

Press release: UCCI hosts CNCF Literary awards  
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## ***UCCI plays host to local literary awards***

For several years now the Cayman National Cultural Foundation, (CNCF) has been encouraging the development of local literary expression in the Cayman Islands through the annual literary awards. This year the awards ceremony, which is fast becoming a key event on the Cayfest calendar, the country's annual cultural festival, was hosted by the University College of the Cayman Islands, (UCCI) to wide acclaim and great success on Friday 4 April.

Donna Reid the CNCF programme manager responsible for the awards said that it was a tremendous occasion and the mix of literary readings and musical performances created a memorable and moving event.

"It was such a good awards ceremony and everyone who came enjoyed it so much we will certainly be holding the 2009 awards at UCCI. All the guests really enjoyed the beautiful presentations from both the readers and the musicians."

Glen Inanga, UCCI's music lecturer and head of the musical programme at the college, who coordinated the event with Donna, said, it was a pleasure for UCCI to host the awards and that everyone is looking forward to doing it again next year.

"It was a wonderful juxtaposition of literary and musical art. The musical genres performed ranged from Classical to Gospel and Jazz. Music programme highlights included the UCCI Choir performing "Total Praise" by Richard Smallwood; George Gershwin's "Summertime" sung as an improvised duet by Tanja Scott and Rochelle Parchment; a Chopin Nocturne played on the soprano steel pan by Phenecia Bodden, demonstrating the versatile qualities of both instrument and performer; and truly memorable improvisations on Dave Brubeck's "Take 5" played by Jimi La Pierre on the alto steel pan with Michaiiah Bryan on drums and Glen Inanga on piano," Glen said. "The music complemented the literary readings which were truly superb. UCCI was very proud to host such an event which was an opportunity to demonstrate the wealth of musical talent that exists in UCCI."

The awards were presented to the literary winners by Martyn Bould, Chairman CNCF. In the short stories section, first place went to Nasaria Suckoo-Chollette for *Rupert's Dream*, second to James Bodden III for *The Magnificent* and third place went to Jean Keen for *Boat Shed Lizard*. The first prize for poetry was awarded to H.M. Peter Westin, for *The Death of a Father* and James Bodden picked up both second and third places for his two pieces *The Great and the Glorious* and *Possibilities*.

Donna explained that the awards are all about celebrating local literary talent and encouraging local authors to express Caymanian culture through the written word. Entrants must be over sixteen years of age and living in the Cayman Islands and short stories must be 2000 words or less. The focus is on Caymanian culture past and present.

This year's judges were Dr Keith Jardim of UCCI, Mary Rodrigues Chief Officer Designate of the Portfolio of the Civil Service, and professional literary editor Claudette Upton. Speaking about this year's winners Claudette, who has been judging the awards for the last three years, commended the work of Nasaria which she described as truly outstanding and added that Peter's poem was extremely moving.

"These awards are very important to developing a literary culture in the Cayman Islands. They encourage our local authors to articulate the diverse local culture through prose and poetry. We need to nurture our local literary talent as the written word is an important part of artistic expression."

The ceremony was also an important event for UCCI. Kathleen Celoria, Business Development Manager of UCCI, said that hosting this type of cultural celebration was important to the UCCI's goal to play a greater roll in the cultural as well as the educational growth of Cayman.

"We were delighted to host this important occasion which proved to be a great success," said Ms Celoria. "UCCI is part of the local culture and we see the promotion of the arts as very important to the college, from both a cultural and educational perspective. The literary contributions at the ceremony were outstanding and all the awards were well deserved and the performances from our own musical talent were truly moving."

*For details of the literary awards and how to enter for 2009 contact Donna Reid at the CNCF: [projcnf@candw.ky](mailto:projcnf@candw.ky)*

The University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) UCCI is an institution of higher learning that contributes to Caymanian society by advancing knowledge and developing creative graduates through our cultural, social, economic and environmental activities. UCCI offers a number of certificate programmes, associate and degree courses as well as graduate programmes and professional trainings. Visit [www.ucci.edu.ky](http://www.ucci.edu.ky) to learn more.

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