

THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

# The MORRICHE

...Tree of Life

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ISSUE NO.5 – June 2009

## Kwamé Ryan Visits UTT

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) welcomed internationally renowned conductor Mr. Kwamé Ryan during the period June 24-29, 2009. During this time, Mr. Ryan facilitated seminars with conductors from both the steel pan and chorale disciplines. Participants at both seminars were appreciative of Mr. Ryan's input. The following views were expressed.

*"The recent conductors' seminar (albeit too short) with Mr. Kwamé Ryan, held under the auspices of UTT was somewhat refreshing, exciting and extremely educational. For me, it was a first!*

*I have been a 'conductor' in many steelband music festivals (junior and senior). Although I knew there had to be a right way to conducting, I was never formally exposed to the first hand knowledge of the various*



*Maestro Kwamé Ryan shares his experiences with the audience. Looking on at right is Mr. Oliver Flax, Senior Vice President- Student Affairs and Human Services.*

*nuances of the same: conducting from the wrist (in a box); using the arm - up to the elbow; using the shoulder and eventually the whole body - each time indicating varying styles and intensities of the music. I never knew that a waltz was conducted only on the down beat. (Mr.*

*Ryan even suggested to me that I slow down my speech and that I needed to articulate my words a little more clearly.)*

*I do hope that plans are afoot (time and cost permitting) to have Mr. Ryan come again and have longer sessions with potential*

*Continued on Page 5*

Tree of Life



### MILESTONE

July, 2007

Professor David McGaw was appointed to the Post of Provost of The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), replacing founding Provost, Professor K.D. Srivastava.

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# CAREER DEVELOPMENT -Helping students make the right decisions

Career Development determines the quality of life that is offered to students at The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). To maintain a career that survives the dynamics of globalization and advancement is to have security not through employment but through employability. The Career Development Unit has, since inception, aimed to produce well-rounded individuals who can most effectively contribute to their communities and to society. We give students the chance to fully understand the opportunities and risks involved in order to make the most successful decisions. Our role today has become multidimensional: we are responsible for Recruitment, Work Attachment, Professional Development and Alumni Support Services.

The Career Development Unit has implemented a more proactive approach to recruitment. Our goal is to advise and assist students throughout the process of admissions. On a daily basis, as part of our marketing process, we visit students from Secondary Schools throughout Trinidad and Tobago to deliver career guidance at the earliest stages of their individual career development. Our goal is to capitalize on their strengths and interests while attracting the right and most suitable applicants for an academic future at UTT. In the recent past, this recruitment drive has led to a dramatic increase in applicants annually, resulting in greater numbers of students successfully completing and graduating from all of the programmes offered.

UTT can boast of being the leader of Cooperative Education in Trinidad and Tobago. Cooperative Education has now evolved into the newly established Professional Work Attachment; providing students the opportunity to work for one year in their field of study and employing a more holistic learning experience to bridge the points between the University and the wider industry. It allows students the opportunity to develop essential communication skills, interpersonal skills and presentation skills, both in the general, business and industrial workplace scenarios. In recent years, the Career Development Unit has successfully placed more than 80% of its students in summer jobs, with students commending the experience as being ‘exciting’ and ‘extremely relevant to course theory’. The students have also expressed their gratitude for the ability to work with trained industry personnel.

Professional Development workshops were administered earlier this year to provide students with the essential interpersonal skills needed to prepare them as candidates for graduate school or employment. This Unit has been committed to empowering students who have the desire to grow professionally through career building workshops consisting of Career Information sessions, Job Search Methods, Résumé Writing, Dress for Success, HSE and the Workplace, Interview Techniques, Mock Interviews and Dining Etiquette. In May 2009, over fifty (50) Organizations were invited to meet and pre-screen more than four hundred (400) graduates



*Members of UTAA Management Committee along with members of the Career Development Unit.*

for prospective employment at a two day Job Fair which was orchestrated by the Career Development Unit. With the Support Services of the Career Development Unit, The University of Trinidad and Tobago Alumni Association (UTAA) had its launch in May 2009. The Career Development Unit aims to be the champion of UTAA, by providing the Alumni with the administrative support it needs to become fully established in securing its vision through its membership, networking and its community outreach programmes.

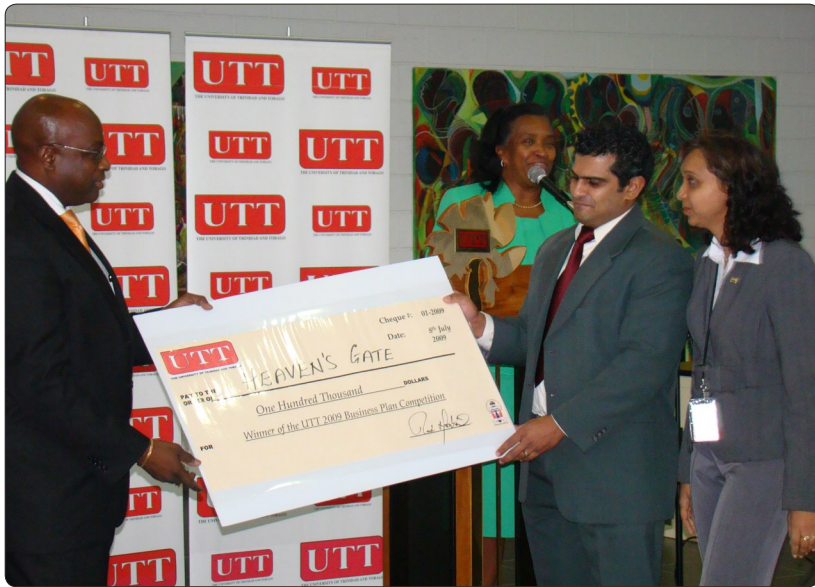
Our most recent initiative has been the establishment of the Call Centre at the University. Its main objective is to reach students and the general public throughout the year, provide stakeholder participation, increase awareness of programmes and create a forum for discussion of any concerns or queries in order to improve the experience for students of UTT. The Call Centre has also proven to be a dynamic force in completing other activities such as the administration of surveys for the Accreditation exercises conducted by Quality Assurance and Institutional Advancement (QA&IA) earlier this year.

The Career Development Unit sees itself as a major player in the development of the student. With the focus on student enrichment and professional development, the Unit aims to produce well-rounded individuals who can follow their dreams and truly make their mark on society.

We all have a part to play in making this a reality, so get to know us as we help you to help our students:

- |                 |                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Manager-        | Raul Mohammed                     |
| Senior Officer- | Sheryllan Dwarika                 |
| Officers-       | Myles Lewis and Charlotte Ramnath |
| Support Staff-  | Jerwiene Vesprey                  |
|                 | Alana Commissiong                 |
|                 | Alicia Jordan                     |
|                 | Rachel Bernard                    |
|                 | Aneis Mohammed                    |

# Biblical Board Game Claims Top Prize in Business Plan Competition



*Mr and Mrs Jagessar receives their prize from Mr Carl Francis, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Trade and Industry*

The Business Plan Competition successfully culminated with an Award Ceremony on Wednesday 08, July, 2009. Originally conceived as a competition in support of the entrepreneurship module of the MSc programme in Industrial Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Management (IEM), the Business Plan Competition is an open forum which follows UTT's first Business IDEAS competition held earlier this year. Its popularity has grown as this year's entries doubled those received last year.

The seventeen (17) finalists presented diverse and innovative ideas for the competition which was sponsored by the Venture Capital Incentive Programme (VCIP), Evolving Technologies and Enterprise Development Company Limited (e-TecK) and the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Mr. Carl Francis, was on hand to deliver the keynote address, while Professor Denise Thompson of the Centre for Production Systems, Mr. Tom Ridgman of the University of Cambridge- Institute for manufacturing (IFM) and Dr. René Monteil, Executive Director of UTT, also delivered remarks at the gathering.

The Business Plan Competition directly supports The University of Trinidad and Tobago's vision to discover and to develop entrepreneurs, commercialize R&D and spawn companies for wealth generation and sustainable job creation. Staff, faculty and students were challenged to develop business plans featuring innovative products and services which are aligned with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's (GORTT) commitment to the promotion of knowledge-based entrepreneurship.

The winners of this year's competition were husband and wife teammates Miguel and Fiona Jagessar whose, "Heaven's Gate: The Journey (A brand new biblical board game)" copped the grand prize of TT\$100,000.00. It was clear that the best was saved for last, since Mr. and Mrs. Jagessar were the final presenters of the day.

The Jagessars were able to best their challengers with a presentation which included a prototype of the board game. The board game is geared to players eight years and over and, according to their creators, is both a "fun and interactive" experience. Encompassing such themes as, 'Consequences of Sin', 'Duties of a Christian' and 'Money Management', "Heaven's Gate: The Journey (A brand new biblical board game)" caters for its participants living a moral life and ultimately learning how to get into Heaven.

The winners of the **Business Plan Competition** are as follows:

**Grand Prize -**

Heaven's Gate: The Journey (A brand new biblical board game)  
Miguel Jagessar and Fiona Harry Jagessar

**Vision 20/20 –**

Establishment of a Goat Breeding Enterprise Crystal Gay and Kimberly Gay

**Most Innovative Student –**

Yummy Rabbits Priscilla Bahaw and Debbie Sammy

**Most Innovative Staff/Faculty –**

5 Starz Eco Lodge and Nature Site Darilyn Smart

**People's Choice: Based on Posters –**

Establishment of a Goat Breeding Enterprise Crystal Gay and Kimberly Gay



*From left: Kimberly Gay, Crystal Gay, Miguel Jagessar, Fiona Harry Jagessar, Debbie Sammy, Priscilla Bahaw and Darilyn Smart*

## CareerTRACK: UTT DEVELOPS CAREER TRACKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN PROTECTIVE, DEFENCE AND SECURITY SERVICES



Major David Benjamin, Director, MILAT and MYPART, delivers his contribution on behalf of his Working Group.

“The journey now start.” Those were the pointed words of Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Security, Ms. Desdra Bascombe as she described **The Way Forward** at the Plenary Session of the Stakeholders’ Consultation on Project **CareerTRACK**.

**CareerTRACK** is a four-month, UTT-initiated project (March-June 2009) in collaboration with over 80 stakeholders (governmental, protective, defence and security services, NGOs, youth organizations, teachers, parents, etc.) which is geared towards developing suitable careers, attitudes and values for the young people of Trinidad and Tobago in the various protective, defence and security services.

Chaired by Professor Ramesh Deosaran (Emeritus), Programme Professor, UTT, the Plenary Session held on June 12, 2009 at the John S. Donaldson Technical Institute included presentations, discussions and the adoption of individual reports and actionable recommendations of the four Working Groups established to delve deeper into many of the issues raised at the inaugural meeting on March 20, 2009.

These Working Groups were chaired by the following senior officials of our protective services: Ms. Desdra Bascombe, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Security, ACP Stephen Williams, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Lieutenant Colonel Lyle Alexander, Commanding Officer, Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force Reserves, and Major David Benjamin, Director, MILAT and MYPART.

Many insightful, practical and well-targeted recommendations were offered by the Working Groups and these included:

1. Establishment of an Institute of Criminology and Security at

2. UTT to lead training, research and public policy matters.
3. Hosting of attractive career fairs appropriately spread across Trinidad and Tobago targeting primary school to university students for various types and levels of careers.
4. Improvement in the image of protective, defence and security services.
5. Appropriate and attractive remuneration, recruitment practices, etc.
6. Greater involvement of cadets, scouts, girl guides, etc. in the schools as well as communities
7. Production/distribution of a DVD on the daily life of a protective, defence and security officer
8. Introduction of national service
9. Fostering greater partnerships among institutions, family and community.

The next step for **CareerTRACK** is the establishment of an Advisory Committee comprising key stakeholders to help formulate and coordinate an appropriate **Implementation/Action Plan** for these and other recommendations.

In fact, the National Youth Council of Trinidad and Tobago’s representative, Mr. Raymond Okille, echoed the collective sentiments of the gathering by openly stating that, “this was the best forum I have attended in the last ten years since my involvement in these matters.”

UTT wishes to express its deep gratitude to the many stakeholders who willingly devoted their time and effort to the development of an “investment plan” for the young people of Trinidad and Tobago as well as for the various protective, defence and security services.



Members of Head Table from left: Ms. Desdra Bascombe, Lt. Col. Lyle Alexander, Professor Ramesh Deosaran, ACP Stephen Williams and Major David Benjamin.

# Kwamé Ryan Visits UTT

*Continued from Page 1*

musicians and conductors within the steelpan diaspora.

*In so doing, I know the steelband fraternity and, by extension, the country would be the beneficiaries of such.*

*Again, on behalf of my colleagues and myself: - A heartfelt Thanks!!”*

## **Participant in the Seminar for Pan Conductors**

**Trevor ‘Inch High’ Valentine**

*out the finer qualities of the players. He emphasized the fine balance that is required to maintain band cohesion and the intricacies of holding worthwhile rehearsals, which are of themselves a structured entity; capable of making or breaking the band.*

*On the practical side of things, the opportunity to “try our hand” at conducting allowed us to appreciate the sensible use of space and gestures available to us for effective non-verbal communication with*

*that several persons were collaborating on something of beauty and that appreciating the role of the leader was an important part in the whole puzzle.”*

*“Mr. Kwame’ Ryan impressed upon us the need to create an environment that was welcoming and enabling to chorale members. This type of environment, it was felt, was necessary to get the best out of one’s choir. Mr. Ryan stressed the importance of having members engage in self-discovery and self-assessment as a conductor’s role is to chart the course and navigate change in his/her choir.*

*This seminar was highly successful in that it reminded all who were present that preparation was the key to eliciting the best tone, balance, cohesiveness, blend and breathing in chorale members. Additionally, the seminar emphasized the fact that chorale conductors must have excellent cognition of the selected genre of music, study of harmonies and analysis of the musical score. The information was well received and timely as it allowed the participants to reflect on their role as Chorale leaders.”*

## **Mr. Richard Pierre Conductor- UTT Chorale**

UTT continues to foster the sharing of information and a holistic approach to education in all avenues of learning.



*Members of the Pan Seminar photographed with Mr. Kwamé Ryan*

*“The conducting workshop exposed students to international conducting standards and practices as is the norm in most formal orchestras. Being exposed mainly to steelband orchestras, we are not likely to have had the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of this profession and its place in any orchestra without this type of programme.*

*Early on in the workshop the limited knowledge that we, as students, had about conducting was expanded by the range of topics introduced to us by Mr. Ryan. We were led through the psychological responsibilities of the conductor (or in our case the arranger) to nurture and eek*

*our band. It was not as easy as it looked and it required the right presence of mind to be able to successfully flow through an entire piece of music flawlessly.*

*The information shared in this workshop was invaluable to arrangers and players alike. The seminar emphasized that belonging to a band meant*

## **Participant in the Seminar for Pan Conductors Savitri Rampersad Student of the Music for Pannists Programme**



*Kwamé Ryan poses with participants of the Chorale Seminar*

# Parasitism: A Danger to the Herd



Regional participant Mr. Brian Murray of Jamaica

The Professional Education Unit (PEU), recently spearheaded the short course, “Internal Parasite Management in Small Ruminants”, at ECIAF. The programme garnered both national and regional participation; with persons from the Cayman Islands and Jamaica attending the two day session.

Mr. Brian Murray of Jamaica indicated that his interest in the course was borne out of a need, “to get more information and to better treat with resistance to internal parasites in Jamaican herds.” Another regional participant, Mr. Ronald Green of the Cayman Islands insisted, “... [the situation] in the Cayman Islands is that parasites are a major problem affecting goat farmers. It would be beneficial for me to return with information that would be relevant to the industry for expansion and proper preventative measures.”

Parasitism is a major hazard affecting small ruminant production world-wide. It affects both sheep and goat livestock equally. Decreased production, cost of prevention, cost of treatment and the death of infected animals, contribute to economic loss in a once thriving industry. Another problem facing farmers is the classification of parasitism

as that of a “production disease”. This error in classification often leads to the misdiagnosis of the situation at hand and results in animal weight loss and reproductive inefficiency of the herd.

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) is pleased to have hosted this two-day course; an offshoot of the previous programme conducted by the Professional Education Unit (PEU), “Artificial Insemination (AI) and Embryo Transfer (ET) For the Cattle Industry”. In championing programmes such as these and making them available to a regional audience, UTT is ensuring that it is truly delivering: Education with a Global Vision.



Dr. Marlon Knights addresses the participants of the programme

## Professional Education Unit - Schedule of Short Courses

### Workplace Spanish for Business Travelers

Date: 25 July-29 August, 2009  
Venue: Pasea Campus

### Hydraulics and Pneumatics

Date: 10-14 August, 2009  
Venue: Pt. Lisas Campus

### Effective Maintenance Shutdowns

Date: 10-14 August, 2009  
Venue: Pasea Campus

### Small Commercial Vessels Operating in the Caribbean Sea

Date: 10-21 August & 7-18 September, 2009  
Venue: Centre for Maritime Studies, Chaguaramas

### Integration of Rocks, Log and Test Data

Date: 17-21 August, 2009  
Venue: Pasea Campus

### Managing People for Performance

Date: 17-21 August, 2009  
Venue: Pasea Campus

### Advanced Studies in Sports Therapy - Level 1

Date: 17-23 August, 2009  
Venue: San Fernando Sports Office, Scott Street, San Fernando.

### Key People Management Processes for Recessionary Times

Date : 24-26 August, 2009  
Venue: Pasea Campus

### Strategic Planning and Implementation

Date: 24-28 August, 2009  
Venue: Pasea Campus

### Basic Petroleum Technology

Date: 24-28 August, 2009  
Venue: Pt. Lisas Campus

# Visual Communication At Its Best

“Visual Communication”, as the name suggests, is communication through visual form. It is the conveyance of ideas and information in forms that can be read or looked upon. Primarily associated with two dimensional images, it includes: signs, typography, drawing, graphic solutions and interpretations for a wide range of media, storyboard developments for television, illustration, photography, colour and electronic resources. It solely relies on vision and communication with visual effects.

The art of visual communication, explores the idea that a visual message with text has the power to inform, educate and persuade. It is concerned with the visual environment and is focused on all aspects of the production of images: from analysis and presentation to distribution and reception. It creates visual solutions of communication problems and is an exciting area of study and research because of its increased importance to industry today.

Students of the Visual Communication Design programme were able to showcase

their talents at the recently concluded “Art and Design Exhibition” held at the John S. Donaldson campus, through a series Posters, Billboards, Editorial Design Documents, Cooperate Design Systems, Type Design and Hypnopeadia, 3D Packaging, Illustrated Book Jackets, Booklets and Caricatures.

Through an integration of theory and methodology, culture and context, environmental and human factors and traditional and contemporary technologies, students were able to develop comprehensive design strategies. The objective of their display was to provide aspects of communication design strategies that would inform, educate, direct, and communicate effectively with a wide audience.

In everyday life, we are all consumers of graphic design. From the products we buy and the books and magazines we read, to computer games and Internet graphics. The prevalence of this medium is a clear indication of its popularity and its permanence in society.



# UTT Librarians Teach Information Literacy to Students

*“The instructors are very well capable of delivering.”*

*“It is time well spent, techniques that would be used well beyond ECIAF.”*

*“It helps to enhance your knowledge about certain internet protocols that you were not familiar with for example which websites are valid from which are not”*

*“I can [use the library better] and [be] more effective in [using] the internet.”*

These are just some of the positive feedback received from students in the 3 credits semester long Information Literacy course at ECIAF. The students pursuing the course are all enrolled in the Year I and Year II programmes of the Diplomas in Forestry and Agriculture.

The course, delivered by UTT Libraries, explores contemporary issues in the infor-

mation domain. Copyright, plagiarism, intellectual property, information overload, strategies for efficient searching and use of online databases and the Internet, the relevance of print in a predominantly electronic world, note taking and synthesizing of information, as well as the citing of information sources are some of the wide range of information literacy topics examined. Emphasis has been placed on the significance of these topics and standards for their usage in the context of the research environment.

An enthusiastic team of librarians facilitated the course to students who indicated that it should become a core programme, taught in the first semester at the beginning of their tuition.

The view was also expressed by students that these teaching modules should extend beyond the classroom. UTT Libraries is pleased to offer this course, or subsets of its components, to other programmes within the University.



*Librarian, Susan Sandiford, addresses students pursuing the Diploma in Forestry programme*

# THE CARIBBEAN TERTIARY LEVEL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION (CTLPA)

The Caribbean Tertiary Level Personnel Association (CTLPA) was launched in Nassau, Bahamas earlier this year. Mr Phillip Robinson, Student Services Manager at The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) was elected the first President of the Chapter. On the Basis of its Cooperative Education Programme, UTT was also presented with an Innovation Award in recognition of Innovative Student Programmes.

On Thursday 28th May 2009, the Trinidad and Tobago Chapter of the CTLPA hosted a breakfast meeting with the focus, “The Role of Student Affairs in the Accreditation Process”. The featured speaker was Dr. Ruby Alleyne – Vice President, Quality Assurance and Institutional Advancement at UTT. This event drew eighty (80) participants from among nine (9) of the sixteen (16) tertiary institutions in Trinidad and Tobago that were, at that time, registered with the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT).



*Dr. Ruby Alleyne together with Executive members of the Trinidad and Tobago Chapter at the Breakfast Meeting.*

Subsequent to the breakfast meeting, the 12th Annual Conference of CTLPA was held in Tobago from 22 – 25 June 2009. The theme of the Conference was “The Power to Imagine, The Courage to Act: New Directions in Caribbean Higher Education Development”.

Seven (7) staff members from UTT attended the Conference with presentations being done by four (4). The following topics were presented:

- “The Co-operative Campus: A proposed solution for the advancement of higher education in resource challenged environments” - Phillip Robinson
- “A Model of Career Guidance for Students: A Caribbean Perspective” - Raul Mohammed (Delivered by Sheryllan Dwarika)
- “A Critical Evaluation of the Technical/ Vocational Education and Training (TVVET) System in Trinidad and Tobago.” - Mr. Marlon Indar-Persad
- “The application of distance learning technologies (DLT) as a solution to the challenges of student attrition and accessibility” - Helane Ramirez

The Caribbean Tertiary Level Personnel Association (CTLPA)

had its genesis in 1996 as the first professional Caribbean Organization for Student Services/Affairs Administrators and Professionals. The organization is the first international Chartered Division of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA.); a body that boasts a membership of over eight thousand (8,000).

CTLPA is committed to affirmative action and its primary focus is to foster timely development of a student-centered culture in tertiary level educational institutions across the Caribbean. The association networks with student services personnel within institutions in order to enhance their role as educators and encourage the highest levels of professionalism.

To date, the CTLPA’s membership comprises college and university personnel in Barbados, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas, Grenada and Jamaica. In addition, workshops have included participants from Suriname, Turks and Caicos and the Virgin Islands.

Individuals working in direct contact with students in areas such as counseling, academic advising, sports, examinations, admissions, distance education, clubs and societies, health services, career counseling and financial assistance can become change agents in creating an exciting culture of student centered institutions by joining the Caribbean Tertiary Level Personnel Association.



*Anwarie Ramkissoon and Phillip Robinson with ACPA President Patty Perillo and UTT’s Award at the 11th Annual CTLPA Conference*