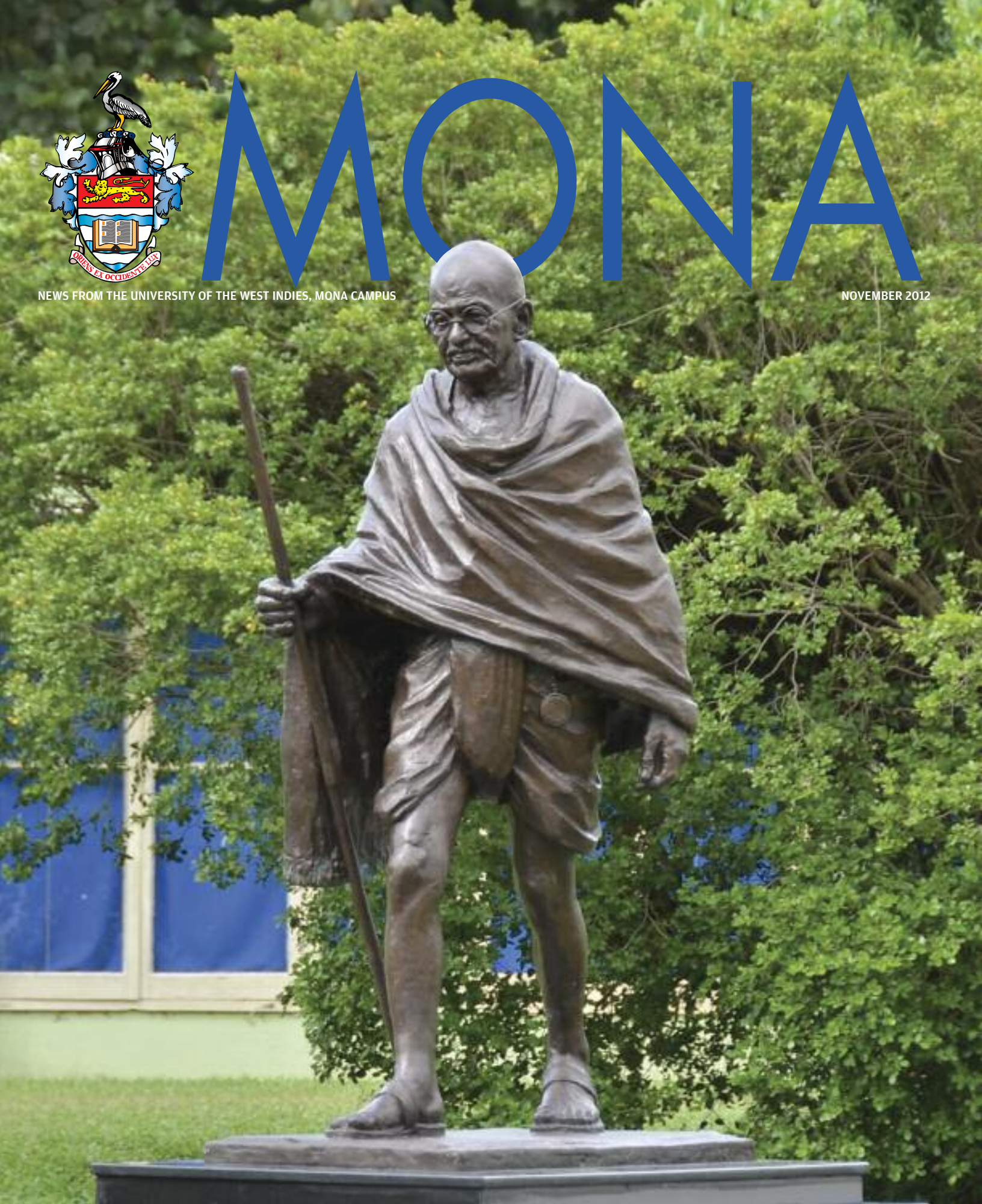




NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA CAMPUS

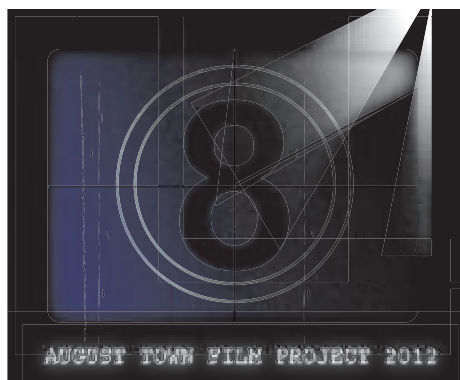
MONA

NOVEMBER 2012





NOVEMBER



20 August Town Tells Its Own Story

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On the Cover

The statue of Mahatma Gandhi donated by the Government of India

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

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UWI'S MISSION

The enduring mission of the University of the West Indies is to propel the economic, social, political and cultural development of West Indian society through teaching, research, innovation, advisory and community services, and intellectual leadership.

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Keeping Pace with Development

Fostering excellence in the teaching and learning space is without question a primary focus of any modern world-class university. It is the unrelenting drive to exceed expectations, to improve on past accomplishments, to continuously renew in an increasingly dynamic environment that allows great universities to keep on providing the all-round quality academic experience that separates them from the ordinary.

Continuing on its progressive development paths towards attaining and maintaining such excellence, The University of the West Indies has once again made some invaluable breakthroughs. Most recently, The UWI, Mona Campus attained the distinction of becoming the first tertiary education institution in Jamaica to attain full 'Institutional Accreditation by the University Council of Jamaica'. The St. Augustine Campus has also sought and obtained accreditation from the Accreditation Council of Trinidad & Tobago, while the Cave Hill Campus and the Open Campus are currently seeking accreditation from the Barbados Accreditation Council. The Mona Campus' accreditation which took effect from February 1, 2012 will run for the maximum possible period of seven years.

Around the same time of our receiving institutional accreditation from the UCJ, the Caribbean Accreditation Authority in Medicine and Health

Professions (CAAM-HP) granted accreditation to The UWI's medical programmes for a five-year period ending in 2017. In its report, the CAAM-HP noted that the "UWI is producing well trained graduates".

The significance of this development resonates not only with The UWI, but with the entire Caribbean region, whose development we are tasked with facilitating. It simply means that in a consistently evolving world, our University is keeping pace with the changes, ensuring that we are fully equipped with the tools and ammunition to effectively shape and support the future, and not allowing the Region to be left behind. The detailed assessment of The UWI's operations by the accreditation body agreed that our objectives, our mission, our student services, our education quality, our admission requirements and our reputation, truly represent tertiary advancement at its optimum.

Another development in keeping with our vision for a world-class academy involves the merger of the Mona School of Business and the Department of Management Studies, which has formed The Mona School of Business and Management (MSBM), the largest business school of its kind in the Region. This union provides The UWI, Mona Campus with greater capacity to produce a critical mass of scholars to strengthen research capability in business and management and facilitate cutting-edge innovations that will address the priorities

of Jamaica and the wider Caribbean region. The new MSBM will offer both undergraduate and graduate degree programs under the Faculty of Social Sciences.

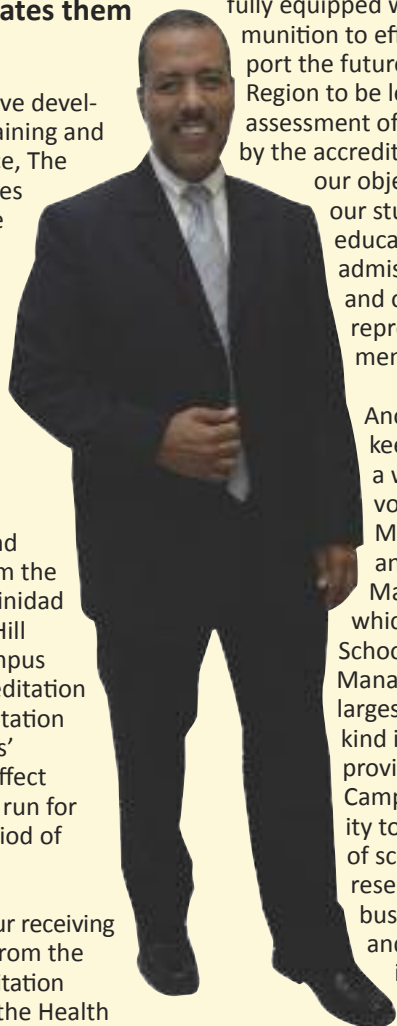
Other significant developments include the introduction of new programmes in Mona's Faculty of Science & Technology (formerly Pure & Applied Sciences) in previously unexplored areas such as optics and photonics; and the adoption of a new approach to the teaching of modern languages in the Faculty of Humanities & Education, to ensure that our students can access and function in a variety of cultures through competence in several different languages.

Evidence that The UWI's unrelenting focus on excellence is bearing fruit can be seen yet again in UWI graduates coping both coveted Jamaican and Caribbean Rhodes Scholarships. It is also evident in the impact that the work of Mona's newly appointed professors is having worldwide in areas such as paediatric HIV/AIDS, herpetology and conservation biology.

The UWI, Mona should be proud of the developments, and rightly so. As yet another cohort of graduates leaves its doors to take up their roles in society, we are confident that the preparation they have received and their overall experience here at Mona, guarantee that they are fully equipped to make sterling contributions to Jamaica, the region and the world. **M**



Gordon Shirley
PVC and Principal



STRONGER TOGETHER

The Mona School of Business has joined forces with the Department of Management Studies, UWI, Mona to create



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UWI MONA GRANTED INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION BY UCJ

The University has been granted institutional accreditation by the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ), for a period of seven (7) years, the maximum time possible. The accreditation took effect from February 1, 2012. This is a significant development for the UWI, Mona, which is now the first institution in Jamaica to secure institutional accreditation from the UCJ, as a way of validating its quality standards. Institutional accreditation means that all the undergraduate and graduate programmes currently being offered by The UWI, Mona, are recognized.



The Principal receives the Instrument of Accreditation from UCJ's Executive Director, Dr. Yvonne Marshall.

planning initiatives, including, as it has been doing, the development of its strategic plan.

In welcoming the development, Professor Shirley noted that the University's accredited status provides the assurance to stakeholders of its commitment to excellence as well as official confirmation that UWI students are receiving high-quality, tertiary-level education. The Certificate indicating Accreditation was presented to Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, Professor Gordon Shirley,

Continued on page 30

“The University's accredited status provides the assurance to stakeholders of its commitment to excellence as well as official confirmation that UWI students are receiving high-quality tertiary-level education.”

In its Letter of Accreditation, which is the instrument granting the accreditation, the UCJ congratulated the institution on having achieved this milestone, adding that it expected the University to effect the ongoing strengthening of the institution by focusing on its unique regional mission while continuing to serve its students with its undergraduate and graduate programmes. The UCJ also asked the institution to continue engaging a broad range of internal and external stakeholders in its major

MEDICAL PROGRAMMES ALSO ACCREDITED

The Caribbean Accreditation Authority in Medicine and the Health Professions (CAAM-HP) has granted accreditation to The UWI's medical programmes for the period 2012-2017. The UWI has gained institutional accreditation as a single School of Medicine programme, following on successful collaboration among the three Faculties at Cave Hill, Barbados; Mona, Jamaica; St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, as well as the Clinical Medical programme in the Bahamas.

In its report, the CAAM-HP commended the UWI on its draft Strategic Plan and its approach to a multi-campus, multi-territory university, noting that there is 'great potential for innovation and diversity among the campuses, while achieving common assessments and outcomes'. It also pointed to strengths such as 'a committed, motivated and collegial faculty; strong and effective leadership by Dean and Directors; a good patient mix;' and more importantly, the report noted that "UWI is producing well trained graduates".

As is customary, this accreditation was provided with conditions, such as submission of annual reports by the University detailing progress made towards addressing recommendations for future compliance and improvement.



The University is especially pleased by this milestone accomplishment and welcomes the opportunity for continued quality improvement of its programmes. The Medical Faculty has been a flagship of the UWI since the inception of the regional institution in 1948, and the University prides itself in its reputation for high quality teaching and first class research in many areas related to the practice of medicine in the Tropics.

Vice Chancellor of the UWI, Professor E. Nigel Harris noted that "The University of the West Indies has an exceptional record of producing medical graduates of the highest quality and it is important that we work with accrediting bodies like CAAM-HP to assure our stakeholders of our commitment to excellence through continued quality improvement based on self-study, external assessment and responsiveness to recommendations for improvement". **M**

OPTICS & PHOTONICS – NEW CURRICULUM COMING

Optics and Photonics are not words that form part of the vocabulary of the average citizen. However, an initiative being spearheaded through the Department of Physics at The UWI, Mona aims to ensure that both fields will soon become better known.

The UWI, Mona, was among 25 organizations worldwide to receive a grant from the Society of Photographic Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE) to establish an optics curriculum and to introduce the field to high school, pre-university and undergraduate students. This made The UWI, Mona the only institution in the Caribbean ever to be awarded a grant from the SPIE, the largest optical society in the world.

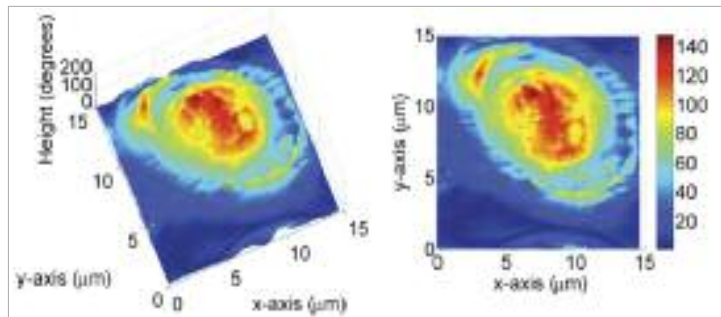
Lecturer in the Department of Physics Dr. Kert Edward, was instrumental in The UWI being awarded this grant, through which he hopes to introduce students at the pre-college level to topics in optics (the study of light) and photonics (the study of individual particles which make up light),



Dr. Kert Edward

while increasing their awareness of the potential application and career paths available in this field.

Much of the grant funds will also be used to expose pre-university students to real-world applications of the principles of optics in research and consumer electronics devices. Additionally, special emphasis will be placed on career guidance in physics and optics and the major thrust will be the application of optics to solve everyday problems. It is also anticipated



Non-invasive optical imaging of the nucleus of a fish's red blood cell

that a website will be developed to provide prospective and current UWI physics students with information related to optics research. As part of the agreement with the SPIE, the outreach programme will extend to at least one other island – Trinidad, Barbados or St. Lucia.

Dr. Edward feels that there are certain phenomena which are important for students to understand that require a more detailed understanding of optics than is currently being covered at the



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CSEC and CAPE levels. "Reflection, refraction and Snell's Law are covered, but students should also be looking at phenomena such as polarisation and diffraction". Dr. Edward plans to bridge this gap by incorporating these topics into the CSEC and CAPE syllabus and inviting high school students to the UWI for hands-on experience with optics kits.

Ultimately, the aim is to decrease the knowledge deficit all around. "At the undergraduate level, there isn't enough offered to students in terms of an introduction to optics. We hope to increase the number of optics courses available in the Department of Physics and to offer optics as a minor and in the distant future, a major," Dr. Edward said.

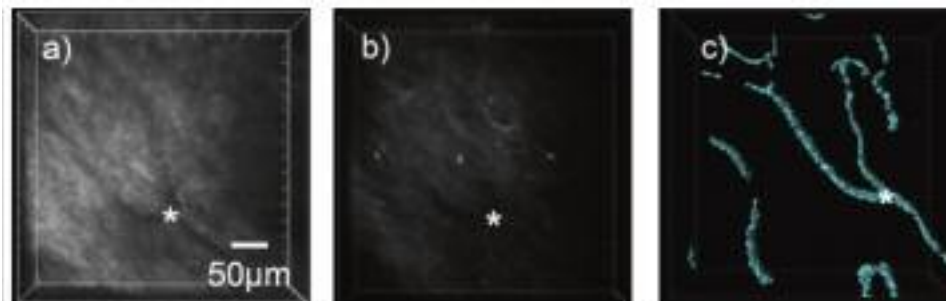
GOOD ALTERNATIVE TO MEDICINE

Another problem, Dr. Edward laments, is that a lot of the really bright students opt to enter the Medical Faculty instead of the Physics Department as a career path in Physics is not clear to them.

However, over the past few decades, optics as a discipline has developed from an obscure specialty to one of the leading areas of research and innovation in the physical sciences. Numerous applications of optics can be found in disparate areas such as medicine, telecommunications, chemical sensing, precision measurement (metrology), high-resolution imaging and cryptography.

Specialised laser systems can be used for both the detection and treatment of cancerous and pre-cancerous lesions, for example. Also, optical fibres form the backbone of most telecommunications systems because of their superior bandwidth and reduced weight compared to copper cables. Additionally, numerous commercial devices such as flat screen TVs, DVD/blue-ray players and cell phones extensively exploit applications of optics.

According to Dr. Edward, "the field is transforming economies across the world, from the US to China, however, we in the Caribbean are passive beneficiaries of this revolution in innovation instead of active contributors to this developing field. When it comes to optics, it is clear that significant reform is required and this should begin with our pre-university students."



In-vivo optical imaging of blood vessel network

CANCER RESEARCH

Dr. Edward himself brings to the Department of Physics a wealth of experience in physics and optics research. A St. Lucian-born research scientist, he obtained his bachelor's degree in physics from The UWI, St. Augustine in 1999 and did both his master's degree in Applied Physics (2005) and his PhD. D. in Optics (2009) at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He later pursued post-doctoral research in Biomedical Engineering at the Center for Biomedical Engineering at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas.

In his post-graduate research, he used optics to study oral cancer, the sixth most common form of cancer in the world. He exploited a specialised technique called the two-photon micro-spectroscopy, which allows the early detection of pre-cancerous changes in the oral cavity, by lasers. This non-invasive method allows an optical biopsy of many sites and the detection of changes associated with cancer before it becomes full-blown. "This type of research is important," Dr. Edward says, "as the 'gold standard' for cancer detection requires that small samples or biopsies be obtained from suspicious sites. However, every suspicious site cannot be biopsied as the procedure is associated with pain and discomfort.

Moreover, conventional detection allows visualisation of sites of interest using ordinary white light. This prevents sub-surface evaluation which is crucial to cancer detection as the earliest changes associated with cancer occurs several layers below the surface in tissue."

The technique Dr. Edward assisted in developing addresses all of these shortcomings. It allowed for early detection in a hamster model with superior sensitivity

and specificity compared to conventional approaches. He is currently involved in the development of a clinical tool based on this research.

His research interest in cancer developed from his investigation into high-resolution microscopy. As part of his doctoral thesis, he developed an imaging system capable of identifying sub-surface cellular features with dimensions down to 500 times smaller than the thickness of the human hair. Apart from the very high resolution, the advantage of this tool was the non-invasive imaging capability. The instrument exploited the interaction of light with living cells from a low-power laser.

Dr. Edward turned his attention towards the application of this instrument and discovered that pre-cancerous and cancerous cells underwent changes that could be accurately measured using his system. This preliminary study whetted his appetite to learn more about cancer and to explore the possibility of using optical physics for early detection.

ULTIMATE GOAL

Ultimately, Dr. Edward's goal is to explore the potential of optics for the economic and general advancement of Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. Part of The UWI's strategic plan is the exploitation of advances and innovation in the lab to improve the quality of life and economy of the country. "For this to happen, new industries and research centres must emerge as byproducts of the optics and physics research at the UWI. In the process, employment will be created and we will solve major technical problems in telecommunications, health care and environmental monitoring. I see the SPIE grant playing a small but important role in meeting this objective," Dr. Edward said. M

CONNECTING WITH THE WORLD:

A NEW APPROACH TO MODERN LANGUAGES



Dr. Paulette Ramsay, Head, Department of Modern Languages & Literatures

The man, who does not know other languages, unless he is a man of genius, necessarily has deficiencies in his ideas," said French author Victor Hugo. His words encapsulate the ability of languages to connect the people and expand one's knowledge and creative thought process.

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures the Mona Campus has been striving to bridge the communication gap by encouraging and promoting learning of world languages.

"When I became the head of the department last year, I embarked on a plan of action," says Dr. Paulette Ramsay, Head of Department and Senior Lecturer (Spanish), Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. "The objective was to get greater visibility, attract more students to the programme and to position the department as a vibrant, inviting and stimulating place for the students to study."

Dr. Ramsay says that in 2012 her department has taken significant strides in its thrust to achieve those goals. The repositioning of the teaching and the department has been done in two levels; "One was to overhaul the curriculum and second I challenged those in the department to update their methodologies. "This was effective use of technology, by using OURVLE to post course outlines, lectures and other material."

Learning a foreign language is both beneficial and gratifying in the constantly shrinking world. The globalised economies have opened avenues for the bi- and multi-lingual professionals to new markets. "Learning a language has social, cognitive and academic benefits, the ability to think and solve problems," says Dr. Ramsay. "Jamaica has an advantage of being close to Spanish-speaking countries, so it is important for us in the Caribbean to learn additional languages." Given these distinct advantages, she



Dr. Paulette Ramsay makes a presentation to Sony senior engineer, - Mr. Yoshimasa Matsuura



Final-year student Tami Elliott demonstrates the new equipment to Principal, Prof. Gordon Shirley, and resident representative of JICA Jamaica, Mr. Masami Shukunobe.

says, the viability of learning languages is more relevant than ever.

There are five languages that are taught at Modern Languages and Literatures – Spanish, French, Chinese, Portuguese and Japanese – which give students a wide perspective to choose from. As a part of the programme, the students are encouraged to get hands-on experience with the culture and people. “We encourage students to go abroad – we have several exchange programmes with China, Japan and Spanish-speaking countries. There are five students currently in China as a part of the exchange programme,” Dr. Ramsay said.

In the department, there are native speakers appointed by the respective countries to complement the programmes. There are instructors from Japan, Spain, France and China who help the students have a holistic experience. Recently, the language laboratory was refurbished with a versatile multimedia lab by the Japanese government through JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), which also supports the language programme by giving textbooks and audio books.

But, Dr. Ramsay explained, one of the challenges that the department is facing is the price of some of the textbooks, which is very high. “We need affordable texts, so we are looking at markets nearer to us from where we can source cheap text books.” She is also encouraging instructors to innovate. “They (instructors, lecturers) can prepare notes and share with the

students. This would be beneficial and cost effective.” The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures is poised for greater heights. “We want to make ourselves on par with the world standards,” Dr. Ramsay said.

As a part of the new thrust, a proposal was presented to the board of undergraduate studies to encourage students from other faculties, apart from humanities, to take up foreign language as filler for foundation courses. “This came in effect in May of this year and the response has been tremendous. There are doctors who are learning Portuguese because of the economic boom in Brazil and also people in the tourism sector find knowledge of an additional language an advantage to them.” The advantage, Dr. Ramsay said, is that these students are doing a language at the level of their competence and they can pick up from where they left off, if they learnt it in high school or did any foundation courses. To create vibrancy and diversity, the department is also holding lunchtime classes in French, Spanish and Amharic, an Ethiopian language.

“The department is in discussions to introduce Russian and German into the fold,” Dr. Ramsay said. The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures is an amalgamation of not only the world’s languages but also their cultures and peoples, equipping students to become global citizens. “The world is changing, we are living in a smaller global space,” Dr. Ramsay said. “The students should take advantage of this and move beyond our shores.” **M**



Students perform a Japanese dance

MEET PAUL SIMMONDS, MSBM'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Prof. Paul Simmonds

Do your best always." That's the philosophy that has guided Prof. Paul G. Simmonds, the new man at the helm of the Mona School of Business and Management (MSBM), a recent merger of the Mona School of Business (MSB) and the Department of Management Studies (DOMS). It's a philosophy he adopted from his grandfather, a lay minister, who shaped the values he has held to this day. He also cherishes the lessons instilled by his parents (who were businesspeople), who taught him to be committed to the task at hand.

The native of St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands assumed duties as executive director with effect from September 1, 2012. A management consultant and certified management accountant, he comes to The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona after his most recent appointment as AARP Virgin Islands State President.

Prof. Simmonds has had a long association with the MSB, dating back to 1995, when he was assigned as Overseas Lecturer and External Examiner in the EMBA, MBA and DBA programmes. He assisted in the design and implementation of these programmes in response to the great drive which existed in the 1990s for this level of education, particularly the MBA degree. He brings a wealth of experience to his new position, having served in similar capacities during his 25-year academic career.

“Our students should be able to network with students from all over the world.”

He worked as Professor and Administrative Chair/Dean of the Business Division at the University of the Virgin Islands and as



Department Chairman and Associate Professor in the Business Administration Department of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He has also held academic appointments at Florida State University, Temple University, the University of Central Florida, the National University of Singapore, Old Dominion University, Rutgers University and Widener University.

His vision for the MSBM is for the school to become one of the global leaders in business research and education. His first

goal is to pilot the School towards attaining the AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) accreditation. "We are seeking to apply for candidacy for the AACSB accreditation as this will help us to attract more international students and achieve the international school status we are trying to create. The MSB-DOMS merger will provide a more effective way of competing internationally. We have a dedication to the region, but we would like to see international students coming to the MSBM," Prof. Simmonds said.

"Our students should be able to network with students from all over the world. We need to exchange faculties. Students should be able to study for a semester abroad and transfer credits here. This is where The UWI is going. Our plan is consistent with the goals of The UWI. As we break out, we will need more faculty members to join us and we can attract them with AACSB accreditation. The AACSB is a means to create those ends we are looking for," the executive director added.

Continued on page 30

TWO NEW PROFESSORS NAMED



Prof. Russell Pierre

The University of the West Indies, Mona is pleased to announce the promotion of **Dr. Russell Pierre**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Child Health and Adolescent Health, Faculty of Medical Sciences, to the rank of Professor. Also promoted to the rank is **Dr. Byron Wilson**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Life Sciences, Faculty of Science & Technology (formerly Pure & Applied Sciences). Both appointments took effect on October 3, 2012.

Dr. Pierre holds the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree (1983), the Advanced Diploma in Child Health (DCH) (1986), the Doctor of Medicine (DM) degree in Paediatrics (1992) as well as a Masters degree in Public Health (2001) from the UWI, Mona Campus.

Russell Pierre has distinguished himself in the areas of research, publication, medical education and administration. He has made significant contributions in the area of Paediatric HIV/AIDS, and is recognised as a pioneer in the country, who has implemented optimal approaches to diagnosis, treatment and long-term follow-up of children infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. In conjunction with collaborators, he adopted a broad approach which included both medical and psychosocial aspects of the infection and extended beyond the doors of the clinic to consider the comprehensive needs of these children and their families.

As a paediatrician with special interest in HIV medicine and public health training, Professor Pierre and collaborators have established a record of substantive research in the areas of Perinatal and Paediatric HIV/AIDS, focusing on the characterisation of paediatric HIV/AIDS in Jamaica, the efficacy of interventions to reduce morbidity, improve survival and quality of life of affected children and adolescents, and the impact of interventions to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Jamaica.

The result has been the reduction of mother-to-child transmission of HIV from greater than 25% before 2002 to less than 5% since 2007, and significant reduction in morbidity and mortality of paediatric HIV. This UWI-led initiative has been a seminal example of the University, Ministry of Health and international partner collaboration influencing public health not only in Jamaica, but the wider Caribbean Region and internationally by virtue of

being an example of best practice. Much of this work has been documented in over 35 papers and 40 abstracts in local, regional and international journals including the West Indian Medical Journal, Paediatric Infectious Disease Journal, Annals of Tropical Paediatrics, Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, International Journal of Gynaecology & Obstetrics and the Pan American Journal of Public Health. In addition, he has served as Temporary Advisor on the World Health Organisation (WHO) Technical Reference Group on Paediatric HIV Care and Treatment with responsibility for revising the treatment guidelines (WHO Antiretroviral Therapy for Infants and Children).

His work in the field of Infectious Diseases has been generally recognised as evidenced by his receipt of the Principal's Research Award for Best Publication (2001); Most Outstanding Research Activity (2006 and 2009) and for the Project Attracting Most Research Funds in the Faculty of Medical Sciences (2010 and 2011). He was also recipient of a Fellowship under the International Society for Infectious Diseases (ISID), International HIV/AIDS Training Programme at the National Institutes of Health, and through the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population & Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, Maryland.

Russell Pierre has invested significant time and energy into his role as medical educator. He has been involved in the training of medical students and postgraduate residents in general paediatrics, critical care

and infectious diseases, as well as research. He assumed a leadership role in curriculum development and administration in the Department of Child & Adolescent Health (as overall coordinator of the Undergraduate Programme for Child Health) and the Faculty of Medical Sciences, introducing innovations such as the development of Objective Structured Clinical Examination for the Child Health Clerkship and final MBBS examinations.

Currently as the Undergraduate Medical Programme Director, he has continued to promote innovation and excellence in

course delivery and assessment with support of multimedia technologies. Professor Pierre serves as Chairman (and Chief Examiner) of the Caribbean Association of Medical Councils Registration Examination Committee and in that capacity, re-structured, developed and implemented the Caribbean Association of Medical Councils Qualifying Examination in congruence with current medical education principles. Through the creative use of technology in teaching and assessment, he pioneered the implementation and administration of the first regional computer-based multiple choice examination

to replace the written examination, now being administered at several sites including Antigua, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines and Trinidad & Tobago.

He is a Member of the International AIDS Society, International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care, the Paediatric Association of Jamaica, the Medical Association of Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago Medical Association, as well as Member and Instructor of the Advanced Life Support Group (UK).



Prof. Byron Wilson

Byron Wilson holds the Bachelor of Arts in Zoology from the University of California, Berkeley, and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Zoology from the University of Washington (Seattle). He joined the staff of The UWI, Mona in 1998 as a Research Fellow, was appointed Lecturer in 2001 and later promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2007.

The newly appointed professor is an acknowledged authority on Jamaican biodiversity and a leader in efforts to conserve it. He has had a distinguished career in herpetology and conservation biology, an applied field aimed at averting species extinctions. It involves research that is important from a conceptual perspective, but also has significant value for contributing to the maintenance of Earth's biodiversity.

Throughout his career, Byron Wilson has helped to establish long-term conservation projects that have attracted wide international attention, including grants from the MacArthur Foundation, the International Iguana Foundation, the Global Environmental Facility, the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, Conservation International, and the Wildlife Conservation Society, among others. He is an internationally recognized authority on the herpetology of Jamaica and its conservation, having over the years, studied and promoted the conservation of the reptiles and amphibians that inhabit the island.

Professor Wilson's work initially focused on the Critically Endangered Jamaican iguana, his efforts in this area having helped to make this UWI-led effort a rare but widely known global conservation success story. In recent years, the focus of his research has expanded to consider other species (frogs, turtles, crocodiles, trees), as well as threats to the biodiversity of Jamaica posed by invasive species and habitat modification and destruction. Professor Wilson's studies on the mongoose and other invasive mammals in Jamaica have led to a successful control programme in the Hellshire Hills that has been effective in improving survival among endangered herpetofauna.


Dr. Wilson also rediscovered another reptile thought to have disappeared—the Blue-tailed Galliwasp—also in the Hellshire Hills. It is the only blue-tailed member of the family Diploglossidae in the West Indies, and was only known previously from the Portland Ridge Peninsula. All this has contributed to a better understanding of the possibilities and challenges faced by conservation biologists working in the West Indies and other

islands in an area now recognised as a global biodiversity hotspot.

In 2011 he was invited to deliver the 7th Annual EFJ Public Lecture at the Pegasus Hotel, and spoke on Jamaica's current extinction crisis to an audience of over 400. He also has a successful record as an educator, having taught courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In addition to preparing the syllabus and lecture materials for new courses, he has also developed innovative field exercises, particularly for final-year Environmental Biology majors.

Professor Wilson has published widely in his field. He is co-editor of Volumes 1 and 2 of the book 'Conservation of Caribbean Island Herpetofaunas' and editor of the book 'Jamaica: Land of Wood and Water'. His articles have appeared in journals including Ecology, Ecological Monographs, Oecologia, Physiological Zoology, Forest Ecology and Management, and Biological Invasions.

In acknowledgement of his achievements, he has been recipient of the Jamaica Environmental Action Award (Wildlife Conservation category) as well as six Principal's Awards for Research (Best Publication in 2006 and 2012; Project Attracting the Most Research Funds in 2007, 2009 and 2011; and Best Researcher in 2012).

Byron Wilson is a member of the IUCN SSC Iguana Specialist Group and has been Head of the Jamaican Iguana Recovery Group since 2005. He is also a member of the IUCN SSC's specialist groups for frogs, Anolis lizards, Boas and Pythons, and small mammals, and sits on NEPA's Working Groups for Invasive Species and crocodiles. 

TOWARDS A UWI GENDER POLICY AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING ACTION PLAN



Leith L. Dunn

The UWI's Strategic Plan 2012-2017 includes a commitment to develop a Gender Policy. The UWI Mona Campus is also developing an Action Plan to mainstream gender in UWI's policies

and programmes. These far-reaching decisions reflect UWI's commitment to promote good governance, gender equality and sustainable development.

Gender equality supports equitable and sustainable development. It is the goal of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which all Caribbean governments have ratified. It is one of the eight (8) Millennium Development Goals to be achieved by 2015. The National Policy for Gender Equality (NPGE) approved by the Jamaican Parliament and launched on International Women's Day March 8 2011 also has the same goal.

GENDER-MAINSTREAMING: THE PROCESS, STRATEGY AND BENEFITS

Gender, a social construct, defines ideological and material characteristics associated with masculinity and femininity (Barriteau 1987). The resulting gender division of labour between the sexes, determine roles, responsibilities, differences in access to power, status, leadership and decision-making.. Social identities such as gender, class, race/ethnicity, nationality, and sexual orientation, can influence vulnerabilities and risks and as well as development status.

Gender Mainstreaming is a process and strategy adopted by UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1995 to identify and address gender-based inequalities. It involves collection and analysis of sex disaggregated data to identify areas of discrimination, then using this information

to develop policies and programmes to promote gender equality in development.

The gender mainstreaming process at UWI will involve all stakeholders: academics, administrators, students, and other staff in research, analysis and action to promote equality. The experience will highlight visible and invisible areas of discrimination resulting from 'custom and practice'.

Results can enhance teaching and learning, guide curriculum reform, increase male student participation; target development needs of males and females and empower the 'ideal UWI graduate' to become a gender-sensitive, transformational Caribbean leader.

The process will help to address several gender-related issues: reducing gender disparities in male enrolment at UWI and in UWI's governance, administrative and human resource policies; mainstreaming gender to promote economic growth, reducing crime and risks from HIV, Non-Communicable diseases, climate change and natural hazards.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO MAINSTREAM GENDER

The UWI is strategically positioned to mainstream gender and develop a gender policy as IGDS staff members on the three campuses have the expertise and experience having conducted similar assessments for several countries and institutions. The IGDS offers the only gender and development academic programme which includes teaching (Diploma, BSc, Minors, MSc and MPhil/PhDs); research, publications; public education and public policy outreach.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN OTHER TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

Other tertiary education institutions that have mainstreamed gender include Makerere University in Uganda, which established a Gender Mainstreaming Division in 2002. This reformed the University's governance and administration systems,

enhanced student and staff welfare programmes, improved public spaces and campus security. It changed the organisational culture by promoting the use of gender sensitive language and procedures and introducing a gender responsive budget.

The University of Education Winneba (UEW) in Ghana also embarked on a similar process in 2004. Results of a baseline study showed that: females were under-represented among staff and students; their faculty research output and productivity were lower than their male colleagues; they had limited support to enable them to combine work and family responsibilities; and sexual harassment made the campus unfriendly for females... The institution's Gender Blind policies assumed that policies would have the same impact on women and men, although inequitable practices were identified. In response, a Gender Mainstreaming Unit was established in 2005 and by 2009 a Gender Policy was developed to address issues research findings.

The UWI will use lessons from these and other experiences to guide its own actions.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL POLICY FOR GENDER EQUALITY?

Gender mainstreaming at UWI supports the Jamaica's National Policy for Gender Equality (NPGE). The NPGE facilitates the integration of a gender perspective in all national plans policies, programmes and legislation and promotes action to address several areas of gender inequality: **Legal Reform** Priorities are: Public education and awareness of women's rights; legal literacy; access to legal aid; legal reforms to protect the rights of vulnerable women; support adoption of an anti-sexual harassment policy; harmonising the age of sexual consent for boys and girls; promote the definition and elimination of sex discrimination in the Constitution. **Employment and Labour Market Reforms:** Priorities are: Gender equality in the labour market, eliminating gender biases in wages, labour laws, and improving



Dorienne Rowan-Campbell (niece of Dr. Lucille Mathurin-Mair), Dr. Leith Dunn, Mrs. Judith Wedderburn (Director, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean) & Mrs. Beverley Anderson-Duncan, guest speaker, at the 7th Lucille Mathurin-Mair Public Lecture, held on March 29, 2012.

working conditions for BOTH sexes; eliminating structural barriers that reinforce sex segregation in the labour market, which result in the concentration of females in low-skill, low-wage occupations; discrimination against unpaid family caregivers; commercial sex workers; women in micro small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs); rural women, and victims of gender based violence including human trafficking.

Actions assigned to IGDS include—

Education: Gender training for Teachers' Colleges and research to identify factors that will close the gaps between male/female educational attainment and labour force participation.

Governance & decision-making:

Research, leadership training; advocacy to support quotas as a Special Temporary Measure (CEDAW), to enhance gender

equality in leadership and governance.

Gender Mainstreaming: Training gender focal points to mainstream gender; updating gender indicators to measure progress; supporting policy, legislative and human rights reforms to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexuality, protecting the rights of Persons Living with HIV/ AIDS and advocacy to reduce maternal mortality and promote women's health.

IGDS CAPACITY BUILDING

Gender Specialists: IGDS graduates are being educated and trained to support research and gender mainstreaming in all sectors. Enrolment in the BSc in Gender and Development offered by the IGDS Mona Unit is currently over 150 students. Over 1000 students completed gender courses in AY2011/2012. UWI Mona's November 2012 Graduation

ceremony saw the first PhD at Mona (the late Dr. Faith Innerarity) and the first three BSc graduates as well as nine MScs who received their degrees. The IGDS Regional Coordinating Unit (UWI Centre) coordinates the Diploma and postgraduate programme. The IGDS Mona Unit (UWI Mona Campus) coordinates the undergraduate programme. The Unit's Operational Plan 2012-2014 includes expanding teaching, research and outreach short gender courses; producing quality graduates to support gender mainstreaming within and outside the UWI and supporting the UWI's Gender Policy and Plan and implementation of the National Policy for Gender Equality. [M](#)

Leith L. Dunn is Senior Lecturer/Head, Institute for Gender and Development Studies, Mona Campus Unit



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
MONA, JAMAICA

Congratulates



THE
GRADUATING
CLASS^{OF}
2012

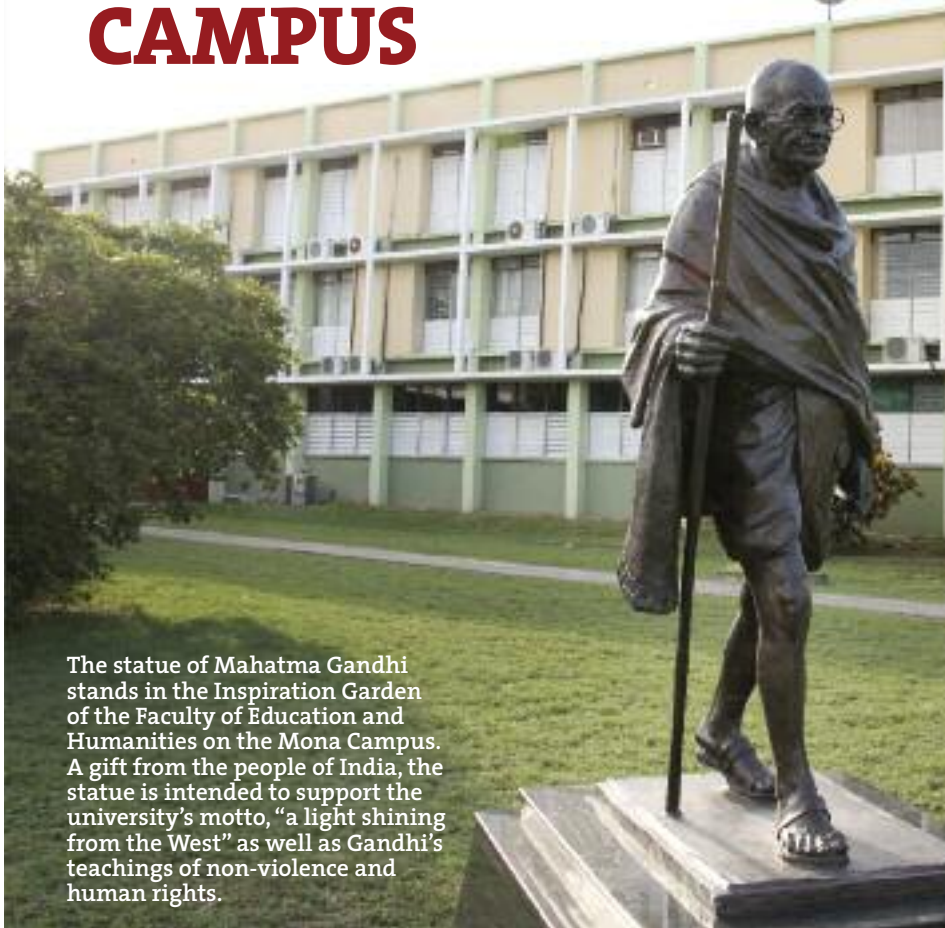
We celebrate this educational milestone with you. Now is your time to make a mark on your country, the region and the world.

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UWI

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GANDHI STATUE UNVEILED ON CAMPUS



The statue of Mahatma Gandhi stands in the Inspiration Garden of the Faculty of Education and Humanities on the Mona Campus. A gift from the people of India, the statue is intended to support the university's motto, "a light shining from the West" as well as Gandhi's teachings of non-violence and human rights.



UWI/ICCR MOU SIGNED

The University of the West Indies, Mona and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish the ICCR Chair of Indology/ Gandhian Studies at Mona. The agreement was signed by Prof. Gordon Shirley, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, Mona and the then High Commissioner of India, His Excellency Mohinder Singh Grover.

Looking on are Professor Silvia Kouwenberg, Head, Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy and Mr. Anil Saxena, Second Secretary, Indian High Commission.

ORIENTATION 2012



Melbourne Douglas of the UWI Pop Society entertains the new students



A section of the audience at matriculation



Delighted to be at Mona



Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar became the first female Head of State to be inducted into the UWI Mona Park in Honour of Graduates who are or have been Heads of Government. L-R: C. William Iton, University Registrar; Dr. Camille Bell-Hutchinson, Campus Registrar, Mona; Professor Gordon Shirley, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, Mona; Hon Kamla Persad- Bissessar, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago; Dr. Gregory Bissessar; Rev. the Hon. Ronald Thwaites, Minister of Education. Second row: H.E. Dr. Iva Gloudon, High Commissioner, Trinidad and Tobago.



UWI's Olympic medallist Hansle Parchment (bronze, 110-metre hurdles) receives his Award of Appreciation from Principal Prof. Gordon Shirley.



Five students from primary and secondary high schools in the communities surrounding the Mona Campus benefitted from scholarships provided by members of staff at the Mona Information Technology Services (MITS) department. The MITS Applications Scholarship Fund was founded by Ms Jennifer Lovelace in 2005 with the aim of offering scholarships to bright but financially challenged students from primary/secondary schools around the UWI community annually.

Staff members of MITS and a few other departments contribute to the fund monthly or annually. The Fund committee then liaises with the schools to identify promising recipients. This year the scholarship was worth J\$20,000 in cash/kind (books/uniforms/lunch money/exam fees). One student also received a grant worth J\$10,000. The 2012 scholarship recipients are Sujanta McLeod, Mona Heights Primary School, Onyx Mathison, Hope Valley Experimental School, Jeovaughnii Hall, New Providence Primary School, Monique Williams, Papine High School and Romario Whyte, August Town Primary. The grant recipient was Mark Powell from Spanish Town High School. In the photo, scholarship and grant Recipients 2012 pose with members of the MITS Applications Scholarship Fund Committee.

GRADUATION **FOUR CEREMONIES OVER TWO DAYS—EVERY GRADUATE IS A WINNER**



UWI, Mona's first cohort of electronic engineering graduates, including Class Valedictorian and First Class Honours graduate, Dayne Robinson (4th from right) pose for the camera with the Principal (3rd from left); Deputy Dean, Faculty of Engineering, St. Augustine, Dr. Clement Imbert (5th from right); Head of the Department of Physics, Mona Dr. Michael Taylor, (3rd from right); Programme Coordinator, Mona, Dr. Paul Aiken (2nd from right) and Professor Brian Copeland, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, St. Augustine (right).

'Every graduate here is a winner'. Those words by Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, Sir George Alleyne, captured the emotions of joy and the sense of accomplishment felt by members of the 2012 graduating class who received their certificates and degrees at the annual graduation ceremonies at Mona. The sentiment was also reflected in the faces of the thousands of relatives, friends and well wishers who came out to acknowledge the individual rites of passage.

For the first time, the Mona Campus held four ceremonies with just over 2400 first degrees being awarded: graduates of the Faculties of Humanities & Education, Science and Technology (formerly Pure & Applied Sciences) and the Institute for Gender and Development Studies were presented at the first ceremony held Friday, November 2 at 10.00 a.m. and graduates of the Faculties of Medical Sci-



Proud members of the graduating class of 2012

ences, Law and Engineering received their degrees that afternoon at 5.30 p.m. Both morning and afternoon sessions on Saturday, November 3 were dedicated to the Faculty of Social Sciences, which had approximately one third of all graduates. All graduands except those from the Department of Management Studies and the Mona School of Business were presented at the morning session.

The Class of 2012 included the first cohort

of 71 persons to graduate since The University began delivery of the undergraduate Law degree programme at the Mona Campus. The creation of a Faculty of Law at Mona means that students now have the option of completing the entire three year degree programme at the Campus, or pursuing one year at Mona, and completing the second and third years at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados.

Also graduating was the first cohort of six from the Electronic Engineering degree programme. That programme was introduced at Mona in 2009 in response to an increased demand for an Engineering presence at the Campus. The expansion followed on discussions with the Jamaican Institute of Engineers, the conduct of a needs survey and The University's examination of the Government of Jamaica's document on critical skills needs in the public sector. The programme serves



Honorary graduates (l-r) Mr. Lowell Hawthorne and Professor Emeritus Dr. Hugh Wynter, congratulate each other as the Chancellor looks on; Vincent HoSang delivers an impassioned address; the Chancellor confers the award on Dr. George Eaton and Professor Emeritus Errol Miller.



World renowned coach Glen Mills shares the spotlight with Olympic 200m medallists (l-r) Hon. Usain Bolt, Warren Weir and Yohan Blake.

persons who wish to pursue a career path in Telecommunications or Industrial Instrumentation, and is only offered at Mona.

Commenting on developments at Mona, Sir George noted that the efforts of the Campus to increase male enrolment seemed to be bearing fruit as this year there was a 6.5 per cent increase in male enrolment. He also pointed to the 633 postgraduate degrees and the addition of six new post graduate programmes. He commended the institution on its focus on sports, highlighting the remarkable performance of student athlete Hansle Parchment, who took the bronze in the 100 meter Olympic hurdles, Mona's sports scholarship programme, as well as the introduction of the Masters in Sport and Exercise Medicine.

HONORARY DEGREES

The University presented honorary degrees to eight outstanding Jamaicans over the four ceremonies: the Doctor of Laws degree was conferred on public servant and educator, Professor Emeritus Errol Miller, Master Blender, Mrs Joy Spence, philanthropist and entrepreneur, Mr Lowell Hawthorne and Trade Union and Labour Educator, Dr. George Eaton philanthropist and entrepreneur, Mr. Vincent HoSang and founder, president and head coach of the Racers Track Club, Mr. Glen Mills.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Science was conferred on researcher and educator Professor Emeritus Hugh Wynter while



The Chancellor confers the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters on artist, Mrs Valerie Bloomfield Ambrose



Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) graduates wait to enter the graduation tent.



Members of the combined University Singers and University Chorale in performance



Class Valedictorian Ms. Chris-Ann Williams, Bachelor of Science in Accounting, with First Class Honours, Faculty of Social Sciences



Class Valedictorian, Mr. Keisean Stevenson, Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with First Class Honours, Faculty of Pure & Applied Sciences



The Chancellor congratulates Class Valedictorian Ms. Samantha-Kaye Christie, Bachelor of Science in Psychology with First Class Honours, Faculty of Social Sciences.



Graduates beam with pride at achieving the milestone sculptor, art educator and painter, Mrs. Valerie Bloomfield-Ambrose received the degree of Doctor of Letters.

In an emotional address, Mr. HoSang reminded the graduating class that 'to whom much is given...much is expected'. He urged them never to forget their roots and to give back to those who had assisted them along the way. He further encouraged the graduates to "rise above

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AUGUST TOWN TELLS ITS OWN STORY



Tashi Campbell, Chester Thompson and Shanice Rutherford, trainees who made the August Town Documentary, outline the rationale for their productions.

To the casual observer, it seemed just another grouping of 'youths' from August Town. The five sat unobtrusively to one side of the lecture theatre, interacting little with the various officials gathered. But as the evening progressed and their names were called—Shanice Rutherford, Chester Thompson, Tashi Campbell, Rayon O'Connor, and Orlando Ferguson—the pride on their faces was evident and they could hardly wait to tell their story.

According to the National Library of Jamaica, August Town, a community bordering The UWI, Mona Campus, is thought to have been named for the fact that freedom came to the enslaved people of this country on the 1st August, 1838. August Town is also known as the home of Alexander Bedward, the self-proclaimed prophet who first emerged in the public arena in the late 1800s, converting thousands of followers to Bedwardism and later claiming that he could fly. Today, the name August Town conjures up images of gang violence and social ills. The five young persons insist, however, that the community is not all

bad, and that they wanted to provide a glimpse of that other, softer August Town to outsiders.

The opportunity came through their participation in the Greater August Town Film Project, spearheaded by the Centre for Tourism and Policy Research at The UWI, Mona Campus, and launched at a ceremony held at Mona in October 2012. The Centre is located in the Faculty of Social Sciences and aims to advance research and training in the area of tourism and other development policy research in Jamaica and the Caribbean. It is currently working along with the University Township Project—an initiative to foster a better relationship between the Campus and the community—to facilitate the development of community tourism. Director of Mona Social Services—UWI Township, Dr. Olivene Burke, informed the audience that the entire effort was part of a larger vision for August Town as a tourist destination. She said that community members were already being trained as tour guides to take advantage of the opportunities that were expected to arise.

The film project is a component of that community tourism initiative. The project encouraged youth from the community to get involved with storytelling and film making around community and national issues. The aim was to encourage the young people to use the medium as a vehicle to educate, inspire, entertain and gain employment while deepening their understanding of their society.

Over a five-day period in August 2012, a group of trainees from the Greater August

Town community were provided with basic knowledge of video production and film. Videographer/film maker Robert Harris guided the trainees in the elements of creating and editing film while film maker, writer and actor Keiran King delivered a guest lecture. The class was split into two groups – one which produced a documentary, and the other a short film. The graduates were then given the opportunity to redo and extend their films with the help of a professional crew from Phase Three Productions Ltd. and with guidance of film maker, Sean Casely, and the original instructor, Robert Harris.

The outcome was the documentary 'August Town Tells A Story' produced by Shanice Rutherford, Chester Thompson and Tashi Campbell, as well as the short film 'Fast Lane', produced by Orlando Ferguson and Rayon O'Connor. According to the producers of the documentary, they were aware of the stigma attached to their community and wanted an opportunity to say to the wider society: this is what you might have heard about August Town but this is who we are. Accordingly over the period, they interviewed older members of the community who highlighted the rich history of August Town from the colonial period to the present and its significance to the culture and heritage of both Kingston and the wider Jamaica. Younger persons spoke to their hopes for the future. The film 'Fast Lane' was more of a cautionary tale, highlighting the perils of trying to get rich without going through the necessary preparation in life.

Director of the Centre, Professor Ian Boxill, explained that the intention is to expand the project into the Greater August Town Film Festival. He contended that the festival would provide a platform for filmmakers from the community to reach a wider audience with their work and create employment for themselves and the community. "We believe this community enterprise will help to foster the growth of the trainees and emerging community voices passionate about creating solutions to the current challenges". At the end of the evening, the project received a significant fillip as noted film maker Lennie Little-White offered the trainees internships with his company. Speaking for the group, a delighted Rayon exclaimed: "We're ready to go!" 



Patron for the Festival, Sir Kenneth Hall (3rd right, front row) and Lady Hall, headed the large audience that turned out to view the films. Also in the front row (l-r) are Dr. Olivene Burke, Director, Mona Social Services, UWI Township Project; Mrs. Caroline Mahfood, Executive Director, Grace Kennedy Foundation and Mr. Andre Hylton, Member of Parliament.



Randy McLaren

he set foot on the campus in 2008. Nicknamed 'Progressive Youth' and 'Creative Activist', Randy is a final-year B.Sc. degree student, majoring in Sociology with a minor in Entertainment and Cultural Entertainment Management. His study of Sociology has provided him with the background to take his love for dub poetry and social culture to full force as it has laid the foundation for his understanding of various social systems.

"I live my life in an effort to be a total human being. I have always been involved in the cultural arts, which for me is not just entertainment but also social culture. Sociology always informs my work and I use dub poetry as a message art. I treat my poems like an essay and I call the concept behind what I do 'Kriativ Aktivism'. My style is flexible; it has rhythm, it has beat and it goes with drama, allowing me to use my theatre experience," Randy said.

It was while pursuing Sociology at the CAPE level in Upper Sixth Form at Wolmer's Boys' School that Randy realised he had a penchant for the subject and did two units in one year. His interest in dub poetry had its rudiments at Excelsior High where he began to write his own pieces in

Grade 9 and to perform at various school functions and devotion. Additionally, his acting skills and overall development were greatly enhanced when he joined the Jamaica Youth Theatre five years ago.

Randy McLaren, UWI's Cultural Activist

He has been nominated for the Prime Minister's Youth Awards for Excellence (2012) in Arts and Culture. In 2010, he was selected by the Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies (UWI) to become a member of UWI STAT (Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow), a group of high achieving students who act as ambassadors for the UWI and promote regionality. He recently performed with the UWI's

Performing Arts Ensemble during a summer tour of the UK (Birmingham and London) as part of the Jamaica 50 celebrations.

He won two premier awards for culture at the UWI's Annual Student Awards Ceremony for the 2009–2010 and 2011–2012 academic years. Executive Director of IKAN (International Kriativ Aktivism Network), a group of present and past UWI students dedicated to using the arts for social transformation, Randy McLaren has been waving the cultural flag at the Mona campus through his spoken word/dub poetry since

Born with leadership skills coursing through his veins, The UWI, Mona has provided a backdrop for his talents to flourish. He has been thrown into the role of Youth Leader through his appointment as a UWI STAT ambassador which has allowed him to share his experience at the UWI with the Vice Chancellor. "If there is any problem I can bring it to the Vice Chancellor freely, representative of the campus. I can convey anything that needs to be addressed and what will be addressed. It provides an opportunity to gain knowledge of regional issues, to

Cont'd on page 24

PELICANS KEEP UWI/UTECH CROWN

Mona stoutly defended its title at the third staging of the UWI/UTech Championship held on September 15 at the Mona Bowl. The Mona Pelicans retained the trophy for the third straight year, winning at netball, cricket, volleyball and basketball, four of the seven sporting disciplines.



A section of the large crowd that turned out for the UWI/UTech Championships.



Mona's women put up a fight against their UTech counterparts, but lost to their neighbours.



Action from UWI/UTech volleyball, won by UWI women.

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR CROWNED



Mona won the men's basketball battle at the UWI/UTech Championships.



Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year, Malysa Kelly and Hansle Parchment with their trophies. Malysa led Mona to the Intercollegiate netball championship, while Hansle copped a bronze medal in the 110m hurdles event at the 2012 London Olympics, becoming the first Jamaican to win a medal in that event at the Games.

The annual Sports Awards Ceremony was held on Saturday, September 24, at the Rex Nettleford Hall. The theme for the event was 'Creating Champions, Building Leaders'.

MCLAREN from page 21 engage in topics such as disaster mitigation, HIV and AIDS, regional integration, voluntarism, and to find solutions,” Randy said. He is also ‘resident poet’ for UWI STAT and is currently working on a theme poem for the organisation.

His involvement with UWI STAT comes naturally to the former valedictorian and headboy of Excelsior High School and deputy headboy at Wolmer’s Boys’ who takes pleasure in representing young people’s issues. Hailing from a small community in St. Thomas called Garden Field, his humble background has caused him to dream big and to desire the best for himself and other young people. He is proud of his association with UWI STAT which he regards as “a group of exemplary students who represent what is good about the UWI and the points of pride at the UWI.”

He started the IKAN group last year, bringing together 12 past and present UWI students from various faculties dedicated to using the arts for social transformation. Young, creative leaders, they examine and address developmental issues which affect young people using poetry, drama, music and theatre techniques. Issues include child rights and abuse, rural neglect, climate change, human trafficking and HIV/AIDS. “For example, during the ‘Safer Sex Week – Get More HIV/AIDS Aware’ campaign held on campus in February this year, the group gathered in front of the Main Library, at the Pure & Applied Science faculty spine, the Community Students Lounge and the Faculty of Humanities and Education courtyard and we conveyed our message there using street theatre and dub poetry,” Randy said. IKAN also distributes pamphlets around the Mona campus and the wider community areas such as parks, bus stops, sidewalks, community corners and community centres to get their message across.

Randy also has several off-campus involvements which allow him to be the creative activist he wants to be. He is a member of the Jamaica Youth Ambassadors Programme run by the Ministry of Youth and Culture’s National Centre for Youth Development. There he holds the portfolio of Culture and Vulnerable Youth. Additionally, since last year, he has been performing at the launch of Youth Month and this year, he wrote as well as performed the theme song – ‘Youth on a



Randy McLaren performs on stage at ‘Jamaica in the Square’ in Birmingham, England, along with other members of the UWI Performing Arts Troupe.

Mission’. A consistent entrant in the Tallawah Arts Festival, he won the award this year for Best Male Poetry for a piece called ‘Armada: Children on Fire’.

He is constantly on call at corporate events and school functions for his spoken word/dub poetry, gives motivational talks interspersed with dub poetry and does voluntary work. He has done dub poetry sessions for the Red Cross as well as the Office of the Children’s Registry. Recently, he was guest performer at the opening of the Caribbean Child Research Conference where he did two dub poetry pieces.

Randy was a performer long before he started at the UWI; he just kept the groove going and bloomed while on campus. It has paid off as his earnings from his creative abilities have allowed him to defray the cost of his tuition. On completion of his bachelor’s, he plans to do a master’s degree in the social sciences. However, whatever route his sociology degree takes him, he plans to continue his performances on the side.

He intends to merchandise t-shirts with messages from his poems, publish a book of his poems as well as a full-length album of his poetry. He would also like to cement his performances with a drum corps, preferably congo drums, and a guitarist, to present a unique musical experience. He is not only looking to the Jamaican market but would like to make a name for himself internationally. A few

years ago, he performed in Canada to a standing ovation and his experience at the recent Jamaica 50 celebrations in the UK opened his eyes to the possibilities there.

Randy has lapped up all that the UWI has to offer in the cultural sphere. Through his involvement with the Phillip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts where he was Student Coordinator (2009–2010), he has become well known for representing cultural affairs on campus. In fact, it was through the Centre that he was selected for the Jamaica 50 event in the UK, among other events.

Before his sojourn ends at the UWI he would like to do one last thing—start an event called ‘Talk’ at the Students Union, slated for February next year. The event will showcase young talent and cater to all kinds of creative expression including poetry, live acoustic music, comedy and story-telling. ‘Talk’ will be held every Wednesday evening and provide an option for students, instead of the customary fetes.

Randy’s philosophy of life is that the purpose of life is the life of purpose. He tries to live a purpose-driven life that has meaning. There is no limit for him and he does not consider anything at the UWI to be out of reach. “For me, possibilities are endless, and when I leave the UWI, whatever I do, I will continue in this vein. I will certainly not be joining the ranks of the unemployed,” Randy affirmed. **M**

UWI/Guardian Life Premium Teaching Awards Reward Lecturers' Dedication



A delighted Dr. Sharmella Roopchand-Martin collects her award.

UWI lecturers Dr. Sharmella Roopchand-Martin and Dr. Delroy Chevers were recognized for their excellence in teaching at this year's UWI/ Guardian Life Premium Teaching Award Ceremony held at the Mona Campus October 11, 2012.

Lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work, Mona Marina Ramkinsoon, was given an honorable mention as a nominee for the award. The UWI/Guardian Life Premium Teaching

Awards alternate yearly with a Premium Teaching Lecture, and aim to enhance the teaching process at UWI while recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of the academic staff. The Award is given at three of the four UWI campuses.

Roopchand-Martin, who holds a MSc. in Rehabilitation Science from McGill University, Montreal, Canada and a doctorate in Physical Therapy from Nova Southeastern

University, Florida, was ecstatic about the Award. She states, "We have the power to shape the future by how we guide the students we teach, and we owe our students the best. I have also learnt that the best way to engage as a teacher is to be a constant learner".


Chevers, who holds a PhD in Information Systems from The UWI, was equally excited for being recognised as a premium teacher. "All my life I have wanted to be a teacher, ever since I was in third form at Kingston College. I am living my dream. This is self-actualization. I live for my students each day and I yearn for all of them to succeed," said Chevers.

"The 21st Century University Teacher: Staying Engaged" was the title of this year's keynote address delivered by Dr. Todd Zakrajsek, Educational Developer and Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He spoke to developing a learning-centred classroom by engaging all the learning styles.



Ms Marina Ramkissoon was given an honourable mention as nominee.

Dr. Zakrajsek also served as Chief Judge for the nominations and lauded the teaching portfolios of all the three nominees praising them for their outstanding teaching style.

Principal of the UWI Mona Campus, Professor Gordon Shirley, commended the investment by Guardian Life as one of the most far-reaching in the university community because of its recognition of the role that excellent teaching plays in shaping an educated workforce. Professor Shirley said The UWI continues to view the development of new standards in teaching and learning as central to its 2012-17 strategic plan and was delighted to collaborate with Guardian Life in this mission. 



Dr. Delroy Chevers (centre) can't hide his delight at the award.

FIVE RECEIVE VICE CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



The Vice Chancellor (front row, left) stands with awardees Professor Hazel Oxenford, (2nd from left); Dr. Eddy Ventose (3rd from left) of the Cave Hill Campus; Professor Mark Figueroa (2nd from right) of the Mona Campus and Dr. Grace Sirju-Charran (right) of the St. Augustine Campus. The fifth awardee, Professor Zuliaka Ali was absent from the ceremony. Also in photo are: Row 2 L-R: Professor Gordon Shirley, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, Mona; Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, Cave Hill; C. William Iton, University Registrar; Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, Open Campus, Professor Wayne Hunte, Pro Vice Chancellor (Research) and Professor Clement Sankat, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, St Augustine.

Five members of the academic staff at the Cave Hill, Mona and St. Augustine Campuses of The UWI received the prestigious 2011/12 Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence at a ceremony held at the Mona Visitors' Lodge and Conference Centre in October 2012.

Mona's Professor Mark Figueroa, former Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences was recognized for excellence in service to the University community. Particular mention was made of his work during his tenure as Dean, where he undertook several initiatives resulting in the transformation of the operational culture of the faculty and, by extension, the university as a whole.

There was also recognition of the major role he played in the formulation of several university-wide policies, including those on plagiarism, ethics, distance education, and differential workloads for academics. Professor Figueroa also helped to pioneer the hallmark initiative of giving students early placement offers based on their first-year Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination results.

Other recipients were Professor Eddy Ventose of the Faculty of Law, Cave Hill, who was recognized for excellence in research accomplishment. Professor Ventose has a prolific research and publication record despite maintaining a heavy teaching load and administrative

duties. Since joining the staff at the Cave Hill Campus in 2006, he has produced over 40 peer-reviewed scholarly articles in some of the most highly regarded international law journals, and had a book published in 2011. He is expected to publish two other books before the year ends. He was promoted to Professor in May 2012 at the age of 35—the youngest person in the history of UWI ever to be so honoured.

Also from the Cave Hill Campus was Professor Hazel Oxenford, Head, Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, who was recognized for all-round excellent performance in research and public service. She was described as a devoted scholar, ecologist, and fisheries scientist, whose engagement at the local, regional and international levels in programmes aimed at achieving sustainable development for the Caribbean, has brought high honour and distinction to The UWI.

There were two awardees from the St. Augustine Campus. Dr. Grace Sirju-Charran, from the Department of Life Sciences, received an award for excellence in teaching for her pioneering work in course development at the UWI in the fields of science and agriculture. Professor Zulaika Ali, Department of Child Health was acknowledged for excellence in public service based on the exemplary role she played, not only as the Campus Co-Coordinator of the UWI HIV/AIDS Response Programme, but for her work in extensive charitable projects with several organisations; providing assistance to children, victims of rape, and members of underprivileged communities of Trinidad & Tobago.

The Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence was instituted in 1994 as a way of recognizing excellence on the part of the academic and senior administrative staff. Awards are made in the categories of Teaching, Research Accomplishments, Service to the University Community, Public Service and All-Round Performance in a combination of two or more of the other four categories. **M**

29 AWARDED UWI OPEN SCHOLARSHIPS



The Campus hosted its annual Matriculation and Welcome Ceremony for all first-year students on Thursday, September 6, 2012. A Matriculation Ceremony is the occasion on which new students are formally recognized as members of a university. Their acceptance into the academic community is marked by the signing of the Matriculation Register.

Open scholarship recipient O'Danielle O'Sullivan (2nd right) was the most outstanding matriculant for 2012/2013 academic year and signed the register on behalf of all new students. Others in the photo (L-R) are Dr. Camille Bell-Hutchinson, Campus Registrar, Professor Gordon Shirley, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, Mona and Professor E. Nigel Harris, Vice Chancellor.

The University of the West Indies (UWI) has awarded 29 Open Scholarships to undergraduate students for the academic year 2012/2013. Seventeen of the awardees are Jamaicans and will pursue studies at The UWI, Mona Campus. They are: Kristeina Beckford, Shakoy Bulgin, O'Danielle O'Sullivan (the 2012 Matriculant), Stacey-Ann Brown, Roy Shaw, Aujae Dixon, Evrich Watson, Samantha Henry, Andrae Silburn, Camille Ferraro, Javene Skyers, Danielle Hall, Chadane Thompson, Jhanelle Williams, Shamar James, Kemar James and Hasha-Kaye Hudlin.

The UWI Open Scholarship programme is one of the ways in which UWI, the region's flagship tertiary institution, is attracting and rewarding the Caribbean's high achievers. The prestigious scholarships cover the students' cost of tuition (where applicable), books, living expenses and incidentals. Recipients are required to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 throughout their course of study to keep the scholarship.

The 2012/13 Open Scholars were selected from applicants across the UWI's 16 contributing countries and hail from Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad & Tobago. They were awarded on the basis of their high academic achievement at the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) or performance at Associate degree level at community or state colleges as well as involvement in school leadership, community service and participation in co-curricular activities.

According to Professor Alvin Wint, Pro-Vice Chancellor in the Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies, the unit responsible for the management of these scholarships, "It is always our objective to attract the best students to the UWI. This year, we were

especially pleased to assist in funding the studies of two outstanding students who are enrolled at the Open Campus. The UWI is really extending its reach, contributing to regional development by facilitating access to tertiary education and training high achievers across all 16 of our contributing countries."

The 2012/13 UWI Open Scholars will pursue undergraduate programmes ranging across the faculties of Engineering, Medical Sciences, Humanities and Education, Social Sciences, Law, Science and Technology and Food and Agriculture, at the UWI campus of their choice.

The other UWI Open Scholarship 2012/13 Awardees are Petchann Gibbs from Antigua, Raymond Smith from the Bahamas, Shem Parris and Keaia Henry from Barbados, Jordan Craig of Belize, Sapphire Vital and Vernandra Christian from Dominica, Sonya La Geer from Grenada, Rochelle Deterville from St. Lucia, Stacey Regis and Shenille Samlal from Trinidad & Tobago and Shavar Maloney from St. Vincent & the Grenadines. **M**



Mr. Douglas Halsall O.D., Chairman (centre) and Mr. Everton Grennell (2nd right), Director of Sales - Advanced Integrated Systems Ltd., following presentation of the award for International Outstanding Achievement at Konica Minolta Business Conference in Las Vegas, January 2012. Sharing the occasion are executives from AIM (left to right): Ranyie "Nick" Tongiani - Senior Vice President, Strategic Accounts & International Business, Mobuo "Fred" Umehara - CEO, and Rick Taylor - President & Chief Operating Officer.

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"Go not where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail!"
- Douglas Halsall O.D.
(Chairman)



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UWI REGIONAL HQ NOW A REALITY



Cheque Handover: UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris with President & Group CEO, Neal & Massy Group of Companies, Mr. Gervase Warner (right) and Mr. Gaston Aguilera, Chairman of the Neal and Massy Foundation (left) at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad.

In Jamaica, there's a saying, "Every mickle mek a muckle", which translates into "every little bit helps". And just as so many Caribbean people

have achieved their goals by saving their "mickles", so it is that The UWI has attained its long-wished-for Vice Chancellery Building. Officially dubbed The

University of the West Indies' Regional Headquarters (UWI-RHQ), the impressive two-storey building is a dream made reality through the vision of the University's leadership, the financial support of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and generous donors, coupled with the hard work of The UWI project team and its contractors. The seat of central governance for the entire University was officially opened in June 2012 by the Most Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica.

Located on Kingston's Mona Road, immediately opposite the main entrance of the Mona Campus, UWI-RHQ serves as home to a museum depicting the history of The UWI; a state-of-the-art archive; and offers dedicated space for some of UWI's key research Institutes of excellence such as Criminal Justice and Security, Gender and Development Studies, and the Latin American and Caribbean Centre. It also boasts a large Council room and attractive lobby for receptions, graced by paintings and sculpted works from around the Caribbean.



UWI-RHQ is deliberately located outside of the Mona campus to represent its autonomy.

“The Regional Headquarters building housing the offices of the Vice Chancellery is a separate place,” explained Vice Chancellor Professor E. Nigel Harris. “It is truly regional. It’s a place that belongs to all of the campuses. This is a place where anybody who belongs to the University will feel at home.”

The UWI, despite having four campuses, is governed as a single entity, overseen by the University Council, the equivalent of the governing board of many universities, and is managed by an executive team made up of the Vice Chancellor, the four campus principals (who are Pro Vice-Chancellors), four other PVCs (for Undergraduate Studies, Graduate Studies, Research, and Planning & Development), the University Registrar and Deputy Registrar, the Chief Financial Officer and Chief University Information Officer. They oversee policy formation, strategic planning, finances, quality assurance of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, research, outreach and legal affairs. All these activities are supported by


offices that were previously scattered mainly across the Mona campus. Today, they are all located in the UWI-RHQ.

Designed by architects Bob Fowler and Associates, with Kier Construction Company Ltd as the main construction firm, the building cost US\$12 million, of which US\$8.25 million was provided through a CDB loan. The loan is guaranteed in equal portions by the governments of Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, and includes generous repayment terms and fairly low interest rates. Apart from the loan, the CDB also gave UWI a grant of US\$500,000.

The overall goal of the Vice Chancellor’s Building project is to contribute to UWI’s long-term mission of propelling the economic, social, political and cultural development of the region. The three main components of the project are firstly, to improve the productivity of the Vice Chancellery, which included providing adequate space for Vice Chancellery staff. The second objective is to enhance strategic management by developing a communications strategy and plan; a risk management programme; a maintenance policy for all UWI facilities, and training 30

systems managers and other ICT staff across The UWI’s four campuses. Finally, the project seeks to place focus on enhancing research and innovation by formulating a research and innovation action plan.

However, even though the building is completed, the longer term aspects of the project are ongoing. In particular, the University needs to source the remaining US\$3.25 million of the total cost, as well as the additional US\$4 million for outfitting the building, and hopes that the private sector across the region will contribute to the fund.

Approximately US\$1 million has already been raised through donations – signal contributions to the cause of an integrated Caribbean. These include US\$100,000 from Neal and Massy Group; a significant contribution from Caribbean Cement Company; and substantial donations from alumnus, Dr. Aleem Mohammed, chairman of SM Jaleel and Company Limited, Trinidad & Tobago, and Chas E. Ramson of Jamaica. Having come this far, The UWI is confident that its alumni and friends will also help with their “mickles” to “mek a muckle”. 



The University of the West Indies’ Regional Headquarters (UWI-RHQ) at Mona.

MSBM continued on page 30

Prof. Simmonds believes that what is happening all over the world affects Jamaica. He has coined an acronym which he uses to describe the current atmosphere – VUCA – which stands for volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous. “Students and everyone need to recognise that the VUCA world is present. We need to bring fresh ideas into the classroom to deal with this scenario. Research will allow us to identify the problems and come up with the solutions. We need to provide cutting-edge solutions,” he said.

The holder of a PhD in Strategic Management from Temple University, Philadelphia, USA, Simmonds’ academic focus has been on internal strategic management (the art and science of managing organisations).

He has lectured in graduate and undergraduate courses in strategic management/business policy, ethics, new venture finance, operations management, management control, small business management and international management. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from George Washington University, Washington DC, and an MBA with concentration in Accounting/Finance from Drexel University, Philadelphia.


Professor Simmonds has lived and worked in various parts of the world and also has extensive expertise in the private sector. He worked in Singapore as Managing Director of TRW Turbine Overhaul Services Pte Ltd., a foreign TRW subsidiary which manufactures, re-manufactures and repairs aircraft turbine components for worldwide airlines. He was General Manager of TRW, Inc., Airfoil Overhaul SBU in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with responsibility for the overall management and profitability of a 240-person strategic business unit. He also held a position at Scott Paper Company in Philadelphia as a Distribution Accountant.

His has written several articles on strategic management which have appeared in international journals such as the *Strategic Management Journal*, the *Journal of*

Managerial Issues, the *International Journal of Health Care Technology and Management*, *Academy of International Management Insights*, *Management International Review*, *Executive Management Today*, *Cross Cultural Management: An International Journal* and the *International Journal of Organizational Analysis*.


Additionally, he has sat on various boards and worked with non-governmental organisations and academic societies in positions such as Vice President, International Division, United States Association for Small Business Entrepreneurship and Member of the Advisory Board of the Academy of International Business Insights. He is also a member of the Academy of Management, the Strategic Management Society, the Institute of Management Accountants, the Coastal Zone Management Committee of the US Virgin Islands and is a 14-year veteran of the United States Air Force.

A self-confessed sports fanatic, he has a special love for cricket, American football, soccer and baseball. He also admits to having a burning desire for a closer relationship with his Lord and Saviour. In fact, his life’s motto is based on the scripture reading from James 1:5: But if any of you lacks wisdom, he should pray to God, who will give it to him; because God gives generously and graciously to all.

Prof. Simmonds applies this biblical principle to the job and is undaunted in his quest to mold the MSBM into a world class institution. “I think the people of Jamaica and the entire Caribbean region needs the world class institution we are trying to create. Jamaica suffers from adverse economic conditions and brain drain, but I think we have the wisdom and the talent to overcome it. The desire to be world class should be uplifting to all of us. We should show the world that we are capable. Some say that the grass is greener on the other side, but I say that we have green grass right here. Let’s plant our own seed and grow our own grass, right here.” 


GRADUATION cont’d from page 19

your disappointments, dream great dreams and pursue them”.

Sound advice also came from Professor Hugh Wynter who suggested that the graduates “plan purposefully, prepare prayerfully, proceed positively, and pursue (their goals) persistently”. In the final address on Saturday evening, Professor George Eaton urged the graduates to resist the societal tendency to merely analyse problems, but instead to identify and implement solutions. 

ACCREDITATION cont’d from page 5

at an awards ceremony hosted jointly by the University Council of Jamaica and the Joint Committee for Tertiary Education (JCTE) on Wednesday, October 10, 2012. Accreditation has become increasingly relevant in an environment in which the liberalization of higher education will become effective under the terms of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Given the current competitive structure of the regional market for tertiary education, this development means that more than ever before, institutions of higher education will have to become more accountable to their various stakeholders.

From its establishment by Royal Charter and the support of fifteen Caribbean governments, The University of the West Indies (UWI) had adopted rigorous internal quality assurance measures for its programmes, including external reviews and external examiners. However, given the changing environment, The UWI took the decision to seek accreditation of the institution from the appropriate accrediting bodies in the region. Each of these bodies recognizes and accepts the accreditation granted by the others. The St. Augustine Campus sought, and has obtained, accreditation from the Accreditation Council of Trinidad & Tobago. The Cave Hill Campus and the Open Campus are currently seeking accreditation from the Barbados Accreditation Council. 



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES MONA, JAMAICA

Congratulates

Members of our community who were recipients of national honours and awards:

Professor Frederick Hickling, Department of Community Health & Psychiatry, awarded the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander (CD) for his contribution to Education and Research in the field of Psychiatry

Miss Jean Tulloch-Reid, Retired Lecturer, Department of Community Health & Psychiatry, awarded the Order of Distinction in the rank of Officer (OD) for outstanding contribution to family life and health education in Jamaica

Mr. James Moss-Solomon, Executive in Residence at the Mona School of Business and Management, awarded the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander (CD) for his contribution to Business and Regional Integration.

Professor Terrence Forrester, Tropical Medicine Research Institute, awarded the Order of Jamaica for sterling contribution to medical research and the establishment of medical research facilities in Jamaica

Dr Franklin Ottey, Associate Lecturer, Department of Community Health & Psychiatry, awarded the Order of Distinction in the Rank of Officer (OD) for outstanding service in the field of Psychiatry



The University community congratulates you on this tremendous achievement and is proud that Jamaica has acknowledged your years of dedicated and outstanding service.

Through your efforts, The University of the West Indies, Mona is proud to be serving the people of Jamaica through Teaching, Research, Innovation, Advisory and Community Services and Intellectual Leadership.

Hickling

Tulloch-Reid

Moss-Solomon

Forrester

Ottey

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