Harnessing Our Human Capital

Development of human capital is one of the key drivers of economic growth. Increased access to a university education is, therefore, a development priority.
GROWING STUDENT NUMBERS

Registration numbers

In academic year 2016/17, the Mona Campus offered places to some 72% of all applicants to the institution. Actual registration numbers indicate a 3% increase over the previous year to reach an impressive 12% cumulative increase over the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan period. Disabled students account for 1% of the 2016/17 student registration but, notably, a 56% increase since the start of the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan period.

It is noteworthy also that, in an institution where the male/female student ratio is currently 31:69, male registration in the Faculty of Science and Technology is 45%. The Faculty attributes the growth in male undergraduate registration not only to the variety of courses that are offered, but also the quality of the academic counselling, information and the general assistance that academic and administrative staff members provide incoming students and their parents or guardians.

In the Faculty of Humanities and Education which saw steady decline in registration over the Strategic Plan period, the modest growth in registration over the 2016/17 academic year was as a direct result of the introduction of programmes that are aligned to growth industries in Jamaica, such as Animation and Film, and which have a large appeal among male students.

Not to be overlooked among the general registration numbers are those specially admitted students, some 201 in the reporting year, who are
pursuing academic programmes required for their professional advancement. In the current academic year, some 1,000 police recruits will join the 2017/18 registrants, as orchestrated through a MOU between The UWI and the Ministry of National Security facilitating the training of 3,000 police recruits over three years to strengthen the capacity of the nation’s police force that is currently operating at 70% of its strength.

Graduate student registration

Not near the numbers of graduate students required to satisfy the country’s growth agenda, graduate student registration remained static (3350) in the reporting year. The Office of Graduate Studies and Research (OGSR) continued to review, revise and introduce new programmes to attract larger numbers of students, while pursuing other initiatives to strengthen the graduate studies experience. The heightened recruitment initiatives realised a 25% increase in the number of offers made and a 133% increase in the number of students who accepted their offers by the early bird deadline of March 31. At the end of the 2015/16 academic year, there was a 13% increase in the number of offers dispatched and a 28% increase in the number of candidates who accepted the offer of entry when compared to the same period in the previous year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanities &amp; Education</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
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<td>Medical Sciences</td>
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<td>92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science &amp; Technology</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
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<td>550</td>
<td>591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>768</td>
<td>784</td>
<td>842</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is noteworthy also that, in an institution where the male/female student ratio is currently 31:69, male registration in the faculty of science and technology is 45%.
The Graduate Students Special Envoy (GSSE), a special initiative introduced in the preceding year, that engages graduate students’ participation as active members of the OGSR’s outreach team, seeks to create a rich and supportive community for current and prospective graduate students, with a view to stimulating a marked increase in graduate student enrolment and retention.

Enrolment in research degrees increased marginally. The Faculty of Science and Technology dominates the other Faculties in the number of research graduate students, with a 52% enrolment.

Supporting students financially

Some 40% of students who are offered places at the Mona Campus do not take up these places. What accounts for this? Certainly, the competition from overseas and other local universities is a major determining factor; the other is prospective students’ inability to pay for their tuition. The Campus, in collaboration with its private sector and other funding partners, provided some $1.6 billion in financial aid through scholarships, bursaries, book and meal grants to students during the year.

The Office of Student Financing (OSF) used the Campus’s internal electronic communications platforms, including multi-media boards in all Faculties and most student areas, to market the various opportunities for financial aid. As a result, the number of applications for scholarships, bursaries and general financial assistance increased significantly in the reporting year. Some $903m was administered for scholarships and bursaries. Of this amount, $680m was funded by the university, and the rest, local, regional and international donors.
During the year, the OSF inaugurated its Financing Day on which donors set up booths to share information about the availability of scholarships, bursaries and other financial aid programmes, thereby heightening donors’ visibility and strengthening the Campus’s relationship with them. The University Centre increased the amount for scholarships by 37%, enabling 42 research scholarships to high-performing postgraduate students, two-thirds of whom were in the Faculty of Science and Technology. Taught masters students are supported by scholarships from JMMB, Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility, Arthur Brown Memorial, Thomas De La Rue, and UWI 12 + 2.

Notably, through the instrumentality of The Caribbean School of Mass Communications (CARIMAC), The UWI signed a MOU with Cricket West Indies to provide student scholarships to be named in honour of five stalwarts: Tony Becca, Joseph ‘Reds’ Perreira, Headley ‘Delmar’ Samuels, the late Tony Cozier, and the late Roy Lawrence who have made significant contributions to the sport of cricket through journalism, commentary, broadcast media and photography. The University of the West Indies Development Fund (UWIDEF) provided over $5m in support of scholarships and bursaries for study in the areas of business and management, journalism, governance, law, entrepreneurship, political science, nursing, dentistry, medicine, surgery, foreign languages, accounting, civil engineering, computer science and information technology. They also donated $450,000 to the UWI Food Grant Programme for students in need.

Individual Faculties and other departments provided financial assistance to students in their respective units. The Faculty of Humanities and Education, for example, organised a number of fundraising activities to boost its “Benefit Fund” for students, established in September 2015. The Business Development Office (BDO) sourced scholarships and other contributions to student development, amounting to $1.3m. The Faculty of Law sanctioned the award of the Mona Law Bursaries.
valued at approximately $29m. Approximately 81 students benefitted from this initiative. The Faculty continued to work closely with the executive body of the Mona Law Society (Law Faculty students’ association) to effect changes in the best interest of the students and to ensure the best opportunity is created to produce well-rounded graduates. From this partnership, a breakfast programme was implemented; funds were raised for a needy student fund through various initiatives such as an OpenEar Concert, the hosting of a drama production by Mr and Ms Law 2016, and other activities.

To encourage registration in the relatively new Mona School of Engineering, very needy students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements are offered an engineering bursary in the range of J$200,000 to J$400,000 annually. The recipients can be at any level in the programme but must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 to continue the bursary. The first cohort of Jamaican students entering the preliminary engineering programme (introduced in the 2016/17 academic year) were each awarded a US$5,000 bursary (50% of total cost) toward tuition fees.

An analysis of the 2016/17 academic results for undergraduate students on awards (scholarships, bursaries, etc.) indicates that over 63% of these students graduated at the top of their class.

ORIENTING STUDENTS TO THE UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

Orientation

Satisfying matriculation requirements is only one of the critical criteria that assure students’ successful traversing of their university experience. Their preparation through a comprehensive and well-structured orientation process is another. This allows them to not only manoeuvre their journey through the many academic and co-curricula activities, but also serves to engender long-term commitment to the academy. The 2016 orientation exercises were planned and executed with these ends in mind, taking place at the Campus, Faculty and individual unit levels for local and international students and their parents or guardians.

The general orientation activities familiarised new undergraduate and
postgraduate students with the physical campus, the development programmes and co-curricula activities that are available, and the faculty and staff of the Campus. Students participated in sessions focussing on learning, the registration process, health, staying focused while at university, security and safety, planning for career success, stress management, personal development, managing finances, and sports in the academy. During campus tours, they were introduced to the Faculties, Health Centre, the Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts, the Students’ Union, the Main Library, the Chapel, and the University Bookshop.

“Connected families: Cultivating relationships for continued student support” was the theme of the special session hosted for parents, guardians and spouses, where matters relating to student transition to university life, academics, financing, and opportunities for financing were discussed. The “Orientation Village” saw some 4,000 students over the two-day
period browsing displays to learn about student services and to interact with the staff who deliver these services. Approximately 85 internal and external entities occupied booth spaces within the village. Forty-four percent (44%) represented student clubs and societies, and another 42%, departments on Campus that provide key services and resources for students. The external entities comprised sponsors and other enterprises that provide critical services to the student population.

Apart from the general orientation exercises, individual units also conducted sessions to introduce students to their many services. Notably, the Library, in partnership with the Foundation course, FOUN1014: Critical Reading and Writing in the Sciences, hosted the UWIlinC training sessions in September 2016 and January 2017, attracting more than 1,000 students, and the library significantly increased the number of Information Literacy training sessions.

The First Year Experience Programme

The First Year Experience Programme (FYE) for 2016/17 was delivered under the theme, A Hero’s Journey. It involved the first-year students in a series of intentional experiences which encourage them to grow, change and then impact their space. The hero’s journey acknowledges the influence of a mentor (facilitator) and the encountering of challenges/tests which the students, by building their capacity, will overcome.

The objectives guiding the 2016/17 programme were to:

• build relations between students and members of the academic and non-academic staff
• encourage students to think critically and analytically
• guide students in taking responsibility for their learning
• assist students in clarifying their academic and career goals
• assist students in having a better understanding of The University and how they are expected to function in it
• increase awareness among students about available resources and services so that they can better navigate the campus
• help students to build friendships; and
• aid students in developing as responsible citizens.

FYE participants took part in cultural, social, service and personal development experiences which took them beyond the classroom.
PROVIDING WORLD CLASS TEACHING AND LEARNING

Academic programme renewal and strengthening

Committed to harnessing our human capital for economic development, the Campus focussed its continuous curriculum review and reform in support of the developing sectors within the economy. Not least among these developing sectors is that of Sports. In recent years, the Campus has been expanding its sports academic programmes which, in the current academic year, are coordinated within the newly designated Faculty of Sport.

Dr Akshai Mansingh was appointed Dean of the newly created Faculty – a University Faculty comprising four academies of Sport, one on each of the four campuses. The Faculty will offer certificate, bachelor and master’s degrees in Sports Business, Sports Management, Sports Science and the Art and Science of Coaching. Through this Faculty, The UWI expects to enhance the sporting excellence which characterises the Caribbean nations, and to build upon its reputation to become an internationally recognised teaching, research and training centre in sport and sports-related disciplines.

Acknowledging that a critical mass of engineers is required to grow any economy, and the government’s expressed interest in increasing the number of engineers in the country, the Campus renewed its focus on engineering. There were some 1,200 applications for engineering programmes for the 2017/18 academic year. The Mona School of
Engineering (MSE) was granted approval to offer the BSc Biomedical Engineering Programme and the MPhil and PhD degrees in Electronics and Computer Systems Engineering, Electrical Power Engineering, and Civil Engineering. To enable more students to access engineering programmes, MSE rolled out its preliminary engineering programme which will serve as a qualifying year for students seeking to access the BSc programmes in Civil, Computer Systems, Software, Electrical Power, Electronic Systems and Biomedical Engineering. Much like enrolment into any engineering programme at Mona, each student registering for the preliminary programme will receive a new Kindle Fire tablet, fully loaded with all the required textbooks.

MSE intends to launch its first shared engineering project design with Binghamton University where four Mona final-year electronics and computer systems engineering students will work with four of their final-year electronics and computer engineering students on two capstone projects. Discussions are also ongoing regarding the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) proposal for partnership with MSE for teaching, research and student and staff exchanges. In the current academic year ABET, a leading global engineering accrediting body with direct oversight of the Washington Accord, will be making a site visit to assess MSE’s BSc Electronics Engineering programme.

To supply demand for other growth industries, four new undergraduate programmes were rolled out in the Faculty of Humanities and Education (FHE) - the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree (BFA) in Animation, BA in Information Studies, BA in Librarianship, and the BA in Cultural and Creative Industries. Mona School of Business and Management (MSBM) rolled out five new Masters programmes: MSc in Services and Retail Management, MSc in Corporate Finance, MSc in Procurement Management, and MSc in Marketing and Data Analytics and Logistics and Supply Chain Management, thereby increasing its suite of relevant and solution-oriented business education in the Caribbean. Logistics and Supply Chain Management is in direct response to Jamaica’s positioning of itself as the premier logistics node within the Americas.
A ceremony to mark the re-designation of CARIMAC as the **Caribbean School of Media and Communication** took place on Thursday, June 22, 2017. UWI leaders, local and regional partners, former CARIMAC students, part- and full-time lecturers, current students and parents, media and communication industry leaders and members of the general public participated.

The Office of Graduate Studies & Research (OGSR) undertook a successful review of Taught Masters requirements over the 2012–17 Strategic Plan Period, and approved the implementation of the MA in Archives and Records Management, and the LLM, MPhil and PhD degrees in the Faculty of Law. The Faculty of Social Sciences introduced the PhD in Economics. OGSR further revised and modified several programmes, including the MSc Computer Science, MSc in Development Studies, MSc Computer Based Management Information System, MA Literatures in English and MEd in Curriculum Development.
Co-curricula programming for development of “soft skills”

As higher education’s vanguard institution in the region, The UWI graduates must be able to stand above the shoulders of their peers by demonstrating the ability to turn the knowledge and skills they have into unique gains for their employers and the industry. Our Faculties and the Office of Student Services and Development (OSSD) oversee a plethora of co-curricula programmes and opportunities for students’ affective learning and development in various areas, including leadership, mentorship, cultural and foreign language immersion exchanges and sports. In addition, the OSSD through its departments and the halls of residence gives oversight to more than 60 clubs and societies that facilitate co-curricula participation.

The Office also continued to manage the programme that offers credits for structured co-curricula activities with measurable learning outcomes. In this programme, students may elect to register for a co-curricula course in netball, cricket, track and field, leadership, debating, steel orchestra, or photography (camera club) where they may acquire three (3) credits towards the 90 credits required to graduate.
Sports development

The Sports department of the OSSD continued to facilitate the development of our student athletes and to deliver student recreational activities. The department provided a higher education experience for over 128 student athletes who were awarded sports scholarships to pursue their academic careers.

Fedrick Dacres, one of our sports scholarship awardees, kept our torch ablaze by becoming the first Jamaica thrower to win at an IAAF Diamond league when he won the IAAF Diamond League (Discus) in Stockholm with a throw of 68.36m. In addition, the Mona Campus won a shield and several medals at the Penn Relays. Our athletes also performed creditably in national sporting competitions, and won the 2017 UWI Games held in Barbados, making it Mona’s third consecutive win since academic year 2014/15.

Fedrick Dacres
Preparing students

The Office of Placement and Career Services, a department of the OSSD, prepares students to market their skills on the local and global job markets. Its Career Awareness Month, with its Career Exposition and Job Fair, provides opportunities for students to showcase their skills to prospective public- and private-sector employers, while exhibiting and honing the professional and social skills required in the world of work. Through this medium, students gain useful perspectives on professional self-presentation for today’s marketplace, and practise soft skills considered valuable in corporate circles. As in former years, activities included portfolio preparation and presentation, curriculum vitae and resume writing, formal dining, and occasion-appropriate attire.

In association with Placement and Career Services, CARIMAC, during its annual Open Week, also hosted a seminar and job fair for its final year undergraduate students, and exhibited their productions. The speaker line-up showcased professional excellence from a range of sectors relevant to CARIMAC’s graduating students.

Faculties also continued to provide students with internship opportunities to better prepare them to adapt to new physical and technical environments upon graduation. In the reporting year, the Department of Physics received approval to introduce the course Physics, in Practice Internship (PHYS3400) at the start of the 2017/18 academic year. This internship course, comprising workshop sessions and placement with a company over a six-week period during the summer semester, will enable the students to become involved in the operations of companies whose core functions relate to the students’ field of study.

**THROUGH THIS MEDIUM, STUDENTS GAIN USEFUL PERSPECTIVES ON PROFESSIONAL SELF-PRESENTATION FOR TODAY’S MARKETPLACE, AND PRACTISE SOFT SKILLS CONSIDERED VALUABLE IN CORPORATE CIRCLES**
for the world of work
World class academic and support staff

The UWI’s reputation as the leading tertiary education institution in the English-speaking Caribbean is, in part, built on the quality of its teaching delivery. Committed to providing a world-class education for the region’s future leaders, the Mona Campus engages highly qualified academic staff, supported by competent professional administrative and support personnel.

With a faculty/student ratio of 1 to 26, and faculty trained at the highest levels, the Campus prioritises continuous professional upgrading of its employees. Lecturers are encouraged to update their teaching delivery capabilities through the periodic workshops organised by the Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) and, during the reporting year, some faculty members successfully completed its postgraduate certificate in University Teaching and Learning.

At the individual Faculty levels, training seminars were held for tutors and lecturers and, at the start of the year, the Human Resources Management Division organised training sessions for incoming heads of department. These sessions were designed to acquaint heads with some of the basic administrative procedures and processes, including their prescribed roles, duties and responsibilities within the university.
All levels of staff – faculty, administrative and service – attended various specialist conferences and development workshops. Over the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan period, the Campus completed a series of development programmes to improve leadership across the Campus. We made significant advances in the process of overhauling the Performance Management System, and put forward comprehensive proposals for four major components of a Total Rewards Strategy for staff (including a proposal for Child Day Care).

The rigour with which the Campus selects and grooms its faculty and staff not only ensures quality education for our students, but also unparalleled contribution to the many local and international organisations and boards where our staff serve as chairs or members, and recognition by international academic/professional bodies of the highest standards.
Mona’s students continue to excel in all their enterprises on the local and global stage, be it in academics, entrepreneurship, sports or the creative industries. A few of them are highlighted here.

**UWIMona Robotics Team Excels in International Competition**

Members of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) UWIMona Student Branch made UWIMona and Jamaica proud in the IEEE Southeastern Conference 2017 hosted in Charlotte, North Carolina from March 31st to April 2nd, 2017. Jason Brown won the coveted Best Paper award from a pool of 1000 applicants (placed first in the Technical Paper Competition – a first for a Jamaican university) and the Robotics Team placed 13th out of 41 universities in the hardware contest. The participants included about 50 universities from the southeastern states in the USA, with UWIMona and UTech from Jamaica as the only foreign universities.

**UWIMona Robotics Team Excels in International Competition**

Team members: Yekini Wallen-Bryan – team captain; Paulo Williams, Richard Harris, Aisha Robinson, Khalid Sharpe, Sean McBean, Jason Brown, Locksley Murray, Kriston Kong and Dane Miller. Mr Lindon Falconer was the lecturer/team advisor.

**Aisha Robinson**, a final year electronics engineering student, was selected as one of four finalists for the Society of Light and Lighting’s (SLL) Young Lighter of the year award. Her paper, titled “A Visible Light Communication Scheme for Use as Accent Lighting” was presented at the Lux Live exhibition held at the London ExCel Centre, UK on 23-24 November 2016. The paper explored the potential for using the visible light from accent lighting fixtures, instead of radio frequency, to deliver information to visitors’ mobile phones. It emphasised the design constraints for the lighting fixtures to be used.

**Joy Odusanya**, BScN student was named Student Nurse of the Year, 2017.

**Shakeba Foster**, a MSc Economics student was the 2017 Jamaica Rhodes Scholar.
Scores of Mona students take entrepreneurship courses, run successful start-ups and market their products. The UWI has also been tailoring courses to meet the changing needs of society, and implementing various initiatives to help students and staff on the road to entrepreneurship.

Twenty year-old Dexter Mears, pursuing a law degree, operates Mears Media, a marketing and communications company that offers trendy marketing and business solutions.

Twenty-three year-old medical student, Ejay Charles “Dr Breadman”, learnt to bake, fry and roast bread from an early age. To help pay his university fees he put his skill to work. Upon graduation from Med School he plans to practise medicine and also “accomplish some of the bigger entrepreneurial ventures” he has written down in his “Ideas for Life” diary.

A second-year political science major who plans to pursue law, Khadije Swaby started her lash fusion business to allow her more financial independence as a student. In the future, she plans to provide employment through expansion of her business, and to establish her own law firm.

Yekini Wallen-Bryan, CEO and MD of Preelabs Ltd, produced a technological device called Power Pree which allows users to control and monitor their electrical appliances from anywhere in the world from their smart phones or computers. Product officially launched on the local market in mid 2017.

Laika Blake, owner of Laconic Cultural Work and Travel Limited, provides “expert, dynamic and satisfactory cultural, travel and work solutions” for students at the tertiary level.

Julian Johnson, fist year student in BSc Marketing programme, owns an online apparel business, Trublu Clothing.

Keno Thomas, founder of the Entrepreneur Builder Club. The club encourages students to explore options outside of the traditional job market in order to become economically independent. Keno hopes to launch his Caribbean Digital Restaurant in 2017/18.

Kristofferson Nunes started University and College Ambassadors Youth Marketing (UCA) to bridge the gap between companies offering internships ln volunteering and ambassadorial opportunities and students needing valuable work experience and personal development.
Graduates (2017) of the
THREE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED AND NINETY-EIGHT (3,398) STUDENTS MARCHED PROUDLY AT ONE OF THE FOUR CEREMONIES IN THE GRADUATION TENT ON NOVEMBER 3 AND 4, 2017 TO JOIN THE REGION’S ENTREPRENEURS, ENGINEERS, MEDIA PROFESSIONALS, SCIENTISTS, LAWYERS AND OTHER TRAINED PROFESSIONALS. SOME 67% OF DISABLED STUDENTS RECEIVED HONOURS DEGREES, AND SENATOR FLOYD MORRIS, BECAME THE FIRST DISABLED PHD GRADUATE.