. Carol Mongoo of The Caribbean Academy of Fashion and Design at UTT (CAFD).

Getting our Act Ready

On Sunday March 29, 2009, the Acting programme of the Academy for the Performing Arts, held a workshop on ‘Auditioning Techniques’ at the Valsayn Campus. The workshop, led by facilitators/actors Belinda Barnes and Michael Cherrie, comprised twenty-two (22) participants. These prospective actors were invited to experience physical awareness and proper breathing techniques through exercise and to develop and strengthen the voice.

Michael Cherrie presented a monologue from Shakespeare’s ‘Othello’. The participants were allowed to pose questions on his enactment and through these questions; a greater realization of what preparations should be conducted before an audition was understood.

Additionally, the facilitators set up a mock audition which saw the participants presenting a piece, of their own choosing, for evaluation by a panel. The panel was ably led by director Mervyn De Goeas. At the end, the participants were full of enthusiasm and expressed their desire for more workshops. Some also conveyed their aspirations to audition for entry into the Acting programme of the Academy.



Actors go through their paces at the Acting Workshop

Formal Launch of The University of Trinidad and Tobago Alumni Association (UTTAA)

UTT’s Alumni Association (UTTAA) formally launched on 16 May, 2009. The Association is a forum for interaction among members and the University. The Association’s Mission is, “to contribute to the development of UTT and its Alumni through improvement and development of programmes, provision of financial and material support and enhancing networking and career development among the alumni.”

One of the main objectives of UTTAA is to maintain links among members of the alumni and between the alumni and UTT, so as to enhance the image of the University and promote it as a premiere local, regional and international institution of

excellence in training and research.

To achieve this objective, the Association will be proactively involved in encouraging the alumni to develop their respective careers through the use of University resources and support from staff, mentorship programmes, engaging in social and cultural integration activities, as well as, raising funds for the Association and the University.

UTTAA’s Management Committee comprises of:

- Avinash Boodoo (Committee Chairperson),
- Yaseen Mahaboob (Deputy Chairperson),

- Marsha Maraj (Secretary),
- Sunita Roodal (Treasurer)
- Chris Persad (Deputy Treasurer).

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Membership to the association is restricted to persons who have graduated from a UTT programme of study.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The members of the Management Committee can be reached at careerdev@utt.edu.tt or 636-4125 Ext. 3059/3065.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Workshops (Dates TBD):

- Resume Writing
- Business Etiquette.

Job Fair 2009: A Step in the Right Career Path

The University of Trinidad and Tobago’s second annual Job Fair, hosted by the Career Development Unit on May 06 and 07, 2009, was a forum which provided companies an opportunity of meeting UTT graduands as prospective employees. Local and international companies were able to secure applications and add these graduands to their databases.

Representatives from more than fifty companies were invited to the Job Fair and this was a tremendous opportunity for them to have first preference of selection and the option to conduct onsite interviews and pre-screening. There were approximately four hundred (400) graduands in attendance with a total of twenty-two (22) organizations participating in this event. Representative companies expressed an

appreciation for an opportunity such as this and commended UTT staff for their assistance and professionalism. Given the current economic climate, the Job Fair 2009 proved not only a resounding success, but also, a timely intervention.



Students speak with Company Representatives at Job Fair



Students visit YARA Booth for information



Job Fair stirs interest with UTT Students

Launch of Caribbean Journal of Criminology and Public Safety (VOLUME 13)

The latest volume of UTT’s *Caribbean Journal of Criminology and Public Safety* (Volume 13) (ISSN: 2073 5405) was launched on May 2, 2009, at the John S. Donaldson Technical Institute, Port of Spain. The Journal’s Editor is Professor Ramesh Deosaran (Emeritus).

The *CJCPS* is the region’s only journal devoted to criminology, criminal justice and public safety. The thirteen year old journal is published by UTT for the first time and has an international Editorial Advisory Board. The *CJCSP* helps to develop and promote research and policy relevant to criminology, criminal justice and public safety.

The Launch was chaired by Mr. Ken Jaikaransingh, Publisher, UTT Press. At this Press Briefing and Media Launch, the Editor, Professor Ramesh Deosaran (Emeritus) presented on *Crime Statistics and Public Policy*.

The *CJCSP* was formally presented to **six** key stakeholders in the national community. These were:

- Professor David McGaw, Provost, UTT
- Dr. Derek Chadee, Senior Lecturer, UWI & Contributor to this Volume
- Mr. Andrew Johnson, Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce
- Mr. Michael Aboud, Chairman, Amalgamated Security Services Limited
- Mr. David Abdulah, Education and Research Officer, OWTU & Head, FITUN
- Mr. Marlon Hopkinson, President, MATT

This **SPECIAL VOLUME ON CRIME IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** contains papers which deal with a series of topical issues affecting Trinidad and Tobago inclusive of:

- An Editorial on “Caribbean Criminology”
- Excessive Use of Police Force
- Youth Perceptions of the Police
- Perceived Risk and Fear of Gang Crimes
- Lodging Security and Crimes against Tourists

- Policing People with Mental Illness
- Spatial Concentrations of Violence

This, and earlier Volumes, can be viewed at www.cjcsp.com



From left: Prof. Ramesh Deosaran (Emeritus) speaks with Ms. Anna Lucie-Smith and Mr. Kenneth Jaikaransingh of UTT Press



From left: Prof. David McGaw, Dr. Derek Chadee and Mr. Andrew Johnson

World Environment Day



Launch of ICHPER. SD

A gala ceremony at the Cascadia Hotel and Conference Centre, launched the Inaugural Caribbean Congress and Exposition of the International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance (ICHPER.SD) in May. The event was well attended by dignitaries and members of the local, regional and international sporting fraternity which included, inter alia, seven keynote speakers and many other professionals and experts in the field.

The President of ICHPER.SD, Dr. Dong Ja Yang spoke of his organization which he described as one of the oldest and largest international alliances of HPERSD professionals and organizations in the world. Dr. Dong Ja Yang Yang, referred to the Congress's theme – “Building a Caribbean Legacy for Sport and Physical Education” and indicated that this was an actualization of the longstanding dream held by leading HPERSD professionals and administrators in the Caribbean region and ICHPER.SD as a whole. This theme he said “mandated the need for a vibrant sustainability that would, year after year, serve the health and well-being of the citizens in this region”. He elaborated further by declaring that it encapsulated the great



Dr. Dong Ja Yang, President of the International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance (ICHPER.SD), presents the Certification of Appreciation to Gordon Greenidge.

purpose of the Congress i.e. the challenge to bring together – HPERSD professionals, institutions and organizations in the Caribbean region; to build a regional solidarity for the delivery of school-based Quality Physical Education for the Whole Child or

Person – including the complete domain of Physical, Mental and Moral Education for all Children and Youth.

Dr. Dong Ja Yang thanked Kenneth Butcher, Mark Mungal and the local organizing committee members for organizing such a historic Congress while he also thanked members of the ICHPER.SD Executive Committee, keynote speakers and Congress participants for their attendance.

The concept of using sport as a mechanism for reducing juvenile delinquency and criminal activity is not new and many countries have initiated sporting programmes to alleviate the scourge of lawlessness and gang violence. The Honourable Gary Hunt challenged the Congress and the Caribbean participants in particular, to identify the modern methods and approaches that are necessary for sport to play an even more dynamic role in improving the overall quality of life of our citizens. The Minister indicated that by doing this, the levels of confidence and self-esteem would be raised to new heights in the nation's youth.



Mr. Mark Mungal, Research Officer, Academy of Sports and Leisure Studies addresses the participants while seated at the head table from left are: Mr. Gordon Greenidge, Dr. Don Ja Yang, The Honourable Gary Hunt, Professor David McGaw and Mr. Kenneth Butcher.