



# towards a learning institution



- A. Technological Enhancement**
- B. Focus on Student Learning**
- C. Academic Staff Recruitment and Development**
- D. Enhanced Learning Environment**



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**A. Technological Enhancement**

Over the course of the 2001/2002 academic year, the Mona Campus strengthened its capabilities in the area of Information Technology with the acquisition of additional computer hardware and software, as well as with the mounting of training programmes for staff and students. Much of the hardware acquired went towards transforming classrooms into virtual learning centres. To that end, all four of the faculties had multimedia systems installed to support teaching, learning and connection to the internet. In addition, lighting modifications were made to support the operations of these facilities.

As part of its thrust for greater access to cutting edge developments in technology by the university community, the Campus entered into an agreement with the IBM World Trade Corporation which should allow faculty and students to participate in their **IBM Scholars Programme**. The Programme offers free access by participating universities to IBM software

such as BD2 Universal Database, Websphere Application Server, MQSeries, VisualAge for Java and Lotus Domino for instructional, learning and non-commercial research. Limited access to products for OS/400, OS/390 and other environments is also available, and additional products are to be made available over time.

In another attempt to incorporate technological solutions into the learning environment, the university purchased a licence for the software product, Web Course Tools (WebCT). The software should provide a secure web-based learning environment for the development and delivery of courses.

The acquisition of software packages was not limited to academic applications but also was intended to make administrative processes more efficient. One such application was the **Banner Students** system which will facilitate web enquiry for students, staff and alumni. The **Campus Pipeline** system was another acquisition to enable through electronic means, convenient communication between students, academics, staff and on-campus organisations. It has interesting features such as event broadcasting to the entire campus, person to person messaging and electronic notice board facilities.

There was a growing awareness that the campus would not realise the full potential of its significant investment in information technology without a strong **training** programme for the intended users. Consequently, training sessions in the use of information technology in administrative processes, student learning, research and as teaching aids, were held in all faculties and units on the campus. One such event was a training session held by the Medical Sciences faculty in association with Mona Information and Technology Services (MITS) on the use of computers in creating an interactive learning environment. Other interesting training events for academics included an e-learning workshop for Department Heads and Deans with emphasis on Web Design. There was also a Demonstration



*New computers in the Overnight Reading Room in the Main Library*



*Information Literacy Training Session in the Training Room, Main Library*



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workshop to familiarise departments with the use of electronic mark sheets for graduate programmes. Some 300 faculty members were trained by InterCom to use the multi-media technology as a teaching resource in the newly refurbished lecture theatres.

Based on the successful experiences in the last academic year with the automation of the administrative processes involving the registration of new and returning students in on-campus undergraduate programmes, the programme was expanded in 2001/2002 to include graduate students.

**B. Focus on Student Learning**

***Upgrading of Libraries***

The 2001/2002 academic year witnessed substantial improvement in physical facilities as well as the acquisition of computer hardware and software that enabled the library to better serve the needs of the university community. Significant developments at the various branches of the campus library included the establishment of a new postgraduate reading room in the Main Library and also an audio-visual room, that is, the new Multimedia facility. These additions are expected to promote and encourage the use of library materials in the teaching/learning process. A study area equipped with workstations was created to provide equal access to the internet for the visually impaired.

The library's network infrastructure was upgraded for faster connectivity with the installation of 100 additional networked stations. The library also took steps to establish the Virtual Health Library, the product of a collaborative arrangement between the Ministry of Health, PAHO/Jamaica, CFNI and the UWI.

There was also improvement in the management of inter-library lending processes, which had the effect of reducing the time taken for electronic transfer of requests and document delivery from an average of 2-3 weeks to 1-2 days. The Library started the process of digitising the Reserved Book Collection (RBC)

material for wider online accessibility. In the same vein, many examination past papers were made available online through the library's web page.

A collaborative effort between the Liaison Librarians and faculty members in all the departments resulted in accession of over 8,000 volumes (that is, 4,826 new titles) of print material. This was in addition to over 230 items in audio-visual and digitised format. With acquisition of these various types of material, there was a 70% increase in volumes accessioned over the previous year.

Three additional scholarly databases were made available to the academic community, which consisted of:

1. CINHALL, a specialized database for the Nursing Education Programme;
2. FTSA, a database of Food Science Technology for the Chemistry Department; and



***Postgraduate Reading Room in the Main Library***



***The UWI Main Library***



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- 3. Business Source Premier (in collaboration with the Mona School of Business), a full-text database of over 2,800 scholarly business journals.

In addition, the "Academic Search Elite", a major multi-disciplinary database was upgraded to the "Academic Search Premier", thus providing full-text access to approximately 3,500 scholarly publications.

As a result of increased interaction with faculty, the Library organised training sessions in Information Literacy for students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The Library also reached out to new students by holding interactive sessions with over 500 full-time students and over 300 part-time students. There were also 40 hour-long library orientation tours for the new students.

Efforts to serve the needs of the university community were not only limited to persons on the campus but also included those at off-campus sites. Increased visits to UWIDEC sites by the Mona Library staff ensured that UWIDEC staff, local tutors, and students were better informed about the wide array of available library services and in particular, electronic resources. Training was also given on the access and use of the resources.

**Academic Programme Development**

With significant developments in the tertiary level sectors across the world, the Mona Campus sought to tailor its academic programmes to produce graduates that function more effectively in a changed environment. Many curriculum reviews were carried out across the various academic departments which resulted in the approval of 111 new courses by the Academic Quality Assurance Committee in the 2001/2002 academic year.

**Undergraduate Programmes**

In the Faculty of Humanities and Education, a new minor in Cultural Studies was introduced and 24 new undergraduate courses approved. A collaborative effort with the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences resulted in a joint offering of a Bachelors degree in Science, Media and Communications. The major highlight was the commencement of the J\$500m ten-year contract with the Ministry of Education and Culture to produce and deliver a B.Ed. degree by distance and summer modes to some 3,000 secondary school teachers in ten different disciplines.



*Students using equipment in the New Audio-visual Room, Main Library*

*Visually impaired student being trained to use the Job Access with Speech (JAWS) software*



*Job Access with Speech software for visually impaired students*



*The Virtual Health Library accessed from the Library's webpage*



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The delivery of programmes in the Faculty of Humanities and Education received a boost with the addition of two 50-seat classrooms and a Computer Writing Centre for self-instruction.

In the *Faculty of Medical Sciences*, one of the significant developments was the introduction of a **Bachelor in Medical Sciences (B.Med.Sci.)** programme for medical students who complete Stage I courses at the end of the third year. The **B.Sc. degree in Physical Therapy** was also introduced. In addition, approval was granted by the University for the generic Bachelor of Sciences degree in Nursing. The restructuring of the curriculum in 2001 led to the elimination of Stage I examinations in the MBBS programme and its replacement with a system of ongoing assessments in each semester.

As part of its efforts to revise its undergraduate curriculum, the Faculty of Medical Sciences established a centralised system to monitor the progress of its students. The **Student Tracking Project (STP)** should be able to provide accurate, detailed and up-to-date information on student performance (academic and non-academic) which will inform the new curriculum and identify the modifications required for advancement.

In the *Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences*, a new undergraduate major was offered by the Department of Life Sciences in **Experimental Biology**. Many new courses were introduced such as **Biometry, Evolutionary Biology, Plant Health, and Biological Oceanography**. Two new summer school courses were also introduced, namely: **Diving Technology for Aquatic Scientists and Field Course in Tropical Marine Invertebrate Biology**.

In the *Faculty of Social Sciences*, approval was granted for the introduction of new courses, most of which will be offered by the Department of Management Studies and the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work, and include:

- \* **Entrepreneurship and New Venture Creation**
- \* **Monitoring and Evaluation of**

## Social Programmes

- \* **Applied Social Work**
- \* **Health, Society and Human Services**
- \* **Human Behaviour: Person in Environmental Perspective**

These courses constitute parts of the new programmes in Banking and Finance, Marketing, Operations, and Human Resources in addition to a new minor in Anthropology.

Recognising the need for an expanded programme of law, the *Faculty of Law* began offering a new **LLM Programme** at the Mona Campus.

## Postgraduate Programmes

In the *Faculty of Humanities and Education*, there was the commencement of the online **Masters programme in Education**, which offered specialised degrees in Educational Administration and Teacher Education. The collaboration with the University of Alberta continued with the joint **MPhil/PhD programme in Education**. In addition, forty-nine persons registered for the Diploma in Education Programme, which was offered for the first time as a postgraduate programme.

The *Faculty of Medical Sciences* launched two postgraduate programmes and both were delivered by the distance mode. The **MSc in Family Medicine** was offered by the Department of Community Health and Psychiatry, the first year of the programme being available only to persons based in Jamaica. The **MSc in Counselling** began in January 2002 and was offered to participants across the Caribbean. Approval had been granted by the University for both a Masters degree in Nursing, that is, the **M.Sc. (Family Nurse Practitioner, Mental Health Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, and Clinical Nursing)** and also a **PhD programme in Clinical Psychology**.

The *Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences* launched a new MSc in the **Biological Approaches in Ecosystem Management**. It should promote



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relevant research and applied training in Environmental Biology. Within the Faculty, the Mona Institute of Applied Sciences (MIAS) has been working on consolidating its administrative structure as well as developing collaborative arrangements with various institutions.

The Faculty of Social Sciences launched new graduate degree programmes, among them the **MSc in Clinical Psychology**. The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) introduced three new Masters programmes in **Governance, Social Policy and Economic Development Policy** in addition to MPhil and PhD programmes.

The faculty also completed its first year of the new programme in **Development Studies**. The programme has three concentrations - **Governance and Public Policy, Social Policy and Economic Development Policy**.

Approval was granted for an **MSc degree in Demography** as well as an Executive Masters in Business Administration (EMBA) with a specialization in Management Information Systems. The EMBA will be open to students who have completed a B.Sc. degree with a major in Management Studies. Efforts were made to redesign the Masters programme in Public Sector Management which should allow for articulation with the Senior Public Services Executive Programme offered by the Management Institute for National Development (MIND).

The Mona School of Business (MSB) has also been collaborating with the School of Business at the sister Campuses, the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD) and the Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra in the Dominican Republic, to develop a **regional executive development programme for public sector managers**.

The MSB also developed and delivered a **Regional Executive Development Programme for Senior Managers in the Trinidad Cement Limited Group of**

**Companies** in collaboration with its sister institutes at the St. Augustine and Cave Hill Campuses. Similar programmes were also designed and delivered for the Carreras Group of Companies and the National Housing Trust in Jamaica.

**C. Academic Staff Recruitment and Development**

The campus continued in its efforts to recruit faculty and staff of the highest calibre. Some of those include:

- Dr. Jasminko Karanjac who took up duties in April 2002 as Professor of **Water Resources Management**. The new Chair is endowed by grants from Alumina Partners of Jamaica (ALPART), JAMALCO, Kaiser Jamaica Bauxite Company and the Jamaica Bauxite Institute.
- Professor Kit Wesler, a Visiting Fulbright in **Heritage Studies and Archaeology**.
- Professor Mervyn Curtis who took up duties in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department as Professor of **Computer Science**. He has been involved with setting up a research group and a laboratory to carry out work in the field of *virtual reality* with the specific aim of improving the performance of the West Indies cricketers.
- Dr. Nikolai Dokuchaev who also joined the Mathematics and Computer Science Department as a lecturer in Mathematics. His research focus is in the area of **Financial Mathematics**.
- Dr. Fritz Guldner was appointed to the Department of Basic Medical Sciences as the Professor of **Anatomy**. He has considerable experience in electron microscopy.
- Dr. Erna Brodber came to the Campus as visiting Lecturer in **Creative Writing**.
- Dr. Rupika Delgoda who joined the Natural Products Institute as a Senior Scientist. She went on to win the "Best Poster" award at the Second International Symposium on Natural Products which was held at the National University of Singapore.



Professor Mervyn Curtis



Dr. Rupika Delgoda



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The Instructional Development Unit (IDU) delivered a number of training sessions to assist in the development of pedagogical skills such as a 5-module programme in Course Design offered in Semesters I and II. The IDU also organised and delivered training programmes in response to requests from various departments seeking to satisfy particular teaching and learning needs. One such example was the 3-day workshop on "Basic Teaching Skills" held for teaching assistants and tutors in the Department of Economics and Sociology.

Eight staff members of the Department of Educational Studies also participated in the International Conference on Problems and Prospects of Education in Developing Countries held in Barbados between March 25 and 29, 2002

D. Enhanced Learning Environment

The Mona Campus continued its efforts to create an environment conducive to learning. With the recognition that students learn best when their basic needs have been addressed, the campus carried out many programmes and projects to bring about improvements mainly in the areas of student housing, transportation, health care

facilities, security, financial aid packages as well as in the physical infrastructure.

The new 800-room hall of residence was formally opened on September 4, 2002. Named after current Vice Chancellor, Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford, Nettleford Hall, the new hall of residence consists of eight three-storey clusters, with each cluster enclosing a central quadrangle. Each cluster consists of twelve households, and each household in turn consists of eight single rooms, a bathroom, dining, living and kitchen facilities. Each cluster also has studio accommodation for two Resident Advisors. A Student Manager's house and central facilities - offices, recreation room, computer room, meeting area and laundry facilities complete the complex.

The Campus is particularly proud of this new addition to its physical plant, as it represents not only the collaborative work between the UWI and the private and public sectors, but it is also a lasting legacy for future generations of UWI students.

Work was carried out at the various Halls of Residence to improve the quality of life



Plaque noting the Official Opening of the Rex Nettleford Hall

His Excellency the Most Hon. P. J. Patterson, Prime Minister of Jamaica, cuts the ribbon at the Official Opening of the Rex Nettleford Hall. Observing (l-r) The Hon. Burchell Whiteman, Minister of Education; Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford, Vice Chancellor; Professor Elsa Leo-Rhynie, Deputy Principal; and Sir Shridath Ramphal, Chancellor



Persons in attendance at the official opening of the Rex Nettleford Hall



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experienced by students living on the campus. This included the electrical upgrade at the Mary Seacole Hall, the installation of air-conditioning units and computer workstations in Computer Rooms in the Traditional Halls, as well as the furnishing of their study rooms. The Chancellor Hall Dining Room was also upgraded to include a Students' Lounge area.

Cognisant of the need for students to have a hub for activities that deepen and enrich student life, work was done to upgrade the **Student Union**. The upgraded complex contains rooms for clubs and societies, a relocated Pan-O-Ridim room with appropriate acoustics, an upgraded head quarters for the Photography Club, an extended weight room, refurbished badminton courts, a stage for concerts and additional male and female bathrooms. Included also, is a furnished flat for the Guild President and a studio for the CEAC. Provision has also been made for the creation of a "business district" within the Union to accommodate commercial

entities. Work was completed in time for the Union to serve as an administration centre for the World Junior Games held in July 2002.

These improvement efforts were complemented by the upgrading of **sports facilities** on the campus. With a new cricket field pavilion and spectator stands, the cricket grounds was renamed in honour of Sir Frank Worrell, and provided the ideal location for the annual cricket match between the Vice Chancellor's XI and the visiting New Zealand Cricket team. Likewise, the upgraded sports facilities at the Mona Bowl accommodated 1,200 visitors for some of the events of the World Junior Games.

To satisfy the need for an improved interface between the campus and commuting students who form the majority of the campus student population in a manner that makes them feel both integrated and comfortable, work was completed on the restructuring of the **Commuting Lounge**. The main addition to the existing building was an upper floor to house a computer room/study area and office area for Commuting /Student Advisors. On completion, the building served as an emergency venue for the hosting of the visit of the Commonwealth Secretary General.

The **University Health Centre** was renovated and refurbished to offer improved services to meet the health needs of the university community. Efforts are presently underway for the extension of opening hours on weekday evenings, as well as to operate half-days on Saturdays.

The **Shuttle Bus** system was upgraded to provide better service with the replacement of two of the older buses. In addition, a bus was provided to the Sports Department to transport students who represent the campus in sporting events. A new Bus Bay with adequate lighting was constructed to upgrade the waiting area for commuting staff and students while providing an additional area for parking.



The newly renovated Students Union



Football and Cricket fields at the Mona Bowl with security fence





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The campus continues to see a marked reduction in the number of incidents of crime as a result of the retention of the services of a **security** provider contracted some three years ago. More recent security measures include passing of security legislation in Parliament as well as the construction of fences separating the Halls of Residence, namely: Irvine, Chancellor and Taylor to deter the entry of unauthorised persons. These measures should go a far way in facilitating a better traffic flow on the campus as well as ensuring a more orderly and secure environment on the campus.

Given the pressing financial difficulties faced by many of our students, much was done to expand the various programmes that offer **financial aid**. The Mona Campus continued to use a variety of means to provide financial assistance to students, both directly through scholarships and

bursaries and indirectly through meal and book subsidy programmes.

In the 2001/2002 academic year, 406 students received a total of J\$4.05m in aid from the Office of Student Financing (OSF) as compared with 324 in 2000/01 with J\$3.06m. Of the J\$4m in aid, 21 students received J\$1.4m in scholarships and 55 students received J\$0.7m in bursaries. Based on the contribution of the Guild of Students to the OSF, 63 students benefited in the amount of J\$0.37m. Students also received support under the meal subsidy programme and book scheme.

It was evident that the students put these funds to good use as all, except one of the recipients of the Principal's Scholarship for Excellence received First Class Honours degrees. Full scholarships



One of the two new shuttle buses acquired by the Office of Student Services



Members of the Campus Security team on location at the Rex Nettleford Hall



Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford, Vice Chancellor, in conversation with the Hon. Burchell Whiteman, Minister of Education, Youth and Culture, while touring the facilities at the newly renovated Health Centre. The Hon. John Junor, Minister of Health, Professor Kenneth Hall, Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal of the Mona Campus and Dr. Blossom Anglin-Brown, Clinical Director of the Health Centre, look on in the background



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under this programme were also offered to O'Neil Perrin on the basis of his outstanding performance in the GSAT examinations in 2001 and also to one of the members of the 2002 winning School Challenge Quiz team.

The **Students Loan Bureau** disbursed J\$143.9m to 1,609 students in the 2001/2002 academic year. In addition, 707 students received J\$21.1m in Grant-in-Aid in the same period.

The School for Graduate Studies and Research negotiated with both the **Student Loan Bureau** and the **First Global Bank** to provide loans to postgraduate students for implementation

in the next academic year. The facility with First Global Bank will cater primarily to working graduates who wish to pursue graduate studies. On the other hand, the arrangement with the Student Loan Bureau is for unemployed graduates who have been accepted into higher degree programmes.

The University Bookshop established during the period a textbook grant of \$60,000 to be distributed among six needy students. The grant is to be managed by the Office of Student Financing.



*Members of the Campus Security team monitoring traffic through the UWI main gate*



*Miss Maud Fuller of the Guild of Graduates Toronto Chapter cuts the ribbon at the official opening of the refurbished Commuting Students Lounge*

*Professor Kenneth Hall, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, Mona Campus presenting Master Oneil Perrin, top performer in the 2001GSAT Examinations, with the Principal's Scholarship award*



*Miss Heather Clarke of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences receiving the Sherwin Williams Scholarship award from Mr. Ian Forbes, Managing Director of Sherwin Williams.*

