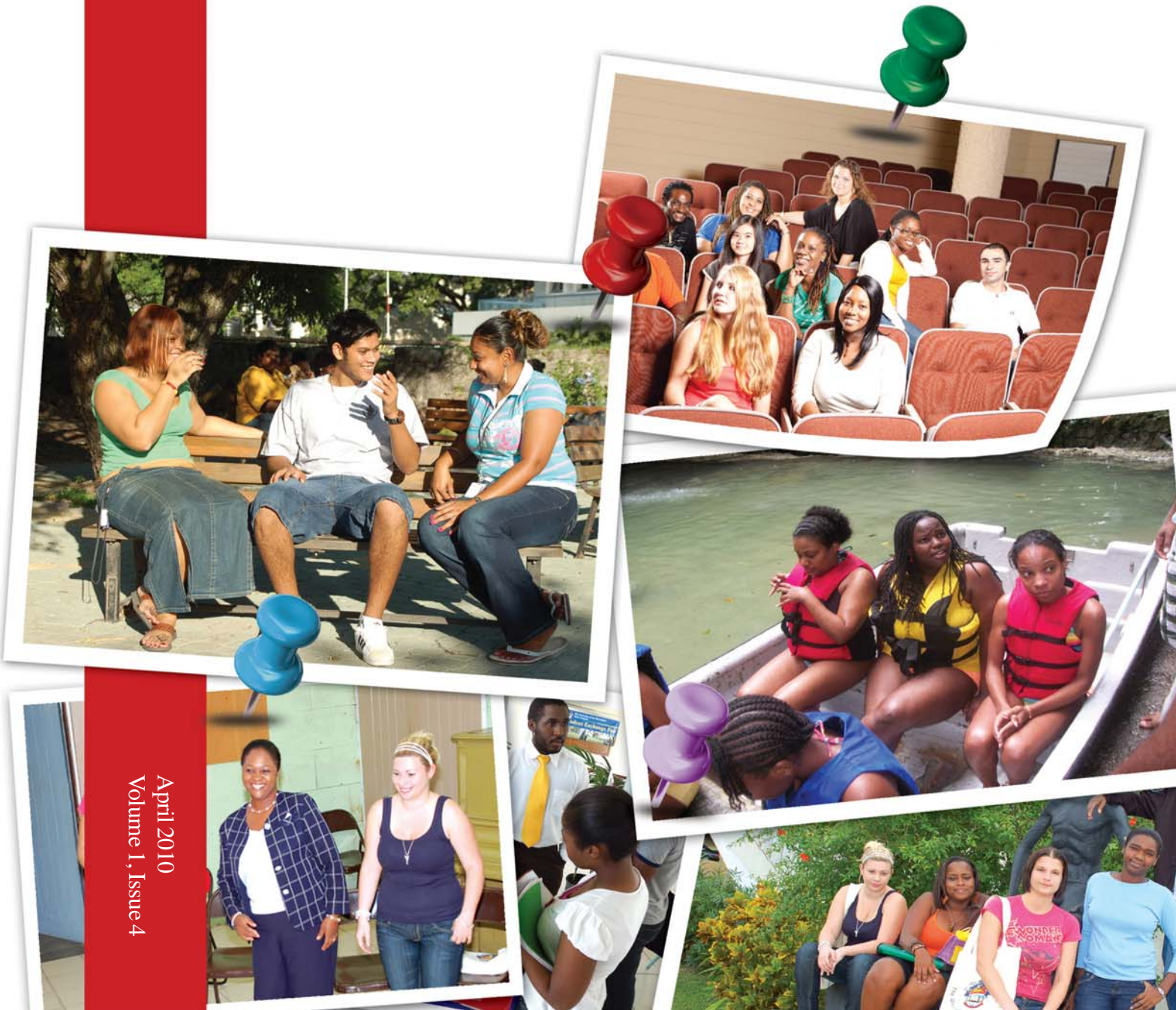




THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
MONA CAMPUS

NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OFFICE



April 2010
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THE NEWS...IN OUR NOTEBOOK

The Newsletter is produced by the International Students Office.

Your queries or comments are indeed welcome.

Please send these to the editor at isomona@uwimona.edu.jm

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The UWI: Inspiring Excellence



An opportunity to study abroad, be it for a semester or a year, can be one of the most exhilarating experiences for any student; however, while studying at any university (irrespective of your academic programme) a majority of your time will be spent away from lectures, seminars and laboratories.

The University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona – cognizant of the fact that many formative experiences lie outside the classroom – continues to further the holistic development of its students in providing a range of social, cultural, political and sporting activities.

Inside this issue, many of the clubs and societies, community-based projects, the halls, and weekly social events are featured. And whether for the UWI Mona Bowl where World's Fastest Man Usain Bolt trains, or the Halls which serve as the nucleus for many social events, the UWI continues to enhance the student experience in its role as the Caribbean's premier tertiary institution.

Mrs Althea Gordon-Clennon

Senior Assistant Registrar, Mona Campus



Calendar of Events

- Apr. 23rd – Teaching Ends
- Apr 26th – Semester II examinations begin
- May 7th - 23rd – University Players Production
- May 12th – Semester II & Semester II examinations end
- May 13th - 14th – Student Leaders' Workshop (OSSD)
- May 24th – Labour Day (Public Holiday)
- May 27th - Jun 27th – University Singers' Concert Season
- June 3rd - 5th – 7th Caribbean Reasonings Conference
Freedom and Power in the Caribbean

***SIGN UP FOR THE BA IN
HISTORY AND HERITAGE***

Being offered at Mona and the Mona Western
Jamaica Campus

The News in Our Notebook

Orientation and Cultural Immersion

The ISO's bi-annual Orientation and Cultural Immersion Programme is to be held on August 19-20, 2010. The Orientation and Cultural Immersion programme promotes greater cultural awareness through a special orientation for international students.

New Canadian Agreements

The University of the West Indies, Mona now has new exchange agreements with the **University of the Fraser Valley, The University of Windsor, The University of Calgary, Vancouver Island University, University of Waterloo** and the **University of Winnipeg**.

UWI Lecturer Appointed to UN Human Rights Council

Professor Verene Shepherd, Professor of Social History at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus has been appointed to the UN Human Rights Council's Working Group of Experts on people of African descent. She is to represent the Caribbean and Latin America, replacing the late Prof Nettleford for the rest of his 2 year term. Her appointment takes effect on April 12, 2010.

UWI Games 2010

The annual UWI Games, which is held at a different UWI Campus each year, will be held this year at the Mona Campus from May 17 -22. The UWI Games includes

cricket, basketball, hockey, football, lawn-tennis, volleyball and track & field.

International Summer School

The University of Mississippi (UM) will be hosting its inaugural International Summer School this year. Two full tuition scholarships are being offered to UWI students selected to participate this summer and a 10% tuition discount is also being offered if the UWI sends a group of ten or more students.

Inaugural Rastafari Studies Conference to be held at the University of the West Indies, Mona.

The Rastafari Movement in Kingston, Jamaica was first published by the then University College of the West Indies. This Report authored by M.G. Smith, Roy Augier and Rex Nettleford, remains one of the UWI's most successful monographs – having gone through eight reproductions without change in form or content – on its way to becoming a most highly referenced document on the Movement.

In recognition of these two anniversaries and on the birthday of the Pan-African champion and nation's first National Hero, the Honourable Marcus Mosiah Garvey, the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) announces the inaugural Rastafari Studies Conference, to be held at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies August 17 - 20, 2010.

For more Conference Information please visit our website or email rastafaristudies2010@yahoo.com

What is Holistic Learning ?



The concept of knowledge acquisition is undergoing a paradigm shift. The old paradigm supports the philosophy of Rationalism where teaching is understood as the transfer of information and learning as the ability to acquire, recall and present the taught information, all within the context of the classroom. The new paradigm is grounded in the philosophy of Postmodernism, where, learning is defined as a “complex, multicentric activity that occurs throughout — and across the college/university experience” (American College Personnel association and national association of Student Personnel Administrators, 2004, p.5). What is described is the holistic approach that presents Learning as comprising —

- physiological, social and emotional, cognitive and developmental dimensions
- a flowing process in which students acquire, analyze, and place information into a pre-existing pattern of meaning, expanding or altering the pattern

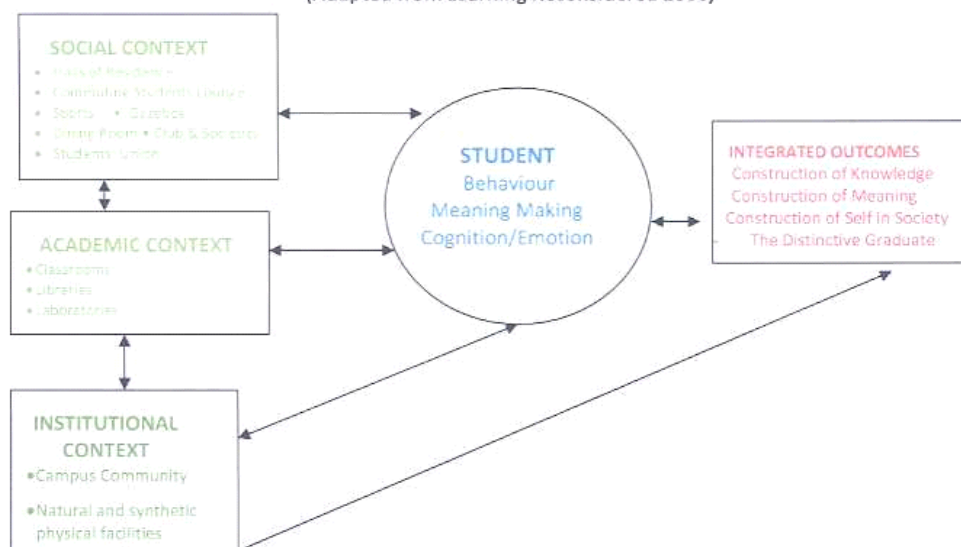
- a process that makes it impossible to separate learning, development and context
- a process that “transforms how students view themselves and the world” (Learning Reconsidered 2006).

The University definition of its “distinctive graduate” is an expression of the recognition of the holistic approach to student learning. The description of the distinctive graduate demonstrates knowledge acquisition – classroom phenomena; skills – acquired through the application of knowledge inside and outside the classroom; and attitudes – products of social interaction. The holistic approach to learning and development can be represented diagrammatically.

The diagram maps the entire Campus as a learning community, indicating sites inside and outside the classroom where learning occurs to realize the end product – the ‘Integrated Outcomes, the Distinctive Graduate’. The document is also indicating that the holistic approach includes all experiences to which students are exposed on Campus.

What is Holistic Learning ?

Figure 1: The Interconnectedness of Student Learning- Holistic Approach
(Adapted from Learning Reconsidered 2006)



The attitude aspect of the holistic learning is the business of the entire Campus community – faculty, student services and development units, every office where individuals interact with students, every supplier who interacts with students, every Campus activity (official or non-official) that engages students. However, a very important aspect of this holistic learning is a function of how students relate to one another. Astin (1993) postulates that outside of the classroom, the greatest influence on student learning is peer influence. The student related aspect of attitude learning is represented in the Social dimension of the diagram.

This holistic approach to student learning can only be achieved when institutions provide the support and resources that will facilitate all educators

– faculty and student personnel, administrators and students to function effectively and purposefully in the new paradigm to achieve student learning outcomes. The entire Campus community must be prepared to assess and change its approach to student learning, giving cognitive, psychosocial and moral development.

Msc. IN AGRICULTURE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

For additional information, please contact: Department of Life Sciences, lifesci@uwimona.edu.jm or Agriculture Unit, agriculture.unit@uwimona.edu.jm

Students Testimonials



Studying at the Western Jamaica Campus (WJC) was a blessing. The WJC's official Hall of Residence, the Buccaneer Beach Hotel, is located in the center of attractions in the Montego Bay area on Kent Avenue – otherwise referred to as the "Hip Strip".

The facility boasts a 90,000 gallon swimming pool (among other novelties) and includes a breathtaking view of sunsets over the beach and a picturesque view of – and beyond – the Montego Bay area, a view that seems to stretch further than Lucea.

Classes at the WJC proved to work in my favour: the smaller student population meant classes and sessions with lecturers and tutors were a lot more intimate.

Although I was able to spend time at the Mona (Main) Campus on occasion and enjoyed myself immensely each time I visited, the WJC experience is one that cannot be substituted. I would recommend it to anyone wishing to experience the lighter side of Jamaica.

*Etienne Fraser
Barbados*



I have always wanted to experience life at another University. When I was therefore made aware of the Caribbean Integration Programme I was very elated to apply.

The **Caribbean Integration Bursary** facilitated an opportunity to spend a semester at the UWI, Cave Hill Campus in Barbados. The bursary valued at \$5000 US covered airfare, housing, food, books and all program expenses for the duration of one semester.

I benefitted tremendously from the bursary. I was able to take advantage of an opportunity to experience a different culture and to represent my university. I was also able to network with many leaders in the region – all experiences that can form the base of a successful career.

*- Deidre Farquharson
Jamaica
Scholarship Recipient*

Enjoying the First Year Experience at Mona

It is well known that the first year and first time at any institution is inherently hectic, and bewildering for most; it may be particularly so for First Years, or “Freshmen”, attending university, and may hold different challenges for an exchange or study abroad student experiencing a new culture. **The First Year Experience (FYE)** programme at Mona is aimed at decreasing, to some extent, the feeling of estrangement that may exist for some First Years.

The FYE programme assists with the integration of commuting students into Campus life at the UWI. It provides students with opportunities for social and emotional growth; outreach involvement; cross-cultural discovery; and for experiential learning through exposure to aspects of Jamaican life. The programme is administered by the Commuting Students Office. (And there is also a more Hall-appropriate FYE for non-commuters.)

The FYE is a voluntary programme. It assigns Facilitators, drawn from the Campus staff, to small groups of students who meet weekly throughout the academic year. Activities in the FYE programme may range from discussions to outings (at places and/or events of interest) but usually involves community mini-projects.

There is an emphasis on informality and participation in the FYE. Students who take part in the programme have been generally enthusiastic about its benefits speaking

of improved self-confidence; better socializing skills; greater stress-management; a more comprehensive knowledge of the Campus and the society; a greater sense of responsibility; and, especially, of the enjoyment and fun of the experience.

New students are welcome to sign up – it’s a great way to integrate!



BA IN DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION

(Western Jamaica Campus, Montego Bay only)

Some UWI Clubs, Societies and Events

Join:

The UWI Mentorship Programme
The UWI Chess Society
The University Singers
UWI Quality Leadership Programme
The UWI Debating Society
Dramatic Arts Society
National Associations
Philip Sherlock Centre
UWI Pan-O-Ridim Steel Orchestra
University Dance Society
UWI Gyms



Visit:

The UWI Students Union for Thursday Night Lime
The Gym
Productions 'Plays' at the Philip Sherlock Centre
Nocha Latina
The UWI Mona Bowl



Placement and Careers Services

The Office of Placement and Career Services is a one stop career centre and is recognized as one of the most established in the region. The Office offers a variety of services and programmes in the areas of career development and job placement. The programmes aim to meet the needs of students at all levels of their career development.

Students have the opportunity to become involved in various career planning programmes which are emphasized from the first year. There are also programmes for second year students which continue the career planning process with development of skills and competencies relevant to a career choice, skills which are needed for survival in the competitive world of work.

The Office helps to plan and organize the job search for final year students and develops on a network of linkages with prospective employers. The **Annual on Campus Graduate Recruitment Programme (AGRP)**, which is approximately forty years old, is one of the popular final year programmes.

(Feel free to email us at <http://myspot.mona.uwi.edu/placement>)

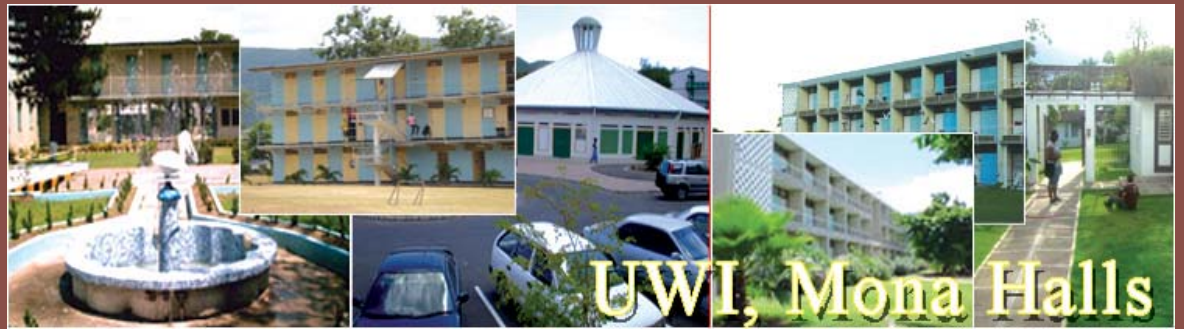


Pursue an Exciting Career in

TROPICAL HORTICULTURE

For more information email:
agriculture.unit@uwimona.edu.jm

The Halls



With an energy that transcends the architecture, a radiance that spills through passing smiles, and “spines” which stay busy cutting paths through clusters and blocks, the halls are something of special note.

There are six Halls of Residence at the Mona Campus: four are mixed-gender residences and two, Mary Seacole Hall and Chancellor Hall, are all female and all male halls respectively.

Mary Seacole

Mary Seacole Hall was built in 1957. Named in honour of the courageous Jamaican nurse, Mary Seacole, the Hall was built to meet the demand for the increasing female student population. The ladies of Mary Seacole Hall are thought to be some of the most exemplary students.

Taylor Hall

One of the more popular halls, Taylor Hall is named in honour of the first principal of the UWI – then the University College of the West Indies – and was first opened in 1953 with 101 students in total. Taylor Hall remains a vibrant hall, with a rich history of sporting achievements.

AZ Preston

The A.Z. Preston hall is nestled between the Rex Nettleford Hall and the Student’s Union. The hall is named in honour of the former UWI Vice Chancellor, the Honourable Aston Zachariah Preston. It is considered one of the more beautiful and relaxing halls.

Chancellor Hall

Chancellor Hall was opened to University students in 1954. It is a hall with a strong tradition for sports, camaraderie and has a very rich and colourful history. Chancellor Hall colours are black and gold, which is congruent with their unofficial given name as the ‘lions’.

Irvine Hall

Irvine Hall is the first hall built on the Mona Campus. It was established in 1950 by John Irvine – member of the Irvine Committee which commissioned the establishment of the UWI as a residential university. The hall has the distinction of being the most diverse and culturally rich hall.

Rex Nettleford

Rex Nettleford Hall was built in 2002. It is the newest and also the Mona Campus’ largest hall, accommodating nearly eight hundred students. The hall sits at the base of the foothills of the Blue Mountain Range and is home to the student-named “Redsquare” where one can relax, play tennis, grab some coffee and ‘lyme’.

Office of Special Students Services

*The OSSS may be contacted at:
(campus extension) 2549; or Straight line 935-8549;
or E-mail disabilityservices@uwimona.edu.jm*



Since its genesis in the late 1990's, the Office of Special Student Services (OSSS) has enabled increasing levels of comfort to students with disabilities studying at the UWI. The OSSS also renders assistance to persons with medical conditions, as well as persons with injuries who may be rendered temporarily impaired and unable to function in their usual capacity.

The OSSS, which has responsibility for examination accommodations, also provides services which include reader-writers, extended exam hours and special exam papers produced in Braille and in large print. The Office boasts specialized computer facilities and is actively engaged in On-Campus sensitization, lobbying, and advocacy to ensure that the needs of special students are communicated and adequately addressed.

The OSSS runs a volunteer program. Members from the

general student population assist in the execution of some core functions of the OSSS – assisting with the conversion of information from print to other accessible formats as well as access to different locations and services on Campus. Volunteers may also assist with research and other tasks as required.

As a part of the Office of Student Services and Development, the OSSS is partnered with several key departments, such as: the Health Centre, Placement and Career Services, the Main Library, and the Examination Section. The OSSS also works in close collaboration with the newly established **Centre for Disability Studies**. The Centre, through research, informs policy on disabilities through advocacy, public policy, training, and academic programming.

The UWI Counselling Unit

Featured Partner: Grand Valley State University

The University Counseling Service is a unit of the University Health Centre. The unit serves to promote personal growth and development through the provision of evaluation, counseling, therapy, referrals, and psycho-education in an environment that is caring respectful, and, most importantly, non-judgmental and confidential. The service is covered under the UWI student health insurance.

The Counseling Service is staffed by professional counselors, a psychiatrist, and administrative support staff, and allows students (who may wish to access the services for individual sessions) an outlet to discuss a range of personal issues, among them: academic performance; homesickness; interpersonal relationships; anxiety; depression; sexual concerns; and dealing with trauma (past or present).

The Counseling Service also offers workshops and small group sessions. Workshops such as the Study Skills series, which is offered in semester 1 of each academic year, are geared towards helping new students learn how to manage academic and personal issues during their time at the UWI



Grand Valley State University (GVSU) was established in 1960. The University offers more than 200 areas of study, including 77 undergraduate majors and 28 graduate programmes. It is ranked 10th among U.S. master's degree-granting institutions for total number of study abroad students. (*The Institute of International Education in New York*)

With several State-of-the-Art facilities, Grand Valley State offers dynamic and diverse opportunities for study and research. The University has over 300 Student Organizations and an extensive array of athletic programmes and activities. Grand Valley State University (GVSU) has been named one of "America's Best Colleges" by the *U.S. News & World Report*.

For further information, visit:

www.gvsu.edu or email <http://main.gvsu.edu/contactus-index.htm>

The UWI and Sports

The UWI Mona Bowl

Before Jamaica was a nation, before CARICOM was born, and while federation was still a possibility, the Mona Bowl at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus was already a cause bringing Caribbean people together. The Bowl, as it is called for short, has long been a source of pride for the University and its students. Greats such as Frank Worrell have played on the grounds, and tomorrow's page turners continue to be nurtured on its fields and courts. Most notably in this regard is 100m and 200m world record holder and world's fastest man Usain Bolt, who trains at the Mona Bowl.

The Bowl is home to one of only two Olympic size swimming pools found in the country. It has netball, volleyball, badminton and tennis courts, as well as Premier-League-quality football fields.

The UWI Sports Department

The UWI Mona Sports Department, in executing the University of the West Indies' strategic vision for sports, is actively involved in ensuring that the University of the West Indies students are not only leaders in Academia but are also leaders in the broad areas of sports and sports development. All UWI students are given the opportunity to compete regionally and internationally.

The Office in keeping with the UWI's vision for sports is seeking to further upgrade facilities at the UWI Mona Bowl towards creating a world class facility with an indoor sports centre,



improved parking, a modern weight-training facility, and a Sports Medicine Institute.

But even while work continues, UWI athletes continue to perform well, having topped the league in netball in the 2009 season and crowned Major League Champions in 2010 through the efforts of the male football team. The Super League track and field athletes at the UWI have also performed well earning the UWI a third place finish at the Intercollegiate Track and Field Championships in March 2010.

The Office offers scholarships in track and field and football. The University competes in several sporting disciplines at the intercollegiate level: these include badminton, football, netball, tennis, rugby, table tennis, cricket and swimming.

NEW BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) IN JOURNALISM

Starts in September 2010

**Applicants will be required to sit an
entrance examination.**

YARD FLEX

Excursion to Portland



Portland was the cornucopia of scenery which formed the backdrop of our 2010 exchange/study abroad excursion. With the beating of breeze against the side of the bus, the Blue Mountains running over hills on our left, and the sea surging waves ashore to our right, we made our way to Portland (round the Junction roads) stopping at Somerset Falls to go kayaking and rafting, and for drumming and dancing in the Saffu Yard at Charles Town – one of few, original maroon villages left scattered across the Island.