



NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA CAMPUS

MAY 2011





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**UWI'S MISSION**  
THE ENDURING MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES IS TO PROPEL THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF WEST INDIAN SOCIETY THROUGH TEACHING, RESEARCH, INNOVATION, ADVISORY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, AND INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP.

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Cover photo: Dr. Dayne Buddo underwater with lionfish.

## INSIDE

### 3 Message from the Principal

#### MONA NEWS

- 5 New Programmes at Mona
- 6 Lionfish threatening Caribbean
- 10 The Changing Face of Mona
- 14 Infusing Biodiversity into Teacher Education

#### STUDENT NEWS

- 16 Reaching Out to Generation Y
- 16 Calculating Future Risks – Actuarial Scholarships Awarded
- 35 Identifying Talented Youth

#### NEW PROFESSOR

- 19 Mark Figueroa

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

- 18 Feeding the Scholarly Mind
- 20 Marcia Roye – In the Footsteps of Marie Curie
- 21 Paul Aiken – Elevated to Fellow, IEEE
- 21 Elizabeth Thomas-Hope – Elected to Christensen Fellowship

#### NEWS PICTORIAL

- 22 Japan Day at Mona
- 22 UWI LEADS
- 23 China donates books to Confucius Institute
- 24 UWI Township – Basic School Champs
- 24 Child Rights Conference

#### PROFILE

- 29 Krystal Tomlinson & the Debating Society

#### UWI NEWS

- 30 Vice Chancellor Named ACU Chairman
- 30 UWI Signs MOU with ACS
- 31 New PVC appointed for Planning
- 32 Regional Icons to Receive Honorary Degrees
- 33 Senior Managers Reappointed

## PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

# A SOLUTIONS-ORIENTED MIND-SET



If we should ask ourselves, what is the key ingredient that leads to innovation, we would unhesitatingly answer, creativity. It is this quality that, as administrators, we seek out in selecting those who will lead this University in its mission to find solutions to the myriad challenges facing us as a nation and region in our march towards economic sustainability. Jamaica is not short on creativity. Our successes in the international arena in music, art, dance, medicine, sports and the like attest to our potential, as a people, to apply similar creative approaches to the solutions of our economic problems. So it is that, in building the capacity of the Mona Campus to help fuel national economic development, we must direct the creative energy of our academic and administrative colleagues towards finding solutions to the challenges that, as a Campus, we face.

This issue of MONA highlights some of the creative approaches that we have adopted in helping to solve some of our nation and region’s development challenges. Creative leaders in the Faculties of Humanities & Education, Medical Sciences, Pure & Applied Sciences and Social Sciences have engineered new programmes that are driven by national development imperatives, but that also have work-readiness built in them so that our graduates may hit the ground running as they enter the workplace. To address the importance of environmental protection and sustainability, the Institute of Education has revamped its teacher education curriculum, incorporating biodiversity education as a major component in the new one. Also, in relation to threats to our country’s marine life, significant research work has been undertaken at our Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory to successfully find solutions to the recent lion fish infestation in our waters. No doubt the related article will fascinate you.

One of our major challenges as a University is how to make our vast intellectual resources available to the many students desiring them. Our decision to invest in new state-of-the art facilities to allow expansion of student intake in the Faculties of Law and Medicine, addresses the problem of lack of access in these disciplines. What is more, though, in determining that a sizeable proportion of the programmes that we offer in these Faculties are self-financing, guarantees that we are able to confront the financial constraints that would otherwise have



prevented expansion of access on such a large scale, and within such a short time frame. What this means is that our Medical Faculty will be able to train the full range of health care professionals and clinical specialists, thereby ensuring that good health care is available throughout the region. The expanded Law Faculty will be able to play an increasingly vital role in industries that are at the forefront of economic development – industries such as tourism and hospitality, music and entertainment, media, sports and agriculture. Other Faculties and disciplines on the Mona Campus view the model adopted by the Law and medical Faculties as a template for the way forward in this uncertain economic climate.

I am especially proud, however, of the creative approaches that our faculty have adopted in seeking to solve the worrying problems of inadequate math and science education in our primary and secondary schools. This issue of MONA captures



Animation is being used as an approach to teaching computer science



New facilities allow expansion of student intake and address the problem of access in the Faculties of Law and Medicine

pictorially some of Mona's outreach activities in this regard. Creative ways of engaging young people's interest in the sciences are replete throughout the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences. Of particular interest is Dr. Ashley Hamilton-Taylor's approach to teaching computer science through the use of animation. The article on the recent function to celebrate winners in the animation competition that Dr. Hamilton-Taylor held exposes students' appreciation of, and heightened engagement in learning when they can themselves be creatively involved. It is their testament that strengthens my resolve to continue to seek out the creative talents in academia and administration to direct the future of this University in seeking solutions to our development challenges.



Gordon Shirley  
Principal and Pro Vice Chancellor

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPERATIVES DRIVE NEW PROGRAMMES

UWI, Mona has continued efforts to upgrade its slate of programmes to satisfy student demand which is itself driven by market needs and national development imperatives. Some of the new programmes are:

**BSc in Information Technology** – aims to address the needs of Caribbean organizations for professionals who are able to work effectively at planning, implementing, configuring and maintaining an organization's IT assets. Graduates will possess the relevant expertise to hold managerial positions in Information Technology or pursue research in the field.

**BSc in Electronics Engineering** – designed to respond to industry demands for employees with technical skills in telecommunication and industrial instrumentation

**BSc in Tropical Horticulture** – preparing persons with the skills required for cultivation of fruit, vegetable and root crops, ornamental plants, as well as for employing new farming techniques, such as green house and other types of protected agriculture

**BA in Entertainment and Cultural Enterprise Management** – aimed at producing innovative industry leaders who understand the convergence of media, information technology and culture within the local and global contexts

**BA in Digital Media Production** – equipping students with modern skills for today's media and communication market

**BEd in Primary Maths and Science** – developed by the School of Education in collaboration with the UWI Open Campus in response to the request from the Grenadian Government to build this capacity in Grenada.



New lines of professional training in nursing, other fields now available

### MEDICAL SCIENCES

New and increased lines of professional training in nursing, medicine, public health and the forensic sciences are now available through the Faculty of Medical Sciences. Some programmes are being delivered using online and face to face modalities. The MSc in Applied Pharmacology programme will provide students with theoretical and practical background for effective careers in pharmacology science, such as medical representatives, clinical research assistants, pre-clinical research assistant, pharmaceutical marketing, pharmaceutical safety and pharmaceutical regulatory affairs.

The DM programmes ensure that specialists in the full range of medical disciplines are found throughout the Caribbean and the rural areas of Jamaica while the School of Nursing (UWISON) continues to play an important role in ensuring that nurses throughout the region are upgraded to the Bachelor's level through its online nursing programme.

### AGRICULTURE

The Faculty of Pure & Applied Sciences has introduced new programmes

aimed at fuelling the developing agriculture sector. Graduate students in the Department of Life Sciences may now pursue the **MSc programme in Entrepreneurship in Agriculture** being offered jointly with the Faculty of Social Sciences. An Agro-processing programme is also being developed.

### WEEKEND INITIATIVE


The Faculty of Social Sciences' Weekend Initiative caters to the growing number of persons who are unable to pursue degree programmes during the regular work week. Available programmes are: the **BSc in Banking and Finance** and the **BSc Management Studies (Accounting)**. The **BSc Management Studies (General)** has also been introduced.

### NEW COURSES

A range of interesting new courses will also be delivered within existing undergraduate programmes. They include *The Theory and Practice of Restorative Justice* which seeks to strengthen the Campus's criminology offerings, Level 11 courses in electronics and revamped Materials Science, Alternative Energy and Medical Physics courses.

The Institute of Caribbean Studies is also introducing four new courses: *Music in World Cultures*; *Popular Musics of the Caribbean*; *A History of Jazz and the Blues* and *Bob Marley and His Music*.

### CATERING TO THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

The Social Work Unit in the Department of Sociology has introduced a new undergraduate course in Disability Studies. This involves several innovative experiential techniques, including simulating a selected disability for a day and making recommendations about improving university access for students with disabilities. Some of the recommendations have already been implemented in the Faculty. 



STEMMING THE TIDE OF THE

# Lionfish Invasion

To say that Jamaica has a problem with the lionfish is to put it mildly. These vividly coloured fish with their venomous elongated dorsal spines have been increasing exponentially in the island's marine habitats.



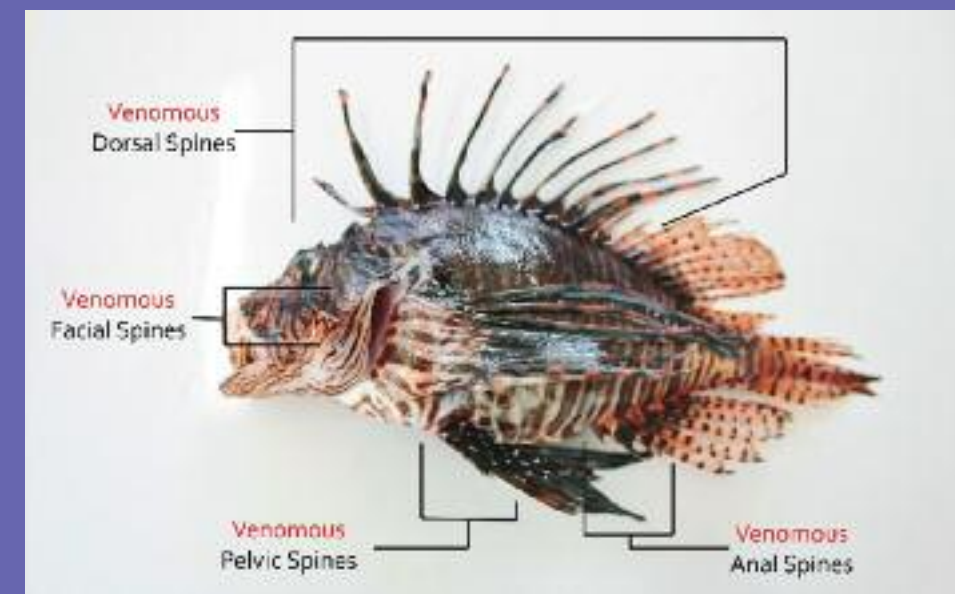
Dr. Buddo surveys a reef for lionfish

The lionfish is native to the Indian and Pacific Oceans. In the late 80s and 90s, marine aquaria enthusiasts mainly in the USA imported the fish for their homes and offices. However for various reasons, the fish were later released into canals and seas and 'set free'. Since then, they have made their way along the east coast of the USA, the Bahamas, Hispaniola, Cuba, Jamaica and many other countries in the Caribbean.

The lionfish is regarded as highly invasive in the Caribbean because of its adverse effects on other local fish stock. As a 'sit and wait' predator, it has the proclivity to gobble up large quantities of juvenile fish that come into its path, thereby assisting in the displacement of different levels of the food chain by taking out some of the supply.

The very presence of the fish in Jamaica's already degraded local reefs negatively impacts the economy, specifically fisheries, and also public health and tourism, given the propensity of the fish to inflict painful puncture wounds. The situation is aggravated by the fact that the lionfish reproduces all year round in the Caribbean (every four days). A female lionfish is capable of producing two million eggs each year.

The National Lionfish Management Project in Jamaica was developed as a definitive response to the growing quandary. Led by UWI, Mona through its newly formed Marine Invasive Species Lab at the Discovery Bay Marine Lab, the project is funded by the Global Environment Facility, Government of Jamaica and UWI



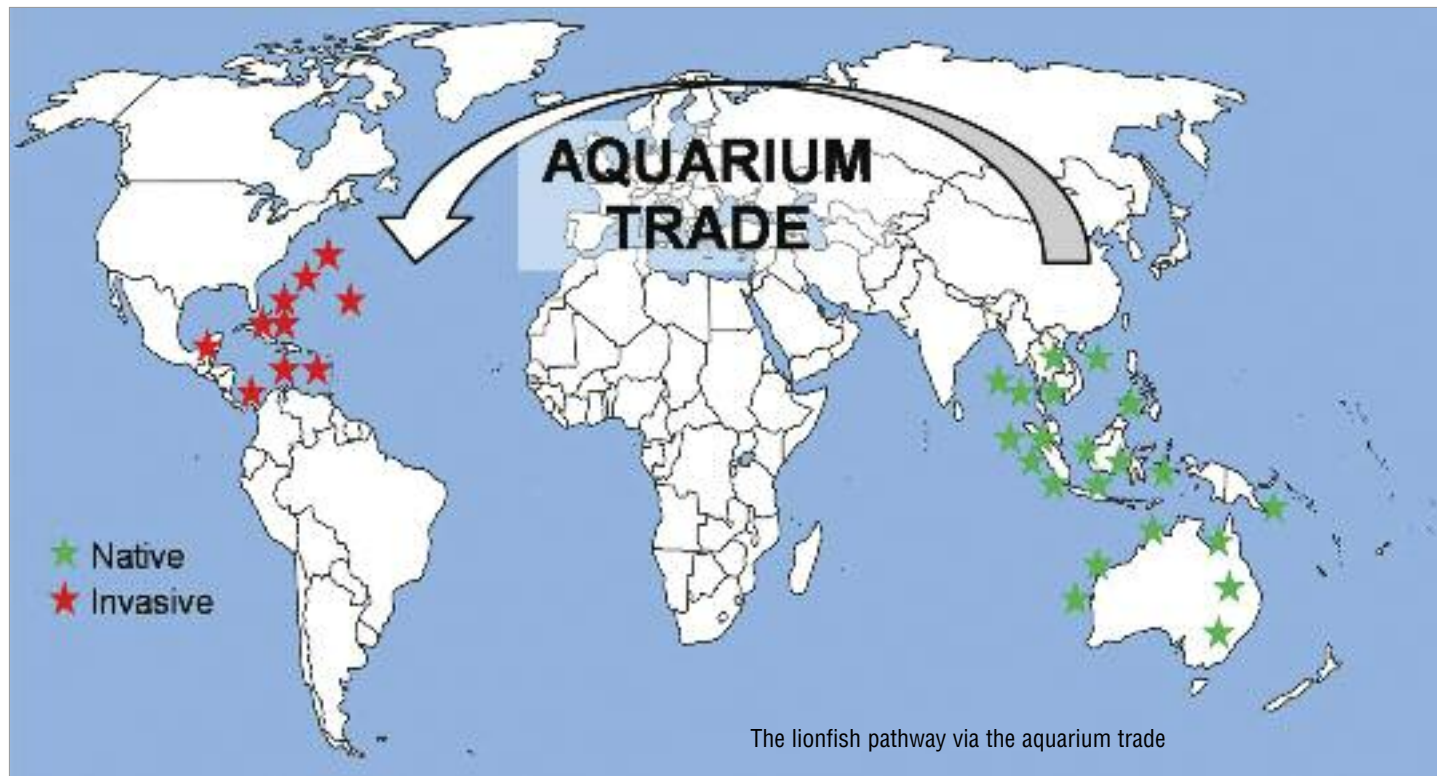
The venomous spines of the lionfish

among other entities to the tune of US\$431,000, and is administered by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA). Principal Investigator is Lecturer and Academic Coordinator at the UWI Discovery Bay Marine Lab, Dr. Dayne Buddo.

According to Dr. Buddo the project has several objectives: tracking the lionfish invasion through underwater surveys island wide; documenting the impacts through predation of native fish; designing a trap capable of catching lionfish; and, formulating a management plan for Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean region.

The Marine Invasive Species Lab, the only one of its kind in CARICOM, buttresses the ambitious lionfish management programme, as it is home to the research component of the Project, which also focuses on ballast water management. Other research projects include population tracking island wide; analyses of prey consumed by the lionfish, design of special traps for lionfish; analyses of the genetics of the population; biology and ecology of the Lionfish larvae; impacts of the lionfish on artificial reefs; impacts on local pot fishing and formulation of management plan.






coastline with minimal input. Collaborating closely with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the USA, Dr. Buddo says that there are plans to use a similar design to that of fish traps being used currently. "We are now in the process of collating data from the existing fish traps, which have also been trapping lionfish and trying to figure out what is attracting them to these traps," he says. The results from the collation of this data, which is expected to conclude in August 2011, will be applied in the building of the trap.


Other research data collected so far indicate that the lionfish is not showing any preference to species it consumes. Examinations of the contents of the stomachs of lionfish have found 15 different species of reef fish such as parrot, snappers and doctor fish, wrasses, grunts and chromis as well as crustaceans including crabs and shrimp. This means that there is also need to monetarily quantify the impact of the lionfish. This quantification according to Dr. Buddo should be known by September.

Then there is the impending fall publication of the Lionfish Management Handbook, of which UWI is co-author with NOAA and the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) among other partners. Dr. Buddo describes this manual as a plan of action based on information compiled regarding activities pursued in controlling the lionfish population. "This guide speaks to legislation, regulations, research, strategies for removal, policy and public education

through activities such as workshops and tournaments organized to remove the lionfish," he further explains. The Handbook will be available free of cost to all coastal managers across the wider Caribbean.

Overall, the success of the management programme hinges on striking up and maintaining partnerships with government and non-government entities. This is borne out in the recent establishment of a Lionfish Committee, which is comprised of various stakeholders from the government and private sector. This effort is being further pursued through extensive training, which will build capacity. The process includes teaching people including fishermen, NEPA staff and other government agencies that are in the field, hotel staff and diving operators to employ special techniques to minimize the risk of persons being stung. "Even a dead lionfish can sting, so we train persons how to remove them from the reef and how to prepare them for cooking," Dr. Buddo explains, while noting that the consumption of lionfish was catching on with the public.


The UWI, Mona, through its Discovery Bay Marine Lab, is fast emerging as one of the leading authorities on lionfish in the region. In fact many countries are now looking to UWI to conduct research as well as training in their countries. The Dominican Republic, St. Kitts, Antigua and St. Lucia have recently made requests for training and technical cooperation. 



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# THE CHANGING FACE OF MONA

Speak to anyone who has ever visited the UWI, Mona Campus in its more than 60 years of existence and mention will likely be made of its beautiful Queen's Way entrance leading up to the Campus' iconic Senate Building, set against majestic blue tinged hills. That's one of the few things that has remained constant about Mona. A quiet transformation is taking place as the Campus upgrades its facilities as part of an initiative to create an environment that encourages learning and positive student interaction and experience.

A major development is the new facility which opened in January 2011 to accommodate an expansion in Law and related programmes. Since August 2009, persons entering the Faculty of Law have had different options for pursuing the three year Bachelor of Law (LLB) degree programme full time. The entire degree may now be pursued at the Mona Campus, or persons may complete the first year of the degree programme at Mona or the UWI Mona Western Jamaica Campus. Years two or three may be completed at Mona or at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados.

The four interlocking buildings, which surround a courtyard area, are an attractive addition to the Campus. The three- and four-storey facility houses classroom and tutorial rooms, lecture theatres, administrative offices, a Law library and student spaces. The fourth level is mainly dedicated to students and for faculty outdoor social events.

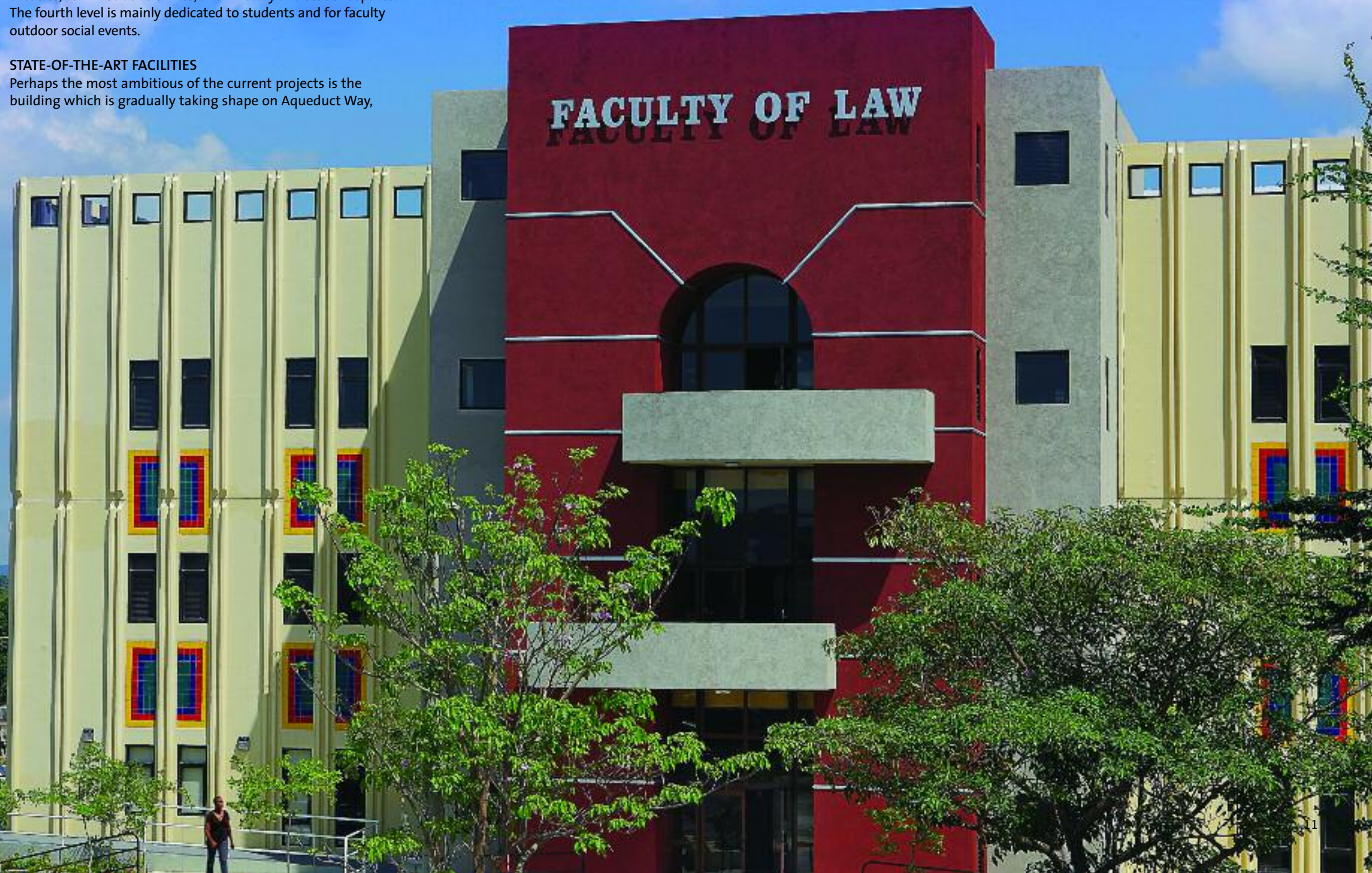
## STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

Perhaps the most ambitious of the current projects is the building which is gradually taking shape on Aqueduct Way,

across the road from the Mona School of Business. When completed, the building will house "state of the art" facilities for the Department of Basic Medical Sciences.

The Department provides the foundation required for students reading for the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery

(MB, BS) and Dentistry. It also prepares students for nursing and physical therapy degrees. Currently, each section of the department is housed in various buildings throughout the Mona Campus. The new construction will bring together the department's various sections: Anatomy, Biochemistry, Physiology and Pharmacology, which also includes the BB Med Sci.







The new Basic Medical Sciences building takes shape

There will also be provision for a department of Physical Therapy as well as facilities for provision of forensic DNA. Each discipline will have its own floor/ wing with access to shared facilities as well as an Administrative wing.

The massive 218,858 sq.foot building will house a large 500-seat lecture theatre, two medium sized (300-seat) lecture theatres as well as two small (150-seat) lecture theatres. In addition there will be twenty (20) tutorial rooms to accommodate 25 students each, seminar rooms, a large computer laboratory to house 100 workstations, and a large reading room / library. Provision is also being made for an Undergraduate Student Lounge as well as a Graduate and Academic Lounge, both with audio/visual amenities.

#### STUDENT HOUSING


Housing has long been recognised as a challenge on the Mona Campus with only 2000 spaces available for its 14,000-

strong student population. Against that background, construction has begun on two new halls of residence, one on grounds behind the existing Taylor and Irvine Halls of Residence, which will have rooms for 600 undergraduate students, and the other on Gibraltar Hall Road, across from the Old Library, which will provide accommodation for 400 postgraduate students.

#### MAJOR RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY

Led by the Campus Projects Office, Mona has upgraded its Mona Bowl for Sporting Excellence, adding the UWI/Usain Bolt Regupol track and improved facilities for a number of sporting activities. Major renovations have been carried out in the Department of Mathematics, renovations are underway in the Medical Library and the recently opened Confucius Institute, the first of its kind in the English-speaking Caribbean, encourages dissemination and learning of the Chinese Language and culture.

The Campus Projects Office is also upgrading other areas. In continuing recognition of the need for a facility to support the University's graduate research and teaching programme, a Postgraduate Learning Commons has been established in the Science Library, similar to one which opened at the Main Library in 2009. The PGLC-Science Branch boasts a teaching/computer lab, four group study rooms, a conference room, and a reading and lounge area. Post-graduate students also have access to nine refurbished study carrels on the middle floor of the Library.

The Campus has also constructed a 42-seat computer lab in the Science Library, increasing computer access for the undergraduate population. Located on the ground floor, the lab offers access to the Library's wide array of electronic services and information resources that are indispensable in developing globally competitive graduates. 



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# Infusing Biodiversity into Teacher Education



Dr. Marceline Collins-Figueroa

Educate trainee teachers across disciplines on the link between biological diversity and the preservation of all life forms. Guide the trainees so they will incorporate lessons about activities which threaten the survival of ecosystems and the critical need for biodiversity conservation into the education of their students.

This was the vision which motivated Dr. Marceline Collins-Figueroa of the Institute of Education to respond to a call from the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) for project proposals on biodiversity education. The result was the Biodiversity Teacher Education Project, a collaborative effort between the Institute /Joint Board of Teacher Education (JBTE) and the Jamaica Environment Trust. The project centred on exposing students at eight teachers' colleges to different aspects of biodiversity education: St Joseph's Teachers' College, Mico University College, Shortwood Teachers' College, Moneague College, Sam Sharpe Teachers' College, Bethlehem Moravian College, College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE), Church Teachers' College and

the Edna Manley College for the Visual and Performing Arts. It targeted trainee teachers enrolled in early childhood and primary education programmes in keeping with an objective to begin exposing young children to the importance of environmental protection and sustainability.

The ambitious 3-year project was geared towards infusing biodiversity content into subjects across the curriculum being taught in teachers' colleges. The main objective was to educate a more environmentally knowledgeable and sensitive teacher in every subject.

"It is very important to have a rich biodiversity as there are many benefits. It supports humans not only with food, fuels and medicine but through the provision of other services, such as climate control and the regulation of disease. We get so much from nature, there are aesthetic, spiritual, educational and recreational aspects," Dr. Collins-Figueroa said.

The lecturer is keen for students to learn about the life forms existing in Jamaica, which is regarded as the world's fifth most diverse island in the world because of the array of endemic plants. Jamaica's delicately balanced land and aquatic ecosystems feature life forms found in forests, caves, coral reefs, rivers and on dry savannahs such as those found on the island's South Coast. Through the study of biodiversity, students are educated about endangered species, plants, and animals in marine and land ecosystems. They also learn that healthy ecosystems determine the frequency and impact of floods and other disasters, the richness of the soil and sustainability of forests, necessary to protect watershed areas and to prevent land slippage.

## CROSS-CURRICULAR APPROACH

At the core of the project was the determination to involve as many disciplines as possible in biodiversity education. Dr. Collins-Figueroa explained that while biodiversity is taught in the science curriculum and to some extent in social studies, the project presented an opportunity to adopt a cross-curricular approach where student teachers would be guided to incorporate biodiversity into lesson plans and classroom activities of other subjects. This approach resulted in integration of biodiversity into the teaching of subjects such as Language Arts, Music and Mathematics.

At Bethlehem Moravian College, the entire batch of first year students participated in conducting a survey in Malvern, St Elizabeth, on the use of medicinal herbs. This laid the foundation for research on the range and diversity of herbs actually used by people in the community. Church Teachers' College started a vegetable garden for their action project. Educators at CASE studied and nurtured birds with the long term plan to open a bird sanctuary. Again the focus was on the cross curricular approach, resulting in activities such as an all-college debate on environmental topics organized by the Language Arts and Social Studies lecturers.

A butterfly garden, which featured the Swallowtail Butterfly, was attempted at Edna Manley College for the Visual and Performing Arts. The environmental club that was formed developed a shade house which housed two species of the endemic butterfly along with host plants. The idea was to use the theme of the butterfly for curriculum development work in the art and dance schools. Students were required to write lesson plans and create

teaching aids based on the theme to highlight the vulnerability of the butterfly.

Another interesting effort was seen at Moneague College which developed an action plan to restore sections of the famous Fern Gully landmark. Students erected a shade house to be used for the resuscitation and propagation of ferns. The college worked closely with botanists from the Institute of Jamaica to identify ferns for propagation. The college's environmental club, a direct result of the biodiversity project, focused on improving the environmental ambiance of the campus. The multi-disciplinary approach was maintained with biodiversity education being infused into the first-year primary education curriculum.

Projects also included an herbal garden created at Shortwood Teachers' College and efforts to transform the grounds at Sam Sharpe Teachers' College into a nature park. Students across disciplines at St Joseph's Teachers' College were involved in laying out vegetable beds and the development of a compost heap. Students enrolled in the early childhood programme started taking tyre gardens out to practice schools to expose small children to the wonders and possibilities of the environment.

Completed in 2008, the Biodiversity in Education Project has facilitated different kinds of assessment strategies and ongoing research and experimentation in new teaching techniques which help to determine how students are learning in real world authentic situations. Critically, the cross-curricular approach has been maintained in action projects undertaken by the teacher training institutions.

Dr. Collins-Figueroa noted that the level of success varied among colleges. Impressive results were realized at some colleges which embraced the project concept and where student teachers actively incorporated biodiversity education into lesson plans and teaching for use in their practice teaching. Bad weather affected the viability of some action projects. Bureaucratic red tape delayed permission to work in other areas. Some administrators and student teachers resisted the inclusion of aspects of biodiversity education into their specialist areas.

Those challenges aside, there were positive environmental and social outcomes. Student teachers learnt how to nurture the organisms of the environment, studied local species and habitats while developing social responsibility, and leadership skills. Participation in the actual planning for the project and implementation led to increased self esteem and a sense of ownership among student teachers who were supported by educators who functioned as facilitators. Another accomplishment was meeting the

objective to leave active environmental clubs within colleges.

Research is now being conducted among the students who participated in these activities while in teachers' college to see how they have transitioned into the real world where they are in charge of a class of students. Early reports have been very encouraging as there is evidence of the educational and economic impact. Teachers have applied the knowledge, skills and motivation gained during their participation in the project to initiate vegetable gardens, bee-keeping and fish rearing activities within schools and within their communities.

"We are finding some rich examples," Dr. Collins-Figueroa enthused. "We are seeing where biodiversity education is being taught in all subjects." ■





## REACHING OUT TO GENERATION

By the time the UWI begins its next Strategic Plan period, the student cohort will include many of those who are currently at varying stages of their high school careers. Across the Mona Campus, departments are organizing activities geared towards connecting with these students and helping them hone skills in areas which will assist them when they later pursue undergraduate studies.

### JAMAICAN MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD

There has been a 45 per cent increase in the number of students who have entered the Qualifying Round and sat the First Written Examination of the UWI/Sterling Asset Management Jamaican Math Olympiad in 2011, compared to 2010. Some 837 students entered this year's Qualifying Round, which is 264 more students than the 573 which participated in 2010. In addition, 395 students sat the 2011 Round 1 Written Examination, up from 273 in 2010.

"These statistics indicate that interest in the competition is growing, while the

commitment and enthusiasm of the students have improved," said Dr. Raymond McEachin, lecturer in the Department of Mathematics at UWI and co-ordinator of the Jamaican Math Olympiad. He added that a number of new schools have come on board this year, among them St. Hilda's High, Marymount High and Dinthill Technical schools.

The Mathematical Olympiad is part of an attempt by the Department of Mathematics, Mona to identify mathematically talented students, encourage them in their studies, and provide extra resources and special training for them. In the longer term, the Department also expects to encourage all students, even those of more average abilities, to take up a more interesting and challenging set of experiences. It is expected that teachers and students across the spectrum will engage in better and more satisfying mathematical activities in their classrooms. The mathematical competition is open to all high school students in Jamaica, who compete for selection as National Mathematics Champion at their grade level. Five of the best performers from the Top 50 – aged 16 or younger – will

form a National Math Olympiad team to represent Jamaica at the Regional Competition in Mexico in June, 2011.

### HISTORY CAPE LECTURE SERIES

Over in the Department of History, hundreds of History students and teachers at the sixth form level participate in the annual Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) History Lecture Series organized by The Department of History and Archaeology at UWI, Mona. The Lecture Series is an annual event which covers select topics from the Unit One (1) and Unit Two Syllabi. The Lecture Series is designed to provide additional academic support and facilitate further understanding of specific topics for secondary school students sitting CAPE Caribbean History.

### HAVING FUN WITH PHYSICS

"If we focus first on the students having fun, then they will learn the principles of Physics without even noticing". This is the philosophy behind the approach taken by Dr. Michael Ponnambalam, Lecturer in the Department of Physics, Mona who organizes a Fifth Form Physics Field Trip, aimed at giving the students an opportunity to enjoy Physics and thus "discover for themselves that Physics is fun." Approximately five hundred and fifty (550) students from twenty-one (21) Schools island wide participated in the four day Field Trip which consisted of two 2- hour sessions running from January 18-21 at UWI, Mona.

The Fifth Form Field Trip followed on the heels of a two-part Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) Workshop held January 7-14. Nine hundred and fifty (950) sixth form students from twenty-five (25) schools from across Jamaica participated in the 5th staging of the CAPE Physics Workshop held at the UWI, Mona –Western Jamaica Campus and the Mona Campus. The students were exposed to the theoretical underpinnings of Physics through a combination of



Mickel Pincock, (left) student in the Department of Physics, highlights the 'fun' part of Physics to students from St Andrew High School. Workshop organiser, Dr. Michael Ponnambalam, (behind him) and Head of Department, Dr. Michael Taylor, look on.

lectures, demonstrations, simulations and experimentation during the Workshops conducted by a team of UWI faculty, postgraduate and undergraduate students.


These Workshops and Field Trips are designed to give the students both theoretical knowledge and practical laboratory experience so as to assist them in understanding the application of Physics in "the real world". This is evidenced by straightforward examples of: grandfather clocks which use the principle of Simple Harmonic Motion while the ringing of the school bell demonstrates the principle of waves and light-sensitive switches/sensors is an example of how the theory of Operational Amplifiers is applied.

The Outreach activity was initiated in 2007 as a way of responding to gaps in teaching Physics particularly at the

sixth form level due in part to insufficient equipment to teach particular topics such as Operational Amplifiers. Students also have an opportunity to conduct experiments as part of their School Based Assessment (SBA), an internal component for the CAPE examination, during these Workshops. Additionally, the Workshops provide the students with close interaction with lecturers with greater expertise in teaching Physics, as the Workshops are led by a team of UWI lecturers.

Feedback on the field trip has been very positive. One student remarked that this was 'a wonderful experience, full of fun and learning. It was excellent!' Commented another: "It was very much educational, fun and out of this world!" Not be outdone, a participant in the CAPE Workshop remarked "It was good and informative, and it really helped me

to understand better."

The Department is now planning a "Science is Fun" Trip for Grade Six students to take place May 30 to June 3. This will involve two 2 - hour sessions of pure fun, playing with science – hands-on and computer simulation. 

## CALCULATING RISKS: TWO RECEIVE ACTUARIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Actuarial Foundation has awarded two University of West Indies students with 2010 Caribbean Actuarial Scholarships. The recipients are Tashai Fung from Jamaica whose scholarship is valued at Two Thousand Five Hundred United States Dollars and Johnathon Craig from Trinidad and Tobago, who received One Thousand Five Hundred United States Dollars.

The Caribbean Actuarial Scholarship was established in memory of Basil L. and Monica G. Virtue by their son-in-law, S. Michael McLaughlin, an actuary who graduated from the University of the West Indies. This scholarship is an annual award to University of West Indies actuarial students who demonstrate a strong record of accomplishment, leadership qualities and a commitment to becoming an actuary.

"I'm delighted that The Actuarial Foundation has awarded these scholarships again in the second year of the Caribbean Actuarial Scholarship, in memory of Basil and Monica Virtue of Spanish Town, Jamaica. We have two well deserving students and wish them the best for their studies and a successful actuarial career and hope to continue this scholarship program for many more years," said Caribbean Actuarial Scholarship representative S. Michael McLaughlin, Deloitte Consulting LLP.

For more information about this scholarship and other initiatives and activities of The Actuarial Foundation, visit [www.ActuarialFoundation.org](http://www.ActuarialFoundation.org).



Students prepare for competition



# FEEDING THE SCHOLARLY MIND



Dr. Marvadeen Singh-Wilmot (right) exchanging views with scholarship holder Simone Badal-McCreath (left). Also in the photo are (l-r) Assistant Registrar, Sandra Powell-Mangaroo and recipient of the award for Best Thesis, Dr. Arlene Bailey.

The University of the West Indies, Mona recognized 24 recipients of postgraduate awards at its third annual Scholars Breakfast held at the Terra Nova Hotel in Kingston in March. The event forms part of an initiative to provide improved professional training and develop research competencies among its graduates, in order to satisfy economic development imperatives. The objective is also to strengthen graduate programmes being offered by the institution.

The Scholars' Breakfast recognised students who are pursuing studies in areas driven by market and national development demands. In keeping with this thrust, The UWI, Mona also presented an award for the individual with the Most Outstanding Thesis. This award went to Dr. Arlene Bailey, who received her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Information Systems with High Commendation.

Guest speaker at the event, Lecturer in

the Department of Chemistry, Dr. Marvadeen Singh-Wilmot, challenged graduate students at the institution not to be deterred by problems that face them, or the country, but to see each challenge as an opportunity to find solutions for the greater good of mankind. She added that the world belongs to those who see its potential, and argued that as young scholars they must be the ones to see the potential of the world, for no one should care more about the future than those who will have to live it.


Dr. Singh Wilmot, who graduated from The UWI, Mona in 2003 with a PhD in Chemistry, recently returned from Washington where she had been invited by the US National Academy for discussions to guide the President as he formulates ideas on global science policy and diplomacy.

She told the postgraduate students that being bright was not enough; they also had to care, as the combination would ensure that they would make a

difference not just in their own lives, but in the lives of others. She urged them to speak about their work at every opportunity, to generate good ideas and to convert good ideas into good leadership so that their work would impact the world. Most of all, she encouraged the graduates to be passionate about their work, as this would help to promote a culture of scholarship and excellence in their respective fields.

Also addressing the graduates was the recipient of the award for Best Thesis, Dr. Arlene Bailey. She noted that her research was relevant to a critical economic sector as it had focused on the use of information and communication technologies in communities, through telecentres, community access points, cybercentres. She pointed out that her fieldwork had carried her to many communities, both urban and rural; each telecentre with its own interesting story. "One of the telecentres was established in a container, with the intention of being mobile. However, the first community it landed in held on to it, and the community have now come up with a wheelie-bin option of bringing ICTs to people on the street corner", she remarked.

Dr. Bailey added that as a result of her research, she had now received a small CARICOM/Canada grant to investigate the usage of ICTs in the Diaspora.

Other speakers were UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris, and Mona Principal, Professor Gordon Shirley. Chair was Professor Yvette Jackson, Coordinator for Graduate Studies, in the University's Office of Graduate Studies and Research which organized the event in collaboration with the Mona Campus Committee for Research & Publication and Graduate Awards. 

## MARK FIGUEROA PROMOTED TO RANK OF PROFESSOR



The University of the West Indies, Mona is pleased to announce the promotion of Mark Figueroa, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics, Mona to the position of Professor, with effect from February 9, 2011.

Mark Figueroa holds the Bachelor of Arts, and Master of Sciences degrees in Economics from The University of the West Indies, Mona and the Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom. He joined the staff of Department of Economics as a Teaching Assistant in 1974, was appointed Lecturer in 1978 and further promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2003. He has served as Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences since 2004. His work covers various aspects of the political economy of the Caribbean. He is a leading scholar of the history of development policy and economic thought in the Caribbean. In particular, he has clarified the insights of the critical tradition in Caribbean economics including those of the

region's most outstanding economist, Nobel Laureate W. Arthur Lewis, and has demonstrated that much has been lost by the tendency among Caribbean economists to focus on their differences rather than points of consensus. His work on garrison communities in Jamaica has demonstrated how electoral data can be used to track their growth and has detailed their impact on political culture and resulting negative socioeconomic outcomes for the country.

He has made significant interventions in debates regarding gender as it relates to education, health and leadership. In particular, he has shown how the decline in the relative educational achievement of males can be linked to long-established male privileges rather than any new tendencies towards marginalizing males.

As a member of the Caribbean Diaspora Economy Research Group, he has made a distinctive contribution towards a classification system for the collection of data on and the analysis of migration which aids our ability to forecast whether remittances can be sustained at current levels in the future.

His work has been published in regional and international journals, including Social and Economic Studies, Journal of Eastern Caribbean Studies, Journal of Business, Finance and Economics in Emerging Economies, Manchester School of Social and Economic Studies, Journal of Developing Areas, Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Politics, Disability and Society and Applied Economic Letters; and he has been professionally involved in most of the countries of the Caribbean basin (covering all the main language groups) and has also presented his work in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America.

His leadership record within UWI includes in addition to being Dean, serving as Head of Economics and President and Chief Negotiator for the West Indies Group of University Teachers. Among his innovative contributions are the: first summer school for students in degree programmes, Committee for Students with Disabilities and most recently, teaching of weekend degree programmes in Social Sciences. As a teacher, he has been active in curriculum reform and helped to launch new courses and programmes, including the History of Economic Thought, Caribbean Economic Thought and Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development/Environmental Management as well as the BSc in Business Economics and Social Statistics (BESS). Over the years he has been an advisory to or consultant on various projects associated with entities such as the Canadian International Development Agency, the Caribbean Development Bank, Caribbean Studies Association, Commonwealth Secretariat, Disabled Peoples' International, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Government of Jamaica, Government of Grenada, United Nations Development Fund



for Women and the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research. In the 1970s and 1980s he was very active in the public media and has more recently served as a director on the boards of environmental organizations.

He has received several awards for his achievements including the UWI Mona Principal Research Day Award for Best Article in the Faculty of Social Sciences for six of his articles between 2003 and 2011 as well as the Research Day Award for Most Outstanding Researcher in the Social Sciences in 2005 and 2011.

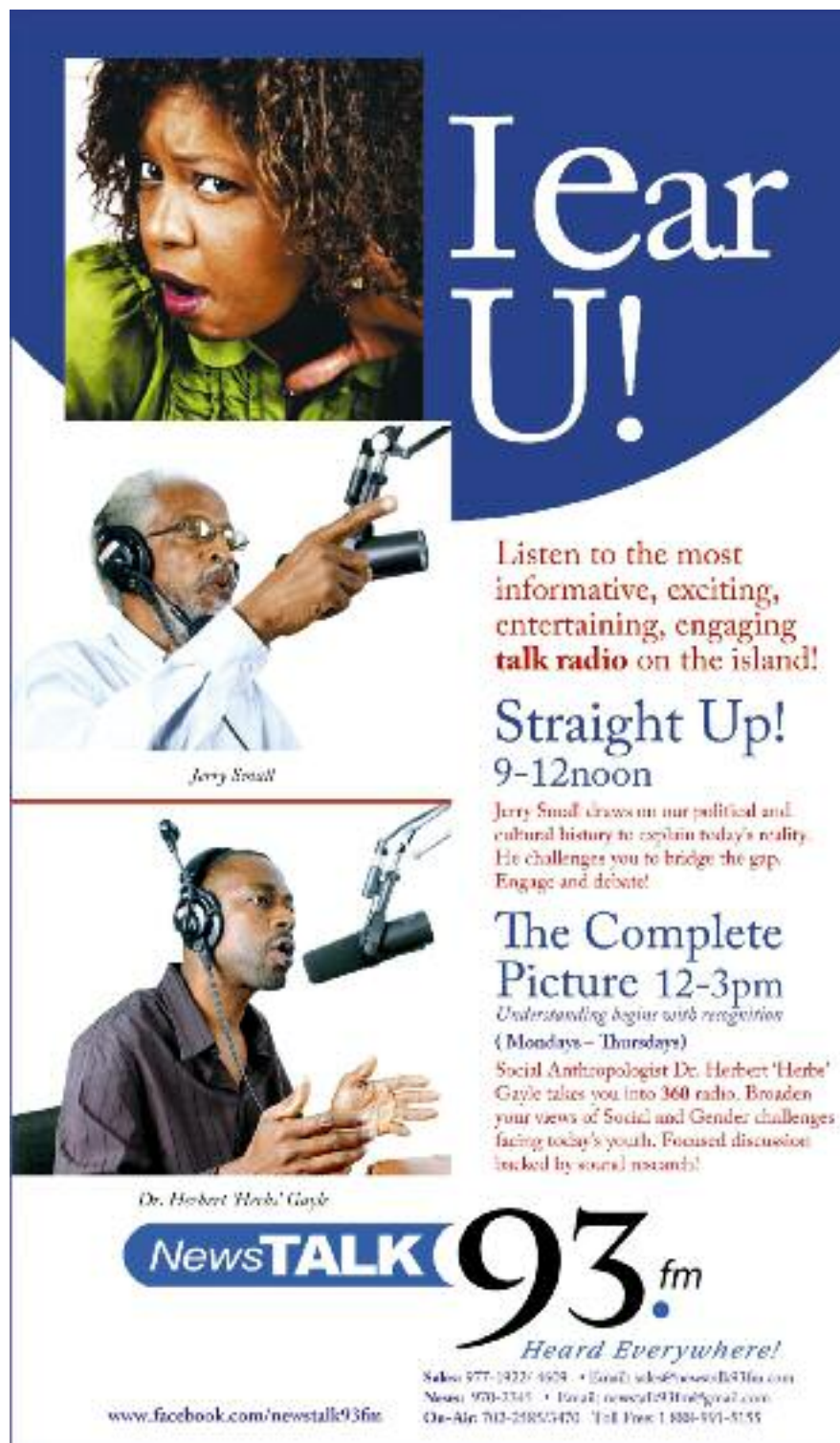
## MARCIA ROYE

FIRST JAMAICAN TO RECEIVE L'OREAL-UNESCO FELLOWSHIP WOMEN IN SCIENCE PRIZE



**D**r. Marcia Roye, Lecturer in Biotechnology at The UWI, Mona has been named recipient of the L'Oreal-UNESCO Special Fellowship Grant to mark the centennial of Marie Curie's Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Marie Curie is the first woman to have won a Nobel Prize and the only woman to have won in two different sciences, Chemistry and Physics.

Dr. Roye is the recipient of the first Special Fellowship and was selected from among a group of 20 women who received the L'Oreal-UNESCO International Fellowship. She is also the first Jamaican to have received the L'Oreal-UNESCO International Fellowship in 2000 and among over one thousand one hundred (1100) women scientists from 103 countries worldwide to have been distinguished by Awards or supported in the pursuit of their career through the L'OREAL-UNESCO Women in Science partnership.



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The Special Fellowship is in recognition of her distinguished research conducted in the field of plant virology and antiretroviral drug resistance in HIV/AIDS patients and for being a role model to young scientists.

For the past 15 years Dr. Roye has been engaged primarily with molecular virology of gemiviruses with special emphasis on identification, distribution, molecular characterization and control of diseases associated with crops and weeds from the Caribbean. Her research has identified numerous plant viruses in Jamaica, Belize, Barbados, Antigua and St. Kitts and Nevis and has played an integral role in the development of control strategies of these plant viruses.

Locally Dr. Roye's research has resulted in the identification of more than 24 plant viruses such as in red pea, broad bean, tomato, scotch bonnet pepper, cabbage and common weeds. Her research has been instrumental in facilitating the control of viruses in two crops by cultivation of resistant varieties of tomato and cabbage. This has enabled the local agriculture market to flourish as these plant viruses can cause significant yield loss.

Dr. Roye's research in viruses has expanded to humans as since 2008 she along with the Institute of Human Virology of the University of Maryland School of Medicine has embarked on research in the detection of antiretroviral (ARV) drug resistance of HIV in Jamaican patients. The research serves to improve ARV treatment and outcome for HIV-affected individuals as well as the quality of life of the HIV patients. In Jamaica where resources to conduct sophisticated laboratory analyses may be deficient Dr. Roye and her team are able to assist by performing viral sequencing of HIV and can provide this vital information to physicians and patients. From the blood samples of individual patients, they are able to sequence the virus and provide very specific information that helps the doctor determine which drug combinations that individual is likely to respond to, so the patient can receive

the most effective therapy.

Dr. Roye's approach to her research is remarkable. She is driven by her desire to impact others by using science to find solutions for people living with HIV, and for farmers, especially since she herself comes from a rural farming community in Jamaica.

## PAUL AIKEN

NOW IEEE SENIOR MEMBER



**S**enior Engineer and Head of the Electronics Unit in the Department of Physics, at The University of the West Indies, (UWI) Mona, Dr. Paul Aiken, has been elevated to the grade of Senior Member in the Institute of Electric and Electronics Engineering (IEEE), the world's largest professional association dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.

Only eight per cent of IEEE's approximately 400,000 members hold the grade of Senior Member, which requires extensive experience, and reflects professional maturity and documented achievements of significance. Dr. Aiken is the second member of staff at The UWI, Mona to achieve this honour, the other being Dr. Halden Morris, senior lecturer in the Institute of Education.

Paul Aiken has coordinated the development of engineering at the Mona campus and has teaching and research duties in electronics engineering and physics. He recently served as vice-chair of the IEEE Jamaica section.

He holds a PhD and a MSc in Electrical Engineering from Columbia University, New York, and a MPhil in Physics from The UWI. Over the years, he has held several engineering positions in Jamaica and the USA including Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) engineer at UWI and at Columbia University, and a Senior Test Engineer at Intel Corporation. As a test engineer, Dr. Aiken led international teams of engineers to design factory ready equipment for testing Intel latest microprocessors, and developed practical solutions for solving high-speed signal and power integrity issues.

## ELIZABETH THOMAS-HOPE

NEW OXFORD CHRISTENSEN FELLOW



**P**rofessor Elizabeth Thomas-Hope has been elected to the Christensen Fellowship in 2011 at St Catherine's College, Oxford University. This Fellowship is awarded each term to eminent scholars in their field. The announcement was made at a recent meeting of the Governing Body of St. Catherine's College.

(continued on page 31)





The **UWI LEADERS, ENGAGED, ACTIVATED, DEDICATED, READY TO SERVE (UWI LEADS)** at Mona in association with the NCB foundation launched the Michael Lee Chin Leadership Series in March. The series is focused on engaging students in tertiary institutions in a positive and uplifting dialogue around the idea of leadership, and will give an opportunity for local and international luminaries to share their experiences with young Jamaicans. **UWI LEADS** targets students wishing to develop their leadership skills and abilities and creates opportunities for them to learn about best practices in leadership. Here, accounting student Janine Fisher and CARIMAC student Jovaun Johnson present a plaque to Mr. Lee Chin before a capacity audience.



## Vincentian High Schoolers & Teachers Visit Mona



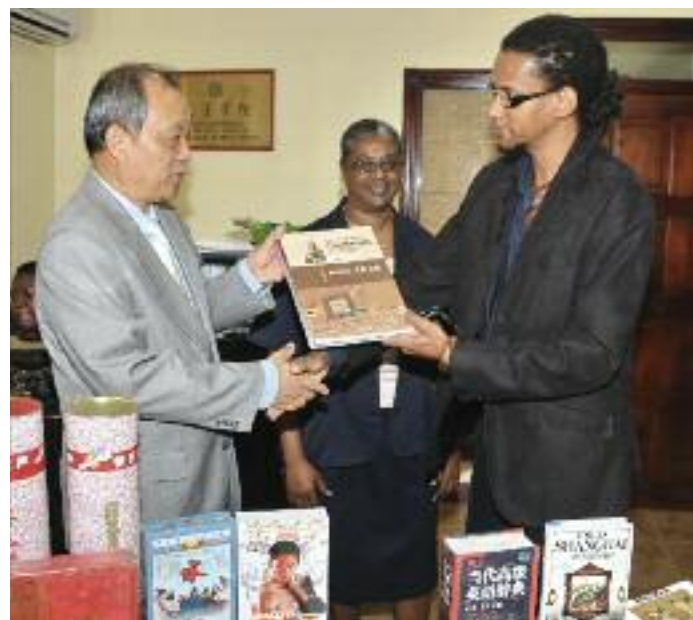
A contingent of 50 fourth form students and 10 teachers from the St. Vincent Girls' High School in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, visited Mona in March. The students are studying Geography, History and the Theatre Arts and expressed the hope that the visit to Jamaica and the University would engender a greater awareness and appreciation for the island's rich heritage.

## JAPAN DAY 2011



The Japanese Club at UWI, Mona presented Japan Day under the theme "Jamaica to Japan" on March 31, in the Humanities Courtyard. The day's activities featured a cultural display of music, art, dance and food. There was also calligraphy, Origami and t-shirt painting.

## Hanban donates 3000 books to Confucius Institute



Mona's Confucius Institute, the first of its kind in the English-speaking Caribbean, has received some three thousand books and two hundred DVDs from the Chinese Language Council International (Hanban) in Beijing through the Chinese Embassy in Jamaica. The books were presented by H.E. Chen Jinghua, (left) Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to UWI, Mona to the Institute's Director, Dr. Courtney Hogarth and Head of the Department of Modern Languages, Dr. Marie-Jose Nzengou-Tayo at a handing over ceremony held at the Institute in January. The collection includes teaching materials, literature and course material for Philosophy and Social Sciences in Chinese only, English only and in both languages.

## UWI/First Global Blood Drive



The UWI, Mona partnered with First Global Bank Limited to host its annual blood drive on April 5-6. Rex Nettleford Hall won the trophy for the hall with the most blood donors from the November 2010 blood drive. Marva Green, manager for Jamaica's Sunshine Girls netball team presents the trophy to hall representative Wayne Dennis, also a member of the final year social marketing students at the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC). Looking on is Clinical director at Mona's Health Centre, Dr. Blossom Anglin Brown.

## New Media & Social Change



The Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) at the UWI, Mona –Western Jamaica Campus hosted a public lecture, New Media and Social and Economic Change: From Possibilities to Practices by Professor Stephen D. McDowell, John H. Phipps Professor of Communication and Dean of the School of Communication, Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA., seen here interacting with WJC students.

The lecture aimed to locate media and communication as critical elements in the discussion about national and regional development especially in the context of globalization and the ways in which the convergence of new media technologies has influenced both the practice of communication and the management of knowledge and information.



# FIRST UNIVERSITY TOWNSHIP BASIC SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Mona Common Basic School are champions of the University Township basic schools championship, amassing 200 points to receive the UWI Principal's Trophy. Second place went to Christ the King Basic School (179 points) which received the Barry Chevannes trophy from his widow, Mrs Pauletta Chevannes. Escarpment Road Basic placed 3rd and was presented with the Greater August Town Basic School Principals' Association trophy. The first University Township Basic School Champs was held May 12, at the Mona Bowl. All nine basic schools in the Greater August Town communities participated.



## UWI, SALISES & EFJ Host Child Rights Workshop for Primary School Students

August Town Primary School children pay keen attention to the laws outlined in the Guide to the Child Care and Protection Act during the Child Rights Workshop for Primary Schools held at UWI, Mona recently. The Workshop was designed to train teachers and students in child rights and research methods, promote research among primary school students and increase the adherence to child rights in schools. It was organized by Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) at UWI, Mona in partnership with UNICEF and the Environmental Foundation for Jamaica (EFJ).

# RIDING THE COMPUTER ANIMATION WAVE



Lecturer Dr. Ashley Hamilton-Taylor with *Rastafarians* by Robert Tucker (concept by Gabrielle Hamilton-Taylor)

For about two hours one Friday afternoon in May, a fascinated audience watched as first year students in the Department of Computing, Mona mounted a showcase of 3D computer animations developed as part of an introductory course in the Computer Science degree programme. The students had been charged with using animation to tell positive, non-violent, culturally uplifting stories that would be relevant to a Jamaican and wider Caribbean audience. The themes were varied, among them traditional stories, stories about contemporary life, history, current events, sports, music and dance.

The attentive audience watched as animated characters glided across the screen, performed popular local dances, dodged cars which screeched around corners, were taught lessons about life and love, tackled hard social and political issues, and also participated in talent competitions, animation style.

Computer animation involves the use of computers to show a successive series of images so quickly that it fools the human mind into thinking that it is continuous motion. Lecturer Dr. Ashley Hamilton-Taylor explained that the form of computer animation used by the students involves programming 3D characters to move, walk, and dance, and 3D objects to move and change size, colour, etc. in various ways. "We incorporated animation programming into the undergraduate computer science programme four years ago. The goal was to encourage enthusiasm about programming as part of our first-year object-oriented programming course, and to encourage cultural expression in animation."

The project is an outgrowth of Dr. Hamilton-Taylor's own research interests, begun when he developed a holistic approach to the development of algorithm animation for computer science education as part of his

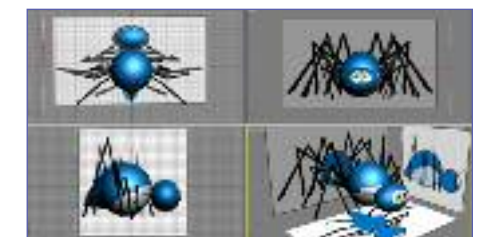
doctoral dissertation. This included the ethnographic study of instructor teaching methods, the design of the SKA (Support Kit for Animation) software visualization system, which allows instructors and students to interactively create and manipulate data structure diagrams, and development of systems to evaluate the animations at the perceptual and cognitive levels. SKA facilitates visual learning about data structures and algorithms. The research was supported by the National Science Foundation in a collaborative project with the University of Georgia and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Back in Jamaica, Dr. Hamilton-Taylor became involved in the development of Computing and IT in education, government, and industry. He has taught at UWI for over twenty years, and is presently the curriculum coordinator for the Department of Computing, spearheading efforts to continuously develop programs that are on par internationally while addressing national and Caribbean needs.

"We've been conducting research in the use of animation and visualisation in the learning process in computer science education and in e-learning in general. We found that animation and visualisation can indeed be an effective medium for learning about algorithms and data structures if perception, attention, graphical design,



Andre Sheckeleford's *Anansi*







*Bolt Running* (left) and *Bolt To Di World* (right) by Denar Brown, Andre Wiles, Jordan Bennett and Latoya Kitson.

conceptual design, interaction design, and learning context are taken into account.”

Animation programming was introduced to students using the Alice animation language from Carnegie-Mellon University; however, Dr. Hamilton-Taylor notes that early in the project, they encountered problems. “Although the Alice system has many good features, it has technical limitations and bugs which the students found frustrating. They also complained about the difficulty of finding culturally and ethnically appropriate characters for their stories in the

character library included with Alice, particularly for role models such as teachers, elders, scientists, businesspersons and athletes. In some cases, students had to change their animation storylines.” In response, “We created a few rudimentary characters and objects of our own, which have been used by students in many animations.”

Additionally, they adapted some of the characters to make them more authentic in the local context. One of Dr. Hamilton-Taylor’s postgraduate students, David Soutar, a lecturer in Visual Communication/animation at the Edna



Dr. Ashley Hamilton-Taylor (standing) with his students (left to right:) Jordan Bennett, Andre Wiles, Craig Leslie, Marc Wells, Shomari Morrish-Cooke, Christine Grant and Andre Sheckleford.

Manley College of Visual and Performing Arts, recently developed a character creation program for Alice as his M.Sc. research project, which can be used to create indigenous characters.

Dr. Hamilton-Taylor points out that further research in animation software development is ongoing, as he aims to create a better animation language than Carnegie-Mellon’s Alice. His research group has already developed prototypes of this new animation platform. “A primary objective of developing user-friendly animation software is to encourage cultural self-expression for social change and education,” he says.

Buoyed by the level of interest among the students, the Department of Computing, Mona is now trying to take things to another level. According to Dr. Hamilton-Taylor, “since its inception, The UWI has been at the forefront of technological development in the Caribbean. The region is now in the midst of the next phase of the technological revolution in computing. Interactive visual computing is entering the classroom, the boardroom, and the living room. Recent breakthroughs in mobile and interactive visual computing will radically change the way we work, learn, communicate, and play in the very near future. There is a convergence of

tablet computing, smart phones, and laptops. Interactive whiteboards are about to be joined by mainstream 3D displays and virtual reality. New applications are being created which utilize the capabilities of these devices.”

Against that background, the Department is positioning itself to produce researchers and graduates with the necessary skill sets to create these applications in a knowledge-based economy. The intention is to establish a computing research laboratory that will facilitate research and advanced education on the frontiers of computing in interactive visual computing, smart mobile/tablet computing and new media technology: the Web, Animation, Visualisation and E-learning (WAVE) laboratory. It will have facilities for 3D animation creation, 3D projector viewing, 3D virtual interaction, 3D software creation, 3D video recording, and mobile/tablet software creation. The research laboratory is funded by a New Initiative Grant from the Principal’s Office at UWI, Mona, and is scheduled to open in August 2011.

The possibilities are exciting: “This would involve collaborative work between computing researchers and with researchers in cultural studies,

history, and the school of visual arts. Artists would help to create 3D models of local characters e.g. Marcus Garvey, Miss Lou, etc. that can be animated. The WAVE lab would provide the necessary facilities and access to animation/audio/video tools,” Dr. Hamilton-Taylor notes.

The Department now has postgraduate students engaged in research in animation and visualization for e-learning, human-computer interaction, and computer science education. The revised M.Sc. in Computer Science has a User Interface Design, Visualisation and Interactive Media stream.

Some undergraduate students are also developing innovative animations and games while final-year user interface design students have developed animation and web applications. “They have started to develop multimedia and mobile web applications, but we currently lack the hardware and software development tools to enable them to do so effectively”, the lecturer notes. Both groups will benefit from the establishment of the WAVE lab, which will facilitate use of advanced hardware and development tools as part of their thesis research, courses and capstone research projects.

When fully operational the WAVE lab will spearhead the establishment of an infrastructure that will make current and cutting edge new media technology available to researchers. It will also enhance prior research in animation, visualization, and e-learning. With additional funding, other potential areas include virtual reality applications; video and music archiving; tools for distance education; visualisation for the sciences and business; computer-based video/motion-capture security applications and visual analytics.

Dr. Hamilton-Taylor and his postgraduate research group are currently engaged in a number of projects, for which they plan to use the WAVE lab, including:





Rolling Calf by Andre Sheckeleford

- Analysis and formulation of E-learning and ICT education policies for developing countries, with a focus on the Caribbean and the African Diaspora.

- Analysis of the social and cultural effects of the internet in developing countries, particularly the Caribbean and African Diaspora countries, and formation of strategies for effective educational, social and cultural use of the internet in these countries.

- Analysis of the effectiveness of locally developed software for crime-fighting/intelligence/national security in Jamaica (Ph.D. Student Kevin Blake, Senior Superintendent of Police, JCF, Director National Intelligence Bureau).

- Continuing work on the next generation of SKA (former M.Phil. student Kadian Davis, former undergraduates Hanse Ferron, Nneko Branche, Phillip Chang, Simon Neufville, Jean-Paul Rose).

- Evaluation and design of software visualization environments for introductory object-oriented programming. The focus is on the visualization of dynamic execution (M.Phil. student Jason Thompson).

- Computer speech synthesis of Jamaican Creole (M.Phil. student Dahlia Thompson),

- E-learning for Foreign language learning (Ph.D. student Michelle McKoy with Dr. Paulette Ramsay, undergraduates Kay-Ann Barrett, Dwayne Redwood, Jovan Neita).

- Cultural/Social/Historical positive game development (undergraduate students Andre Sheckeleford, Shomari Morrish-Cooke, Tanielle Davy).

- Compilation of student Alice animations that reflect positive aspirations, Caribbean and African Diaspora culture, and analysis of their

design strategies for stories and programming techniques.

- Evaluating the use of animation-based novice programming environments (e.g. Alice) by computer science students, with a goal of designing future animation programming environments (M.Phil. student Robert Tucker, M.Sc. student David Soutar).

“We’re riding the wave of the future of computer animation,” remarked Dr. Hamilton-Taylor. **M**



# Krystal tastes success in Botswana

## HISTORIC WIN IN WORLD UNIVERSITIES DEBATING COMPETITION



Viewers of the popular local television series, *Nyammins* may be surprised to learn that its young enthusiastic host who travels all over Jamaica in search of creative culinary concoctions, is actually a final year student at the UWI Mona campus. They may be even more surprised to discover that this mature 20 year-old is a twice elected member of the University's Guild Council and a member of the celebrated debating team which snagged international credits and bragging rights at the World Universities Debating Championship held in Botswana in January.

Krystal Tomlinson

While it took weeks to fully sink in, memories of the thrill experienced by the announcement that she was judged the best speaker in the Public Speaking Competition, still evokes an emotional rush for Krystal Tomlinson.

“I was in total shock, looking around as I couldn't believe what really happened. It was a warm feeling,” Krystal reminisced.

The competition was gruelling with all four UWI Debating Club

representatives entering the public speaking component of the annual match-up of tertiary students drawn from over 200 universities worldwide. In the first of three rounds, debaters were challenged to expound on a random phrase, ‘Wacka, Wacka, this is Africa’. Krystal admits to being thrown by the moot as the team prepared for a standardized speck used the opportunity to speak about the unique African experience she was being afforded courtesy of the competition. Having survived first round eliminations, debaters were presented with a motion on human behaviour for which Krystal delivered on the consequences and impact of HIV AIDS. The presentation was timely given the high infection rate within some African countries and resonated with the audience at the Gaborone International Conference Centre.

At this point, two of the UWI entrants were still standing – Krystal and her debating partner from the 2009 staging of the competition, Ricardo Brooks. For the crucial third round which saw a narrowed field of gifted speakers, Krystal was asked to speak on dress and how it restricts expression which she did, creatively using her cocktail attire to discuss womanhood, maturity and independence. Even though there was a strong buzz about their performance, the team was guarded as although other representatives had come close, the university had never won the prestigious competition. Krystal's historic win and Ricardo's fourth place was a significant achievement for UWI Mona.

“We were up against tough competition, speakers from universities such as Harvard, Cornell, Oxford,” she said. *(continued on page 34)*

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## UWI Vice Chancellor is new ACU Chairman

**U**WI Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris has been named the new Chairman of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU). The announcement was made following meetings in Hong Kong on April 5, 2011.

Established in 1913, the ACU is the oldest and one of the most prestigious inter-university networks in the world. Professor Harris who served as the Association's Vice Chair for the past two years succeeds Dr. Theuns Eloff, Vice-Chancellor of North-West University, South Africa and will serve as Chairman for a two year term. During his tenure the Association will celebrate its centenary and Professor Harris will also take the lead in the implementation of the Association's strategic plan 2008-2013 'Preparing for a Second Century'.


On his appointment, UWI Vice Chancellor and new ACU Chairman had this to say, "This represents an excellent opportunity to enhance the global visibility of The University of the West Indies and to highlight that despite limited resources, West Indian governments and people have



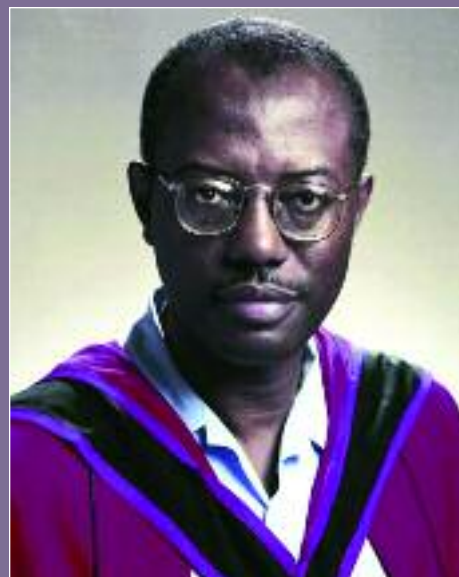
UWI Vice Chancellor E. Nigel Harris built an institution which is making its mark internationally."

The ACU's mission is to contribute to the provision of excellent higher education for

the benefit of all people throughout the Commonwealth. In keeping with the Association's mission Professor Harris also noted that "...burgeoning new technologies which are revolutionizing the tertiary education sector make it an opportune time to be at the forefront of discussions. Further, in a global economic climate where governments are providing less funding for universities, we are mandated to develop novel coping strategies while increased demands for accountability are also calling for research to translate more effectively into tangible societal benefits. In the face of these demands, coupled with competition from new types of private universities, the traditional Commonwealth Universities represented by the ACU are strategically working toward improving services and meeting new types of needs."

In March 2010, Professor Harris was elected President of the Association of Universities and Research Institutions of the Caribbean (UNICA); a voluntary regional organization which like the ACU, fosters cooperation among the higher education institutions in the Caribbean. 

## DOWNES IS NEW PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT



Prof. Andrew S. Downes

The University of the West Indies has named Professor Andrew S. Downes as the new Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Planning and Development to replace Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, who was recently named Minister of Planning, Social and Economic Development and Gender Affairs in the Trinidad and Tobago Government. This announcement was made by UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris at University meetings held at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados in May.

In his new role as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Downes will oversee the final year of implementation of the University's 2007-2012 Strategic Plan and coordinate the construction of the 2012-2017 Plan.

Professor Downes, who was the Cave Hill Campus Coordinator for the UWI Strategic Plan 2007-2012, is a Professor of Economics and has been the Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) at the UWI Cave Hill Campus since

1994. He served as University Director of the tri-campus SALISES unit from 2000 to 2008.

Professor Downes holds BSc and MSc degrees (Economics) from The UWI and a PhD (Economics) from the University of Manchester, UK. He is a recipient of several academic awards and has been a consultant for several regional and international organisations (Caribbean Development Bank, ILO, IDB, World Bank, UN, etc.) along with the Government of Barbados and several national organisations. His research interests include Labour/Human Resources Economics, Applied Econometrics and Development Economics and he is regarded as one of the region's leading labour economists.

The University of the West Indies congratulates Professor Downes on his appointment as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and welcomes him to the University's executive management team.

## UWI SIGNS MOU WITH ACS



**T**he University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will facilitate cooperation between the two institutions in research, particularly in relation to the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and broadly in the area of sustainable development. Under the terms of the MOU, both parties will also coordinate and implement projects and activities in these areas.




The MOU is an outcome of the UN resolution which was adopted last year by the 65th General Assembly

entitled, "Towards the Sustainable Development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future Generations". It was signed by UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris, and ACS Secretary General Ambassador Luis Fernando Andrade Falla.

Professor Harris expressed his pleasure at being able to represent the UWI at the signing ceremony. He mentioned the

From left to right, Vice Chancellor Professor E. Nigel Harris, Ambassador H.E. Luis Fernando Andrade Falla Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), H.E. Surujrattan Rambachan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Professor Clement Sankat Principal, UWI St. Augustine and Professor John Agard, Expert, Caribbean Sea Commission, UWI St. Augustine.

Caribbean Sea Ecosystems Assessment Report (CARSEA) as one of the collaborative efforts which set out in very clear terms the important relationship between the Caribbean marine ecosystems and the daily life of the people in the region. Since the submission of the CARSEA Report, UWI has entered into several collaborative arrangements with international and regional organizations in


order to develop and deliver on projects that will be beneficial to the marine ecosystems. Professor Harris stated that he himself committed UWI as a keen participant in delivering on the recommendations and the promise of that Report, adding that this MOU takes that one step forward by deepening the relationship between UWI and ACS. 

## THOMAS-HOPE

(from page 31) Professor Thomas-Hope was the first holder of the James Seivright Moss-Solomon (Snr.) Chair of Environmental Management at the UWI and is currently working with the Ramphal Commission on environmentally-induced population movements in the Commonwealth.

A former Head of the Department of

Geography and Geology at the UWI (1999-2005), Professor Thomas-Hope is also the Secretary of the Commonwealth Geographic Bureau.

Professor Thomas-Hope will be working with members of the International Migration Institute and the School of Geography and Environment at Oxford University to engage in research on Caribbean migration and environmental issues. 



# Twenty Regional Icons Named Honorary Graduands



The ceremonies begin on October 15th with the Open Campus Graduation, where **Dame Pearlette Louisy**, Governor-General of St. Lucia and **Mr. Alwin Bully**, Cultural Administrator will receive the honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) and Doctor of Letters (DLitt) degrees respectively.

Graduation ceremonies at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados will take place on October 22nd, when **The Most Rev. Dr. The Hon. John W. D. Holder** and **Professor Compton Bourne** receive the honorary LLD; **Professor Kwesi Prah** and **Professor Emeritus Keith A. P. Sandiford** are awarded the honorary DLitt and **Dr. Shirley Brathwaite** the honorary Doctor of Sciences (DSc) degree.

From October 27th to 29th, the celebrations move to the St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad, where the honorary LLD will be conferred on **Mrs. Helen Bhagwansingh**, **Professor Anantanand Rambachan**, **Mr. John Reginald Dumas**, **Sir Fenton H. Ramsahoye**, **Mr. Brain Charles Lara** and **Ambassador Kamaluddin Mohammed**, while **Mr. Donald 'Jackie' Hinkson** and **Mr. Roy Cape** will receive the honorary DLitt.

Finally, on November 4th and 5th, the Mona Campus in Jamaica will host the closing set of graduation ceremonies. At Mona **Ms. Minna Israel**, **Mr. Earl Jarrett** and the **Hon. Usain Bolt, OJ** will all receive the Honorary LLD while **Professor Lenworth Jacobs** and **Dr. Erna Brodber** will receive the DSc and DLitt, respectively.

Jamaican author Dr. Erna Brodber has used her writings to offer a measure of healing to those with untold stories. Dr. Brodber earned her BA from The UWI when it was still The University College of the West Indies. She immersed herself in academia and went on to attain an MSc and PhD. Dr. Brodber pursued many other professions before focusing on writing and was a member of staff at the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) at the Mona Campus. While at ISER she worked to collect the oral histories of elders in rural Jamaica, a project that would later inspire her novel *Louisiana*. Encounters with the Black Power Movement and Women's Liberation coupled with her early familial indoctrination to the importance of family have caused Dr. Brodber to pen novels that deal with the healing power of community.

Usain Bolt will receive an honorary LLD in November.

**The University of the West Indies (UWI) will formally acknowledge the contributions that 20 Caribbean icons have made to regional advancement when it confers honorary degrees at the annual Graduation Ceremonies to be held across its four campuses later this year.**



Minna Israel

A career banker, Ms. Minna Israel was appointed President & Country Head of RBTT Bank Jamaica Limited in January, 2008. Prior to her appointment at RBTT Ms. Israel spent numerous years as an executive of the Bank of Nova Scotia in the Bahamas and Jamaica. Her performance and contribution to the wider society have earned her a number of awards including the American Foundation for The University of the West Indies (AFUWI) Caribbean Luminary Award for her significant contribution to banking in the Caribbean, and the University of Technology, Jamaican (UTECH) Distinguished Alumni Award. She holds a Masters of Business Administration in Finance and General Management from the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario and a BSc in Management Studies from The UWI. She is a member of the UWI Vice Chancellor's Award selection team and the UWI Capital Development Taskforce.

Mr. Earl Jarrett will receive the Honorary LLD for his sterling contribution to banking in Jamaica. Mr. Jarrett holds both a BSc and an MSC in Accounting and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica. He has been the General Manager of the Jamaica National Building Society (JNBS) since 1999, and has also held leadership positions at the International Union of Housing Finance, the Dudley Grant Memorial Trust and has been a Board Advisor to the Inter-American Dialogue Financial Services.

Ambassador The Hon. Usain Bolt, OJ, CD is an outstanding Jamaican sprinter known for his amazing performance in men's athletics. He won three gold medals in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m events and set new world records at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and at the 2009 World Championships. Among his many accolades is his induction into the society of the Order of Jamaica (OJ) (2009), by the Government of Jamaica, for outstanding distinction in the field of Sports; and in 2008, he also received the National Honour, the Order of Distinction




Earl Jarrett

in the rank of Commander for outstanding service to Jamaica. In 2009, Bolt was also conferred with the diplomatic title 'Ambassador-at-Large'.

Internationally, Bolt was voted the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Male Athlete of the Year (2009, 2008); and was one of two Jamaicans named for the 2009 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) Champion for Sports award.

Professor Lenworth Jacobs received his medical degree at The UWI. He completed his surgical residency in Boston at the Peter Brigham Hospital and the Boston University Medical Center. He then received a Master's degree in Public Health at Harvard University. Professor Jacobs is a past president of the American Trauma Society, governor of the American College of Surgeons, founder and past president of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma. He is also the founder and national director of the Advanced Trauma Operative Management (ATOM) course. More than 1,200 surgeons have been certified by ATOM across the US, Canada, the Middle East and West Africa.

Professor Jacobs has made more than 200 presentations across the world and has more than 180 publications. He has been conferred with The West African College of Surgeons Honorary Fellow in 2007; The American College of Surgeons Fellowship, American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, National Safety Council 2005 Surgeons' Award for Service to Safety; and the American Trauma Society President's Award in 2004. 

## SENIOR MANAGERS RE-APPOINTED

At the annual business meeting of University Council held on May 6, 2011 at the Sir Cecil Jacobs Auditorium of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Secretariat in Basseterre, St Kitts, the UWI's supreme governing body approved the re-appointment of several senior managers.

Deputy Principals Professor Eudine Barriteau (Cave Hill Campus) and Professor Rhoda Reddock (St Augustine Campus) were re-appointed for a second 3-year term of office, effective August 1, 2011. Professor Wayne Hunte who was first appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research, in 2005 was reappointed for a further 3-year term, effective August 1, 2011 while Professor Ronald Young was re-appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Graduate Studies, for one more year, effective August 1, 2011 as he is due to retire at the end of the next academic year, in July 2012. Finally, Ms Cecile Clayton was re-appointed Deputy University Registrar for a further three-year term, effective August 1, 2011.





(from page 29) The sojourn to Africa was her second outing at 'Worlds' as the competition is known having competed in the 2009 edition held in Turkey. The trip to Turkey, her first outside Jamaica, was a wonderful experience from which she got the full understanding of the melting pot of cultures concept having interacted with students from all corners of the world. There she also understood the power of brand Jamaica as everyone wanted to meet and spend time with the Jamaican contingent.

"It was just a mind blowing. My first time on a plane and I ended up in Europe. The UWI offers so much to students, if only they knew and could just find their particular avenue, there is so much to gain," she told *Mona News*.

The team placed third in the Caribbean and Latin America region and Krystal was placed as the third best speaker. There was an immediate commitment to work hard to improve that placing by taking home a title for the University and Jamaica.

Coming against the backdrop of the Turkey experience, the victory in Botswana was that much sweeter as the mission to bring glory to the University was successful.

"I feel good about adding to the UWI legacy," she said, noting that the participation was a team effort supported by coach, Director of Student Services Development, Carlton Lowrie and former debater, Roger Bent.

On the verge of completing her first degree in International Relations with a double minor in Political Science and African Diaspora Studies, the trip to Botswana was a dream realised. She found the impressive physical infrastructure capable of rivaling any developed country and fell in love with the breathtaking landscape and relaxed tone of the country. There was also a cultural connection which affirmed her belief that while many persons opt to deny it, there is an umbilical bond between peoples of African descent and the continent.

"Botswana is pretty and peaceful. A lot of it reminded me of Jamaica. Visiting helped to shatter any myths about Africa not being on the up. You could see that they invest in the right things and education was at the top of the list."

Completing the first degree will not end Krystal's career as a student at the UWI as she has submitted an application to read for a Masters in Social Policy and Development and for a Bachelor of Laws. Additionally, her term as the Guild's Vice President of Services and Special Projects starts in September.

She confesses to being a little uncertain about which direction to take, should both applications be approved as she would ideally like to work on a community level before settling into a career in law which has been a lifelong ambition. When that time comes, she will approach the decision with the same open

## KRYSTAL TASTES SUCCESS IN BOTSWANA

mind, introspection and sense of adventure which has led to her active campus life and hosting of the popular television show which is now being shown in New York to a very appreciative Jamaican audience.

"Many of the things that happen in my life are not of my own doing. As the opportunities present themselves and as long as I can see something good coming out of it, I am going to do my best," she shared.

It has been quite an exciting beginning for the former Merle Grove High School student who having relocated with her family from Kingston to Mandeville, finished fourth and fifth form at Manchester High before completing sixth form at DeCarteret High. She credits her "amazing" mother, Mischelle who she has seen do so much with very little for her and younger brother, Jovian. Though she didn't attend university herself, her mother was adamant that both children should receive tertiary training. Krystal is eternally grateful as she has thoroughly enjoyed life on campus.

"She is proud when she sees me doing all these things and doing them well. Getting a little job here, applying for a bursary or a scholarship means that the financial pressure is off. I may be out of her pocket for now but never out of her heart." **M**

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# Identifying Talented Youth

## UWI pursues collaboration with Johns Hopkins University

The University of the West Indies, Mona is collaborating with Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, USA to expose Jamaican students to the Summer Programme of Johns Hopkins' Centre for Talented Youth (CTY). This is a long established programme aimed at exposing bright and talented children to a whole new world of educational experiences.

Through UWI, Johns Hopkins is offering three all-expenses paid scholarships to three bright/talented students from low-income families in Jamaica. They will be given the opportunity, from July 17-August 5, to attend a range of courses in Maths, Science and the Humanities on CTY campus in the United States, whilst interacting with other similarly talented students from across the world.

Through UWI Mona's School of Education the American Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SATs) were conducted free of charge on Saturday 30th April with 74 hopefuls from Traditional High, Upgraded High and Primary and Junior High schools. The students who emerged with the best scores within their cohort were:

- Jozelle Dixon (Wolmers Girls' School)
- Cheriece Davidson (Campion College)
- Odane Dawkins (Glenmuir High School)

For this year, only three students could be chosen but two other students who have done well and qualify will have an opportunity to participate in the 2012 session of the summer programme, as the School of Education anticipates an extended long-term relationship as Mona moves to collaborate with Johns Hopkins in hosting this programme. **M**



An invigilator assists one of the participants



Campus Registrar, Dr. Camille Bell Hutchinson (centre) in animated discussion with Neetu Dhawan-Gray, Center for Talented Youth (CTY) at Johns Hopkins University and Riquette Bonne Smith, Executive Director, CTY, Bermuda and Board Member, CTY at Johns Hopkins





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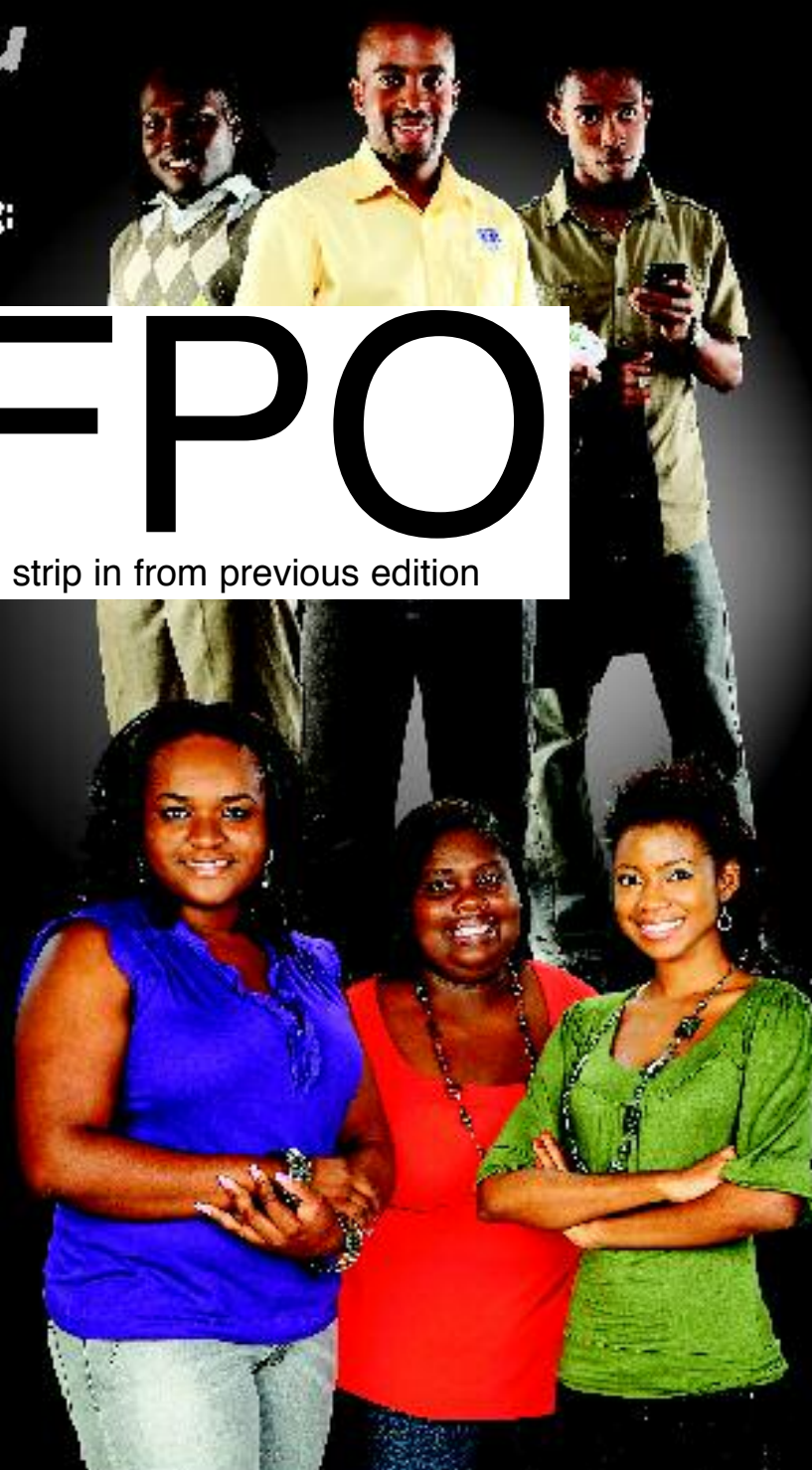
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November to January

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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