



THE MONA ECONOMIST

Department of Economics
The UWI Mona

Annual Newsletter (2015/2016)
Vol. 3 (Aug. 2016)



David Tennant

Department of Economics gets new HOD

Professor David Tennant is the new head of the Department of Economics (DoE) as of August 1, 2016. Prof. Tennant takes over from Dr. Damien King. Dr. King was appointed to the post in the 2010/2011 academic year, and served for two full terms (three years each). The entire department wishes both gentlemen every success for the future.



Edward Ghartey

Professor Edward Ghartey - AFEA President Elect

Professor Edward Ghartey has been voted President-elect and Program Chair of the African Finance and Economics Association (AFEA) for the 2017 annual Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) meeting, to be held in Chicago, USA. His election took place at the January 2016 ASSA meeting. The annual ASSA meeting is organized by the American Economic Association (AEA), the most prestigious economics society in the USA. The AEA was founded in 1885, and is headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, USA. The DoE congratulates Professor Ghartey on this distinguished honour.

Economics Graduate Student is Jamaica's 2016 Rhodes Scholar

Ms. Sherona Forrester is Jamaica's 2016 Rhodes Scholar. In 2015, Sherona topped the graduating class of Economics Masters students.

A former student of Glenmuir High School, Sherona has built up a lengthy resume as an all rounder. She is a member of Jamaica's senior female football team, the Reggae Girls, and has represented the UWI-Mona at Football, Basketball and Netball. But the list doesn't end there. Sherona has a beautiful singing voice, and has been a member of choirs such as the UWI Choir. She has accepted a spot at the Oxford University, where she will read for an MPhil in Economics, starting in the academic year 2017/2018.

The DoE wishes her continued success.



Sherona Forrester

Dr. Nadine McCloud-Rose promoted to Senior Lecturer



At the beginning of the academic year, 2015/2016, Dr. Nadine McCloud-Rose was promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer . The DoE wishes her continued success.

Profile: Nađine McCloud-Rose

- ◆ PhD - SUNY, Binghamton
- ◆ Fields - Econometrics & Macroeconomics
- ◆ Published in journals such as the highly ranked *International Economic Review*.

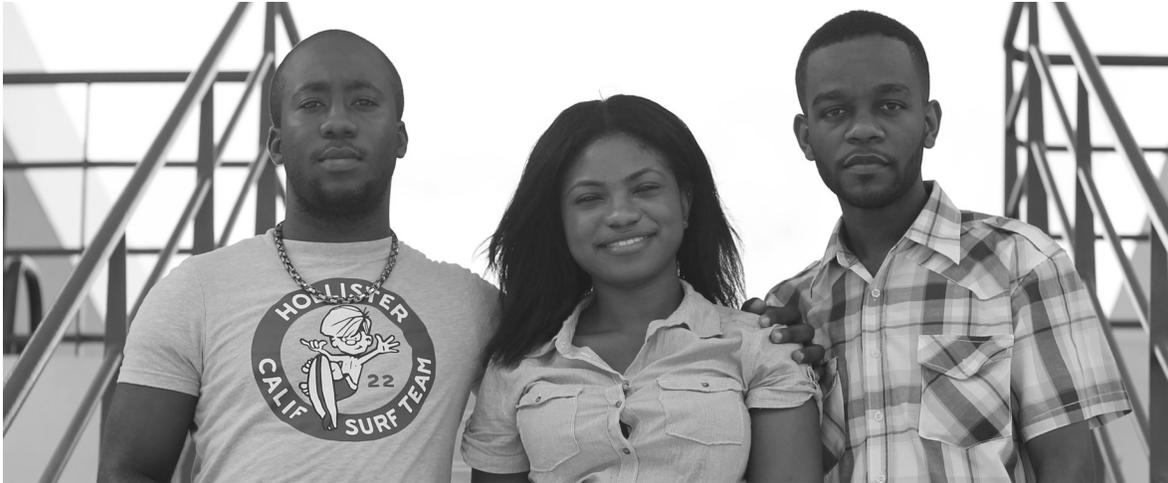
Former DoE graduate students leave for PhD Studies

Ten former economics graduate students will be embarking on PhD studies in the 2016/1017 academic year. These students would have completed their masters in economics, in various years, prior to the academic year 2015/2016. Among the list is a Fulbright Scholar, Alvin Harris. The full list of students are; Travis Atkinson (Purdue University); Alecia Evans (Purdue University); Rushaine Goulbourne (University of Alabama); Alvin Harris (Western Michigan); Sasha Harrison (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) ; Sidonia McKenzie (Kansas State University); Llemar Nicholson (University of Delaware); Kevin Smith (Lehigh University); Celia Wallace (University of Sheffield); and Melisa Williams (University of Leicester).



Dr. Peter-John Gordon (centre) and a section of the 2015 class of MSc. Economics students. The students left-right are; Goulbourne, Samuels, Forrester, Chung, Harris and Atkinson.

Thank You, Dr. McCloud-Rose !!!



L-R: Salmon, Rhoden, and Abdulie.

Awards and promotions are no doubt welcome, however, appreciation from the students we serve is priceless. In what follows a few students express their appreciation for the work done by Dr. Nadine McCloud-Rose.

“Taking a few minutes to walk around a second year statistics class of over 100 students, checking to see that we understand the material; giving us smiley faces and stickers for a job well done; meticulously reading, commenting on, and grading our applied econometric papers; these are a few of her characteristics that made my university life less hectic. This powerhouse is Dr. Nadine McCloud-Rose. Her advice and guidance throughout the research process cannot be taken for granted as she gives her best at all times. A paper filled with her “red ink” comments will surprise you at first, but upon visiting her office, she provides advice for improvement. Her bright smile in class changes the whole mood, especially when we are bored with the material. Dr. McCloud, as we call her, is definitely one of the few lecturers I will never forget.”

~ Shannique Rhoden

“Her hard work, passion and love for her job is next to none. Dealing with students at any level is by no means easy, but this phenomenal woman does it meticulously. I am delighted to have had the chance to learn from her. I just want to say thank you for your hard work. Thanks a million Dr. McCloud.”

~ Dwayne Salmon

“Dr. Nadine McCloud-Rose is an extremely energetic motivator and an excellent educator. Her ingenious teaching techniques made an otherwise challenging course, Statistics Methods 1, manageable. Dr. McCloud, as we call her, complements her great teaching skills with a wonderful personality that I find really motivating. Dr. McCloud always encourages us to visit her office to clarify issues with course content. I never hesitated to visit her office whenever I had issues with a new probability question, because I knew Dr. McCloud would explain it excellently. There is never a dull moment with Dr. McCloud, whether during lectures or office hours. Her ever present smile is welcoming and reassuring. I am really proud her.”

~ Oshane Abdulie

Top Graduate Students

The top graduating MSc Economics student, for the 2016 graduating class, is Ms Shakeba Foster. She is one of five MSc. Economics students (class of 2016), who have obtained a pass with distinction. The others are, Owen Fisher, Talecia Gayle, Simon Johnson and Shanike Smart. The DoE is extremely proud of them and their achievements to date. A few students of the aforementioned group took time out to speak about their experiences in the programme, and offer advice to prospective students.

The MSc. Economics programme has been a teacher of many things. It has taught me more than option pricing, econometric techniques and strategic behaviour. Some of my most valuable lessons are:

A. No matter how 'bright' you are, each step to success or each attempt to become better is plagued with added struggle, stumbling and most importantly added work! Many have referred to me as one of the 'brightest' in my cohort. Regardless, I've had to work just as hard as everyone else, perhaps even harder, in order to finish well.

B. Good relationships are treasures. While excellent academic performance, exposure to current economic happenings and general personal development are all valuable, no experience is complete without the forming of comparably valuable relationships. I've had the privilege of forming a few.

C. Never let anyone convince you that you are strong enough in an area where you feel weak. Once you're convinced, you will never work on that weakness which you know exists and a great opportunity to improve yourself would have been missed.

This experience has by all accounts been a fulfilling one. I'm grateful to have finished and finished well. I attribute all to God's favour and faithfulness. He has indeed been good!

~ **Shakeba Foster**

My experience in the Economics Masters program was exceptional. This is partially due to the fact that I was not a UWI undergraduate, and as such it was a new journey for me. However, the bond between lecturers and students made my transition a very welcoming, and memorable one. The course requirements were challenging. A big transition from undergraduate study. Application became the new order of the day, complemented by extensive and sophisticated mathematics. However, it was a challenge I most definitely welcomed and longed for. It was a time of introspection and one of the most humbling experiences, allowing me the opportunity to acknowledge where I was, what I was good at, and most importantly, what needed vast improvement. It has been through this blunt identification, sometimes directly or indirectly, that I've been able to begin improvements. It has been one of the few occasions where I became anxious and frustrated, with academic work, but I learnt the skills of coping and excelling. This programme has truly reshaped my outlook, and transformed my approach and analysis of everything.

For students uncertain about pursuing a Master's degree in Economics, give it serious thought. I was faced with uncertainty, however, this has been one of the best decisions I've made. Seek out advisors from the department, they are very helpful. Manage your time wisely, and study, study, and do a little bit more studying. Don't worry about the transition. Be willing to embrace growth, which comes from the realization that there is always something to learn, and perfect those things which you believe you know well.

~ **Shanike Smart**

“The Economics MSc program was riddled with challenges. However, my faith, friends and lecturers, helped me to overcome each challenge. The program made me realize that school shouldn't be just about academic development but development of self. It is this realization that prompted my friends and I to create a professional organization to help us develop ourselves; academically, professionally, and personally.

My advice to students who are currently in the program is to realize that being an Economist isn't just about regurgitating a model and its assumptions, but putting things into context within a global dynamic environment. Learn about the issues within the global and domestic environment within which you live and how to apply the knowledge that you're learning to alleviate these issues. Also, I cannot stress enough how important it is NOT to focus on which courses can get you a distinction but on which courses can contribute to your knowledge base and your intended career path. I would also encourage students to actively work on holistic personal development. Highlight areas which you aren't strong in and work on them throughout your time here. Whether it be public speaking, mathematics, statistics, grammar and academic writing etc.”

~ **Simon Johnson**

The Masters in Economics presented a completely new challenge from my undergraduate experience. ‘All nighters’ quickly became a necessity. I was forced to change habits, and to seek out help from others. As a result, I cultivated stronger bonds with my fellow classmates and lecturers. The programme taught me many things outside of theories and models. Firstly, it taught me the importance of confronting and working on my weaknesses, instead of just hiding behind my strengths. Secondly, the importance of team work, time management and building networks. However, my most treasured experience gained from the programme was the opportunity to utilise and impart my knowledge gained to others, through tutoring. I developed an immense passion for teaching, which will play an integral part in my future plans.

Students wishing to do the MSc. Economics degree, do not centre your goals around solely obtaining a distinction. Instead, look at the programme as an opportunity for personal and professional development. You will reap greater benefits in the long run from striving for personal development over just grades. Obviously, the two are not mutually exclusive, but the pursuit of academic excellence must never be prioritised over development of self. Having a distinction without the required ‘soft’ skills to effectively communicate your knowledge and function in a work environment will stifle your ability to move up in the working world.

~ **Owen Fisher**



Shakeba Foster (Top Student)



Owen Fisher



Talecia Gayle



Simon Johnson



Shanike Smart

Professor Abdulkadri's Inaugural Professorial Lecture

For approximately 45 minutes, Murphy's Law held Prof. Abdullahi Olabode Abdulkadri's inaugural lecture hostage. Abdul, as he prefers his colleagues to address him, was unperturbed by the delay. He waited patiently. Smiling into the crowd at the familiar faces who had turned up to celebrate with him. Nothing was going to ruin his day. The day he long dreamed of seeing. Abdul's inaugural professorial lecture was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, at the Social Sciences Lecture Theatre, Mona campus.



Abdullahi Abdulkadri

Under the title “Making informed decisions: The critical role of economics in evidenced-based decision making”, Abdul took the audience on a tour of his upbringing, his scholarly and professional work, his professional relationships and experiences. The son of parents who were both teachers, Abdul wanted to be a principal. Just like his dad. He joked about the possibility of becoming the principal of UWI-Mona. While noting the many hats he has worn in terms of courses taught and fields of research, Abdul prefers the title, Professor of Applied Economics.

In underscoring the critical role of economics in the decision making process, Abdul showcased his applied work in fields such as agricultural economics, environmental economics, energy economics, and health economics. Using a mixture of “complex” equations and practical explanations, Abdul catered to the diverse audience of students, non-academics, and academics from different fields. In each field of his academic endeavor, he presented information on the findings of his research projects. For example, his first work was concerned with the optimization of profits by farmers. The remainder of the lecture constituted of anecdotes and lessons learnt from Abdul's tenure as an academic at Mona.

In giving thanks to all who helped him along the way, Abdul highlighted his faith in Allah, and his family. In particular, he became emotional on mentioning how proud he was of his son, to whom he dedicated his PhD Thesis. Before the formal proceedings ended, the audience learnt that Abdul's uncle, who travelled from Nigeria to celebrate with him, was the person who encouraged him to become a professor. During the Q&A segment his uncle took the opportunity to give him a new charge. He encouraged Abdul to spend more time with his family. And so with that, Abdul now has two primary goals for the future. Spend more time with family, and become a principal.

Professor Mark Figueroa's Farewell Lecture

On Wednesday March 30, 2016, Prof. Mark Figueroa delivered a farewell lecture, to celebrate his years of service to the DoE. The farewell lecture was titled, "Lessons from W. Arthur Lewis for Contemporary Economics." This was a fitting topic as Prof. Figueroa spent much of his career researching and writing on the work of W. Arthur Lewis. Prof. Figueroa officially left the DoE at the end of the 2014/2015 academic year.



L-R: Damien King & Mark Figueroa

Scenes from Professor Abdulkadri's Inaugural Lecture



Clockwise from top right: Abdul giving his lecture ; Witter introducing Abdul; Well wishers; Abdul and Family; (L-R) Witter, King, and Abdul.

Faculty Publications

Journal Articles:

Braithwaite, S. (2016), "What do Demand & Supply Shocks Say About Caribbean Monetary Integration?" *The World Economy* (FORTHCOMING), DOI: 10.1111/twec.12393 .

Ghartey, E. (2015), "Causal Relationship Between Financial Development And Economic Growth In South Africa", *Applied Econometrics and International Development* (AEID), 59(5).

Spencer, N. And Polachek, S (2015), "Hurricane Watch: Battening Down the Effects of the Storm on Local Crop Production." *Ecological Economics* , 120, pp. 234-240.

Spencer, N. (2016), Look at What the Hurricanes Blew In: Analyzing the Impact of the Storm on Criminal Activities *Journal of Crime and Justice* (FORTHCOMING), DOI:10.1080/0735648X.2016.1168749.

Whitely, P. (2016), "'A' is for Attendance: The Impact of Class Attendance on Student Performance," *Journal of Education and Development in the Caribbean*, Vol. 59 no. 5, 6450.

Refereed Book:

Tennant, David and Tracey, Marlon (2015) "Sovereign Debt and Credit Rating Bias". Palgrave-MacMillan. Dec., 2015.

Technical Report:

Abdulkadri, A., Evans, A. and Ash, T. "An Assessment of Big Data for Official Statistics in the Caribbean: Challenges and Opportunities", UN ECLAC- Studies and Perspectives Series – The Caribbean – No. 48, 2016

Inaugural Professorial Lecture

Abdulkadri, A. "Making informed Decisions: The Critical Role of Economics in Evidence-Based Decision." 2016

Seminar & Public Forums

Braithwaite, S. "Human Capital Fight and Growth, Revisiting the Lewis Model and Strategy". February 11, 2016.

Ghartey, E. "The Causal Nexus between Growth & Financing Development in Trinidad and Tobago," Sept. 10, 2015.

Figueroa, M. "Lessons from W. Arthur Lewis for Contemporary Economics," March 30, 2016.

Haughton, A. "The Speed of Adjustment and the Monetary Mechanism in Jamaica," October 29, 2015.

Keil, J. "Is Bank Lending Biased Against Certain Sectors," January 28, 2016.

Whitely, S and Spencer, N. "Who gets the Job? Sex, Class and Discrimination," April 14, 2016.

Yhip, T. "Credit Analysis in the 21st Century - Is the Glass Really Half Empty?" UWI George Willie Lecture Series. March 23, 2016.

Conference Presentations

Braithwaite, S. "Endogenous Growth and Human Capital: Revisiting the Lewis Model and Strategy" SALISES 17th Annual Conference. Bridgetown, Barbados March 29—April 1. 2016

Clarke, C. "Does the Coach Matter? Evidence from Jamaica" The Second Academic Conference on Football at UWI Mona. 2016.

Gharthey, E. "*Effects of exchange rates on prices and inflation in Ghana,*" Roundtable Conference, Institute of Economic Affairs. Accra, Ghana, July 29, 2015.

Gharthey, E. "Empirical evidence of the role of financial developing and economic growth in Caribbean countries" XLVII Annual Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance Conference. Georgetown, Guyana, Nov., 2015.

Gharthey, E. "Empirical Evidence of Exchange Rate pass-through to prices and inflation in Ghana" Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA) organized by the American Economic Association, San Francisco, Jan., 2016.

Haughton, A. "Rethinking Economic Growth Theory, Escaping Third World Deadlock" IEA-RIDGE-IDB Roundtable on Economic Development and Growth 100 years after Arthur Lewis's Birth. (2015)

Keil, J. "Financial Constraints and Investment - Evidence from U.S. Companies" Finance and Economics Conference, Frankfurt, Germany, Aug. 5 – 7, 2015.

King, D. "How do Countries get out of Debt?" IEA-RIDGE-IDB Roundtable on Economic Development and Growth 100 years after Arthur Lewis's Birth. (2015)

King, D. "Asymmetric Bias and Self-Fulfilling Sovereign Defaults" Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association Annual Conference. 2015

Tennant, D. "Sound Banking Systems and Economic Growth" Eastern Caribbean Central Bank's Annual Conference with Commercial Banks. 2015

UWI BREXIT FORUM



(L-R): VC Prof. Beckles at podium during the panel discussion; the Hon. Bruce Golding; UK High Commissioner, David Fitton; Dana Dixon and Damien King.

On Friday June 24, 2016, the world woke up to the reality of Britain’s vote to leave the EU. On June 29, the office of the Vice Chancellor, in collaboration with the DoE and the Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CAPRI), pulled off a well executed, and well attended, one day forum titled, “BREXIT: Implications for the Caribbean.” The forum had two main parts; a panel discussion and a series of presentations. Presentations were made by persons in Jamaica, the wider Caribbean, the USA, and the UK.

Please see the DoE’s website for more details.
<http://www.mona.uwi.edu/economics/brexit-symposium>

Below are brief comments from a few of the presenters.

“I call on the CARICOM Heads of Government to immediately establish a working group of experts to monitor the developments and implications of BREXIT and to report at regular intervals.”
~ **Richard Bernal**

“BREXIT has created significant uncertainty in the global economy. This uncertainty has resulted in increased volatility in international markets. It is difficult to predict the duration of the market volatility given the uncertainty about the United Kingdom’s future relationship with the EU and the uncertainty about the cohesion of the United Kingdom. In so far as BREXIT is a symptom of the underlying tensions between the beneficiaries of globalisation and the people who are losing out, it could affect the pace of globalisation. A slowdown in globalisation could occur if some countries choose to follow the example of the United Kingdom and withdraw from existing integration arrangements, or if future integration arrangements are limited to free movement of goods and capital.”
~ **Marie Freckleton**

“Undoubtedly, the EU, and the wider world, would have been better off without the disruption of Britain’s decision to leave the EU. Indeed, BREXIT has caused unnecessary “political noise” to disrupt international financial markets. For the Caribbean, it is my humble opinion, that BREXIT offers more opportunity than threat. It presents an opportunity, in the sense that CARICOM has a new chance to go back to the negotiating table with the UK, and possibly the remaining 27 EU members. It is an opportunity for the region to “revisit” issues of trade and development assistance. The SDGs and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change should be focal points for such negotiations.”
~ **Samuel Braithwaite**

Who gets the job? Sex, Class and Discrimination

Drs Nekeisha Spencer & Patrice Whitely produced what is arguably the most timely empirical piece of research, out of the DoE, for the academic year 2015/2016.

In keeping with common practice, the researchers presented their work to the university community at a DoE seminar. Additionally, on Monday, May 16th, Dr. Whitely presented their research findings, live on TVJ's popular morning programme, *Smile Jamaica*.

Below is an abstract of their work.



Patrice Whitely and the hosts of TVJ's *Smile Jamaica*.
(Photo Credit: Television Jamaica)

ABSTRACT

The perception that class discrimination exists in the Jamaican labour market has prompted research to ascertain whether there is any unfair treatment in the initial stage of the employment process. Utilising a resume audit study approach to determine this existence, over 1000 resumes were sent out in response to advertisements for non-managerial positions.

The study reveals the following. First, the chances of receiving an interview depends on an applicant's name, address and gender. Second, applicants with names perceived to be 'high-income sounding' are twice as likely to receive a call-back for an interview than those with names perceived to be 'low-income sounding.' Thorough statistical analysis reveals that the odds of receiving a call-back with a 'high income sounding' name is almost 3 times greater than the odds of receiving a call-back with a 'low income sounding' name. Third, for every 100 employers, 10 prefer applicants with high income addresses, while only 5 appear to have a preference for applicants with low income addresses. Fourth, males receive half as many interview call-backs as females. Fifth, differences in qualifications do not affect an applicant's chance of receiving a call-back for an interview. This suggests that having additional qualifications does not appear to affect the chances of receiving an interview call-back.

The results have implications for labour productivity, economic growth and income inequality. Thus, it is encouraging that the study has prompted public discourse on the issue of class discrimination in the labour market.

ECLAC - Department of Economics Public Forum

On Wednesday June 8, 2016, the United Nations Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with the DoE, hosted a half-day forum on “Enhancing the contribution of Preferential Trade Agreements to inclusive and equitable trade in the Caribbean. The forum was opened by Dr. Damien King, HOD, and saw presentations from Dr. Marie-Freckleton of the DoE, Dr. Andrea Pellandra of ECLAC, and Ms. Marcia Thomas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jamaica. The forum was attended by academics and members of the public and private sectors. Below are summaries of the main presentations.

"Jamaica has implemented significant trade liberalisation with its average applied MFN tariff of 8.5 percent being lower than the average MFN tariff of most of its CARICOM partners. However, trade liberalisation has not produced the expected export growth. Instead the country has experienced significant growth in imports and increasing trade deficits. The poor response to trade liberalisation can be attributed to two main factors. The first is weak supply capacity. The second, which is partly related to the first, is low utilisation of the various preferential agreements that provide market access for Jamaica's exports. The Jamaican experience suggests that trade liberalisation, while necessary, is not sufficient to promote export growth."

~ Dr. Marie Freckleton



Marie Freckleton



Andrea Pellandra

"In my presentation, titled, “Empirical evidence on the social and distributional effects of trade policy,” I review the empirical literature that tries to estimate the impact that episodes of trade liberalization, in different countries, had on a number of social outcomes, such as poverty, inequality and the employment of different sectors of the population. While trade liberalization increases welfare for a country as a whole, it does not happen in a vacuum, and workers in certain sectors of the economy or regions of the country may suffer as a consequence of the change in the economic structure that may result from the adjustment process to increased trade. Clearly understanding these effects is therefore essential for governments to be able to design trade policies that can truly benefit the most disadvantaged segments of the population." ~ Dr. Andrea Pellandra

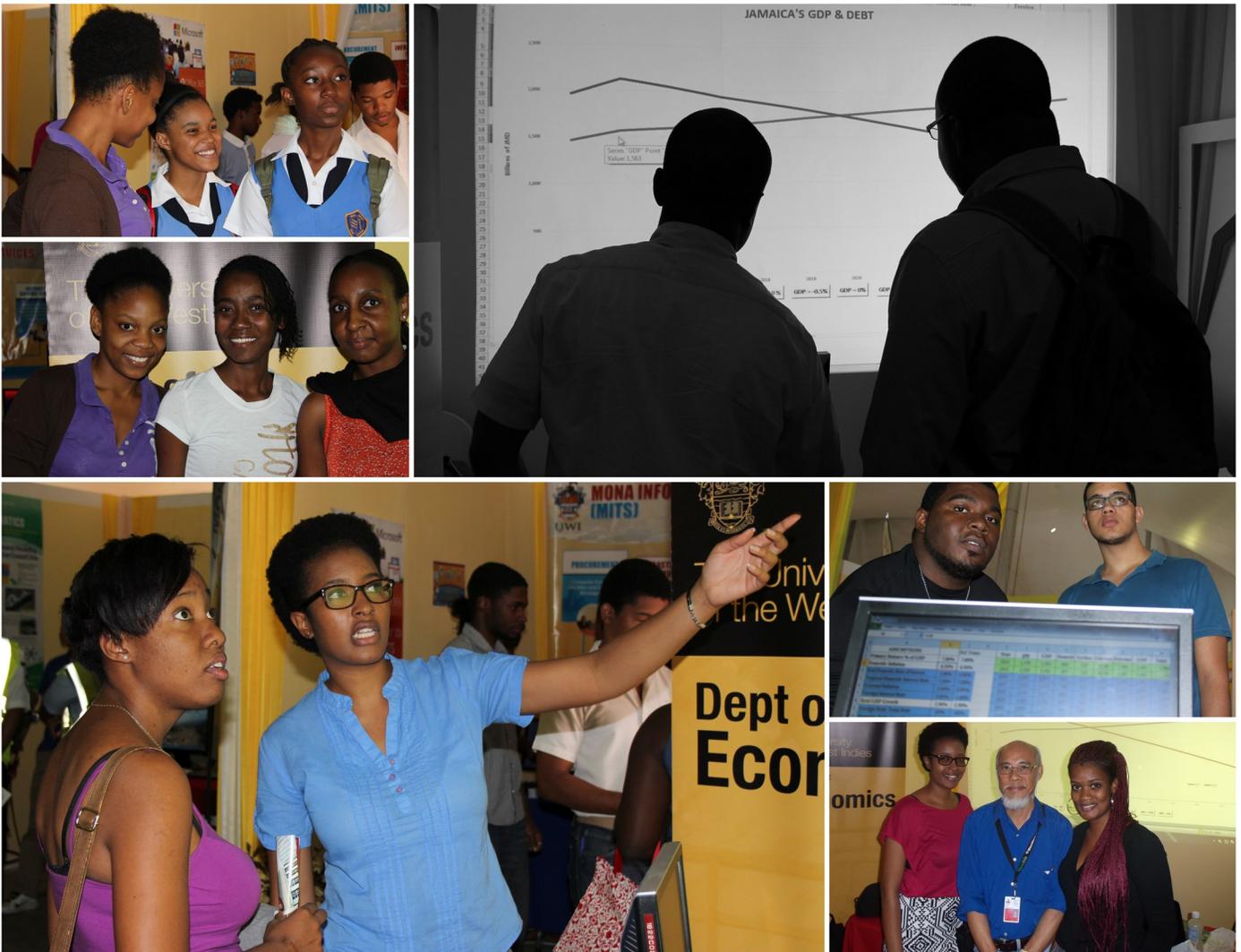
Scenes from the ELAC-DoE International Trade Forum



Clockwise from top right: Marie Freckleton and Andrea Pellandra; participant; participant; Marcia Thomas (Min. of Foreign Affairs); participants; Colin Bullock and a participant.

RESEARCH DAYS

The UWI Mona held its annual Research Days activities from Wednesday February 17 to Friday February 19, 2016. Drs Samuel Braithwaite and Terence Yhip, of the DoE, created an interactive model of Jamaica's GDP and National Debt. Using Microsoft Excel, the simple model used the assumptions and figures from IMF reports on Jamaica. Clicking on one of the preset buttons (created using VBA code), users of the model were able to adjust variables such as the primary surplus, and the GDP growth rate. For example, by increasing the size of the primary surplus the interactive model shows that Jamaica's GDP would be equal to its national debt **earlier**, assuming there are no disruptions in other areas, such as economic growth. The model was well received by visitors to the booth. Lively discussions were had as regards the economy, especially in light of the JLP's "\$1.5 million tax plan." A few visitors were interested in how Excel was used to create the model. Graduate students, Shakeba Foster, Talecia Gayle, Simon Johnson, Jonielle McIntosh, Chrystal Rhone, and Shanike Smart, provided valuable assistance by guiding visitors through the model, and answering their questions.



Clockwise from top right: Samuel Braithwaite and visitor; Simon Johnson (L) and visitor (R); (L-R) Jonielle McIntosh, Terence Yhip and Talecia Gayle; visitor (L) and Jonielle McIntosh (R); (L-R) Chrystal Rhone, Shakeba Foster and Shanike Smart; (L-R) Chrystal Rhone and visitors.

Terence Campbell: Administrator, Coordinator, Mentor, Counselor, & Friend.

In what follows, a few graduate students (class of 2016) express their appreciation to Mr. Terence Campbell for his contributions to their experience in the Masters of Economics programme. Mr. Campbell is an administrator in the DoE.



Terence Campbell

“What's funny is that while writing this I wanted to email Terence to ask his advice on this piece. That's the type of person Terence is. It is common to hear someone say, “Hey I'm gonna email something to Terence to get his opinion on it.”

At the end of the day he's always willing to help in any way that he humanely can. That's after he gives you a lecture on life and how you can become a better version of yourself. I don't think Terence understands the significant impact he has had our lives over the past 2 years. From encouragement, to mentorship, from assistance with admin matters, to just lending an ear. He has truly been more than just our boss. Constantly giving advice on how to become better tutors and students, on political and economic issues, and on our career paths.”

~ **Simon Johnson**

“Rarely any M.Sc. Economics student refers to Terence Campbell as "Mr. Campbell" outside of official emails and attempts at formality in the presence of other staff members. Terence shares a relationship with us students that no other member of staff understands.

I can never forget my first few encounters with him. At the start of the programme, I would head home immediately after classes. Each attempt to pass his office on my way home would be met by, "my girl, you can't just come a school and go home, you need to interact with people." I resented this, until I realized he was in fact pushing me to perform well, not just in academics, but in every area. Terence goes the extra mile. He goes out of his way to enhance our welfare, all this while trying to maintain his image of sternness.

THANK YOU TERENCE! For all you have done and continue to do!”

~ **Shakeba Foster**

“From the day I called the DoE, making enquiries into the status of my application, Mr. Campbell has been most helpful. “Dr.” Campbell, as I fondly call him, plays a significant role in the students experience in the programme. Always working to assist students, with such selflessness, while ensuring to teach us life lessons, and morals, for the world of work. Always a voice of concern and assistance, which comes only after a long line of questioning and enquiry, to ensure some lesson is being learnt .

“Dr.” Campbell, from guiding us through our Graduate Assistant positions, to assisting with our internships, and providing personal advice, he is truly a spark in the department. I can honestly say, I have achieved all I have with him as a guiding hand. We appreciate you “Dr”. Campbell... Thank you very much.”

~ **Shanike Smart**

“Sonny was a good, good, good good man”

Tribute to Professor Alfred Francis by Professor Michael Witter

On Monday August 3, 2015, the UWI community bid farewell to Prof. Alfred Alexander Jacques Francis(1934-2015), with a lively memorial service at the UWI-Mona Chapel. Prof. Michael Witter, former HOD, of the DoE, gave an excellent tribute to Prof. Francis. Prof. Witter titled his tribute, “Sonny was good, good man,” an adaptation of the title of Bob Marley’s song “Johnny was a good man.” Here’s an abridged version of Prof. Witter’s tribute.

Professor Alfred Francis, known collegially as Al, and affectionately to his students as “Prof”, served the Department of Economics, UWI, Mona for over four decades, during fifteen of which he was Head. Even though his service was broken by a memorable visit to Makerere College in Uganda for two years in the early 1970s and for nine years at the International Bauxite Association (IBA), Prof was always accessible to his colleagues in the Department and to his many students. Even after his retirement from UWI, Prof. Francis retained strong links with the Department of Economics through teaching and academic advising of colleagues and students.

As colleagues and students of Professor Al Francis, we were all very privileged, or as they say nowadays, “Blessed”. Prof inspired us to be intellectually honest, thorough, and to put our work in the service of the kind of economic development of Jamaica and the Caribbean, that included and benefitted the ordinary citizen. His intellectual honesty derived from his honesty in all the aspects of his life, for which he paid very high prices. There are many examples of Prof taking positions based on his integrity and honesty that put him in conflict with the leaders of the UWI and of several governments. Never did he flinch from speaking truth to power, with his disarming simplicity and respect for other human beings, rather than hold on to privileges and the trappings of power. He exemplified how one could be firm, without being abusive, honest without being self-righteous, and objective and still sensitive.

Prof was the intellectual’s intellectual – always in the search for truth, unadorned with the jargon of his discipline of economics – as well as a people’s scholar par excellence, in his pursuit of social justice. He was the leading econometrician in the Caribbean for the four or so decades of his active career. This is the most mathematical of the branches of economics. Many mediocre practitioners have sought to mystify others and to conceal their garbled analyses with mathematical symbolism that intimidates the non-specialist. Prof, on the other hand, was always able to present the most abstract of concepts and the most complex of analyses in simple language so that even the lay person could understand. Mark Figueroa recalls that “he was very committed to the creation of an indigenous scholarship which would have a practical and positive impact on the lives of ordinary people, and sought to provide the opportunity for his Caribbean colleagues to develop as contributors to this enterprise. In doing so, there were two sides which struck me regarding his approach. He was very rigorous in his thinking. He was also very generous in giving colleagues space to grow.”

It is almost a characteristic of brilliant scholars to be humble in their claims, to welcome constructive criticism, and to be willing to entertain differing points of view.

His colleagues and students all have their own examples of asking Prof simple questions, however convoluted, and getting a call from him in the next day or two with a detailed response that usually starts with rephrasing the question to what we really wanted to ask. Prof cared, and it was evident in the efforts he made to help anyone who sought his help. This characteristic, of taking the concerns of his colleagues and students seriously, and persisting in search of solutions or at least approaches to solutions, endeared him to us. He made us feel important.

I need to point out that his colleagues at the University included non-academic staff, such as administrative and maintenance staff, with whom he played cricket, whom he mentored along their career trajectories, whose causes he took up with their superiors, and whose children he helped in so many ways to advance academically and later in the workplace.

Recently, his wife, Hopie, recalled his habit of talking about his mistakes, his foul-ups, his embarrassing moments in making fun of himself instead of gloating on his many remarkable achievements. At the UWI, he was the first Jamaican professor of Economics, and head of the Department of Economics for 15 years, until he left to become director of economics and statistics for the International Bauxite Association based in Kingston. While at the UWI, he was an active member of WIGUT, the union for academics, and was known for taking positions on behalf of the lower ranks of staff, even at the risk of his own salary.

Almost all the practicing econometricians of the region in the last 4 decades have at some stage engaged with Prof. Francis as teacher, researcher or mentor. Much of Prof's academic research pertained to economic growth, and primarily the contribution of the bauxite/alumina sector to economic growth. He was an early contributor of economic models to be used for designing relevant growth strategies and projecting economic growth. He initiated the graduate programme in the Department of Economics. Prof, with his colleagues and students, did pioneering studies on crime and its impact on the economic development process. Claremont Kirton recalls that the work on crime showed him how rigorous and meticulous Prof was in his academic research, and that from the beginning of his academic career, Prof was the quintessential mentor after whom he modelled both his academic and personal life.

He was a close friend and colleague of another intellectual giant, the late Prof. George Beckford. In fact, he was the captain of the KC cricket team on which Beckford played. Beckford always related to him as his cricket captain, and the metaphor was extended to the rest of us who came from an age when the cricket captain was a position of the highest levels of competence, of honour, of responsibility, and leadership for causes greater than our selves. Prof was not only the Professor, he was the skipper, the mentor, the humble sage, and above all, the wonderful human being who epitomized integrity, wisdom and generosity in our professional lives, and beyond. Through Beckford, and Al's beloved Hopie, I was allowed the familiarity of calling him by his nickname, Sonny, which was a further privilege to me to be granted access to his inner circle.

Sonny was a good, good, good, good, good man. May his spirit continue to live in the generations to come, and guide them in their search for an inclusive economy and a just and decent society.

Scenes from the DoE's annual Christmas Party (Dec. 2015)



Department of Economics

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

MONA, KINGSTON 7, JAMAICA

TEL: (876) 977-1188

<https://www.mona.uwi.edu/economics/>