



# MONA

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA CAMPUS

DECEMBER 2011

RAS DIZZY PRESENTATION

UWI-HAITI COLLABORATION

MSB ACCREDITATION

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

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Cover photo: Peter Ferguson photograph of 'Untitled' by Ras Dizzy

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

# PROVIDING A QUALITY UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE



**I**t is always a pleasure to introduce the readers of our Mona magazine to its contents that so effectively reflect the richness and depth of the Mona Campus university experience. This issue captures pictorially the textured layers of the 2011 orientation and matriculation exercises. The feature will no doubt serve as a memento for our new students – Jamaican, Caribbean and International – who knew the wisdom of participating in these life-changing exercises that are so important in setting the stage for a successful journey into academia and university life!

This year, we welcomed some 4,000 new students. They comprise 80% of the most qualified of the national and regional university student cohort. This Campus administration is committed to providing them with a quality university experience that is second to none, and one that serves the specific needs of Jamaica and the Caribbean. News in this publication of the recent success of the Mona School of Business (MSB) in gaining international accreditation of its programmes, showcases an achievement that typifies the world class quality of the curricula offered in our five faculties that prepare students for hundreds of careers. The newest additions to these curricula, reflecting the emerging interests of our students, include dentistry, electronic engineering, tropical horticulture, agricultural entrepreneurship, journalism, integrated marketing communication, digital media and entertainment management. At the postgraduate level, we've also added programmes in Medical Physics, Physical Therapy and an MBA with a new concentration in Sports Management.

The high standards of faculty members leading the research mandate of this university are also highlighted in the most recent appointment of academics to the professorial rank. We are proud of our tradition of rewarding the brightest and the best and I extend my heartiest congratulations to our newest appointees.

The researchers on this Campus who are impacting national and regional development are engaged in subjects ranging from global warming and the destruction of our coral reefs, to finding solutions to the diseases that affect agricultural crops; from understanding the impact of casino gambling and other forms of gaming on our society, to addressing the problem of gangs and organised crime which lie at the heart of the very high rate of violence in some countries in the region, including Jamaica; from understanding Jamaica's dance hall culture and the phenomena of daggering and gun culture, to understanding how to dramatically improve the performance of Caribbean students in the primary and secondary schools; from managing chronic non-communicable diseases that inflict our community, to managing the HIV-AIDS epidemic in our region. In this publication we hone in on the Department of Microbiology's research on free living amoeba. Also captured in this issue is the opening of the sickle cell diagnostic centre, highlighting our continuous investment in improving our research capabilities on the Campus.

It should be noted, however, that it is not only commitment to research that differentiates Mona's faculty members. We are equally committed to ensuring that faculty members have, through our Instructional Development Unit, access to techniques that allow them to continually upgrade their teaching methods to respond to the changing needs of our students and to make teaching material more accessible and relevant.

'What's In the Name: Buildings at Mona', the piece in this publication that speaks specifically to the rich legacy of this University reminds us, too, that the physical and other infra-structural facilities of a Campus are important determinants in the quality of the learning that takes place. To this end, we have recently expanded our computer laboratories in the libraries, our holdings of books, journals and other materials, both on-line and in print. We have also introduced learning commons in our libraries which allow for a more comfortable environment in which to pursue study. The new Faculty of Law is housed in a state-of-the-art modern building, and the new Basic Medical Science Complex is nearing completion.

Students at the Western Jamaica Campus (WJC) will experience the most modern telecommunication technologies that allow for two-way communication between classrooms at Mona and the WJC. It is not by accident, then, that annually our students excel in the international arena. We highlight here the achievements of Charah Watson, winner of the International Year of Chemistry Award, Donovan Campbell, who was awarded

the outstanding postgraduate research prize, and Damion Davy, the chess champion.

In featuring the chess winner we underscore the fact of the roundedness of the Mona Campus university experience. Our sports programme is world class, with sports research being at its centre. Two students, Hansle Parchment and Jason Young, are shown in this issue excelling at the World University Games. We are very proud, also, that well-known Jamaica cricketer, Wavell Hinds, was among the many recipients of the significantly increased number of UWI scholarships, including sports scholarships. The feature on the UWI/UTech Sports Championship highlights, as well, our active participation in national and international sporting competitions.

On another note, The UWI, Mona Campus has a very strong outreach agenda that embraces local communities such as August Town, as well as our Caribbean neighbourhoods. The article on the UWI-Haiti collaboration, led by Dr. Matthew Smith of the Faculty of Humanities and Education, speaks to Mona's efforts to assist in Haiti's redevelopment after the devastating 2010 earthquake. In addition to the formal academic curricula of the University, it is participation in these outreach activities, exposure to the national and Caribbean legacies housed in artefacts, exhibits, collections, including artistic – as seen in the Ras Dizzy art collection so generously donated by Joe Pereira, recently retired Deputy Principal – the Study Abroad exchange programmes at universities in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa, the various social, religious, and cultural clubs, and the opportunities to study and socialise with the international students on the campus, that continue to ensure that UWI students become well rounded, culturally sensitive, articulate citizens of our community, and stars on the global stage.

I do hope that you enjoy this issue of our Mona magazine and look forward to your feedback.



**Gordon Shirley**  
Principal and Pro Vice Chancellor

## RAS DIZZY PAINTINGS FOR MAIN LIBRARY



Retired Deputy Principal of the UWI, Mona Campus, Joseph Pereira, signs over a collection of paintings by late Jamaican intuitive artist Ras Dizzy to the Main Library. Looking on is Campus Librarian Leona Bobb-Semple.


The art collection at the UWI, Mona's Main Library received a significant boost recently when retired Deputy Principal, Mr. Joseph Pereira, handed over to the Library his collection of twenty-three paintings by the Jamaican intuitive artist, the late Ras Dizzy.

Mr Pereira described Ras Dizzy as a well known personality on the Mona Campus and its unofficial artist-in-residence. He explained the evolution of his collection of Ras Dizzy's paintings and gave an insight into Ras Dizzy's iconography, symbolism and personality. He also felt that the Library was the best location, both to display the collection to a large number of viewers



Mr. Pereira, who was an avid collector of works by Ras Dizzy, discusses features of the artist's work with Librarian Bobb-Semple.

and to preserve it for posterity. One of the stipulations of the donation was that it "should not be sold, given away or discarded."

In receiving the Collection on behalf of the Library, Campus Librarian, Leona Bobb-Semple expressed the Library's gratitude to Mr. Pereira and explained that the Library already had over 140 pieces exhibited in its public spaces. She explained that it is the Library's policy to expose students to all facets of Caribbean culture and its art collection was a major part of this exposure. The paintings can be viewed in the Post Graduate Learning Commons, Main Library. 

# UWI PILOTS RESEARCH IN FREE LIVING AMOEBA

Histopathology of amebic meningoencephalitis due to *Naegleria fowleri*. Direct fluorescent antibody stain.



The Irie reggae amoeba, created by Donnie Miller

Prior to the splashy headlines this summer, which attributed four deaths in southern United States to a brain-eating amoeba, most individuals were genuinely impervious to the presence of such an organism causing infection in humans. In fact, most would believe that such headlines were stolen directly from sci-fi movies.

However, this organism, otherwise referred to as *Naegleria fowleri* has been around from the 1960s, having been discovered in Australia during that period. Since then, this organism which causes the waterborne disease called Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis has been reported on in 15 countries across five continents and the number of cases has been increasing.

Known to thrive in warm contaminated fresh water ponds, falls, rivers, lakes and swimming pools, this organism affects persons while swimming by entering the body through the nostrils, where it travels to the brain and feasts on it, killing the victim within two weeks.

While the most recent rash of cases in the United States may provide reasons to get jittery especially in light of the fact that Jamaica is considered the land of wood and water, this infection which is invariably fatal, is considered rare. Professor John Lindo, Head of the Department of Microbiology, Mona says its occurrence is akin to that of "being struck by lightning," which is rare, as the amoeba usually goes after bacteria in the water and also in the soil and not human tissue.

Nevertheless, Professor Lindo says that studies have been launched by The UWI, Mona to determine if the *Naegleria* species as well as *Sappinia* genus are present in Jamaican waters with a view to establishing their prevalence. The *Sappinia* genus, which belongs to the free living amoeba group that normally lives in soil contaminated with faeces of elk, bison and cattle, has been identified as causing encephalitis (swelling of the brain) in an otherwise healthy individual.

"Although we do not consider these

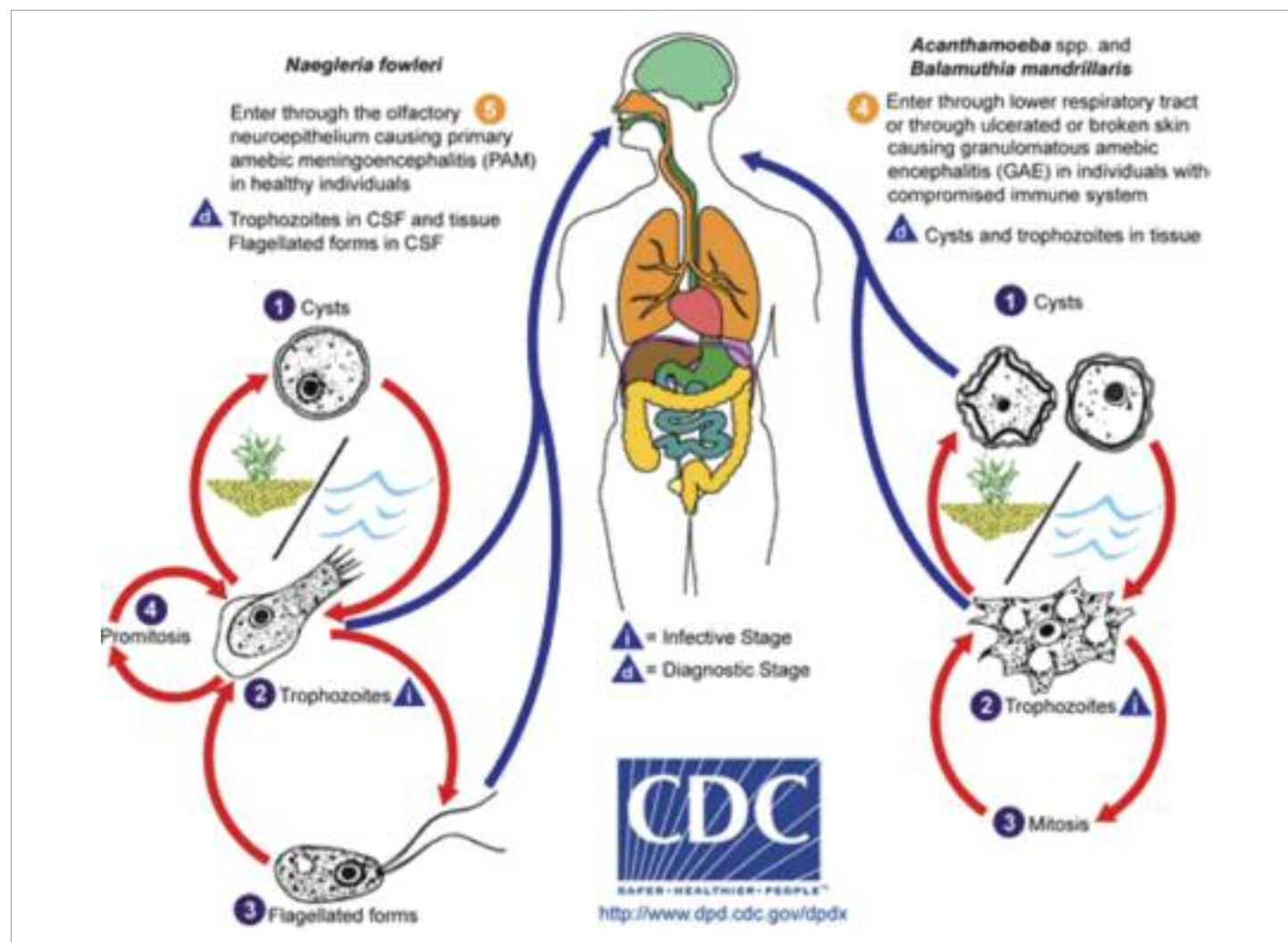
free living amoebae (to be) a big public health problem, we really still have no way of quantifying mortality or morbidity rates from amoebae. It is a very interesting group of organisms to study because we know so little about them," he says.

"We want to look at the range of amoebae that we have here in Jamaica and where they are distributed across the country and their pathogenic potential," he adds, while noting that questions abound over what makes some free living amoebae more virulent than others and what makes some humans more susceptible to them than others.

Prior to these current studies, the focus of The UWI, Mona since 2003 has always been on the *Acanthamoeba* genus, another free living amoeba, which causes *Acanthamoeba* Granulomatous Encephalitis, a rare, chronic progressive infection of the central nervous system that may involve the lungs. It is also usually associated with an underlying debilitating disease or immune suppressed individuals including HIV/AIDS patients; diabetics; organ transplant recipients; patients undergoing chemotherapy; and, drug abusers. This work, in addition to the new studies, are being conducted in conjunction with the University of LaLaguna(ULL) in Spain, a globally recognised leader in the field of study, and is led by Professor Lindo and Dr. Jacob Lorenzo-Morales (Institute of Tropical Medicine, ULL).

"We have a good collaboration with our colleagues in Spain as they back us up in some of the more advanced techniques required in our studies," Professor Lindo says.

During this eight-year period, samples from water sources from all over Jamaica were collected and *Acanthamoeba* strains with pathogenic potential to humans and other animals were isolated and these findings were published in the *Annals of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology*. The research team reported that from the collected samples strains with pathogenic potential were shown as 60 per cent




Free-living amebic infections (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

in tap water, 68.4 per cent in river water and 40.3 per cent of the sea water samples. "As you can see *Acanthamoeba* is very common in Jamaica and we have a lot of it in tap water, rivers and streams. This was revealed in our preliminary report of where it is found in Jamaica," Professor Lindo explains.

Soon after the publication of the preliminary data, the first case of *Acanthamoeba keratitis* was reported by the research team in a female patient, who was blinded in one eye. This severe infection, which is caused by the *Acanthamoeba* specie, mostly affects contact lens wearers although there are many cases that have been reported worldwide in non-contact lens users mostly related to a previous corneal trauma. Prevention of this type of infection of the eye in contact lens wearer is dependent upon strict lens hygiene. "Persons should follow the instructions on the manufacturer's label," Professor Lindo advises. As the research team continues to forge ahead with sampling in Jamaica in order to check for the presence of other free living amoebae that have not been studied

before, Professor Lindo anticipates that in another five years the team will have "a better grasp of the situation and therefore be able to make recommendations of where and what to avoid" as it pertains to free living amoebae.

In the meantime, Jamaica was the destination for the XIV International Meeting on Biology and Pathogenicity of Free Living Amoebae (also known as the Irie Amoebae Meeting) at the Iberostar Hotel in Montego Bay, St. James from October 11-15. Organised by UWI, the conference attracted world leading experts from over 20 countries located in Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa. The world leading scientists and clinicians discussed recent advances in diagnosis, treatment and pathogenicity and basic biology. As a result, the Mona Campus was able to strengthen its research linkages with several key international partners. Plans are now being made for the publication of full papers from the meeting in the prestigious journal *Experimental Parasitology* and the preparation of students to submit papers to FLAM 2013, to be held in Vienna, Austria. 



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# MSB PROGRAMMES GET AMBA ACCREDITATION

The Mona School of Business (MSB) at The UWI, Mona has received accreditation from the international Association of MBAs (AMBA) for achieving what AMBA describes as the highest standard in Post-graduate Business Education for its EMBA and MBA programmes. AMBA's accreditation is earned only by Business Schools with the "best programmes", and is internationally recognised as the global standard for all MBA, MBM and DBA programmes.

MSB received special commendation for the close relationship between the School and the local business world; the role of the cluster coordinators as mentors and controllers of quality; the close relationship between the School and the local business world; the quality and the commitment of the students and graduates of the MBA programmes. Also commended was the staff development opportunities available to both full-time and adjunct faculty; the enthusiasm and commitment of the MBA faculty; student membership of the School's Board and the flexibility of delivery of the MBA programmes.

MSB Executive Director, Professor Evan Duggan, commenting on the School's most recent and highest achievement, says that over the years, the MSB has increasingly received recognition from local employers for the high standards of its programmes, as well as recognition as the leading management institution in the CARICOM Region.

"As early as 2001, the MSB, which started in 1987, received the USAID 40th Anniversary Award for Excellence in Education, and just two years later in 2004, it was admitted to Membership in the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International."

In 2008, and for three consecutive years since, the Mona School of Business was ranked by the Eduniversal International Scientific Committee (France) among the top 1,000 Business Schools in the world in the Worldwide Business Schools Ranking. In addition, MSB was given

the ranking of '2 Palmes' in the league of 'Good Business Schools with Regional Influence.' The 'FindMBA' web site also ranks the MSB among the top thirty most popular Business Schools in the Americas (Canada, South and Central America, and the Caribbean) with rankings ranging between 13th and 16th.

UWI Principal, and former Executive Director of the MSB, Professor Gordon Shirley expressed joy in the recognition given by AMBA. "The AMBA accreditation", he states, "is an assurance of quality, which has been the School's objective from the start. It also provides assurance to employers and top business recruiters looking to acquire the best managers and future business leaders, that graduates of our now AMBA accredited programmes have received the highest quality – and education and training most relevant to the changing demands of the business world – management education."

MSB graduates, even before leaving the School have also consistently made their mark in the Opportunity Funding Cooperation Innovation & Entrepreneurship (OFCIE) competition for historically Black Colleges and Universities, held in Atlanta, at which the MSB is the only non-US contender. Since its first participation some nine years ago, MSB entries to the competition have placed variously, from fifth to second place, the latter in 2010, when they also won the inaugural trophy for 'Best Presentation.' In the 2011 competition, they walked away again with the trophy for the Best Presentation, as well as the overall first prize for the 'Best Business Project.' 

## LENDING A HELPING HAND Rebuilding Higher Education in Haiti



Director, UWI, Mona-Haiti Initiative, Dr Matthew Smith, addressing the UEH reception for the UWI-UEH Haiti Initiative in Port-au-Prince in June 2011. Others in the photo (l-r) are UEH student representative Nesack Alcide, Professor Wilson Lakeau, Professor J.V. Henry, and CARICOM Ambassador, E. Dunkley.

The UWI-Mona launched its Haiti Initiative in January 2010 as an immediate response to the devastating effects of the January 12 2010 earthquake in Haiti. The objective of the programme was to offer campus assistance, particularly in the areas of library outreach and university recovery. This was successfully achieved in 2010 when Mona organised a library training workshop in Haiti with UWI librarians and the Main Library welcomed a library intern from the Haitian National Library.

Mona also awarded 25 scholarships to Haitian students from the State University of Haiti (UEH), with partial funding from the Open Society Institute (OSI) in New York and from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). The students were resident at The UWI Mona Campus between September 2010 and June 2011.

### OUTCOMES

The UWI-Mona Haiti Scholarship programme 2010-2011 was, by all accounts, a successful

project. The UEH and the UWI forged an important partnership that merged Anglophone and Francophone Caribbean studies in a way that had not been attempted before. For both institutions, this landmark programme was a concrete example of what can be achieved by collaborative projects that cross linguistic and cultural borders in the Caribbean.

The greatest beneficiaries of the programme were the students. The UEH students gained a great deal from the knowledge and experience of living in Jamaica and attending UWI, Mona. The daily English language classes proved highly effective so that by the end of the programme most of the students had achieved fluency in spoken English, although some difficulties remained with the written language. The UWI students also benefited a great deal from the interchange with the Haitian students.

In the classroom, the input of the UEH students and references to unfamiliar

Haitian comparisons were of great benefit to others.

The UEH students also participated in campus activities such as field trips organised by various student associations and the International Students Office (ISO). They formed their own student association, the Haitian Students Association, which was quite active throughout the academic year, organising special events, talks, and exhibits on campus with an aim toward educating other students about Haitian society, culture, and history. These efforts, and the impressive level of organisation by the UEH students, went a long way towards challenging misperceptions of Haiti.

All the Haitian students returned to Haiti by 10 June 2011. Prior to their departure, the Mona campus held a reception thanking the institutions and individuals that supported and funded the programme. Each of the UEH students received a gift from the Campus at the event.



UWI Mona reception for the UEH students, Mona, 10 May 2011

The students formally expressed their gratitude to the UWI for its participation in the programme, highlighting the benefits of the programme to their personal advancement and relations between Haiti and Jamaica.

### LESSONS LEARNED

There were several important lessons learned from this first phase of the scholarship programme. First, the challenges for students who speak primarily French and Kreyol to adjust to an Anglophone learning environment were initially considerable. Students initially complained that the daily English classes and related assignments consumed much of their time. As a result, there was less time available for reading and comprehension of assigned materials for other courses. In the future, it would be necessary to revisit the levels of English language preparation the students receive prior to entry at the UWI. This would ease student transition to the different modes of teaching, allow them to better manage their study time and gain greater command with English.

### COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO COURSE SELECTION

The process of selecting courses for the students was done by UWI faculty and administration, based on student transcripts.

In the second phase of the programme it would be useful if the UEH faculty, being familiar with the students' level of preparation and the content of courses completed in Haiti, could work more closely with UWI faculty in helping the students select an appropriate mix of courses compatible with their training at UWI. This would be beneficial to the students' academic development and expand their skills and contributions when they return to Haiti.

### UNDERSTANDING ORIENTATIONS AND CULTURES

While there are critical similarities in course materials, disciplines, and approaches, the UWI and UEH have notable differences in their academic systems. For example, the relationship between the faculties and central administration in each university is quite different. A greater understanding on each side of the systems of the other partner would be beneficial to the effective structuring of the scholarship programme. Having worked closely together for the first time this past year, both UWI and UEH now know a great deal more about the academic cultures that prevail in Haiti and Jamaica. This will no doubt prove useful in the future expansion of the Initiative and other collaborative endeavours between the two

universities, as capacities and needs could be better assessed.

### NEXT STEPS


Discussions are now under way regarding the future of the programme. An initial agreement is that the next phase of the scholarship initiative should give priority to students who wish to pursue Masters degrees. There is a limited number of graduate programmes available to Haitian tertiary students at UEH.

Specialised training at the graduate level at UWI, Mona would make a major contribution to Haiti by increasing the numbers of postgraduate trained teachers and civil society. Award of scholarships will be merit-based and will include some of the students who performed best in the first phase of the programme.

### DISTANCE EDUCATION

Through its Open Campus (a Virtual Learning campus), The UWI has entered into discussions with Haitian partners to pursue distance education programmes in Haiti. These discussions are encouraging and it would be good to see this develop particularly for Mona's continued involvement with undergraduate training of UEH students in Haiti.

It is also recommended that both institutions begin to consider other forms of collaboration beyond the scholarship programme. The UWI Haiti Initiative has facilitated unparalleled integration of Haitian issues into broader regional concerns at the academic level. It would be useful for faculty and graduate students to harness the opportunities that this creates, by developing joint research projects between the two institutions. This would enhance knowledge and skills in both Haiti and Jamaica; encourage language training; and lead to the production of long-term research projects on issues related to Caribbean development across linguistic borders.

The recovery and redevelopment of Haiti's public university system will take a long time. The UWI Haiti Initiative has demonstrated the firm commitment of Haiti's Caribbean partners to offer sustained assistance throughout. 

# New Diagnostic Centre to Reduce Stroke Risk for Persons with Sickle Cell



Unveiling the plaque for the Diagnostic Centre

On one of the walls in the reception area, framed black and white photographs of young patients are lovingly but painstakingly arranged and curated at eye level for children to see as they enter.

This wall has become sacred terrain for children who regularly visit and take delight in being greeted by images of themselves, with their bright smiles, belying the seriousness of their illness. There is an element of simplicity yet a quality of comfort that welcomes visitors to the child-friendly décor of Norma Lewis Diagnostic Centre.

Ensnconced at the Sickle Cell Unit, which is located within the Tropical Medicine Research Institute (TMRI) at UWI, Mona, the recently opened Centre is named in the honour of the late research coordinator, Norma Lewis, a nurse who worked with the Unit for 14 years and

played an integral role in the planning of the project around which the Centre has been developed.

The Centre represents yet another important step in the treatment of persons living with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD), an inherited genetic disorder which causes the malformation of red blood cells that become distorted when they transmit oxygen through the body. The severe form of SCD afflicts one in every 300 babies annually, making it one of the commonest genetic disorders in Jamaica and the Caribbean. It is home to a special technology called a Trans-cranial Doppler (TCD) flow instrument, which is used to measure the velocity of blood flow in the blood vessels of the brain in order to predict the risk for stroke. A stroke is among one of the more devastating complications of Sickle Cell disease, and it is caused by interruptions of blood supply to parts of the brain.

The focus on this complication is deliberate as strokes are paradoxically more common in childhood than adulthood with persons living with this disease. The odds are that children with Sickle Cell disease are 300 times more likely to have a stroke compared to a child unaffected by SCD between ages four to 18 years and there is a tendency for recurrent stroke. The consequence of this is very devastating for individuals and their family members, as children are often left with some combination of physical, mental and cognitive disability.

The genesis of the Diagnostic Centre can be traced to a research grant awarded by the United States-based funding agency, the National Heart Lung Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institute of Health (NIH) to a partnership between Professor Marvin Reid, Director of the Sickle Cell Unit, UWI; Dr. Clarisse Lobo at HERMORIO, Rio Janeiro, Brazil and Professor Russell Ware, Director of the Texas Children's Centre for Global Health. Through the grant (US \$3.7M over 5 years), assistance is being given to the process of determining whether treating children with a mild increase in the blood flow in the brain with the drug hydroxyurea will reduce the blood flow velocity and ultimately stroke rates in children with Sickle Cell disease. The project is of profound significance as it marks the first time that such an important study being funded by the NHLBI of NIH is being performed at Sickle Cell centres outside of the United States.

The Diagnostic Centre was created to not only house the Trans-cranial Doppler instrument, which is the focal point in the provision of screening for strokes, but also to facilitate the large number of persons expected to benefit. This is also a first for the Sickle Cell Unit, as it is now able to offer this type of screening to individuals with the disease attending their facility at Mona.

Director of the Sickle Cell Unit, Professor Marvin Reid, says that persons 18 years

and under will benefit from the screening, which is free of cost. Currently, there are some 5000 patients who are registered with the Sickle Cell Unit. Of this total, some 3500 patients visit the Unit on an annual basis, half of whom are below the age of 18 years. "If it turns out that the measure of the blood flow in the patient's brain is high, we will then be able to start them on treatment to try and prevent them from actually getting a stroke," he says, adding that the screening is a non-invasive, out-patient procedure.

"What will eventually happen over time with using the TCD measurement is that with our improved capacity to detect persons who would be more likely to have a stroke, we would be able to give them the appropriate intervention to reduce that risk of getting a stroke and dying early, thereby giving them a much better quality of life without having stroke disabilities," he further explains.

The Sickle Cell Unit intends to replicate the service offered at the Diagnostic Centre across Jamaica at some point in the future. However, the medium-term goal is to also offer additional diagnostic tests for conditions that are more common in persons having Sickle Cell Disease. An ultrasound machine can be used to diagnose gallstones. Additionally, persons with SCD are prone to having "an issue with their heart and lung, which is a funny condition known as pulmonary hypertension, where the pressure in the blood vessels to the lung gets high, so they are at risk for sudden death of something similar to that of a heart attack but not quite," he clarifies. This also can be diagnosed using an ultrasound machine.



Head of Clinical Services, Dr. Susanna Ali (left), demonstrates the use of the diagnostic equipment for Professor Susan Walker (centre) and CHASE representative, Mrs. Paulette Mitchell.

These plans will go hand in hand with the need for additional technologies that will allow for the early identification of other complications so that treatment can be provided to stave off ensuing problems. "One of the things that we are looking for in the medium term is to source these additional bits of equipment that will allow us to do these measurements and we are planning


to house them in the diagnostic centre," Professor Reid notes.



Professor Reid accepts a donation from a representative of the Singer Company.

The Sickle Cell Unit remains committed to maintaining its preeminent status in research and treatment, since its groundbreaking cohort studies in Sickle Cell disease during the period 1973 to 1981, where 100,000 newborns were screened for sickle cell disease. The Unit has continued to achieve this status through several strategies such as work in the area of clinical epidemiology, where it is particularly strong, and also by partnering with other research institutions in Brazil, the United States and Britain among others that will afford access to the appropriate technology required to continue improvements in the field.

The work of the Unit is paying off handsomely, as survival has improved, which holds true worldwide. The Unit, having been around for almost 40 years caring for individuals with the disease, has seen movement in terms of the quality of life and survival rates. "If you were born in the 1970s to 1980s with Sickle Cell disease, the probability of you dying within the first 10 years of life was probably about 17 per cent, which basically meant that roughly almost 2 persons per 100 would die before their 10th birthday," Professor Reid says.

Currently that figure is one per cent, which means that, less than one person in a hundred is expected to die in the first 10 years of life if they are born now. Professor Reid says this success is primarily driven by the treatment programme which involves several aspects – early detection, which is one of the most important kinds of intervention that can be done and once this has been done, preventative strategies are put in place to prevent some of the more serious complications of this disorder. The Norma Lewis Diagnostic Centre is therefore yet another step in improving the both the quality of life and survival of persons living with Sickle Cell disease. 

# WHAT'S IN THE NAME

## HONOURING PIONEERS

Those who work and study at Mona may take much of its rich history for granted. The architecture and physical layout of the buildings are part of the institution's history, with several buildings named in recognition of individuals who have served The UWI, Jamaica and the region with distinction in the field of higher education.

## DE LA BECHE BUILDING, HOME OF GEOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY

The building housing the Department of Geography and Geology is named after Sir Henry de la Beche. Born in 1796 in Halse Hall, Clarendon, Sir Henry studied in England where he became interested in the emerging science of Geology. Back home, he conducted a geographical survey of the eastern section of the island in 1823. From his pioneering work, a map and report considered to be the first geographical representation of the Western Hemisphere were produced. The map was published by the Geographical Society of London in 1827. Knighted by Queen Victoria in recognition of his geological achievements, Sir Henry became the founder and first Director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, which was the first Government geological organisation anywhere in the world.

The UWI is the only tertiary institution in the English-speaking Caribbean offering undergraduate and post-graduate degrees in Geography and Geology. The De la Beche Building has been home to the Department of Geography and Geology for over 30 years. An extended section of the building houses additional teaching rooms, administrative offices and a computer lab. Graduates in these specialised areas serve throughout the region in development planning, environmental agencies and land and resources management.



The De La Beche Geography/Geology Building

## ADVANCING BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AT THE ALISTER MCINTYRE BUILDING

Home of the highly respected Mona School of Business (MSB), the Alister McIntyre Building also accommodates a Documentation Centre which is a specialised information centre, producing and maintaining a collection of materials necessary for the School's varied programmes.

In its 23-year history, the MSB has become the go-to source for post-graduate qualifications in several areas of business management including the Doctorate in Business Administration, the MBA Programme and the Executive MBA Programme. Diploma, Certificate courses and short-term courses are also available in business administration, project management and marketing. Through its Telecommunications and

Management Programme, the MSB provides courses from the certificate to the doctoral level in telecommunications, information technology and broadcasting.

The building is named after the former Vice Chancellor, who is regarded as one of the region's foremost developmental economists. Grenadian by birth, Sir Alister piloted the movement for integration as Secretary-General of CARICOM from 1974-1977 and served as Vice Chairman of the West Indian Commission. He contributed to the development of the UWI as a lecturer prior to his appointment as Vice Chancellor in 1988. His academic career extended to the reputable Princeton University and Colombia University where he was Assistant Professor and Fulbright Fellow respectively. In addition



The Alister McIntyre Building, home of the Mona School of Business.

to various United Nations assignments, Sir Alister has provided consultant services to regional and international financial institutions, including the International Development Bank and the World Bank.

## PIONEER MARY SEIVWRIGHT INSPIRES NURSING SCHOOL

Among the persons daring to make a difference in the delivery of tertiary health education is Dr. Mary Jane Seivwright, who was instrumental in securing status for nursing as an academic discipline. Hailed as the first West Indian nurse to attain doctoral qualifications in the discipline, Mary Seivwright headed the first Bachelor of Science in Nursing programme at the UWI.

Trained in the United States, Dr. Seivwright was appointed head of the School of Nursing (formerly the

Department of Advanced Nursing Education) in 1971 and started making arrangements for a Nurse Practitioner Programme. She also laid the ground-work for undergraduate and post-graduate degree programmes. These initiatives became personal crusades for Dr. Seivwright, who was passionate about the need for advanced-level tertiary training for nurses.

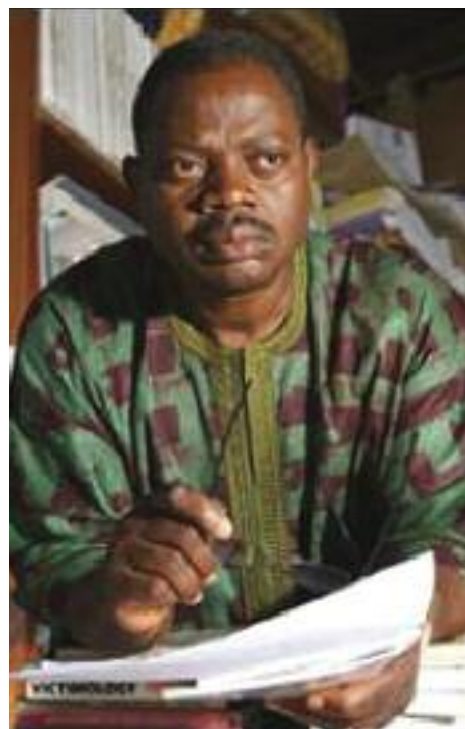
In recognition of her work, the building from which the University's School of Nursing administers its programmes was named the Mary Seivwright Building. Previously located on the grounds of the University Hospital of the West Indies, the School has seen significant expansion both in the number of nursing students and lecturers as well as in teaching facilities. The facilities now include lecture theatres, a state-of-the-art skills laboratory, with a range of patient simulators which allows students to develop and practice skills in a safe environment, as well as recreational and study spaces. 



Nursing's Mary Seivwright Building

# 3 NEW PROFESSORS NAMED

The University of the West Indies, Mona is pleased to announce the promotion to the rank of Professor of three members of staff: Dr. **John Bewaji**, Senior Lecturer in Philosophy in the Faculty of Humanities & Education; Dr. **Beverley Bryan**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Educational Studies, School of Education, and Dr. **Henry Ellis**, Senior Lecturer in Physical Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, Mona Campus. Professor Bewaji's appointment took effect in May 2011 while that of Professors Bryan and Ellis took effect on October 5, 2011.



Prof. John Bewaji

**John Bewaji** holds the Bachelor of Arts (1979) and Master of Arts (1983) degrees in Philosophy from the University of Ife, Nigeria, and PhD in Philosophy (1991) from University of Ibadan, Nigeria, Certificate in

Philosophy for Children from Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children, Montclair State College, Upper Montclair, New Jersey, USA, the Master of Arts in Distance Education (2007), and Post Graduate Diploma in Distance Education (2003) from the Joint International Programme of the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada and Indira Gandhi National Open University, India.

Professor Bewaji, a former Rhodes Visiting Lecturer (1991-1992) in Philosophy, Unit of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, UWI, Mona joined the staff of the UWI, Mona in 1992 and has been the coordinator of that Unit since that time. He was tenured and promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1995. Prior to joining the staff, he was a lecturer in Philosophy in the Department of Philosophy at Ogun State University, Nigeria (1984-1991) and University of Ife, Nigeria (1980-1984).

John Bewaji has distinguished himself in the areas of teaching, research, publication and administration. He has provided exemplary leadership in the development and teaching of Philosophy at The UWI, Mona at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Currently, the BA Philosophy is one of the most popular programmes in the Faculty of Humanities and Education with an annual enrolment of more than 2,000 students. The Graduate programme in Philosophy, developed under his leadership, has attracted international recognition, with students from USA, the Caribbean and Africa coming to Mona Campus for their Master's degrees. He graduated the first set of PhDs in Philosophy in the history of the University of the West Indies, with these graduates holding academic positions in other tertiary institutions.

He has been external examiner to PhDs in Philosophy from various top Universities around the world.

Professor Bewaji has a distinguished record of original work. His main areas of research and publication focus are on Aesthetics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Culture, Philosophy of Leadership, African and African Diaspora thought and philosophy, especially the fundamental African responses to social and moral questions.

He is the author of *Beauty and Culture* (2003), the first full-length major book contribution to the area of Philosophy of Art and Aesthetics by an African philosopher, boldly taking on the tradition of leaving the assessment and discussion of African and Diaspora Art and Artistic Experience to Euro-American intellectuals with scant understanding of the sensitivities and sensibilities that under-gird the art of Africa and Diaspora upon which they were commenting.

His work on beauty and culture has established him as one of the dominant thinkers on these issues in the African world. His *An Introduction to Theory of Knowledge* (2007), a ground-breaking volume which demonstrates that he is equally at home with African and Western ideas of knowledge, is the first original effort by an African philosopher to philosophise knowledge from an African perspective, thereby, in many respects, making contributions to knowledge, research, analysis and interpretation of facts, ideas and synthesis of issues in epistemology and philosophy of science. He also has over 50 research papers published in peer reviewed internationally recognised journals and books.

Bewaji has received several Research and Publication Awards and Grants for excellence in his field, including being named Citizen Ambassador in Philosophy to Hungary and Russia (1995), Caribbean Exchange Scholar to Hunter College, CUNY (2002), Visiting Scholar to University of Botswana (2002), UWI Mona Faculty of Humanities Most Outstanding Researcher for 2009 and recipient of the prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Research Fellowship in Philosophy (2010-2011).

He was the founding President of International Society for African Philosophy and Studies and has chaired several international distinguished academic meetings and presented more than 40 completed papers at distinguished academic meetings and international conferences in the US, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean region.

John Bewaji is the Editor of *Caribbean Journal of Philosophy*, UWI, consulting editor and advisor on many international journals of Philosophy and is a Member of UNESCO National Bioethics Committee of Jamaica, Member, International Advisory Board on Culture, St. Petersburg, Russia.

He also has an excellent record of public service. He was a past President, Association of Nigerians in Jamaica (1997- 2002), Chairman of the Management Committee/Board, Little Angels Child Development Centre, Chairman, The Jamaican Institute of Management Board of Studies, Vice-President, Board of St Hugh's High School Parent Teachers Association and representative of Jamaica at UNESCO Meetings on Philosophy.



Prof. Beverley Bryan

**Beverley Bryan** holds the Bachelor of Arts in English, the Master of Arts in Language and Literature in Education and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Language Education from the University of London, as well as a Teachers' Certificate in Education from Keele University. She joined the Staff of The UWI, Mona in 1992 as Lecturer in Educational Studies and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2002.

The newly appointed professor is widely recognised as an expert in Language Education, particularly in the areas of Jamaican Creole and the teaching and learning of Creole speaking children. Over the years she has focused on language teaching and learning, literacy acquisition, teacher formation and literacy policy and plans for Jamaica and the region. Her research activities have also included cross-cultural and methodological

issues in the teaching of English. This has led to research on the lives, culture and educational practices of migrant communities in the United Kingdom, comparing schooling in the English education system to that in the education system in Jamaica.

Locally, she has worked with the Ministry of Education on the Review of Primary Education, and their Literacy Improvement Initiative to improve language and literacy performance in Jamaican schools. Her recommendations in this regard formed the basis for the construction of the Grade Four Literacy Test and the Grade Six Achievement Test in the Language Arts and Communication. Additionally, she worked with the Ministry in writing the Language Education Policy which has provided a framework for discussions on teaching English in a bilingual environment.

At the regional level, Professor Bryan has written literacy policies and plans aimed at securing improved levels of literacy in countries such as Grenada, St. Vincent & the Grenadines and St. Lucia. She has also worked with Dominica on implementing their Literacy Policy through training workshops for literacy coordinators and principals, as well as working on their review of universal secondary education in the area of the teaching of English.

At the international level, she has been the sole Caribbean representative on the UN Literacy Decade Expert Group set up to advise UNESCO as coordinating agency of the UN Literacy Decade (UNLD). Her contribution there helped to define and distinguish the distinct linguistic and historical Caribbean perspective in the drive towards full global literacy at different levels and in different sectors. Her interest in cross-cultural studies has

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**STUDENT ATHLETES' MEDIA BRUNCH**

The Sports Department hosted a media brunch in September 2011 to introduce 30 recipients of sports scholarships from the disciplines of netball, table tennis, cricket, football and track and field. Netball captain Nadine Bryan; former West Indies Test player Wavell Hinds; World University Games silver medallist Peter Matthews; top female table tennis player Yvonne Foster, and former Under-17 goalkeeper Leighton Donaldson headlined the beneficiaries of the sports scholarships which were announced at the media brunch.

Mona Principal, Professor Gordon Shirley (seated 2nd from left) noted that the scholarship programme comprised tuition waivers, housing, nutrition, access to a sports psychology, student advisory services, and the rescheduling of exams. Also in the photo (seated l-r) are Daniel Wilson, Vice President, Guild of Students; Dr Camille Bell Hutchinson, Campus Registrar; Cherine Richards, Assistant Sports Coordinator, and Dalton Myers, Student Services Manager (Sports)



## ▲ **STANDING OVATION!**

The Alumni Week of activities culminated at the University Chapel on August 14, with an Organ Recital, led by Dr Kola Owolabi, (right) Assistant Professor of Music and University Organist at Syracuse University. This was the first occasion at which the newly refurbished organ was being played and patrons gave the musical feast a standing ovation.

## **BEST BOOTH AT GREEN EXPO** ▶

The UWI, Mona won the award for Most Attractive Booth at the biennial Green Expo 2011, hosted by the Jamaica Conservation & Development Trust (JCdT) at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel June 10-12, 2011.

The theme of the expo was "Balancing Development with Environmental Protection." Mona's booth focused on work being done by Mona Geoinformatics, Ltd., the Energy Conservation Unit, the Environmental Management Unit, the Department of Life Sciences at its Port Royal and Discovery Bay Marine Laboratories and the Centre for Marine Sciences. The objective was to demonstrate the wide range of work being done on environmental matters at the institution



Hundreds of new students turned out for the Matriculation Ceremony which marked their official acceptance as students at the University.



The Campus Registrar looks on as matriculant, Andre Dean James signs the register on behalf of all the new students.



Principal Shirley congratulates the 2011 matriculant. Looking on is another top achiever, Grade 9 student and top performer in the GSAT examinations Kuti Ra, who was also recognised at the Matriculation ceremony.



The Principal congratulates sports scholarship recipients Jerome de Lorne (left) and Nicholas Maitland.



Third-year Actuarial Sciences student in the Department of Mathematics at Mona and National Master (NM) Damion Davy (left) claimed the title of 44th Jamaica National Chess Champion recently, when he finished with an outstanding, unbeaten score of nine points from a possible eleven. The event featured twelve of the best local chess players. Here, he is congratulated by player, Ian Wilkinson.

# GRADUATES CHALLENGED TO USE THEIR TALENTS TO DEVELOP REGION



**T**housands of excited family members and well wishers converged on the Mona Campus for the annual graduation ceremonies. Some 3,434 persons were awarded degrees, 952 at the graduate level, and 2,481 at the undergraduate level.

Graduates from the Faculties of Humanities and Education and Pure & Applied Sciences were presented on Friday, November 4, those from the Faculties of Medical Sciences, Engineering and Law on Saturday, November 5 at 10.00 a.m. and the remaining students were presented to the Chancellor at the graduation ceremony for the Faculty of Social Sciences, held Saturday, November 5 at 5.30 p.m.



Erna Brodber

## FIRST COHORTS

Among the graduates was the first cohort of 83 persons who had pursued degree programmes in eleven disciplines at the UWI Mona Campus Western Jamaica Campus in Montego Bay. The group included 58 undergraduates and 25 persons at the graduate level.



Usain Bolt

Nine students from the first cohort of the MSc Politics and International Cooperation programme were awarded the degree. The UWI Mona has a cooperation agreement with two French universities, the University of Bordeaux IV and the University Antilles-Guyane, under which Mona offers a jointly taught B.Sc. /M.Sc. degree in Politics and International Cooperation. The final year of this programme is delivered at Mona.

Another pioneering group included the 16 persons who had pursued the Master of Science degree in Forensic Science. The Master of Science in Forensic Science is an interdisciplinary programme that provides students with theoretical and practical background to prepare them for effective careers in Forensic Science. The MSc programme is designed to have emphases (disciplines) in forensic molecular biology, forensic chemistry, forensic pathology and forensic toxicology. The programme of study was designed using the guidelines of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice Special Report (2004) on Education and Training in Forensic Science.

## HONORARY DEGREES

Honorary degrees were also presented to five icons of the society: on Friday afternoon, the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on world record holder Usain Bolt, while novelist and Community activist Erna Brodber received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters. On Saturday morning, medical doctor and founder and National Director of the Advanced Trauma Management (ATOM) course, Dr. Lenworth Jacobs received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science and

career banker, Minna Israel, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was also conferred on General Manager of the Jamaica National Building Society, Earl Jarrett at the ceremony on Saturday afternoon.


## ON BEING A GOOD STEWARD

UWI Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne, in his address, commented on the good stewardship which the Mona Campus had displayed in relation to regional governments, the careful management of the natural resources and its "contribution to the human capital, by nurturing and educating the young". He noted that the 2010/2011 academic year had seen a 6% increase in the total registration of students over the previous year while there had been a 15% increase in new students for the 2011/2012 academic year. The Chancellor also commented favourably on the 10% increase in the number of males registered, noting that this represented the result of the efforts being made to specifically target males and interest them in higher education.

In their charge to the graduates, the three honorary graduates addressed a common theme. Erna Brodber made an impassioned plea for graduates to use their education and skills to help lift up communities in the rural areas. "Our university has done its job. It is over to us now the graduates, to transform the barracks, the negro yards, the people holding out their calabash bowls, their bamboo joints for the salted fish, and their hands for the two suits of clothes due them by law, into self sustaining communities of people", she said.

Minna Israel argued that 'around the globe, the voices of a new young world are ringing out for change. I want to charge you to use your education and life experiences at UWI to be active change agents to improve Jamaica, and make it the ideal place to work and live and raise families. Be courageous! Be Brave! Be the change!' was her challenge to the graduates.

In the final address of the graduation ceremonies on Saturday afternoon, Earl Jarrett noted the difficulties faced by the region which continued to experience the outward migration of 75% of our tertiary trained graduates. He encouraged the new graduates to help make the region more welcoming: "We must create a space for people from all over the world to feel welcome in our region, and this may well include revising some of our own immigration laws so that talented people from across the globe can come here to achieve their dreams."

At the same time, he urged the graduates to seek to stay in the region, "to strengthen organisations and allow new entrepreneurial activities to bloom in the region... and, in so doing, make real... the great prospects for the continued development of our countries and region." 



Minna Israel



Earl Jarrett



Lenworth Jacobs



Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne, congratulates the father-daughter pair of Anthony and Shena Woodburne, who both graduated with the Master of Science (MSc) in Government.



Family and friends give full support to the graduates

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The big moment

# IMPACTING THE WORLD...

## POSTGRAD STUDENTS ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL AWARDS



Charah Watson

**Charah Watson**, a PhD. Candidate in the Department of Chemistry, Mona, is the recipient of an International Year of Chemistry Award. The Award was presented to her recently at a prestigious Natural Products, Medicinal, and Organic Synthesis Chemistry Symposium held in celebration of the International Year of Chemistry in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and at which four Nobel Prize Winners in Chemistry were among the invited speakers.

The year 2011 has been designated by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry as the International Year of Chemistry.

As part of the celebrations, the organisers also invited one hundred promising young chemists from around the world to present their research at the Symposium themed 'Integrated Solutions for Tomorrow's World'.

Miss Watson was one of only two young chemists from this region who were invited with full sponsorship (with all airfare, accommodation, and conference expenses paid). In her application, she described her investigations into two invasive citrus pests that have been found on the citrus plants in the region, the Citrus and Chequered Swallowtail Butterflies the latter being a recent discovery. Her research has led to two recent patent applications for effective methods of control against both pest species, and which have the added benefit of also being environmentally friendly. Her research supervisor is Dr. Trevor Yee of the UWI Mona's Natural Products Institute.

**Donovan Campbell** was one of three international postgraduate students invited to the Third International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts and Responses in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil recently to receive an award for their outstanding doctoral research.

Mr Campbell is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography & Geology, Mona. He was also asked to Chair five panel sessions as well as to present on his research topic at the Conference themed 'Climate Change and its Global Implications for People, Ethics and Equity'.

Donovan is co-author in five peer-reviewed publications based on his doctoral research and additional collaborative research with colleagues in universities in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. One of these articles received the Principal's Award for the best publication in the Faculty of Pure & Applied Sciences in January 2011, in conjunction with his



Donovan Campbell

supervisor, Professor David Barker. This particular article also attracted the attention of NASA, who highlighted his research in their on-line publication Sensing Our Planet: NASA Earth Science Research Features in special feature 'Catching a Crop', by Karla Lefevre.

Donovan's doctoral research is on Climate Change and Small Farming in southern St Elizabeth, and focuses on climate change impacts on domestic food production, food security and the livelihood vulnerability of small farmers in Jamaica. The research utilizes both quantitative techniques (Livelihood Vulnerability Indices) and qualitative (ethnography) methods to understand how small farmers cope with and adapt to climatic variability and change. This research was featured in the UWI Research for Development (2011) booklet and in the last two issues of the science magazine *CaribXplorer*. 

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led more recently to the Caribbean Poetry Project initiative with the Faculty of Education at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. The project promotes the teaching and learning of Caribbean poetry in the Caribbean and the UK.

Beverley Bryan has published widely in her field. She is the author of two books: the first, a co-authored landmark text “The Heart of the Race: Black Women’s Lives in Britain” won the Martin Luther King Award in 1985 and has provided impetus for the recent oral history exhibition of Black women’s contribution to Britain. Her latest book is ‘Between two Grammars: Research and Practice for Language Learning and Teaching in a Creole-speaking Environment’ which was published in 2010. She has also written book chapters in eight books and has thirteen refereed articles in international journals as well as eight technical reports and various book reviews. She has supported the work of colleagues and peers through editorship and management of two refereed journals based in the School of Education, Mona.

Her contribution to the University itself has been significant. As Head of Department, she was responsible for the consolidation and extension of the collaborative relationship with Teachers’ Colleges in offering the BEd degree in Literacy Studies, the promotion of the Science, Mathematics and Information Technology Centre which has led to the initiation of a collaborative relationship with the University of Reading in the area of Mathematics and Science teaching, and the introduction of the BEd Primary Maths and Science being piloted in Grenada. With programmes like the latter in Grenada, she has led the move in Education to offer online undergraduate degrees in Literacy Studies, Mathematics and English-giving an opportunity to many

teachers across the region to work and study at the same time.

Professor Bryan has served as the UWI Representative on the Education and Training Thematic Working Group under Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan (NDP) and successive Medium term Socio-Economic Policy Frameworks. She was also a Member of the Writing group for Jamaica’s National Report on the Development and State of the Art of Adult Learning and Education with the Jamaican Foundation for Lifelong Learning for UNESCO’s Conference on Adult Education (CONFITEA) in Brazil 2009.



Prof. Henry Ellis

**Henry Anthony Ellis** holds both the Bachelor of Science (BSc (Hons) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom and was also Science Research Council Scholar, UK. Professor Ellis lectured courses in Physical and Polymer Chemistry at the University of Ife in Nigeria then joined the staff of The UWI, Mona in 1982. He was

### 3 NEW PROFESSORS

promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1987. He has served as Head of the Physical Chemistry Section in the Department of Chemistry for some 21 years. He is a dedicated educator who has supervised MSc. and PhD candidates and has taught within the chemistry programme across all four campuses of the UWI. Professor Ellis was also a recipient of a Senior Fulbright Research Fellowship to the Liquid Crystal Institute, Kent State University in Ohio, USA and has been supported in his research work from local and international grants.

Professor Ellis has a distinguished record of original work. For more than 30 years he has steadily researched and has published in many international peer review journals, particularly in the area of liquid crystals, the thermal behaviour of soaps and in organic salts which are essential elements in the human diet. His work with liquid crystals has involved carrying out important structural and thermal characterization of a range of lead, zinc and lithium compounds exhibiting liquid crystallinity. This work has been extensively cited in international scientific journals and monographs. His current research interests include Structural, Microscopic and DSC studies of Metal Carboxylates and Metal Ions as Thermal Stabilizers for Water Soluble Polymers (hydrogels).

Professor Ellis has made contributions to industry and provided public service in a number of areas. He has been a member of the Soap and Detergent Committee as well as the Paints and Surfaces Committee of the Bureau of Standards, receiving commendation from them for his contribution to standards development in Jamaica. Professor Ellis also offers scientific advice to various local bodies and has carried out numerous consultations for industries in the bauxite, agriculture and edible oils industries. He also served as Board Member of Metropolitan Parks and Markets. 

## Meet Cricketer Scholar Wavell Hinds

FORMER WEST INDIES PLAYER JOINS UWI MONA ON SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP



It’s Saturday afternoon and the competition is on in the middle of the much-anticipated second annual UWI/UTech Championship. UWI, Mona will go on to beat UTech in four out of five sports.

Now, though, in the final moments of what never seemed to be a glorious battle, it is clear that the cricket team is going to lose.

But UWI’s number-four batsman, former West Indies cricketer Wavell Hinds, sees the loss as a lesson. The team, he says, can learn its way forward from this loss.

In fact, lessons are what Hinds is hoping to concentrate on in this chapter of his life. He’s in love with learning, he says. So he’s “very excited” about studying journalism on a sports scholarship at the University of the West Indies, Mona.

Many may wonder, however, what this 35 year-old could have to offer a university cricket team made up of youngsters in their late teens and early twenties. A lot, Hinds says. And UWI’s director of sports, Dalton Myers, seconds that. He says Hinds is still at the top of his game, and even if he’s not, he’s still better than a lot of other people.

Hinds, who has been playing cricket for 16 years, was one of 30 athletes who UWI awarded part or full scholarships this year as part of its thrust to boost its sports programme. The simple idea is that if UWI can have the best athletes, then it can be the best in sports. ‘Best’ here means the most solid, well-rounded athletes and outstanding facilities and support systems for them.

“We want to develop athletes. We want to develop talents. We do it in research, we do it in academics, we have the cultural part of it, and now we want to teach athletes different things. We want to teach them life skills, we want to teach them to become better athletes. We want them to become better leaders,” Myers said.

So, UWI’s new emphasis on sports is not a competition with other schools such as UTech or GC Foster College, which have made earlier strides. It’s just the sensible thing for the premier university to do, Myers said.

Also, Myers said, the aim is to build university pride. Sport has got to become a big, cool deal on campus. ‘Mona Sports tun up’ reads one of many promotional t-shirts. Then there’s, of course, the social media marketing campaign the sports department is mounting.

“We’re doing everything to get to the students,” Myers said.



Professor Shirley greets Wavell Hinds.

To that end, they have sought top athletes; including national netball team captain Nadine Bryan and five-time national table tennis champion Yvonne Foster. They’ve built partnerships with such entities as Racers Track Club, Usain Bolt and Yohan Blake’s club. The university has also been working on having the best facilities, one of which is the only IAAF-certified university track in the country. All the coaches, too, are national coaches.

“They (UWI) have the right infrastructure, the right staff in terms of coaches. They’re on the right path. They just need to keep bringing in the right talent,” Hinds said.

Hinds’ role in the team will not be limited to just playing. He will also help to mentor younger players or maybe even become assistant coach after a while.

“I’m in love with the game of cricket,” he said “and I want to preserve the game.” 

# Chancellor's Medal for Sir Shridath



Sir Shridath Ramphal, Chancellor Emeritus of the University of the West Indies

On Thursday, October 20th, Sir Shridath Ramphal, Chancellor Emeritus of the University of the

West Indies, regional statesman and former Commonwealth Secretary-General, was awarded the highly coveted Chancellor's Medal at a ceremony held at the Cave Hill Campus of the University in Barbados.

The Chancellor's medal is a special award of distinction made by the UWI Chancellor to a person who has made a signal, substantial and lasting contribution to the welfare and development of the University of the West Indies, or has enabled the University to access significant resources for the achievement of its mission of unlocking the region's potential through delivering quality higher education through teaching, outreach, service and research.

Previous awardees have been Sir Philip Sherlock, Sir Alister McIntyre, The Most Honourable P. J. Patterson and most recently, Vice-Chancellor Emeritus, the late Professor Rex Nettleford who received the award in November, 2009 – three months before his passing. **M**

## NEW LAW FACULTY BUILDING OPENED



Vice Chancellor, Prof Nigel Harris, proudly leads the way into the Faculty of Law building after sharing in the cutting the ribbon to formally declare the facility open. Joining him are Minister of Justice, Hon. Delroy Chuck, Mona Principal, Professor Gordon Shirley (partially hidden) and Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne.

## OPEN CAMPUS REGISTRAR APPOINTED



Mrs. Karen Ford-Warner

The University of the West Indies is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Karen Ford-Warner as Campus Registrar, UWI Open Campus, effective August 15, 2011.

Mrs Ford-Warner, who recently served as Open Campus Alumni Relations Consultant, brings to this new post a rich and broad range of expertise and experience both nationally and regionally in the fields of education, law, public sector management and tourism. She holds graduate degrees from Columbia University Teachers' College (M.A. in International Educational Development), and Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government (Masters in Public Administration) as well as an LLB Degree from The UWI and a Certificate of Legal Education from the Norman Manley Law School. Her undergraduate studies were pursued at Harvard University, from which she graduated with a BA (cum laude) in Sociology.

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# SEVEN RECEIVE UWI VICE CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



Recipients of this year's Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence at the St. Augustine Campus reception, from left: Prof. Julie Meeks Gardner; Prof. Anthony Clayton; Prof. Kathleen Coard; Prof. Vijay Narayansingh, Dr. Anna-May Edwards-Henry, Mrs. Eda Martin and Prof. Minerva Thame.

**T**he UWI has recognised the outstanding contributions of seven members of staff at its 2011 Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence held October 5, 2011 at the St Augustine Campus. Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris presented the prestigious awards to this year's recipients Professors Kathleen Coard, Minerva Thame, Anthony Clayton and Mrs. Eda Martin of the Mona Campus; Dr. Anna-May Edwards-Henry and Professor Vijay Narayansingh, St Augustine Campus, and Professor Julie Meeks Gardner of the Open Campus.

Professor of Pathology, Kathleen Coard received the award for Teaching while two awards each were presented in the categories Research Accomplishments and Service to the University Community. Awardees in the Research category are Professor Minerva Thame, Head, Department of Child Health, Mona, and Professor Vijay Narayansingh of the Department of Surgery, St. Augustine, while Dr. Anna-May Henry, Director of the

Instructional Development Unit at St Augustine and Mrs. Eda Martin, Manager Customer Service, Office of Finance, Mona have been recognised for outstanding service to the University. Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development, Professor Anthony Clayton was awarded in the category Public Service and Professor Julie Meeks-Gardner who heads the Open Campus' Caribbean Child Development Centre received the award for All-round Performance in two categories: Research Accomplishments and Public Service.



Prof. Kathleen Coard

Professor Kathleen Coard is the first female graduate of The

UWI's Medical DM (Pathology) programme to become a Professor of Pathology. She has been Lecturer at Mona since 1984, and is a founding member of the Jamaica branch of Teaching Improvement Project Systems (TIPS), a former Chair of the Department of Pathology Examination Review Committee and is Chief Editor for the end of module Final Examination Papers for BMedSci and MBBS students in the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

She has participated in numerous professional workshops on curriculum development, and conducted staff training workshops with TIPS and the Instructional Development Unit. Professor Coard has more than 60 publications in internationally recognised journals. Her research is dedicated to the understanding and treating of prostate cancer and soft tissue tumours and she has received more than six medical awards, including the Jamaica Medical Foundation award in 2009 for outstanding achievement in the fields of pathology and research. Professor Coard was also the winner of the Anthony N. Sabga

Caribbean Award for Excellence (ANSACFE) in 2010 and is currently President of the Jamaican Association of Clinical Pathologists (JACP).



Prof. Minerva Thame

**Professor Minerva Thame** has attained international recognition for her publications and research which focus on the area of maternal nutrition and its impact on foetal growth and birth outcome. She received The Mona Principal's Award for the Most Outstanding Researcher in the Faculty of Medical Sciences for the academic years 2007/2008 and 2009/2010, an award from the Jamaica Medical Foundation for outstanding contribution in the field of Child Health and The Paul Harris Fellow Award from the Rotary Club of New Kingston in 2009.

"It is always a great feeling when you are recognised by your peers for the work you have done, but it is an even more awesome feeling when you receive one of the highest awards for your work from your alma mater" she said. "But let me not take this glory all alone, as I must thank my mentors who have guided me to this point, and to them I must be eternally grateful. The receipt of this prestigious award will be recorded in the archives and become part of our University's history. Such an achievement will only serve to encourage me to continue to strive to maintain this standard."



Prof. Anthony Clayton

**Professor Anthony Clayton** is the Alcan Professor of Caribbean Sustainable Development at the Institute for Sustainable Development at UWI. He has served as the lead policy advisor for both the Fifth Summit of the Americas and the Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings held in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009. Additionally, Professor Clayton has served on the Squatter Management Committee of the Ministry of Housing, Jamaica, where he was the lead author of the Committee's report which set out a proposed new policy for the management of informal settlements. He has also served in an advisory capacity to the UK Government Prime Minister's Strategy Unit and Foreign Commonwealth Office on policy options for the Caribbean as well as the European Commission. For his service and leadership excellence, Professor Clayton has been honoured with the 8th World Congress of Consuls Award of Excellence.

As he indicated to *Mona Magazine*, "I have been advising on policy issues for over thirty years, and have worked with many governments and international agencies, as well as serving as the lead policy advisor for two world summits. My main projects now are concerned with Jamaica's national security, defence and policing, systems of planning and regulation, and management of illegal settlements. Crime, corruption and failures of governance are the main obstacles to Jamaica's development and prosperity, so the nation's future depends on our ability to solve these problems. However, the problems are deep-rooted, so the work is

often difficult and frustrating. So I am honoured and grateful to have been given the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence. The support and encouragement of the academic community will give me the strength to go on, with renewed faith and commitment."



Mrs. Eda Martin

**Mrs. Eda Martin** has been with the University since her appointment as Executive Secretary to the Director of Finance/University Bursar in 1993. She was directly involved with the restructuring of the Office of Finance and in conjunction with the University's Bursars co-ordinated the first workshops on the Financial Code and the Financial Procedures and Guidelines. The UWI alumna is a holder of an MSc in Resource Development who has provided administrative support to The UWI's Grants Committee and Taskforce on Capital Development Needs. At present, Mrs. Martin manages meetings of the Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) and the Campus and University Grants Committees (CGC & UGC) among other core duties. She has also been involved with the UWI Mentorship Programme since 2006.

Mrs. Martin says her first reaction was surprise. "I think this Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence is a tribute not just to myself, and the Office of Finance where I work, but to all the administrative departments that play a vital supporting role in achieving the strategic goals of the UWI, and I accept this in this regard."

"This is an acknowledgement [of] the efforts of the administration to complement the academic thrust of the UWI in the common

goal of maintaining a first-class university, producing persons with undergraduate and graduate degrees of excellent quality, who will play a vital role in the growth and development of the Caribbean region and in the international arena."

Current head of the Open Campus' Caribbean Child Development



Prof. Julie Meeks-Gardner

Centre, **Professor Julie Meeks-Gardner** is a widely published UWI academic who specialises in Child Development and Nutrition. She is also a former member of the Board of Childwatch International, a network of research organisations that focus on children and children's issues; the UWI representative on the CARICOM Working Group on Early Childhood and a member of the Executive of the Jamaican National Food and Nutrition Coordinating Committee.

Professor Meeks-Gardner is a founding member of the Children's Issues Coalition, a group of academics at UWI who are striving to enable more integrated research, teaching, outreach services and dissemination of research findings, in areas related to children. The group is responsible for Caribbean Childhoods: Documenting the Reality, a database of research on children's issues which has obtained grants worth over JA\$2.2 million from the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica. The Children's Issues Coalition also produces an annual journal entitled Caribbean Childhoods, for which they have obtained a US\$15,000 grant from UNICEF. 


## OPEN CAMPUS REGISTRAR

(continued from page 32)

She has served as Executive Director of the Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo) in Jamaica and for six years was the Deputy Secretary General of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) based at its headquarters in Barbados. During a four-year tenure as Director General of the Tourism Division in the Office of the Prime Minister (now the Ministry of Tourism) in Jamaica, she was responsible for overall policy formulation and planning for tourism development, and initiated the process leading to the development of Jamaica's Tourism Master Plan. From 2005 to 2007, she was Head of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management at the University of Technology, Jamaica.

A certified Mediator, she was also Chief Legal Counsel for the Jamaica Commodity Trading Company between 1987 and 1993. She has been involved in alumni relations for Harvard University as an interviewer and mentor for undergraduate students, and was a member for four years of the Alumni Executive Council of the Kennedy School of Government.

Mrs Ford-Warner sits on various boards, including the Earl Warner Trust, a foundation dedicated to the memory of her late husband, Barbadian writer and theatre director, Earl Warner, which encourages progressive Caribbean theatre and provides scholarships for students of the performing arts in the Caribbean.

She is the mother of two children, Zahra aged 20 and Djavan aged 17. 



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## “The University of the West Indies – where sprint dreams really can come true”



### MONA DREAMS – RACING TO SPRINT SUCCESS

The dreams of young Jamaican athletes to become the next Usain Bolt or Yohan Blake, have spread past the island shores, across the region and even further beyond – prompting new interests, igniting passions and changing lives. One such life irrevocably altered with a racer’s dream, is that of Trinidadian born athlete, Jerome de Lorne. This Caribbean national has however, moved beyond just dreaming. He has actually begun that long and arduous trek to sprinter stardom. Leaving behind his home and family, he has moved to Jamaica to embrace a new home with the UWI Mona Track Team, in the hands of a new family – the seasoned care of the very coach that gave the world Bolt and Blake. “Mona seems better equipped to deal with athletes”, says de Lorne, “It offers more opportunity and staff support. Training facilities are more accessible and I think Mona is better prepared to deal with injuries.”

At the age of eight, Jerome discovered his talent and passion for athletics when he was asked to represent his school during a sports meet. Feeding that passion through his high school years, he continued participating in a variety of sports meets, hoping that one day the perfect opportunity would come along to show his talent to the world. It did! Spotted by scouts at the Penn Relays earlier this year, de Lorne eventually received an official invitation to join the Mona contingent. Now under the tutelage of one of Jamaica’s most renowned track coaches, Glen Mills, de Lorne, far away from his early dreams in Santa Cruz, Trinidad, has begun a reality that is still the stuff of dreams for many others. This is a reality where he has access to the fastest men in the world, the chance not only to learn through watching them make their magic on the track, but to also shoot the breeze, or as they say at the UWI, ‘lyme’ with them. There is also the privilege of being taught by the same coach as they are, and also of learning to run on the same track.

But that’s the sweet side. This is also a reality that has him living the life of a typical UWI student-athlete, with its accompanying challenges. He is strongly optimistic however, that good things will eventually come his way. “Training is tough, it’s really tough. I am not used to this type of intense training back at home, having to run distances so long, but I have begun to see improvements. I feel stronger already. Coming

from a background with limited resources, I am determined to make the best of this opportunity”.

It’s this kind of passion and commitment that drives the successes of the Mona Sprint team. The urge for greatness and the yearning for victory by these young athletes are what keep the brave and loyal Pelican spirit alive. Each training day, the battalion of UWI sprinters congregates at the Mona Bowl for a round of endurance training and a rigorous fitness workout to start off the day. With a team that is dedicated and a well trained head coach, the UWI has a proven formula for success.

“Hard work, dedication and sacrifice,” says Coach Glen Mills, “that’s my sprint team’s formula for success. We also have a very good support team including a group of coaches who are some of the best on the island and perhaps in the world and that makes our administrative team, one of high standards.” It is these high standards that have been adopted by the athletes both on and off the track. In order for student-athletes to represent the Campus, their school work must also be of a certain level.

“The UWI encourages each student-athlete to perform well academically and athletically”, says Director of Sports of the University of the West Indies, Dalton Myers. Each student-athlete is expected to maintain a GPA of 2.0 or above each semester. We recognise that this sometimes is a challenge and as such provide tutoring for most of the student-athletes as supplementary support. So far we have seen that the assistance we provide is making a difference and it is refreshing to see that most students meet the academic standard we set”.

The University is not the only entity with high expectations. Coach Mills, while he has been doing an exceptional job with the team, aligning his passion and talent with the vision of the University to produce high quality student-athletes, also has high expectations of the Institution itself. He feels that additional support and development is integral to continued success.

“One of my concerns”, says Coach Mills, is the issue of nutrition. I don’t believe that the nutritional programme that the UWI currently has running is compatible with world-class standards. However, I know that the institution is making an effort to improve the situation. Even so, his passion and yearning for greatness seems to have surpassed his concerns and has added to UWI’s confidence that its efforts are really beginning to pay off.

By investing more in injury rehabilitation, improved training facilities, research, drug testing and nutritional programmes, Mills is confident that better things are in store for athletes of the UWI sprint team.

These are the exact sentiments of UWI Mona’s Principal Gordon Shirley. He is excited about the strides that the Mona Campus has made and continues to make toward a renewed sporting culture at the institution. “We have the Faculty of Medical Sciences, which has a sports medicine programme, so we do rehabilitation; the Forensic Science Department and the Department of Chemistry, which is responsible for conducting drug testing in the island and regionally, and we also have a nutritional programme which is managed by the Food and Nutrition Institute here at Mona as well as a really big nutrition programme now in the Tropical Medical Research Unit. In the Physics Department we have developed the capacity for bio-mechanical analysis. So the idea is to draw on all



Scholarship recipient Jerome de Lorne

the resources that are readily available on the campus to support our sports development thrust”.


The Mona Campus has vowed maximum support to ensuring that the Pelican spirit lives, and dreams such as that of Jerome de Lorne can be made a reality. The region as a whole benefits from each of these individuals who actually achieves high-level sporting success, and the University of the West Indies


is well under way with its strategy of maximising these instances as it moves towards the development of sport as a viable Caribbean Industry. Millions of dollars have already been invested across the various campuses with focus on research, development and facilities. This macro view of course has mind-boggling potential, if the participants believe that the successes are possible – and they are, just ask Jason Young.

Once just another little boy with a big dream, Jason Young hails from the parish of Trelawny, home to many successful athletes such as Veronica Campbell Brown, Usain Bolt, Marvin Anderson, Michael Frater and Mario Forsythe. The University of the West Indies has been a key factor in helping to actualise that dream, and Young, who is now in his second year of studies pursuing a Degree in Accounting, is also the holder of the 200M Silver Medal from the recent World University Games in Shenzhen, China. Young is happy with the relationship, and believes he has the best coach in the world and all the support he needs. “With a scholarship, good training facilities, mental guidance and academic tutorial support, I am comfortable here. I know that the University will always be there for me. This journey has been a good one for me. I am now way more confident in myself and know that great things are ahead for me.”

Great things lie ahead not just for Young, but for all the other persons who are able to join the University’s drive to sporting success. The Mona Campus has already begun the re-development of the Bowl as a Centre for Sporting Excellence with plans for the construction of a Jamaica Football Academy and the development of a stadium to complement the existing track as well as the continued development of the existing sand court to accommodate beach football and beach volleyball.

One of the developments of which the Campus is understandably proud is that it is now home to what is one of the best running tracks in the region. A Regupol Athletic Track donated to Usain Bolt by the German manufacturers is domiciled at the Mona Bowl training facility. What better symbol of a successful synergy. This track has brought together the visions of two separate yet similar groups of young people full of energy, rich dreams, stunning talent and strong in Caribbean roots.

Now on the same track, under the same roof and guided by the hands of the same man, there is no doubt that a world of even richer successes is about to be unveiled and more sprinting dreams about to come true. 



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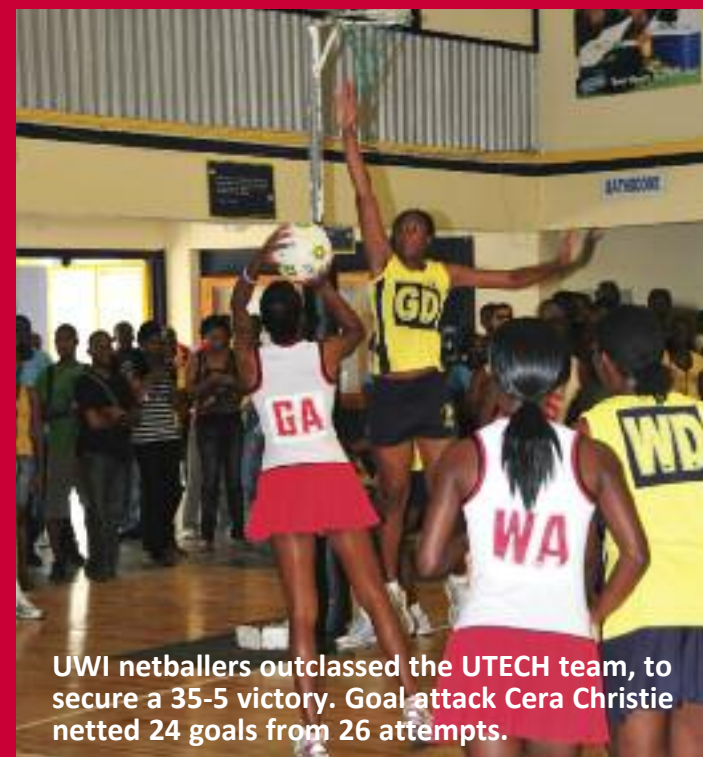
**UWI  
vs  
UTECH**

# 2011

**NETBALL  
VOLLEYBALL  
BASKETBALL  
FOOTBALL  
CRICKET**

**5 SPORTS!  
2 TEAMS!  
1 CHAMPION!**

UWI, Mona retained the UWI/UTECH Sports Championship Trophy, dominating the Championship by winning four of the five events in the competition.



UWI netballers outclassed the UTECH team, to secure a 35-5 victory. Goal attack Cera Christie netted 24 goals from 26 attempts.



▲ The basketballers showed grit and determination to secure a come-from-behind win over UTECH, 37-30.

◀ The teams received enthusiastic crowd support.

▼ The final event of the day was football and UWI footballers held their nerve to take the match 5-4 on penalty kicks after a regulation-time draw.



UWI's dominance continued on the volleyball court, beating UTECH 25-6 and 25-20.



## Students Shine at University Games



The University of the West Indies, Mona congratulates Hansle Parchment and Jason Young who won medals for Jamaica at the recently concluded World University Games held in Shenzhen, China. Hansle, a third year student in the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, won Jamaica's sixth gold medal in the




Hansle Parchment won the 110-metre hurdles in a personal best of 13.24 seconds at the 2011 Universiade in Shenzhen, China.

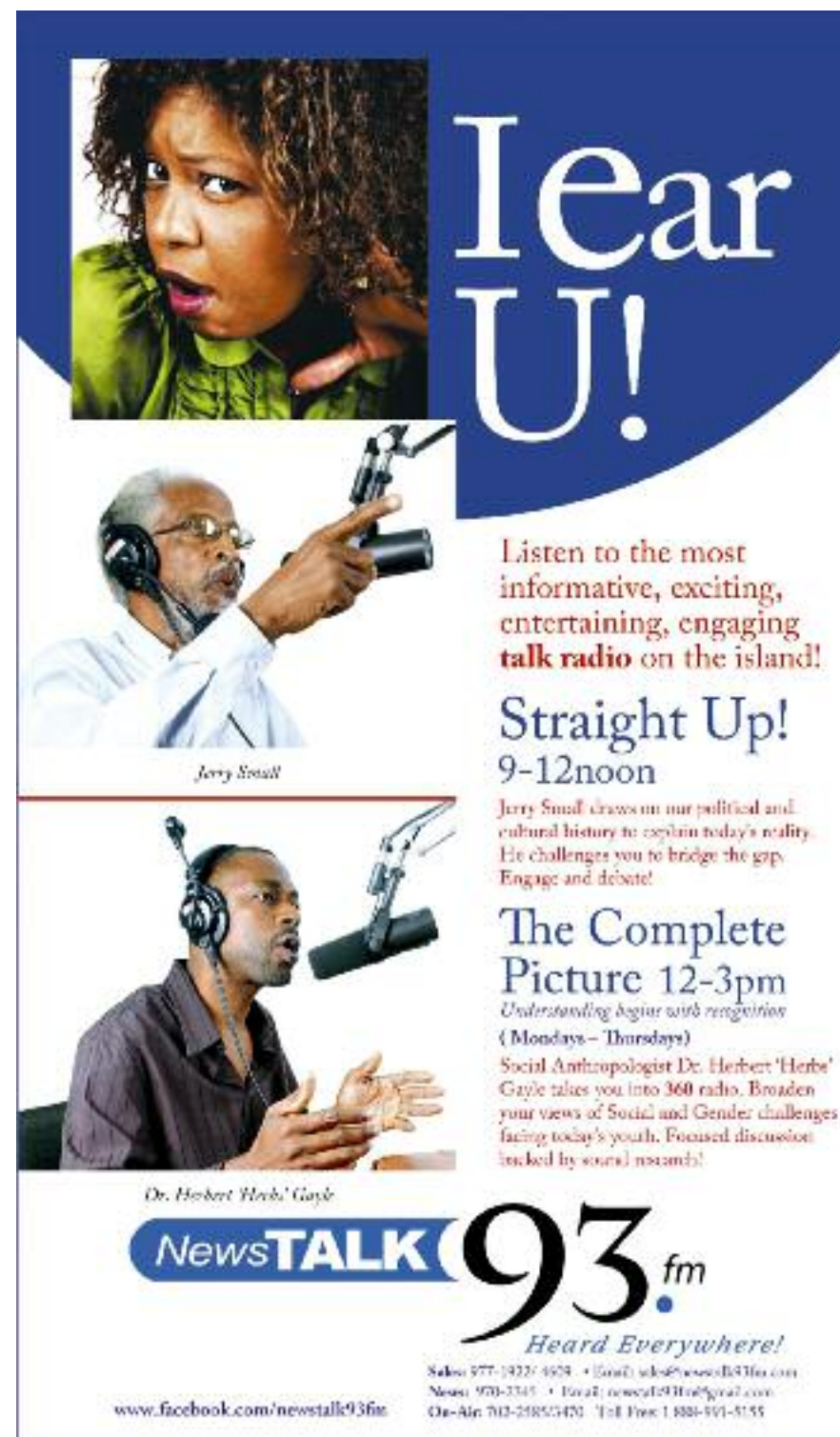


Jason Young tied for second place in the 200 metres at the University Games with South Africa's Thuso Mpuang in 20.59 seconds.

men's 110m hurdles and ran a personal best of 13.24 seconds.

Parchment is now Jamaica's third fastest sprint hurdler in the event. He is also the Gibson Relays record holder in the event.

Jason, a second-year student in the Faculty of Social Sciences, placed joint second in the 200 metres event. Both are recipients of UWI, Mona Sports Scholarships. 



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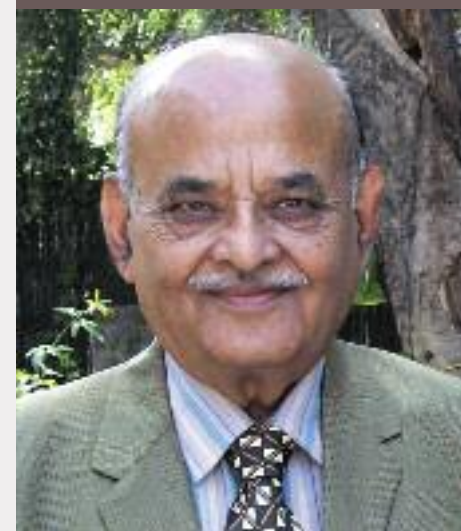
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## PROFESSOR AJAI MANSINGH

His impact on the scientific community will transcend generations



Professor Ajai Mansingh, affectionately known to his graduate students as 'The Chief', joined The UWI, Mona in the Department of Zoology (now Life Sciences) as a Senior Lecturer in 1973. Originally from Fatehpur, India, Ajai Mansingh always stated that he chose to make Jamaica his home because of the opportunity it afforded him to act on his innermost reverie, thus making the contribution to mankind which he considered an obligation.

For some 30 years, Professor Mansingh made a significant contribution at Mona through teaching and research in the fields of entomology, and pest and pesticide management. His research activities on the environmental adaptations in insects, the epidemiology and management of various arthropod pests in Jamaica, pesticide pollution and management, pesticide ecotoxicology and the fate and persistence of pesticide residues, contributed significantly to the body of knowledge in these areas.

After retiring from his post in Life Sciences,

he was appointed the first Executive Director of the newly created Natural Products Institute at UWI in 1999 and served in this capacity until 2003. During his tenure, he was instrumental in the establishment of the International Society for the Development of Natural Products and served as the Founding President and later as President Emeritus.

His impact on the scientific community will transcend generations because of his role in guiding the development of young minds in the field of science. He had a unique and special relationship with each of the 35 MPhil and PhD students that he supervised. Being his student meant being a part of his family and he was able to bring out the best in his students through tempered agitation glazed with subtle praise. All his students were encouraged to believe in themselves, associate with a cause and not be afraid to push for improvements that would redound to the benefit of others. Students could rest assured that even if they strayed into an area with which he did not agree, they would have his guidance and support in realigning those thoughts and actions. This extended to students who were not directly assigned to his supervision but who were strengthened by the encouragement which he provided.

Those who interacted on a professional and personal level with Ajai Mansingh were often astounded by his forthrightness, bedazzled by his astuteness and amazed by his tenacious adherence to what he considered a principled stance. This aspect of his character earned him some derision but far more admiration. He was never afraid of controversy and frequently caused unease among those with whom he interacted. As his grandson, Atishai, said in a tribute to him, "those who were not bothered by him, were those who did not know him." Yet, it is this unease that spurred many to find the inner strength to change the course of their lives.

Professor Mansingh became known to many undergraduate students as the Lecturer of

many stories. He always had a story or personal experience that left some in awe and inspired many through challenges they were facing. He had an unusual way of convincing the most doubting students that they could pass his course. At no time did he consider lowering the bar; instead, he convinced them that with his guidance, they could rise to the bar. As a Lecturer in Entomology, he often had to deal with entomophobia among students and had some peculiar ways of helping them overcome this. While others thought these methods were strange and sometimes risky, many past students attest to the success of these tactics in helping them to overcome their fear.

Professor Mansingh willingly shared his wealth of knowledge and experience. He served as consultant to the World Bank in the development of policies for the management of pesticides and toxic chemicals in Central America and the Caribbean; to the Caribbean Environmental Trust, where he guided the training of stakeholders in the management of pesticides in the environment; and as a director on various committees and statutory boards.

In recognition of his contributions to science and the wider society he was appointed a Fellow, National Academy of Sciences (India), awarded the National Silver Musgrave Medal for contributions in the field of Science and Environment in Jamaica and the National Trust of Jamaica Award for heritage publication.

Ajai Mansingh was passionate about Indian heritage and culture, dedicating 40 years towards promoting an awareness of these in the Caribbean. He influenced the perception of Hinduism and Indians in general, through several writings on Indian heritage in Jamaica and its influence on Jamaican society. His most extensive work on this was the book "Home Away From Home - 150 years of Indian presence in Jamaica", co-authored with his wife, Laxmi Mansingh. He frequently stated that his publications on these issues were written with the sole aim

of promoting Inter-racial harmony in Jamaica, through knowledge and understanding.

Professor Mansingh has made a significant and lasting contribution and subsequent generations will benefit from his body of work. We hail Professor Ajai Mansingh, an

adopted son of Jamaica and an outstanding member of the UWI community.

## PROFESSOR AGGREY BROWN

A pioneer in media and communication development in the Caribbean



The UWI, Mona deeply regrets the passing of former Director of CARIMAC and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities & Education, Emeritus Professor Aggrey Brown, on Wednesday, November 24, 2011. A graduate of Cornwall College, Brown obtained the BA degree in Political Science at the Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota; and, by 1973, he was also the proud recipient of the MA and PhD degrees in Political Science from the prestigious Princeton University. Before completing the doctoral degree, however, he had held various teaching positions at the following tertiary institutions in the United States: Howard University, The State University of New Jersey, and the City University of New York.

Equipped with these academic qualifications and experiences, Aggrey Brown joined the Extra-Mural Studies Department (Eastern Jamaica) of the University of the West Indies in 1974. He worked there until 1979 before moving to the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) as Professor and Director. His remarkable contributions to


the scholarship of Media and Communication Studies were accomplished between 1979 and 2002 when he was in CARIMAC in that dual capacity. The curricula in Media and Communication Studies currently available at the Mona Campus of the UWI are traceable, directly or indirectly, to his academic and administrative leadership of CARIMAC. Here is one fitting recognition, among others, of his contributions to the development of this discipline by one of his former students: "Through your pioneering work in media and communication in the Caribbean, media and communication education, the impact on culture of communication, the role of communication in development, the role of media in development and the role of media in informing and educating, you have influenced significantly the direction of research and policy formation related to media and communication in the Caribbean."

Professor Brown was successful as a teacher in part because he was also an efficient researcher who contributed several refereed journal articles and book chapters, including sole authored and co-authored books, to the advancement of scholarship in Media and Communication Studies. Given his acclaimed pioneering successes as an academic and administrator at CARIMAC, he was subsequently appointed Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education in 2002. In that capacity, he continued to offer academic and administrative leadership in curricula development in the various disciplines within the Faculty of Humanities and Education. In recognition of his competencies in Communication Studies, including his robust, broad and holistic understanding of the scholastic enterprise beyond the Faculty of Humanities and Education, Brown was appointed the Public Orator of the Mona Campus between 2002 and 2005. His performances as Public Orator, especially during graduation ceremonies, delightfully demonstrated his erudition as a communication specialist and an academic who understood fully the University's role and place in society.

Professor Brown was also a practising journalist and a social critic who always

sought to reform society through his craft. Between 1974 and 1989, he was a regular Commentator/Talk-Show Host ("The Public Eye") on Jamaican Radio and Television, as well as a Newspaper Columnist with the Jamaican Daily News. He was also a TV Cameraman and a Radio Announcer at different points in his illustrious career as a communication practitioner. In this sense, Brown was able to make the connection between the theories of Communication, which he taught effectively in the classrooms, and the professional practice of journalism as a newspaper reporter, a radio announcer, and a TV cameraman, all rolled into one. He was indeed an exemplar and trail blazer in the communication discipline and profession in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean.

His contributions to nation-building through public service were equally impressive. Since 1981 Brown has always been consulted by national, regional, and international agencies, such as CARICOM, CBU, and UNESCO, on matters relating to media and media development in the Caribbean. His reputation, however, went beyond the Caribbean. In December 1981, for example, he was the expert advisor to the UNESCO Monitoring Group for Communication in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Quito and Ecuador. Here at home, Brown's services and expertise have been engaged by the Government of Jamaica at different times. He has been, among others, a member of the Public Education Committee, ODPEM, between 1999 and 2006.

In 2002, in recognition of his contributions to nation-building, Aggrey Brown was conferred with a badge of honour by the Government of Jamaica, Commander of the Order of Distinction (CD); while the Mona Campus, after his retirement in 2007, befittingly conferred on him the title of Professor Emeritus. The entire University Community mourns the passing of this illustrious son of Jamaica and wishes to express its sympathies to his wife, Dr. Suzanne Francis-Brown, and other members of his family. 



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