



THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The MORICHE

...Tree of Life

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Certificate Course in Ramlila/Ramdilla, Level I

On Saturday July 18, 2009, The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) launched the Certificate Course in Ramlila/Ramdilla Studies Level I, at the Point Lisas campus. Seventy (70) participants registered for the class which officially began on Sunday July 19, 2009. The programme is led by Pandita Indrani Rampersad, PhD.

The course aims to educate and train participants in the theory and practice of traditional or open air Ramlila. In Trinidad, there are some thirty-five (35) sites where Ramlila is performed during the holy Nawratri period in September/October. Some of the topics which are covered in the programme include: The Indian World view, Sacred Theatre, Cosmology, Rasas, Ramlila as a UNESCO Designated World



'Ram and Sita' greet the audience as they prepare to light the inaugural deeya to launch the Ramlila/Ramdilla Certificate Course Level I

Masterpiece and the Status of Ramlila in Trinidad and Tobago, among others.

Mr. Ramraj Bajjoo, a course participant, noted that Ramlila has had a tremendous impact on his life and that of his community. He explained that people have come to see Ramlila as a means of learning more about the Ramayan text and he expects that it would also be helpful to practitioners who wish to better portray

the Rama story in song, dance, movement and poetry. He envisioned that the course would assist persons to create better scenery and props in their depiction of the story so as to, "create a real living portrayal of the Ramayan as was written by Sant Tulsidas."

In his feature address, Member of the Board of Governors at UTT, Ravindra Nath Maharaj (Ravi-Ji) noted that there was a lack of academic interest in [studying] Indian Culture despite having more than twenty-five (25) community schools which specialize in music, singing and dancing. According to him, this has led to a lack of enquiry into Indian culture resulting in an inability, "to create knowledge and meaning and to articulate them in a way that inspires."

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MILESTONE

August 25, 2007
The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) officially launched the Academy of Sports and Leisure (now called Academy of Sports and Leisure Studies); awarding scholarships to more than two hundred (200) recipients from sporting disciplines across the country.

Beyond Registration and Towards Accreditation



Certificate of Registration.

By Ruby S. Alleyne
Ph.D. Vice-President, Quality Assurance & Institutional Advancement (QA & IA)

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) has been re-registered until the year 2012. During the period however, if UTT were to be accredited by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT), it would not be required to re-register while it maintains accreditation. Since registration as required by the laws of Trinidad and Tobago only provides the assurance that an institution meets minimum standards, it is in the best interest of all leading institutions in the country to seek institutional accreditation.

Accreditation is voluntary and, globally, institutions that demonstrate a strong commitment to achieving and maintaining the highest standards seek to be accredited. Students who have attended accredited in-

stitutions are sought after internationally by employers and universities desirous of attracting the best graduates for employment, research and innovation as well as for pursuing higher degrees. In several countries, only students of accredited tertiary institutions have access to grant funding, scholarships and other financial benefits.

While specialised or programme accreditation focuses on assessing the quality of student learning outcomes for programmes, institutional accreditation is broad-based and evaluates all aspects of the university's operations.

The effectiveness of teaching and learning; quality of student life and of work life for employees; performance of students; achievement of graduates; strength of governance and leadership; efficiency in the allocation and use of resources and several other indicators are assessed as evidence of the university's attainment of its educational goals and other purposes as identified in its mission.

Registration by ACTT is indicative of the fact that UTT has designed and implemented a robust Quality Management System (QMS). During the accreditation process, the QMS will be evaluated for its effectiveness, outcomes and sustainability. The primary purpose of quality assurance within the context of a university is to ensure quality, accountability, transparency and continuous quality improvement.

There are three key components of the Quality Assurance Framework:

- Self-evaluation
- Internal Quality Audit
- External Review

Self-evaluation or 'self-study' is an integral part of the accreditation process in the Caribbean, North America, Latin America and several other parts of the globe. It is an opportunity for members of the university community to reflect on policies, processes and procedures and assess their success in achieving clearly defined objectives.

The university must produce a self-study report that is informed by data providing verifiable evidence that the institution meets the standards set by the accrediting body. Self-evaluation must also be action-oriented and, as problems arise, attempts must be made to analyse the causes and address any shortcomings or weaknesses in the system. Consequently, evaluating and improving organisational systems and processes are core components of institutional self-evaluation.

The criteria for accreditation set the parameters for institutional self-evaluation. These criteria focus on the extent to which the university fulfils its mission, contributes to student learning and overall student development, meets stakeholder needs, sustains itself and improves on its performance. For publicly-funded institutions, government is a key stakeholder and institutional goals are linked primarily to national development priorities.

In the next issue of The Moriche we will discuss the criteria and what is required of UTT to meet the standards for institutional accreditation.

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He complimented the participants whose overwhelming response to the course has resulted in an increase in the initial intake from twenty (20) to seventy (70). Mr. Maharaj further commented, “We often say there is no interest amongst the people to study culture; the response to this course might prove otherwise. Perhaps it is just a lack of opportunity.” He commended UTT for taking, “...a step in the right direction” and credits the University for, “teaching Ramdilla at The Academy for The Performing Arts [which is] a significant step in the History of Trinidad and Tobago”.

Two (2) Kathakali Artistes from Kerala, India, will be in Trinidad to conclude sessions in the Certificate programme. They will perform and conduct make-up and drama workshops from 9-11 October, 2009, on the ancient Kathakali art form.



L to R: Ramayan singers, chant the story of Ram and Sita’s life from the Ramayan.



Ram’s army display defence readiness skills for battle.



Pandita Indrani Rampersad, PhD, outlines the topics in the historic Ramlila/Ramdilla Certificate Course Level 1.



Performers ‘Ram and Sita’ light the inaugural deya as course co-ordinator, Pandita Indrani Rampersad looks on.



Participants go through their paces at Point Lisas.

UTT-Private Sector Partnership: Training in Security and Public Safety

By Professor Ramesh Deosaran (Emeritus)
Programme Professor

On September 12, 2009, Professor David McGaw, Provost; Mr. Lennard Prescod, Vice-President, Finance and Procurement and Professor Ramesh Deosaran (Emeritus), Programme Professor together with owners/managers of private security companies met at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Port of Spain to examine the Certificate in Security and Public Safety developed by UTT in consultation with security stakeholders initiated in 2008. These early consultations led to the development of three training/teaching programmes:

- Certificate in Security and Public Safety
- Diploma in Security and Public Safety
- Bachelor of Applied Science in Criminology and Public Safety

The Certificate in Security and Public Safety, which was presented to the security industry, is geared towards improving the performance standards of current security officers and persons interested in developing careers in the security industry. It offers students all of the basic training necessary for effective and efficient discharge of their duties and responsibilities in this present-day world of rapid developments in technology, communication and security threats.

Arising from this September 2009 Stakeholders' Consultation is the establishment of a JOINT UTT-PRIVATE SECURITY COMMITTEE. Membership of this Committee is now being finalized with its mandate being to work out financing and logistical details. More than twenty (20) owners/managers of private security companies which attended, including: Amalgamated Security Services Limited, Property Protectors Limited, Innovative Security Technologies Limited, First Citizens Bank Limited,



Members of the head table, seated left to right, Professor David McGaw, Provost, Professor Ramesh Deosaran (Emeritus), Programme Professor, and Mr. Lennard Prescod, Vice-President, Finance. To the extreme right is Mr. Gregory Aboud, President, DOMA.

RBTT, Car Search, Centurion Security Services, Quality Security Bodyguard Services and Advance Security among others.

Representatives of the Downtown Owners and Merchants Association (DOMA), Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association (TTMA), the Employers' Consultative Association (ECA) and the American Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AMCHAM) attended the consultation and pledged their support to these programmes.

UTT stands ready to satisfy the security industry's additional demand for the development of a wide range of short courses to retrain and re-tool their current officers. To signal its intention to partner with UTT, Amalgamated Security Services Limited announced its willingness to commit their officers annually to the Certificate in Security and Public Safety as well as to hire graduates. Further, this security company has pledged to award a prize of TT\$25,000 for the top student in the Bachelor of Applied Science in Criminology and Public Safety.

In response to the Certificate in Security and Public Safety, the private sector noted that



Mr. Greig Laughlin (President, TTMA) makes a contribution.

it is quite "comprehensive, pertinent, and among the best [programmes] locally, regionally and internationally."

UTT intends to link these three training programmes to its other related project, YOUTH CareerTRACK, whereby youths are encouraged to get involved in careers in the various protective, security and defence services.

Education with a Global Vision



Students of the Pre-University Programme (PUP) visit Venezuela.



Students of the MSc in IEM programme in Brazil.

Professionalism: Our Responsibility

By Aneis Mohammed
Career Development Unit

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) has at its fingertips our most important resource: our people.

Every year, with each new intake of students, we are given the opportunity to conserve and secure our future as a dynamic workforce. Our role is not simply to educate; we at the Career Development Unit see it as a chance to mould students into professionals.

Often, people are either intimidated or impressed with the idea of ‘professionalism’. The truth is, it is too vague a term and its meaning has long been lost amidst the confusion of the ‘business suit’ and ‘power lunch’ stereotypes. To dissect, one must analyze its importance through an understanding of self, while examining the values and attitudes that are usually associated with each profession. It demands that we first ask ourselves, what is a *professional*?

Guy Le Boterf, a French expert on the development of competencies, describes a professional as, “a person who possesses a personal body of knowledge and know-how which is recognized and valued by the market.” This explores the notion of professionalism through formal education, training and apprenticeship, and also implies that individuals must adhere to certain standards within their profession. Professionals should, in the conduct of their business, abide by regulations of behaviour and practices of the field, codes of autonomy, objectivity and decorum in their judgments towards clients while maintaining a commitment to community and society.

At The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), if we are to expect professionalism of our students, we must first live up to these standards. As educators and administrators, we must recognize and respect students as individuals and professionals in the making. It is our duty to inculcate professional values in the way we teach and interact with our students as we prac-



President of UTT, Professor K.S. Julien and Assistant V.P. Student Affairs, Mr. Stephen Sheppard listen intently to a speaker at the University’s Orientation Programme.



Professor David McGaw addresses the audience at the ceremony.

tice accuracy, confidentiality and integrity.

Students also have a professional responsibility as individuals. Professionalism does not begin after graduation and employment. In everyday activities, career minded students should strive for commitment, respect, reliability and trustworthiness. The classroom is the first taste of professionalism as one transitions into the world of work. It should be the starting point for adopting professional attitudes through

punctuality regular attendance and timely submission of assignments, as well as, adhering to high moral and ethical standards.

Professionalism may represent different things to different people, but what separates a professional from the masses is simply being the best that one can be. Keeping this attitude of excellence maximizes not just the quality of results, but also, the value of the individual.

EXpressions from UTT Staff



Cricketers Receive Top Awards at TTCB Award Ceremony



UTT Head Cricket Coach Anthony Gray receiving trophy and cheque from Colin Borde, Manager of the National Cricket Team at the Annual TTCB Award Ceremony held at President's House on Saturday August 8, 2009.

*Photo courtesy:
Trinidad Guardian*

UTT's High Performance Cricket Team copped two (2) substantial awards, the Championship North Zone League Title and the Reserve North Zone League Title, at the annual Award Ceremony of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board (TTCB). The ceremony was held at the residence of His Excellency, Professor George Maxwell Richards, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, on Saturday August 8, 2009.

Former West Indies fast bowler and Head Coach of UTT's High Performance Cricket Team, Anthony Gray, proudly accepted two (2) cheques totalling \$71,500.00, along with two (2) trophies, at the gala event. Gray elaborated on his team's recent dominance, attributing it

to a great team effort and the synchronization of talent and experience among players, staff members (cricket coaches, managers, ground staff), as well as, other officials of the Academy of Sports and Leisure Studies.

This, according to Gray, is a "reflection of UTT's concept of institutionalization of young people to create a balance between education and sport while providing them with a cadre of qualified professionals to assist with their holistic development."

The highlight of the Championship North Zone League was UTT's score of 401 for the loss of 3 wickets. Uthman Mohammed's score of 201 not out

coupled with Deems Baird's tally of 71 not out were contributors to this victory. The team eventually beat Queen's Park Cricket Club by an innings and 82 runs; aided by Curtis Morton who, in the first innings, took 5 for 32 off 11.2 overs.

This cricket match was played at the new state-of-the art Sporting Facility at UTT's O'Meara campus, in Arima. The Reserve North Zone League saw UTT's Cricket Team scoring 352 runs for 5 wickets against Sweet Revenge Cricket Club of North Trinidad. Lauron Francois amassed 133 runs and Stephen Murray took 5 wickets for 11 runs to beat their opponents outright. This UTT team was coached by former West Indies batsman, Larry Gomes.