

## Honorary Awards FOR National Icons AT UTT'S GRADUATION 2016

The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) inducted five (5) Master Artists-in-Residence into its Academy for the Performing Arts (APA). At a luncheon on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016, held at the UTT Campus at NAPA, veteran masman Dr. Peter Minshall, D.Litt. (h.c.), renowned sitarist Dr. Mungal Patasar, D.Mus. (h.c.), award-winning novelist, journalist and playwright Dr. Earl Lovelace, D.Litt. (h.c.), musician and composer Ray Anthony Holman and celebrated artist/musician and educator David Boothman were each appointed to this prestigious title because of their trailblazing artistic careers. The five (5) were later officially conferred this title at UTT's Graduation ceremonies held on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

The University's five (5) Master Artists-in-Residence are designated as follows:

- **Dr. EARL LOVELACE, D.Litt. (h.c.)**  
Master Artist-in-Residence, Literature
- **Mr. RAY ANTHONY HOLMAN**  
Master Artist-in-Residence, Steelpan
- **Dr. MUNGAL PATASAR, D.Mus. (h.c.)**  
Master Artist-in-Residence, Indian Music
- **Dr. PETER MINSHALL, D.Litt. (h.c.)**  
Master Artist-in-Residence, Carnival
- **Mr. DAVID BOOTHMAN**  
Master Artist-in-Residence, Visual Arts

The University celebrates these iconic figures, recognising their invaluable contributions to the fields of Literature, Steelpan, Indian Music, Carnival and Visual Arts. Through their exceptional prowess in their respective fields they have distinguished themselves and Trinidad and Tobago both regionally and internationally. These Master Artists-in-Residence will mentor APA's staff and students and share their wider knowledge and expertise with the national community by extension, through performances, readings and Master Classes.

In addition to these Master Artists-in-Residence, UTT also conferred honorary



Justice Anthony Lucky, LL.D. (h.c.) delivering the keynote address at UTT's Graduation ceremony on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2016.

degrees (Doctorates and Distinguished Fellows) at its Graduation ceremonies 2016.

The following persons were so awarded:

- **Justice ANTHONY LUCKY**  
Honorary Doctorate, Law
- **Mr. ERROL MAHABIR**  
Honorary Doctorate, Energy (Posthumous)
- **Mr. KELVIN POPE, THE MIGHTY DUKE**  
Honorary Doctorate, The Arts (Posthumous)

- **Dr. MICHAEL ANTHONY, D.Litt. (h.c.)**  
Honorary Distinguished Fellow, Literature
- **Mr. ANGELO BISSESSARSINGH**  
Honorary Distinguished Fellow, The Arts
- **Mr. WINSFORD DEVINE**  
Honorary Distinguished Fellow, The Arts

These are welcomed developments for the University and will augur well for the students and staff of the Institution.

»» Continues on Page 2

## The Master Artists-in-Residence



**Dr. EARL LOVELACE, D. Litt. (h.c.)** has cemented himself as one of the most eminent authors of West Indian Literature through his firm command of the English Language and Caribbean Creole. Through his works, Dr. Lovelace has exhibited an appreciation and an intimate understanding of the environment and society which has allowed him to be a master of various genres of writing as he has successfully penned plays, poetry, prose, short stories and novels. Widely known for one of his most popular works "The Dragon Can't Dance", Dr. Lovelace's expansive literary career has taken him from the halls of The University of the West Indies (UWI) to those of the London Arts Board. With the passage of time, Dr. Lovelace continues to impress with his literary prowess.



Composer, arranger and performer, **Mr. RAY ANTHONY HOLMAN** is a master extraordinaire at the steelpan and has continued to enjoy dominance at the top of his game. A musical genius in his field, Mr. Holman's compositions have spanned an impressive forty (40) years as he has arranged and recorded with steel bands and artists locally and internationally, including those from Japan and Europe. In 1972, Mr. Holman was the first arranger to compose and play original compositions at the Panorama competition. This unprecedented move earned him a coveted place in steelband history and resulted in him becoming one of the most respected and sought after musicians in this musical genre. The move to compose and play original compositions at Panorama, paved the way for other arrangers and composers to set ablaze their "own tune" trail.



Through his music, the world renowned **Dr. MUNGAL PATASAR, D. Mus. (h.c.)** has made an outstanding contribution to the preservation and promotion of Indian culture in Trinidad and Tobago. He has created a unique genre of music most aptly termed, "world music" that draws on all the elements of musical cultures of the Caribbean; successfully fusing the sitar with that of the national instrument, the steelpan. Dr. Patasar's work has been described on the international stage as the 'most cohesive fusion music in the genre of world music'. For his lifelong dedication to music, Dr. Patasar has been honoured both locally and internationally.



**Dr. PETER MINSHALL, D. Litt (h.c.)** - an artist, designer, artistic director and masman is renowned for his works of mas for Trinidad Carnival and large-scale spectacle events and performances. Much of Dr. Minshall's success came as a result of his investigation into the kinetics of the human body in motion and the development of structural techniques to amplify the energy of the mas player's performance. As Dr. Minshall's kinetically expressive mas creations became more sophisticated and more distinctive, to categorically classify them, he coined the term "dancing mobile." This then resulted in an array of innovations and designs that continue to have a substantial impact on Trinidad Carnival and spectacle performances internationally. The most noteworthy of these designs being the legendary Carnival male and female puppet duo "Tan Tan and "Saga Boy." Outside of his signature Carnival creations, Minshall has created costumes for the Opening Ceremonies of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, 1996 Atlanta Olympics, the 1994 World Cup and the 2002 Winter Olympics; and his work has been displayed in Barbados, Jamaica, Japan (Tokyo) and the USA.



The celebrated **Mr. DAVID BOOTHMAN** has been involved in the arts for over thirty-five (35) years. In addition to being a top artist, Mr. Boothman is also an accomplished jazz pianist and composer and has created a new genre of music, which he calls transcendental Caribbean style; a type of music that explores and expresses the multicultural tapestry of the Caribbean. Mr. Boothman is founder of Caribbean Art Jazz Ensemble (CAJE) and founder/director of Caribbean Arts Central and has performed at several international jazz and Caribbean music festivals. His work in the arts, education and performance, qualifies him as a cultural engineer - creating and bridging traditional and contemporary cultural modalities towards the refinement of the Caribbean identity. For Mr. Boothman, the goal of his art is to transform society to a higher consciousness towards a new humanity and world peace.



## The Distinguished Honorees



**Justice ANTHONY AMOS LUCKY** has been a judge of the United Nations International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea based in Hamburg, Germany, since September 2003. He also served as a Magistrate for ten years, before being appointed a judge of the High Court where he served for sixteen years, with the last of those three years being at the Court of Appeal. Within his tenure at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Justice Lucky also served as President of the Chamber for Marine Environment Disputes and the President of the Chamber for Fisheries Disputes. As an expert in the subject matter of the Law of the Sea, he has presented papers at a number of major international gatherings and has also served on a number of local and international committees.

Born and raised in the rural village of Mayaro, the eminent Caribbean author and local literary giant, **Dr. MICHAEL ANTHONY, Dr. Litt (h.c.)** has had over thirty (30) published titles including novels, collections of short stories and travelogues. Dr. Anthony began his distinguished literary career at the age of twenty-three (23), when his poems were published in the Trinidad Guardian. Although his first love was poetry, he had a preference for writing prose. The success of his first novel "The Games Were Coming" provided the impetus for him to pen the ever popular "The Year in San Fernando", which was inspired from a childhood experience of living in the city of San Fernando at the age of eleven (11). His non-fiction books "Towns and Villages of Trinidad and Tobago" and the "Historical Dictionary of Trinidad and Tobago" are listed as must-have references for an in-depth study of Trinidad and Tobago. This simple man remains committed to his country with a passion to serve through his vast reservoir of knowledge and impressive command of the English Language.

A childhood obsession with relics blossomed into a lifelong passion for author and historian **Mr. ANGELO BISSESSARSINGH**, who is determined to successfully weave together, salvage and to share, the rich history of Trinidad and Tobago. From a tender age, Mr. Bissessarsingh had an affinity for collecting historical artefacts, as he grew up in a home "filled with old books and all sorts of interesting knick-knacks that all told a story." He credits the early influences of a selected few who have helped to shape and hone his research and writing skills. Using the ever-popular Facebook platform to create the Virtual Museum of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Bissessarsingh's online heritage resource site ushered in a new way to learn about the diverse history of Trinidad and Tobago. The overwhelming success of the Virtual Museum spurred Bissessarsingh to offer his own lasting legacy as he published "Walking with the Ancestors: The Historic Cemeteries of Trinidad (2014), followed by his most recent offering "A Walk Back in Time: Snapshots of the History of Trinidad and Tobago (2016).

Having written more than 500 calypsos over an impressive thirty-year career, **Mr. WINSFORD 'JOKER' DEVINE** can be considered as the most prolific calypso writer ever, as he has written Calypso and Soca music for top artistes such as Machel Montano, Crazy, Mighty Sparrow, Baron, Singing Francine, the Mighty Blakie, Sugar Aloes, Explainer and Karen Asche to name a few. Effortlessly, Devine penned lyrics that addressed the social and political issues of the day while adding the double entendre to many of his compositions. Nicknamed the "Joker", he became the songwriter most sought after by the popular calypsonians of the period 1970 to 2000. Of his many hits, the lyrical genius also wrote the legendary "Progress" by King Austin, which was voted "Calypso of the Millennium" by the Trinbago Unified Calypso Organisation (TUCO).

## Posthumous Honorees



The late **Mr. ERROL EDWARD MAHABIR** has been hailed by many as an outstanding political icon who placed country above partisan politics. His extensive 'tour of duty' to the nation began when he was elected to the San Fernando Borough Council in 1959. He then served as Deputy Mayor from 1960-1963 and then Mayor from 1963-1966 in the city of San Fernando. He held a number of ministerial portfolios including that of Member of Parliament for San Fernando West and also held the title of Deputy Political Leader; serving alongside the late Prime Minister George Chambers. One of his most noteworthy achievements was the creation of the National Gas Company (NGC), which was conceptualised with a view to delivering offshore gas directly to the industries at the Point Lisas Industrial Estate and its surroundings. Mr. Mahabir's unrelenting dedication to public service continued upon his exit from politics until his death at the age of eighty-four (84).



The late **Mr. KELVIN POPE**, more popularly known by his sobriquet 'The Mighty Duke' is considered one of the most celebrated calypsonians of this era. He is the only person, in the history of the Trinidad and Tobago's calypso competition, to win the Calypso Monarch title four consecutive times at the Dimanche Gras from 1968-1971. To date, this is a feat that no one has managed to surpass. Born in Pt. Fortin, the prolific composer penned his first calypso in the 1950's with many hits being recorded thereafter. The Mighty Duke's success came from his ability to fuse lyrics filled with humour and double entendre to highlight serious issues. A quintessential calypsonian, the Mighty Duke's music provoked deep thought within his fans as they found their true sense of reality in each lyric.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

# Congratulations Graduates!

WE'RE PROUD OF YOU!





## 2016 Presentation of Graduates

WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016









## 2016 Presentation of Graduates

THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016









# The Valedictorians



## MARIE RICHARDSON

*Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fashion Design*

Marie Richardson always had a yen for the Arts. She attended Sacred Heart Girls' R.C. School where she participated in the Bi-Annual National Music Festival and Bishop Anstey High School where she excelled in her artistic pursuits and was recognised for excellence in Visual Arts, both locally and regionally.

Marie made the decision to attend The Caribbean Academy of Fashion and Design (CAFD) at The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) in 2012. There she developed what she describes as a "whimsically dark and modern" aesthetic which pushed the boundaries of local convention. Under the helpful guidance of her tutors and peers, she developed her construction abilities, experimented with specialty fabrics and explored complex concepts. At the 2016 CAFD Senior Thesis Fashion Show, she was the recipient of the Creativity Award for her debut collection entitled "The Void".

She credits her supportive family, especially her mother, friends and colleagues with giving her the strength to endure through difficult times. Having lost her father mere days before the Thesis show, she now uses him as inspiration to continue along the artistic path, as he was also creative.

During her time at UTT, Marie contributed her time and artwork to many of its promotional activities. She has gained experience in environments such as the Barrack Yard Tent Experience where she aided in set construction and learned about local culture. She has also worked with the group "Children of the Coup" where she now serves as Art Director, to promote local underground artists.

It is her desire to merge knowledge gained at CAFD with visual and performing arts to extend her concepts to the realm of Carnival and theatre.

Her dream is to inspire authenticity and help others self-realise. Marie believes that one should not merely be a mirror of the world around them but affect it in the way that only he/she can.

## DEBORAH RAMNATH

*Bachelor of Applied Science in Petroleum Engineering*

Deborah Ramnath was born from humble beginnings on July 6th, 1990 to Marva and Johnny Ramnath. In September 2013, she joined The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) pursuing studies in Petroleum Engineering together with her brother Jonathan Ramnath. During her stay at UTT, she learnt the importance of the energy industry in the world and fell in love with engineering. Deborah is an advocate for sharing knowledge related to the energy industry and its impact on the world. In order to share this knowledge, she became the Vice President of the UTT Society of Petroleum Engineers Student Chapter in her final year of studies.

Although her passion is petroleum engineering she respects all disciplines and their place in the world. She believes one of the major purposes of life is to build relationships and learn from each other while being kind in return. In addition to gaining an excellent academic record, she was also highly involved in a variety of activities while building relationships with both students and faculty. Deborah possesses a strong sense of leadership that is demonstrated in both her academic and personal endeavours.

Her ultimate goal is to become a researcher who creates innovative solutions in the energy industry. Having completed her studies at UTT, she is eager to begin work in the petroleum industry. Deborah believes that God will continue to guide her to success in all her future undertakings.





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