



NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA CAMPUS

MONA

SEPTEMBER 2013



UWI ART & ARTIFACTS

ACKEE SEED SIZE & TOXICITY LINK

NEW SPIDER SPECIES FOUND IN HELLSHIRE



SEPTEMBER



Ackee seed size linked to toxicity

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UWI, Mona Art & Artifacts

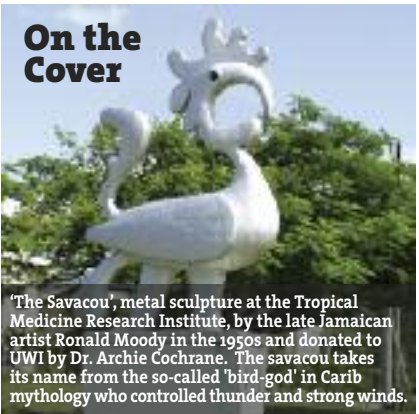
Byron Wilson Finds New Spider Species in Hellshire

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SmarTab to revolutionize information access for students



On the Cover

'The Savacou', metal sculpture at the Tropical Medicine Research Institute, by the late Jamaican artist Ronald Moody in the 1950s and donated to UWI by Dr. Archie Cochrane. The savacou takes its name from the so-called 'bird-god' in Carib mythology who controlled thunder and strong winds.

Novel Findings in Fight Against Prostate Cancer

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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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Continuity or Change?

Professor Archibald McDonald, the current Deputy Principal of Mona, has been selected to succeed Professor Gordon Shirley as Principal of the UWI, Mona Campus.

He will assume the position of Principal on September 1, 2013, the date that Professor Shirley will demit office to become the President and CEO of the Port Authority of Jamaica, and will continue for three years until his retirement date.

Professor McDonald has had an outstanding career as a surgeon in Trauma and Emergency Medicine. He is a graduate of The UWI and received his postgraduate DM degree in 1987. He is credited with starting the first Accident and Emergency Department in Jamaica at the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI). With colleagues, he established the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Programme in Jamaica and conducted seminal studies that defined the epidemiology of injury in Jamaica which led to development of Jamaica's Injury Surveillance System. He has published some 125 papers and abstracts in peer-reviewed journals.

Professor McDonald served as Chairman of the Department of Surgery (2002-2005) and then as Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona Campus, from 2005 to 2012. While he was Dean, he led historic changes in the Faculty resulting in a complete restructuring of the MBBS curriculum, a 200% expansion in student intake, accreditation of the medical programme by the Caribbean Accreditation Authority in Medicine and the Health Professions (CAAM-HP) and the effort to create a state-of-the-art building on the Mona Campus – the Faculty of Medical Sciences Teaching and Research Complex. For his exceptional leadership and scholarship, he was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in 2008.

In addition to his role as Deputy Principal, Professor McDonald is the Chair of the Jamaican Research and Education Network (JREN), a member of the

MCDONALD TAKES THE HELM



Board of Directors of the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN) and Chairman of the Board of St Joseph's Hospital.

In response to questions from the Mona magazine, Professor McDonald provides a perspective on what will characterise his tenure as Principal.

'Continuity or change?' What will be the guiding principles for your tenure as Principal?

Professor Gordon Shirley has done an outstanding job as Principal of the Mona Campus. Under his leadership the Campus has been transformed and is now positioned to make use of the opportunities that exist. Facilities such as the new Faculty of Medical Sciences Teaching and Research Complex, the Law School Building, 1000 new residential units and several new teaching and learning spaces around the Campus will facilitate increased enrolment in graduate and undergraduate programmes and increase the number of international students, thus enhancing the learning experience of our students and earning additional income.

We have already begun to refocus our research to place emphasis on projects that will have a direct impact on Jamaican and regional development. The Campus will also partner with

public and private entities to develop projects aimed at increasing employment and growing the Jamaican economy.

A feature of my tenure will be staff and student engagement. Student Services will be transformed in line with international best practice to ensure that our students get the assistance needed to fulfill the mandate of the UWI Strategic Plan to produce graduates that are articulate, socially aware, career ready and feel connected to the UWI. Change in the Faculty of Medical Sciences was achieved through ensuring that all levels of staff were engaged. I think this is important if the productivity of our employees is to increase. I will seek to tap into the collective wisdom of the Campus by increased engagement at all levels.

Thus my tenure will see continuity and consolidation but will also be one of change and further transformation.

What areas have you identified for priority attention, and what are the reasons for selecting them?

The top priority is the financial situation. This will get my immediate attention. Income generation and diversification will be intensified alongside measures to ensure that we extract the maximum from every dollar spent. The procurement procedures need to be improved so that the Campus gets the best price possible whether we are purchasing supplies or constructing buildings.

Computer and Information Technology are central to the work of universities. There is need to upgrade and modernize our IT practices ensuring that members of the UWI community have access to IT resources everywhere and at all times. Communications technology will be utilized to enable us to engage our students in real time, thereby improving the efficiency of management and decision-making processes. As the world transitions into the new era of open access and MOOC's (massive open online courses) the UWI will need IT leadership which is bold and visionary to militate against the associated



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risks. The Mona Campus will ensure that its community is fully informed of these developments and take the steps necessary to protect our position as the leading tertiary-level institution in the Caribbean.

Our core business is teaching and learning. However our research informs our teaching and should serve as a catalyst to economic growth and development of the Caribbean region and Jamaica. Thus this is clearly an area of emphasis. Our research will focus on projects, which will directly and positively impact Jamaica's and regional development. Science and Technology will play a key role here: over the past ten years the transformation was greatest in the Faculty of Medical Sciences; the next few years will see a shift to the Faculty of Science and Technology.

The University's strategic goals call for income source diversification, research and innovation and student engagement. How do you plan to achieve these strategic objectives at Mona?

Under Professor Shirley's leadership the Mona campus has significantly diversified its income sources in recent years. Our core business of teaching and learning is still our main source of income but has been expanded through introduction of Full Fee Paying programmes in Medicine, Law, Science and Technology and several self-financing Master's programmes.

The Mona Campus will play a greater leadership role in the discussions with the Ministry of Education in establishing a new model for financing tertiary education in Jamaica. Given the state of the economies of Jamaica and other contributing countries, this model must include the full fee-paying option for those Jamaican and regional students who can afford to pay, but also international students. We will continue to strengthen our long-standing relationships with many countries and institutions in the Northern hemisphere, but will now seek new partners from countries in the south such as Brazil and African nations.

The Office of Sponsored Research is being restructured to lead the new focus of our research enterprise. Our

research will now be directed in the main towards developmental issues relevant to Jamaica and the Caribbean region. Research projects will be integrated with community development and training to have a direct impact on economic activity.

As indicated previously, student engagement will be an area of focus. Effective engagement of our students requires modern IT resources but also a student services department which is modern and professional in its approach to student matters. The Campus will ensure that our activities in this area are in line with international best practice. Our student services managers must be experts in their field and not just persons who are seeking employment.

What do you need internal/external stakeholders to do in order for the Campus to succeed, given the severe financial constraints that it faces?

Building strong partnerships will be one of our main objectives going forward. Our internal stakeholders are our students, alumni and employees. Student leadership is important if we are to fulfill the mandate of the UWI strategic plan to produce graduates who are career ready, articulate, socially aware and leaders in their respective fields. The Campus management team will work closely with the guild of students to achieve these objectives. All great Universities have strong alumni associations. We will ensure that our alumni feel that they are a part of the university. This has to begin through the partnership with the current guild of students, which will ensure that our current students have a good experience during their stay at the UWI. Our alumni need to have access to UWI resources and must be encouraged to participate in UWI activities. Most great Universities only achieved that status on development of strong alumni associations and support.

The government of Jamaica as well those of the contributing territories are key partners of the UWI and the Mona Campus. There are opportunities for partnering with the government of Jamaica in particular the Ministries of Education, and Science

and Technology, Energy and Mining. The campus will explore those opportunities that are potentially beneficial to the people of Jamaica and the University. Strong partnerships already exist with some sectors of the private sector in Jamaica. However, the sector as a whole remains unconvinced about the importance of the University to their mission. The UWI must through strong leadership, demonstrate that our objectives are the same and that there are benefits for the private sector not just from an educated workforce but also from our research. We will seek to conduct research that will be of value to the private sector.

What will success look like for the Mona Campus, at the end of your tenure?

Three years is a very short time in the life of institutions and universities. One would not expect that a lot could be achieved in three years. However I have been given difficult, some would say impossible tasks before and have carried them out successfully.

At the end of my tenure, the Mona Campus of the UWI would have achieved financial stability and will have less dependence on government funding. Our national, regional and international visibility will be enhanced through increased research output and research that is clearly relevant to Jamaica's development. The Campus will be able to demonstrate though our researchers, its direct contribution to Jamaica's GDP. Our students and alumni will be motivated and become actively involved in our activities.

Enrolment will be increased mainly though an expansion of our graduate programmes and the development of the Western Jamaica Campus. The campus will be truly internationalised not just by increasing the number of international students but through strong partnerships with international institutions and governments. If all this is achieved, the UWI will see an improvement in its international ranking.

Archibald McDonald
Principal



SIZE MATTERS

RESEARCHERS DISCOVER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SEED SIZE AND TOXICITY

Generations of Jamaicans from all walks of life have heard stories of the dangers associated with the preparation and consumption of ackee – *Blighia sapida* – an exotic fruit which originated in West Africa and is widely consumed throughout Jamaica and its diaspora. A popular culinary delicacy, it forms a part of Jamaica's national dish – ackee and salt fish – and has been consumed locally for centuries. However, almost 100 hundred years ago, ackee was implicated as the cause of a mysterious illness, the Jamaican vomiting sickness, which caused lowering of blood sugar levels and in extreme cases, death. In the 1950s, this link was confirmed by researchers at The UWI, Mona who isolated and identified the toxin – hypoglycin – and determined that these outbreaks of vomiting could be attributed to the consumption of unripe ackees.

Studies on the toxicity of the ackee fruit have been ongoing in the Department of Chemistry at Mona, with the latest research by Saffiyah Dundee and Dr. Donna Minott-Kates, lecturer in Food and Applied Chemistry, uncovering a whole new area – a relationship between the seed size of the ackee and the level of the toxin in the fruit.



Dr. Donna Minott-Kates

Dundee researched this area as part of her MPhil thesis, which she completed in 2012. Supervised by Minott-Kates, the study, *The Impact of Seed Size on Residual Hypoglycin Levels in Ackee*, received the Principal's Research Award for the Best Research Publication (article) in the Faculty of Science and Technology. It was also presented at the 15th World Congress of Food Science and Technology conference in South Africa – IUFOST 2010 – and was published in the

Food Research International Journal in July, 2012.

Minott-Kates supervised an earlier study – *Tracking Hypoglycins A and B over Different Maturity Stages: Implications for the Detoxification of Ackee* – which was done in 2006 by Dr. Camille Bowen-Forbes, lecturer in Food Chemistry. This project examined the two forms of poison in the ackee: hypoglycin A, found in the edible part of the ackee (the aril) and in the seed and its derivative, hypoglycin B, found only in the seed. The study demonstrated that as the fruit matures and the ackee pod opens the level of the toxin (hypoglycin A) in the edible portion is reduced and drops to a level safe for consumption. Simultaneously, the amount of the poison (hypoglycin B) in the seed increases. It was also discovered that the toxin – hypoglycin A – in the edible part of the ackee is transferred to the seed and converted to the poison - hypoglycin B. The team concluded that the seed plays an important role in the detoxification of the fruit as the poison moves into the seed where it is stored as hypoglycin B. Following on this finding, Dundee and Minott investigated the characteristics of the ackee seed to determine what influence the maturity or size of the seed has on the levels of toxin in the fruit.

Dundee and Minott analysed both toxins – hypoglycins A and B – in tree-ripened ackee fruits with fully formed, regular-to-medium-sized and very small seeds harvested from several ackee trees. They noted that the majority of the sampled ackee population had mature, edible portions attached to regular-to-medium-sized seeds. Additionally, they found that the regular-to-medium-sized seeds had significantly less toxin (hypoglycin B) than the very small seeds. Mature ackees attached to regular-to-medium-sized seeds typically contained lower levels of toxin (hypoglycin A) than the mature, edible portion with very small seeds.

The research therefore suggests that fully ripened ackee appended to very small seeds should be avoided. “Our hypothesis in this research is that if the seed plays a role in the level of toxicity of the fruit and the seed is not the normal size that we expect with maturity, there would be a higher level of the toxin – hypoglycin A – in the yellow part of the fruit. This suggests that the small-sized seeds have a lower ability to assist in toxin removal from the edible part,” Minott said.

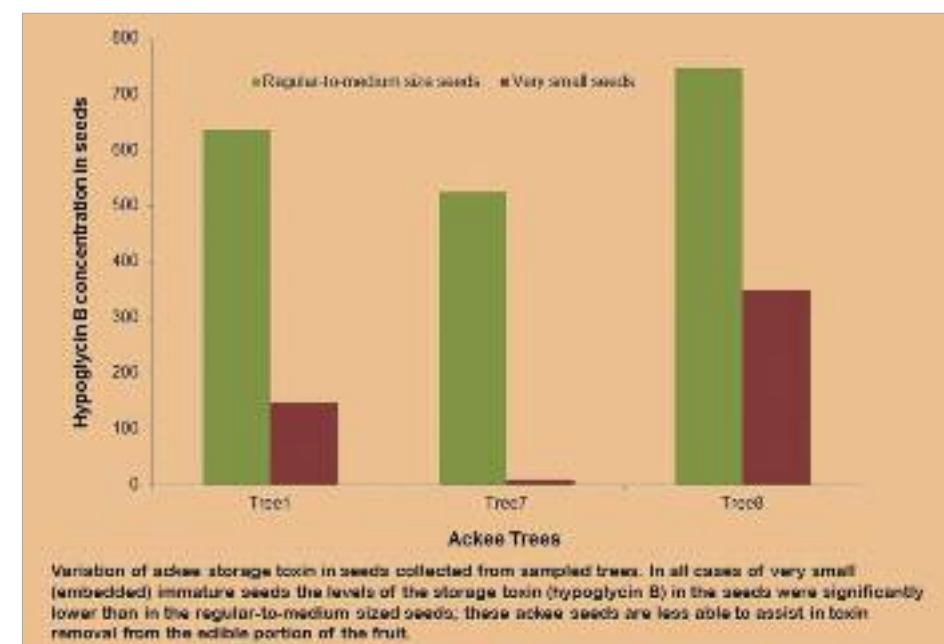
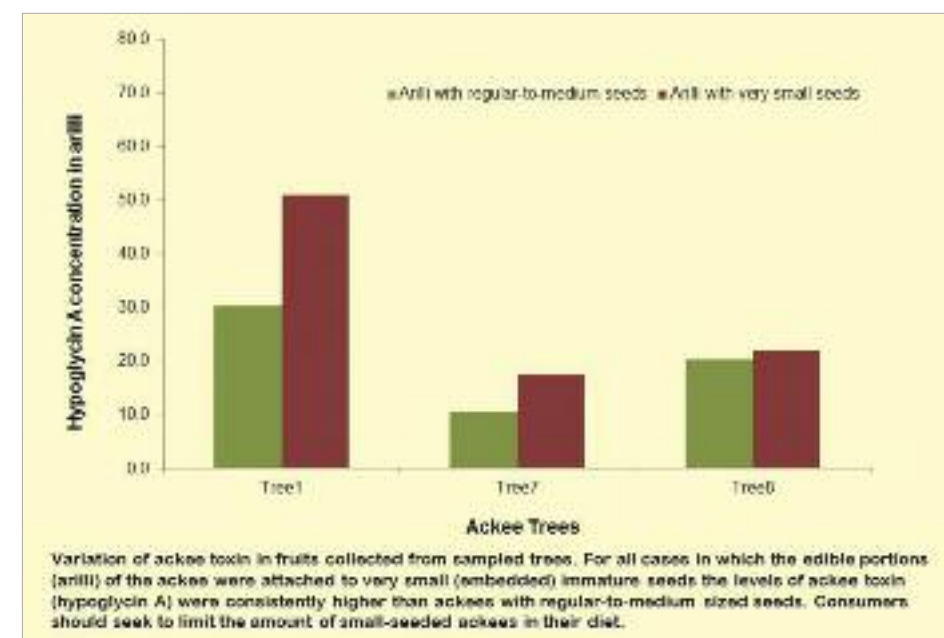
Dundee and Minott drew this conclusion after examining several edible portions connected to tiny, embedded seeds. They found that these had higher levels of the toxin than arils attached to normal-sized seeds. “Most ackee trees produce 70-90% of normal-sized seeds and some pods may contain two normal-sized seeds and one small, buried seed. We have been consuming them for a long time, but we should proceed cautiously and limit the amount of ackees we consume with small seeds,” Minott said.

“In fact, all ackees have the toxin, most have very low or non-detectable levels. It is

common knowledge that, for consumption, ackee should be boiled on its own and the water discarded as the toxin leaks out into the water,” she added.

INTERNATIONAL POPULARITY

The popularity of ackee as a culinary delicacy has increased internationally due to its widespread use in the Jamaican tourism industry. The fruit, thermally processed in brine, is canned and exported primarily to Canada, the UK and USA, and is considered a significant foreign exchange earner for the country's agro-processing sector. While there is much potential for the growth of this sub-sector of the food processing




“We have been consuming them for a long time, but we should proceed cautiously and limit the amount of ackees we consume with small seeds...”

industry, development has been somewhat stymied due to safety issues resulting from the occurrence of the endogenous toxin in the edible portion of the fruit. However, the recent investigations into the relationship between the seed size of the ackee and the level of toxins in the edible part of the fruit provide a sound basis for advising processors on ackee selection. Arising from the findings, processors of canned ackees are advised not to include arils that were attached to very small seeds in order to reduce the residual hypoglycin concentration in the product. Additionally, based on this work, Minott feels that efforts should be directed towards the identification of suitable low hypoglycin ackee varieties for propagation.

FUTURE RESEARCH

The study by Dundee and Minott contributes to the limited information available on the factors that are responsible for elevated levels of toxins in the ackee fruit. The team recognises that several other factors can contribute to an increase in the levels of hypoglycin in ackee and that seed size is only one. Could these other factors vary at different times and seasons, according to environmental influences, and act synergistically? Minott has been contemplating this possibility in her quest to uncover more on the ackee story. In her opinion, apart from the maturity of the fruit, factors such as plant variety and climate could contribute to the residual hypoglycin A concentration in the ackee.

“Graduate students in my research group are gradually building the story. We are pursuing the angle of possible environmental and climatic factors. The ackee story has many parts to it. We will continue to investigate what contributes to elevated levels of toxins in order to definitively tell consumers that these are the times or the types that they should avoid. We have a hypothesis; we will continue working on the data in the near future,” Minott said. 



Professor Denise Eldemire Shearer, Director, Mona Ageing & Wellness Centre

Age Ain't Nothing But A Number'. This is the battle cry of today's senior citizens, many of whom point to the ageing process as 'you are as old as you want to be'. Indeed, if you peruse countless magazines you will stumble across articles heralding 60 as the new 40 and even 100 as the new 70!

No matter the perspective, the reality is that population ageing, the process by which older persons become an increasingly larger proportion of the population, is now considered a worldwide phenomenon, described as unprecedented, pervasive and enduring. In 1950, population ageing was a mere eight per cent. It became 10 per cent in 2000, while the projected percentage for 2050 is a whopping 21 per cent.

The population landscape in Jamaica reflects this phenomenon. The elderly population (60 years and over) has metastasized into a sizable segment of the population. The

AGE

NOT JUST A NUMBER

SURVEY SHEDS LIGHT ON JAMAICA'S AGEING POPULATION

2011 Population Census shows 305,164 seniors or 11.3 per cent of the population. This is an increase of nine per cent over the 2001 census.

The number of persons above the age of 80 has increased to almost 60,000, indicating a spike of 34 per cent from 2001. This, and a rapidly ageing population, has resulted in a confluence of issues relating to health and welfare. Thus, it becomes imperative to not only understand the attendant challenges and unaddressed gaps relating to an ageing population, but to also develop appropriate measures as a response.

The first and only comprehensive epidemiological survey of the elderly in Jamaica was conducted some 23 years ago. Against this backdrop, Professor Denise Eldemire Shearer, Director of the Mona Ageing and Wellness Centre in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona, along with her team, conducted a study titled *Ageing in Jamaica Today and the Implications*. The aim was to assess the health and social status of older persons in Jamaica, while identifying critical needs.

The team was motivated by the significant change in the ageing population and correspondingly, its integration into the development process, since the last review. The concept of active ageing whereby older persons have become more diverse and able to still contribute to society was another consideration.

The study is the first of three phases of an Elderly Project. Funded by the National Health Fund (NHF) in December 2011, it involved a survey of 2943 randomly selected, older persons ranging in age from 60 to 103 years, in the parishes of Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Catherine and St. Thomas. Professor Eldemire Shearer explained that St. Catherine's profile was representative of much of Jamaica, while the other parishes showed contrasting health and social status of the elderly in predominantly urban Kingston and St. Andrew and in the rural setting of St. Thomas.

Focus groups and key informant interviews, also randomly selected, provided further insight and fleshed out the quantitative data. The field work was conducted between March and September of 2012.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Some findings, especially those surrounding the health status of the nation's seniors, were surprising and even frightening. The biggest surprise, according to Eldemire Shearer, was the marked increase in the prevalence of chronic diseases, such as hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, stroke and glaucoma, over the 1990 survey. The sharpest increase was seen in the prevalence of hypertension which burgeoned from 42.6 per cent to 61.3 per cent. The figures further revealed that the majority did not have normal blood pressure levels. The prevalence of diabetes went from 10.2 per cent to 26.2 per cent;



A computer class for seniors

stroke moved from 5.1 per cent to 8.2 per cent; while heart disease edged to 5.5 per cent from 5.4 per cent and glaucoma jumped from 4.9 per cent to 11.6 per cent. Meanwhile, the prevalence of arthritis decreased from 40 per cent to 35 per cent.

Even more unexpected was that the figures revealed negligible rural and urban differences. The prevalence of hypertension in the rural areas was 59.2 per cent versus 61.9 per cent in the urban areas and for diabetes, 24.9 per cent in the rural areas and, 26.7 per cent in the urban areas. "We thought that with all the physical activity in rural areas and less accessibility to fast food, this would not be the case," said Eldemire Shearer.

Overall, 65.4 per cent of the population had either diabetes or hypertension, with women accounting for 76.3 per cent of the cases, given the fact that they tend to have higher obesity levels than men, who accounted for 53.6 per cent. Of the population sampled, 22 per cent had both, which had significant implications for the care of the elderly. Prevalence of cancer increased from 2.3 per cent in 1990 to 5 per cent.

Prostate cancer was most identified, representing 80 per cent of the cases reported. Most of the elderly persons were able to function mentally, with 11 per cent being severely impaired and 38.5 per cent having mild impairment. The severity of the

impairment increased with age. However, of special interest to the team was that with the high levels of blood pressure and diabetes, there was reason to believe that there was a lot more vascular-related than Alzheimer's disease-related dementia. The most significant disability noted was sight, as 32.3 per cent reported visual problems. This represented an area of real need because some of the elderly received little or no pension, so lacked funds to change their eyeglasses regularly. Only 17.5 per cent used assisting devices such as walkers and canes. "We are seeing a change from 1990. They are more able to physically function. This is all a part of that change to active ageing," Eldemire Shearer said.

Another fascinating finding was that 22 per cent of those surveyed had a fall within the six months prior to the study. That figure is double that of American findings. The majority of the falls occurred in the home. The main perpetrator was the harmless-looking bedside rug. Slippers and sharp edged furniture were also offenders. A major consequence was that 34.6 per cent reported limiting activities for fear of falling. This could have the effect of setting off a chain reaction: social isolation then dependency then dementia, Eldemire Shearer observed. "A curious finding related to the regular source of care for the elderly was that the majority (males and females) opted for private care vis-à-vis public care, which is free. Only 37.8 per cent

indicated accessing public care, while 42.9 per cent utilized private care, with 12 per cent using both. The over-80 age group in particular had a preference for private care. Apparently, the waiting time was the major problem as well as the availability of prescriptions, Eldemire Shearer pointed out.

Another finding relating to the social status of the elderly was that there were more single, older people, specifically more women. Home ownership remained high as in the last survey and on the work and retirement front, 98.3 per cent reported that they had worked. The majority of those sampled reported that they supported themselves but there was a change in capacity and capability to do so. While 65 per cent in 1990 were able to meet their financial needs, this percentage declined to 53.2. Eldemire Shearer stressed that less than 50 per cent of the older persons in Jamaica received a pension. "One of the most serious findings of this study is that people are not contributing to a pension fund when they can, or making arrangements to do so. This has serious implications for financial preparation for old age," she added.

SPINOFF FROM THE STUDY

The findings of the study will operate as a blueprint to inform policies relating to the elderly. The most obvious policy to be revisited is the 1997 National Policy for Senior Citizens, as clearly the needs of the elderly have changed. There is clear indication from the study that the policy on pensions has to be much stronger. Other policy areas would include primary health care and health care planning in terms of designated age-friendly health centres.

The study reinforced the issue of house ownership as it relates to disaster planning for older persons. Currently, the Centre is working with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) to ensure that the special needs of the elderly are met. The support system required for older people is different, given their infirmities and physical limitations.

There are also implications for The UWI because of the possible training opportunities that exist. This will involve ensuring that gerontology and geriatrics training is incorporated in all health and social work programmes. "We are considering a certificate course for community caregivers and a diploma course for nurses,"

Cont'd on page 21



Generations often coexist but appropriate measures must be developed to address challenges related to ageing

THE UWI TEST PROGRAMME

REVOLUTIONIZING STUDENTS' ACCESS TO INFORMATION



Dr. Ronald Robinson is immersed in the new UWI TEST tablet – a hit with the medical students.

These days, the knapsacks of students of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona are distinctly lighter as they no longer contain several textbooks, some of which are equivalent to lifting 8-pound weights. The textbooks, massive in size and cost, have given way to electronic versions loaded on a sleek tablet, known as the UWI Total Electronic Solution Tablet (UWI TEST), which is infinitely lower in cost and irrefutably lighter in weight.

The transition has been welcomed for one good reason. Faced with the inability of medical students to purchase the requisite books for study due to prohibitive costs, the UWI needed to find a solution. Project Head for the UWI TEST programme, Dr. Ronald Robinson, said some medical students were spending between \$200k and \$250k on books alone. Ultimately, he said, some students were getting by on lecture notes and whatever could be scrounged off the Internet.

“With that in mind, we decided to look at providing them with a cheaper source for

their books, which was ebooks. They are a lot cheaper – you don’t have to keep an inventory, there is no shipping cost and no need for storage. These books could be actually provided through official license holders to the students at very little cost,” he explained.

A ‘mini-mini’ pilot test was first conducted and the information garnered was used to structure the roll out of the UWI TEST programme. Consultation with the relevant publishing houses, as well as dialogue with international sources familiar with such a programme, was also a part of the process.

The programme came into fruition in September 2012, when first-year medical students were given the option to purchase a 7” Android 4.0 tablet or SmartTab loaded with 18 of the core books needed for their five years of study.

“For the 18 books, they were asked to pay US\$199.76 per year of their study, which at the exchange rate last year amounted to a little over \$17,000. So, if you are to amalgamate the five years of study, they would probably pay \$80,000 based on the exchange rate at the time,” Robinson pointed out, while juxtaposing the cost of the printed copies of the said textbooks, which totaled well over \$200,000. The tablet, which is optional, was made available at a cost of US\$200. Made by JL Mobile, the cost of the tablet also covered a 7-month warranty and free technical support.

The savings derived from the package offered, not to mention the easy access to information, has been a hit with the medical students. “The programme has been a success. Most students now literally read from their devices ... this is the

way of the world now,” said Robinson. Never mind that the said ebooks can be loaded on other portable devices including smartphones and iPads. Students have taken a fancy to the UWI TEST as there is no guarantee how the Bookshelf app by the electronic textbook providers, VitalSource, works on these other devices. The students have also embraced the tablet because of the excellent customer service provided.

An added benefit for the medical students is the link which gives access to their library services, which has its own platform in place. “We work very closely with the library services to actually develop an app which leads the students directly into their main library. No longer will the students have to be physically in the library. They can actually go in and borrow books from the Reserve Book Collection electronically and have it for two weeks,” said Robinson.

Students are not the only beneficiaries under the programme. Associate lecturers in the Faculty of Medical Sciences were also provided with tablets loaded with the same number of books as the students and, being faculty staff, they were given access to library journals. The tablet also came with exam databases and Power-Point presentations, thereby making their lives a lot easier.

Perhaps the most striking impact of the programme is that it spawned interest from other faculties and departments on the Mona Campus. In early 2013, the Mona School of Business and Management came on board, which meant that all of the students in cohort 17 (the newest cohort of MBA students), were provided a tablet with access to their



The sleek, light-weight, low-cost UWI Total Electronic Solution Tablet.

books for the 18 – 24 months’ duration of their programme. Slated to come on stream for September 2013 are the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Science and Technology, the Department of Engineering, the Department of Computing and the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communications. “Some of the Master

of Science programmes in the departments in the Faculty of Social Sciences are also on board,” Robinson added, noting that the aim was for 85% campus penetration by 2014.

Meanwhile, the success of the programme has translated into a pilot project, similar in nature, involving sixth forms in two high schools – Jamaica College and Campion College. This project is set to launch in September of this year. “We view it as a national good, so we not only want The UWI to reap the benefits from this, but others too. Hopefully, it works well for these two sixth forms, after which we will make it available to whichever institution requests it,” Robinson highlighted.

Requests are also being fielded from many other institutions in and outside of Jamaica to assist in the implementation of a similar programme.

The UWI TEST, the first of its kind in the English-speaking Caribbean, is revolutionizing the dissemination of information as the ability of students to access has increased exponentially. Humongous, costly textbooks will soon become relics from a bygone age. **M**



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IN CONSERVATION EFFORTS: NEW SPIDER SPECIES FOUND IN HELLSHIRE HILLS



The *Selenops petrunkevitchi*, a spider of the same genus as the *wilsoni* (photograph courtesy Dr. Sarah Crews)

Imagine camping out at night and setting traps in a remote area in the Hellshire Hills, hoping to catch troublesome mongooses which are life-threatening to the endangered Jamaican iguana. Stumbling across an unusual-looking spider in one of your traps, you proceed to a museum in the USA to have the species identified, only to hear a few years later that your accidental catch is a new species endemic to Jamaica and has been named after you.

This is precisely what happened to Prof. Byron Wilson, US-born conservation biologist and lecturer in evolution and conservation biology in the Department of Life Sciences, Mona. Wilson has been involved with conserving the endangered Jamaican iguana since he moved to the island in 1997 to work on the Jamaican Iguana Recovery Project and joined the staff at The UWI, Mona as a Research Fellow. He was later appointed Lecturer in 2001, Senior Lecturer in 2007, and Professor in 2012.

Wilson found the spider – named *Selenops wilsoni* – while on a hunting trail back in 1997. A new species known only from the Hellshire Hills, it was only recently described in 2011 by US-based evolutionary biologist and spider specialist Dr. Sarah Crews, then a PhD student at the University of California, Berkeley (coincidentally Wilson's alma mater), who examined the specimens at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. She named it in Wilson's honour, as he collected the species, and in recognition of his work in conserving Jamaica's biodiversity and ecosystems. Wilson collected a male and female spider (the only two specimens known), which according to Crews are "like all selenopids, flat, fast, nocturnal, sit-and-wait predators with striped legs that are turned laterally, patterns on their abdomens and best differentiated by their genitalia."

"Finding the spider was all related to the Jamaican Iguana Project. We were trying to trap and remove the mongoose – a virulent non-native predator that decimates iguana nests and also preys on young iguanas. We wanted to know the effect on other animals as well, when you get rid of the mongoose," Wilson explained. He trapped the spider by setting five-gallon buckets dug into the ground along a fence, creating pitfall traps. "Cave people used to use these traps. Any hole in the ground can trap small animals that fall in and can't get out. Any small animal can hit the fence and fall into the bucket. It's a good way to index the animals present, and especially to trap secretive animals that come out at night," he said.

SAVING HELLSHIRE

According to Crews, "it is likely that Hellshire is home to many endemics, many of which may not be described, especially invertebrates." In fact, she collected and named another spider in Jamaica (in Bull Bay) from the same genus – the *Selenops wilmotorium* – for the Wilmot family she stayed with while on the island.

The interior of the Hellshire Hills, located 20 km to the west of Kingston, boasts an impressive reservoir of Jamaica's endemic plants and animals. For reptiles, in particular, it represents a critically important site for Jamaica's biodiversity. It ranks among the largest undisturbed tracts of dry forest remaining in the insular Caribbean and is considered a globally important ecosystem, as tropical dry forest is arguably the most endangered habitat worldwide.

Wilson has dedicated much of his work to preserving this ecosystem which is home to the Jamaican iguana, rated as one of the 100 most endangered species in the world. "There was a time when iguanas were thought to be extinct, then they were rediscovered in a remote area in the Hellshire Hills. Jamaica has a lot of unusual reptiles and amphibians – species that you can't find anywhere else on Earth," he said.

However, Wilson fears the degradation of the environment due to the lack of environmental protection, the non-enforcement of wildlife laws, the destruction of the Hellshire Hills due to charcoal burning and the ultimate extinction of more unique Jamaican species. "The best charcoal comes from the very hard wood trees found in dry tropical forests like Hellshire. Already, two-thirds of Hellshire has been badly degraded by charcoal burning. It is not surprising that the iguanas are only found in the undisturbed parts of Hellshire – their habitat is the good forest. The country desperately needs an environmental ministry directed to protecting the environment," he said.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Wilson's future projects are geared towards continuing his focus on the conservation of the island's threatened endemic species and natural habitats. He is currently engaged in research on the



Pitfall trap in Hellshire

endemic Jamaican slider turtle, while continuing advocacy and field research in conserving our crocodile species. He is also concerned about Jamaica's amphibian (frog) fauna which is among the most

threatened in the world. "Jamaica's biodiversity is in a world of hurt, and there is no shortage of future projects to ponder," he said.

"On the other hand, the total destruction of some ecosystems will mean that some conservation work will not be possible." For example, Wilson laments that "the Government of Jamaica is now in discussions that might allow a huge trans-shipment port to be built in and around the Goat Islands – right smack in the middle of the Portland Bight Protected Area. These offshore cays were slated to become a protected reserve for the iguana (the plan is a high priority objective in NEPA's National Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity), and lie in the middle of an area the government declared 'protected'. Honestly, it is depressing what is happening to the environment here in Jamaica." Another fear of Wilson's is that the international funding community may stop supporting his work, because they may view it as a waste of resources. "And who could blame them," adds Wilson, "given the uncertainty surrounding protected areas."

Wilson's philosophy of life encapsulates his passion for conservation biology: "People



Hellshire is home to the iguana, one of the most endangered species in the world.

should take care of the environment in which they live, especially in terms of leaving a viable planet for the next generation. I'm concerned that we might be leaving our children a wrecked world in which they can only read about the many species that now face extinction."

Nonetheless, Wilson is pleased about the spider named for him and is hoping that the discovery will propel his conservation efforts in the Hellshire Hills. "I've invested 17 years into Hellshire Hills biodiversity conservation work, so having a new species named in honour of those efforts was really nice. I'm hoping that the spider found there will help to save the place, as it is just one more example of Hellshire's rich store of endemic species," Wilson said. **M**

BEAUTY

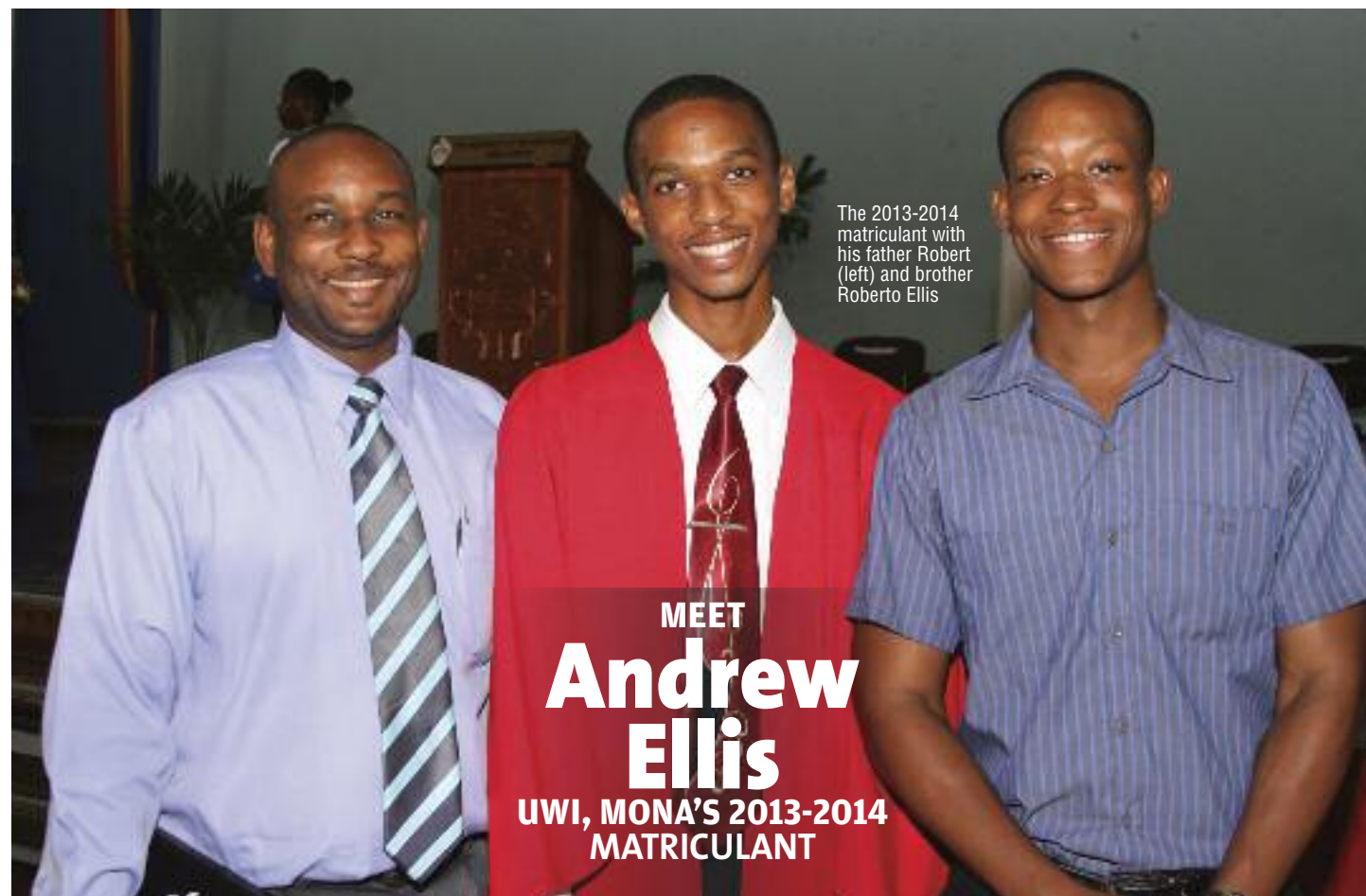
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"S Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all (these things) will be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). This biblical principle has been the philosophy of life for 19-year-old Andrew Ellis, medical student and UWI, Mona's 2013 – 2014 matriculant.

Andrew was named matriculant (the student entering The UWI with the highest qualifications), based on his achievements of 11 Grade ones in the CSEC examinations, six Grade ones at the CAPE level I and five Grade ones in the CAPE level II exams. He is also one of the recipients of the UWI Open Scholarship.

Andrew has always been a consistent, hard worker. As a student at Hazard Primary School, he realised his quick mental ability and indulged a lot in reading. His efforts gained him the best pass mark in the Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT) at his primary school and he proceeded to Glenmuir High School with the award of a Victoria Mutual Building Society (VMBS) cash grant. While at Glenmuir, he received

the Jamaica Association of Principals of Secondary Schools (JAPSS) trophy for the second best performance islandwide in the CSEC exams.

"At Glenmuir, I did a little work every day... I did not waste time. Whenever there was free time, I read something... it was not difficult to go through everything..."

He attributes his success to constant revision. "At Glenmuir, I did a little work every day and whenever there was free time, I read something. As I consistently revised, it was not difficult to go through everything before exams," he explained.

Andrew was not solely dedicated to academic work; he also found time for extra-curricular activities. At Hazard Primary, he

played football and cricket and was Headboy in his final year there. Throughout high school he continued to balance work and play, joined the Chess Club, was a member of the school's Chess Team from third form onwards, later becoming vice-president and president. He excelled in the game and was captain of the 2012 – 2013 Rural All-island Chess Champions and placed second in the National Junior Chess Championships for 2010 and 2012. He was a member of the Inter-School Christian Fellowship (ISCF), vice-president in lower sixth and president in upper sixth. Additionally, he represented Glenmuir in the Schools' Challenge Quiz competition for the 2012 – 2013 season.

Throughout his school life, he has had to rise to the challenge of leadership. As Headboy at Glenmuir, his self-confidence grew as well as his socialisation skills. "I found high school to be quite a learning and discovery period. I learned a lot about myself and my abilities. At first, I was very quiet and hardly talked to anyone, but as the years went by I socialised more and knew my limits better," he said.

He encountered some challenges in terms of disciplining the students, but close collaboration with the Dean of Discipline and the Vice-Principal kept matters under control.

He continues to maintain his interest in extra-curricular activities while pursuing his medical studies on campus. A sports enthusiast, he would like to learn volleyball and tennis someday. Recently, he joined the UWI Chess Club, the Universities and Colleges Apostolic Ministries (UCAM) and was appointed Secretary for Chancellor Hall's Block A where he resides.

CHRISTIAN VALUES

A soft-spoken, unassuming young man, his life's motto has always been to try to please God in everything he does and to take lessons from the Bible. The third of four siblings, he was brought up in a home where Christian values prevailed. His father, a pastor at the Pentecostal Cathedral in May Pen, Clarendon and the North Kingston Sanctuary in Grant's Pen, St. Andrew, and his mother, a housewife, ensured that none of their children went astray. "My mother was always at home. She influenced me in my studies and helped with homework. She kept track of what her children did in school and we always went to church on Sundays," he said.



Matriculant Andrew Ellis signs the register.



Andrew Ellis (right) with friends at Hope Gardens.

His father was also a strict disciplinarian and brought up the family to keep out of trouble, not sparing the rod of correction if necessary. He placed the salvation of his children over everything else and stressed the importance of living good, upright Christian lives. "If we misbehaved we had to fast for half a day and attend the mid-day church service instead of going to school. He wanted to ensure that we were all on the right track. My mother was in full support of this," Andrew said.

Today, his parents, who have been the greatest influence on his life, are very proud and happy that he has embarked on his lifelong ambition of becoming a doctor. His love for medicine goes back to his childhood days when he visited the family doctor. "I enjoyed those visits, although I was sick. What fascinates me about medicine is how the human body works - the anatomy - the muscles and

bones and how everything coordinates," he said.

His love for anatomy has generated his interest in Orthopaedic Surgery. "I want to work with athletes. I gravitate towards sports because I like to see good athletes play at their best," he added.

His grandmother is ecstatic about his success. She was always encouraging and referred to him as "doctor" from he was a child. He also attributes much of his success to his core group of friends - Gary Thompson and Monique Youre who are in Medicine with him, and Alex Young at the University of Technology. "They, along with friends from iTURN Ministries, are Christians who have been a great source of inspiration. We pray and worship together. They have kept me focused and on the right track. With their help, I've managed to do my best," he said. **M**

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MEET
**Sharmalee
Cardoza**

WALKING TALL

The first thing that greets a visitor to the Office for Special Student Services (OSSS) is Sharmalee Cardoza's smile. Switching between checking emails, answering the phone and punching out notes on the Braille machine, Sharmalee efficiently performs her duties as an Administrative Assistant at the OSSS. But behind her smiling face lies a person with a strong will and determination.

"Disability is not a limitation; people should look beyond disability," Sharmalee maintains.

She says she was determined to make something out of her life and education is the tool that empowered her and gave her the confidence to take the world head on. Her stay at The UWI, Mona reinforced her confidence, giving her the tools and education to carve her future.

"Coming to The UWI did a lot of good," she said. "I got a direction in life and got to learn new things that are helping me to grow personally and professionally."

Having completed the Bachelor of Education (B. Ed.) degree with lower second class honours in History Education from

the Faculty of Humanities and Education, she aims to be an educator and also wants to give a voice to the disabled. She recently went to New York where she was invited as a speaker at the side event of Voices of Youth with Disabilities from the Global South.

In her presentation, 'The Perspective of Disability Rights Emerging from Caribbean Countries in Relation to Youth', she challenged to building a better world, "It is absolutely necessary to make it inclusive, honouring and respecting the rights of all citizens," she said. "It is with this view in mind that the Post-2015 Agenda has become a focal point for developed and developing nations alike."

She delved into the critical issue of social inclusion, employment and accessibility, referring to initiatives and works being done in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean, called upon the authorities to implement the necessary practices and infrastructure and also urged the wider society to change its perception towards people with disabilities. "It is important how one presents oneself," she says. "Self-esteem goes a long way." Sharmalee says there is a stereotypical perception about persons with disabilities among the populace, and this needs to be addressed. "A lot of ground has been covered but there is still a long way to go," she says.

Behind the serious academician, Sharmalee is a vibrant social person.

"I have been a Taylorite," she recounted, "and participated in activities there. Once a Taylorite, always a Taylorite. I remember I participated in the Miss Falconia competition and won the title. I was also crowned 'Best Talent' and 'Outstanding Performer'. 'You can say I am a drama queen,' she said, chuckling.

Sharmalee volunteered at the OSSS when she was a student, and that has paid off. "In 2011 I was called and offered a job, and I've been working since then," she said. Grateful for the time spent at The UWI as a student and now as a staff member, Sharmalee says that over the years she has seen students fall out of the system because they have inhibitions.

"One the problems that exists is that a lot of the students hide their disabilities," says Sharmalee. "This puts them at a disadvantage, they need to come out and talk and get assistance."

Dispelling strongly the perception that people with disabilities seek handouts, Sharmalee says, "In life you have to ask for assistance. So I would never say that I have never asked for anything, but I strive to be independent. I have a one-year-old daughter, and I take care of her. I come to school, work and perform my duties, this does not make me any less than 'able' people. "I will continue to grow and prosper," she said. **M**

MEET

Shavane Escallibah Daley

Shavane Daley is a multifaceted personality. The holder of a B.Sc. degree in Psychology and Entertainment and Cultural Enterprise Management, budding entrepreneur, a national blind cricketer, radio programme producer/host of 'Entertainment Trail' on Newstalk 93 FM and a sing jay – his talents and abilities are a mix of persistence, hard work and resilience.

Shavane, who lost his sight when he was 14 as a result of an operation which went badly, seeks to live by Robert M. Hensel's mantra "I choose not to place 'DIS' in my ability." Born with a birth defect that restricted him to a wheelchair, Hensel, undeterred, went to register his name in the Guinness World Records for the longest non-stop wheelie in a wheelchair, covering a total distance of 6.178 miles.

A determined individual, Shavane says he was fortunate to have been accepted into The UWI, Mona after leaving Jamaica College which gave him confidence and opened doors to higher levels of knowledge and empowerment.

"I'm enjoying my time at Mona. Some of the students are very sensitive and under-



LIVING HIS DREAMS, CREATING A PATH FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW

standing and the lecturers, along with University administrators try their best to accommodate individuals with disabilities," he said.

But, he said, the situation is not very conducive for persons with disabilities in Jamaica. "People doubt our abilities in terms of job employment as we lack the chance to get a job," said Shavane, suggesting that there should be a greater drive to create some vacancies for the disabled both in the government and private sectors.

The nonchalant attitude that exists in sections of the society, he said, is both frustrating and counterproductive. Undaunted by the setbacks and getting no response from companies where he sent his résumé, he is plodding along nonetheless.

"I am pursuing a career in music and DJ-ing and soon I am going to start my own entertainment venture," said Shavane, adding that he has started to write a Jamaican novel, which he hopes will be published by next summer.

Additionally, to complement his entrepreneurial ventures, he is currently doing the Master's degree in Cultural Studies at Mona.

Shavane said it is imperative for the soci-

ety to change their attitude: "It is important to educate the public; they need to be sensitized about employing disabled persons."

"Some of the students are very sensitive and understanding and the lecturers, along with University administrators try their best to accommodate individuals with disabilities ..."

Recognition for the achievements of the disabled is also not forthcoming. "I am a national cricketer," he said, "and currently Jamaica is the six time regional champions who are heading to Guyana next year for the championship again to defend their title. However he pleads that more support is needed.

"I am like any other cricketer in the region," Shavane said, adding that he likes Chris Gayle and is looking forward to the growth of Krishmar Santokie.

As a youngster, Shavane is living his dreams and creating a path so others can follow the example. His mantra, he quipped, is "If it is to be, it is up to me". **M**



The UWI, Mona Library's Art & Artifact Collections

Reproduction of Taino artifacts from Oriente Province, Cuba, donated by President Fidel Castro in 1977

The Mona campus of the University of the West Indies is every inch steeped in history, and reminiscent of Jamaica's rich cultural heritage. Sitting on 653 acres, the campus charts its history dating to the early days of African enslavement when Hope, Papine and Mona sugar plantations stretched across the expanse of the northern Liguanea Plain.

The Mona Library is a treasure trove of amalgamation of cultures. Adorning the passageways and reading rooms are sculptures and paintings that go beyond aesthetic appeal – they are an integral part of heritage, sitting steadfast in their spaces as the world around turns from analogue to digital.

"We have a wide collection of art in the library, which now boasts of over 170 pieces in various media," informed Frances Salmon, Head, West Indies and Special Collections.

A vibrant and perennial art gallery, the Mona Library is an art lovers' paradise, with pieces that are diverse, some rare and others unique.

"The extensive art collection in the Mona Library seeks to continue a tradition established by the late Vice Chancellor, Sir Philip Sherlock, to encourage artistic activities and cultural discourse," Salmon said. The sculpture of a woman in the main corridor catches the eye of the visitor. A focal point in the section, the wood sculpture *'The Land'* is one of the few artworks by Edna Manley in the library building.

"*'The Land'* is one of our earliest acquisitions," Salmon informed. "This was an anonymous donation to the library in 1948."



A Cuban Taino ceramic replica housed in the library.

Meandering through the library, through rows of shelves with neatly stacked books, a glass case holds rustic ceramic pieces from Taino artifacts from Oriente Province, Cuba. These are not only a reminder of a significant part of Caribbean history but hold a very special place in the University's timeline.

"This collection," Salmon said, "is a notable donation from President Fidel Castro when he visited the campus in 1977."

"The collection of Caribbean art is displayed throughout the public spaces and offices across the Main Library, Science Library, Medical Library and the Law Library" Salmon informed.

She added that the art collection has been built through purchase and donations. By far the largest collection is located in the main library which houses the A.D. Scott and Ras Dizzy Collections, in addition to other pieces by Caribbean artists. The late A.D. Scott was an avid patron of the arts and the first Resident Engineer at the then University College of the West Indies, forerunner to The UWI.



'The Trees Are Joyful', bronze sculpture by Edna Manley

The Ras Dizzy Collection is a recent acquisition and serves as a memorial to the Mona Campus' unofficial "artist in residence".

"The collection comprises twenty-six paintings, twenty-four of which were donated by Joseph Pereira, Deputy Principal of the Mona Campus, on his retirement," the head informed.

An oasis of arts on campus, the Mona Library's compilation of artwork is made up of original paintings, carvings, sculpture, ceramics and realia. It would be difficult to describe diversity, genres and expanse of the works in a short space.

"The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious - the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and true science," Albert Einstein said. The Mona Library is that confluence of knowledge and arts which is nurturing itself like the lush environs of the Mona campus, and will continue to spread that radiance for many years to come. **M**



One of the Library's acquisitions, 'The Loquacious Pelican' by artist Edwin Todd.

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NOVEL FINDINGS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST PROSTATE CANCER

Prostate cancer continues to be the leading cancer and principal cause of cancer-related deaths among Jamaican men. Results from the most recent study on cancer revealed significant increases in the number of men diagnosed with the disease.

However, the findings from a recently conducted study of a multi-disciplinary team at Mona which examined the contribution of fat in the blood as well as dietary intakes to prostate cancer, suggest there may be hope. The study was conducted through an investigation of men with prostate cancer and cancer-free men to determine their intake of fat in diet and measure fat levels in blood.

Funded by the National Health Fund in Jamaica and the University of the West Indies, the study consisted of 209 men, aged 40-80 years, who were newly diagnosed with prostate cancer, and 226 men of similar age who were cancer free. A food frequency questionnaire was used to assess dietary intake while whole-blood fatty acid composition was measured by gas chromatography.

FINDINGS

Results of the study showed that diet was an important contributor to the disease. Dr. Maria Jackson, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Community Health and Psychiatry at The UWI, Mona and Principal Investigator for the study revealed, "Men who had high mono-unsaturated fat (oleic acid) in blood were associated with decreased risks of prostate cancer."

She indicated that although mono-unsaturated fats can be obtained from foods of both animal and plant origin as was found in this study, it was foods of plant origin such as the avocado, that are the important sources associated with the reduction in the risk of the disease. She asserted that in



The avocado is a powerful anti-cancer food.



Dr. Maria Jackson, Principal Investigator

addition to avocados, other foods such as nuts, whole grain cereals and olive oil are important sources of monounsaturated fats but also hastened to point out that peas and beans, fruits and vegetables – all of plant origin – are excellent for the prevention and treatment of prostate cancer.

“Diet is an important contributor to prostate cancer.”

THE AVOCADO PEAR

In this study, the principal source of mono-unsaturated fat was the avocado. Men who reported high intakes of avocado (>60g/day) were less likely to have the disease. Jackson disclosed that, in addition to mono-unsaturated fat, the avocado has anti-oxidant properties, such as Vitamin E and carotenoids and extracts of the avocado have been shown to destroy pre-cancerous and cancer cells. However, she indicated that although these findings

are biologically plausible, these findings need to be investigated in much larger samples.

In stark contrast, the study also revealed that Omega 3, which is considered by many to be a source of all goodness, may actually increase the risk of prostate cancer. "Many persons will be very surprised at this revelation regarding Omega 3. However, while Omega 3 is good for the fight against heart disease, it appears to predispose to prostate cancer risk."

FOLLOW-UP STUDY


According to Jackson, there are plans to conduct a follow-up study to evaluate the effects of prostate cancer and its treatment on outcomes in the body composition (for example, body fat, bone health), cardio-metabolic health (such as diabetes, inflammation), and psychological functioning including the quality of life among men who were diagnosed with prostate cancer and cancer-free men in the earlier study. The study also aims to investigate factors that may influence deaths from prostate cancer, as well as other conditions, and determine the proportion of men who were cancer-free at enrolment but have subsequently developed prostate cancer. Jackson and her team believe that the identification of modifiable factors that may influence long-term prostate cancer survivorship have considerable potential to reduce morbidity and mortality from the disease.

Jackson's interest in prostate cancer is a follow up to her previous work which examined the contribution of diet to obesity in adults in Jamaica. She revealed that her desire to conduct these studies resulted from her ongoing work in Nutritional Epidemiology – the study of the relationship between diet and diseases. "Having conducted investigations on diet and obesity, a condition that is widespread in our population, especially among women, it was only natural to continue work on diseases of public health significance. An important consideration was to investigate factors that would be amenable to intervention, hence the study of prostate cancer," Jackson said.

INVESTIGATING TEAM

- Dr. Maria Jackson, Principal Investigator,

Department of Community Health and Psychiatry

- Professor Susan P. Walker, Director, Epidemiology Research Unit, Tropical Medicine Research Institute
- Dr. Candace. M Simpson-Smith, Tropical Medicine Research Institute
- Mrs. Carole M. Lindsay, Department of Basic Medical Sciences
- Mr. Garrett Smith, Department of Basic Medical Sciences
- Professor Norma D. McFarlane-Anderson, Department of Basic Medical Sciences
- Professor Franklyn I. Bennett, Department of Pathology
- Professor Kathleen C. M. Coard, Department of Pathology
- Dr. Tomlin J. Paul, Department of Community Health and Psychiatry
- Dr. William D. Aiken, Department of Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthesia and Intensive Care
- Dr. Trevor Tulloch, Department of Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthesia and Intensive Care
- Dr. Robert L. Wan, Kingston Public Hospital. 


AGE from page 9 social workers and poor relief workers," the professor disclosed, adding, "if we trained them in general awareness/sensitivity, we will care for the elderly better".

As a direct spinoff from the study, there is a computer class for ten happy seniors, who were part of a focus group from Hope Pastures. Armed with their laptops in classes of five, so as to maintain individual attention, they attend the Centre over a 12-week period. Shane Williams, the Information Technology Technician at the Centre says most of the participants were afraid at first, but have now fully adjusted to using the computer. "We programme their laptops, we teach them how to use Skype to communicate with their family abroad. They also learn how to use Word to type letters and we teach them how to email," he explained. The oldest participant is in her 90s.

UP NEXT: PHASE 2 & 3 OF THE ELDERLY PROJECT

A second phase of the project will look at mental health, exploring the prevalence of

dementia. It will also explore the aetiology of dementia, to determine how much of dementia is related to vascular issues, Alzheimer's, or of the mixed pattern variety. One of the most costly areas of providing care and services for the ageing is in the area of dementia because many become so helpless. With the doubling of Jamaica's over 80 population, coupled with international data from studies that dementia increases every five years and doubles by the time you get to the over 80 population, rates of 30 and 40 per cent in the over 80 age group are entirely feasible, making it critical to conduct research in this area.

Phase 3 of the project will involve looking at the 45 to 59 age group. This mid-life study will seek to determine exactly where the disease is taking place and prevention measures will be based on the findings. The study will have both health and social parameters: "We want to look at the social factors and barriers to retirement planning, including why persons are not contributing to pensions and what the options are," Eldemire Shearer said. 

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EXPLORE THE WORLD

Imagine flying off to Canada, Sweden, London or China to study for a semester or an entire school year! Or, if you have a sporting or artistic talent, visualize yourself hoisted into an international arena where you meet new people; create lifetime networks across the world, while having fun learning a new culture.

As part of its commitment to preparing students for careers and relationships in an increasingly interconnected and multi-cultural world, The UWI, Mona is transforming such visions into reality. Enrolled students have opportunities to travel to various corners of the globe, through exchange programmes with regional or international universities and active participation in sports or the creative arts.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OFFICE

The International Exchange/Study Abroad (IESA) programme, coordinated by the International Students Office (ISO), facilitates some very exciting and rewarding experiences - some of which may become the most memorable, eclectic and formative experiences in the students' lives. IESA allows undergraduate and graduate students to pursue courses at any of The UWI's partnering universities, once they have met certain basic requirements: registered as a full-time student, completed at least one academic year, attained a GPA of at least 3.0, have no disciplinary action pending and completed the application form.

Senior Administrative Assistant in the ISO, Hermine Tyrell said, "It has exposed the students to exotic cultures like Chinese, Swedish, German and Japanese that are different from the average North American experience, at no additional tuition cost."

Devaughn Stewart, who went to the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, said, "The biggest challenge was the climate difference, but the university was just a big international community and I later



Sandene Forrester at the Great Wall of China

became friends with people from Turkey and Germany. They were just fascinated with the Jamaican culture."

Sandene Forrester, who studied in China while maintaining an A average, said she was nervous at first and experienced culture shock, coming from a small island to such a large country. "But I would recommend this programme, as it advanced my knowledge of the world and the Chinese culture and I became a true citizen of the world," she added.

"Some of the students who participate in this programme are first-time travelers, or it's the first time they will be away from their parents. To deal with the separation anxiety, we have a compulsory pre-departure session", explained Tyrell. During the pre-departure session, ISO counsels the students about securing travel documents and important contact information, travel arrangements, accommodation, health and medical treatment, finances and language considerations.

To lessen the financial burden, students

may apply for various scholarships that are provided by the host countries or other entities. Students participating in the intercampus exchange to the Cave Hill or St. Augustine campuses may receive scholarships through the Caribbean Integration Programme (CIP, the Canada-CARICOM and Emerging Leader in the Americas Programme (ELAP).

The Commonwealth Universities Study Abroad Consortium (CUSAC) Scholarship is available to students participating in the exchange programme at institutions that are members of the Commonwealth as well as the Consortium. This is available to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Jeremy O'Connor, a current student who travelled to the University of Toronto for a semester, received

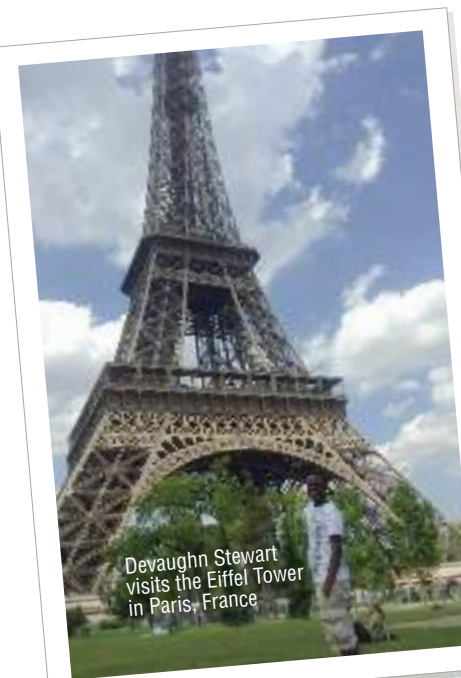
the Canada-CARICOM Scholarship, while Devaughn Stewart who went to University of Gothenburg received the Linnaeus-Palme Grant from the Swedish Government.

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Not only does The UWI, Mona provide world-class training facilities and effective support programmes, such as nutrition and medical facilities for its athletes, but the institution's Sports Department provides opportunities for its student athletes to compete on regional and international stages.

Director of the Mona Sports Department, Dalton Myers, noted: "We participate in a myriad of sporting meets and championships. The most well-known ones are UWI Games, UWI Spec and the Penn Relays, just to name a few."

"Regionally, our top four long-distance runners are chosen to represent the



Devaughn Stewart visits the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France

Mona Campus at the prestigious UWI Spec road marathon events that are hosted by The UWI St. Augustine campus in Trinidad and Tobago," he added. The UWI Games is a biennial, multi-sporting event that is hosted on rotation on each of the three UWI campuses. The event, which was created to strengthen the links among the different cultures and encourage friendly competition, will be next held at the St. Augustine campus in 2015 and the Cave Hill campus in 2017.

The region's largest premier sporting event always has a UWI, Mona team contesting in various sporting disciplines, including basketball, cricket, hockey, swimming, track and field and volleyball. The UWI has been participating in the world's largest relay carnival - the Penn Relays - for more than seven years. At the 2012 Penn Relays held in Pennsylvania, USA, The UWI won its first title after the 4 x100m male relay team was declared winners of the B final. In 2013, The UWI, Mona team secured its first-ever Championship of America title at the event in the Men's 1600m medley.

UWI achieved another first when scholarship athlete Hansle Parchment copped



Left to right: Jowayne Hibbert, Nicolas Maitland, Dwayne Ferguson and Kavean Smith display their Championship of Americas Men's Sprint Medley trophy won at the 2013 Penn Relays in Philadelphia, USA.

bronze at the 2012 Olympic Games, while fellow Olympian and student athlete Traves Smikle was invited to participate in the discus event at the 2013 staging of the Triton Invitational Meet - a track and field meet held in San Diego, South Carolina, USA. The event attracts top class athletes at the collegiate and high school levels from the southern end of the USA.

What about the costs for documentation preparations, airfare, and hotel accommodations that would be the first thing on any student's or parent's mind? "All costs are covered by the University and all travel

arrangements are made by the Sports department. The members of the different sporting teams even receive a stipend to give them some spending power," added the Director of Sports.

"Like any other programme, before anyone is allowed to represent and travel as a member of the UWI Sporting team, they must first fulfill all criteria: they must be a member of the university, be active on sporting teams, and have no pending disciplinary action against them."

PHILIP SHERLOCK CENTRE FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

Jamaica's name is known globally for its rich culture, so for the island's 50th anniversary of independence, the celebrations had to be global. The Ministry of Culture organized Jamaica Golden Jubilee villages in various countries including the United Kingdom.

As the premier university in Jamaica, The UWI, Mona's Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts (PSCCA) was invited to perform at the grand event. The 20 students who represented the UWI Performing Arts Ensemble showcased their talents, and the cultural diversity of the

university, in London and Birmingham during Jamaica's memorable sporting performance at the 2012 Olympic Games.

Randy McLaren, called 'Kriativ Aktivis', the dub poet among the 20 who travelled to the United Kingdom said, "We first performed at Jamaica in the Square — a free, open-air Jamaica Festival in Birmingham's central Victoria/Chamberlain Square, then travelled to London's O2 Arena for the flag-raising ceremony on August 6 and a concert performance on August 7."

The arena is the largest in the UK and has hosted some of the world's best-known performers like the Rolling Stones, Elton John and Michael Jackson. A section of the arena was designated Jamaica House, where the performances featured the UWI Ensemble, alongside veterans - actress Dona Croll and Chevelle Franklyn.

"We were well received by the crowd of black, green and gold and it was a good experience for me and my fellow Jamaicans. I thank the University for covering all costs," said McLaren.

Performing on such a platform also opens doors for other opportunities and possibilities. "Since performing last year for the Jamaican diaspora on such a large stage, my individual career as a dub poet has been taking off. I have since been booked for numerous local shows," McLaren added. Members of the PSCCA also participated in The Caribbean Festival for the Creative Arts (CARIFESTA) XI held in Suriname in August 2013. CARIFESTA is a roving, multicultural arts festival with the main purpose of gathering artists, musicians and authors and exhibiting the folkloric, artistic and creative abilities of Caribbean and Latin American people.

Making the choice to become a UWI Pelican provides the opportunity to explore and experience all the world has to offer. Participating students have visited China, Sweden, North America, Trinidad and the United Kingdom and have returned with fresh perspectives of the world and its various cultures. Vanessa Clarke, who was a part of the London tour, said, "I am still floored by the amazing, unforgettable experience..." M

BEGINNING
TEACHERS

Change Agents for a Sustainable Society

The present global social, economic and environmental crisis calls for different ways of thinking about and planning for development. Fundamental to this reconceptualising of development is the role of education. To this end, education's role in developing a society has been recast — a United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) has helped us to do so. However, in order to have the kind of education that will enable development that is sustainable, we need to have teachers who have a vision of themselves as change agents, actively participating in the transformation of their society.

The key question then is whether our teachers have that vision. A recent study of prospective and beginning teachers' concept of teacher professionalism, conducted by Collins-Figueroa, Davis-Morrison, Down, Hordatt Gentles, Newman and Scott (2009), provides us with some answers.

It was found that prospective teachers, (student-teachers who had just completed their training and were about to enter the profession), had a vision of themselves as life-changers or change agents. These teachers were particularly concerned about values and social justice/equity issues. These teachers were motivated by what Fullan (2009) refers to as having a moral purpose or Miller (2003:414) describes as having a particular vision and values, of constructing a future society with a particular purpose and achieving a desired destiny. These prospective teachers saw themselves, therefore, as addressing social inequities, such as class discrimination in their classrooms. One of the participants in the study expressed it this way: 'I don't want to leave out any child and I do not want to treat one child in the class better than the other [because] of class or the background. I don't want to find myself doing that because it has happened to me over the years'.



by Lorna Down

Aware of the class discrimination which exists in the wider society and of the way students from working class backgrounds are sometimes treated, they stressed the importance of confronting the colour/class issue and of ensuring fair and just treatment for each child.

Additionally, these prospective teachers identified respect as a core value. They explained that germane to addressing issues of social inequities was that of honouring the selfhood of others, of showing respect to all students. They pointed to the importance of seemingly insignificant actions as they told us that respect is shown by not labelling children, by maintaining the children's confidence, by responding calmly in difficult situations and by dressing appropriately. This is summarised in the following quotation by another of the participants: 'The level of respect is important and this is respect in both ways; some teachers have done that by how they carry themselves, their deportment, how they speak, how they interact with their colleagues, how they interact outside of the classroom environment'.

It is also significant that when they recalled the qualities of exemplary teachers, they highlighted the respect that these teachers showed them: 'And my clothing and textile teacher — I loved her, and the way how she treated us all; she respected us and I just patterned my life on hers and said I want to become a teacher.'

These prospective teachers further elaborated on their vision of what it means to be a change agent by pointing out that the teacher must also be a moral person, a 'good' person. Addressing social inequities without possessing that moral dimension is, therefore, seen as limiting effective change. Clearly, what underpins this view is their belief that who the teacher is and what the teacher does are inseparable. In other words, to transform society, the teacher must confront social relationships of inequity and discrimination, attend to values as well as exemplify good morals in the classroom. This concept of change agency is valuable yet nonetheless rudimentary as it is so localized. Undoubtedly, a broader understanding of and engagement with global relationships, of larger social, economic and environmental sustainability issues would truly prepare these visionary teachers for the many challenges of these times.

VISIONARY VS PRACTICAL TEACHER

Interviewing these prospective teachers a year after they had started to teach was instructive. It was clear that some of the visionary zeal had dulled. Their practices and challenges were focused on lesson planning, classroom management/discipline, and methodology. The image of the teacher as a change agent was re-constructed when these beginning teachers were confronted by the realities of the classroom. The ideal image was refigured in terms of 'teaching is personal'.

Earlier concerns about the social and economic context in which the students

existed were overlaid by a focus on personal relationships with them. Immediate concerns forced a narrowing of their world so the 'visionary' prospective teacher became the 'practical' beginning teacher with a muted sense of change possibilities. The more expansive vision of teaching as expressed in 'teacher as change agent', 'teacher as life-changer' became then 'teaching is personal'.

Consequently, references to broad social issues such as class discrimination and social inequities made by prospective teachers, disappeared as change agency was articulated in a very individualized and personal way by these beginning teachers. They told us that the professional teacher was 'somebody who is there to help [the students], somebody who is interested in educating and helping them to learn so that they will be better individuals.'

Acting on the personal, individual level, attempting to be the difference in their students' lives and helping them to fulfil their potential, these teachers indicated what it means to be a change agent at a basic yet fundamental level. They showed that change, as London (2010) points out occurs on many levels — cultural, social, institutional, and individual. In effect, these beginning teachers have shown us some initial steps towards transforming an institution and therefore a society through intervening in the lives of individual children at both the formal and informal level.

A sense of the macro picture of sustainability, of the interfacing of social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects of the sustainability crisis is, nevertheless, missing in both phases. And it is a frame that is needed to help shape and focus teachers' beliefs, attitudes and action to change. These teachers' apparent lack of awareness of sustainability as a world view reflects a limited awareness of the global context in which they work. The teacher education programmes which have provided these teachers, to a great extent, with the knowledge of the technical aspects of teaching and have influenced their understanding of teaching have, however, been unsuccessful in helping

them to position their teaching in the context of the macro picture. The narrowly focused world of the beginning teachers suggests also the need for a more broad-based curriculum and a pedagogy that enables and sufficiently attends to the issue of change. The concept of pedagogical options that disrupt social inequities (Ladson-Billings' 1995) that focuses teachers' attention towards improving conditions


that surround classroom (Fullan's 1993) and that which mobilises teachers to attend to the future of their society (Miller 2003) need to be more fully addressed.

A teacher education programme that does this creates teachers who will actively participate in transforming their society.

Dr. Lorna Down is Senior Lecturer in the School of Education. 

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ORIENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

New students came out in droves to participate in the various activities organised for Orientation 2013/14. Students were introduced to the range of services and programmes available at Mona



Introducing members of the Spanish Club



Postgraduate students peruse the Graduate Studies brochure



Who will win this tug o' war?



Director of the Office of Student Services & Development, Rose Cameron, interacts with a new student

Investigating the Social Implications of Computers in Developing Countries



The UWI, Mona recently co-hosted the 12th International Conference on Social Implications of Computers in Developing Countries, in partnership with the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) and ICT4D Jamaica at the Sunset Jamaica Grande in Ocho Rios. IFIP is an international, non-governmental, non-profit umbrella organization with a mission of developing and encouraging the use of information and communication technologies for a better society. Over 150 researchers and practitioners in the multi- and inter-disciplinary area of information and communications technologies (ICTs) for development, representing universities and development organizations in over 30 countries, participated in this major conference. The Organizing Co-chairs were Dr. Arlene Bailey, lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work at The UWI Mona, and Mrs. Elizabeth Terry of ICT4D Jamaica.

UWI MONA CALENDAR GOES INTERNATIONAL



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade invited The UWI, Mona to submit a sample of its 2013 calendar (2nd from left at bottom of display) for entry in the 19th annual World Calendar Exhibition, organised by the Gekko Astronomical Observatory in Japan. The two-month annual exhibition displayed various calendars from around the world and attracted thousands of attendees.





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- International Students Office: iso@uwimona.edu.jm • Tel: (876) 702-3737
- Western Jamaica Campus Tel: (876) 940-4349

UWI/UTECH CHAMPS 2013



Mona's 3-year lien on the Championship ended as UTECH emerged 4-3 winners of the 2013 renewal. The Pelican spirit was nonetheless high

PELICANS

Netball
Women's Volleyball
Men's Basketball

KNIGHTS

Men's Cricket
Rugby
Women's Football
Men's Football



Women's football contest ended in a stalemate decided by penalties



Men's football produced no winner in regulation time



Rugby action from the 2013 UWI/UTECH Champs saw UTECH winning by a point



Pelicans set the ball during the women's volleyball match

3 NEW PROFESSORS NAMED

The University of the West Indies is pleased to announce that three Senior Lecturers at The UWI, Mona have been promoted to the rank of Professor based on their academic qualifications, research achievements and active involvement in the University community. These are Drs. Wendel Abel, Michael Taylor and Rosemarie Wright-Pascoe.



Prof. Wendel Abel

Senior Lecturer and Consultant Psychiatrist in the Department of Community Health and Psychiatry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, **Dr. Wendel Abel** holds the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), the Doctor of Medicine (DM) in Psychiatry and the Advanced Diploma in Psychiatry from The University of the West Indies, Mona as well as the Masters in Public Health and the Certificate in Addiction Studies from Johns Hopkins University, Maryland.

Wendel Abel joined the staff of The UWI, Mona in 2001 as Lecturer in Psychiatry. He was appointed as Head of the Section of Psychiatry in 2006 and is also Consultant Psychiatrist at the University Hospital of the West Indies.

Professor Abel has established himself as an academician and clinician, and is recognized internationally for his work in

the de-institutionalisation of mental illness in Kingston and his efforts to integrate mental health care into primary care. His work on the development of mental health policy and subsequently the development of the strategic mental health plan resulted in the reorientation of mental health services in Jamaica.

Collaboration with PAHO resulted in the publication of the document 'Mental Health Policy Framework for the Caribbean' and other publications relating to Mental Health and Psychosocial support in disaster situations in the Caribbean. He has also been involved in the preparation of government reports which have had a decisive impact on mental health policies and procedures within the region and in Jamaica. These include the World Health Organization-Assessment Instrument Mental Health Systems (WHO-AIMS 2009) which resulted in the wide-scale adoption of WHO-AIMS worldwide.

In addition to his contribution in the area of mental health, Professor Abel has worked closely with the CARICOM Secretariat in training workshops targeting drug demand reduction service providers in the public sector and NGO organizations.

Wendel Abel's research has centred around the development of mental health services and systems, the epidemiology of depression, suicide and stigma, offering both traditional and novel approaches to critical issues. He has 31 publications with focus on mental health policies, thirteen abstracts, seven book chapters and twenty five technical reports. His work has appeared in internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals including the Pan American Journal of Public Health, the Cochrane Database System Review, Transcultural Psychiatry and the West Indian Medical Journal.

Dr. Abel is a member of the Medical Association of Jamaica, the Jamaica Psychiatric Association, the American Psychiatric Association and the Researcher Cochrane Mental health Research Group. He serves as a member of several organizations including the Planning Institute of Jamaica Research Committee, Medical Association of Jamaica, and as Chairman of the Na-

tional Council of Drug Abuse. He is also a member of the PAHO Latin American and the Caribbean Network on Mental Health Services Research.

He is widely recognized for his tremendous dedication to improving the quality of life of persons with mental disorders, having been awarded the Order of Distinction, Officer Class, from the Government of Jamaica, and the PAHO Award for Mental Health Promotion.

Professor Abel has given distinguished service within The UWI, Mona, serving as co-coordinator of the DM Psychiatry Programme and the Undergraduate Programme, Assistant Editor as well as Reviewer for the West Indian Medical Journal. He was also a member of the UWI accreditation team to the Bahamas. Professor Taylor holds the Bachelor of Science in General and Environmental Physics with First Class Honours as well as the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree from The University of the West Indies, Mona. He also holds the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree from the University of Maryland, College Park, USA.



Prof. Michael Taylor

Michael Taylor joined the staff of The UWI, Mona in 1999 as Lecturer in the Department of Physics and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2008. He was appointed as Head of the Department

in 2010 and in that capacity, initiated several regional conferences and workshops with his main focus on Climate Change. Professor Taylor is also Director for the Climate Studies Group, Mona.

Michael Taylor has achieved distinction as an academic, researcher and public servant. He is an internationally recognized scientist who works at the frontier of knowledge on the severe environmental challenges that humanity faces. His area of academic specialization has been environmental physics, with a research focus on understanding the mechanisms that drive climate variability with the Caribbean, climate change and long-term climate variability within the Caribbean and the seasonal prediction of Caribbean climate.

Through his sustained research and scholarly activities, he has been able to bridge the information gap and heightened awareness in the Caribbean region about the vulnerabilities to climate impacts. He has focused on the use of climate models for the projection of future climate scenarios in the Caribbean, with much of his research examining the impact of sea-surface temperature anomalies on intra-seasonal and inter-seasonal variations of Caribbean rainfall. His work has been consulted by agencies with significant influence on policy such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and CARICOM, where his work in climate change has become the underpinning for policy and planning, for example through CARICOM's Regional framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change.

Professor Taylor has an impressive publications record, publishing two to four peer reviewed papers or book chapters annually, often in first-rate international journals such as the International Journal of Climatology, the Journal of Geophysical Research and the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society. He has also produced several useful technical reports and writings for agencies including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Panel on Climate Change, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as well as for regional governments.

Michael Taylor is coordinator of the Caribbean Modelers Consortium and member of several regional and national committees on climate change and

related issues. He is member of the panel on the World Climate Variability Research Programme (CLIVAR), which oversees the science programme for its Variability of the American Monsoon System. He is a Member of the Steering Committee for the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience, part of an IADB/World Bank Project, and Member of the Advisory Panel on Climate Change for the Ministry of Land, Water, Environment and Climate Change, Jamaica. He is also Alternative Representative for Jamaica to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change.

At the University level, Professor Taylor has made significant contributions to curriculum and programme development, authoring workbooks and coordinating the revision and redesign of courses.

Professor Taylor has received wide recognition for his professional activities at the national, regional and international levels. He has been a recipient of the Scientific Research Council's Young Scientist/Technologist Award, the American Meteorological Society Global Change Scholar and the Third World Academy of Science/Caribbean Academy of Science Young Scientist Award. He was also named the Most Outstanding Researcher in the Faculty of Pure & Applied Sciences in 2012.



Prof. Rosemarie Wright-Pascoe

Rosemarie Wright-Pascoe holds the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery and the Doctor of Medicine (DM) in Internal Medicine degrees from The University of the West Indies, Mona. She also com-

pleted a Fellowship in Endocrinology at the University of Edinburgh, and a certificate in Endocrinology from Tel Aviv University. She holds Membership in the Royal College of Physicians (UK) and is a Fellow of the American College of Endocrinology and of the American College of Physicians.

She has served as Visiting Physician in the Department of Medicine at the University of Miami, School of Medicine/Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Rosemarie Wright-Pascoe joined the staff of The UWI, Mona in 1992 as Lecturer in the Department of Medicine and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2002.

She is highly regarded as an excellent teacher in the undergraduate MBBS and DM Postgraduate Medicine programmes and has been active in curriculum design and development in the Faculty of Medical Sciences since 2005.

Professor Wright-Pascoe has contributed significantly to the international literature through her research activity particularly in the areas of diabetes mellitus and endocrinology.

Her work has demonstrated the multigenerational inheritance of diabetes in families and has unearthed new knowledge showing a relationship between patients infected with Human T Lymphotropic Virus and Diabetes. She and her colleagues further showed that hyperglycemic crises in Jamaica are associated with significant mortality especially in patients who are older or with altered mental status.

Her publication record has made a significant contribution to clinical epidemiology of endocrine disorders in the Caribbean region. It is significant with respect to health service provision planning as well as pointing out unique features that are helpful to clinicians.

Dr. Wright-Pascoe has an outstanding record of contributions to her department, the Faculty and the wider University. She has served on numerous committees at all levels and plays an important role in teaching as well as curriculum design and development. In this regard, she developed and delivers the very important "Introduction to Medical Practice" course for medical students.

Cont'd on page 38

2013 HONORARY GRADUANDS

The 2013 graduation ceremonies at The University of the West Indies (UWI) will see the conferral of 19 honorary degrees: six each at both the Mona and St Augustine campuses, five at the Cave Hill Campus, and two at the Open Campus. The awardees will receive honorary doctorates in recognition of their stellar contributions to Caribbean development:

UWI, MONA CAMPUS

- Prof. Emeritus Barry Higman, Historian/Educator, Australia – LLD
- Ms. Janet Rollé – Communications Executive, NY, USA – LLD
- Mr. Noel Dexter – Educator/Musical Director, Jamaica – DLitt
- Hon. R. Danny Williams, Entrepreneur/Philanthropist – LLD
- Mrs. Valerie Facey – Architect/Interior Designer/Philanthropist/Entrepreneur – DLitt



PROFESSOR EMERITUS BARRY HIGMAN – LLD

As an Educator and Historian, Professor Emeritus Barry Higman has contributed tremendously to the pool of scholarly

UWI Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne will confer the degrees at UWI graduation exercises during the months of October and November.

work on Jamaican and Caribbean history. To date, he has published 12 books, ten of which focus on Jamaican or Caribbean history. Professor Higman has also published over 70 scholarly articles in some of the most renowned historical and social-scientific journals and has edited or co-edited six books including the massive Volume 6 of the UNESCO General History of the Caribbean series, entitled 'Methodology and Historiography of the Caribbean'.

An alumnus of the University of Sydney, The University of the West Indies and the University of Liverpool, Professor Higman is well recognised for his work. Among his many awards and honours are the UWI Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research, the Musgrave Medal (Gold) for Distinguished Eminence in History, Institute of Jamaica and most recently the ForeWord Book of the Year, Gold Award for Proslavery Priest in 2012.

Professor Higman has been an outstanding academic at all three of his alma mater institutions and coordinated the Heritage Studies Programme at

UWI Mona. He has also completed prestigious fellowships including a Research Fellowship at Princeton University and served as a visiting Professor/Scholar at Johns Hopkins University, USA and Flinders University of South Australia.



MS. JANET ROLLÉ – LLD

Communications Executive Ms. Janet Rollé is well known in the US media industry. She has held executive posts at numerous high profile media networks including BET, AOL, MTV and HBO and is currently the Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer for CNN worldwide where she has oversight for positioning and promoting CNN, CNN.com, CNN International, HLN, CNN.com/Live and CNN Mobile.

Ms. Rollé is a graduate of the State University of New York and Columbia University where she gained her MBA. A product of Caribbean parentage, Ms. Rollé has a special passion for the Caribbean and contributes to the development of the region through her service on the Board of Directors of the American Foundation for The UWI (AFUWI), a philanthropic agency which supports The

University of the West Indies. At AFUWI, Ms. Rollé chairs the committee responsible for AFUWI's annual fund raising Gala. In 2010, *Advertising Age* magazine named Ms. Janet Rollé one of the '10 Who Made Their Mark' for her noteworthy brand development work at BET. The magazine also named her one of its 'Women to Watch in 2011'.



MR. NOEL DEXTER – DLITT

Prolific Educator and Musical Director, Noel George Dexter, OD, BSc, LTCL, Diploma in Ethnomusicology and Folklore Studies, has served The University of the West Indies and the region for over 35 years. During these years and beyond, Mr. Dexter continued to hone his considerable musical skills through studies at the Jamaica School of Music; Westminster Choir College, New Jersey and Shenandoah University, Virginia. He is the holder of a BSc – Sociology from the UWI and a Licentiate of Trinity College London (LCTL) delivered through the Jamaican School of Music.

Mr Dexter's eminence in the arts has come from a lengthy career which saw him heavily involved in Choir Directorship,

Musical Directorship (Theatre), lyrics composing and recordings. His expertise has prompted him to publish numerous papers and articles as well as to compose many hymns and songs including The UWI's University song 'There is a Light'. For his excellence in the field of Music, Noel George Dexter is the holder of Jamaica's Order of Distinction and a Prime Minister's Medal.



HON. R. DANNY WILLIAMS – LLD

The Honourable R. Danvers (Danny) Williams OJ, CD, JP, CLU is one of Jamaica's most dynamic and accomplished entrepreneurs and philanthropists. During his 60 years in the insurance industry, Mr Williams founded Life of Jamaica Limited (now Sagicor Life Jamaica Limited) one of the largest insurance companies in the region. A true philanthropist, Mr. Williams is acclaimed for his considerable public service to Jamaica. He was, for 10 years, the Presi-

dent of the Jamaica Association for the Deaf and is still active in the work of the organisation. He also served as Chairman of the Jamaica Association for the Advancement of Literacy (JAMAL).

Between 1977 and 1980, Mr Williams served as a Senator, Minister of State and Minister of Industry and Commerce. Among the numerous awards he has received, Mr. Williams was conferred Commander of the Order of Distinction (1972) and the Order of Jamaica (1993) for his public service to Jamaica. Mr. Williams currently serves on the boards of several major Jamaican companies including Sagicor Life Jamaica Limited.



MRS. VALERIE FACEY – DLITT

Founder of the Mill Press of Jamaica, Mrs Valerie Facey is by profession an architectural and interior designer who has, since 1954, been active in numerous charitable endeavours beneficial to her adoptive country Jamaica. Though

legally British, American and Jamaican, Mrs. Facey has dedicated her life's work to the preservation of historic landmarks and other aspects of Jamaican cultural heritage, often on a pro bono basis.

She has been involved in the restoration of historic edifices such as Devon House, Kingston; The St Andrew's Parish Church; Bellevue Great House and San Souci Hotel. Through her publishing house, the Mill Press, Mrs Facey has worked hard to promote to international audiences books on Jamaica's heritage in art, history and biography.

In the tradition of her father-in-law, renowned businessman and philanthropist, the late Cecil Boswell Facey, Mrs. Valerie Facey has also been heavily involved in numerous charitable organisations and to date continues to support their work. These organisations include the Jamaica Association for the Deaf, the Red Cross Society of Jamaica, the Kingston Charity Organisation Society and the Cecil Boswell Facey Foundation. In 1992, Valerie Facey was awarded the German UNESCO Commission Award – Best Designed Book for 'Jamaica's Heritage – An Untapped Resource.' She also received a Silver Musgrave Medal from the Institute of Jamaica for Heritage Preservation and Publishing.

ST AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

- Mr. Clive Abdullah, Former Bishop, Trinidad & Tobago – LLD
- Dr. Elisha Tikasingh, Scientist, Trinidad & Tobago – DSc
- Mr. Ian Randle, Publisher/Entrepreneur, Jamaica – LLD
- Dr. Lakshmi Persaud, Novelist/Writer/Literary Commentator, London – DLitt
- Ms. Marina Salandy-Brown, Journalist, Trinidad & Tobago – DLitt
- Dr. Theodosius Ming Whi Poon-King, Researcher/Scientist, Trinidad & Tobago – DSc

UWI CAVE HILL

- Sir Henry de B. Forde, Lawyer/Statesman, Barbados – LLD
- Hon. Dr Julian Hunte, Businessman/Diplomat, St. Lucia – LLD
- Sir Keith Hunte, Educator/Public Servant, Barbados – LLD
- Dr. Marion Williams, Economist/Public Servant, Barbados – LLD
- Rt. Rev. Rufus Brome, Theologian/ Public Servant, Barbados – LLD

UWI OPEN CAMPUS

- Ms. Joan Armatrading, Artist, London – DLitt
- Mr. Robert Mathavious, Economist/Financial Director, BVI – LLD

UWI Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne will confer the degrees at UWI graduation exercises during the months of October and November. **M**

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SIX VICE CHANCELLOR'S AWARDEES FOR 2013

Five outstanding faculty members and one Research Centre at The UWI will receive the 2013 Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence during the week of graduation ceremonies. Vice-Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris, will present awards to **Professor Horace Fletcher** of the Mona Campus, **Professors Shivananda Nayak, Pathmanathan Umaharan,** and **Dr. Carol Logie** of the St Augustine Campus, and **Professor Rose-Marie Antoine** of the Cave Hill Campus. The Seismic Research Centre based at the St Augustine Campus will be recognised for its excellent research output.

The Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence was established in 1993 under former Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alister McIntyre, to recognise high achievement by academic and senior administrative staff of The UWI. This highly anticipated annual award ceremony is a celebration of the University's core values, and the recipients of these prestigious awards are persons who have proven themselves to be exemplary of the UWI's commitment to the pursuit of excellence.

Awards are given in the areas of Teaching, Research Accomplishments, Service to the University Community, Contributions to Public Service, and All-round Excellence in a combination of two or more of the four core areas. Each award, valued at US\$5,000, is made after a rigorous assessment and selection process, first at the campus level, then by a University-wide selection Committee for the final selection.

Since its inception, 95 Awards for Excellence have been presented at ceremonies rotated among the UWI campuses. The 2013 Awards will take the total of prestigious awardees past the century mark, to 101.

Professor Fletcher will receive the award for Research Accomplishments. For the past nine years, he has served as the Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the UWI Mona Campus'



Prof. Horace Fletcher

Faculty of Medical Sciences. One of the Caribbean's leading obstetricians and gynaecologists, he has had significant influence on the field and its practice in the region. Bodies such as the Pan American Health Organisation and the drug company, Merck, have sought his expertise in areas such as the management of obstetric patients, oncology and colposcopy, the Human Papilloma Virus vaccine, uterine fibroids and other pregnancy related issues.

His depth of academic knowledge, experience and exemplary clinical practice have led to his being elected to Fellowships at both the American and Royal Colleges Obstetrics and Gynaecology and his publication in and recognition by regional and international specialist journals including the *West Indian Medical Journal*, for which

he has served as Assistant Editor, the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, the *International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, and the *Journal, Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, UK.

At the Mona Campus' Faculty of Medical Sciences, Professor Fletcher has served on numerous academic committees including the Faculty's Curriculum Committee, the Accreditation Committee and he has served as Chairman of the Department's Specialty Board.

In addition, Professor Fletcher has been the recipient of numerous awards due to his various research exploits, such as the Principal's Award for Top Researcher in the Faculty of Medical Sciences (2004, 2005 and 2012), the Faculty's Best Research Publication Award (2010 and 2012) and the Certificate of Appreciation from the Faculty of Medical Sciences for his outstanding research output over the last twenty years, presented at the Faculty's Annual Research Conference in 2011.

Professor Shivanand Nayak, of the St. Augustine Campus' Department of Pre-Clinical Sciences, and Professor Pathmanathan Umaharan, head of the Cocoa Research Centre at the same campus will receive the award for excellence in Teaching.

The Cave Hill Campus' Professor of Law, Rose-Marie Antoine, will receive the award for her Contributions to Public Service. This year, two awards for All-round Performance will be presented; the first will go to Dr Carol Logie, lecturer at the St Augustine Campus' School of Education and Administrative Director of its Family Development and Children's Research Centre (FDCRC), who will be recognised for her all-round excellence in the areas of Service to the University Community and contributions to Public Service.

The second All-round Performance award will be presented to the Seismic Research Centre for Research Accomplishments and its contribution to Public Service. **M**

PROFESSOR THE HON. GORDON SHIRLEY A TRIBUTE



A section of the large audience that paid tribute to Professor Shirley. Insets: Entertainment during the reception



Professor Shirley (second left) enjoying the reception given in his honor

The University of the West Indies sees the secondment of Professor Gordon Shirley to the Government of Jamaica to serve as Head of the Port Authority of Jamaica as firm recognition of his exceptional leadership skills and as an opportunity for him to take the excellent national service that he already provides in numerous capacities to another level. His vision and managerial capacity are exceptional and he has served or currently serves on a number of national and private sector boards. Gordon Shirley's tenure at The UWI began in 1991 with his appointment as Head of the Department of Management Studies. He went on to serve as Executive Director of the Mona School of Business from 1997 to 2004 during which time he managed the transformation of the Mona Institute of Business into a profitable, self-sustaining School of Business with endowments for Research and Entrepreneurial Studies.

During his tenure as Executive Director of the Mona School of Business, Professor

numerous infrastructure developments on the campus. These include the new Faculty of Law, new student housing, the Faculty of Medical Sciences Research and Teaching Complex, and numerous in-Faculty infrastructure improvements that employ information and communication technologies to enhance the learning experience for our students. The sports programme at Mona during his tenure has grown tremendously through partnerships with sports management agencies and clubs, the most famous being the Racers Club which is home to several national sporting heroes. The sports infrastructure has also been improved as has the human resourcing of the sports programme.

Professor Shirley has steered the Mona Campus through these and other significant developments during times when the financing of higher education was and remains a significant challenge. His sterling leadership and management skills have enabled the Mona Campus not only to remain stable, but to grow.

Professor Shirley's new assignment will leave a significant gap at The UWI as it is not only the Mona Campus that benefits from his wise counsel, incisive interventions and problem solving skills, but the entire University. **M**



Prof. Shirley receives a token of appreciation from Campus Registrar, Dr. Camille Bell-Hutchinson.



UWI News Briefs

UWI Launches Single Virtual University Space




Members of the team behind the launch of the first SVUS pilot, L-R: Cynthia Meggoe-Ebanks, Education Technologist, Office of The University CIO; Pauline Francis-Cobley, University Programme Coordinator, Single Virtual University Space; Brigitte Collins, University Chief Information Officer; Professor Brian Meeks, Head of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES)

The University of the West Indies (The UWI) has launched its Single Virtual University Space (SVUS), an initiative of Vice Chancellor Professor E. Nigel Harris.

Through the SVUS, The UWI is answering the call of regional governments for increased access to UWI's programmes. This is being done through technology and resource sharing among the campuses. A key step in the implementation process took place at the Mona Campus in September 2013 with the launch of the first SVUS pilot, the MSc. in Development Studies offered by the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES).

The launch of the Telemedicine project, the flagship pilot for the SVUS, is scheduled for Nov. 22, 2013 and will be addressed by the Vice Chancellor, Mona Principal, Professor Archibald McDonald, the CEO of Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN) and the Director of the Hugh Wynter Fertility Management Unit, Professor Joseph Fredericks.

The launch will take the form of a live videoconference stream to five (5) sites - Cave Hill, Barbados, St. Augustine in Trinidad & Tobago, Mona, Mandeville and the Western Jamaica Campus in Jamaica and the Bahamas to the HWMU facility, where students will receive a short lecture and demonstration.

According to Pauline Francis-Cobley, UWI's SVUS Programme Coordinator, "SVUS is neither a type of technology nor a technological platform. It is a mode of operation that is enabled by technology which redefines the way in which The UWI will deliver service to the region and the world. It is facilitated via technologies such as video conferencing, web conferencing and web-based learning management systems." 

SEED FUNDS AWARDED FOR JOINT PROJECTS BETWEEN SUNY AND THE UWI


The UWI and the State University of New York (SUNY), will undertake a number of joint projects under the terms of a memorandum of understanding signed earlier this year.

"SUNY and The UWI have a unique opportunity to develop a broad relationship that will advance our research and instruction in the areas of marine sciences, environmental sciences, health, education and other fields," said SUNY Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs, Mitch Leventhal. "The proposals selected from a strong pool of applications for seed funding exemplified our purpose in bringing together our campuses for the benefit of all. The sharing of resources and expertise in both directions will lead to new opportunities for our students, our faculty and our communities in New York and the Caribbean."

Coordinated by SUNY's Office of Global Affairs led by Vice Chancellor Leventhal and the UWI's Central Office for Regional and International Affairs headed by Dr David Rampersad, the top proposals for this award were selected based upon the strength of the team and the feasibility of the proposed project, in terms of expertise in the research or instructional area and potential project sponsors.

JOINT PROJECTS SELECTED TO RECEIVE SEED FUNDS

- "Enhancing Citizen Security in the Caribbean," SUNY Geneseo, SUNY Buffalo, UWI Mona, UWI St Augustine and UWI Cave Hill (Lisa Meyer and William Lofquist, SUNY Geneseo, Project Leads)
- "Improving Cardiovascular Health in Native and Migrant Caribbean Populations," SUNY Downstate, SUNY Buffalo, UWI Mona, UWI Cave Hill and UWI Open Campus (Marshall Tulloch-Reid, UWI Mona, Project Lead)
- "SUNY/UWI Health-Related Research and Educational Collaborations in Natural Products and Medicinal Chemistry," SUNY Geneseo and UWI Mona (Ruel McKnight, SUNY Geneseo, Project Lead)
- "Environmental Sciences and Climate Change," SUNY Albany, UWI Mona and UWI Cave Hill (Michael Taylor, UWI Mona, Project Lead)
- "Understanding the Effects of Land Practices and Pollution on the Health of Coral Reefs of the Caribbean," SUNY ESF, UWI Mona, UWI-Caribbean Coastal Data Centre, UWI-Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory (Mark Teece, SUNY ESF, Project Lead)
- "The Development of a New Course: Marine Invasive Alien Species in Tropical and Temperate Climates," SUNY Stony Brook, UWI Mona, UWI St. Augustine (Dayne Buddo, UWI Mona, Project Lead)

The SUNY-UWI partnership began in fall 2012 and currently involves ten SUNY campuses and an initial work plan to support collaborative research and instruction devised by 60 administrators and faculty from both SUNY and UWI. 

Appointments

MINNA ISRAEL JOINS STAFF AT UWI REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS



Ms. Minna Israel

Chair of the Board and Distinguished Business Fellow of the UWI Mona School of Business and Management, **Ms. Minna Israel**, has been appointed as Special Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor on Resource Development.

Ms Israel, who has had a distinguished career in the financial sector both in Jamaica and regionally, will operate out of the Vice-Chancellery.

She is expected to oversee the three-pronged institutional advancement functions of fund-raising, alumni relations and marketing & communications, working with the teams engaged in those functions at the UWI Regional Headquarters and in the campuses.

Ms Israel's primary responsibility will be to coordinate the actions of the campus teams, the endowment foundations, alumni associations and supportive foundations based in the USA, Canada and the UK

as well as to advise the Vice-Chancellor and the Executive Management team on matters related to resource development. Her appointment, which took effect on September 2, 2013, is for two years in the first instance.

BRIAN MEEKS APPOINTED UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR OF SALISES



Prof. Brian Meeks

Professor Brian Meeks has been appointed as University Director of SALISES with effect from August 1, 2013.

The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) was formed in 2000 by a merger of the Consortium Graduate School and the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER). ISER was established in 1948, in advance of the Faculty of Social Sciences, in order to build a solid foundation of empirical data on the Caribbean region.

SALISES is represented at each of The UWI's the campuses, and the role of University Director rotates on a tri-annual basis.

Brian Meeks is Professor of Social and Political Change and

Director of the SALISES at The UWI, Mona. He has taught political theory, comparative politics, Caribbean political thought and African American politics. He has authored or edited nine books and many articles on Caribbean politics and political theory.

As Director of SALISES Mona, he chaired and helped organize the August 2012 conference 'Fifty-Fifty: Critical Reflections in a Time of Uncertainty' and the 28 national, regional and international events that commemorated 50 years of independence in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. He has been the Public Orator at The UWI Mona since 2006.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ADVISOR APPOINTED

Former Pro Vice-Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies Professor Alvin Wint has been appointed Professor of International Business and Special Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor on External Relations, with effect from August 1, 2013. The appointment is for three years in the first instance.

NEW HEAD FOR TROPICAL METABOLISM RESEARCH UNIT (TMRU)

Professor Marvin Reid is the new head for the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit (TMRU). The former Director of the Sickle Cell Unit led the expansion of the research programme and the integration of the Sickle Cell Unit in the clinical training of medical professionals in the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

His main responsibilities include mentoring and providing leadership to the Staff of the TMRU. He also teaches clinical nutrition and research meth-



Prof. Marvin Reid

ods at the undergraduate & postgraduate levels, provides consultative service in clinical nutrition for hospitalized patients.

His main research interest is the effect of nutrition on the oxidative capacity and immune response in Man & clinical trials. He has co-authored over 100 peer-reviewed articles and has received the Mona Campus Principal's award and other international award for research publications.

Professor Reid is an executive member of the Medical Association of Jamaica, Chairman of Caribbean College of Family Physicians, Jamaican Chapter, & member of American Physiological society. He is also a practising General Practitioner.

DR. JENNIFER KNIGHT-MADDEN APPOINTED HEAD OF THE SICKLE CELL UNIT (SCU)

Dr. Knight-Madden joined the Sickle Cell Unit (Medical Research Council, UK) on her return to Jamaica in 1997. She became a part of the Tropical Medicine Research Institute at its inception in 1999.

She has been involved in the research, clinical care and educational programs of the Sickle



Dr. Jennifer Knight-Madden Cell Unit throughout her tenure. Her main research interests are the pulmonary complications of sickle cell disease and asthma. She is the author of two book chapters and several articles in peer reviewed journals.

Dr. Knight-Madden has given lectures in different fora locally, regionally and internationally. She is currently a Vice President of the Caribbean network of Researchers on Sickle cell Disease and Thalassemia.

She has also been an honorary consultant at the University Hospital of the West Indies where she provides teaching and clinical care in the subspecialty of Pediatric Pulmonology.

NEW CEO, UWI CONSULTING COMPANY

Dr. Keith Nurse has assumed responsibilities as Executive Director of The UWI Consulting Company, effective August 1, 2013. UWI Consulting is the entity through which The UWI provides consulting services regionally and internationally. He will be assisted by Deputy Director Professor Claremont Kirton as they work to strengthen UWI Consulting as a dynamic portal through which the expertise of UWI

faculty, alumni and affiliates can be accessed for consultancies in a wide variety of areas.

Prior to joining UWI Consulting, Dr Nurse served as a consultant and advisor to several governments and regional organizations, including the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean Export Development Agency and the Caribbean Tourism Organization.



Dr. Keith Nurse

He also served previously at international organizations including the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Dr. Nurse He is the incumbent World Trade Organization Chair at The UWI and former Director of the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services, UWI, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

The UWI Consulting Company was formed in 2008 and is registered in Jamaica and Saint Lucia. 

PROFESSORS from page 31

Since 2006, she has chaired the Organising Committee for the Faculty's Annual Research Conference and has provided leadership through her involvement in the Faculty's Ethics Committee and membership of the Faculty Board. She has served as Member of the Principal's Research Award Committee, Member of the Department of Medicine Speciality Board and served as Adjunct Assistant Voluntary Professor of Medicine for the William J. Harrington Medical Training Programme for Latin America.

Professor Wright-Pascoe is President of the Association of Consultant Physicians and has served as President of the Medical Association of Jamaica and of the Caribbean Endocrine Society. She is Vice Chair of the National Committee for Continuing Medical Education of the Ministry of Health, Kingston, Jamaica, Chair of the Jamaica National Committee on Non-Communicable Diseases, Member of the National Health Fund Expert Panel of Physicians and Member of the Council of the Medical Association of Jamaica.

She is a Member of the American College of Endocrinology, the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists and the New York Academy of Sciences. 

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