UTT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

THE MORICHE

The Official Newsletter of The University of Trinidad and Tobago

2021 in Review: Presentation of Graduates





The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) recently celebrated the successes of the Graduating Classes of 2020 and 2021, at this year's virtual Presentation of Graduates which premiered on Friday 26th November, through Monday 29th November, 2021.

In the new format, viewers witnessed over 3,600 graduands receiving Certificates, Diplomas, Bachelor's and Master's degrees in diverse programme areas. The University also awarded three Doctor of Philosophy degrees for 2020 and nine in 2021, for advancing research and contributing to the existing body of knowledge in their respective fields.



This year's graduation ceremony was a milestone, marking UTT's first since the beginning of the pandemic. The recurring theme was one of national pride, as Chairman Professor Clément Imbert in his message, urged graduates to give back to Trinidad and Tobago, and "to engender a proclivity for not only personal growth, but an affinity for national pride, as this is currently needed more than ever."



Similarly, President Professor Prakash Persad, called on graduates to raise the benchmark and innovate in their areas of expertise for the advancement of both their profession, and the nation. Key Speaker for 2021, Dr. Ferdinand Ferreira, former political activist and analyst, reminded viewers that nothing is more rewarding than the recognition of service, whatever form it may take, to fellowmen and by extension the country.





As is customary, UTT extends heartfelt congratulations to all its graduates and looks forward to witnessing the impact they each make on the world.

The virtual Presentation of Graduates is available for viewing on UTT's YouTube channel.

In 2020, UTT honoured four (4) individuals who, through their work, made great contributions to the development and advancement of Trinidad and Tobago. The honorary graduates for 2020 are:



Dr.
Edward "Eddie" Hart (h.c.)
Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters



Dr.
Lincoln Phillips (h.c.)
Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters



Dr.
John Seyjagat (h.c.)
Honorary Doctor of Sciences



Dr.
L. Anthony Watkins (h.c.)
Honorary Doctor of Laws

UTT, as the national University, honoured four (4) luminaries for their sterling contributions to the development and advancement of Trinidad and Tobago. The honorary graduates for 2021 are:



Dr.
Ferdinand Ferreira (h.c.)
Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters



Dr.
Dominic Kalipersad (h.c.)
Honorary Doctor of Letters



Dr.
Jones P. Madeira (h.c.)
Honorary Doctor of Letters



Dr.
Wendell Mottley (h.c.)
Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

UTT's **Graduating Class of 2020** awarded the title of Valedictorian onto the following two graduates:



Mr. Jaivon Roberts

Bachelor of Science in Aircraft Maintenance and Management
with specialisation in Avionics

and

Ms. Deneil Webster



Bachelor of Education
with specialisation in Social Studies - Sociology



The title of Valedictorian of UTT's **Graduating Class of 2021** was awarded to

Ms. Chelsea Benoit

Diploma in Maritime Operations - Navigation

In 2020, UTT awarded three (3) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degrees. These graduates were:



Dr. NEAL A. ALLEYNE
Ph.D. in Petroleum Engineering



Dr. MELANIE-MARIE JEANVILLE-HAYWOOD
Ph.D. in Education



Dr. ADITA MAHARAJ
Ph.D. in Education

The University, in 2021, awarded nine (9) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degrees; the largest cohort in the University's history, in the areas of Environmental Studies, Environmental Engineering, Entrepreneurship and Commercial Studies, Sport Studies, Cultural Studies and Education. These graduates are:



Dr. BRIDGET J. ADAMS
Ph.D. in Sport Studies



Dr. HIMAWATEE BABOOLAL
Ph.D. in Environmental Studies



Dr. WINSTON C. BENN
Ph.D. in Education



Dr. BEVERLY S. CHITTOO
Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering



Dr. ROUVEN D. GOVIA
Ph.D. in Education



Dr. ROSE MARIE M. GRANT
Ph.D. in Education



Dr. GABRIEL HENDERSON
Ph.D. in Education



Dr. ABEDE J. MACK
Ph.D. in Entrepreneurship and Commercial Studies



Dr. JOSEPHINE M. TORREL
Ph.D. in Cultural Studies

The University of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to extend hearty congratulations to the Graduating Classes of 2020 and 2021.



L-R: UTT's 2021 honorary graduates Jones P. Madeira, Ferdinand Ferreira, Dominic Kalipersad and Wendell Mottley at the official residence of Her Excellency, Ms. Paula-Mae Weekes, ORTT, Chancellor of UTT.

Honorary and Ph.D. Titles Conferred at President's House

Honorary and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees for the academic years 2020 and 2021 were conferred at the official residence of Her Excellency, Ms. Paula-Mae Weekes, ORTT, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and Chancellor of The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT).

As the national University, UTT recognised the worthwhile contributions of these luminaries in the fields of Journalism, Political Activism, Education, Environmental Conservation, Entrepreneurship, Community Development, Leadership and Sport.

UTT's 2020 and 2021 virtual Presentation of Graduates saw graduands receive undergraduate and higher degrees in areas of Engineering, the Arts, Sports and Education, amongst other dynamic programme offerings. The University also awarded twelve (12) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees in the areas of:

- Sport Studies
- Petroleum Engineering
- Education
- Environmental Engineering
- Entrepreneurship and Commercial Studies
- Cultural Studies

Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes, ORTT, presided over this Ceremony.



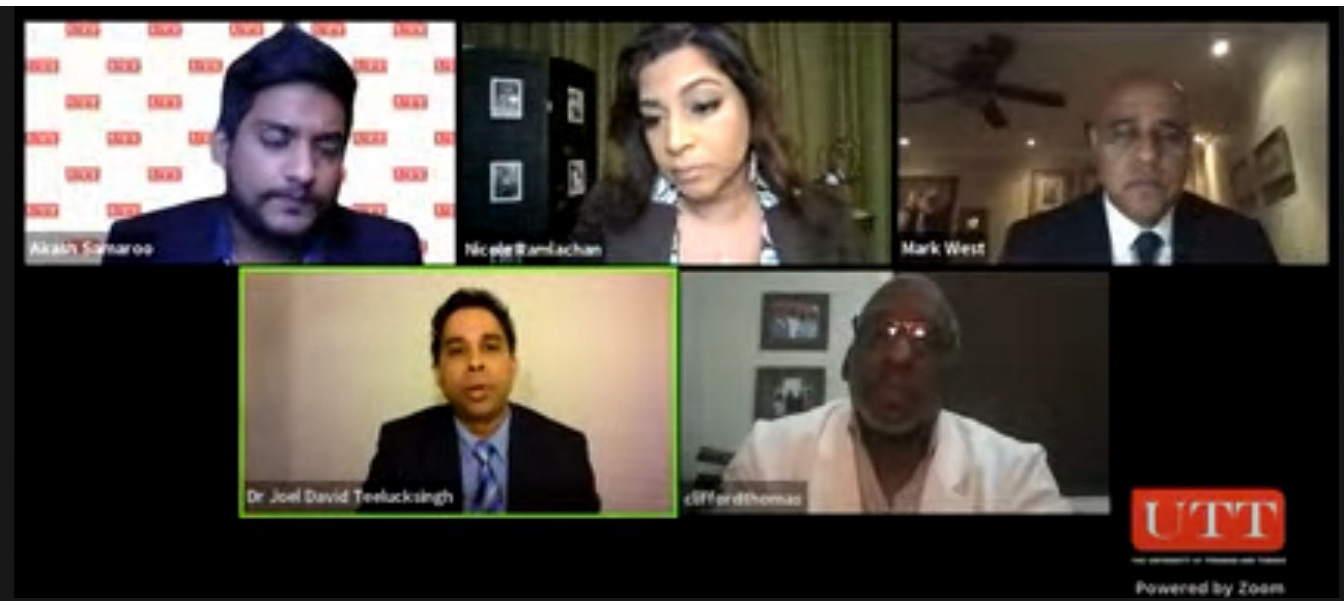
Dr. Nicole Ramlachan (top right) with guest presenters from the local medical fraternity evaluating whether the arrival of COVID-19 vaccine would alleviate mental health issues caused by the ongoing pandemic.

UTT Sparks Discussion on COVID-19 and Vaccination

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) in its commitment to the nation through continuous research, development and outreach, conducted a webinar series on the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent development of vaccines to combat the disease.

The series, hosted by Dr. Nicole Ramlachan, Associate Professor of Biotechnology, UTT, investigated the COVID-19 vaccine's effects on several areas of medicine such as non-communicable diseases and mental health.

The series took place from August 4th to 25th, 2021, and is available for viewing on **UTT's YouTube channel**.





UTT Aviation Graduate
Daniella Lalsie

Stepping Boldly into the World of Aviation

DANIELLA LALSIE, graduate of the Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Aircraft Maintenance and Management at The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), has an avid interest in aviation. A proud alumna of Naparima Girls' High School, Daniella was taught to be confident enough to push beyond boundaries to be anything she wanted to be. For her, that was an aviation engineer. She believes the aviation industry is so remarkable that the possibility of learning something new exists each day, in such an ever-evolving setting.

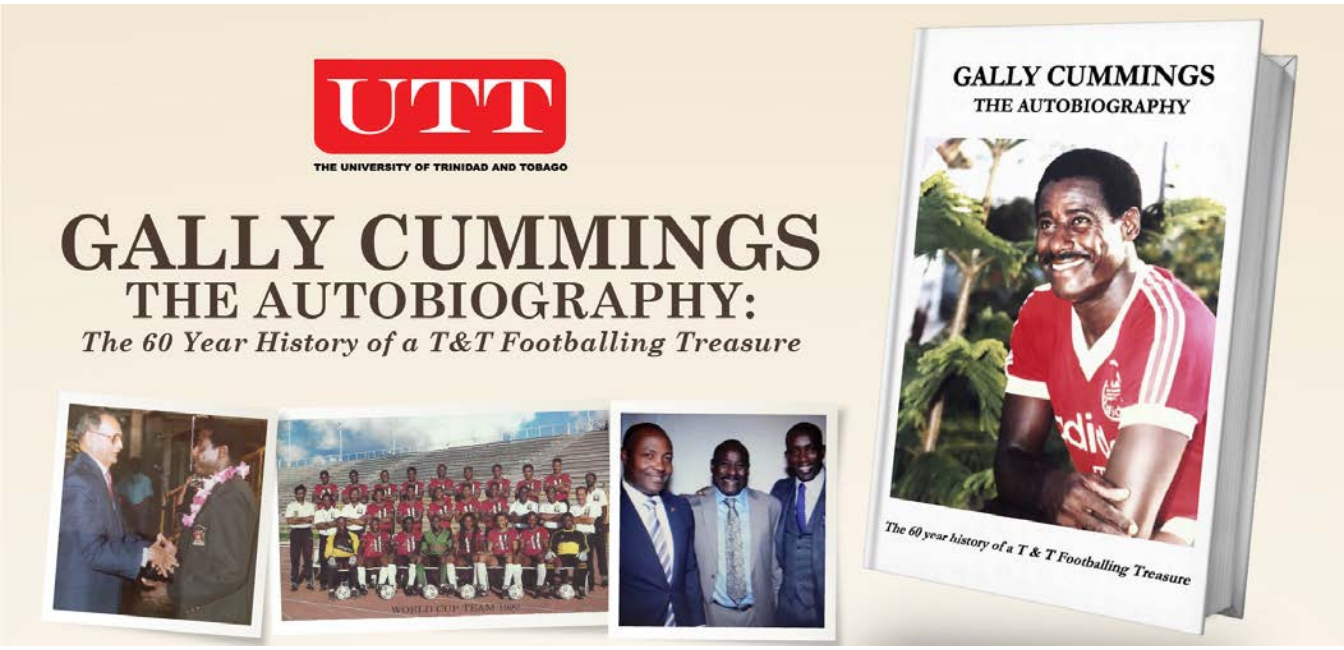
As a student, the experience is quite surreal as they gain exposure to the actual components, operations, and mechanisms of aviation operations, with the presence of a Boeing 727 aircraft at UTT's Camden Campus. With the help of skilled laboratory technicians and the availability of advanced technology, students are able to develop new skills as necessary. Daniella adds, "With pleasant and cooperative staff, the transition from high school to university was hassle-free and learning has been made easy by diligent lecturers who continuously go the extra mile to ensure that no student is left behind."

Daniella also engaged in industrial attachment at Caribbean Airlines for a brief period, during which many critical real-life operations were witnessed and documented, solidifying significant theory elements from various courses. One key operation which stood out was a C-Check done on a Boeing aircraft at the organisation, where the individual systems and components were extensively checked for serviceability and function. Elements of theory learnt in UTT's Aviation programme were applied to this operation allowing for a successful outcome. Daniella recounts this experience as the highlight of her time spent in this programme.

The benefits of doing this programme at UTT include the availability of resources such as the library which provides a focus-oriented environment, and is equipped with advanced software programmes, and various laboratories with simulations and equipment to provide insight on how systems work.

Apart from aviation, Daniella's interests include baking and languages, which, when compared to skills learnt in her B.Sc. programme, all require high levels of precision and accuracy. She believes in the premise that if you do what you love, you will never have to work a day in your life – a key factor in her decision to pursue this degree.

Despite the allusion to the old cliché, "being a woman in a man's world", Daniella's passion for the field of aviation is unparalleled, and she asserts, through hard work and good efforts, anything can be achieved.



UTT and 'Gally' Cummings Collaborate on Autobiography Launch

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and Everald 'Gally' Cummings, former UTT High Performance Head Football Coach, collaborated to produce the virtual launch of *Gally Cummings: The Autobiography - The 60-year History of a National Footballing Treasure*. This virtual launch premiered on Sunday 21st February, 2021 at UTT Chaguaramas Campus and is available on UTT's YouTube and social media platforms.

This highly anticipated autobiography chronicles some of the greatest moments in Trinidad and Tobago's football history and traces a trajectory of excellence in local and international sport. According to Cummings, "For 60 years, the national community has been a part of my journey. This collaboration with UTT offers me an opportunity to bring elements of my book directly to the diaspora through a virtual launch. Although the response to book sales has been overwhelming, I hope this virtual launch will arouse additional interest since it offers some critical life lessons."

The launch featured Professor Clément Imbert, Chairman, UTT, Dr. Terry Ali of the First Citizens Bank Sports Foundation, a one-on-one with Mr. Andy Johnson veteran journalist, and a book review by Ms. Debbie Jacob, journalist and author. The book also came to life through readings of excerpts by Wendell Manwarren of 3Canal.

The autobiography is an extensive piece of work and a riveting and revolutionary story at the intersection of professional sports, civil rights, players' rights and a vision for Trinidad and Tobago football that united a nation. The book is available at bookstores across the country and on Amazon.

The launch is available for viewing on **UTT's YouTube channel**.



UTT Performing Arts Graduate Karissa Solomon

Sharing the Love of Music with Future Generations

Fresh out of high school in 2012, **KARISSA SOLOMON** left Tobago to study the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music at The University of Trinidad and Tobago's (UTT) Academy for Performing Arts (APA). Months earlier, the then sixteen-year old arrived for her audition at UTT Campus at NAPA earlier than expected, unexpectedly changing her life forever. While awaiting her audition, Karissa unknowingly witnessed a rehearsal for that year's Consortium of Disabilities Organization (CODO) Music Festival for Persons with Disabilities. Weeks later, she saw the full performance being broadcast on local television, and yearned to be a part of the production.

A year later, Karissa received a call from Mrs. Deborah Moore-Kushmaul, former Head of Percussion at UTT, who in observing Karissa's work ethic, thought she would be a good fit for UTT's Teaching Artists programme, a course customarily reserved for those who have already completed their first year of study. She accepted the offer, and has not looked back since.

On her first day of teaching, she was introduced to the programme's students under the CODO umbrella, and it was at that point her goals pivoted. Her desire transitioned from wanting to become a performing artist, to becoming a teaching artist for students with disabilities. She was exactly where she wanted to be. Karissa's first ever CODO music festival was a surreal experience. She shares, "Seeing the various amazing performances by each school, watching the pure joy on the students' faces as they performed their hearts out…it is a memory that I will always hold on to."

In 2014, Karissa became a mentor at CODO. Soon after, she had her first visit to the Lady Hochoy School in Cocorite. She recalls a few persons telling her how difficult of a time they had getting through to the students, but from the moment she stepped foot in the school and met the staff and students, everything was fine. Thankfully, she was able to utilise the skills and knowledge gained as a student of the University, and apply it to novel situations which she faced. In her final year as a UTT student, and after discussions with the Senior Teacher at the Lady Hochoy School, Karissa was offered what she considers her dream job.

It has been four years since Karissa became the Music Teacher at Lady Hochoy School, Cocorite and she is responsible for the reintroduction of the school's steel orchestra, and the creation of a school choir. She currently oversees relations with CODO at the Lady Hochoy School, Cocorite, and she continues to mentor new Student Teaching Artistes. To date, she has mentored ten novice Student Teaching Artistes, and hopes to be able to share her knowledge with several more as time goes by.



Professor Prakash Persad, President, UTT (right) giving remarks at the opening ceremony of the third National Health Research Conference.

UTT Co-hosts National Health Research Conference

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) partnered with the Ministry of Health, The University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus, the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC), and local Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) to co-host the virtual 2021 National Health Research Conference last November. This was the second edition of the event.

This year's theme was ***Building Resilience through Research in a Pandemic*** and the keynote address at the Opening Ceremony was delivered by the Honourable Terrence Deyalsingh, Minister of Health.

Also speaking was Professor Prakash Persad, President, UTT and Professor David R. Williams of the T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University.

Presentations at this event covered pertinent topics such as COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake and Hesitancy and Adapting to the New Normal. The event also featured a 3D poster hall which showcased research done in support of local and regional health industries.



UTT's Ashelle Legal Appointed National Netball Team Manager

Past UTT Patriots High Performance Netball student-athlete, Ashelle Legall, has been appointed by the Trinidad and Tobago Netball Association (TTNA) as Team Manager of the Trinidad and Tobago National Senior Netball team.

The national contingent took part in a tri-series tournament with Jamaica and South Africa in Kingston,Jamaica, last October.

Ashelle is a Sport Officer in the Sport in Education Unit - Division of Education, Innovation and Energy, Tobago House of Assembly (THA) and served as the Assistant Secretary of TTNA from 2013 - 2015. In 2019, she volunteered as a Media Consultant for Trinidad & Tobago at the International Netball Federation (INF) Netball World Cup that was held in Liverpool.

The former youth and senior national player, graduated from UTT with a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Sport Studies with specialisation in Sport Management and Sport for Development in 2011. In 2017, she was also able to attain an International Masters in Sport for Development at UTT.

UTT extends congratulations to Ms. Legall.





UTT's Third Research Symposium Adopts an Asynchronous Format

In this its third year, The University of Trinidad and Tobago's (UTT) Research Symposium switched to an asynchronous format, allowing for flexible interaction which has become an urgent priority in the past two or so years.

The theme, "Relevant Research for Sustainable Development" focused on the University's commitment to investing in research and advancement for generations to come and presented an opportunity to engage the community of fellow researchers for potential collaboration.

This year's scope of research, in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, included, but was not limited to Entrepreneurship; Fashion, Arts and Education; Engineering; Sports; Health; Criminology and Sciences; and Food Technology and Security, highlighting avenues via which cooperation can be facilitated, all aligned to programmes offered at the national University.

Overall, the event facilitated enlightening conversations and was another illustration of the concerted effort by UTT to provide the impetus required for the regeneration of the economy of Trinidad and Tobago.

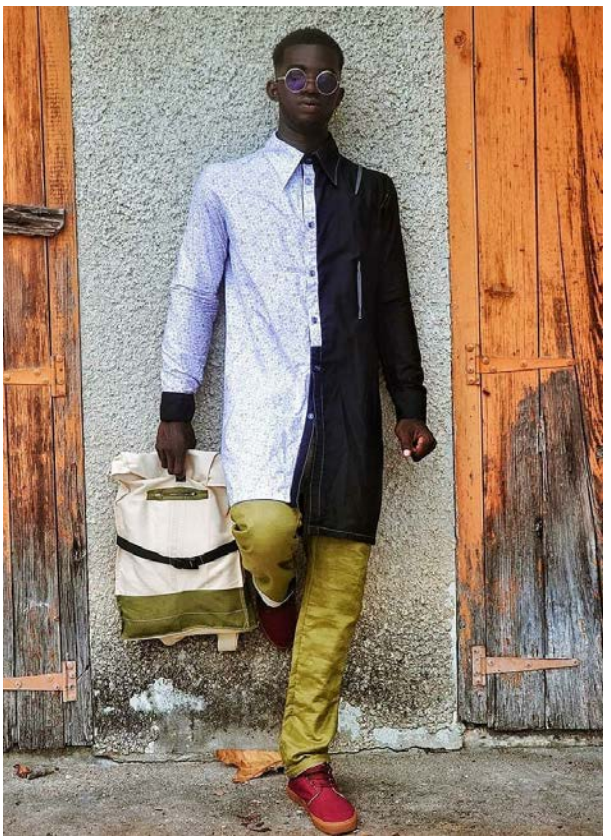


UTT Fashion Graduate Garrett Roberts

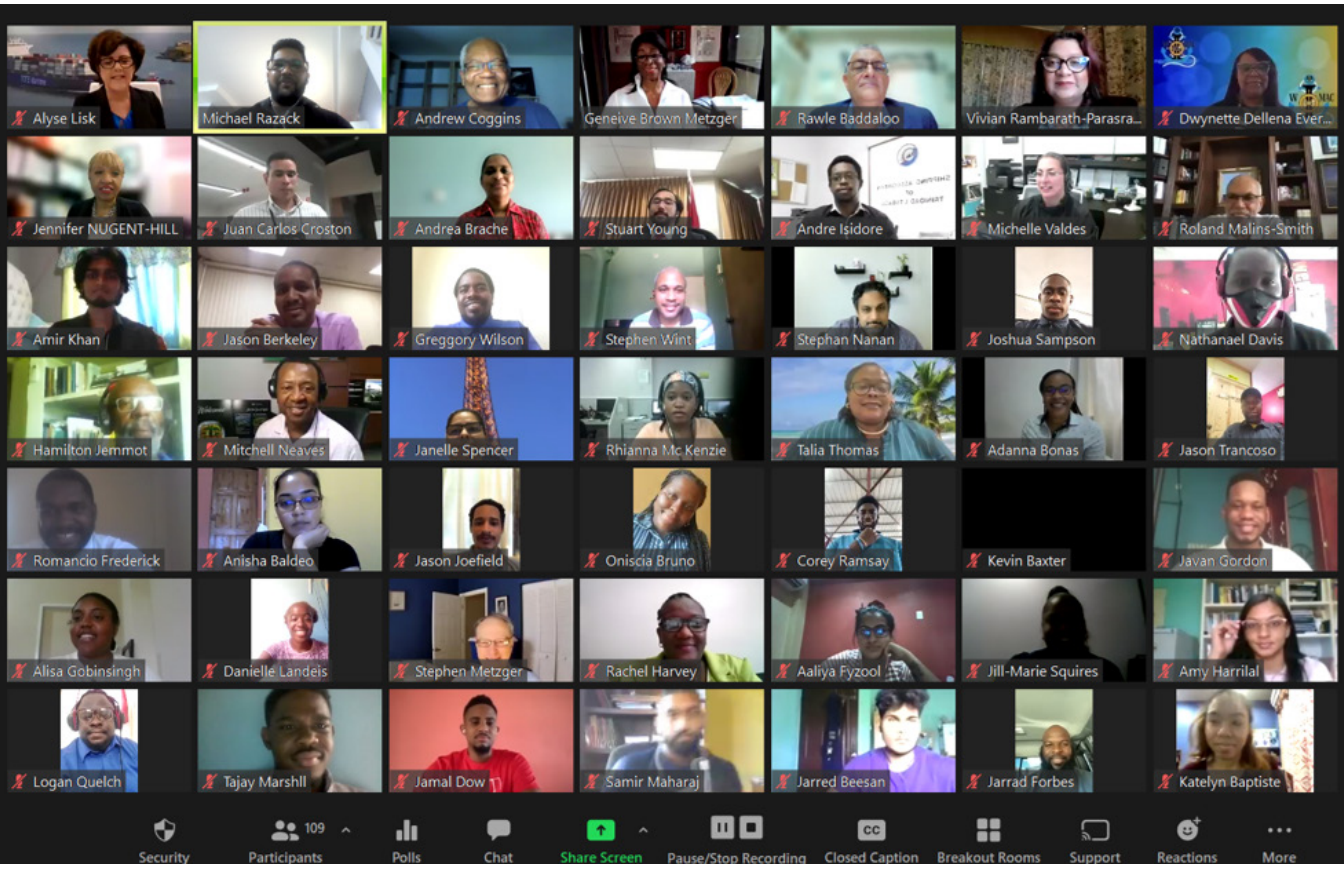
Taking UTT-honed Fashion to Milan

"DAN DAN" is a Caribbean colloquial term for fashion. It identifies dressing up and standing out. **GARRETT ROBERTS** of House of Argent showcased his "DAN DAN" collection at the *FASHION & TALENTS* runway show hosted by eCampus University and Accademia del Lusso in Milan, Italy. Garrett, a native of Antigua and Barbuda, is a 2019 graduate of UTT's Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Fashion Design.

The "DAN DAN" collection is infused with pieces which highlight the various identities of the Caribbean man and woman. The colour palette is mounted with vibrant tones and matched with soft accents of floral details which hint at the evolution and approach of the Green Initiative and the fight against the global warming crisis.







Participants of the Maritime Link-up Webinar.

UTT Hosts Webinar on the Development of the Maritime Industry in the Caribbean

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) in partnership with the American Caribbean Maritime Foundation (ACMF) hosted the Annual Maritime Link-up webinar for Caribbean youth under the patronage of the Honourable Stuart Young, MP, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries.

Highlighting the archipelagic nature of the Caribbean in international trade, and Trinidad and Tobago's role in supporting the offshore energy sector, Minister Young called for an increase in the training of local and Caribbean nationals to take up jobs on seafaring vessels, or in shore-based operations.

"As the development of the hydrocarbon industries of countries such as Guyana and Suriname picks up, it is expected that the demand for a range of maritime services will follow suit", the Minister said.

"There is a projected shortage of almost 90,000 officers by 2026 to take up these critical jobs", remarked Dr. Geneive Brown Metzger, President of ACMF, which funds scholarships for Caribbean nationals embarking on maritime studies, including students at UTT, the Caribbean Maritime University in Jamaica, and the LJM Maritime Academy in The Bahamas.



The Honourable Stuart Young, MP, Minister of Energy and Energy Services, Trinidad and Tobago at the Annual Maritime Link-up webinar.

Minister Young also called for "increased collaboration between the industry and training institutions to address the manpower shortage, and to provide trained personnel with the skillsets required by the industry".

Giving the keynote speech at the event attended by over a hundred participants from across the Caribbean, was Alyse Lisk, Senior Vice President of Technology and Operational Excellence, at TOTE Marine, who focused her talk on port cybersecurity.





UTT Electrical/Electronic Engineering Graduate Venessa Bhagwat

Winner of IET Prize for Second Consecutive Year

For the second consecutive year, a student of The University of Trinidad and Tobago's (UTT) Utilities Engineering programme has won the International IET Prize Competition. The 2021 prize went to Venessa Bhagwat, a graduate of the National Engineering Technician Diploma (NETD) Electrical/Electronic Engineering Programme.

Venessa started the programme in September 2019 and graduated in November 2021.

She attended Naparima Girls' High School and was awarded a National Scholarship for outstanding achievement at CAPE-level examinations. She was also awarded membership in the National Society of High School Scholars. She holds a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Chemical and Process Engineering with First Class Honours from The University of the West Indies (UWI), and a Master of Engineering and ACGI in Aeronautical Engineering with First Class Honours from Imperial College, London.

As to why Venessa would choose to pursue an NETD when she already has undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, she stated that she decided to pursue a career in the field of engineering in her final years of high school. While pursuing her Master of Engineering in Aeronautical Engineering, she realised that it would be to her advantage to acquire practical and technical industry skills. She was particularly interested in the technical work conducted by avionics technicians, which she observed during two brief industry placements. After graduating, she sought to receive this technical training by pursuing the NETD in Electrical/Electronic Engineering at UTT. In addition to its emphasis on practical competencies which give students the opportunity to build their theoretical and practical skills, she was particularly enthused by the Co-Op component which assigns full-time students to companies related to their course of study for a six- to eight-month period at the end of their second year.

With her magnetic personality and ardent approach to academics, Venessa has left a lasting impression on her lecturers and fellow students. She is a consistent top performer and is committed to constantly improving her personal best. An all-round student, she is well liked by all. Her commitment to excellence is most commendable and she is a wonderful example to her classmates.

The Utilities Engineering Unit and The University of Trinidad and Tobago are proud of Venessa and congratulate her on her meritorious achievements. We wish her all the best in her future engineering career.



UTT's Senior Sport Officer Imran Jan (right) with participants of the West Indies Rising Stars U19 High Performance Camp in Antigua.

UTT Senior Sport Officer Selected as WI U19 High Performance Coach

UTT's Senior Sport Officer, Imran Jan, was selected as an Assistant Coach for the West Indies (WI) Rising Stars U19 High Performance Camp in Antigua.

The Cricket Australia and England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Level 3 Cricket Coach, was a part of a group of specialist coaches put together by Cricket West Indies (CWI) to prepare the WI youth squad for the 2022 International Cricket Council (ICC) U19 Men's Cricket World Cup to be hosted for the first time in the Caribbean.

According to a CWI press release, the camp was designed to help lift the players to the next level of physical and mental skills development. Along with targeted coaching sessions, the players also competed in warm-up matches, and more intense "trial" matches at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium and Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) venues.

UTT extends congratulations to Mr. Jan.



The Honourable Marvin Gonzales (right) and Professor Clément Imbert (left) looks on as Professor Prakash Persad, President, UTT and Mr. Sherland Sheppard, CEO, WASA, at the signing of the MoU between UTT and WASA.

UTT and WASA Sign MOU

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and The Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which allows both parties to collaborate with a view to pursuing objectives for the economic development of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Honourable Marvin Gonzalez, Minister of Public Utilities attended the event and emphasised the importance which the Ministry attaches to the cooperation between both parties. He spoke on the importance of potential projects to be undertaken by UTT and WASA, and also on future development work by the Authority, which would require the University's involvement.

Chairman of The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), Professor Clément Imbert announced that this signing was the formalisation of a mutually beneficial relationship which has already seen knowledge transfer in the areas of water quality and distribution.

Through this MoU, the University reiterates its commitment to the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago through the application of its research to the benefit of all.



(L-R): High Commissioner of India to Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Arun Kumar Sahu; PAHO/WHO Representative to Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Erica Wheeler; UN Resident Coordinator, Marina Walter and UTT President, Professor Prakash Persad.

UTT Partners with PAHO/ WHO and UN

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) has partnered with the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization country office, and the United Nations Trinidad and Tobago Resident Coordinator's Office to offer technical advice on the implementation of a healthcare project to address COVID-19 in this country.

Under the India-UN fund, the Government of India has provided US$1m in financing to support the venture entitled "Bringing High and Low Technology (HALT)", which commenced September 2021. Over the next 12 months, the grant will support the introduction of mobile healthcare robots, a telemedicine system, hand hygiene stations accessible to Persons with Disabilities and washable face masks for persons with underlying health conditions.

At the launch, Dr Erica Wheeler, PAHO/WHO Trinidad and Tobago Representative stated that while some of the eight mobile healthcare robots will be imported, there will be discussions with UTT to explore the possibility of spearheading local development of these medical robots.

Having pioneered robotics research and development as part of its commitment to innovation, UTT President, Professor Prakash Persad, said the University will assemble a multi-disciplinary team of experts to support implementation of the HALT project. He added, "In our previous projects, we would have seen that people have a reluctance towards new technology in their presence. We learned a lot about how we can integrate technology into human interaction in a way that is accessible. Whatever lessons we have learned, we want to bring to this project, to ensure it is successful."



UTT Process Engineering Graduate
Dillon Ramsook

Finding New Ways to Reduce our Carbon Footprint

Mr. **DILLON RAMSOOK** is a graduate of The University of Trinidad and Tobago's (UTT) Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Process Engineering who is currently pursuing his Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) in the same area. During his previous stint as a UTT student from 2012-2018, he represented the University in many national competitions and conferences where his research revolved around clean production and sustainable development. His current M.Phil. research on carbon constrained energy planning in Trinidad and Tobago's power generation sector, is an extension of his M.Eng. thesis project which won UTT's "Best R&D Project 2017".

While employed at UTT between 2017 and 2019, he provided technical insight on two national projects, focusing on carbon reduction through carbon capture and storage (CCS). The findings of these projects provide crucial insight into T&T's decarbonisation strategy. Additionally, he has experience in advanced techno-economic modelling of CCS for application in Trinidad and Tobago. In 2020, he was selected as one of fifty persons worldwide to participate in the International Energy Agency Greenhouse Gas (IEAGHG) R&D programme's CCS Summer School, to be held in Bandung, Indonesia in 2022. This Summer School is geared towards exposing the best young minds in the field of CCS to hands-on experience and coaching from the top companies in the world.

Currently, he is employed as an Executive Management Trainee at the ANSA McAL Group of Companies through their Champions Programme, where he is constantly placed in situations to challenge the status quo, improve processes, manage operations, and drive sustainable organisational and technical change. This programme is directed toward developing his management skills through continuous exposure to the company's executives and high-level business decision making.

For his dedication to the environment and commitment to continued research and development, the University says thanks to Mr. Ramsook.



(L-R): Miss Uuniverse 1998 Ms. Wendy Fitzwilliam and Ms. Camille Selvon Abrahams, Senior Instructor, Digital Media Arts (Animation), discuss the history of UTT's animation programme at the launch of UTT's TTAP Factory.

UTT Receives Grant from IDB to Support the Growth of the Animation Industry

IDB Lab, the innovation lab of the IDB Group, has approved a US $925,000.00 grant for The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) to catalyse expansion of the local animation industry. The global animation market was valued at US$354.7 billion in 2020 and is projected to reach US$642.5 billion by 2030. Over the years, UTT has trained and certified over 250 graduates through its Diploma in Animation Studies, now part of the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Digital Media Arts, and there are several local studios and individual freelancers that have secured international contracts for animation services.

The Tamana Technology and Animation Production (TTAP) Factory launched on Wednesday, October 27th, 2021, and is the culmination of the vision of Ms. Camille Selvon Abrahams, Senior Instructor, Digital Media Arts (Animation), UTT, and founder and creative director of Anime Caribe. In partnership with IDB Lab, TTAP Factory will be a hub where animators can access the best technology and benefit from ongoing skills upgrades, marketing support and international industry connections required to expand the export of their talents.



Dr. the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, Minister of Education of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, delivers an address at the launch of UTT's TTAP Factory.

The IDB Lab financing is complemented by counterpart resources from the IDB Global Services loan operation with the Ministry of Planning and Development, which were utilised to set up and equip the TTAP Factory at UTT Tamana Campus. IDB Lab resources will be focused on developing and implementing a strategy to help secure commercial contracts, providing local animators with upskilling and retooling as new technologies emerge, facilitating collaboration between small scale studios and freelancers to compete and secure international contracts and positioning the TTAP Factory as a competitive and sustainable business model.

According to Ms. Carina Cockburn, IDB's Country Representative in Trinidad and Tobago, "This is an investment in the commercial growth and internationalisation of animation service delivery in Trinidad & Tobago, a new sector in the knowledge economy that leverages digital technologies and is based on the entrepreneurial talent and creativity of local animators. Ultimately, we would like to see the evolution of the TTAP Factory as a sustainable and competitive model that facilitates creative and business collaboration and inflows of foreign exchange earnings to the sector."

UTT, since inception, has focused on applied learning in areas that are relevant to Trinidad and Tobago's industries and economy. Animation is one such area that has now received an investment to catalyse commercial growth of services that can be exported in a global high growth market. UTT's Chairman Professor Clément A.C. Imbert states, "As Chairman of the Board of Governors of The University of Trinidad and Tobago, I speak on behalf of the University to express our appreciation to the IDB for its assistance in making it possible to launch and sustain UTT's Tamana Technology and Animation Production Factory to train students, support local entrepreneurs, and also operate as a commercial centre providing services in Animation and related technologies locally and internationally."

The launch of UTT's TTAP Factory is available for viewing on **UTT's YouTube channel**.



Coach Clayton Morris, UTT Men's Football Team Coach with the cheque from Guardian Life of the Caribbean Limited.

UTT Men's Football Team Receives Sponsorship from Guardian Life

The University of Trinidad and Tobago's (UTT) Sport and Recreation Unit received the sum of $10,000.00 from Guardian Life of the Caribbean Limited on Thursday 7th January 2021, as sponsorship of the UTT Patriots Men's Football team.

Ian Pritchard, Senior Manager - Sport and Recreation, UTT indicated his delight at having such partnerships with corporate Trinidad and Tobago. Sponsorships such as this, according to Pritchard, "will definitely augur well for the continued development of UTT's and the country's young, talented sportsmen and sportswomen".

UTT Men's Football Team Coach, Clayton Morris, indicated that this financial assistance is just the beginning of an exciting, impactful relationship with Guardian Life. He also mentioned that the UTT Patriots and Guardian Life are in talks for the creation of an initiative that will positively influence communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago through sport.

Pritchard recognises that as the national University, UTT plays an integral role in the continued development and transition of student-athletes into national athletes. To achieve this, however, there must be continued support from corporate Trinidad and Tobago and other stakeholders in sport.

The University of Trinidad and Tobago thanks Guardian Life of the Caribbean Limited for their financial assistance of its Men's Football team, and looks forward to establishing more collaborations of this nature.



Members of UTT's Student Chapter of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) at UTT Point Lisas Campus.

UTT Students Awarded SPE Student Chapter Excellence Award

The University of Trinidad & Tobago's (UTT) Student Chapter of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) was awarded the Student Chapter Excellence Award for 2021. This prestigious award is the second highest honour a Student Chapter can receive and is awarded to only one-fifth of Student Chapters around the world.

The award is in recognition of the Chapter's endeavours in industry engagement, operations and planning, community involvement, professional development, and innovation. In spite of the challenges faced last year, the Chapter persevered and continues to fulfill SPE's mission to serve its members. This is undoubtedly a reflection of the dedicated work of its Student Board, which includes **Evangeline Pardasie**, President; **Brian Cabrera**, Vice President; **Adrian Thomas**, Treasurer; **Andrea Bartholomew**, Secretary and **Maisha Mendoza**, Public Relations Officer. The Board also receives support from its Faculty Advisor, Dr. Edward Bahaw, Assistant Professor Energy Engineering Systems.

In March 2021, their operations switched to an online format, utilising Zoom and social media platforms. Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, the group was able to successfully execute eighteen (18) events which included a field trip dedicated to providing animal care, a personal development session, technical sessions, professional development sessions, community development events, a fundraiser and a marketing campaign for International Women's Day. The group also partnered with UWI SPE & SPETT for a charity initiative and a 'Back to School' drive which allowed members to actively take part in responsible change.

These endeavours ran parallel to their efforts to ensure their student members continued learning about decarbonisation developments in Trinidad and Tobago, while also gaining a broader view of sustainability within the sector. Additionally, they were able to provide students with insight into professionalism and the world of work relevant to current and possible post-Covid-19 operations.

Overall, UTT's SPE Student Chapter created a holistic environment for its members to network with professionals and gain valuable knowledge regarding their development as the next generation of engineers. President Evangeline Pardasie acknowledges "The fruits of our labour were evident in the engagement we received from our student members and this award topped it all off!" She also remarked that the group is grateful for the support of UTT, the University's Energy Systems Engineering Unit, SPE Trinidad and Tobago Section, SPE International, its student members and all those who have contributed to its growth and development.

The University commends its SPE Student Chapter for its unwavering commitment to its members, its community, and the development of the local industry.





Participants of *Let's Rally – The T20 Cricket World Cup 2021*.

UTT and CWI Host Webinar on T20 Cricket

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and Cricket West Indies (CWI) hosted a webinar entitled *Let's Rally – The T20 Cricket World Cup 2021*. This educational webinar discussed the plans of both institutions for the continued development of West Indies Cricket.

This Webinar took place in October, and is part of UTT's ongoing commitment to provide pertinent information on various sectors which contribute to national development. It was additionally geared towards making the clarion call for all West Indies fans to support our team as they defended their title in the ICC T20 World Cup.

Panellists for this Webinar were Dr. Kishore Shallow, Vice President, CWI; Mr. Jimmy Adams, former West Indies Captain and Director, Cricket Development, CWI and Mr. Anthony Gray, former West Indies fast bowler and current High Performance Cricket Coach at UTT. Discussion covered various topics ranging from the aims of CWI and the future of West Indies Cricket to the role of regional universities in research and development for the resurgence of West Indies Cricket.

There was also an added surprise for guests of the webinar as UTT revealed a prototype of an Anthropometric Bowling Machine, which better simulates the motion of an actual bowler, compared to traditional bowling machines. When fully developed, this machine can assist cricketers improve their skill. *Let's Rally* was moderated by Mr. Reza Abasali, West Indies cricket historian, journalist and retired secondary school teacher.

The webinar is available for viewing on **UTT's YouTube channel**.



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A publication of THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (UTT)

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