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## Initiatives aimed at Influencing Public Policy Formulation





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In addition to the service provided by faculty and senior administrative staff on numerous national and regional boards, the Mona Campus continued its programme of staging a number of conferences and symposia aimed at influencing and informing national and regional policy in a number of critical areas.

The academic year started with the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Mona Academic Conference in August 2003 under the theme, *Gender in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Perspectives, Visions and Possibilities*. The nature of Gender Studies was put under scrutiny, as well as CARICOM's role in promoting gender equity in the region, and the role gender scholars have played in guiding decisions at the regional and international level.



Members of the platform party at the Opening Ceremony of the Mona Academic Conference (2003) pose for the camera. (l-r) Professor Elsa Leo-Rhynie, conference organizing committee member; Professor Verene Shepherd, conference presenter; the Hon. Mia Mottley, Q.C., MP, Attorney General, Barbadian Deputy Minister and conference keynote speaker; Professor the Hon. Kenneth Hall, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Mona Principal; the Hon. Maxine Henry-Wilson, the Jamaican Minister of Education, Youth and Culture; and Professor Barbara Bailey, Regional Coordinator, Centre for Gender and Development, UWI.



Members of the audience applaud one of the many interesting presentations given at the Opening Ceremony of the Mona Academic Conference (2003): "Gender in the 21st Century: Perspectives, Visions and Possibilities".



1. Section of the audience during one of the presentations at the Mona Academic Conference.
2. Presenters respond to questions from the audience during one of the sessions at the Mona Academic Conference (2003). (l-r) Professor Errol Miller, Professor of Teacher Development, Institute of Education (Mona); Dr. Jeanette Morris, Head, School of Education (St. Augustine); and Professor Bridget Brereton, former Deputy Principal (St. Augustine).



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Dr Thelora Reynolds, Director of Student Services; Professor Gerald Lalor, Director General, ICENS; and Professor Barrington Chevannes, Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work, being entertained by a young member of the community during one of the sessions of the three day Conference, "The UWI: Bridging the Gap with the Community"

*The University of the West Indies: Bridging the Gap with the Community* was the theme of a three day conference organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences in September of the academic year. The conference aimed to bring the UWI and the communities with which it worked to assess and discuss this work. It examined the history, methods and consequences of UWI's community work with a view to strengthening it and developing scholarship. Other objectives were to examine the work in this field of other universities locally, regionally and internationally, and strengthening the academic / intellectual side of community work and voluntarism.

Collaborating with the Caribbean Development Bank, the Campus hosted the CARICOM 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference on *Regional Governance and Integrated Development* in October 2003. The main theme for the two day conference was *Regional Governance* and included such topics as *New Conceptions of Regional Governance*, *CARICOM: Reconciling Individual and*

*Collective Exercise of Sovereignty, Rationalising the Functioning of the Organs of the Community including the Decentralising of Decision Making, The CARICOM Single Market and Economy: Macro Economic Convergence and Promoting Multilateralism as the Guiding Principle in International Relations.*



The Most Hon. Percival James Patterson, Prime Minister of Jamaica, shakes hands with Professor the Hon. Kenneth Hall, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, Mona Campus, at the Opening Ceremony of the CARICOM 30th Anniversary Conference on Regional Governance and Integrated Development, as Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford, Vice Chancellor Emeritus and Professor Compton Bourne, President of the Caribbean Development Bank, look on.



Professor the Hon. Kenneth Hall, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal Mona, and Professor Denis Benn, the Michael Manley Professor of Public Policy, address the audience at a session of the CARICOM 30th Anniversary Conference on Regional Governance and Integrated Development, held in October 2003



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Also in October the Mona School of Business in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade hosted a symposium on *the Jamaican Diaspora-Reciprocal Relations – the Way Forward*. The deliberations and resolutions from the conference were important building blocks for the government in formulating and streamlining policies for the Jamaican Diaspora to participate effectively in national development.



Scenes from the 2003 Jamaican Diaspora Symposium, hosted by the Mona School of Business in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

*“Ageing Well: A Life Course Perspective”* was the theme of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Conference and Workshop staged by the Faculty of Medical Sciences in November 2003. Discussions focussed on issues associated with ageing in the Caribbean and options for socially active seniors, the residential home setting and the caregiver’s perspective.

A policy conference on *Science, Technology and Innovation*, was held in January 2004. The conference was aimed at developing a sound intellectual framework for understanding and dealing with the challenges facing the Caribbean in its efforts to use science, technology and innovation to improve the standard of living; developing policy mechanisms for learning; and taking advantage of science technology and the innovation process.

In February 2004, the Faculty of Social Sciences staged the third International Conference on *Crime and Criminal Justice in the Caribbean*. The conference brought together practitioners, academics and policy makers concerned with Caribbean crime issues. In addition to local participants, the conference had representatives from Latin America, Europe, North America and the Caribbean who presented papers examining related issues in both the regional and international contexts. The conference objectives aimed at sharing research findings on crime in Caribbean societies and among Caribbean peoples living in the UK and North America; exploring new directions for criminological research in the Caribbean; and establishing a research network among persons and institutions with an interest in Caribbean Crime.

The UWI Diabetes Outreach Project (UDOP) hosted in March 2004, its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference



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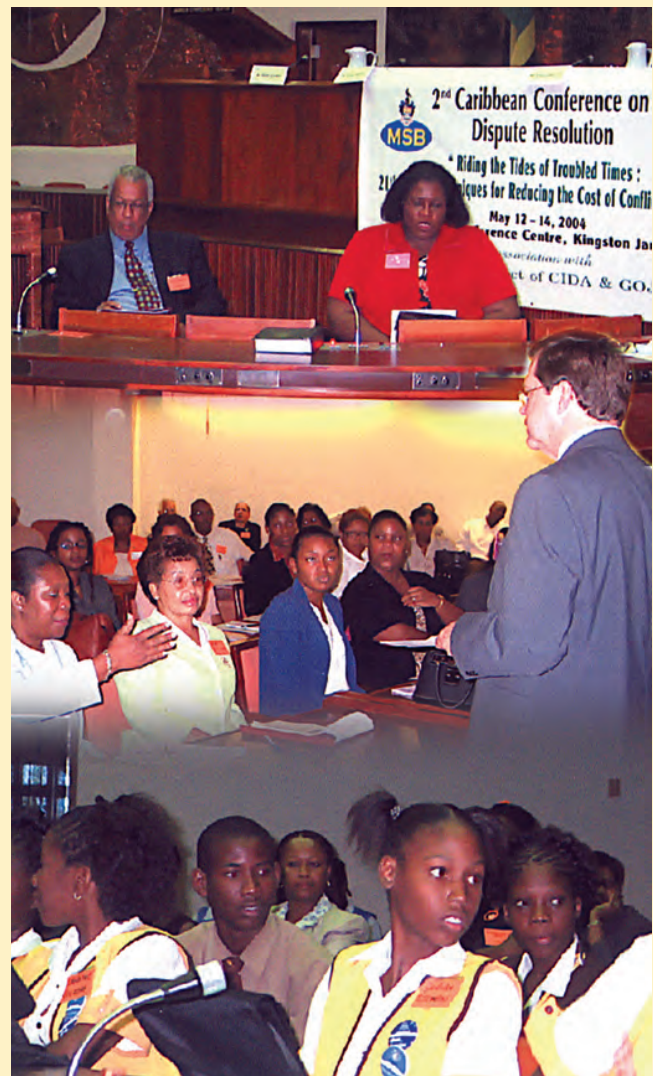
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in association with the Environmental Health Foundation, the Pan American Health Organization, the World Health Organization, the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute and the American Diabetes Association, under the theme *New Trends in Diabetes Management*. Deliberations in the conference centred around a wide range of topics including *New Advances in Diabetes Management, Food and supplements in Diabetes, New Advances in Insulin Therapy; and New Advances in the Science and Technology of Diabetes*.

To mark the Bicentennial of Haiti's Independence, the Department of History hosted a one-day symposium addressing the links between Haiti and Jamaica. Additionally, the Latin American-Caribbean Centre (LACC) hosted a one-day symposium titled "The Haiti-Jamaica Connection" on April 3, 2004. The keynote speaker was Dr. Carolle Charles, Associate Professor at Baruch College, the City University of New York. Dr. Charles gave a lecture entitled "Two Hundred Years after Banqueroute of the Haitian Social Order Inherited from the Revolution: The Call for a New Social Contract."

The MSB in collaboration with the Dispute Resolution Foundation hosted the *2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Conference on Dispute Resolution* in May 2004. The outcomes of the conference have important implications for policies related to the integrated use of alternative dispute resolution techniques and systems, especially in the areas of Industrial Relations and Conflict Management and disputes in the workplace.

The Research Policy Group (RPG) was formed in 2002 as a joint project with the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) and the Mona School of Business. The Alister McIntyre Fellows of the



Scenes from the 2nd Caribbean Conference on Dispute Resolution, held in May 2004



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RPG are charged to "...carry out research and analysis with a view to informing policy choices in key priority areas relevant to the needs of government, the private sector, regional institutions and appropriate, international organizations". The output of the group is policy oriented research that is "responsive and relevant." The appointment of a Research Policy Fellow to the RPG signalled the commitment of the Campus to address the tertiary education development needs of the region. During the year, a study, *Towards a Tertiary Education Policy for Jamaica* was undertaken and the first draft circulated to stakeholders at the policy level. The document formed the basis for discussions at the Mona Academic Conference in August 2004, the proceedings of which will serve to refine the study and its recommendations.

Two major labour policy documents, *Labour and Employment Relations Policies for the New Caribbean Economy* and *Social Protection: Policy Guidelines and Recommendations for the New Caribbean Economy*, were produced and circulated to major social partners – government, trade unions and employers.

### 6th Annual Migration Seminar

The Sixth Annual Migration Seminar, Coordinated by the Latin American Caribbean Centre (LACC), was held from July 2-3, 2004 at the Mona Campus.



1. Mr. William Tavares-Finson, Honorary Consul for the Republic of Nicaragua addresses the audience at the Opening of the Sixth Annual Migration Seminar, featuring "Caribbean Migration to Nicaragua". LACC Coordinator, Ms. Annette Insanally in background.

2. Section of audience showing Colombian students, who participated in the Annual UWI-Exchange Programme, in attendance at the Migration Seminar.