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A Promise Delivered!

The University of the West Indies Medical Alumni Association (UWIMAA) Canadian Chapter formally handed over the Hurricane Melissa Appeal Grants during a ceremony held on April 9, 2026. The handover followed an earlier announcement carried in ***FMS Newsletter Vol. 1 Issue 6***, where Dr. Peter Wong, President of UWIMAA, and Professor Upton Allen, alumnus and Head of the Division of Infectious Diseases at The Hospital for Sick Children, presented the donation to Professor Joseph Plummer, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences.



Professor Densil A. Williams, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal, Mona Campus; Dr. Donovan Stanberry, Campus Registrar; and Mr. Jonathan Archie, Deputy Campus Registrar, were in attendance in support of the initiative. Representing the Chapter, Professor Upton Allen brought greetings and reflected on the importance of the alumni response. He spoke of the urgency felt after members saw the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa, and the need to support students whose studies had been disrupted by circumstances beyond their control. A total of 26 students received grants through the initiative. The FMS remains deeply grateful for this generous outpouring of support.

RECOGNITION



Sheryl Garriques-Lloyd Appointed Sigma United Nations Liaison

The Faculty of Medical Sciences congratulates Mrs. Sheryl Garriques-Lloyd on her appointment as a Sigma United Nations Liaison, placing her within a global network of nurse leaders advancing health priorities at the international level. A lecturer at The UWI School of Nursing (UWISON) and former President of the Omega Kappa Chapter, her appointment reflects both individual accomplishment and the Faculty's broader impact in shaping nursing leadership. Mrs. Garriques-Lloyd now joins a cohort contributing to international dialogue and advocacy, with a focus on advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Q: What drew you to become involved with Sigma Theta Tau International?

A: **Sigma Theta Tau** is a global honor society of over 100,000 nurse leaders focused on advancing healthcare leadership, scholarship, and service. I was drawn to the honor society as a graduate student during a sharing session based on the three areas of leadership, scholarship and service. I was also drawn to their international reach and outstanding track record of delivering on their mission and vision. I could clearly see a global community of nurse leaders making impact and exemplifying nursing excellence.

Q: What does your appointment as Sigma United Nations Liaison mean to you, and how will it shape Omega Kappa's visibility?

A: I am honoured to serve Sigma as UN Liaison, achieving a goal set in 2022 alongside an esteemed group of global representatives. Having served as Omega Kappa's President and Regional Coordinator, I know this international role brings greater exposure to our chapter. As an active member, I remain dedicated to our strategic alignment with the SDGs and Sigma's call to action. However, we must now increase our efforts to share Omega Kappa's nursing excellence more visibly at UWI.

Q: How has the Omega Kappa (UWI Chapter of Sigma) extended the mission within the FMS?

A: Omega Kappa extends Sigma's mission by prioritizing all our groups, especially nursing students, and aligning chapter activities with regional health goals, the SDGs, and biennial calls to action. Within FMS, we purposefully partner with the student guild, other campuses, and departments like Dentistry. Key impact initiatives include our annual Mona Heights Primary Health Fair, International Coastal Cleanup, World Mental Health Week, and Founder's Day Blood Drive, alongside leveraging the Sigma network for faculty professional development workshops.

Q: What aspects of this global role are you most looking forward to?

A: Serving through 2028, I look forward to the personal and professional growth. I am excited about travelling to new places and having the opportunity to speak on behalf of Sigma members and nurses at UN meetings. While the work will be demanding, I am truly invested in learning, collaborating, and facilitating healthcare impact across the SDGs. I love practical applicability and look forward most to seeing action in motion, achieving tangible outcomes, and driving positive impact locally, regionally, and globally.

FACULTY LIFE

UWISON | The 35th Annual Nursing & Midwifery Research Conference and The 36th Mary J. Seiwright Day (Hybrid Edition)

12th Annual Syringa Marshall-Burnett Public Lecture

The 12th Annual Syringa Burnett-Marshall Public Lecture was held on May 27, 2026, officially opening the UWISON conference. Delivering the lecture was Dr. Jascinth Lindo, who emphasized the importance of strengthening research capacity in nursing, underscoring how scholarly output supports educational excellence and elevates the profession both locally and internationally.

Held in a hybrid format, online and in-person, the event drew approximately 120 participants. The audience included Dean Joseph Plummer, Dr. Jasneth Mullings, Acting FMS Deputy Dean (Research), and former UWISON heads Professor Hermi Hewitt and Dr. Dawn Munroe. Both the lecture series and the UWISON research centre are named in honour of Mrs. Syringa Marshall-Burnett, a trailblazing figure in nursing leadership and Jamaican nation-building. Her lifelong dedication to the profession forever elevated local medical education, notably through her successful advocacy for university-based nursing degree programmes at the UWI Mona campus.



From left: Dr. Jascinth Lindo, Dr. Shaulene Stanley, Dr. Desiree Diaz, Mrs. Sheryl Garriques-Lloyd and Dr. Cynthia Pitter, Head, UWI School of Nursing.

Conference Day 1

The 35th Annual Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference marked its first staging since the COVID-19 pandemic with a hybrid format, with Day 1 held online. Keynote speaker Dr. Desiree Diaz of Vanderbilt University delivered "Community: Cultural and Linguistic Concordance with Simulation Education: The Next Frontier," emphasizing the need for health professionals to move beyond basic interpretation to meaningful connection across language and social barriers to improve health outcomes. The day also featured student presentations and a session on immersive learning by guest speakers from MacEwan University.

Conference Day 2- Mary J. Seiwright Day

Day 2 featured Dr. Shaulene Stanley, no stranger to UWISON, who delivered an engaging presentation, challenging participants to think critically about the future of nursing education, emphasizing that competence extends beyond technical skill to include clinical judgment, adaptability, resilience, and wellbeing. Her presentation also called for more human-centred and supportive learning environments that prepare nurses to navigate uncertainty. The conference culminated in a simulation demonstration session conducted by Dr. Diaz, concluding a time well-spent demonstrating the importance of research in shaping the future of nursing.

Professor Hermi Hewitt Contributes Latest Work to FMS Museum



From left: Dean Joseph Plummer, Dr. Cynthia Pitter, Mrs. Andrea Norman-McPherson, Mrs. Carren Adams-Hepburn, Ms. Janel Goulbourne, Professor Hermi Hewitt, 4th year student Mr. Roan Hylton, Mr. Errol Hewitt, Dr. Donnette Wright, Dr. Jasneeth Mullings and Dr. Pauline Anderson-Johnson.

On April 30, 2026, the FMS Museum received a book donation from esteemed alumna Professor Hermi Hewitt, former Head and Director of The UWI School of Nursing, Mona. Her latest work, edited by our own Dr. Jasneeth Mullings, entitled "Excelsior Community College Nursing Education Programme: Vision to Reality," chronicles the inception of Excelsior's renowned nursing programme, which she previously led. Dean Plummer reminisced on the impact that Professor Hewitt made in his personal journey while on wards and celebrated her stellar academic contributions and urged continued impactful alumni engagement.

STUDENT LIFE

FMS Guild Committee Handover

The Faculty of Medical Sciences Guild Committee (FMSGC) officially transitioned to its newly elected leadership for the 2026/2027 academic year during its Handing Over and Awards Ceremony on Thursday, May 14, 2026. The event symbolically facilitated the transfer of power while celebrating outstanding service from the 2025/2026 executive body. Among the honourees was outgoing Mona Medical Student's Association (MMSA) President and FMSGC President-elect, Samantha Forbes, who received the Raven's Feather award for Department Representative of the Year.



Incoming FMS Guild Committee for the 2026/2027 academic year, with President-Elect Samantha Forbes (centre).



Did You Know?

The University of the West Indies School of Nursing (UWISON) is home to the Omega Kappa Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, the first and only chapter in the Caribbean. Since its establishment in 2019, the chapter has distinguished itself through sustained community outreach and collaborative initiatives. Its commitment to advancing nursing excellence has earned international recognition, receiving Sigma's Chapter Key Award at every biennial convention since its inception. The award is reserved for chapters that demonstrate exceptional achievement in leadership, scholarship, service, and overall chapter development.



SUPPORT & CONNECT

Support Our Major Initiatives

J\$100 MILLION RESEARCH SUPPORT FUND

The FMS aims to establish a dedicated J\$100 million research fund to strengthen and expand the Faculty's research capacity and output.

THE FMS SIMULATION CENTRE

A Simulation Centre will be established to advance teaching and experiential learning using cutting-edge technology across all seven programmes.

WISHLIST

- Anatomage Table
- Plastination Models



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HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

We welcome submissions highlighting faculty achievements, initiatives, research, awards, and events of relevance to the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

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