



## THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

### Robert Riley

Chancellor,

Robert Riley, Chairman of BP Trinidad and Tobago, leads a company that produces twenty-five percent of Trinidad and Tobago's tax revenue and sells two billion cubic feet of natural gas daily. Indeed, BP Trinidad and Tobago, one of fourteen units of the BP Group, contributes ten percent of that group's worldwide production, one of the highest gas producers globally.

In BP Robert Riley commands the highest confidence in his abilities, but he is as respected in our national business community as in the international arena. Under his leadership, production in the Trinidad business has grown from 200 to 480 million barrels of oil per day and continues to climb, his performance attracting the 2003 Chaconia Gold Medal for contributing to the nation's economic development. In the words of John Galsworthy, "If you do not think about the future you cannot have one." Robert Riley has done more than think about it: he has actively participated in the construction of our future.

In boosting national development through expansion of the gas industry, he standardised offshore petroleum platforms. The Cannonball platform, first constructed in Trinidad and Tobago, boasts thirty-four percent local content including engineering and design, and was followed by two similar platforms within two years. These templates for platform design have led to significant savings.

Robert Riley has also transformed operations in BP Trinidad and Tobago to achieve a safety statistic of world class excellence, by searching out and addressing root causes with unprecedented ferocity. In championing safety awareness and according safety procedures his highest priority, he has shifted focus to effect an

emphasis on people. Similarly, he has built community relationships, devising systems for sustainable development in Mayaro, including assistance in creating small businesses through micro loans and a resource centre with courses in computer training. Aggressively backing environmental projects, he drives the renewable energy agenda and forces reduction of greenhouse gases at Galzota. Having supported one of UWI's Flagship Programmes, the B.Sc in Petroleum Geology/Geoscience, from the outset, he pushes us to be more engaged in Reservoir Engineering.

Nor does he distance himself while supporting his community. He has sung with the Marionettes Choir, one of the cultural groups that BP sponsors annually. His support for pan assists Renegades specifically, along with general demand for recognition of the art form - all this while sponsoring literary accomplishment, a photography competition and achievement in mathematics. The creativity that he brings to leadership in business and industry also echoes in his singing of calypso and playing of cuatro.

Robert Riley is not only the first Trinidadian to rise to CEO in the Amoco system - but startles us as a UWI graduate who has soared in the energy industry with qualifications in Agriculture and in Law rather than in Technology. But perhaps this experience of corporate law honed the impressive negotiator, articulate in urging his position yet controlled, fostering amicable relationships while ensuring outcomes of mutual benefit. Indeed, he is widely praised for holding a steady ship, maintaining viable associations with competitors, community and Government.

Colleagues are awed by his tenacious and penetrating quality of mind, even as they chuckle about him "making his own clock". His propensity for extracting information often throws meeting schedules into tatters. Ultimately, however, he uncovers solutions, and even as he takes circumstances apart he constructs futures. Within the company he spends time with co-workers, listening, stimulating them to excel in performance at the highest levels and creating opportunities for upward mobility. In seeking paths for talented Trinidadians to advance in the BP system internationally, he has propelled local men and women into managerial positions worldwide.

Robert Riley combines business acumen with a passion for individual and national welfare and advancement.

Chancellor, I present Mr. Robert Riley and ask that by the authority vested in you by the Council and Senate of The University of the West Indies, you confer on him the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

St. Augustine Campus  
Saturday 31st October, 2009