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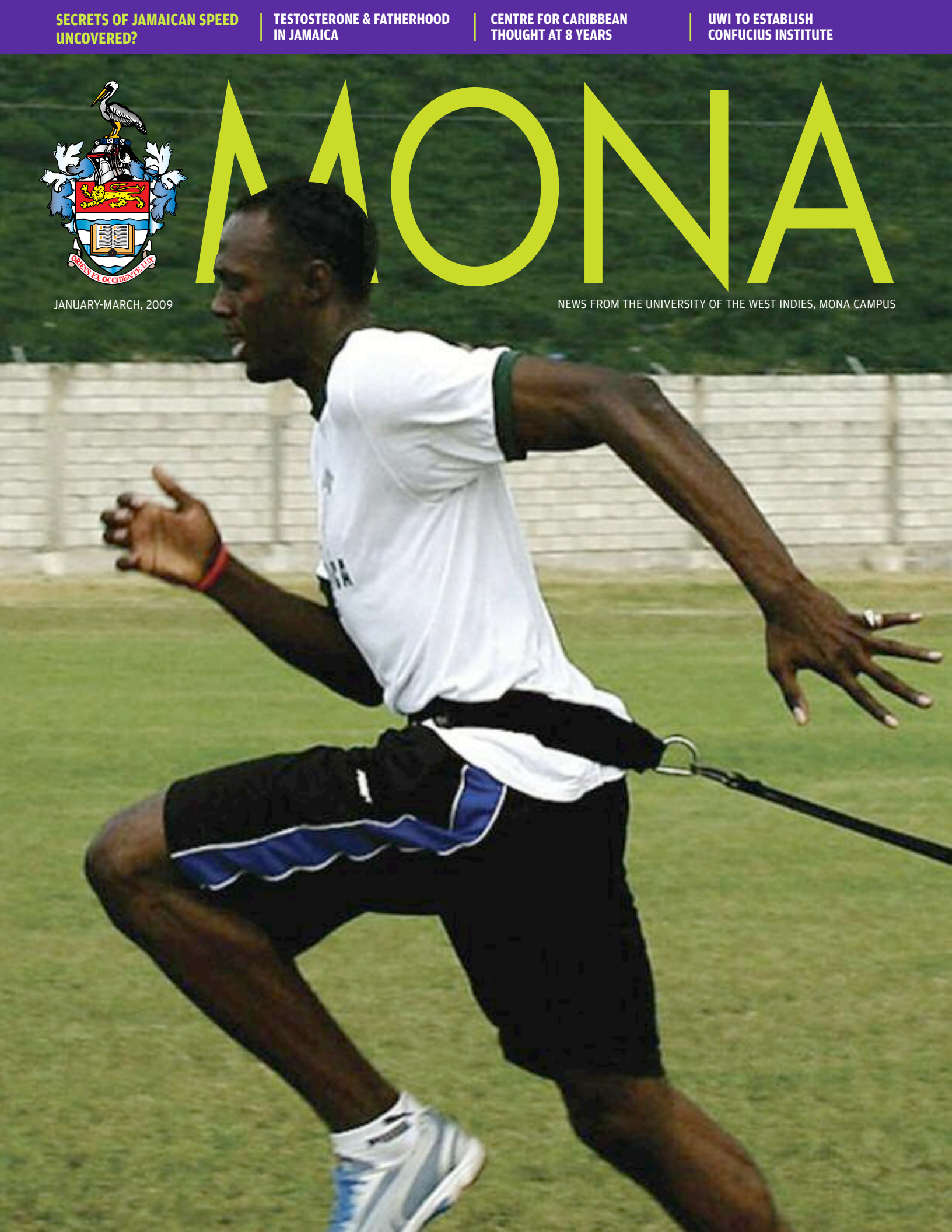
UWI TO ESTABLISH
CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE



JANUARY-MARCH, 2009

MONA

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA CAMPUS



Mona News is a publication of the Public Relations Office, The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus

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ON THE COVER
Triple Olympic gold medallist/world record holder
Usain Bolt training at the UWI Mona Bowl.
(Photograph by Michael Steele/Getty Images)



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Mona Campus Supporting Development of Jamaica's Sports Industry

Jamaica's remarkable achievements at the recent Beijing Olympics have the potential to catapult into being a dynamic indigenous sports industry, the likes of which the Caribbean has never seen. Since the Beijing performance, there have been clarion calls from all quarters for adequate world class facilities, support systems and programmes to support development of our natural athletic talent, as well as to spawn entertainment and sports tourism-related commercial activity that can contribute to economic growth.

I am very pleased that we at Mona have organized ourselves to take full advantage of these doors that have been opened, to harness the economic potential of this fledgling sports industry. What the Campus has done is to build on our existing assets: our facilities, our people, our research and our traditional courses of study, augmenting them with a range of new elements to create programmes that respond directly to the emerging challenges and opportunities.

Our current teaching programmes in Sports include the MSc in Sports Medicine, the Masters in Sports and Exercise Medicine specially designed for registered physiotherapists to manage sports injuries and athletic rehabilitation, and the MSc in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in Sports Psychology. Additionally, the Mona School of Business, collaborating with other faculties and departments, will be developing a suite of programmes that include a Masters degree in Sports and Event Management, and a series of workshops, institutes and clinics in specialized areas of Sports and Events Management for coaches, officials, and sports event managers.

Plans are afoot to establish the Caribbean Institute of Sports Medicine that will house the School of Physical Therapy. The Institute will provide athletes with access to medical care, enabling them to benefit from the best investigative and treatment facilities as well as services in physiotherapy, orthopaedic care, physical medicine and rehabilitation.

A number of noteworthy initiatives in the area of Research and Drug testing currently exist at Mona. The Campus's Caribbean Genetics Unit, CARIGEN, is the first and only facility of its type in the Caribbean offering DNA testing of the highest level. Researchers at Mona, in association with scientists from the University of Glasgow, have begun a joint

study to determine the role of genetics and environmental factors in the performance of Jamaican athletes. (see p.26) The Tropical Medicine Research Institute's Health Intervention Research Unit (HRIU) through its research in nutrition and other areas, seeks to inform solutions and intervention strategies for the nutritional needs of our athletes.

Since 1988, the Department of Chemistry has operated a laboratory facility to test blood and urine samples for racing horses for the detection of performance-enhancing drugs. The Campus has the expertise and facility to detect drugs at the level of 1 part per trillion. Our Chief Analysts have been trained abroad to detect various synthetic and natural steroids and our analytical capability is on par with international standards. Moreover, in the Departments of Biochemistry and Physiology, the equipment and capabilities exist for developing a testing centre to respond to a range of additional athletic needs, including Biomechanics.

But outside of its work in sports-related research and teaching, Mona has long recognized the role that sports can play in enhancing community development. For some time now the Campus has had a significant sporting relationship with its neighbouring communities August Town, Hermitage, Elletson Flats, among others. We at Mona will consolidate our efforts in community development through our University Township project. (see p.20)

We have embarked on an exciting new phase of our sports project that will see the development of world class sports facilities for training, competition and recreation. Already the Campus has a mix of good quality facilities that are available year round for both competitive and recreational sports. These facilities include our three football fields, equipped for night and premier league play; our indoor sports court used for basketball, volleyball, indoor hockey, netball, badminton, and the like; the Frank Worrell Cricket Ground that can host regional and international cricket matches; two practice pitches; our Olympic sized swimming pool with lighting for night use; tennis courts for day and night play; a training gymnasium; a small weight room; and of course, our newly established beach volleyball and football court.



THE PROPOSED MONA BOWL FOR SPORTING EXCELLENCE

The exciting news is that these facilities are to be augmented by a 6000 seat mini stadium with an international sized soccer field encircled by a Mondo track and an indoor sports arena capable of seating 5-6000, and multiple courts for indoor events. The detailed plans for these two facilities are approaching completion and construction work will begin shortly thereafter.

We have also entered into partnerships for development of professional sports. Our partnership with the Jamaica Football Federation (JFF) will make us hosts to the JFF Football Academy. And more recently we joined with the International Association of Athletic Federation (IAAF) to host the IAAF High Performance Center. The Mona Bowl, where Bolt struts his stuff to the world! - will resonate with new meaning in the coming months!

These developments on our Campus are ready stuff for our community to digest! And there is more. Effective this academic year, the Campus has been awarding scholarships to athletes for football and track and field. A full

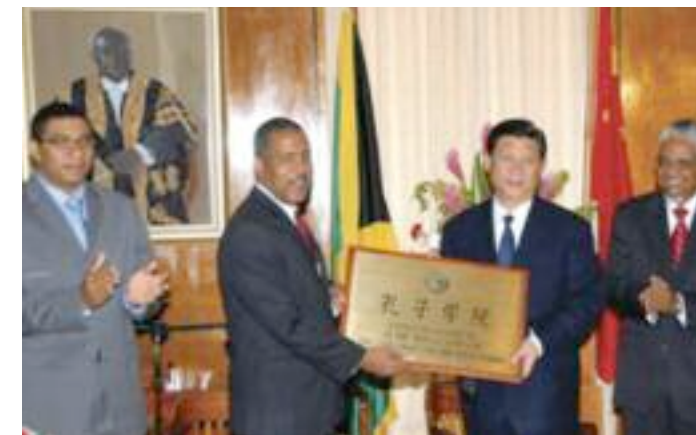
programme of training and support for these athletes is to be implemented with a view to helping them reach the pinnacle in local and international competition. We have also introduced a policy of academic support that includes tutorial assistance, flexibility in course assessment and exams for our students who participate in sports at the competition level.

I hope that these initiatives will signal to our student body, Jamaica's young men and women, and to the nation as a whole, that the Mona Campus is committed to investing in Jamaica's natural athletic talent and to ensuring as it does so that our student athletes, at the end of their athletic careers, have sound academic credentials to guarantee their continued success however they position themselves to the world!



Prof. Gordon Shirley
Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal,
Mona Campus

UWI to Establish Confucius Institute



THE VISION OF A CENTRE FOR THE PROMOTION OF CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE AT THE UWI MONA, WAS WARMLY RECEIVED DURING THE VISIT OF H.E. XI JINPING, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (2ND RIGHT). MINISTER OF EDUCATION ANDREW HOLNESS (LEFT) AND VICE CHANCELLOR E. NIGEL HARRIS (RIGHT) WERE PRESENT FOR THE PRESENTATION OF A PLAQUE FOR THE INSTITUTE TO PRINCIPAL GORDON SHIRLEY BY THE PRESIDENT.

The University of the West Indies, Mona and the Government of the People's Republic of China have signed an agreement to establish a Confucius Institute at Mona. The Institute will be the first of its kind in the English-speaking Caribbean. The agreement was signed on Thursday, February 12 by Mona Principal, Professor Gordon Shirley, and China's Ambassador to Jamaica, H. E. Chen Jinghua at a ceremony held at the Office of the Prime Minister, Jamaica.

On Friday, February 13, the Vice President of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Xi Jinping, who was in Jamaica on a four-day official visit, visited the Mona Campus and presented the Principal with a plaque for the Institute.

The Confucius Institute is a non-profit educational institution, which seeks to promote Chinese language and culture, and supports local Chinese teaching internationally, through affiliated Confucius Institutes. It is headquartered in Beijing, under the Office of Chinese Language Council International. Establishment of the Confucius Institute at Mona is part of an initiative to strengthen educational cooperation between China and Jamaica, support and promote the development of Chinese language education, and increase mutual understanding among people in China and in Jamaica.

In welcoming the Institute, Professor Shirley, noted that it was


a joint commitment that underlined the enduring close relationship between Jamaica and China. "As the premier learning institute in Jamaica and the English-speaking Caribbean, the UWI welcomes the opportunity to facilitate this exchange of knowledge. The UWI prides itself on its role in bringing together people of various socio-cultural, economic and political backgrounds, to foster intellectual and cultural exchange and disseminate new knowledge," he said.

He explained that the institute would support the development of Chinese language education in Jamaica and the region. "Through its programme of cultural exchanges, teachings, research, and the staging of cultural and educational exhibitions, seminars and symposiums, the Institute will attract increased numbers of students, both locally and internationally, including students from China, to the Mona Campus, simultaneously increasing and deepening our understanding and appreciation of the culture of the people of China," he said. In response, Vice President Xi said the Institute "will not only meet the need of the people in the Caribbean region to learn Chinese language and to know Chinese culture, but will also become an open bridge for mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese and the Caribbean people."

He pointed out that China had established diplomatic relations with Jamaica and Guyana in 1972, thereby beginning a new phase in the relationship between China and the Caribbean. He added that China now provides dozens of Government scholarships to Jamaica and other Caribbean countries and sends cultural groups, volunteers, and Chinese language teachers to Caribbean countries.

Mr. Xi also mentioned the impressive performance of Jamaica's athletes at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

The Vice President said that with the increasing people to people and cultural exchanges between the two sides, the friendship between China and the Caribbean would be more fruitful. He wished the Confucius Institute every success.

Also participating in the ceremony were UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris, and other members of the UWI management team. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Dr. Kenneth Baugh; Minister of Education, Andrew Holness; Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Ronald Robinson, and Jamaica's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, H.E. Courtney Rattray also attended the function. 

Three Mona Faculty Receive VC's Award for Excellence



A leading authority in childhood infectious diseases, Professor Celia Christie-Samuels, Chair of Paediatrics (Infectious Diseases, Epidemiology and Public Health) has been selected to receive the 2008 Vice Chancellor's Award for her extensive research in the field.

The 2008 Vice-Chancellor Award is the latest award that has been bestowed on Professor Christie-Samuels, who is also Director and Principal Investigator of Vaccines Infectious Diseases Centre and the Kingston Paediatric and Perinatal HIV/AIDS Programme for Clinical Research in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Paediatrics, Faculty of Medical Sciences at Mona.

Of her work, she notes, "It is about preventing disease in children, doing research and setting up policies and procedures to care for an entire population of children not only here in Jamaica, but the entire world.

She attributes much of her success since her return to the institution in 1999, to teamwork coupled with divine guidance. "You have to remember it is not just me. It is an entire team of people. I am team leader, but nothing could be accomplished without God and the wonderful people who help to make things happen such as the dedicated, well trained and disciplined nurses, doctors, administrators, laboratory and public health personnel. We all work together for the greater good of the children," the Professor stressed.

Her first major international award was the inaugural Excellence in Science 2002 Stephen Preblud Award

presented by the National Immunization Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA.

Professor Christie was one of three women from 70 worldwide applicants, who received the International Leadership Award for research in 2002 from the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

She co-authored the groundbreaking research on the international Rotavirus Vaccine Trial. This work was named by the Lancet as Paper of the Year in 2006 for the best original medical research worldwide.

"The Rotavirus Vaccine Trial was helpful and good to participate in as we were able to contribute 1800 children to the trial. That was important especially from a developing country where the majority of our children are black and gastroenteritis often times affects them, and not necessarily children that look like the majority of those in the USA," she pointed out.

Her team succeeded in becoming the world's second highest enrolling site out of some 356 sites from 11 countries. The results from this research were considered good, as the vaccine had a 100 per cent efficacy in preventing gastroenteritis.

Her involvement in the Kingston Paediatric and Perinatal HIV/AIDS Project focussed on establishing policies and programmes to train a wide spectrum of healthcare providers to prevent HIV/AIDS in women and children and to treat the disease.

"We have seen the benefits of this because the mother to child transmission rate has gone down from 29 per cent with no intervention to as low as 2 per cent in children where we intervened," she noted.

The findings from this project, which was conducted over a five year period, were recently published in the West Indian Medical Journal and also received the Principal's Research Award for Most Outstanding Research Activity, Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI. She notes that this work is not only about research, but intends to improve other areas of medical care. "It is a multifaceted approach which comprises teaching, because you want to teach the next generation of doctors to be good paediatricians and they need to know how to recognize and to treat diseases; about patient care, research and outreach, which is being responsive to the needs of the community," she added.

In between pursuing these major projects and others, Professor Christie-Samuels has become a prolific research author and co-author, producing more than 47 publications. She has also attracted more than US\$3 million externally funded grants to the UWI.

After gaining an MBBS and DM in Paediatrics from UWI, she pursued postdoctoral fellowship in Paediatrics Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology (Hospital and Molecular) at the Yale University School of Medicine and also earned a Master's in Public Health from the John Hopkins University.

During her career overseas, she served as Assistant Professor of Paediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology at University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in Cincinnati, and Special Government Employee and Consultant to the USA Food and Drugs Administration (US FDA).

As she contemplates her next research project that will help to reduce diseases in children, she is motivated by her four-year-old daughter and says, "You realize why you are doing it because you want to make life better for her and her generation".



The Vice Chancellor's Award for all round performance in teaching and service to the UWI community is the latest in a string of accolades that have been conferred on Dr. Hermi Hewitt, the Head of the School of Nursing at Mona.

One of the most influential and remarkable figures in the field of nursing, as an administrator and as a teacher, Hermi Hewitt's guiding passion has been to elevate nursing as an academic profession in the region. "I am extremely delighted that the University saw it fit at this time to honour nursing and by extension honour me," she said.

Dr. Hewitt's unbridled drive to elevate the profession has roots in her exposure in the field having pursued advanced studies in the United States at University of Iowa and Tulane University, after starting out at the University College Hospital of the West Indies School of Nursing. Given this opportunity, she has been adamant about making sure that nurses in Jamaica and the Caribbean are valued and contends that the education required can be provided within their country of origin.

Although her accomplishments are numerous, Dr. Hewitt says she is most proud of being able to influence a number of persons in the profession throughout the Caribbean. Her former students include chief nursing officers in the Ministries of Health as well as stellar past student Audrey Scott of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who is Chief Nursing Officer and also President of the Regional Nursing Body. In addition, there is Mary Forbes, Chief Nursing Officer of Turks and Caicos and Mitchell Clarke, Chief Nurse Officer in Barbados.

Dr. Hewitt also considers her efforts to lobby for nursing students to have access to student loans as one of her special achievements. "Over the years, students were not allowed to benefit from this facility because people felt that nurses could not pay for their education, she notes.

This is in addition to marshalling the change in nursing education in 2004 to include a University-based, rather than only a hospital-based education. As a result, the certificate programmes in nursing have been phased out and a generic BSc Nursing degree, introduced, along with the introduction of several new graduate courses leading to a Master's Degree in five different specialties.

Contextually, the move formed part of a mandate of the regional nursing body in a 2000 resolution that stipulated that the entry point for professional nurses should start at the degree level.

Ever aware of the need to develop the complete nurse, Dr. Hewitt is a strong proponent of research by students.

"Right now we have a major project which involves looking at HIV risk reduction in adolescence with the University of Pennsylvania and New York University", she disclosed.

"We are looking at developing our academic component and scholarship. The publication of research is where I want my nurses to go, using the best evidence to give the care," Dr. Hewitt continued. Nurses at the School have initiated treatment of bad wounds that are hard to heal by using papaya. This research has been documented and published in the American Journal of Nursing and in the West Indian Medical Journal.

"We just did the national asthma study and I had my nurses going to the University of Ottawa in Canada for research internships. Four persons have already benefitted," she said.

Under Dr. Hewitt's trendsetting leadership, student enrollment has increased from a mere 60 in 2002 to almost 1000 at present. She attributes this in part to what is called the UWI Tertiary Level Unit collaboration, which has enabled the School to diversify by having students at Excelsior, Browns Town and Knox Community Colleges in addition to those at Mona. Broadening access has also included distance education, with the generous assistance of Chancellor of Ryerson University in Canada, Dr. G. Raymond Chang.

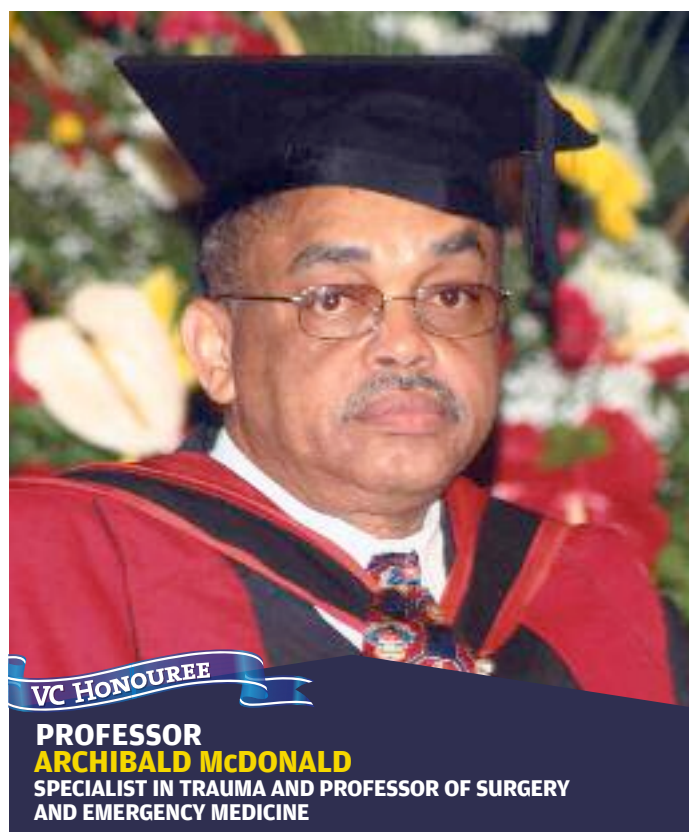
"I presented my case and he [the Chancellor] decided to fund the conversion of those courses that we deliver face to face. This has been very important as when we offer places to people throughout the Caribbean, many have not been able to come to Mona for a variety of reasons, resulting in deferments all the time," she explained.

Continuing, "We used the model that Ryerson University had for their distance education so persons could be at work, at home and essentially stay where they are and complete their baccalaureate degree in 30 months.

Dr. Hewitt has also addressed the physical plant of the School at Mona, facilitating improvements complete with a new floor level, two 213 seat lecture theatres and additional classrooms, making the School twice its original size. The School's ward size skills laboratory is replete with state of the art simulators and equipment.

Her current focus is to train more specialist nurses in geriatrics, as the elderly is a rapidly growing segment of the population and there is a need to pay more attention in this area. "We need specialists in this area and we are looking at the Ph.D Programme in addition to extending the school to include the western campus of UWI," she offered.

In her down time, Dr. Hewitt's pursuits are of a simple nature focusing on family, including two grandchildren, and her Church, from which she draws support and encouragement. She credits her husband, Errol as being her rock, always allowing her full latitude to pursue her seemingly limitless vision for her profession.



PROFESSOR ARCHIBALD McDONALD
SPECIALIST IN TRAUMA AND PROFESSOR OF SURGERY
AND EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Professor Archibald McDonald, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Specialist in Trauma and Professor of Surgery and Emergency Medicine, has been named a recipient of the 2008 Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence for his Service to the University Community (Mona).

"It is very satisfying to know that the work that you have done over the years has been recognized. I appreciate this award and it makes me feel very proud to be so honoured by my peers," said Professor McDonald.

Professor McDonald's reputation as a distinguished researcher and administrator has earned him the respect of his peers and the wider University community. His natural gift for identifying and honing talent is undeniable and he attributes much of his success to the staff with whom he has worked over the years.

"I try to focus on the positives in people and see how best they can contribute to the growth and development of our institution", Professor McDonald says.

Despite his accomplishments, Professor McDonald never forgets his humble background. "I was the first person in my family to attend a university. In fact there was no history in my family of anyone ever attending university", McDonald states. Mannings Hill Primary School and Meadowbrook High provided the firm educational foundation for the young trailblazer.

He graduated from the UWI in 1975 with the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery MB, BS) and gained a post-graduate Doctor of Medicine degree in Surgery also from the UWI in 1986. He is a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, the American College of Emergency Physicians and holds a specialist diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.

Professor McDonald's outstanding service to the University community spans 21 years, beginning in 1987 when he joined the staff as a Lecturer in Surgery. He was subsequently promoted to Senior Lecturer and then elevated to the Chair in Surgery in October 2003.


In August 2005, he was appointed Dean in the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

Two of his major accomplishments are his work in Trauma and Emergency Medicine as well as effecting the transformation of the Faculty. He was instrumental in establishing the Accident and Emergency Unit at the University Hospital, the first of its kind in Jamaica. As the Unit's first Director, he initiated the Doctor of Medicine training programme in Emergency Medicine to train Emergency physicians. He also assisted in the establishment of a specialist post-basic training programme for nurses at the Unit. Under his direction, training in Advanced Trauma Life Support began at the University Hospital with this site now being fully accredited by the American College of Surgeons. National policies and injury management in Jamaica have been guided by Professor McDonald's research in Trauma.

The growth of the Medical Faculty can be attributed to Professor McDonald's vision and foresight. He conceptualized and saw to the implementation of a Full Fee Paying Programme which resulted in significant increase in Faculty enrolment and revenue to the campus. The Faculty is now also seen as a training institution of choice for not only Jamaicans but also international students, mainly from North America, Europe, and the Diaspora.

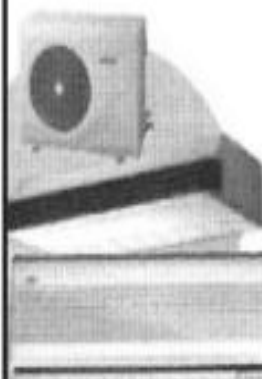
His research has been extensive and varied and he has been the lead or co-author of more than 70 papers and abstracts. Highly regarded by his peers, he was elected President of the Association of Surgeons for the years 2006-2008.

Would Professor McDonald take another career path if he had a choice? His love of service and his love of people would take him nowhere else.

"Health care is a noble career. It is a service industry which brings great fulfillment. The fact that you are improving someone's health is satisfying. I would choose no other profession," says McDonald. 

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BARBARA BAILEY WINS CARICOM AWARD



University Director of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies at The University of the West Indies, Professor Barbara Bailey, has been selected as the recipient of the Ninth CARICOM Triennial Award for Women, 2008. The Award was presented at the 29th Meeting of the Conference of

Professor Bailey joins a cadre of eight highly esteemed and outstanding women of the Caribbean who have previously been bestowed with the Award for their dedication and determination in broadening the parameters of existence for women and improving their economic, social, political, cultural and legal status. Past awardees include the late Governor General of Barbados, Dame Nita Barrow; Tutor-Coordinator, Women and Development Unit (WAND) UWI at Cave Hill and founding member of the Caribbean Association of Feminist Action and Research (CAFRA) and Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) Dr. Peggy Antrobus; the late Assistant Secretary-General in the office of the United Nations Secretary, Dr. Lucille Mathurin Mair, and the Hon. Madam Justice Desiree Bernard, the first female judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice.

Professor Bailey's work as a regional and international consultant has served to enhance the image of the UWI in the international community. She headed the 2006 Government of Jamaica Delegation to the 36th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to present and defend Jamaica's fifth Periodic Report at the United Nations and also represented Jamaica on various occasions on international Commissions dealing with the status of women.

She has served as Chair of the National Gender Advisory Committee appointed by the Government of Jamaica to develop a strategic and comprehensive policy for achieving gender equality and social justice and provide direction, coordination, integration and monitoring of gender mainstreaming activities of the government.

Barbara Bailey Receives Prestigious CARICOM Triennial Award

“Professor Bailey joins a cadre of eight highly esteemed and outstanding women of the Caribbean who have previously been bestowed with the Award for their dedication and determination in broadening the parameters of existence for women”

CARICOM Heads of Government held in Antigua and Barbuda. The Triennial award was introduced in 1983 to recognize and honour women of distinction in the Caribbean whose work had made a significant contribution to socio-economic development at the national and regional levels.

Professor Barbara Bailey has had a distinguished career in the field of education and gender studies. As an academic, she has engaged in distinguished original research which has filled an important niche in regional gender and education literature and has had significant implications for public educational policy. Her work in gender and education has made a distinctive contribution to educational practice and curriculum development, especially in relation to gender. Over the years, she has provided valuable insights and significant understandings of the complexity of gender, human resource development and the importance of equal opportunity afforded through education. Her work has a wide audience including regional and international academics, researchers, policy makers and practitioners. In her capacity as Regional Coordinator of the CGDS,

She was also Co-Chair of the Jamaica National Preparatory Commission which prepared the National Report on the Status of Women in Jamaica for the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China.


At the regional level, Professor Bailey has served as advisor to CARICOM on several occasions including at the meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women which acted as the Preparatory Committee for the UN Special Session on Women at the United Nations headquarters in New York in March 2000. She was also consultant to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) charged with the responsibility to develop and implement a curriculum for a regional gender training programme and to evaluate and publish a set of training modules. ■

UWI Wins Gleaner Honour Award for Education

The UWI has won the prestigious Gleaner Honour Award for Education, 2008. The award was presented on Tuesday, November 11, 2008, by the Governor General, His Excellency, The Most Hon. Sir Kenneth Hall (former principal at Mona) and Gleaner Managing Director, Oliver Clarke, to Professor E. Nigel Harris, Vice Chancellor, UWI, Professor Gordon Shirley, Principal, UWI Mona, and Dr Muriel Lowe, member of the University's first class of 33 students.

The University of the West Indies was lauded for its "outstanding achievement in contributing professionals, research and other resources for Jamaica's national development." The citation to UWI noted that over 60 years since it first opened its doors to 33 students who came from across the Anglophone Caribbean to receive a tertiary education, the Mona campus has produced more than 50,000 Jamaican graduates in a broad range of disciplines including Education, Medicine, Science and Technology, Tourism and Hospitality, Humanities, Management and Social Sciences.

The campus, the Gleaner noted "continues to produce research in a wide range of areas that are directly relevant to economic development and has deployed its academic and senior administrative staff in public service, community development and consultancy engagements that directly impact the national and international agenda." The citation noted the achievement of UWI Mona's Professor Anthony Chen who along with two other UWI (Cave Hill and St. Augustine) and global researchers were members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that received the Nobel Peace Prize for ground-breaking work on climate change.

Note was made also of UWI Mona's position as "Government's first point of call for research into critical areas affecting Jamaica's development including agriculture, crime, security, health-related issues and Education" and its leadership in "applying technology to investigate and solve national development challenges and provide improvements in areas such as criminal investigation, housing development, malaria mapping and other challenges." It also said that "Mona's graduates bring knowledge that has been informed by research activity and output in the relevant disciplines to the Jamaican work place. 



UWI HONoured BY THE GLEANER FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION
GOVERNOR GENERAL, DR. KENNETH HALL, DISPLAYS THE GLEANER HONOUR AWARD FOR EDUCATION WHICH WAS RECEIVED BY (L-R): DR. MURIEL LOWE, MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY'S FIRST CLASS OF 33 STUDENTS, PROFESSOR E. NIGEL HARRIS, VICE CHANCELLOR, UWI AND PROFESSOR GORDON SHIRLEY, (RIGHT) PRINCIPAL, UWI MONA. THE GLEANER'S MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR. OLIVER CLARKE SHARED THE MOMENT.


UWI Mona Gives Five Awards for Meritorious Service

OVER 100 OTHERS RECOGNISED FOR LONG SERVICE

As part of its 60th anniversary celebrations, The Mona campus recognized five members of staff for their outstanding record of service at a special anniversary Long Service and Meritorious Awards Dinner that was held at the Mona Visitors' Lodge and Conference Centre.

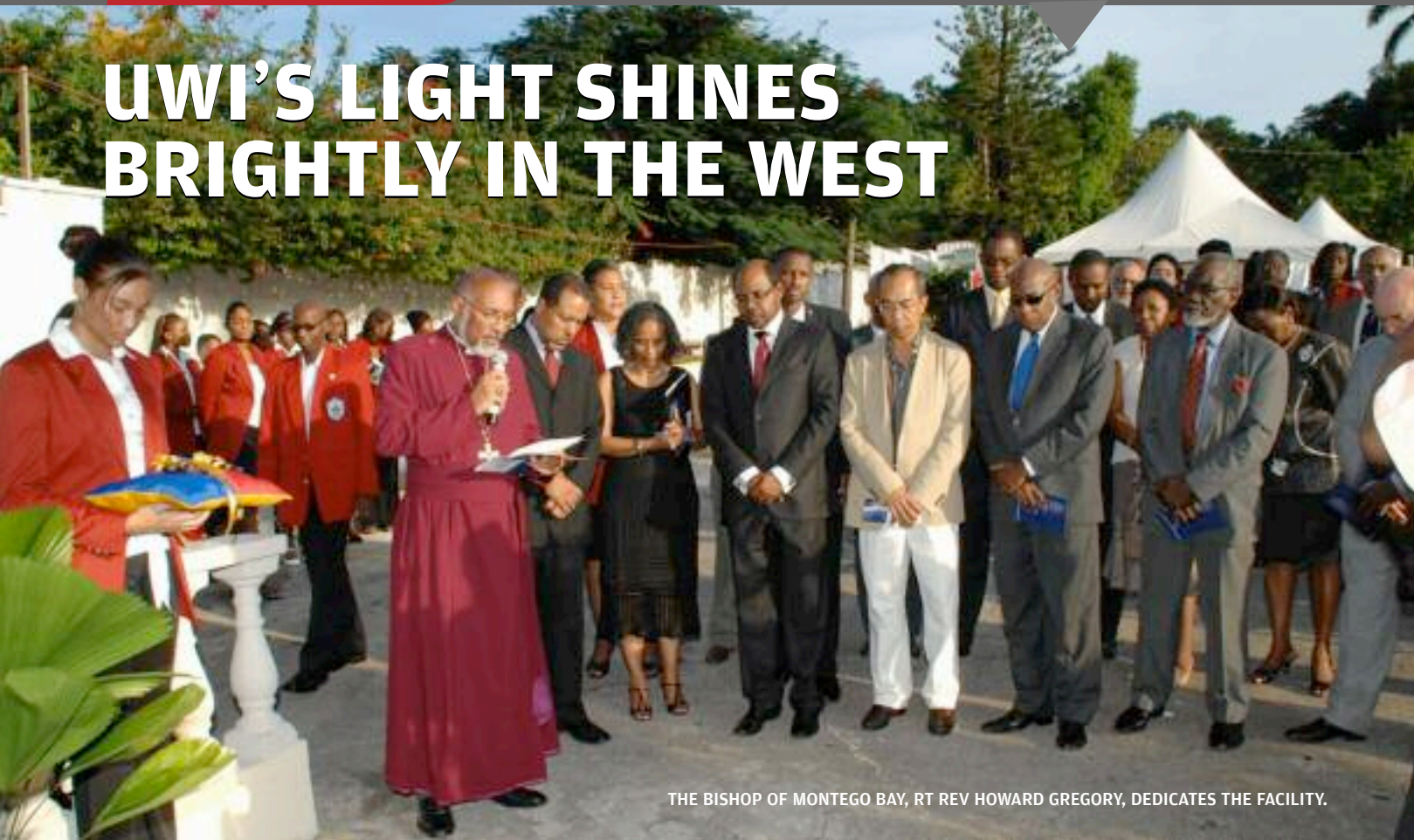
The recipients were: Miss Mary Gray, Department of Literatures in English, Professor Zellynne Jennings-Craig, Department of Educational Studies, Miss Paulette Williams, Library, Miss Sandra Pusey, Secretariat, Office of the Campus Registrar and Mrs. Leona Bobb-Semple, of the Main Library.

Some 100 other members of the senior administrative, administrative, technical and support staff at Mona were recognized for having served the institution for periods of fifteen, twenty-one, thirty and forty years respectively.

Guest speaker at the function was the Chief Justice of Jamaica, the Hon. Mrs. Justice Zaila McCalla. She lauded the awardees on their accomplishment and commended them for their loyalty to the institution noting that their "hard work (has) enhanced and continues to enhance the entire landscape of this institution." Making particular reference to the persons who had received awards for meritorious service, she commended them for their conscientious work, dedication to duty and their loyalty, adding that it was their efforts in going the extra mile that had impacted on the kind of tremendous service that the University has been able to provide to the nation and the region. 



UWI'S LIGHT SHINES BRIGHTLY IN THE WEST



THE BISHOP OF MONTEGO BAY, RT REV HOWARD GREGORY, DEDICATES THE FACILITY.

The University of the West Indies, Mona took its motto “A Light Rising from the West” to another level on Saturday, November 29 when it officially launched its Western Jamaica Campus at 10 Queen’s Drive in Montego Bay. The Campus was declared open by Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Edmund Bartlett, who was supported by his Cabinet colleagues, Minister of Energy, Hon. Clive Mullings and Minister of Water and Housing, Hon. Dr. Herbert Chang. Members of the Montego Bay community led by Mayor Charles Sinclair, and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the business sector, hotel community and the private and public sectors, also came out in full support of the event.

In his opening remarks, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of UWI, Mona Professor Gordon Shirley noted that there was a large underserved community in western Jamaica even as there has been a significant increase in investment and job creation in the western end of the island.

Professor Shirley said that as a consequence of this development, Mona considered it important to develop a presence in the West in order to meet the development needs of one of the fastest growing areas in the region. He noted that more than 250 pioneering students were pursuing programmes in a variety of areas including: Management Studies (general), Accounting, Banking and Finance, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Tourism, Psychology, Management Information Systems and Media and Communications. In addition 50 medical students are doing their clinical rotations at Cornwall Regional Hospital as a part of the Western Jamaica initiative. A BA in Media Design and Development, the BSc. Nursing programme and a degree in Dentistry would soon be introduced, the Principal said.

He added that at the Graduate Level the Western Jamaica Campus had also begun to offer programmes in Accounting and Business Administration (MBA) while a Diploma in Business Administration and a range of executive development courses would be introduced in the near future. He thanked the leaders and people of

Montego Bay for the very warm embrace that the Western Jamaica Campus had received.

Minister Bartlett congratulated the leadership of the University for its vision and resolve and for mobilizing the necessary resources, programmes, support staff and services to accomplish the establishment of the Campus in Montego Bay. He said the Western Jamaica Campus would help to develop the human resource potential and the available skills base of Western Jamaica and was a demonstration of an appropriate response to facilitate and advance those ‘underserved’ by tertiary education. He expressed particular delight at the Campus’ focus on programmes relevant to the tourism industry and the training of personnel for the hospitality industry.

The Minister added that the Campus was also well placed to serve as a conduit for the growing market of travelers who visit destinations for the primary purpose of engaging in a learning experience unique to that destination.

The Governor General, Professor Sir Kenneth Hall, was represented by Dr. Simon Clarke, who read a message congratulating the UWI on the establishment of the Western Jamaica Campus. The building was dedicated by the Suffragan Bishop of Montego Bay, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Howard Gregory. The event was chaired by Campus Registrar, Dr. Camille Bell Hutchinson, while entertainment was provided by the University Singers and two students from the Western Jamaica Campus, Misses Jody Robinson and Shaneika Malcolm. 



PROFESSOR SHIRLEY GREETES WINSTON CHUE, THE YOUNGEST STUDENT AT THE WESTERN JAMAICA CAMPUS, WHO IS PURSUING A DEGREE IN MANAGEMENT STUDIES. LOOKING ON IS HIS MOTHER, MRS NICOLE ANN CHUE.



PRINCIPAL, PROFESOR GORDON SHIRLEY, AND TOURISM MINISTER, EDMUND BARTLETT, EXPRESS DELIGHT AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING

AFUWI Scholarships

The American Foundation for the University of the West Indies (AFUWI) has awarded four of ten scholarships to students of The University of the West Indies, Mona, for advanced studies in their chosen fields. The scholarships are valued at US\$2,500 each.

AFUWI, is a non profit Foundation, which over the past decade has provided scholarships and grants and funded special projects to foster the development of The UWI. It has since 1998, recognized individuals and organizations linked to the Caribbean who have made exceptional contributions to the world around them.

The 2008 scholarships recipients are Maxalia Salmon who is pursuing an MSC in Clinical Psychology; Comparative Politics/Political Theory student Jermaine Nairne; Lacey Bartley, MSc., International Relations; and Kezia Sinclair, now in her final year of studies towards an MBBS and who plans to pursue post graduate studies in the Department of Surgery at UWI.

The AFUWI has regularly facilitated donations and scholarships from individuals and corporations for the UWI and its students but this is the first year that the organization is presenting 10 scholarships to individual UWI students for tuition and books.



UWI VICE CHANCELLOR, NIGEL HARRIS (3RD LEFT) AND CELIA DAVIDSON-FRANCIS (LEFT), DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS, WITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS (L-R) MAXALIA SALMON, KEZIA SINCLAIR, LACEY BARTLEY AND JERMAINE NAIRNE. THE VICE CHANCELLOR MADE THE SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS TO THE FOUR ON BEHALF OF THE AFUWI.

Award for Rare Slave Narrative

Professor Emerita Maureen Warner-Lewis is the winner of the internationally acclaimed Gordon K. and Sybil Lewis 2008 award for her recently published book, **Archibald Monteath: Igbo, Jamaican, Moravian**. The book is published by The University of the West Indies Press. The selection was made from thirty-nine nominees from sixteen different international publishers.

The citation for the winning book, noted that “for its sheer depth and breadth, this study is impressive, embracing as it does archival and oral history work in Jamaica, Nigeria and Scotland. Even more fascinating is the interplay between autobiography, biography and the memorial tradition, since the ‘autobiography’ was a third-person account, published posthumously first in German, then in two English-language translations, and then again in another German version, with narration, dictation, transcription and translation thereby all playing a part. Above all, this rendering of Monteath’s life functions as a paradigm for examining how ancestral mores and memory can shape and sharpen our understanding of human relations in a foundational period of Caribbean history and is a model of scholarship to be followed across the Caribbean.”

Professor Warner-Lewis has received several international, regional and national book awards and is known worldwide for her comprehensive and authoritative research. In this latest book, she explored Moravian missionary archives in Germany, Jamaica, and the US as well as Nigerian resources to provide a penetrating, scholarly analysis of extraordinary depth that traces Aniaso’s forced migration from the Awka-Nri region of eastern Nigeria via the Middle Passage to Jamaica, and his enslavement and eventual manumission in 1837. (Excerpted from CHOICE, August 2008. Copyright by the American Library Association) <http://www.cro2.org>

UWI Press Books Receive Local and International Recognition

Kathleen E. A. Monteith, **Depression to Decolonization: Barclays Bank** (DCO) in the West Indies, 1926-1962, was awarded the Principal’s Award for Best Publication in the Faculty of Humanities and Education 2007-2008.

B. W. Higman’s, **Jamaican Food: History, Biology, Culture** was awarded Honorable Mention and Finalist status by the Association of American Publishers for Professional and Scholarly Excellence (PROSE Awards) in the category of Archaeology and Anthropology. The fifteen-judge panel included publishing professionals, librarians and academics from universities such as the University of Toronto, New York University and Columbia University. The judges made their decisions after reviewing a record-breaking 439 entries from sixty professional and scholarly publishers. Award-winning publishers included Harvard University Press, Oxford University Press, and Yale University Press and large commercial houses such as Elsevier and Wiley-Blackwell. In all, thirty different publishers were named as PROSE

winners and finalists for publishing excellence and the University of the West Indies Press was the youngest and newest publisher in that prestigious group.

UWI Launches Open Campus

As part of a continued dynamic response to broaden and enhance the reach of the institution to the people of the Caribbean, The University of the West Indies (UWI) has launched its newest campus, the Open Campus. The launch took place during the 29th meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the CARICOM Community (CARICOM) in Antigua and Barbuda in July 2008 and the Open Campus formally began to offer its services across the region on August 1, 2008.

The UWI’s Open Campus is an amalgamation of the previous Office of the Board for Non-Campus Countries & Distance Education (BNNCDE), the School of Continuing Studies (SCS), the UWI Distance Education Centre (UWIDEC), and the Tertiary Level Institutions Unit (TLIU).

According to UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris, “This entity is designed to capitalise on advances in online technologies and on the platform of over 50 sites to advance a more student-friendly, much broader basket of degree, diploma and certificate programmes for Caribbean people who live beyond the immediate vicinity of our established campuses. For more than two years, we have been offering nursing degree programmes, bachelors in education programmes and other courses designed to enhance the opportunities of the working public to uplift themselves educationally, without necessarily enrolling on one of the three campuses of the University.”

The Vice-Chancellor also spoke to the development of the Open Campus as an essential strategic element of the University’s ongoing five-year strategic plan to transform its curricula and education systems, as well as to enhance the postgraduate programmes and research productivity. He stated that “the Open Campus will insist on quality education relevant to the region, student-centredness, student friendly services, and the creation of knowledge and outreach to the Caribbean Community outside the walls of the University, particularly in the Eastern Caribbean, Belize, the Cayman Islands and in rural areas in campus countries.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Open Campus, is Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald, who referred to the new entity as “a campus for the times and a campus for the future.” Professor Simmons-McDonald stated that the Open Campus has the same level of autonomy as other UWI campuses with its own Academic Board, financial management, registry, administrative and student support systems.

The Open Campus currently utilises a wide variety of distance and mixed-mode delivery methods and has a staff of almost 400 professionals to support its growing student population across the region. It works very closely with faculty on the three other UWI campuses, as well as with other tertiary institutions and development agencies throughout the Caribbean to design, develop and deliver quality programmes by distance to meet the learning needs of the people of the Caribbean.

Contribution to 60th Anniversary



UWI ALUMNA AND FORMER HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADVANCED NURSING EDUCATION (NOW SCHOOL OF NURSING) SYRINGA MARSHALL BURNETT, PRESENTS A DAVID POTTINGER PAINTING TO PRINCIPAL, PROFESSOR GORDON SHIRLEY, AS A PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE MONA CAMPUS ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSITY’S 60TH ANNIVERSARY. HER HUSBAND, JASPER, SHARES THE MOMENT.

Preserving Our Heritage




DISTINGUISHED FELLOW AT THE UWI, MONA, MOST HON. EDWARD SEAGA, USED THIS KUMINA CEREMONIAL DRESS TO ILLUSTRATE HIS POINT AS HE DELIVERED THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE SYMPOSIUM “HERITAGE: ITS MANAGEMENT AND PRESERVATION” MOUNTED BY THE SOCIAL HISTORY PROJECT, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY IN OCTOBER 2008.

UWI Honours Anthony Chen

Former Head of the Climate Studies Group in the Department of Physics, Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, Professor Anthony Chen, was honoured by the UWI, Mona Campus during the institution's annual Commemoration Celebrations and Alumni Week held over the period February 12- 22 at Mona. Professor Chen was recognized for his distinguished work in the field of Climatology and as a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which shared the 2007 Nobel Prize with former US Vice President, Mr. Al Gore.

The celebrations began on February 12 with a University Parade and Flag Raising Ceremony.

Activities continued on Friday, February 13, with Caribbean and International Day, featuring displays from the countries in the region that contribute to the UWI, clubs and societies.

The Annual Commemoration Service took place at the University Chapel on Sunday, February 15. The Grand Commemoration Concert and Pelican Awards was held on Sunday evening, February 22 in the Assembly Hall. The Pelican Awards presented annually by the UWI Alumni Association (Jamaica Chapter) to outstanding graduates of the institution, went to the National Dance Theatre Company (NDTC). The celebration ended with the annual Commemoration Dinner, rescheduled to March 19. 



Commuting students, led by Student Services Manager, Jason McKenzie, participating in the University Parade

NDTC members Howard Cooper and Kerry Ann Henry proudly display the Pelican Award, presented by previous recipient Noel Dexter (left)

The talented "Ensemble" delighted the audience and earned the first encore of the evening at the Commemoration Concert

Medical Class of 1973 Gives Back

In 1994, over 30 members of the graduating medical Class of 1973 gathered in Jamaica to celebrate 20 years since graduation and agreed that a fund should be established to generate a bursary for needy medical students. A local committee was established to solicit donations, maintain the fund and to administer the annual awards.

The fund was established in 1995 and, over a period of years, grew slowly and entirely through the personal contributions of members of the Class.


The first award was offered in 1998 and a number of other awards were made to third year medical students in subsequent years, including Dr. Monique Ford who is currently working at the Mayo Clinic.

It soon became clear however that the existing capital of approximately \$1.5m (Jamaican) would be inadequate to sustain an appropriate annual bursary in the existing economic climate and the bursary was temporarily discontinued.

In 2008, at the Class's 35th reunion in Ocho Rios, it was noted that six members of the Class had passed on. Nevertheless there was a strong desire to maintain perpetuity of the award and members pledged further contributions. Mechanisms for continued administration of the award when the Class was no longer able to do so and a structure that would promote further 'growth' of the fund were discussed.

After considering various options, the Class agreed that the fund and the mechanisms for administering the award be handed over to the University's Development and Endowment Fund. Such handover would provide the advantage of gaining greater yields on investment and gain the support of the wider University in 'growing the fund' from other sources over time.

The official handover took place on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 in a short function attended by members of the graduating class of 1973, the Dean, Professor Archie McDonald and the Executive Director of the Development and Endowment Fund, Miss Jo-Ann McDonald.

As UWI graduates, the members of the Class of 73 are proud to have been able to contribute to the welfare of some young colleagues and they appeal to others to ensure continuance of this bursary by contributing to the fund. 

Michael Branday, Contributor



MEMBERS OF THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 1973, THE DEAN, PROFESSOR ARCHIE MCDONALD (RIGHT) AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENDOWMENT FUND, MISS JO-ANN MCDONALD.

Class of 1973 Endowment Fund and Student Bursary

On November 19, the Class of 1973 Endowment Fund was officially handed over to the University's Development and Endowment Fund for administration. The fund was established in 1994 and through personal contributions over the past ten years has provided bursaries for eight deserving third-year medical students to allow them to complete their studies.

UWI IN THE COMMUNITY:

Gown goes to town The University Township Programme

August Town is a small community lying on the bank of the Hope River in the shadow of the Long Mountain. In its heyday, it was the home of 19th century revivalist preacher and healer, Alexander Bedward, who promised his followers that he would ascend to the skies, thereby giving the small community a permanent place in Jamaican folk history. Today, August Town is a shadow of its former self, and the community is plagued by a plethora of various social ills.

As August Town's prime neighbour, The UWI has had a long and significant association with the community. Now The UWI is planning to expand this connection to make August Town and its environs a "University Township". This is part of a UWI initiative to foster a better relationship between "town and gown", a concept adopted globally by many universities and colleges. The residents of August Town will benefit as The UWI becomes more active in the social, cultural and economic welfare of the community.

Principal, Professor Gordon Shirley, is leading the project that intends to use experts across the disciplines in the transformation process. Professor of Social Anthropology, Barry Chevannes has worked with the August Town community for many years and maintains that the UWI's involvement in August Town needs to be taken to a higher level. He said that the University Township concept should be a deliberate effort to join the community and the University together for mutual advancement.

The programme will seek to engage the community in a more meaningful and collaborative way by partnering with members of the community, the private sector and other stakeholders in the areas of education, skills training, health and nutrition, culture and sports, economic development, violence and crime reduction and prevention.

August Town residents have applauded the initiative, pointing to the mutual respect that has existed, and which now allows the UWI to play a key role in the development of their community. Education will be the first area of focus, alongside a skills training and certification initiative.



PROFESSOR GORDON SHIRLEY, (3RD FROM RIGHT) FACULTY MEMBERS AND LEADERS FROM THE AUGUST TOWN COMMUNITY PLAN TO HAVE ALL BASIC SCHOOLS REGISTERED SO THAT THEY CAN BENEFIT FROM RESOURCES OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

Professor Zellynne Jennings-Craig, Head, Department of Educational Studies, described a first phase of operation in which the UWI's initial attention will be the nine existing basic and infant schools. Based on a needs assessment survey, it was found that most of the basic schools are unregistered, and therefore not being guided by nor benefiting from the resources of the Ministry of Education and its agencies.

She said that they have initiated an Association of August Town Basic School Principals that is actively seeking the Ministry's guidance in the adoption of its curriculum as promoted by the Early Childhood Commission (ECC). Concurrent with this, the UWI is assisting teachers and school principals to become matriculated for college within five years.


UWI students will also be strengthening their involvement in the community, says Dr Thelora Reynolds, UWI's Director of the Office of Student Services and Development. In addition to their ongoing mentorship and quality leadership programmes in the schools, they will be working with the Homeowners Association to help transform August Town into a choice area of student residence, opening up a new area of entrepreneurship for the community.

"One of the recommendations made when the University was founded was that the institution should work with the community and that the community should feel our impact. The students' participation is one way of fulfilling this mandate," Dr. Reynolds said.

Another area of assistance to the community is in the area of skills training. The UWI plans to open the plans it already had for its own staff in the Estate Management Department to other interested persons from the community, who are being

recruited through the Citizens and Parent Teachers Associations and other clubs and social organizations.


The UWI's Sociology, Psychology and Social Work Departments will also be assisting in psycho-educational assessments, counselling for young children affected by violence, family therapy and other developmental work.

In addition, promising writers in the August Town area are engaged in an exciting project in which they have been partnered with students in the print programme at the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) to produce a newspaper supplement on the community. CARIMAC students have conducted training sessions with the new recruits, under the watchful eye of Print Coordinator, Mrs. Corinne Barnes. The prospective journalists are now on the hunt for possible stories about the community for inclusion in the newspaper. 

Partnering with the Mustard Seed Community

The Psychology Unit of the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work has been involved in a range of outreach activities, the most recent of which is the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mustard Seed Communities (MSC), one of Jamaica's leading non-profit community development organizations, which seeks to empower the spiritually, psychologically and materially challenged. Under the MOU the Psychology Unit will provide:

- expertise in diagnostic assessment of residents many of whom are mentally and physically challenged,
- therapeutic interventions for residents,
- expertise in programme design and management and
- staff training and development.

Recently the Psychology Unit rendered assistance to Sophie's Place, which had suffered the devastating loss of three residents during tropical storm Gustav. The Psychology lecturers and graduate students offered counseling to staff and conducted interactive play therapy for the children most of whom have physical and mental problems. The Unit also provided psychological testing of the cognitive and emotional status of the children and young adults who are resident at the New Jerusalem Facility in Spanish Town. The Unit is also offering guidance and expertise in the establishment of an assessment centre in Papine and looks forward to deepening the partnership with the Mustard Seed Community. 

Corruption Issues Addressed at National Integrity Forum




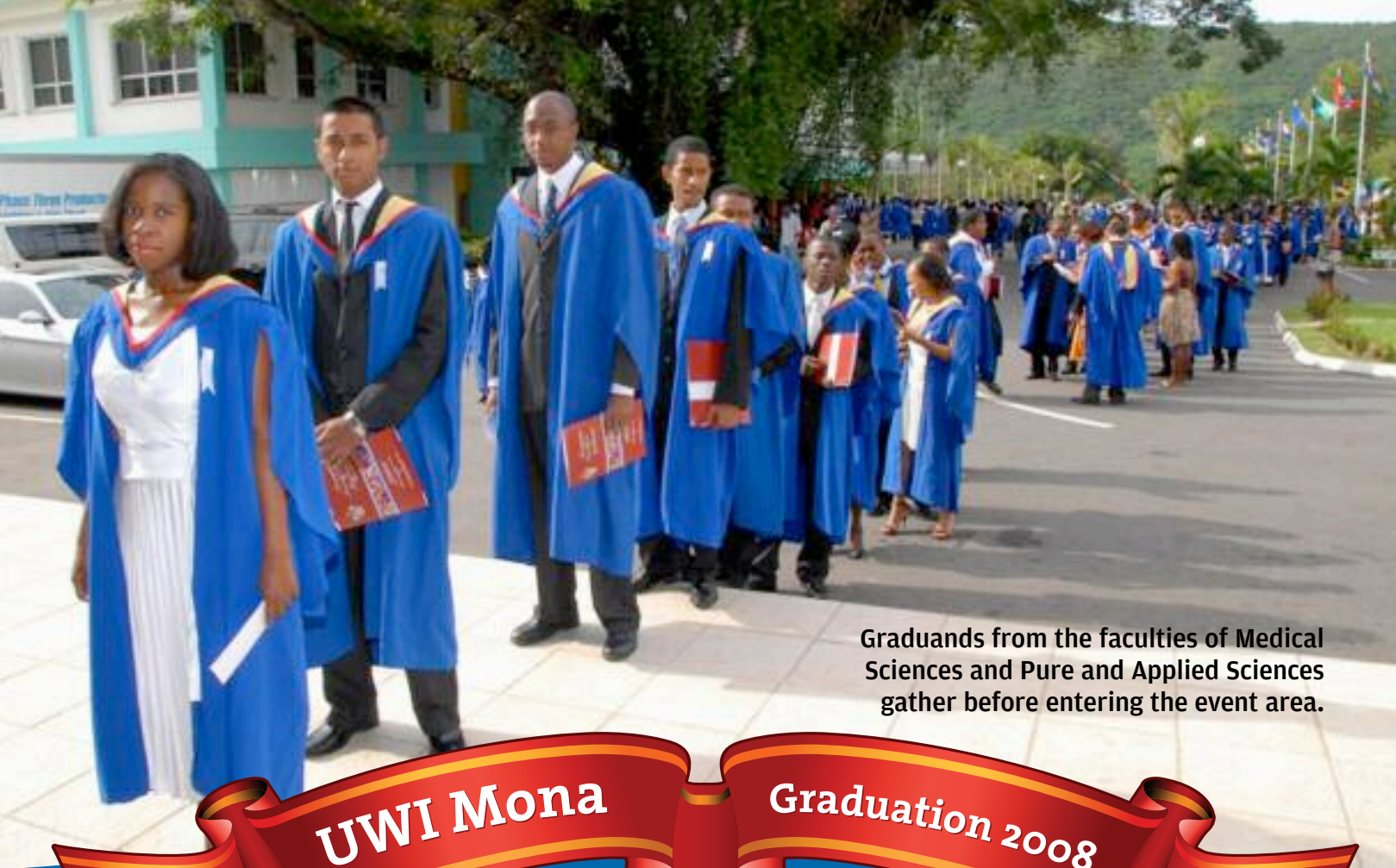
PARTICIPANTS AT THE INTEGRITY FORUM INCLUDED (FROM LEFT): DIONNE JACKSON MILLER, CURRENT AFFAIRS PRODUCER RADIO JAMAICA GROUP; MICHAEL BURKE, COLUMNIST JAMAICA OBSERVER; BETTY ANN BLAINE, TALK SHOW HOST, NATIONWIDE NEWS NETWORK; GARFIELD BURFORD, NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS PRODUCER CVM TELEVISION; IAN BOYNE, TV PRODUCER AND HOST, GLEANER COLUMNIST; BEVERLEY ANDERSON MANLEY, TALK SHOW HOST, HOT 102; DON ANDERSON, POLLSTER ALL MEDIA; JEAN LOWRIE CHIN, PUBLIC RELATIONS PRACTITIONER PRO COMM.

The National Integrity Action Forum (NIAF) held its first Outreach Meeting at the Mona Campus on Wednesday, March 4th, 2009 with selected newspaper columnists, talk-show hosts, television presenters and other opinion shapers to discuss how to more effectively combat corruption and to strengthen Jamaica's integrity framework.

Participants recommended that opinion shapers present:

- 1) Help clean up corruption within the media itself, particular in relation to payola;
- 2) Provide support to, and require accountability from, the main officers involved in combating corruption, in particular, the Contractor General, the Commissioner of Customs, the Assistant Commissioner Anti-Corruption Branch Jamaica Constabulary Force, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the anti-corruption commissions and the Auditor General amongst others;
- 3) Support a multi-dimensional engagement (e.g. media campaign, school curriculum reform) of the society on the meaning of corruption and on the extent to which the poor are the ones who bear the main costs of corruption;
- 4) Support speedy bringing to justice of the big fish amongst the corrupt in the interest of restoring public confidence in the rule of law and in improving Jamaica's rankings on global corruption ratings (e.g. the Corruption Perception Index);

The National Integrity Action Forum (NIAF) was launched on January 28th, and is an initiative of The UWI's Centre for Leadership and Governance, a collaboration of the Department of Government and the Mona School of Business, with Director, Professor Trevor Munroe. 



Graduands from the faculties of Medical Sciences and Pure and Applied Sciences gather before entering the event area.

UWI Mona

Graduation 2008

November 7th & 8th

Thousands of persons came out for the annual graduation ceremonies held at the UWI, Mona Campus in November. For the first time there were three ceremonies: graduates of the Faculties of Humanities & Education and Law were presented on Friday, November 8 and there were two ceremonies on Saturday, November 8, with degrees being awarded to graduates of the Faculties of Medical Sciences and Pure & Applied Sciences at the morning ceremony, and to graduates of the Faculty of Social Sciences in the afternoon. Honorary degrees were also conferred on five outstanding West Indians for their contribution in the fields of nursing education, business, international diplomacy and public service.



HIXWELL DOUGLAS, WHO IS VISUALLY IMPAIRED, WAS AWARDED THE PHD IN LITERACY WITH HIGH COMMENDATION AT FRIDAY'S CEREMONY. HERE HE IS CONGRATULATED BY PROGRAMME COORDINATOR, DR. DON WILSON AND HIS SUPERVISOR, DR. JOSSET LEWIS-SMIKE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL STUDIES.



PROFESSOR BRIAN MEEKS WITH RECIPIENTS OF HONORARY DEGREES DAME KARLENE C. DAVIS FOR MIDWIFERY EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND DOUGLAS ORANE, ENTREPRENEUR.



VALEDICTORIAN AND FIRST CLASS HONOURS GRAD ZURI JOHNSON, FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION



SOCIAL SCIENCES GRADUATES CELEBRATE FOLLOWING THEIR GRADUATION CEREMONY ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON.



BUSINESSMAN MICHAEL LEE CHIN (LEFT) IS GREETED BY PRINCIPAL, PROFESSOR GORDON SHIRLEY AHEAD OF THE GRADUATION CEREMONY ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON. HE WAS AWARDED AN HONORARY DEGREE AT THE CEREMONY ALONG WITH PUBLIC SERVANT, RODERICK RAINFORD (CENTRE).



PROFESSOR BRIAN MEEKS DELIVERED THE CITATION TO ENTREPRENEUR DOUGLAS ORANE (RIGHT) WHO WAS THE GUEST SPEAKER AT SATURDAY MORNING'S CEREMONY.



VALEDICTORIAN, KRISTI RAMKISSOON FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES.



HAVELOCK BREWSTER, (RIGHT) INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANT, RECEIVES THE HONORARY DEGREE FROM CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR SIR GEORGE ALLEYNE AT THE CEREMONY ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON.



VALEDICTORIAN SADE BULLY - FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES.



CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES,
MONA CAMPUS

CONFERENCESEMINARS/LECTURES/EVENTS IN 2009

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	TIME
JAN. 5-9	Better Process Control School Contact: Dr. Donna Minott-Kates Tel: (876) 927-1910 Fax: (876)	Chemistry Lecture Theatre (C5)	8.30 a.m.- 6:30 p.m.
29-30	Research Day Contact: Office of the Principal Tel: (876) 927-2253/935-8324/935-8450	Mona Campus	
FEB. 10	Bob Marley Lecture One Love Bob Marley & Rastafari in the New African Millennium Lecturer: Dr. Jalani Niaah Contact: Mrs. Nicole Edwards-Bailey Tel/Fax/Email: 977-1951/977-3430 Email: nicole.edwardsbailey@uwimona.edu.jm or icsmona@uwimona.edu.jm	Undercroft	6.00 p.m.
12-21	Commemoration Celebrations and Alumni Week Contact: Public Relations Office Tel: 977-5941/935-8348 Email: proffice@uwimona.edu.jm	Mona Campus	
14-15	8th Annual Perinatal Audit & Symposium Contact: Dr. Helen Trotman, Dept. of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Child Health Tel: 927-1145/970-0329 Fax: 977-9397 Email: Helen.trotmanedwards@uwimona.edu.jm	Main Medical Lecture Theatre UHWI	
22	Jamaica Urology Conference Contact: Dr. Belinda Morrison Tel: 927-1270	TBA	
22-24	7th Caribbean Neurosciences Symposium Contact: Dr. Carl Bruce Tel: 927-1270	Ritz Carlton Resort Spa & Golf Resort	
27	Annual Career Expo Contact: Placement and Career Services Tel/Fax: 927-1650/927-1650 Email: placemnt@uwimona.edu.jm		
MAR 16-17	1st Caribbean Research Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Contact: Dr. Ezra K. Mugisa Tel/Fax: 935-8815/702-4455 Email: ezra.mugisa@uwimona.edu.jm	Mona Visitors' Lodge and Conference Centre	9.00am-5.00pm
19	Commemoration Dinner Contact: Public Relations Office Tel: 977-5941/935-8348 Email: proffice@uwimona.edu.jm		
28	Advanced Pediatric and Adult Airway Management Workshop & Conference Contact: Hyacinth Harding-Goldson Tel/Fax: 9772484/9776160 Email: hyacinth.hardinggoldson@uwimona.edu.jm	MMLT, FMS	8:30 am-4.30 pm
22	Jamaica Emergency Medicine Association 9th Annual Conference Theme: "Diagnostics in the ER" Contact: Dr. Simone French Tel: 927-1620 ext. 4538	Jamaica Pegasus Hotel	
26-29	15th Annual International Diabetes Conference Theme: "Diabetes and HIV/AIDS: The Chronic Duo" Contact: Ms. Thornia Smith, Conference Secretariat: Tel/Fax: 977-1749/977-5233 Email: thornia.smith@uwimona.edu.jm	Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort, Ocho Rios, Jamaica	

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	TIME
APRIL 17	Student Awards Ceremony		
19	Valedictory Service Contact: Office of Student Services & Dev. Tel: 935-8541/970-2739/977-3880 Fax: 977-1424	University Chapel, Mona	
24	Surgery's Clinical Research Conference Contact: Prof. Ivor Crandon Tel: 927-1270	MMLT, FMS	
MAY 16-17	Association of Surgeons Annual Conference Contact: Dr. Hillary Brown Tel: 927-1270	Courtleigh Auditorium	
28-29	Using Research to Develop Best Practice in Nursing and Midwifery Contact: Mrs. Ellen Bailey, Mrs. Gloria LaTouche Tel/Fax: (876) 970-3304; (876) 927-2472; Email: nursing@uwimona.edu.jm	Lecture Theatre, UWI School of Nursing, Mona	
29	Official Opening of the PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Development in Mona, the Caribbean, UWISON Contact: Mrs. Ellen Bailey, Mrs. Pauline Anderson-Johnson Tel/Fax: (876) 970-3304; (876) 927-2472 Email: nursing@uwimona.edu.jm	The UWI School of Nursing, Lecture Theatre	
June 1-5	34th Annual Conference Caribbean Studies Association Theme: "Centering the Caribbean in Caribbean Studies" Contact: www.caribbean-studies.org		
23	8th William Dennis Memorial Lecture Contact: Prof. Newton Duncan Tel: 927-1270	MMLT, FMS	
Sept. 11	Welcome & Matriculation Ceremony Contact: Public Relations Office Tel: (876) 977-5941/977-7346 Fax: (876) 977-6669 Email: proffice@uwimona.edu.jm	Mona Campus	
Oct. 2-4	Jamaica Anaesthetist Association Annual Scientific Conference Topic: Issues in The Management of Obstetric Patients Contact: M. Isaacs Tel/Fax: 9772484/9776160 Email: melodyisaacs@gmail.com	MLT, FMS	8.30am-4.00pm
Nov. 6-7	Mona Campus Graduation Ceremonies Contact: Public Relations Office Tel: (876) 977-5941/935-8692/935-8348 Fax: (876) 977-6669	Mona Campus	
Dec. 6	Carol Service Contact: Secretariat Tel. (876) 977-0612 Fax: (876) 927-2765 Email: secretariat@uwimona.edu.jm		
10	Long Service & Staff Awards Ceremony Contact: Public Relations Office Tel.: (876) 977-5941/935-8692/935-8348 Fax: (876) 977-6669	Mona Visitors' Lodge & Conference Centre	5:00 p.m.

CONFERENCESEMINARS/LECTURES/EVENTS IN 2009



SEARCHING FOR THE SECRETS OF JAMAICA'S TRACK & FIELD SUCCESS

From the 1940s, Jamaica has been a force to be reckoned with on the track. The country's astounding achievements in the 29th Olympiad in Beijing, China saw a record haul of six gold, three silver and two bronze medals. Amid the celebrations, the question remains: how did a small developing nation of 2.8 million achieve such success?

Since 2007, Research Scientist in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences, Mona Dr Rachael Irving, and Physical Education Lecturer with the Institute of Education and a former Jamaican Olympian sprinter, Vilma Charlton, have been collaborating with Dr Yannis Pitsiladis, Director of the International Centre for East African Running Science (ICEARS) at the University of Glasgow to investigate the genetic, environmental and nutritional

factors that may contribute to Jamaica's success. Preliminary findings from the genetic data compiled from a sample of 200 past and present Olympians representing Jamaica and other countries; 100 athletes, who represented Jamaica; and a control group of 350 ordinary folk, have yielded some unexpected results.

Unexpected results

"Judging from the results right now, we might have to rule out genes as being the sole link to our success as we all have the Actinin 3 [ACTN 3] gene, which produces a protein in the fast twitch muscle fibers that is associated with sprinting performance," Ms Charlton noted.

The study revealed that 80 per cent of the Olympians sampled have the double copy of the Actinin 3 gene, which means that the gene was passed on from both mother and father. Another 18 per cent had the single copy of the same sprinting gene, passed on by a parent, while only two per cent, had no such gene.

People who have no such gene or what is called the null

form, tend not to sprint because the Actinin gene is found in the twitch muscle which is necessary for sprinting, Dr Irving explained. The existence of the null copy of the gene is linked to endurance running.

Interestingly in the control group, some 75 per cent had the double copy of the ACTN 3 gene and another 23 per cent, the single copy and two per cent, the null copy. These results mimicked the sample of the Olympians.

In addition, after the collection of biographical data from the Olympians, it was discerned that several of the nation's elite athletes have ties to the Cockpit Country, in particular the parish of Trelawny, hence the study was expanded to include samples from 300 persons from the area.

This was to determine if persons from that area had a special gene that contributed to the success of the athletes from that area, Dr Irving explained. In the end, the profile was similar to that of the Olympians. The researchers are now postulating that other factors such as nutrition must be driving the gene. This will be the next phase of the study, once funding is sourced.

Other factors

"The nutritional factor can play a huge part in the success, so we want to look at the nutrition and its effect on the genetics. Is it something that switches on the gene that you already have? "We eat what is call hard food

such as yam and dasheen and this nutrition has something to do with the intrauterine environment, which aids in the formation of good cells," Dr Irving highlighted.

The team is also considering the mineral composite of the soil where yam and other foods grow in the Cockpit Country.

“Is it something that switches on the gene that you already have? We eat what is call hard food such as yam and dasheen and this nutrition has something to do with the intrauterine environment...”

"We need to do research on what is driving the botany of the area and if it enhances sprinting," Dr Irving asserted.

Ms Charlton will carry out the third phase of the study, which will see the examination of Jamaica's

physical education programme, which she insists plays a great role in the development of athletes. "It is uncanny that England wants to send some athletes here to train. Our programme is based on one that they left us



IRVING & CHARLTON EXPLORE THE REASON BEHIND JAMAICA'S SUCCESS IN TRACK & FIELD


courtesy of the Colonial Welfare Act of 1944,” she noted, adding that two British persons ran the physical education programme through the Army.

“We have a structured early childhood physical education programme, which does not necessarily involve a whole lot of racing. We have movements and dance to build fine muscles. We have a programme at the primary and all age levels, and at the secondary level, where physical education is more frequently done as there is physical education at least three times a week, or, if they have it once, it is a double period.

The schools then participate in the annual Boys’ and Girls’

Championships — an early showcase for future stars and talent. Other areas of interest to be studied include the role of volunteerism, where Jamaicans locally and within the Diaspora provide monetary sponsorships as well as mentorship to budding athletic stars.

It is anticipated that the research will provide an empirical framework within which to further develop the talent.

Ms Charlton says, “Everybody wants to look at us now, so do not believe, if we do not do the science, that in another ten years, we will still be dominant. Others will find something that they can adapt, and use what we have in order to make themselves very good.” she added. 



MEDICINAL PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH IN JAMAICA: Challenges and Opportunities

Jamaica’s biodiversity has been the base of the island’s strong folk medicine heritage however little biotechnology research has been done to prove claims that the plants have medicinal properties, nor have efforts been made to obtain elite planting material to produce such plants in abundance. Maximizing the economic potential of these natural resources therefore remains a challenge.

forged a partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Jamaica Trade and Investment Corporation and the Planning Institute of Jamaica.

Head of the MPRG and Lecturer in Biotechnology in the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, Dr Sylvia A. Mitchell, has done extensive research on medicinal plants and tissue culture in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. Along with Professor Mohammed H. Ahmad, Dr Mitchell conducted a medicinal plant review of the work done by the MPRG between 1948 and 2001. The review sought to assemble the most comprehensive and accurate list of Jamaican plants identified as having medicinal properties and to summarize research done on these plants.



DR. MITCHELL (LEFT) AND THE TEAM IN THE FACULTY OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES ARE WORKING TO DOCUMENT THE PROPERTIES OF TRADITIONAL PLANT MEDICINES IN JAMAICA AND MAINTAIN A GENETIC STOREHOUSE.

Utilizing Jamaican-grown plants for both “health and wealth” has always been an active research area, but interest in medicinal

plant research took an upswing in 1999 when two research and development groups the Medicinal Plant Research Group (MPRG) of the Biotechnology Centre and the Natural Products Institute were formed. Both institutions have combined their efforts with the Scientific Research Council, the University of Technology and the Northern Caribbean University to undertake a more comprehensive study of medicinal plants and their economic potential. In linking research and development with production, processing and marketing, the UWI

A three-pronged approach was used in the research: formulation of anti-microbial products; tissue culture studies; and business studies including information gathering and dissemination to maintain a standard of research, with local and regional relevance.

The review showed that at least 334 plants growing in Jamaica were indicated as having medicinal properties. Of that amount, 37 per cent are grown in the tropics; plant species or genus restricted to the Americas were 31 and 19 per cent respectively; and plants endemic to Jamaica were 13 per cent. Phytochemicals were identified in 44 plants, 29 of these were bioactive. It was seen that the most potent plants exhibited multiple bio-actives with both medicinal and agricultural uses.



PLANTLETS ARE GROWN THROUGH TISSUE CULTURE AND MICROPROPAGATION TO OBTAIN ELITE VARIETIES IN GREATER QUANTITIES.

The following plants were found to exhibit anti-bacterial activity: neem, garlic (*Allium sativum*) and for antifungal activity neem, breadfruit, aloe, sorrel (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*), and sweet sop (*Annona squamosa*). Neem also exhibited insecticidal activity and a disinfectant was developed to international standards. Other examples of Jamaican botanical products which can be further developed are natural dyes from the annatto, logwood; bio-preservatives from vinegar; soaps, lotions and creams from a range of essential oils; herbal wines and tonics from complex mixes of forest roots and barks; spices from hot pepper, ginger, nutmeg, pimento and curry; teas from cerassee, cinnamon, fever grass and sorrel.

A vital aspect in harnessing the great potential of Jamaican medicinal and agricultural plants is providing elite planting material for farmers through tissue culture. Some of these plants are being placed into cultivation for the first time, and micro-propagation used to cultivate large quantities of these elite varieties. To date, six farmer groups in Charles Town, Portland; Glengoffe, St. Catherine; Dallas, St. Andrew and three local forestry

management communities in the Cockpit Country have planted more than 1,200 fungal and bacteria-free certified plantlets of aloe, ginger, turmeric, pineapple, and sarsaparilla.

To move tropical Caribbean medicinal research forward some of the issues to be addressed are: Herbal medicine training for pharmacists, nutritionists and medical practitioners at all levels; correct identification of medicinal plants and those that work by building the body's immune system (neutraceuticals); development of a detailed database of Caribbean plants; the conservation, of natural products from endemic medicinal plants; and developing products from medicinal plants that reach the consumer at a reasonable price.

"If we can do the above, we believe that we can use the best that science has to offer to safely use the bounty of the natural resources that we have been blessed with," state Mitchell and Ahmad, underscoring the role of biotechnological research in the development of a successful medicinal plant market. M

Testosterone study shatters stereotype of part-time dads



Biological fathers who have a visiting relationship with their children experience high levels of emotional engagement with these children and this impacts their hormonal levels. This is the finding of a joint research project undertaken by researchers at The University of the West Indies, (UWI) Mona and the University of Las Vegas.

Recognized as groundbreaking work, **Hormonal Correlates of Human Paternal Interactions: A Hospital-based Investigation in Urban Jamaica**, the research of UWI Professor of Child Health, Child Development and Behaviour and Consultant Behavioural Paediatrician, Maureen Samms Vaughan, and Professor Peter Gray of the University of Las Vegas, (UNLV) discovered that testosterone levels in visiting fathers was lower than expected, indicating that these fathers are highly emotionally engaged when interacting with their children.

Funded by a grant from the University of Las Vegas, the research investigated biological samples of 43 Jamaican men that were taken before and after a 20-minute behavioural session. The men were between the ages of

18 and 40 years and were biological fathers who had visiting relationships with their youngest child or were biological fathers who live with their adult female partners and youngest child; the control group was single men with no children. During the sessions, the single men sat alone, while the fathers interacted with their partner and youngest child.

Professor Samms-Vaughan said that the findings from the study provided more insight into the psyche of the Jamaican father, prompting a second look at the relationships between visiting fathers and their children.

"There are well known drawbacks to visiting relationships, which have been highlighted in both local and international studies. Children living in two-parent families have higher academic performance and fewer behavioural problems than those in single parent families and visiting relationships. The findings of this project should make us look more closely at the visiting relationship from the parent perspective. We now know that visiting fathers can be really heavily invested in that relationship. They are responding hormonally as fathers, and responding very strongly," she further noted.

Professor Peter Gray and other research groups previously showed that fathers had lower testosterone levels than men who had no children, mirroring phenomena observed in the wider animal kingdom. The researchers had therefore expected that the levels of testosterone in single men would be higher than those of fathers, and that there would be notable findings after the fathers had interacted with their children. The astonishing finding was that after the behavioural interaction, visiting fathers had lower testosterone than the fathers who lived with their children.

"We had to go back to the drawing board because this was not what we expected," Professor Samms Vaughan said. "One possible explanation of the findings is that because visiting fathers spend less time interacting with their children than live-in fathers, the interaction time may be more highly valued and fathering more intense."

She also noted that the project had a built in bias, as the visiting fathers in the study were in good relationships with the mothers of the children who also participated in the sessions.

"Children living in two-parent families have higher academic performance and fewer behavioural problems than those in single parent families and visiting relationships"

The outcome indicated that prolactin levels increase after a period of father and child interaction.

"We are now looking at exploring how prolactin is impacting on parenting, and how it plays a role in parenting," Professor Samms Vaughan said, noting that research was now moving towards a stage where there would be the likelihood of measuring the quality of parenting by a hormonal profile of the parent.

Continued on page 44

Youth Leaders Benefit from Participatory Research Training

Through training being conducted by sociologists from the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work at UWI, Mona, administrators of youth programmes and youth ambassadors in the Commonwealth Caribbean region are being equipped with skills and competencies to address the concerns of young people in a more effective manner. This training is being conducted by Dr. Heather Ricketts and Mr. Sean Ffrench, both lecturers in the Department.

Youth leaders are being trained in Social Assessment (SA) and participatory learning and action (PLA) methodologies to enable them to better engage youth across the region in discussions which will empower them to participate in setting the youth agenda while sharing their collective experiences. These tools are extremely useful for empowering marginal groups and provide these groups with an opportunity to impact their situations and to set their own development goals. It is an action oriented research method which relies heavily on multiple stakeholder analysis and participation to generate policy and action, while PLA refers to a method which utilizes a suite of tools to generate participation and learning, leading to empowerment and action. Sociologists have found these techniques to have advantages over traditional data collection techniques in that it provides an opportunity for giving voice to the voiceless, allowing everyone a chance to shape the development agenda.

Undertaken at the request of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC), three workshops have been held, exposing participants to an overview of the SA methodology along with training in PLA techniques which complement the methodology. In most instances, the participants undertook field work relevant to youth.

The first training workshop was held in February 2008 over two days in Antigua, involving directors of youth departments and a few Youth Officers representing eleven countries (Antigua & Barbuda, Anguilla, Jamaica, Bahamas, Cayman Islands, St Vincent & Grenadines, Barbados, St. Kitts & Nevis, Turks & Caicos, Dominica and St. Lucia).

In March, youth leaders, officers and ambassadors in the Commonwealth of Dominica were sensitized to use the SA and PLA methodologies, and participated in a one-day field exercise in the Soufriere community. This exercise focused on the problem of high youth unemployment in that community.

The third workshop was in Barbados in July, and empowered youth leaders to carry out a national youth consultation intended to inform the National Youth Policy of Barbados. Facilitated by the Division of Youth,

Barbados, in collaboration with the CYPCC, field exercises were held in the Haynesville community.

EARLY YEARS


Since the mid-1990's the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work at Mona has exposed its academic staff to participatory methodologies and has included the teaching of these methodologies in many courses. In particular, the department has included the teaching of participatory methodologies in its qualitative research methods courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The department was involved in the groundbreaking research, resulting in the publication **They Cry Respect! Urban Violence and Poverty in Jamaica** (Horace Levy and Barry Chevannes, 1996) which represented the first time that the PLA method was used in an urban setting anywhere in the world.

Between 2001 and 2004 the Department, in partnership with UNDESA and PIOJ, trained a cadre of certified social assessment trainers drawn from not only academia, but also the public sector and the Non Governmental Organization sector. This partnership resulted in the creation of a graduate level course in SA which was offered for the first time in the 2007/08 academic year at Mona.

To date, the department and its partners have carried out noteworthy SA interventions in Jamaica including a Social Assessment of the Secondary School Fee Assistance Programme, and an assessment of youth parenting. The work on youth parenting resulted in the making of a training video which won the Principal's award for the most outstanding research in 2006.

IMPACT OF DEPT OF SOCIOLOGY IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Prime Ministers and Ministers with responsibility for Youth Affairs of the host countries have seen the value of the training exercises, and as a consequence, Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer visited the SA training workshop in Antigua and Barbuda, and Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, opened and attended some of the training sessions in Dominica. In Barbados the training session was closed by the Minister for Youth Affairs who also utilized the opportunity to launch the island's National Youth Consultation.

The work of the Department is serving to underline the fact that SA and PLA are not only excellent empowerment tools but they are also critical tools for generating sustainable development and the advancement of democratic values in the region. In this regard the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work is helping to further the mission of the UWI to promote the development of the Caribbean region. 



DR. THE HONOURABLE CHRISTOPHER TUFTON, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, (RIGHT) PRO VICE CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL OF THE MONA CAMPUS, PROFESSOR GORDON SHIRLEY (CENTRE), AND PROFESSOR DAVID SPARLING, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND DEAN, COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH, CANADA AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A SEMINAR ON CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD IN A CHANGING GLOBAL CONTEXT. THE SEMINAR, THE FIRST IN A SERIES ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD WAS ORGANIZED BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL AND WAS HELD ON MARCH 3.



A STUDENT AT UWI, MONA DONATES BLOOD DURING THE ANNUAL SIR FRANK WORREL BLOOD DRIVE ON MARCH 17-18 AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL. LOOKING ON ARE SPECIAL GUEST OF THE UWI, FORMER INDIAN CRICKET CAPTAIN NARI CONTRACTOR (CENTRE), FLANKED BY PROFESSOR BALDWIN MOOTOO (LEFT) AND DR. ANGELA GORDON (RIGHT).



UWI, MONA STUDENTS TALK WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BANK OF JAMAICA ABOUT CAREER POSSIBILITIES. THE OCCASION WAS THE UWI, MONA ANNUAL CAREER EXPO WHICH RAN FROM MARCH 17-18. THE EXPO IS ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES DURING CAREER AWARENESS MONTH ORGANIZED BY THE PLACEMENT AND CAREER SERVICES, OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT, MONA.



The experience of the Caribbean, a region of no more than 50 million people with a history that stretches only half of a millennium, has helped to shape the modern world. According to Professor of Social and Political Change, Brian Meeks, the work of the region's thinkers has a large part to play in this remarkable phenomenon, and the UWI's Centre for Caribbean Thought (CCT) within the Department of Government, Faculty of Social Sciences seeks to archive and explore the region's great thinkers and their legacies. Professor Meeks is the Director of the CCT. Its Associate Directors are Professor Rupert Lewis of the Department of Government and Professor Anthony Bogues, from Brown University in the USA.

Explaining the background to the development of the Caribbean philosophical tradition, Professor Meeks said, "The Caribbean is the result of the movement of large

workshop, launched more than twelve books, including three of its own, and produced a DVD. In 2004, the Centre was successful in obtaining a J\$2.5 million grant



numbers of people from across the world to fulfill economic ventures. The accompanying resistance to this took place in action as well as thought and revealed tremendous insights into notions such as freedom and what it means to be human. Caribbean thought has emerged as an extraordinarily rich field, as this is the region in which those fundamental things were denied. Our job at the CCT is to unearth the traditions, give it a name and explore its dimensions."

Now in its eighth year, the CCT has already hosted nine major conferences, organized three symposia and a

from the CHASE Foundation to establish a Caribbean Thought Archive which will be housed in the Mona Main Library. Sylvia Wynter and Richard Hart have already committed important documents which will be housed in this archive.

In June 2008, a Coca Cola Grant of US\$250,000 was obtained by the Centre to facilitate trilateral student exchanges with Brown University and the University of Cape Town for research and teaching. Plans are also being pursued to launch a collaborative MPhil/PhD programme in Africana Intellectual Thought among the

three universities. The plan involves common courses to be taught on-line and the exchange of faculty and students.

Professor Meeks notes that the CCT conferences have been a vehicle to explore the rich traditions of the region's thinkers.



"We try to annually honour a critical Caribbean thinker who has made a seminal contribution to the exploration of the modern condition. We recognise immediately that our choices so far have been heavily Anglo Caribbean and that there is much work to be done with thinkers from the other language zones of the region."

The June 2009 conference will feature the work of the political scientist Gordon K. Lewis, a native of Wales who lived and worked in Puerto Rico. Lewis' work shows a commitment to understanding the Caribbean condition and working to bring positive change. His seminal work, **Main Currents in Caribbean Thought** incorporated the entire Caribbean region under common themes and shows how ideas of freedom, resistance and the creation of a new world was central in the shaping of the Caribbean. **Growth of the Modern West Indies** analyses the emergence of modern West Indian politics after the Second World War and leading into independence.

Past conferences have been held in Mona, St Augustine, the University of Cape Town and the University of London and featured the following thinkers and themes: **2001 at Mona:** Sylvia Wynter's critical epistemology, which seeks to rethink the meaning of modernity and the possibilities for radical change; **2002 St. Augustine:** George Padmore, the Trinidadian political activist whose work helped to nurture African leaders and set the agenda for African decolonisation following World War 11; **2003 Mona:** George Lamming, leading Caribbean novelist, and critical thinker on Caribbean politics and

society. Kenyan novelist N'gugi wa T'hiongo was the guest speaker; **2004 Mona:** Stuart Hall, the father of cultural studies who has nurtured a generation of influential scholars in the field; **2005 Mona:** New World Group and the founder of the New World Group publications, Trinidadian economist, Lloyd Best whose ideas and activities heavily influenced the discipline of Caribbean political economy both regionally and internationally in the immediate post independence period; **2006 Mona:** Richard Hart, who has written extensively on pre emancipation slave rebellions, the social rebellions of the 1930s and the forming of modern Jamaica; **2007 London, 2008 Mona:** Twin site conferences on Internationalising Black Power; the first, a retrospective analysis of the politics and social impact of the Black Power movement of the Sixties and Seventies; the second on Caribbean dimensions of the movement; **2008 Mona:** Social anthropologist and social theorist Michael Garfield Smith whose research in Nigeria and the Caribbean explored ethnicity, pluralism and the political cohesiveness of societies approaching independence.

Admitting that the CCT conference selections are merely



a starting list, Professor Meeks notes that the Centre intends to have these ideas enter secondary schools.

"We are working on a reader or text book of main Caribbean thinkers that would be pitched at the CSEC and CAPE level that would focus on the key thinkers of the Caribbean, including popular forms such as musical lyrics and religious thought. This would include Revivalism, Rastafarianism and other streams which are important as sites of critical social and political thought. We hope to be a catalyst and stimulate people far outside of our reach to think about these matters." "M

RODEAN WALLACE - AMBASSADOR FOR UWISTAT

The hallmark of a successful university is the extent to which it can forge a sense of attachment or loyalty to the institution among its students. The University of the West Indies is tackling this issue directly with the introduction of an innovative programme aimed at encouraging student loyalty while, at the same time, exploring structured student participation at the advisory level to the Administration. The programme is UWI STAT (UWI Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow) which is being implemented through the combined efforts of the Vice Chancellor's Office, the Alumni Relations arm of the Institutional Advancement Division, the Office of Student Services and Development and the Guild of Students of the three campuses.

According to Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris, who launched the organization in January 2006, the UWI STAT initiative brings young people together to benefit the UWI and the Caribbean region, enabling them to make sound and lasting contributions.

The corps comprises students who are committed to service, leadership, citizenship, and the promotion of Caribbean pride, culture and values. Essentially its function is multi-pronged, bridging the world of the undergraduate with that of the graduate, while also being an invaluable point of contact for the Administration. Members serve as the Vice Chancellor's regional student ambassadors, providing feedback on student life and topical youth issues while working with the alumni chapters of the respective campuses. Through UWI STAT's "Footprints" students for development initiative the present student population is encouraged to be a part the continued development of the respective campus.

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UWI STAT (Mona) has been making considerable progress, having received an award for the Most Improved Society for 2007. Approximately 40 students serve the Mona corps, one such outstanding Ambassador being final year medical student, Rodean Wallace. The 24 year old's natural love for community service and the upliftment of his fellowmen made him an ideal candidate for UWI STAT and the position he now occupies as Vice President.

Wallace's leadership skills were evident from his early years at school as well as at Church. Later, at UWI, as part of an initiative of the A.Z. Preston Hall, Wallace served as President of the Craig Town Executive and led a mentorship programme for the Craig Town inner city. Since 2007, Wallace has served as a UWI STAT Ambassador with special responsibility for alumni and programming. He has also been mandated to promote the UWI as the premier tertiary institution in the region.

"I find that students are very dedicated to their respective halls and I would love for them to display the same dedication in promoting and supporting the UWI even after they graduate," he said passionately.

Through UWI STAT, he has raised HIV/AIDS Awareness among youth. He visits secondary schools and is involved in outreach efforts with the Martha's Home for Children with AIDS, an institution adopted by UWI STAT.

"I enjoy community outreach. I want to do all I can to assist and improve the lives of my fellowmen," he says. Other topical issues such as the Caribbean Single Market Economy (CSME) and Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness are a part of his presentations to schools. Wallace has also traveled to a number of Caribbean islands carrying out his mandate.

For his role as UWI STAT Ambassador he was recently given special recognition by Vice Chancellor Harris and the President of the Corps for his outstanding work. This remarkable Ambassador displays a facility for multi-tasking as he undertakes his various areas of responsibility. This he attributes to Christian discipline and focus.

Wallace's distinguished work at UWI STAT has not gone unnoticed and he has also been appointed Jamaica Youth Ambassador-at-Large (2008-2009) in the Jamaica Youth Ambassadors programme administered by the National Centre for Youth Development which involves service at the local, regional and international levels.

Certainly UWI STAT is empowering young students to make a positive impact on their environment. Wallace and his colleague Ambassadors represent a corps of students who are able to influence their peers and contribute to the campus and the general society in a meaningful way. Many can indeed take pride and draw inspiration from their selfless efforts.

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New Professors



The University of the West Indies is pleased to announce the appointment of five members of staff to the rank of professor: Ivor Crandon, Department of Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, John Lindo, Department of Microbiology, Julie Meeks Gardner, Child Development Centre and Claudette Williams, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures have all been promoted while Peter Figueroa was appointed to the position of Professor in the Department of Community Health & Psychiatry.

IVOR CRANDON Professor of Neurosurgery



Professor Crandon is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh University, Scotland and holds the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from The University of the West Indies where he won the Medal in Medicine and Therapeutics as well as the Bachelor of Science (Hons.) from the University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada where he won the Governor's Medal in Science. He has also received extensive postgraduate training in areas such as microsurgery, neuroendoscopy, brain tumour and trauma surgery, spinal implants and stabilization, advanced trauma life support, neurosurgical critical care, pneumatic instrumentation and research methodology.

Professor Crandon joined the staff of the UWI in 1988 as Lecturer in Surgery and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2001. He also serves as Consultant Neurosurgeon at the University Hospital of the West Indies and is Head of the Department of Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthesia and Intensive Care at UWI, Mona. Prior to these appointments, he was Registrar in Neurosurgery at the Hospital for Sick Children as well as the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, both in London, England, the Institute of Neurological Sciences in Scotland and held the position of Resident at the University Hospital of the West Indies, in Kingston, Jamaica.

As Head of the Department, he led the restructuring and publication of the entire undergraduate programme in Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthesia & Intensive Care and Accident and Emergency Medicine as well as the DM Surgery programme and is University Examiner in surgery.

Ivor Crandon's professional activities have had a significant and recognized positive impact in Neurosurgery in the Caribbean. He has made significant contributions to teaching in the Faculty of Medical Sciences at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. As the only neurosurgeon at the University Hospital for many years, he introduced the Doctor of Medicine (DM) programme in Neurosurgery, graduating some six neurosurgeons.

He also developed the academic programme and was instrumental in expanding the clinical neurosurgical service with the introduction of new technologies and procedures.

Professor Crandon is a Neurosurgeon of international repute and is widely recognized as one of the leading neurosurgeons in the Caribbean, with a record of distinguished original work. He is author of numerous scientific publications, and has presented a large number of papers at scientific meetings on topics related to his areas of special interest. These include neurosurgical trauma and critical care, pituitary surgery and the surgery of meningiomas, which are slow-growing benign tumours that affect the meninges of the brain or spinal cord and may cause serious damage by compression. His publications have focused on common problems encountered in his neurosurgical practice and have significantly impacted the quality of care of patients with head and spinal cord injuries in terms of prevention, education and in the critical care management of such patients. Several of his studies have contributed to the identification of the main causes and consequences of injuries in Jamaica, addressed the critical need for local standards of practice and are important guides for the creation of protocols and training programmes for both neurosurgeons and other health care professionals.

In particular, Professor Crandon's work in pituitary tumours, spinal surgery and neuro-endoscopy has also changed the practice pattern in the management of pituitary disease, spinal conditions and hydrocephalus, the enlargement of the head in infants, thus improving the outcomes and reducing complications in affected patients in the Caribbean.

Ivor Crandon has also contributed significantly to the life of the University, providing leadership and support by participating in a number of University committees at the Faculty and Campus levels. He served as Chairman of the Department's research committee for many years, Finance Manager of the Faculty Research Day Committee, Chairman of the Specialty Board in Surgery, Member of the Editorial Board of the West Indian Medical Journal as well as on the Dean's Advisory Group. As Head of the Department, he led the restructuring and publication of the entire undergraduate programme in Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthesia & Intensive Care and Accident and Emergency Medicine as well as the DM Surgery programme and is University Examiner in surgery.

He also restructured the Specialty Board in Surgery to increase efficiency and effectiveness and included a research component in the DM programme.

Professor Ivor Crandon has an outstanding record of public service and has made major contributions through his membership in various learned societies, including the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the Association of Surgeons in Jamaica, the Medical Association of Jamaica and the Caribbean College of Surgeons. He also sits on numerous boards of management involving medicine, sports, business and charities and is active in the prevention of injuries in schools in Jamaica.

In 2007, the Government of Jamaica recognized his efforts when he was awarded the Order of Distinction, Commander Class, for services to Medicine.

JOHN LINDO Professor of Parasitology



John Lindo, who is also Consultant Parasitologist at the University Hospital of the West Indies, holds the Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Zoology and Chemistry and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Parasite Epidemiology from The University of the West Indies, Mona. He has participated in several international training courses including the WHO advanced course on Immunology, Biotechnology and Vaccinology Applied to Infectious Diseases, the Fogarty International Postdoctoral Fellowship in Advanced Health Sciences; Advanced Laboratory Diagnosis of Parasitic Diseases and Modern Approaches to the Epidemiology and Control of Infectious Diseases.



John Lindo joined the staff of the UWI, Mona in 1991 as a Research Assistant in the Department of Zoology and two years later was appointed Lecturer in the Department of Microbiology. His promotion to Senior Lecturer came in 1999. Professor Lindo has also held other appointments as Visiting Associate Professor at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and as Consultant in Parasitic and Neglected Tropical Diseases in the Communicable Diseases Unit of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Washington DC.

John Lindo has developed a reputation for consistently high quality contributions to the scientific and medical literature as well as to the field of public health. Over the past decade, he has conducted parasitology and tropical medicine studies of great regional importance to the Caribbean. His work has focused on the epidemiology of the human threadworm, *Strongyloides Stercoralis* which infects about three per cent of the population in Jamaica. His research unearthed new information which was previously difficult to obtain due to the low endemicity of the parasite and led to improvement in the method of diagnosing the parasite, a critical breakthrough for those infected by the parasite.

His research unearthed new information...and led to improvement in diagnosing the parasite, a critical breakthrough for those infected by the parasite.

In 2000 he was invited by the Ministry of Health, Jamaica to join a team investigating an outbreak of eosinophilic meningitis among visitors to Jamaica. This work led to the finding that *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, a parasite found in the blood and pulmonary arteries of rats and which causes eosinophilic meningitis in humans was endemic in rats and snails in Jamaica. Subsequent studies in collaboration with colleagues at Mona, Cave Hill and other institutions have led to advances in the diagnosis of infections caused by *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*.

This has obviated the need to send patient samples to Thailand to confirm infections.

Dr. Lindo has also done important work on malaria, a major parasitic disease in the Caribbean, as well as on the

distribution of pathogenic species of the free living amoeba *Acanthamoeba* in water sources associated with human activities such as beaches.

Professor Lindo is an important member of the teaching staff in the Department of Microbiology, where he lectures in both the undergraduate and graduate programmes. His strong academic reputation is evidenced by the large number of scholarships and awards which he has secured including the Principal's Award for the Most Outstanding Research Activity in the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences (2001); Third World Academy of Sciences; Young Scientist of the Year (2002); and the Principal's Best Publication Award in the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences (2001) and the Principal's Best Research Publication Award in the Faculty of Medical Sciences (2008).

Professor Lindo has made a significant contribution to University life. He has served the Faculty of Medical Sciences as Chair of the Organising Committee for the Annual Research Conference and as President of the Senior Common Room Management Committee, improving the facilities and financial management of the Club during his tenure.

He has also enhanced the reputation of the UWI internationally, acting as reviewer for several international scholarly journals and was recently appointed a reviewer for grants from the World Health Organization (WHO) for international operational research in the control of Neglected Tropical Diseases. While on sabbatical leave in 2006, he was attached to the Communicable Diseases Unit at the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) in Washington as a consultant on Parasitic and Neglected Tropical Diseases, assisting in the design and implementation of control and elimination programmes for parasitic and neglected tropical diseases throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

He also has an excellent record of public service, serving as member of the Rotary Club of New Kingston, for which he is now President.

DR. JULIE MEEKS GARDNER

Professor at Child Development Centre, Open Campus



Professor Julie Meeks Gardner holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Agriculture from The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine and the post-graduate Diploma in Nutrition and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Nutrition from The University of the West Indies, Mona. She conducted early research on the activity levels, behavior, and maternal-child interactions among stunted and non-stunted children, and worked on cross-cultural cognitive testing while on a post-doctoral fellowship at Cambridge University in England. Professor Meeks Gardner has also participated in several professional training courses and workshops organized by local and international agencies in the area of nutrition, nutritional epidemiology and anthropology.

Professor Julie Meeks Gardner joined the staff of The University of the West Indies, Mona in 1990 as a Teaching Assistant at the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit (TMRU). She was promoted to Lecturer in 1995 and in 2000 moved to the Epidemiology Research Unit (ERU) another arm of the Tropical Medicine Research Institute (TMRI), where she was made Senior Lecturer in 2002. She moved to her current position as Senior Lecturer and Tutor/ Coordinator, in the Caribbean Child Development Centre in 2004.

As Tutor/ Coordinator, she has been instrumental in fund raising for planning and infrastructural development and has spearheaded the streamlining of research programmes related to specific themes namely: children and violence and HIV/AIDS, and macro-level issues of early child development. She has also strengthened networking systems with national, regional and international agencies.

A major accomplishment under Julie Meeks Gardner's leadership is the development and co-hosting of a regional research conference on children's issues in 2006 and 2007.

Dr. Meeks Gardner has a distinguished record of publication and research in early childhood nutrition and childhood development. She has published three books, five book chapters, and over thirty refereed papers in renowned journals including the Lancet, Child Development, American Journal of Clinical Nutrition and Pan American Journal of Public Health. In addition, she has presented over fifty papers at academic conferences and seminars and numerous papers at other academic lectures and public forums. Professor Meeks Gardner can be credited with almost two decades of research on child nutrition, children and violence and child development. This is exemplified in the groundbreaking research in zinc supplementation and its impact on child morbidity which was instrumental in leading the policy of zinc supplementation for children with diarrhoea now being implemented in several countries. Her distinguished record of pursuing societally relevant research was acknowledged through the award of the Principal's Award for Research with an Impact on Public Policy in 2006 (as part of the Child Development Research Group).

She has also enhanced the reputation of the UWI, by acting as reviewer for several scholarly journals such as Archives of General Psychiatry, American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, European Journal of Clinical Nutrition and West Indian Medical Journal.

Professor Meeks Gardner's expertise is widely sought after as evidenced by the number of notable local and international organizations, including the Ministry of Education, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and Organization of American States (OAS), to which she has given consultation services.

Julie Meeks Gardner has dedicated herself to sharing her expertise through public service at the international, regional and national levels. At the international level, Professor Meeks Gardner serves as Member of the Board of Childwatch International, a network of research organizations, member of the technical committee for the Priority Setting for Health Research in the area of Child Development and a member of the International Steering Committee for Child Development. Regionally she has served since 2005 as the University of the West Indies

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representative on the CARICOM Working Group on Early Childhood. At the national level, she has served as Chairman of the National Food and Nutrition Coordinating Committee and the Advisory Board of the Child Development Agency in addition to being a member of numerous boards and committees on issues related to children nutrition, development and violence, including the Peace Management Initiative. She has also served the University community as foundation Director of the Consortium for Social Research and Development. Her public service extends to participation in several public lectures, workshops and media interviews and articles.

CLAUDETTE WILLIAMS
Professor of Spanish



With this promotion, Professor Claudette Williams has become the first indigenous Professor of Spanish on the Mona Campus.

Professor Williams holds the Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours in Spanish, the Master of Arts in Spanish Literature and the postgraduate Diploma in Spanish Language Education from the UWI, Mona Campus and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree from Stanford University in the United States. She joined the staff of the Mona Campus as Assistant Lecturer in Spanish (1979), was promoted to Lecturer (1982) and Senior Lecturer (1995). Professor Williams has an impressive record as an academic. She has published widely in her field, her research work focusing on themes related to the experience of people of African descent in the literature of the Hispanic Caribbean. Indeed, her single authored book **Charcoal and Cinnamon: The Politics of Color in Spanish Caribbean Literature** broke new ground in Caribbean Literature, and has been referenced internationally in

research on gender and racial politics in Latin America and the Caribbean. Her recent research, which has translated into a solid body of publications, opens a new perspective on nineteenth-century Cuban antislavery narratives. While Afro-Hispanic and Caribbean interests have been dominant, Professor Williams has also pursued research in the wider field of Latin American Literature.

Her scholarly endeavours have not been limited to literary research; in the more technical field of translation, her services have been sought locally and internationally for the dissemination of original Spanish Caribbean texts to an English-speaking readership in both print and online media. A strong administrator, she has served a total of eight years as Head of Department: Spanish (1993 -1996) and Modern Languages & Literatures (1999 - 2004). In that capacity, she initiated and led the curriculum review process, which resulted in the reorientation of language teaching to develop students’ communicative competence, as well as the revamping of the Modern Languages curriculum to give greater flexibility and relevance to the French and Spanish majors. Her strong desire to foster a student-centred departmental culture also led to the implementation of procedures to orient and guide new students, and the adoption of measures to strengthen dialogue between staff and students. As current Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Humanities & Education, she has responsibility for Quality Assurance and Student Matters and oversees the affairs of the Institute of Caribbean Studies.

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Her professional activities have extended to Spanish education in Jamaican and other Caribbean secondary schools. She served as consultant to the Ministry of Education for the production of a Spanish Curriculum for Grades 7-9 under the World Bank-funded Reform of Secondary Education (ROSE) Project and the curriculum has since been adopted by the Jamaican Ministry of Education as the official Spanish Curriculum for these grades. Her invaluable contributions to the development of Curriculum Guides, Teachers Guides and supporting teaching/learning materials have been commended by the Ministry, and the Curriculum and Guides have been

requested by other Commonwealth Caribbean territories for adaptation/adoption in their schools. At another level, she has been Marker Trainer and Syllabus Reviewer for the Caribbean Examinations Council, particularly in relation to the CSEC (O Level) and CAPE (A Level) Secondary examinations.

She is a member of the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages and the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. She is also Member of the Editorial Board, Afro-Hispanic Review, External Examiner in Spanish Literature for the University of Guyana and Peer Reviewer for a number of scholarly journals including the Caribbean Quarterly, the Inter-American Review of Bibliography, Afro-Hispanic Review and the UWI Press.

PETER FIGUEROA
Professor of Public Health,
Epidemiology, HIV AIDS



Dr. J Peter Figueroa, has been appointed to the position of Professor of Public Health, Epidemiology and HIV/ AIDS in the Department of Community Health and Psychiatry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, for a period of five years, with effect from October 15, 2008. In this capacity, he will be responsible for starting a regional Doctoral training programme in Public Health which is expected to benefit all the countries which contribute to the regional institution.

Professor Figueroa received the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Physiology, the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MMBS) with Distinction in Pathology and Microbiology and Honours in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Anatomy, and a Diploma in Public Health with Distinction from The University of the West Indies, Mona. He also holds the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree from the University of London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and has kept abreast of innovations in the field by participating in regional and international workshops, conferences and technical committees.

He has guided Jamaica’s response in a way that has affirmed the rights of those living with HIV and those most at risk significantly reduced the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS and raised sensitive policy issues for the society to consider.

Professor Peter Figueroa has been associated with the UWI, Mona in varying capacities since 1978, including serving as Associate Lecturer in the Department of Social and Preventative Medicine and later as Honorary Fellow of Tropical Medicine Research Institute, and Honorary Professor, Epidemiology and HIV/ AIDS. He comes to this new position after a distinguished record of service in the Public Health sector in Jamaica in particular, and in the Caribbean region in general.

Over the past 30 years, Professor Figueroa has had a significant impact on Public Health in Jamaica, especially in the field of HIV/AIDS, the control of communicable diseases, health research and the translation of research into health programs and policy. He is recognized as an international expert in his field and as a leading public health practitioner in the Caribbean.

He headed the response to the HIVAIDS epidemic in Jamaica for some 20 years. Under his leadership the National HIV/STI control program in Jamaica is recognized as an international success. He has guided Jamaica’s

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response in a way that has affirmed the rights of those living with HIV and those most at risk significantly reduced the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS and raised sensitive policy issues for the society to consider. He has mobilized considerable grant funds from international agencies to support HIV control in Jamaica including two Global Fund grants worth US\$67million.

He has also had a significant impact on improving the health of Jamaicans by establishing the foundations of the national surveillance system in Jamaica, heading the Epidemiology Unit for many years and leading or contributing to many disease control initiatives and health programs. He has also made a significant contribution to public health in the Caribbean and internationally through his participation on numerous technical advisory committees of WHO, PAHO, UNAIDS, CHRC and PANCAP.

Professor Figueroa has written or co-authored over 100 research papers in peer reviewed journals on HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and a range of public health topics. He has led the study of the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS in Jamaica and used his research to guide the development of the national response to the epidemic. In 1988, he established the Epidemiology Research & Training Center where many of the studies are conducted including, since

2006, HIV vaccine trials as part of an international effort to identify an effective preventive vaccine against HIV. His exceptional contribution to public service was publicly acknowledged in 2008 when the Government of Jamaica conferred on him the Order of Jamaica for outstanding service in the field of Epidemiology and development of HIV/ AIDS awareness and development programmes. Other prizes and awards for this contribution include National AIDS Committee Chairman's Award (2007), Gleaner Award for Health (2004), PAHO "Jamaican Hero of Health" for outstanding contribution to the health of the people of Jamaica (2002).

Professor Figueroa has a strong commitment to public service and has served as Chief Medical Officer, as Chairman, Pesticides Control Authority, and a member of several Boards of Directors. He is currently on the WHO International Health Regulations Roster of Experts (Poliomyelitis), the UNAIDS Reference Group on HIV Prevention, the Global HIV Prevention Working Group and the WHO Advisory Committee on Polio Eradication. He is also a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health (UK), a member of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and a Founding Member of the Caribbean Public Health Association and the Caribbean College of Family Physicians. 

Testosterone study shatters stereotype of part-time dads


Continued from page 31

"This is really new work in terms of parenting and hormones, and this is why it was such an interesting project, she said.

It is also anticipated that the project, which was published in the November 2007 issue of the journal, Hormones and Behaviour and also featured in a segment of Testosterone Factor, on the National Geographic Channel in February this year, is going to trigger even more research around the world. According to Professor Samms Vaughan," The impact of exogenous testosterone use by males on the fathering process is an area for further research. Additionally, there is the potential for a combination of sociological and biochemical methods for measuring the fathering process. A potentially controversial application of the research findings would be prescription of drugs to reduce testosterone levels in order to make men better fathers."

Next on the agenda for Professor Samms Vaughan and her colleagues is a study on grandmothers who parent grandchildren, and how this impacts on their hormones. Fifty women, who are post menopausal, will be selected to participate.

"The hormone level in these women would normally have fallen, and we are wondering whether their hormone levels are actually higher than grandmothers who are not grandmothering. We are taking the research into biochemical aspects of parenting further," she says.

Professor Samms-Vaughan has been researching parenting, child development and behaviour for more than two decades, starting out with her appointment as Research Officer to the Jamaican Perinatal Mortality and Morbidity Survey in 1988. 

Highlights from Research Day 2008



OUTSTANDING RESEARCHERS:
ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF RESEARCH DAY WAS THE PRESENTATION OF THE PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS FOR RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT, INCLUDING THE OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER IN EACH FACULTY. HERE, THE 2007-2008 AWARDEES POSE WITH THEIR AWARDS: (L-R) DR. MINERVA THAME, DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS, GYNAECOLOGY & CHILD HEALTH, DR. JOHN BEWAJI, DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS & PHILOSOPHY, PROFESSOR ALEXANDRA RODKINA FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, AND DR. DENSIL WILLIAMS, DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES.



A SECTION OF THE AUDIENCE AT THE BREAKFAST FORUM WHICH HIGHLIGHTED WAYS IN WHICH THE UWI, MONA WAS ASSISTING PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES TO FIND TECHNOLOGY-BASED SOLUTIONS TO VARIOUS PROBLEMS



MANAGING DIRECTOR OF JAMAICA NATIONAL EARL JARRETT, GIVING EXAMPLES OF HIS COMPANY'S COLLABORATION WITH MONA GEOINFORMATICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCES



VISITORS TO THE RESEARCH DAY EXHIBITION RECEIVED PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATIONS OF WORK UNDERWAY IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS



COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, REAR ADMIRAL HARDLEY LEWIN, POSES A QUESTION DURING THE SUE COBB LECTURE: THE POTHOLED ROAD AHEAD: EXAMINING SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE THE MURDER RATE IN JAMAICA' DELIVERED BY DR. HERBERT GAYLE, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIAL WORK ON RESEARCH DAY



DR. MICHAEL PONNAMBALAM, SENIOR LECTURER IN THE DEPT OF PHYSICS, DEMONSTRATES SOME OF THE EXPERIMENTS THAT CAN BE CONDUCTED IN THE NEW VIRTUAL LABORATORY



DIRECTOR OF THE MONA GEOINFORMATICS INSTITUTE, DR. PARRIS LYEW AYEE, JR. (LEFT) EXPLAINS TO THIS DRIVER HOW THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) NAVIGATION PRODUCT CAN MEET THE NEEDS OF DRIVERS ACROSS JAMAICA


The Mona GeoInformatics Institute (MGI) at UWI, Mona launched the first Global Positioning System (GPS) Navigation product in Jamaica at the Senior Common Room, UWI, Mona on March 5, 2009. Director of Mona GeoInformatics Institute, Dr. Parris Lyew-Ayee, Jr. noted that the launch of the GPS Navigation in Jamaica brings Jamaica on par with other countries such as the United States. He said the system would be especially useful to the members of the diplomatic community, the transportation sector and rental car companies which could all reap benefits from the GPS Navigation.

The MGI GPS Navigation is designed to meet a wide range of navigational needs by providing a detailed dataset of over 10,000 km of navigable roads including major highways, principal highways, arterial roads, residential roads and alleys in Jamaica. It also highlights over 10,000 points of interests in 69 categories including gas stations, airports, banking/ finance services, entertainment locations, schools, shopping centres,

hotels, police station, transportation centres and utilities. The GPS Navigation is ideal for the average road user as it allows calculation of faster/shorter routes and alternative routes in the event of a road block while allowing the user never to get lost, thereby saving time and money and reducing security risks related to getting lost.

Dr. Lyew-Ayee emphasized the need to use the GPS Navigation responsibly while driving to ensure personal safety and the safety of others.

The GPS Unit is distributed locally by GARMIN, but users have the option of loading the basic or premium data to their own unit.

The Mona GeoInformatics Institute is a subsidiary of UWI, Mona specializing in providing technical and analytical information technology services to UWI, the private and public sector. 

Mona School of Business to Implement Innovative Diagnostic Tool for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses




PRINCIPAL OF THE UWI, MONA, PROFESSOR GORDON SHIRLEY (LEFT) IN CONVERSATION WITH MR. MICHAEL APEL, (RIGHT) SENIOR TRUST FUND AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE AT THE INTER-AMERICAN INVESTMENT CORPORATION(IIC) AND PROFESSOR EVAN DUGGAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MONA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AT THE LAUNCH OF THE FINPYME, AN IIC PROGRAMME TO INCREASE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF SMALL-AND MEDIUM-SIZE ENTERPRISES.

Speaking at the FINPYME launch, Principal of the UWI, Mona Professor Gordon Shirley, said that the partnership between the IIC and the MSB is a signal of the University's commitment to address core problems associated with the development of the country and the region. He said it reflected the UWI's initiative to bridge the gap between members of the donor community and the local business community.

Deputy General Manager of the IIC's Mr. Steven Reed, noted that the partnership with the Mona School of Business was critical to the IIC's efforts to work with the local business community. He said that

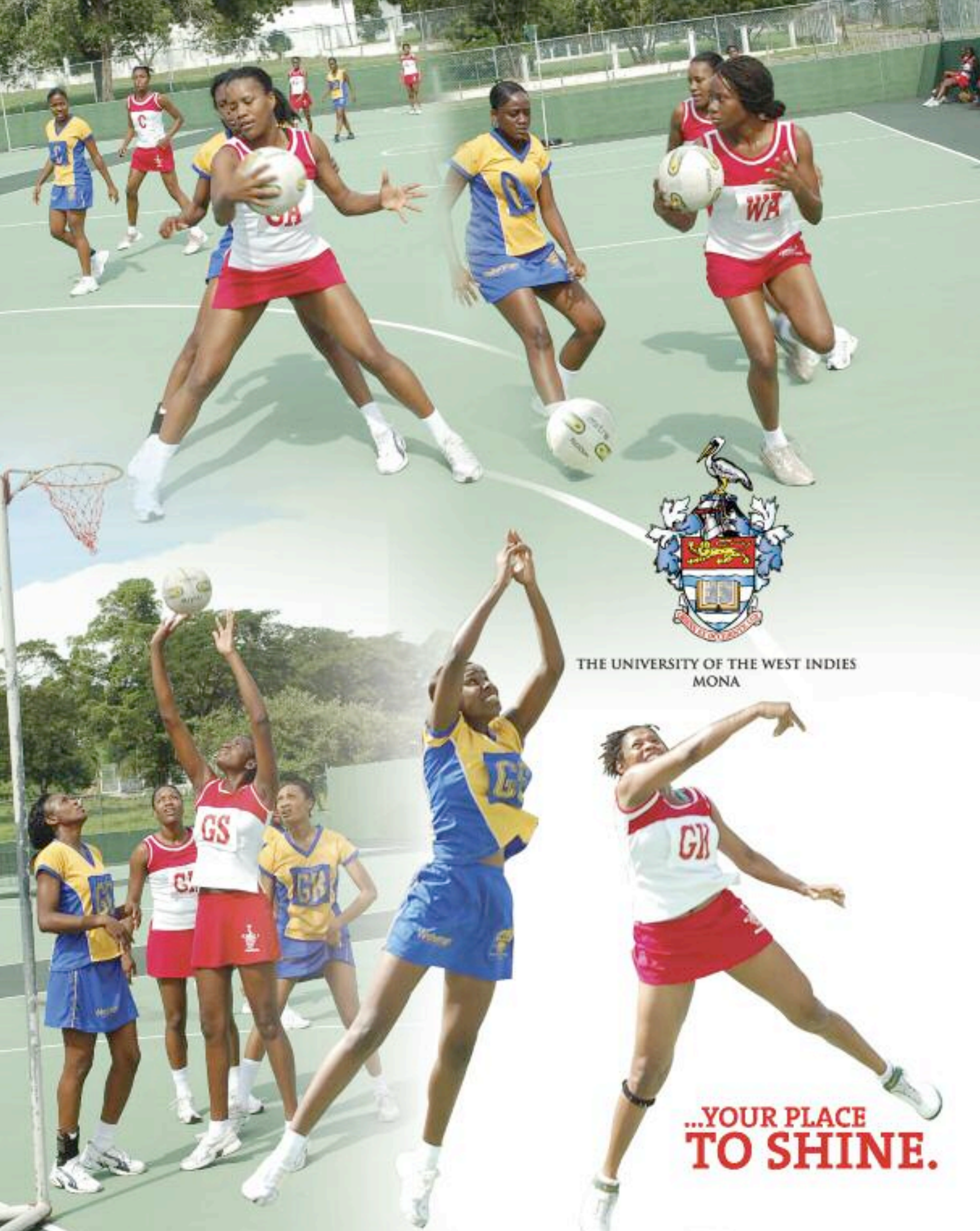
the MSB staff had been trained to carry out the diagnostic reviews of participating companies and to gauge their competitiveness. He added that the programme was being launched in Jamaica, and would also be launched in The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize and Trinidad and Tobago.

Keynote speaker at the ceremony was Minister of Finance, the Hon. Audley Shaw, who expressed the Government's full support for the programme. He noted that the FINPYME programme would focus on companies with export potential, those involved in import substitution and companies which had the potential to create linkages with other sectors of the economy.

Most of the funding for the FINPYME programme is being provided by the government of South Korea, with additional contribution from Austria. Companies that wish to participate in FINPYME should have been operating for at least three years and meet certain other established criteria. Further information may be obtained from Dr. Lawrence Nicholson, Mona School of Business, telephone (876) 977-7174 or email: lawrence.nicholson@uwimona.edu.jm 

Small and medium size enterprises (SME's) in Jamaica may now access an innovative diagnostic tool which will evaluate their operations to determine the factors which positively or negatively affect their ability to create wealth and employment. The tool will also help the SMEs to improve their competitiveness while facilitating their access to potential sources of financing. The diagnostic tool, FINPYME, is being implemented by the Inter American Investment Corporation (IIC), in partnership with the Mona School of Business at The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. It was launched at a ceremony held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Monday, March 2, 2009.

FINPYME, a Spanish acronym for Innovative Financing for SME's, offers diagnostic reviews based on a set of indicators that evaluate all management, operational and financial areas, identify where companies need to improve and define action plans to boost their competitiveness. In addition, the diagnostic reviews assess companies for potential eligibility for financing from the IIC or other financial institutions.



"Members of the UWI Mona Female Netball team which placed first in the Inter Collegiate Competition in 2008/2009"