



NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA CAMPUS

MONA

MAY 2015



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| OBAMA AT MONA

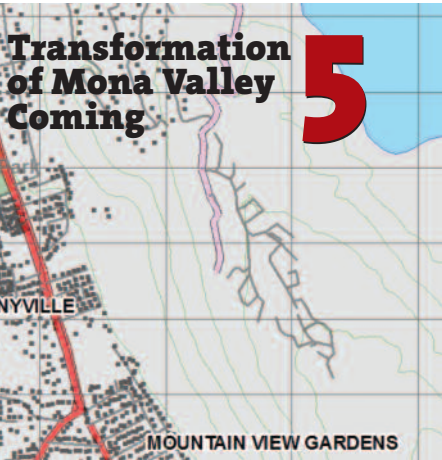
| UWI TO GROW GANJA

| MEDICAL SCIENCES CENTRE OPENS

| RHODES SCHOLAR TARIQ PARKER



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Mona Magazine is a publication of the Marketing, Recruitment & Communications Office, The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica

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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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Living the Mona Plan

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



My Mona. My Plan. Let's Live it!" This newly adapted mantra of The University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona outlines our commitment to ensuring that this fine institution continues to be the regional leader in higher educational studies.

Over the past few years, The University has undertaken what can only be described as an institutional regeneration. As a major competitor in regional tertiary education we realised that in order to become leaders of the pack in higher education our institution had to re-evaluate the methods in which we deliver education within our society. Improving our teaching and learning infrastructure; ensuring that our students receive a holistic tertiary education that will prepare them professionally and personally for the global job market; enhancing our ICT and academic and administrative processes; making significant strides in research and innovation, whilst ensuring that our staff receive the necessary training that will help them move up the job ladder are the core elements

of what will make the UWI a world class institution. These are our commitments to our student population and the Jamaican society at large and the key tenets of the ongoing Mona Campus Operational Plan.

Yet the task of shaping The University into the benchmark for higher education does not simply depend on being able to devise innovative institutional policies and procedures. It is highly based on gaining significant support from our internal and external partners in education.

For the first time in UWI history the development of our institution becomes a community effort. One which depends on every individual – administrator, student, researcher and lecturer – in order to come to fruition. It is a formal recognition that this difficult yet achievable task is one which goes beyond policy making and requires the expertise and knowledge of individuals who are leaders in their fields. It is a task that requires direct community engagement and investment by public and private stakeholders who recognise the immense potential of what higher education can yield for the citizens of an economically struggling society.

Our accomplishments thus far with the implementation of the Mona Campus' Operational Plan – our plan – includes the official opening of the Faculty of Medical Sciences Teaching & Research Complex. This is a first class medical teaching facility that places the power of learning in the hands of our students. This Complex epitomizes our vision for the entire Mona Campus community – a vision that would not have been a reality without the support and guidance of our internal and external partners in education.

The success of this Complex heralded a new era of advancement for medical teaching and research for our country that is not only appealing to international students but one which provides our national students with an opportunity to use teaching and learning facilities, tools and equipment that are on par with their future competitors in the international job market.

The Mona Campus is home to some of the most innovative, pioneering minds in business, science, and the arts. We are a leading force in higher education because of the dedication that we have to our students but there is space for our continued improvement. The Mona Campus' Operational Plan is a formal affirmation to potential students, and indeed our competitors, that we will continue to grow exponentially whilst remaining critical leaders in education and research. This however, cannot be achieved within a vacuum and thus requires the commitment of the entire UWI community. This plan is our plan and one which we can achieve as a community committed to the continued educational advancement of our society.

Archibald McDonald
Pro Vice-Chancellor & Principal

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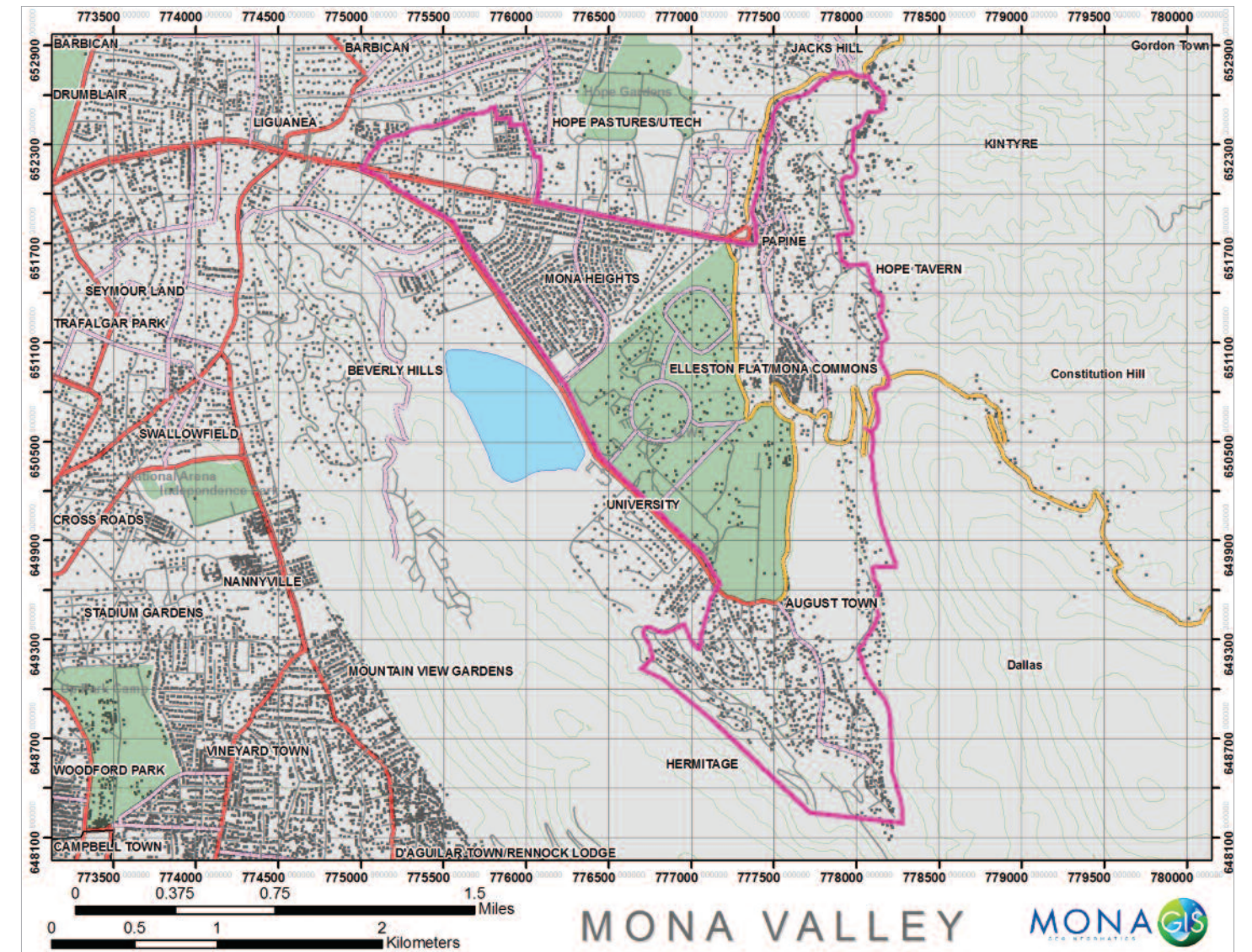
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NEWS

MONA MAY 2015

Mona Social Services envisions a Transformation in the Mona Valley



It was part of the vision of the late Professor Alston 'Barry' Chevannes to establish a UWI Township, an initiative by which The UWI, Mona Campus would lead and also foster integration of the University with the underserved communities surrounding the campus. While he managed to take the project off the ground, it was not until after his death that the Mona Social Services (MSS) company was formed in 2011, with the distinct mission to actualise the vision.

Even though the township vision by The UWI extends to all communities in the

Mona Valley, much of the focus of the MSS has been geared towards the districts within Greater August Town (GAT), whose reputation has been tainted by a history of collective violence, political or gang related. This, together with the overflow of students lodging in the districts, made the development of the community a priority for MSS.

The organization has continued to address the development of GAT through a six-pillar approach called the UWI Township Project. The pillars are: education, sports and culture, health, entrepreneurship, crime

and violence reduction and peace.

Since its inception in 1948, the UWI has had relations with its neighbours, specifically GAT and the five districts it comprises – August Town, Hermitage, Goldsmith Villa, African Gardens and Bedward Gardens. The association has improved the lives of residents in these communities who find job opportunities on campus and use the University's medical services and sports field for various activities. Over the years, MSS has made notable achievements in the areas of education, entrepreneurship and



Past and present UWI Township Scholarship recipients stand with UWI Mona Principal Prof. Archibald McDonald (fifth from left) and Executive Director at MSS Dr. Olivene Burke (centre) at the welcome ceremony in August 2014.

sports. Among these is the management of The UWI Mona Source – a social enterprise which employs residents and uses earnings from the sale of products to support social development projects in GAT. Another achievement is the refurbishment of seven basic schools and their resultant registration with the Early Childhood Commission.

The UWI Township Scholarship Programme, which started in 2009, has afforded 32 residents to attend The UWI, tuition free.

‘Township’ as it is affectionately known by residents, has also supported the hosting of the Greater August Town Basic School Football and Athletics Championships, edu-com-

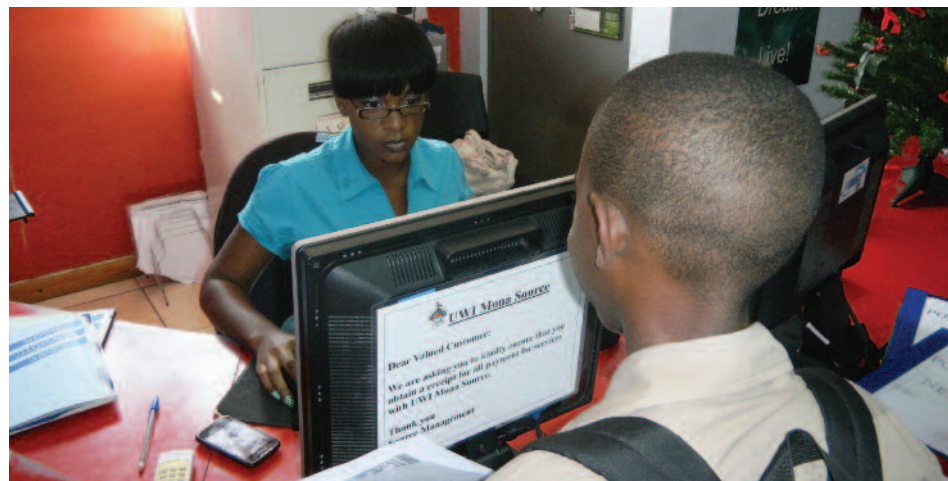
munity corner lecture series, train-the-trainer parenting workshops, and cultural exchange programmes with universities from within and outside the Caribbean.

“The urgency to find solutions to problems in Greater August Town pushed Township to the fore and became a major action-based project,” said Michael-Edward James, Community Action Officer at MSS. “The goal was to have a UWI Township concept but the needs of Greater August Town led MSS to do a lot more work there.”

Partnerships with the private sector, community based organizations, the Jamaica Constabulary Force, volunteers, as well as cooperation from residents, have so far contributed to a decline in the violence happening in GAT. This has given MSS leg room to venture into other initiatives.

NEW PROJECTS

In 2014, MSS re-examined its mission, vision and objectives to centralize its focus



UWI Mona SOURCE administrator Cameka Wright attends to a customer.



A section of the lot at the Shalom Pre-School in August Town showing some of the seedlings that were planted in the garden.

on transforming the communities of the Mona Valley into places to live, work, raise families and do business. Hence, while the UWI Township Project remains of much importance, initiatives such as the Mona Common Redevelopment Programme and the Kitchen Garden Project in Basic Schools have gained much traction.

At present, the area across from the University Hospital of the West Indies, better known as Mona Common, stands as an informal settlement with approximately 1200 people. MSS aims to transform this into a formal community and make it a model for community transformation. So far, much research has been conducted and MSS has managed to obtain a 99-year lease on the land that will assist in the transformation process. The Mona Common Steering Committee was also established to provide a source of mediation between MSS and the Mona Common residents to sensitize them to the imminent changes. At present, there are on-going negotiations involving residents and other stakeholders towards improving the area.

Major headway has been made with the Kitchen Garden Project. The initiative, which was formerly piloted in one basic school in GAT, now extends to four others. Shalom Pre-School and Hermitage Basic School now have upgraded gardens, made possible through the collaborative work of the Rural Agricultural Development Authority and the Rotaract Club of Liguanea Plains, providing technical support and over 100 seedlings respectively.

“I am extremely excited about the contribution of Mona Social Services: UWI Township to the nutritional advancement of the students at the Shalom Pre-School and Hermitage Basic School. It is also an indirect way of promoting humane education,” said Dr. Olivene Burke, Executive Director at MSS. She also said the garden will serve as a resource for the school, enabling staff to provide healthy lunches for the children.

Despite the achievements in improving the lives of residents in GAT and soon Mona Common, MSS believes that the transformation will require greater collaboration among all stakeholders to address the development of these underserved areas. “It’s a process that will have its pitfalls but there have been improvements. It will not happen overnight, and will take the commitment of staff, residents, volunteers, government and the private sector,” James said. ■

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Vice Chairman, Ganja Growers and Producers Association, Mr. Richard Crawford, outlines the historic significance of the MOU as Mona Principal, Professor Archibald McDonald, and Chairman, Ganja Growers and Producers Association, Orville Slivera (right) pay keen attention

A HISTORIC MOMENT

UWI Licenced to Grow Marijuana for Research

The University of the West Indies, (UWI) Mona has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ganja Growers and Producers Association of Jamaica to enable the University to engage independent contractors or other approved bodies in the growing of Cannabis Plants for the purpose of conducting research. The MOU was signed on Friday, April 24, 2015 at a ceremony held on The UWI, Mona Campus in Kingston, Jamaica.

The research on marijuana will be led by a newly established group at The UWI, Mona – the Cannabis Research Institute. Initially, the Institute will focus on identifying the different strains of local marijuana, how the different strains interact with the human body as well as products that may be derived



The first legal ganja tree was planted on the UWI Mona Campus on April 20

from the plant. The work of the Institute will also have a direct economic impact on small farmers across Jamaica, some of whom will be contracted to produce the marijuana plants needed to facilitate the research.

The MOU signing ceremony follows closely on the historic planting of Jamaica's first legal marijuana plant at The UWI, Mona Faculty of Medical Sciences Teaching & Research Complex on Monday, April 20, 2015. Both developments have been made possible by the granting of a licence to The UWI, Mona to grow marijuana for research purposes. The licence was granted under the provisions of a ministerial order issued by Minister of Science, Technology, Energy, and Mining Phillip Paulwell recently under Section 7 (d) of the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act. The licence also permits



The signing ceremony attracted strong support from members of the University community, members of the national legalization campaign as well as representatives of ganja growers and producers


The UWI, Mona has long taken a lead role in the use of marijuana for medical purposes. The marijuana-based drug Canasol, used in the treatment of glaucoma, was pioneered by the late Professor Manley West of The UWI, Mona Department of Pharmacology.

the Mona Campus to engage independent contractors or other approved bodies in the growing of Cannabis Plants for the purpose of conducting research.

The events highlight UWI's position as the pioneer in legally cultivating and researching the benefits of the drug in Jamaica. The UWI, Mona has long taken a lead role in the use of marijuana for medical purposes. The marijuana-based drug Canasol, used in the treatment of glaucoma, was pioneered by the late Professor Manley West of The UWI, Mona Department of Pharmacology.

Mona Principal, Professor Archibald McDonald, serves as Chair of the Cannabis Commercial and Medicinal Research Task Force (CCMRT), an umbrella group, launched in September 2013. Participating organizations include The University of the West Indies; the University of Technology (UTECH), Jamaica; the Scientific Research Council; the Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSME); the Jamaica Agricultural Society; Small Business Association of Jamaica; the Rastafarian Millennium Council; Ganja Law Reform Coalition (GLRC), and the National Alliance for the Legalization of Ganja (NALG), among others.

In 2014, The UWI, Mona signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Timeless Herbal Care, a company which is involved in research into and the growing of herbal plants and with GenCanna Global, Inc., trading as Strains of Hope, to facilitate the conduct of research into the medicinal properties of marijuana (*cannabis sativa*). Strains of Hope are one of the largest marijuana growers and dispensary owners in Colorado, in the United States of America.

The UWI, Mona also hosted a three-day Inaugural Jamaica Cannabis Conference, in May 2014. 

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UP FROM THE BARRACKS

By Prof. Archibald McDonald

Our journey started before 1948, when on the advice of the Irvine commission, the British Government established the University of the West Indies as a College of the University of London.

Dr. Thomas Taylor, a noted Biochemist, was appointed as the first Principal. While the Mona Campus was under construction, Dr. Taylor opened the first office of the University College of the West Indies at 62 Lady Musgrave Road, Kingston, on February 1, 1947. The opening of the office was a starkly simple affair, with three or four prayers read in the presence of Dr. Taylor's wife, Georgina; Philip Sherlock, the only other member of the Faculty; Sylvia Dunkerly, the sole Secretary and the College's first driver, George Errar.

Early in 1947, the University College relocated to Gibraltar Camp at Mona which had been the site of a camp for refugees from Gibraltar and Malta as well as German and Italian prisoners of war. October 3, 1948 saw the official opening of the Mona Campus with ten females and twenty-three males from across the region entering the fledgling University in the then Faculty of Medicine. It all started in a wooden building known as the Barracks.

Fast forward to 2015 when total enrolment in the UWI medical school is approximately 3000 students - 1250 in Trinidad & Tobago, 1500 at Mona, Jamaica and about 150 at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados. Annual intake of new students in the re-named Faculty of Medical Sciences on the Mona Campus has increased from the initial 33 to approximately 350 students in the last academic year.



The ceremonial opening of the Faculty of Medical Sciences Teaching & Research Complex at The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus took place on Wednesday, February 4, 2015. Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller unveiled the plaque to symbolically open the new facility which has been developed as a part of the Faculty's thrust to increase student intake against the background of the rising demand for programmes in the medical sciences. The occasion was also used to launch The UWI, Mona Dental Programme. Sharing in the moment (l-r) are Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris; Mona Principal, Professor Archibald McDonald and Minister of Health, the Hon. Dr. Fenton Ferguson.

FULL FEE PAYING PROGRAMME

The challenge has been how to expand to meet the needs of the Caribbean and still maintain the quality for which The UWI has become known. This has been achieved through the introduction of the Full Fee Paying Programme. Students are admitted to the Faculty under a quota system agreed by the regional governments. However, the Faculty has been granted permission to admit students, in excess of the allotted quota, who were willing and able to fund themselves.

The increased enrolment that has occurred since 2004, first to 200 in 2008 and then to more than 300 students in 2011–2012 has occurred mainly through an increase in international and regional students.

The expansion is important for the Caribbean region, Jamaica and the Mona Campus. It has enabled more young people who are qualified to enter medical school to be given the opportunity to do so. Interestingly, more poor Jamaican students have been able to do medicine at Mona now than ever before.

At the same time, the expansion has restored diversity to the MB BS Programme as increasing numbers of students have been accepted from the rest of the Caribbean, and there are now students from Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. The expansion has also enabled us to acquire the resources to modernize our medical school.



Year 3 Dental Student, Xavier Francis, working on the Advanced Simulator preparing a tooth to receive a filling. In the picture he is looking at the Evaluation Screen where the computer is telling him what he has done correctly and incorrectly. Guiding his work is Director of the Dental programme, Dr. Thaon Jones, (left) as the Prime Minister and Principal look on



The building boasts some of the most advanced teaching labs, research labs, lecture theatres and tutorial rooms, among which are: the Caribbean Genetics Research Unit, the Caribbean Toxicology Research Unit and the Dental Simulation Laboratory which guarantees a world class teaching and learning experience. The facility is also the only one of its kind in the Caribbean to specialise in the emerging discipline of sports and exercise medicine and is dedicated to the treatment of competing athletes.

Funds garnered from the full fee-paying programme have enabled us to make the following improvements:

- Construction of a new lecture theatre in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences and renovation and expansion of another
- Expansion and renovation of the Physiology laboratory
- Construction of a new computer facility in Basic Medical Sciences.

- Refurbishing of several research labs for graduate students.
- Extensive refurbishing of the Microbiology Department.
- Renovation of several areas of the Department of Pathology
- Renovation and expansion of the Computer laboratory known as the Hopwood Centre.
- Renovation of the Student lounge at the

University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI)

The cadre of full time staff has been increased from 120 to 190. Associate staff was increased from 70 to 175. The Philosophy of our curriculum is founded on small group teaching, so the increased numbers have enabled us to ensure that our staff: student ratio remains at about 1:4. This compares favourably with good medical schools internationally.

WORLD-CLASS FACILITIES

The newly opened Faculty of Medical Sciences Teaching & Research Complex has also provided first world pre-clinical facilities. In order to prevent overcrowding, we have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Health which gives our students access to Government clinical facilities. We have expanded clinical teaching to several government hospitals from the Kingston Public Hospital in the capital city, to Cornwall Regional Hospital in Montego Bay, St. James. We have ensured that the students at these remote sites have adequate facilities such as computer labs, internet connectivity, and access to UWI libraries, and administrative support. At each site a senior clinician has the responsibility to ensure that quality of the teaching is commensurate with UWI standards.

The UWI has in place its own quality assurance unit in the Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies which ensures that the quality of its programmes is compliant with UWI standards. Each Programme is reviewed every five years. The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) ensures that medical schools are compliant with its standards. The UWI was the first school to gain full accreditation from the CAAM.

In conclusion, curriculum revision and the expansion of the medical school have ensured that The UWI medical school has not only maintained the quality of its product but has improved the quality of its programmes through improvements in facilities and personnel. The expansion of the medical school has made this possible. The expansion generated the resources required to upgrade our facilities, employ additional staff and ensure that quality is not compromised.

DENTISTRY PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

We are now taking another bold step with



Member of the original Class of '33 medical students who entered the institution in 1948, Dr. Keith McKenzie (centre), was a special guest at the opening of the new medical facility. Joining him (l-r) are the Vice Chancellor, the Prime Minister, Minister of Education, the Hon. Rev. Ronald Thwaites, and the Principal.



The Medical Sciences Building

the introduction of the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree programme. Dentistry was introduced at Mona in 2010 with 15 students (four males and eleven females). Currently sixty-five (65) students are enrolled. The programme lasts five years and provides a solid foundation of Basic Medical Sciences. Students share many courses with the medical students and build on that foundation with Simulation training, practising procedures on simulators that approximate the treatment on patients.

The students end their training with the treatment of patients in the Dental Polyclinic. The programme has now received the initial accreditation approval from the CAAM-HP, and is working towards satisfying the recommendations of the CAAM-HP ahead of their full accreditation visit in 2016.

THE WAY FORWARD

In summary, the expansion of the UWI Faculty of Medical Sciences Mona has benefitted from increased student enrolment.

It has generated resources which have enabled us to improve our physical and IT infrastructure:

1. The expansion has positively impacted our quality by increasing diversity in the student population and facilitating employment of additional staff thus ensuring a student: teacher ratio of 4:1.
2. The increased enrolment facilitated expansion of clinical training facilities thus exposing our students to more clinical material and pathologies.
3. It provides an opportunity for more students to be admitted to the MB BS Programme thus providing opportunities for Jamaica's young people
4. The expansion has enhanced our quality, not compromised it.

The next frontier must be the expansion of the Faculty to Montego Bay. A small facility has been established at the WJC campus but this must evolve into a world class facility complementing the Mona Campus and giving even more Jamaicans access to one of the best medical facilities in the world. **M**

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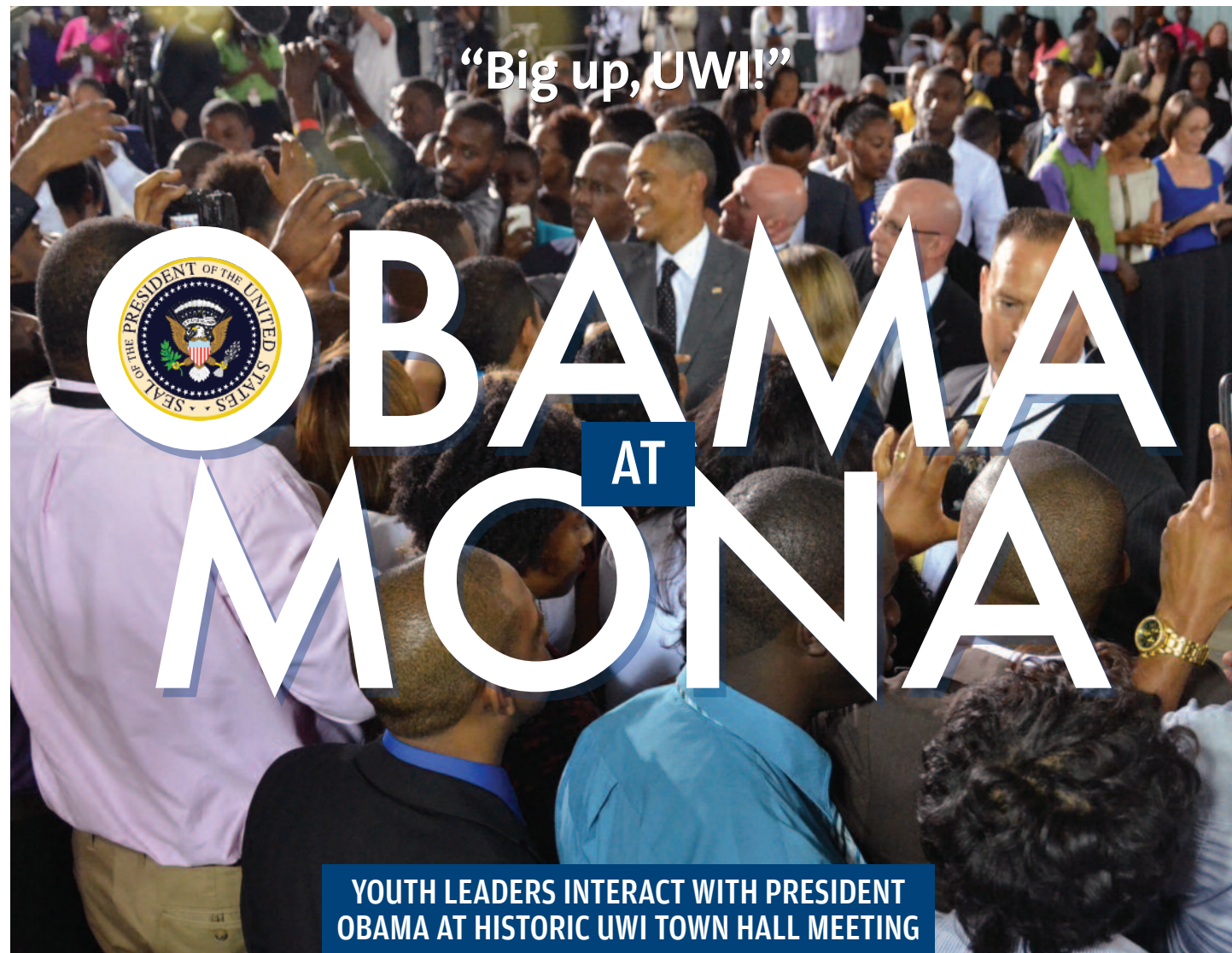
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YOUTH LEADERS INTERACT WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA AT HISTORIC UWI TOWN HALL MEETING

Some 350 young leaders from Jamaica and the wider Caribbean attended an historic Town Hall meeting with President of the United States Barack Obama held at The University of the West Indies, (UWI) Mona Campus on Thursday, April 9, 2015.


President Obama used the opportunity to launch the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAi) to expand opportunities for emerging entrepreneurs and civil society activists. The YLAi will provide 250 fellowships each year to enable participants from the United States and the region to develop joint business and civil society initiatives. He later invited questions from the floor, noting that young people will shape the future of our countries, region, and the planet, and it was important to hear their views.

For President of the Guild of Students at The UWI, Mona, Lerone Laing, participation in the Town Hall meeting was an amazing experience which made a tremendous impression on him: "I'm motivated to promote the principles of transparency, integrity and respect for the rule of law as these are critical values for development," as he pointed out.

President Obama's emphasis on entrepreneurship resonated with budding entrepreneur, Romone Robinson, a second-year student in the Faculty of Social Sciences. "I left the meeting determined to hone my entrepreneurial skills so that I can make a great impact on employment not only in the Jamaican society but in the world at large," Robinson declared. These views were shared by postgraduate student Travis Atkinson, who supported the President's focus on investment in the skills and training of youths, but was a

little disappointed that matters such as energy and security were not thoroughly ventilated.

Professor Archibald McDonald, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, and Dr. Camille Bell-Hutchinson, Campus Registrar, were among the dignitaries who met the President. According to Professor McDonald, "The Mona Campus is delighted to have been the host for the launch of President Obama's Initiative. We are also extremely proud of Aubrey Stewart, student of the Western Jamaica Campus, who was chosen to introduce the President at the event".

The Principal must also have been delighted at President Obama's expression of appreciation to the institution. As the President said: "I want to thank The University of the West Indies for hosting us. Big up UWI!" 



President-elect of the UWI Guild of Students, Daviane Tucker, poses a question to the president.



US President Barack Obama addresses a town hall meeting during the launch of Young Leaders of the Americas (YLAi) held at the Mona Campus on April 9.



President Obama fields questions at the April 9 YLAi town hall meeting in the UWI Mona Campus Assembly Hall.



Guild President at The UWI Mona Western Jamaica Campus, Montego Bay, Aubrey Stewart, introduced President Obama at the historic event.



A section of the crowd at the Town Hall meeting.



Governor General, Sir Patrick Allen, (right) congratulates 2015 Rhodes Scholar, Tariq Parker

A BIG HEART

It is not often that you encounter someone who seems to have just the right type of personality to succeed in his job. Dr. Tariq Parker, 2015 Rhodes Scholar and Medical Intern at the Spanish Town Hospital, St. Catherine, is one such person. Amiable, kind-hearted and humane, Parker is passionate about the practice of medicine which affords him the opportunity to live his dream of giving back to people.

At 24 years old, Parker regards himself as “very lucky” and yearns to use that luck to help others. He maintains that at the Spanish Town Hospital, he is surrounded by persons in desperate need of health care and the gratitude they show puts him on a perpetual high from day to day.

CLOSE-KNIT FAMILY

Parker is from a small, close-knit family, including his mother, father and an older brother. He and his brother are two years apart in age, but share the same birthday – January 29. “Like most siblings, we have our differences; however, we are the best of friends. He is studying

MEET
Tariq Parker
2014 RHODES SCHOLAR

abroad but we keep very close. I love him dearly,” Parker said. He also cherishes his parents who he regards as “fantastic people” and his chief mentors. His father – Basil Parker – is an at-

torney-at-law and his mother Marlene Parker has worked in varying capacities in the financial sector. “She is a mother, first and foremost, and I would not be who I am today without her. She has resigned several jobs to stay home and assist in the lives of her children. She has always been a supportive figure and many of my friends call her ‘Mom’. Though I have only one blood brother, throughout my entire high school life it was never just me and my brother living at home. Sometimes we had four or five friends who spent extended periods with the family,” Parker said.

He admires his father’s humility – a quality he and his brother have sought to emulate. “My father is from very humble beginnings and he has always felt the need to give back what he can. He grew up in the Baptist church and we attend the Gregory Park Baptist church

together. I am acutely aware of how blessed we are as a family and grateful for God’s blessings in our lives.”

PRODUCT OF WOLMER’S

A product of Wolmer’s pre-school, prep school and high schools, Parker enjoyed his early years in the Wolmer’s environment so much that when he sat the GSAT exams and won a government scholarship to Campion College he switched his place to Wolmer’s Boys’ School. “I opted for comfort; being there since pre-school, I was comfortable in that environment and my brother was already at Wolmer’s,” he said.

“Wolmer’s Boys’ was a very competitive environment which drove me to excel. It contributed significantly to my development. My primary motivation is the school’s motto – *Age Quod Agis* – Whatever you do, do it to the best of your ability. It is my philosophy of life. I definitely do not subscribe to mediocrity,” he noted.

Today, he still maintains his involvement with Wolmer’s Boys’ as a volunteer coach of the School’s Challenge Quiz Team. “I was captain of the School’s Challenge Quiz team as a student in 2008-2009. Despite the rigours of the medical Internship, I try to find the time to go and help the team. I have been doing this since I left Wolmer’s in 2009,” he said.

LOVE FOR SURGERY

On leaving Wolmer’s, he entered the Faculty of Medical Sciences on a UWI Open Scholarship, graduating in 2014 with the MBBS (Hons.) degree with distinction. “As a Science student in high school, I always had that inclination and I wanted an outlet to give back. I fell in love with Medicine, especially surgery, during Medical School,” he explained. “I like to do things with my hands; I find surgery amazing – I love it. There is the adrenalin rush and there is something intriguing about seeing a part of a person that they cannot see for themselves. Surgery is the specialty that allows you to intervene and make a change for the better; you can really alter things,” he added.

His Rhodes scholarship, tenable at Oxford University in the UK, will commence in September 2015. Parker will initially be



Tariq Parker (2nd left) spends time with his family in California. Others from left: brother Brandon; parents Marlene and Basil Parker

pursuing the MSc in Neuroscience programme and may also do the PhD in Neural Stem Cell Research. “My interest in Neural Stem Cell Research evolved from my curiosity in Neuroscience. The brain and the nerves do not regenerate quickly. Stem cell research offers an opportunity to regrow the neural tissue where it was previously impossible. For persons with Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s and stroke, this is a very real and viable option,” he said. “Neurosurgery is the type of surgery I really want to do; with stem cell research, it can change the way we view Medicine and how we treat neurological diseases. Anything to do with the mind and the brain is where

my interest lies – this is my passion,” he said. “It is a close second to Wolmer’s,” he added humbly.

After the scholarship, he plans to return to Jamaica and contribute in the area of Stem Cell Research: “This will satisfy my passion for research. I also want to be a neurosurgeon, and I have big dreams for the practice of neurosurgery in Jamaica. Of course, I will always make myself available to Wolmer’s as a teacher and a quiz coach when required”.

For one with such a big heart, the sky is the limit. **M**

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SPASTICITY TREATMENT WORKSHOPS A RAY OF HOPE FOR NEEDY CHILDREN



Placing a patient in a Stander to help him hold up his body

A great number of children in Jamaica are affected by cerebral palsy, a non-progressive, neurological disorder caused by abnormal development or damage to the parts of the brain that control movement, balance and posture, resulting in movement disorders that appear early in childhood. Cerebral palsy manifests itself in various ways, the most common being spasticity, which results in increased muscle tone, stiffness and difficulty in moving affected limbs.

Up until recently, Jamaican children suffering from spastic cerebral palsy who could not afford medical treatment abroad were forced to survive without the standard medical care. These children require an enormous amount of hands-on care, have costly medical needs over their lifetime and a few may have chronic pain, and ultimately, do not reach their full potential.

The inordinate amount of care required by these children places a burden on their

families and society, and often prevents a family member from working and offering sufficient care to other relatives and from participating in community activities. There are also those children affected by spastic cerebral palsy who are not fortunate to have willing caregivers, and are abandoned.

Since October 2008, however, there has been a ray of hope. The Division of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PMR) at The UWI, Mona, they began to provide medical care for the children at the PMR Clinic at the University Hospital and, for the first time in Jamaica, on February 16, 2009, Botulinum Toxin Type A injection was used to treat children with spasticity. This pioneer treatment was done through a collaborative effort between UWI/Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Consultant Dr. Paula Dawson and Dr. Edwardo Ramos Cortes from University of Puerto Rico, under the sponsorship of New Vision Distributors, Mr. Mark Law a distributor for Allergan. The medication, Botulinum Toxin

Type A (Botox), was provided free of cost by the sponsors and four (4) children at the University of the West Indies were treated. In October 2009, through the efforts of the Organization for the Strategic Development of Jamaica (OSDJ), a vibrant and energetic group was formed, that would successfully grow to develop more sustainable Spasticity Workshops to treat many children with spasticity.

The Spasticity Clinical Treatment Workshops have been organized, free of cost, on an annual basis to treat children with spasticity caused by cerebral palsy. The workshops are spearheaded by the OSDJ, a charitable group headed by Wayland Richards; Dr. Mark Gormley, a paediatric rehabilitation consultant and his medicine team from Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare in Minnesota, USA; the Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC); and the Ministry of Health, working in conjunction with workshop organizer, Dr. Dawson, Consultant Physiatrist at the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) and lecturer in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Interventional Spine and Sports Medicine, at the Faculty of Medical Sciences Teaching and Research Complex. The workshops have also trained local physicians and medical residents to perform advanced surgical procedures, such as neurolytic blocks and rhizotomy surgeries, to treat these children.

SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOPS

The Gillette team has been coming to Jamaica to treat children twice per year. This year, however, they will be holding an additional workshop. The last workshop ran from February 23 – 27, 2015, and the team expects to mount subsequent workshops around June and October this year.

Approximately 50 patients were treated at the UHWI and Bustamante hospitals during the last workshop. The overseas team worked in concert with the Jamaican team to perform neurosurgical

procedures, orthopaedic surgeries, administer phenol injections, fit braces and evaluate patients. "An average of 50 patients are treated per workshop, with some children getting treatment consistently every year since 2009," Dawson said. The workshop also included a teaching aspect for the residents and Grand Rounds presentations to paediatricians and orthopaedic surgeons at the UHWI.

Dawson noted: "Before 2009, those who had spasticity caused from cerebral palsy were managed by orthopaedic surgeons. However, since 2009, treatment has been available at the UHWI and Bustamante hospitals with phenol injections administered to about 250 children so far, aged 3 – 18 years. Consequently, we have kids who are walking who could not walk before, while some children are sitting up." The team pioneered the use of the phenol injection as a treatment for spasticity in Jamaica. These injections improve the muscles, but might still leave some residual stiffness and so the dosage has to be repeated every six months as it wears out of the system.

"The workshops have also been giving out orthotics (braces). Since 2009, about 1,000 braces, including ankle, knee, wrist, elbow and hip splints have been fitted for positioning. Additionally, spine surgeries (neurosurgies) and orthopaedic surgeries have been done free of cost on 21 children since 2009," Dawson added.

Dawson, who administers the phenol injections, is joined by the local team which includes Nurse Natoya Wade, Dr. Mark Morgan (BHC), Dr. Dayanand Sawh (BHC), Dr. Michele Richards Dawson (Senior Medical Officer, BHC), Dr. Carl Bruce (Neurosurgeon, UHWI), Dr. Maxim Christmas (UHWI), Dr. Hyacinth Harding (Head of Anaesthetics, UHWI), Dr. Kelvin Metalore (Anaesthetist), Dr. Peter Charles (Neurosurgeon) and Dr. Kenneth Vaughan (Head of Orthopaedic Surgery, UHWI).

They are backed by overseas doctors who have been permanently registered with the Medical Council of Jamaica. Headed by Gormley, this contingent includes Dr. Joseph Petronio, Paediatric Neurosurgeon known to have the lowest complication rate for neurosurgery on children with spasticity in the US; Dr. Hank Chambers, one of the leading paediatric orthopaedic surgeons in the US; Dr. Debbie Quanbeck, Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon and Dr. Tim Feyma, Pediatric Neurologist, along



A phenol injection is administered to a spastic patient

with Gillette's rehabilitation team of nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and orthotists.

FUNDING

Dawson points out that the realisation of the Spasticity Workshops in Jamaica has been a story of hope, triumph and goodwill, but funding is needed to continue them and to eventually increase them to four times per year. "Currently, the cost of the programme has been covered by the Gillette team's personal funds, with

assistance from the dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, local doctors who provide some meals for the team, and the Ministry of Health which transports them.

The Gillette team is committed to continuing the workshops, but the current financial structure of the programme is unsustainable. The goal, therefore, is for adequate funding to cover the expenses and to grow and expand the services to the needy children". **M**

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ENHANCING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE AT UWI

Speaking Across the Curriculum

In a largely oral society, it might seem unnecessary to incorporate oral communication activities into courses across disciplines, particularly in institutions of higher learning. The assumption is that students pursuing higher education should be able to deliver a stand-up presentation on their respective field of study. This however, is a misconception.

Increasingly, higher education institutions are recognizing the need to address oral communication deficits among their students. Whether aimed at enhancing the educational environment for students in the classroom, or better positioning students for their future professional careers, oral communication development, otherwise referred to as Speaking Across Curriculum (SAC) has now taken root. The foremost goal of SAC is to develop better competency in listening, speaking and delivering oral presentations.

The UWI, Mona has been involved in this initiative since 2010 in keeping with its thrust to produce graduates of a high caliber to meet the demands of the 21st century.

According to Coordinator of the Communication Across the Curriculum programme, Dr. Ingrid McLaren, SAC has roots in the Writing Across Curriculum (WAC) programme, which commenced in 2006 2007. As she tells it, the WAC intervention was conceived out of some disquiet about the writing skills of students pursuing science subjects.

Against this backdrop concerned parties from the then Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences (now renamed Faculty of Science and Technology) and the English Language Section in the Faculty of Humanities & Education, collaborated to determine appropriate strategies to infuse writing into the science courses.

The SAC evolved from the WAC project. It soon became obvious that the students also needed to improve their oral communication skills. "When language is incomprehensible, it is incomprehensible in any form. You cannot obscure the lack of clarity by spouting formulae; it is still not going to make any sense," Dr. McLaren pointed out.



Dr. Ingrid McLaren

main arms of presentation delivery: the speaker, the message and the audience. The objectives of these topics are to assist students in managing their anxiety so as to efficiently deliver presentations to a variety of audiences and also for them to become more confident speakers over time. Other objectives include enhancing the student's ability to structure and deliver coherent and effective presentations.

Students are video recorded at the outset. The recordings operate as teaching tools as they are played back for students to review. "Students have been very receptive of this method and they enjoy being able to present to the class and to practise," Dr. McLaren noted, while adding that several innovative strategies are used with the students.

For example, SAC related strategies have been incorporated into, and become integral components of the different courses rather than being seen as a standalone subject. "We are a part of the evaluation team for their [students'] course. When the students do a presentation at the end of the course, we evaluate the delivery and the lecturers, the content," she explained.

Conventional wisdom dictates that such a programme would reap remarkable results and SAC is no exception. "They [students] blossom from who they were before," Dr. McLaren remarked. Research has shown that the chemistry students exposed to the tactics and strategies for presentations under the SAC intervention do statistically better, on their final presentations than those who are not thus exposed.

Additionally, while the SAC programme is not entrenched in all disciplines and is limited to the Chemistry and Life Sciences, Dr. McLaren believes that its impact goes beyond the positive development of students. "I think that the most important step that has been made is that there is more awareness and that we do have the support of people [scientists] outside of the Language and Linguistics faculty," she said.

Evidence of this expanding awareness has manifested in the permanent assignment of a SAC trained Linguistics post graduate awardee to oversee the programme in the science faculty next year. "She will take charge of the speaking and writing modules with training from us," Dr. McLaren disclosed. This engagement marks the first time that staff has been dedicated solely to the SAC programme. Prior to this, what obtained was that a volunteering Lecturer coordinated the initiative with assistance from tutors/

post graduate students from Linguistics who were paid by the Academic Support Unit (ASU) for delivery of the SAC module. This assisted immensely in sustaining the initiative.

In the meantime, until the SAC and by extension the Communication Across the Curriculum (an amalgamation of both WAC and SAC) attains full institutional endorsement, the challenge will be to provide additional human and financial resources to sustain it. **M**



Students (above and below) participate in exercises aimed at improving their writing and speaking skills

"We integrated writing exercises in Level 2 courses and then speaking exercises in Level 3 courses because we wanted to provide the students with opportunities to write and speak about their material on a regular basis so they would improve how they present themselves before they graduate," she further qualified.

The SAC programme was welcomed by participating staff and students in the De-

partments of Chemistry and Life Sciences "They [students] love the speaking more than the writing as generally students speak better than they write so therefore, they are very receptive towards the SAC programme," Dr. McLaren said.

The SAC's appeal lies in its audience-centred approach, which forms the basis of all strategies employed. The topics covered are varied, addressing three

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UWI APPOINTS 5 NEW PROFESSORS

The University of the West Indies, Mona is pleased to announce the promotion of five members of staff to the rank of Professor. They are Senior Lecturers in the Tropical Medicine Research Institute, Dr. Michael Boyne and Dr. Colin McKenzie; Senior Lecturer in the Department of Community Health and Psychiatry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Dr. Maria Jackson; Senior Lecturer in the Department of History and Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities & Education, Dr. Matthew Smith and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Associate Dean (Graduate Studies) in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. David Tennant.

PROF. MICHAEL BOYNE



A Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, (FRCPS), Canada, Dr. Michael Boyne holds the Bachelor of Science and the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery from The University of the West Indies, Mona. On graduation, he entered the Internal Medicine Residency Programme at the University of Virginia securing the Diplomate from the American Board of Internal Medicine. This was followed by a Fellowship in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, after which he was awarded the Diplomate from the American Board of Medical Specialties. During this fellowship, he also obtained a graduate degree in Business of Medicine at John Hopkins University.

Michael Boyne joined the staff of The UWI, Mona in 2000 as Lecturer in Endocrinology in the Tropical Medicine Research Institute. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2006.

Over the period, Michael Boyne has established a record of distinguished original work in the field of the developmental origins of health and disease and diabetes research. This effort has made a substantial contribution to understanding the impact of maternal and early development factors in determining susceptibility to type 2 diabetes and obesity.

Research conducted by the newly-appointed professor has demonstrated that deficiencies in nutrition during early childhood and pregnancy have serious as well as enormous health care and public

health implications. The long-term potential impact of severe malnutrition in childhood (i.e. Kwashiorkor and Marasmus) on cardiovascular risk factors are novel and unique. In making these connections, Professor Boyne has contributed significantly to knowledge of the developmental origins of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases particularly in Afro-Caribbean populations.

Professor Boyne has also done important work on the role of early nutrition on insulin sensitivity and glucose tolerance in adult life as well as the relationship between early puberty and cardio-metabolic risk factors in girls. He has also been able to relate intra-uterine factors, childhood growth and hormones (such as cortisol and adiponectin) to cardiovascular risk.

His excellent work has seen him receiving the Principal's Award for Best Research Publication for two consecutive years (2010-2011). He has also received grants as principal investigator and acted as co-investigator on several large research grants. He has initiated several international collaborations, including with the University of Southampton and the Liggins Institute, New Zealand, Johns Hopkins University, Loyola University and Kings College, London.

Professor Boyne is a well-respected teacher, having taught at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels in endocrinology and nutrition, engaged in clinical teaching in the MBBS programme as well as in the supervision of DM candidates. He has also served as faculty advisor and as reviewer for a number of peer-reviewed journals.

He has served as President of the Caribbean Endocrine Society, in several areas of responsibility in the Association of Consultant Physicians, and as member of the editorial board of the *West Indian Medical Journal*. Further, Professor Boyne has acted as reviewer for several prestigious international journals.

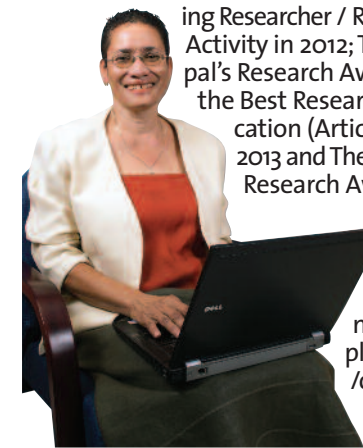
PROF. MARIA JACKSON

Dr. Maria Jackson joined the staff at The UWI, Mona in 1997 as a Research Fellow in the then Section of Child Health and later as a Lecturer in the Department of Community Health and Psychiatry. As a result of her distinguished work in research she was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2007.

Professor Jackson has conducted nutritional epidemiological studies, an area of epidemiologic research in which the role of diet and nutrition is examined in health and disease. Her work in Jamaica and elsewhere quantifies the risk of dietary and nutritional factors in obesity, prostate cancer and other conditions.

She has published studies that examine overweight and obesity in early adolescence in Jamaica and extended her investigations to adult populations of African origin in Cameroon, Jamaica and the UK. In her study of diet and prostate cancer, Professor Jackson included nutritional biomarkers (constituents in blood or urine) to improve estimates of the contribution of diet to prostate cancer risk. She forged international collaborations with a highly esteemed cancer research institute in the USA to examine genetic factors that influence the development of prostate cancer, thereby enhancing her international reputation and that of the UWI. She has contributed to iron deficiency research, in which she investigated iron supplementation in pregnancy and developed an instrument to evaluate habitual dietary intakes of adults in Botswana.

She has authored several technical reports with policy implications for local, regional and international organizations and has been a reviewer for several scientific journals. Her work has been published in prestigious peer-reviewed journals and was awarded The Principal's Research



Award for the Most Outstanding Researcher / Research Activity in 2012; The Principal's Research Award for the Best Research Publication (Article) – 2004; 2013 and The Principal's Research Award

for the Project with the greatest multidisciplinary /cross faculty collaboro-

ration in 2014. She has mentored medical and other students who have received research awards at local and international conferences.

Professor Jackson has served as an editorial board member for *Ethnicity and Health*, a corresponding member of Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Project (WHO, Gates Foundation and World Bank): Nutrition Expert Group and a member of the African-Caribbean Cancer Consortium (AC3) Research Review Committee.

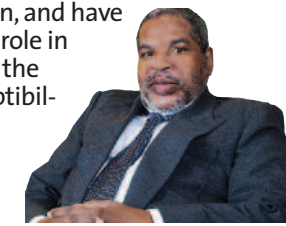
Professor Jackson is the coordinator of the fourth-year Community Health rotation and supervises theses/reports of fourth-year MBBS students as well as graduate students. She has served as an examiner of MSc, MPhil and PhD theses and is the coordinator of the department's MPhil/PhD (Public Health) programme.

PROF. COLIN MCKENZIE

Professor Colin McKenzie holds the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree with Honours from The UWI, Mona and the Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Oxford. He has been a member of staff of The UWI, Mona since 1992 as Research Fellow based at the TMRU, and advanced to the rank of Senior Lecturer in 2006.

Dr. McKenzie is an outstandingly well published and respected scientific leader and collaborator in the areas of population as well as human genetics. His specialization is in the field of chronic disease, in particular the contribution of genetic factors to health and disease. Over the years, he has engaged in

international collaborations with colleagues in North America, to explore important genetic variability for diseases of special relevance to Africa, such as sickle cell disease. He has also collaborated with colleagues in the United Kingdom, for diseases such as hypertension which are common across all populations, but particularly problematic in Jamaica and the Caribbean. His studies have provided important insight into genetic risk factors in chronic human disease in African derived population, and have played a major role in understanding the diseases susceptibility of these populations.



As a teacher, Professor McKenzie has contributed to the MSc Nutrition programme at the TMRU and to curriculum development for the MBBS and the Bachelor of Basic Medical Sciences (BBMedSci) programmes. He was the University Examiner for 'Human Molecular Biology' and course coordinator and principal lecturer for the 'Population Genetics' course in the MSc programme in Forensic Sciences.

Other professional activities have centred on service to the University community as non-Professorial representative to Academic Board, membership on the Board of the National Commercial Bank Insurance Company (NCBIC) Limited and on the Selection Committee for the Rhodes Scholarship for Jamaica. He has also served as reviewer for several journals such as the *West Indian Medical Journal*, *Atherosclerosis*, *Biotechniques*, *the Cochrane Collaboration*, *Heart*, *The Journal of Human Hypertension*, *Molecular Genetics and Metabolism*, *Molecular Biology Reports*, the Pan-American Health Organization, Caribbean Health Research Council (CHRC) dietary manuals for hypertension and for diabetes, and the Rhodes Trust.

Professor McKenzie has presented his research work at several academic regional and international conferences and produced some 51 manuscripts which have appeared in high impact peer reviewed journals, including one paper in *The Lancet* which has been cited 347 times, and several papers in *Nature Genetics* which has an impact factor of 35.2.

He has served as the principal investigator on several grants and secured a large number of grants from local and international agencies.

PROF. MATTHEW SMITH

Professor Matthew Smith holds the Bachelor of Arts degree with First Class Honours in History and the Master of Science degree in Government (Political Theory and Comparative Politics) from The UWI, Mona Campus and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Caribbean/ Latin American History (Major) and US History (Minor) from the University of Florida.

He joined the staff of The UWI, Mona in 2002 as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of History and Archaeology and was promoted to Lecturer in 2004 and Senior Lecturer in 2010.

Cont'd on page 29



CARIBBEAN DAY FESTIVAL OF FOOD & CULTURE

HOMECOMING 2015 CELEBRATIONS



The annual Homecoming Celebrations were staged February 12-13 with the theme 'Re-Igniting the Pelican Flame'. Homecoming honouree was Judge Patrick Robinson, recently appointed Judge of the International Court of Justice, who delivered a public lecture as part of the Celebrations.

Another highlight was the Caribbean Day Festival of Food and Culture, featuring cuisine, displays and cultural performances, reflective of our diverse Caribbean culture.



A TRIAD OF IDENTITY ISSUES

The Enduring Cry for Freedom & Justice



From the Homecoming Lecture delivered by Patrick Robinson, OJ 2015 Homecoming Honouree

I speak today not as a member of the International Court of Justice, and certainly not as an academic, nor even primarily as a lawyer. I speak as a proud citizen of a sovereign and independent country, Jamaica, in the hope that I can contribute to the resolution of certain issues from our colonial past that continue to haunt us.

I address three issues that go to the core of the question of the identity of the Jamaican people: the question of a claim for reparations for the enslavement of our ancestors, the replacement of the Monarchy by a Republican system of government and the replacement of the Privy Council by the Caribbean Court of Justice.

Marcus Garvey said, "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture are like a tree without roots." It seems to me that we have chosen not to remind ourselves of the origins of the great majority of Jamaicans; yet to proceed without acknowledgement of our past can only have negative implications for our national psyche and development as an independent country.

THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Jamaica's relationship with England started in the period of republicanism that lasted in England for 11 years in the middle of the 17th century. In 1655, Cromwell sent Admiral Penn and General Venables to take Hispaniola (now Haiti and the Dominican Republic) from the Spanish; they failed, but not wishing to disappoint Cromwell by returning empty-handed, they proceeded to nearby Jamaica, which was not well protected, and captured it from the Spanish.

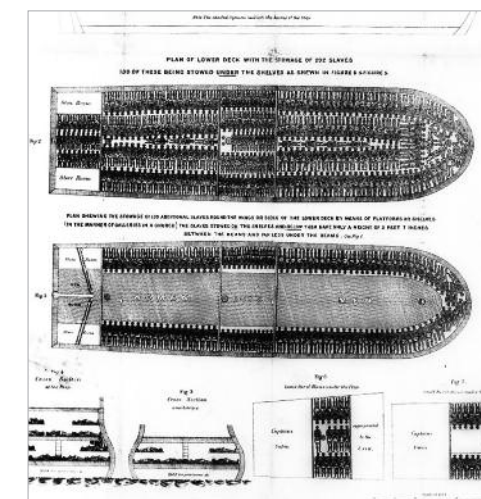
The English continued the trade in captured Africans, started by the Spaniards, to acquire labour, mainly to make prosperous their sugar plantations and to enrich even further, the plantocracy.

Born in bloodshed and sustained in bloodshed, the relationship between England and Jamaica was marked by atrocity upon atrocity against the enslaved. But they did not meekly accept their lot. Sam Sharpe's Emancipation War of 1831, in which over 500 enslaved rebels were killed, the Morant Bay Rebellion of 1865, in which over 400 persons were killed and the Labour Protests of 1938 in which

15 persons were killed, are the seminal events that stoked the furnace in which Jamaica's independence was forged. Although others assisted, notably the Baptist clergy in Jamaica and the abolitionists in England, emancipation from slavery was achieved by the struggle and courage of the enslaved men and women themselves. While the English gave the Caribbean enslavers 20 million English pounds as compensation for their loss, or almost £200 billion in today's money, the newly freed people were given nothing materially and, for the most part, left to fend for themselves.

After being granted internal self-government in 1955 and becoming part of the short-lived West Indies federation, Jamaica became an independent country on 6th August 1962, with the Queen as the Head of Parliament and the Executive, but with no substantive role in the Government of Jamaica, where she is represented by the Governor-General. Therefore in one form or another, Jamaica has had a monarchical system of government from 1660 to the present time, and the enslavement of our ancestors by the British lasted for 183 years.

In 1833, the British established the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to hear appeals from the "plantations and colonies". The Privy Council was the final appellate body not only for colonial Jamaica, but for Dominions in the Commonwealth. However, today the vast majority of Commonwealth countries have severed ties with the Privy Council, leaving a paltry few, regrettably



In his 2015 Homecoming Lecture, honouree Patrick Robinson called for reparations for the enslavement of our ancestors, the replacement of the Monarchy by a Republican system of government and the replacement of the Privy Council by the Caribbean Court of Justice.



JOEL ROUSE/ MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

EINAR EINARSSON/KARAN



A section of the audience listens to Mr. Robinson

including Jamaica, with that court as their final appellate body.

The struggle for freedom and independence which started with the first cry for freedom by our oppressed ancestors from the south across the Atlantic will haunt us until we seize the plenitude of sovereignty and independence available to us by replacing the Monarchy with a Republic, the Privy Council with the CCJ and claim reparations to redress the wrong done to the ancestors of more than 92% of the Jamaican population.

There must be a remedy for the grotesque wrong of transatlantic slavery.

We underestimate Jamaicans if we believe that we cannot take the steps to relinquish these two ancient symbols, make the claim, and at the same time adopt the measures necessary for our social and economic advancement.

THE CLAIM FOR REPARATIONS

It is to be regretted that so many of my countrymen and women do not wish to have a conversation about our history and do not wish to be reminded that they are descended from enslaved Africans. Why is it that, when following atrocities, others say “Lest we forget”, “We shall always remember” and “Never again”, but we say “Forget the past”.

The transatlantic enslavement of African people is the greatest atrocity and example of people’s inhumanity to another people in the history of humankind. It was:

- striking for its duration of over 350 years;
- unmatched for its barbarity - demonstrated in the 18th century by the Englishman ‘Thomas Thistlewood, whose favourite punishment for the enslaved on his Jamaican plantation was to coerce one of the enslaved to defecate in the mouth of another, whose mouth was then gagged for about three hours;
- unmatched for its sheer scale and magnitude, demonstrated, firstly, by the length of the pernicious triangular crossing from Great Britain to West Africa, then to the Caribbean, and to the Americas in

the infamous Middle Passage (in which millions died) and back to Britain, a distance of over 12,000 miles,; secondly, by the number of persons enslaved - well over 15 million, according to Nigerian scholar Joseph Inikori; and thirdly, by the number of those killed - over six million – a figure based on those who died on abduction, on the journey to the so called slave castles, in the Middle Passage and on the plantations.

- unmatched for its profitability - manifested in the fact that in 1774 the average white person in Jamaica was 52 times as wealthy as the average person in Britain and that the compensation money paid to the planters started a second industrial revolution in the UK after 1835.

There must be a remedy for the grotesque wrong of transatlantic slavery. Why would anyone be surprised that a claim for compensation for the greatest crime against humanity in history would be made on behalf of its victims? And why should a country in which more than 92% of its population are descendants of those victims not have an interest in making such a claim?



UWI, Mona Campus Registrar Dr. Camille Bell-Hutchinson chats with Mr. Robinson during the Homecoming event.

We owe our enslaved ancestors our freedom and we owe it to them to make the claim for reparations.

In 1952 Germany paid Israel and the World Jewish Congress \$65.2 Billion for atrocities committed during the Holocaust and for the resettlement of Jews. In 1988 the US paid \$1.2 Billion to Japanese Americans who were interned in camps during the Second World War. A good example of the kind of reparations being sought for our enslaved ancestors is the \$170 Million paid by New Zealand in 1995 to the Maoris for land stolen from their ancestors by settlers in 1863. An apology was also made.

No Jamaican need be embarrassed about the claim. Every Jamaican should support the claim, and to complement the splendid work by the National Commission on Reparations, schools, churches and community groups should educate their students and members about its significance.

THE MONARCHY

A monarchical system of government is one in which the Head of State inherits power and is inherently undemocratic, since the will of the people has no influence on the process by which the Monarch, as Head of State, is appointed. Apart from the principled objection to a monarchical system of government, there is another reason why the present monarchical system is inappropriate for Jamaica: Jamaica is a post-oppression society and its people should not be asked to have as its Head of State a person who symbol-

Enslavement, indenture-ship and colonialism have left Jamaicans with a muddled sense of their identity

izes the oppression inflicted on their enslaved and other ancestors.

By far the worst relic of enslavement, indentureship and colonialism is that they have left Jamaicans with a muddled sense of their identity. Colonisation has left ingrained in the psyche of Jamaicans the feeling that they are not good enough, that what they look like is not good enough and that what is foreign, especially if it is white, English, European or American is better.

The Monarchy is an anachronism that Jamaicans should not be asked to endure any longer. It is no more acceptable for a foreigner, or if you prefer, a non-citizen of Jamaica, to be the Head of State of Jamaica than it would be today for the Head of State of France or the Head of State of Germany to be the Head of State of the United Kingdom.

For the Monarchy to be abolished, in addition to the observance of other procedures, the Jamaican Constitution requires a two-thirds majority of both Houses of Parliament approving the relevant law and an affirmative outcome of a referendum. But there are many symbols that can be removed without going through

those procedures. I give two examples. The nomenclature “Throne Speech” could and should be changed. For the new name, I suggest “The Marcus Garvey Policy Statement”; for “Queen’s Counsel”, I suggest, “Norman Manley Distinguished Counsel” (NMDC).

THE U.K. PRIVY COUNCIL

The time has also come to relinquish ties with the Privy Council. Yet there are some of us in Jamaica who oppose such a move exhibiting a concern that we cannot be depended on to be just and fair and deliver justice in the way that an English court can.

If Jamaica is independent and sovereign in sports, in music, in education, and in making decisions in every other facet of national life, including its legislative and executive functions, why shouldn’t Jamaica also be independent in its judicial function?

The right to appeal to the Privy Council is illusory since Jamaicans cannot afford the 5,000 mile trek for justice. Consequently, only a few persons utilise that court; in effect, only those who are relatively well off and those accused of murder who receive pro bono help from English lawyers. As one commentator has put it: it is only the wealthy and the wicked who go to the Privy Council.

There is another cogent reason for leaving the Privy Council. Like the tardy guest, Jamaica has overstayed its welcome. In 2009, Lord Phillips, former President of the UK Supreme Court, complained that his judges had to spend too much time on cases from the Commonwealth – 40% of their working hours. He said that “in an ideal world” former Commonwealth countries would stop using the Privy Council and set up their own final courts of appeal and that Caribbean countries should utilize the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). After that classic put down, you would have to wonder why any country with ancestors such as National Hero Marcus Garvey, who preached self-reliance for the upliftment of the black race, would not have immediately set in motion the process to sever ties with the Privy Council and have its own final appellate body.

THE CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

The Caribbean Court of Justice was established by an Agreement between countries in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in 2001. The CCJ has two juris-



Prof. Ishenkumba Kahwa, deputy principal of the UWI, Mona Campus (right) presents a Homecoming gift to Mr. Robinson on February 18.

dictions. In its original jurisdiction it hears cases that arise from the interpretation and application of the CARICOM Treaty – these are mainly trade and integration-related disputes. In its appellate jurisdiction it hears appeals from decisions of the courts of appeal of CARICOM states. So far four countries, Barbados, Guyana, Belize and the Commonwealth of Dominica have accepted the CCI's appellate jurisdiction.

But why a Caribbean court and not a Jamaican court, as our final appellate body? There is no denying that Jamaica shares with CARICOM members a common history of colonialism, enslavement, struggle, freedom and independence; and that common history makes them part of us, and us part of them. Moreover, the path to the CCI and a Caribbean jurisprudence has been prepared by the common legal training provided to Caribbean students over the past 45 years under the auspices of the UWI's Faculty of Law and the Council of Legal Education. It is a training that has produced lawyers of the highest quality as well as eminent judges, many of whom have become Chief Justices. As good as a final Jamaican appellate body would be, a final appellate body with judges from our sister Caribbean countries and Jamaica, would, by reason

of the deeper pool to draw from, be better and stronger, and better serve Jamaica's national interests.

The CCI has in its relatively short life, earned a reputation for its excellent judgements, its accessibility, transparency and efficiency in the delivering of justice. Both the method of selecting the Court's Judges and its funding have come in for praise from a group of scholars who examined the process for selecting international judges. They found that the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission (RJLSC) was the only non-State election body at the international level, and that the independence of the CCI's Judges was better preserved through selection by such a body than by governments.

They also found unique the Court's funding by a Trust Fund based on funds originally borrowed on the international market by the Caribbean Development Bank, to be repaid by the governments. "It is surprising that in light of this objectively rendered and unsolicited praise of the CCI's selection process, some of my compatriots have found it possible to criticize the court in relation to the selection and non-selection of Jamaicans as Judges.

Fifty three years after independence, the best gift to Jamaica would be a categorical and unequivocal decision to sever ties with those two symbols that are inappropriate for the country: the replacement of the Monarchy with a republican system of government – ironically, the system that prevailed in England in the first period of its relationship with our country – and the replacement of the Privy Council with the CCJ.

CONCLUSION

So strong is the sentiment against looking back into our history that if we continue along this trajectory, it would not surprise me to find that fifty years from today it will be considered offensive or a sign of ill-breeding to say anything about the enslavement of our ancestors or anything relating to Africa and blackness. One way of eradicating this pathology of national schizophrenia in relation to who we are and how we wish to be perceived as a people is to educate ourselves, beginning with the young, about our history.

Republican status is the natural and logical culmination of the process that began with the first cry for freedom by our oppressed ancestors and was continued by their full Emancipation in 1838 and the attainment of Independence in 1962. Replacing the Monarchy and the Privy Council and making the claim for reparations is about acknowledging and vindicating the struggle of our ancestors. We fail them if we do not grasp the plenitude of sovereignty and independence available to us - an abnegation and a grave betrayal of their hopes and aspirations.

To borrow the wonderfully expressive phrase from the Jamaican language used by Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller, "time come."

But symbols are not an end in themselves; they are only a vehicle to take us where we want to go. Jamaicans must make Jamaica work. Our enslaved and other ancestors initiated the process that led to political independence. They would want us to achieve economic independence or as much of that as is attainable in our interrelated and globalized world. Mindful of Norman Manley's charge to this generation "to reconstruct the social and economic society and life of Jamaica", the best way to memorialise and celebrate the struggle of our ancestors is for Jamaicans to work hard to ensure that our country experiences real growth and development – time come for that too. 

NEW PROFESSORS from page 23

Professor Smith is a widely respected academic and a leading scholar in Caribbean studies and social and political history, with specialization in Haitian Political and Social History. His first major publication, *Red and Black in Haiti: Radicalism, Conflict, and Political Change, 1934-1957*, published in 2009, received international acclaim from leading scholars in the field. It was a 2010 co-winner of the Caribbean Studies Association's prestigious Gordon K. and Sybil Lewis Prize for best book on the Caribbean. Other awards include the Principal's Award for Best Book Publication in the Faculty of Humanities & Education, Mona in 2010, the Principal's Research Fellowship, and the Award for Most Outstanding Researcher in the Faculty of Humanities & Education.

His most recent book, *Liberty, Fraternity, Exile: Haiti and Jamaica After Emancipation* has also been very well received, bridging, as it does, international and domestic political history in interesting and innovative ways. He is editor and co-editor of several other books and journal volumes. He has also published over twenty scholarly articles covering a variety of topics, ranging from analyses of Haitian political thought and Haitian historiography, to the country's relationship with the wider Caribbean region as well as the issue of colour, race and class in Haiti.

Professor Smith also has a well-established reputation as a teacher, responsible for lectures at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He has also functioned as University Examiner for history courses in the areas of the Americas.

Further, he has an exceptional record of professional service. He was Director of The UWI, Mona Haiti Initiative following the devastating earthquake experienced in that territory in 2010, crafting and executing plans on behalf of the Campus for assistance to Haitian university students, and the Haitian national library. Dr. Smith was also appointed by the vice chancellor to chair an Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutions (UNICA) Special Task Force on Haitian Education.

In addition, Professor Smith has served as president of the Haitian Studies Association, is a collaborator on the important

Digital Library of the Caribbean online exhibition, *Haiti: An Island Luminous*, and Director of the UWI's Social History Project. He is currently a member of the Editorial Board of *Small Axe*, and that of the Social and Economic Studies academic journals. He also serves on the Board of Museums and Archives of the Institute of Jamaica.



Dr. David Tennant holds the Bachelor of Science degree with First Class Honours in Economics and Management from The UWI, Mona Campus, and the Master of Arts (M.A. Economics) in Development Finance with Distinction as well as the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Public Policy and Management from the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom.

He joined the staff of The UWI, Mona in 2002 as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Economics and was promoted to Lecturer in 2004 and Senior Lecturer in 2009.

PROF. DAVID TENNANT

David Tennant is a well-established scholar in the field of Development Finance and his work and expertise in this area are recognized locally, regionally and internationally. He has done extensive research evidenced by the large number of research papers published in top elite journals such as *World Development*, *Journal of Banking and Finance*, and *Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions and Money*. His work has also appeared in other respected journals such as *Applied Economics*, *Applied Financial Economics* and *Journal of Economics and Business*.




Throughout his academic career, Professor Tennant has sought to address issues that are particularly relevant to the financing of development in Jamaican and other developing countries. He has contributed to the literature on the role of financial markets in fostering economic growth and development, and the impact of the financial sector on growth in developing countries. He has made important contributions in the areas of financial crisis, stock market volatility, Ponzi schemes and bank fees and charges. He has also focused on the impact of high levels of public indebtedness on a country's development performance, with a focus on Small Island Developing States.

David Tennant's work has received acclaim within the academy, as he has been recipient of the Principal's Research Day Awards for Best Publication in the Faculty of Social Sciences on four occasions and for Most Outstanding Researcher on two occasions. He also received the Principal's Academic High Flyers Award in 2007.

Professor Tennant has an excellent record of academic programme leadership, teaching at both the undergraduate and post-graduate levels, restructuring six undergraduate and two postgraduate courses so as to address current issues affecting developing countries and developing a new postgraduate course – Applied Economic Research and Analysis.

He was part of the team that designed and launched the BSc degree programme in Banking and Finance and, as chairman of the Department of Economics' Undergraduate Committee, developed and implemented a plan for the review of curricula, and teaching learning and assessment methodologies for all undergraduate Economics courses.

The newly appointed professor has a strong record of public and university service, having served as Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for the Faculty of Social Sciences and member of the Board of Commissioners of the Financial Services Commission, the Loans and Investment Committee of the Petro Caribe Development Fund, the Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions Steering Committee and the Government of Jamaica Steering Committee responsible for Reforming the Public Sector Pensions System. 



Awardees in the 2015 Research Days celebrations share their proud moment with UWI, Mona Principal Prof. Archibald McDonald (front row, centre).

RESEARCH DAYS 2015

Innovating for Development through Science, Creativity, Productivity and Governance

The annual UWI Mona Research Days had its 16th staging from February 9-11 under the main theme *Innovating for Development through Science, Creativity, Productivity and Governance*. The three-day forum showcased research achievements and provided an opportunity for stakeholders to learn about, evaluate, and apply current research work at The UWI, Mona Campus.

Over the period, investors, policy-makers and stakeholders in the public and private sectors had the opportunity to explore solutions to everyday challenges, developed through research at Mona. Researchers addressed major development issues that affect Jamaica and the region, engaging participants in interactive displays which highlighted how research is improving products and mechanisms in a range of fields and industries.

Some 100 research projects were presented covering applications in food security, health and medicine, science and technology, alternative energy, climate change, ICT, sports, economics, governance, education, entrepreneurship and crime. In addition, visitors were able to participate in daily tours, in-Faculty displays, book launches, seminars and lectures.

An innovative aspect of Research Days was the Opportunity Lounge which allowed researchers to interact with business persons and also engage in face-to-face discussions with potential investors. The importance of this interaction was emphasized in a public lecture delivered by Chairman of the Nobel Sustainability Trust, Professor Michael Nobel, on the topic *The Necessity of combining the functions of Academia, Government and Industry in Sustainable Development*.

Five books were launched at Signature Events: *Journeys with Wolves and Lambs: Living with Surprises, Tension, Conflict and Purpose*, an autographical work by environmentalist and member of the Class of 1962, Dr. Barry Wade; *Miss Lou: Louise Bennett and Jamaican Culture* by Professor Emeritus and Poet Laureate, Mervyn Morris; *Debt and Development in Small Island Developing States* by Dr. Damien King and Dr. David Tennant, Department of Economics; *Broken Hearts, Pockets and Promises: A Century of Betrayal of the Jamaican Working Class* by Dr. Orville Taylor, Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work, and *Knowledge Networks and Tourism* edited by Dr. Michelle McLeod and Professor Roger Vaughn.

In addition, there were Faculty-based

book launches. The Department of Government launched *Identity, Culture and the Politics of Community Development* by Dr. Stacey-Ann Wilson; *Fear of Cybercrime and its Implications for Electronic Banking: Lessons for the Global e-Banking Sector* by Lead Author, Dr. Lloyd Waller, Dr. Corin Bailey and Stephen Johnson; *Teaching to Difference? The Challenges and Opportunities of Diversity in the Classroom* edited by Dr. Stacey-Ann Wilson and Dr. Nicole E. Johnson; *Gangs in the Caribbean: Responses of State and Society* edited by Professor Anthony Harriott and Professor Charles Katz; and *Perspectives on Caribbean Football* by Dr. Christopher A.D. Charles.

The Centre for Tourism & Policy Research launched three books: *Tourism Reader for the Caribbean* edited by Professor Ian Boxill and Diaram Ramjeesingh; *The Remaking of Global Hegemony: An International Forum on Global Change* by Professor Ian Boxill; and *Beyond the Shadows of Caribbean Cinema: Lighting a Caribbean Film Industry* by Dr. Anthony Frampton. *Jamaica Praying: A Manual for HIV & AIDS Sensitive Liturgies and Sermons* edited by Mary Hill Kuck, Rev. Garth Minott, Dorothy Hollingsworth and Rev. Trevor Edwards was launched in the Faculty of Humanities & Education. *Caribbean Sign Language for Dentistry – A Guide to Communicating*

Cont'd on page 34

UWI PELICANS WIN KSAFA SUPER LEAGUE TITLE



The UWI, Mona captured the 2015 Jamaica National/Kingston and St. Andrew Football Association (KSAFA) Super League title with a 3-1 win over Real Mona on April 18, 2015, making it the first team from a tertiary institution to take the title at this level. Victory was secured for the Marcel Gayle-coached UWI by Akeem Thenstead, who scored in the 17th minute, Andrae Bernal in the 55th, and substitute Mitch Wright, in the 90th minute. The UWI, Mona has now advanced to the Jamaica Football Federation's Confederation four-team playoffs from which two teams will gain promotion to next season's Red Stripe Premier League.



Rushell Clayton, a second-year student in the Faculty of Humanities and Education, created history for The UWI, Mona by becoming the first student to win the College Women's 400m hurdles event at the 121st Penn Relays, held in May 2015, in 57.81 seconds.

MISS UWI MONA 'SELFIE'



Contestants in the 2015 MISS UWI MONA 2015 PAGEANT pose for a 'selfie' with UWI, Mona Principal, Professor Archibald McDonald, during a recent courtesy call at his Office. The pageant, which was held on March 22, is open to female undergraduates attending The University of the West Indies, Mona. Contestants participate in an outreach project, engage in training sessions and excursions and are expected to be student ambassadors for the institution. Capturing the moment with the Principal are (L-R) Gillian Parague, Desi Brown, Sihle Letren, Chevaughni Myers and Krysten Nelson.

Edward Seaga Papers for UWI Library

A Boost for Caribbean Leaders Collection



Flanked by Mrs. Seaga (left) and Prime Minister, the Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller, former Jamaican prime minister Edward Seaga is escorted to the ceremony marking the official handover of his collection of manuscripts and other documents to the UWI Library. At Right is Vice-Chancellor, Prof. E. Nigel Harris.

There are leaders and then there are leaders: path breakers, visionaries and trendsetters. Many leave behind a treasure trove of manuscripts, books and other items which provide a veritable insight into their life and times.

Such is the nature of the Caribbean Leaders Collection housed at the UWI, Mona Campus Library. Introduced in 2005, the Collection over the years has grown to include the personal papers of luminaries across the board, deemed to be leaders in their field. It is home to the papers of Jamaican Prime Ministers P.J. Patterson and Hugh Shearer; notable academics Professor Rex Nettleford and Professor John Figueroa; sportsman Gerry Alexander; literary giants Trevor Rhone, Tony McNeill, John Hearne, Vic Reid, and cultural icon, Olive Lewin.

In addition, the Library has been successful in having the Roger Mais Collection inscribed in the UNESCO Regional Memory of the World Register. The Mais Collection

has been in the Library since the 1970s, but has been incorporated into the Caribbean Leaders Collection along with manuscripts from Derek Walcott, Wilson Harris and Orlando Patterson, among others.

The recent donation by former prime minister of Jamaica, the Most Hon. Edward P. G. Seaga, of his collection of manuscripts, books and documents marks another major step forward for the Library's Leaders Collection.

"Being a leading regional figure, Mr. Seaga's manuscripts and collection of autographed books have tremendous historical significance," said Frances Salmon, Head, West Indies and Special Collections, Main Library.

The documents comprising the Edward Seaga Collection will allow for the examination of specific aspects of the foreign policy of the region. Mr. Seaga was integrally involved in discussions relating to the introduction of the Caribbean Basin

Initiative and was an advocate for strategic partnerships among small nation states generally and among Caribbean nations specifically. The rich collection comprises a wide range of documents that give a peek into the life and works of Mr. Seaga.

The Edward Seaga Collection holds items illustrative of nearly five decades (from 1959 to 2005); they encapsulate his political representation, a Caribbean regional interests lobby and cultural activism. The collection also includes correspondence, scrapbooks, clippings, autographed books and ephemera. Some of the most notable chapters of history that these documents highlight include:

- The Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) – economic plan for the Caribbean financed by the United States government
- The United States invasion of Grenada (1983)
- Caribbean-Canadian Trade Agreement (CARIBCAN) – resulting from a meeting held in Jamaica February 1985 between Canada and Commonwealth Caribbean heads of government
- Hurricane Gilbert (1988)
- Cultural Tourism
- Human Employment and Resource Training (HEART) Programme
- Official State Visits of Mr. Seaga

This significant acquisition not only touches upon the former prime minister's correspondence and manuscripts but is a rich source of scholarly reference material. Primary sources offer researchers, at varied points in the research process, valuable access to material that can enhance their academic projects. The evidence supplied, through the many unique documents contained within the collection, can potentially revolutionize assessments made of the different methods which have been employed to strengthen regional collaboration.

Some examples of Mr. Seaga's diplomatic engagement can be traced to 1986, through his involvement in negotiations

for a settlement to the impending political crisis in Haiti, when Jean-Claude 'Baby-Doc' Duvalier stepped down as President of Haiti and went into exile.

Also highlighted in the collection are the blueprints of the economic and social initiatives pursued under the Jamaica Labour Party government of the 1980s. Scholars can also benefit from studying and researching on Mr. Seaga's work in the areas of public policy formulation, strategies and support methods.

For example, the Collection will facilitate investigation of Cultural tourism, within the broader context of the economy and as one of the main pillars of the Caribbean region's larger economic developmental strategy. The Seaga collection now forms a significant part of the Library's Leaders Collection.

"We felt that its (Mr. Seaga's collection) significance warranted stronger recognition than it would otherwise obtain in the existing special collections," Mrs. Salmon said. "It was also felt that the 21st century was opportune for the Library to identify and collect material of Caribbean leaders who had significantly contributed to the development of the region."



An exhibit of Mr. Seaga's collection of books, manuscripts and ephemera hosted by the UWI, Mona Library.

Over the years, the collection has outgrown its current space and the Library is working towards getting this selection to invoke more interactivity and dialogue. Plans include an expansion to provide proper storage facilities, staff accommodations and public areas which would include exhibition spaces for both permanent and occasional exhibitions and areas

for public lectures and other functions. The quest to position the Library as a centre of excellence continues as the institution marches to fulfill its mission to collect, preserve, organize, record and make accessible this material to University students and local, regional and international researchers now and for successive generations. **M**

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RESEARCH DAYS from page 30



with Deaf Patients for Dental Practitioners and Caribbean Sign Language for Medicine- A Guide to Communicating with Deaf Patients for Medical Practitioners, both by Dr.Keren Cumberbatch, were launched jointly by the Faculty of Medical Sciences and the Faculty of Humanities & Education.

The Faculty of Science & Technology unveiled the first geological map of the parish of St. Catherine, developed by Professor Simon Mitchell.

Highpoint of the event was the annual Research Days Awards Ceremony to recognize outstanding researchers. Awards were given in each Faculty in



Research Days activities, clockwise from left: Research Day activities: A mangrove tour at the Port Royal Marine Laboratory; Mona Principal, Professor Archibald McDonald, and Chair, UWI Mona Research Days Committee, Professor Denise Eldemire-Shearer, listen keenly as Professor Michael Nobel, Chairman, Nobel Sustainability Trust Foundation makes a point to UWI Vice Chancellor Prof. E. Nigel Harris, at the opening ceremony; Prof. Simon Mitchell (left) shows off his exhibit of the first St. Catherine geological map.

the categories Best Research Publication; the Most Outstanding Researcher; Most Outstanding Research Activity; the Research Project attracting the Most Research Funds and the Research Project with the Greatest Business (Economic) Development Impact. There was also the Principal's Award for Research Project with the Greatest Multidisciplinary /Cross Faculty Collaboration. 

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