



MONA

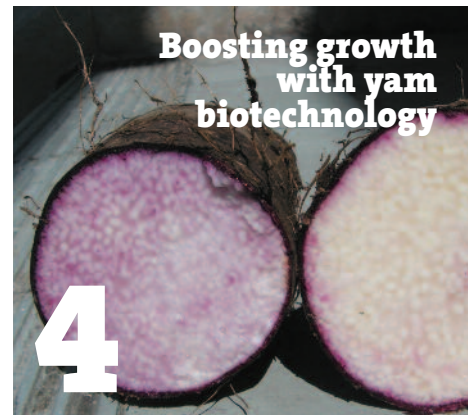
NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA CAMPUS

DECEMBER 2016





DECEMBER



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UWI'S MISSION

The enduring mission of the University of the West Indies is to propel the economic, social, political and cultural development of West Indian society through teaching, research, innovation, advisory and community services, and intellectual leadership.

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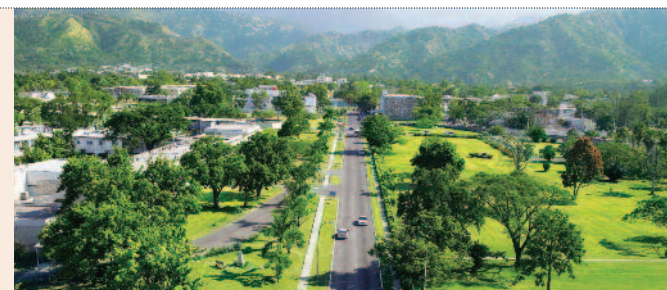
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The Answer Lies in Public/Private Partnerships

As The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona makes its way through yet another academic year it always brings me great joy to think about all our new and returning students.

The student body is the critical life force of The UWI. Throughout the decades, the Mona Campus has implemented several redevelopment initiatives to ensure that student welfare – from academic to financial – remain at the core of our operational activities. It is this dedication to improving our student welfare which has led to the implementation of our campus-wide 2012-2017 Operational Plan which was designed to generate diversified learning opportunities, whilst developing the academic infrastructure to support the growth of a 21st century higher education learning environment for our national and regional scholars.

In light of this, faculties across The UWI have engaged in a 're-engineering' of their programme offerings in order to provide a wider and more diverse selection of learning opportunities that will attract a greater cross section of students, both nationally and internationally. Coupled with this is the important responsibility of creating a state-of-the-art learning facility that will facilitate and enhance the learning process for our students. As a university that prides itself on leading the way in higher education, we believe that providing critical learning tools and equipment is important if we expect to produce a first-class graduate capable of meeting both national and international job market demands.

In recognition of this mandate, The UWI has therefore found it necessary to overhaul our financial operations to fund our strategic goals. Over the years we have engaged in extensive public/private partnerships with a wide cross section of organisations and institutions in Jamaica and globally in order to fund new programme offerings as well as to bring in new equipment for

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



out by the University. Our research in the medicinal benefits of plants, particularly cannabis, as well as climate change, has the potential to generate millions in investment and grant funding from local and international scientific institutions and NGOs. This allows us as an institution to set the stage on not only advances in science and research but also in becoming financially self-sufficient and creating a new income source for research that does not impede our work in academia. The commercialisation of our research has enabled us to accomplish a great deal more in our ability to engage in more worthwhile research and development options for the benefit of our region, whilst also attracting more students and accomplished researchers to our institution.

As a result of focussing more on accepting full fee paying students in order to rely less on government funding, while also introducing more cost cutting and efficient operational systems in order to decrease our expenditure and increase income and revenue, The UWI, Mona Campus has been able to develop a more self-reliant financial environment that will prove beneficial to our continued growth. These initiatives represent a proportion of our significant cost cutting and income-generating package that the UWI hopes will aid in steering us towards financial stability. Moreover, they are designed and implemented to ensure that we remain able and capable of providing the highest quality of teaching possible to our deserving students for years to come.

The UWI, Mona Campus aims to become the hub of higher education and research excellence in the Caribbean, and as such, we will continue to work towards securing more funds and becoming financially stable for the fulfilment of this objective.

**Professor Archibald McDonald
Pro Vice-Chancellor & Principal**

our students to support their learning. We rely heavily on public/private partnerships to fund much of our new work as it has proven to be one of the most reliable and sufficient funding sources for the institution.

From scholarships and bursaries to the introduction of new learning tools and equipment, collectively worth millions, The UWI has been able to push forward our development initiatives successfully with the support of these partnerships. Our students have benefitted significantly through this funding source as many are given the opportunity to pursue their academic aspirations as a result of scholarships and bursaries provided by our partners in education from both the public and private sectors.

As another crucial funding source, The UWI, Mona Campus, has placed significant onus on creating a research and development infrastructure that is focused on bringing in monies to either support new research or to patent scientific discoveries made as a result of the exemplary research being carried

YAM BIOTECH RESEARCH GROUP AIMING TO BOOST BIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH

“Yam fe health, yam fe life, yam fe run, yam fe monee.”

This motto has guided the research work on Jamaican yams conducted by Executive Director of the Biotechnology Centre, The UWI, Mona, and leader of the UWI Yam Biotechnology Research Prof. Helen Asemota. Prof. Asemota, who has led the UWI Yam Research effort since the early 1990s, has been conducting extensive research on local yams using a range of procedures from crop improvement biotechnology, postharvest physiology and biochemistry, through phytochemical and molecular biology analyses, to biomedical studies of yams' biomaterials and their interaction with diseases.

Her research on yams at UWI was initially triggered by the storage and persistent production problems in the yam industry prevalent in the island in the 1990s. Prior to coming to Jamaica, she had analyzed yam tuber storage – browning, metabolism and molecular genetics – in Nigeria, her country of birth (at the Ahmadu Bello University and the University of Benin) and in Germany (University of Frankfurt) for ten years. Upon her arrival in Jamaica, Prof. Errol Morrison of the then Biochemistry Department (now Basic Medical Sciences), challenged her to prove that Yam's metabolites do not cause or worsen diabetes.

She embraced the challenge by first writing a multidisciplinary proposal for research on Jamaican yam's improvement and utilization, which she titled *Bioengineering Caribbean Yams*. Prof. Morrison on seeing the work she had done on yams in Nigeria and Germany, invited and supported this proposal for local yams research. The grant proposal was approved for funding under the EU-EDF Lome III Regional Projects.

“I started the study in Jamaica on the biochemical effects of cutting the tuber



The Biotechnology Centre's Executive Director, Prof. Helen Asemota (right) shows pipetted yam DNA to some of her students.

“Yam fe health, yam fe life, yam fe run, yam fe monee.”

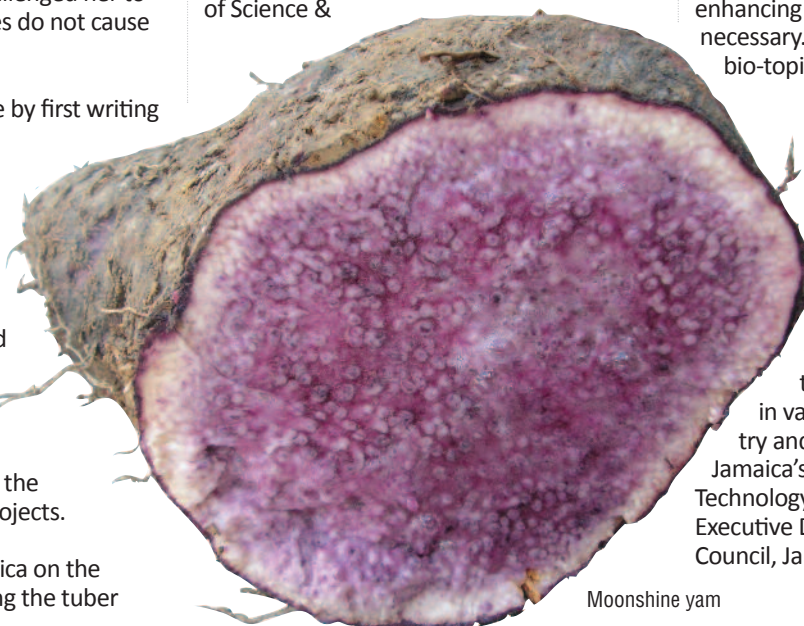
heads off at harvest (a practice of Jamaican yam farmers). We first studied the biochemical advantages and disadvantages in order to improve yam production and storage in Jamaica. These initial efforts, through incorporation of research students, postdocs, and various visiting scientists resulted in the large multidisciplinary ‘UWI Yam Biotechnology Research’, operating in both the Biotechnology Centre, Faculty of Science &

Technology, and the Basic Medical Sciences Department, Faculty of Medical Sciences.

Led by Prof. Asemota since the early 1990s, and from the early 2000s jointly by herself and her former PhD student, Dr. Andrew Wheatley, the Group has been conducting research studies for improvement of yams and some other crops, DNA profiling and analyzing their interactions with diseases; and developing products towards boosting agro-medico-bio- economic growth.

“From 1991- 2016, we studied Jamaican yams in any bio-research way possible – the 25 Jamaican yam varieties produced in Jamaica, focusing on yam storage physiology; the biochemistry of the yam tuber; how to improve production using biotechnology tools; carbohydrate metabolism in stored yam tubers; molecular genetic studies and DNA Fingerprinting of the Jamaican varieties; molecular genetics of in vitro and ex vivo production of yams; yam natural products and their metabolic effects in animal model of diseases (of course with diabetes at the lead), and also using other crops/tubers; the interaction of yam biomaterials with other diseases – hyperlipidemia/hypercholesterolemia, cancer, as compared with controls and with selected drugs in the market; glycemic indexing, yam starch analyses for pharmaceutical applications; innovation of yam-based byproducts, enhancing with other crops/plants where necessary.” The Group researches on other bio-topics but they are labelled with ‘yam research’.

Prof. Asemota's research team activities have earned over 100 refereed international journals publications; several patents; over 220 conference abstracts/proceedings and numerous technical reports to various funding agencies, in addition to the various PhD Scholars serving in various capacities within the country and elsewhere. Among them are the Jamaica's minister for Science, Energy & Technology, Dr. Andrew Wheatley, and the Executive Director of the Scientific Research Council, Jamaica, Dr. Cliff Riley.



Moonshine yam

Publications from the group on yams cover the areas of the biochemistry of yam, biotechnological approaches to yam production and quality improvement, phytochemical procedures for analyzing the biomaterials, yam biomaterials biomedical analyses, x-ray crystallographic analysis, microscopic analysis, scanning electron microscopic analysis, cytochemical analysis, pathological analysis, glycaemic index analyses, pharmaceutical and pharmacological analysis, natural products analysis and the physiological analysis of yam storage.

The studies have progressed in recent years under the theme ‘Yams – from farm to finished products’ with the aim to promote Jamaican yams as food, medicine and an industrial raw materials source. It is not common to find any crop as widely studied in the way Prof. Asemota's Group has studied Jamaican yams. The research has contributed in no small way to draw attention locally and internationally to Jamaican yams; to the improved quality of yams grown locally, and yam starches have been compressed into stable compacts for possible medical industrial use in making tablets – especially in the face of corn starch being diverted to other uses.

The research has also uncovered the medicinal value of Jamaican yams in the

treatment of ailments such as cancer, hypercholesterolemia, diabetes and acquired or genetic disorders such as hyperlipidemia. With the over 30 PhD and MPhil theses that have been produced, many more are still studying the use of yams in the treatment of illnesses, and as industrial raw materials.

“Our target is to produce yam-based medicine, yam-based biofuel, yam-based functional foods, etc – utilizing the biodiversity and taxonomical advantages among Jamaican yams. We have some patents, we are poised to developing marketable products. Competition is mounting and we need to arrive quickly. We increasingly need cooperative collaboration in the bio-entrepreneurial angles.

We have developed yam production improvement strategies (PhD study of Dr. Andrew Wheatley), our local yams & dasheens have health promoting attributes (PhD studies - Phillip Grindley, Victor Brown, Marie McAnuff). Our purple yams have been shown to have anti-cancer properties (PhD study of Dr. Dennis Bailey), the Jamaican bitter yam has cholesterol-lowering properties (PhD study of Dr. Dewayne Stennett), our local yams have better binding capacity starches than others, especially with very simple chemical modification (PhD studies of Cliff Riley, Alexia Harvey), etc. etc. On the

side, we have also used methodologies derived from yam analyses to work on other plants as well – for example, the Group got a USA patent for their work on Ortonique peels polymethoxy flavones (PMFs) for combating hypercholesterolemia (PhD study of Dr. Curtis Green).”

Additionally, the group has developed many innovative by-products from yams. The value-added products include yam spreads (cheesy yam spread, rent yam spread, veggie yam spread), purple yam jams, yam chips, yam moringa bars, etc. Some of the products have been highlighted at the annual Denbigh Agricultural Shows.

Researchers of the Group have included at one time or another, UWI Scholars who studied under the yam group research agenda, among whom are Professor Samson Omoregie (NCU), Dr. Victor Brown (Dean, Fort Valley Univ, USA), Prof. Max Wellington (NCU), Dr. Cliff Riley (now Executive Director of the SRC), Dr. Lowell Dilworth (UWI Chem. Pathology), Dr. Curtis Green (now of SODECO), Dr. Dewayne Stennett (now of the Western Jamaica Campus), Dr. Perceval Bahadosingh (USA), Dr. Kathleen Lobban (UTECH), Dr. Sylvia Mitchell (Biotech Centre), Dr. Denise Bailey (Chemistry Dept.), Dr. Alexia Harvey (now Research Fellow to Dr. A. Pearson, BMS), Dr. Natwaine Gardner

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For the future, Prof. Asemota is poised to produce yam-based nano-particles, to enhance reactive surface area for some innovated yam-based preparations, as becomes necessary. Recently in collaboration with the State University of New York at Binghamton (SUNY), the Yam biotechnology team received a grant award to conduct studies directed at creating biosensor to detect yam diseases.

(UTECH), Dr. Felix Omoruyi (former Research Fellow in the Group – now at Texas A & M University), Dr. Marie McAnuff (City University, USA), Dr. McCoy (Pharmacology, BMS), Mr. Ryan Francis (SRC), Ms. Shivanjali Dondapati (current Research Assistant). There have been a host of other lead researchers - Prof. E. Morrison, Prof. M. Ahmad, Dr. S. Simon, Dr. S. Adebayo (now of Roosevelt University, Chicago) as well as other UWI Collaborators - Dr. D. McGrowder (UWI Chem. Pathology), Dr. William Aikens (UWI Surgery), Dr. Henry Lowe (Biotech R&D Institute), Dr. De La Haye,. Other contributors to our Yam Research efforts have included Prof. P. Coates-Beckford (Life Sciences), Prof. Helen Jacobs, Prof. Mohammed Bakir (both of Chemistry Dept.), and Mr. Felix Francis (UWI).

The Group has been blessed with continuous flow of Graduate students – thanks to the UWI Graduate School, the Faculty of Science & Technology, and the Faculty of Medical Sciences. The current Graduate students include Racquel Wright, Lowen Williams, Nikashae Scott, Tamara Grant, Nikola Lutas (Biotechnology) & Ryan Francis, Sasha-Gay Wright, Melissa Williams, Kenroy Wallace, Keaton Loggan (Biochemistry, Basic Medical Sciences), who constantly dwell in the labs for the research to proceed. Sponsors have included UWI Graduate School, EU, UN-FAO, EHF, EFJ, NIH, NSF, SRC, HFJ, Jamaica-Mexico Bilateral Commission, NSF, Principal's Office of the Mona Campus. The Group's efforts have also been facilitated by MORI – Mona Office for Research & Innovation, formerly known as the Office of Sponsored Research and the UWI Bursary Special Projects.

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“Fungal infections are affecting yam growth and production, reducing yield badly and some varieties are at risk of going out of production, or into extinction. We want to examine this and create low-cost user-friendly biosensors to help detect yam diseases, early” Prof. Asemota said. In this effort, the group is collaborating with Prof. O. Sadik of SUNY and internally in Jamaica with Professors V. Wright and P. Alonge of NCU, Hugh Dixon of STEA and some local farmers in Manchester & Southern Trelawny.

Meanwhile, the Biotechnology Centre aims to move the research outputs ‘from the lab to the streets’ and into ‘the Biotechnology marketplace’ and to train young ones to contribute to bio-economic growth in the nation and region, in this type of way for tuber crops and other crops of our land.

Professor Asemota welcomes Usain Bolt's claim at Olympics re Jamaican Yams and looks forward to effectively collaborating to biotechnologically move “Jamaican Yams Fi Sports life” into the global market. She added that Usain Bolt has proven that ‘it can work’ from repeated unequalled Olympic victories, which the country must capitalize on to sell Jamaican yams by-products to the whole world. This is what she believes Usain Bolt was trying to effect, to take the output of the Trelawny local yam farmer to the world, but instead we diverted to arguing as to whether the yams have the ‘health factors’.

“We are now saying yes they and their byproducts have, what next, but to engage enhanced yam production and yam tablets & nutraceuticals for the world? Presently, Jamaica exports less than 8% of her yam production, ‘we can produce more if we wan’. The Group keeps dreaming unto – “Yard Yams BioSportsProducts from the country of the World's fastest men and women, Yard Yams for the Sports World”, and is poised to bio-technologically substantiate it, with the help of various local and international collaborators and bio-entrepreneurs – including our local yam farmers and sellers, and our indigenous knowledge owners of yam bread, yam tonics and all dem Trelawny and maroon yam nutraceuticals that dem bring to Trelawny yam festivals, in the 1990s & 2000s. **M**



NEW APPROACH TO FUNDING TERTIARY EDUCATION: SHAPING THE 21ST CENTURY MONA CAMPUS



ENERGY PACT: Professor Archibald McDonald (3rd from right), Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal, The UWI, Mona and Bruce Boyer (2nd from left), Chief Executive Officer, SERS/SEEBURY, share lens time with their teams following the signing of an agreement to convert the lighting on the Mona Campus to LED. This move will result in The UWI, Mona saving an estimated 30 per cent on its energy bill within a year. Sharing in the moment from right are: Professor Ishenkumba Kahwa, Deputy Principal of The UWI, Mona Campus, Dr. Camille Bell-Hutchinson, Campus Registrar; Mario E. Torress, President, and David Swanson, Chief Operating Officer of SERS/SEEBURY. The UWI/SEEBURY Energy Management Implementation Agreement, which was signed on November 22 in the Council Room, Mona Campus, will be carried out in two phases: Smart Energy Renewable Solutions (SERS), a partner of green energy company SEEBURY, will implement phase 1, which will involve the replacement of all existing lighting fixtures and lamps on the campus with LED options; the University's partners will foot the bill estimated at US\$1.5 million. The second phase of the project is slated to begin next year and will include options for renewable alternative energy sources.

The leadership of The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, is on a mission to make this the region's most modern and sought-after institution, using a development model which could become the go-to for other campuses and institutions.

In recent years, there have been several changes: a new medical building, new halls of residence, restaurants and banking facilities. Strapped for cash but determined not to borrow, Mona's Principal Professor Archibald McDonald and his team are pursuing a series of public/private Partnerships that have breathed new life into the 68 year-old institution.

The slow steady pace of development is being ramped up: old buildings are giving way to new ones, old facilities refreshed and equipment upgraded. The plans are as ambitious as they are optimistic and expensive, but the University is racing full speed ahead. Surprisingly, the institution is not spending a single cent.

[Planned is] an ultra-modern Campus/ Student Centre housing a modern auditorium for University functions including the annual graduation exercise, the housing of the students' union, a place where students meet, study or just hang out.

Speaking with *Mona Magazine* recently, Professor McDonald outlined a raft of initiatives that aim to reshape the sprawling Mona Campus into an ultra-modern institution of-

fering its students a world-class education in line with corporate needs, the very best in accommodation, student services and comfort. Mona's student housing development model is now seen as the standard for cash-strapped colleges and institutions, and is to be rolled out across the entire UWI system. Who would have known that a rather contentious induction speech just over three years ago would result in a prolific and rewarding relationship between the Mona Campus and the private sector.

“During my induction speech I noted that governments over the years had not done enough for the University... and I challenged the private sector to do more. It has paid off,” Professor McDonald said with a chuckle. He noted that the “relationship between the private sector and the university has never been closer”. On one hand, UWI is getting what it needs in development: technological and industry support through several Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Private/Public



The new Medical Sciences Building on The UWI, Mona Campus

Partnerships, while the investors salve their corporate responsibility needs and makes a profit.

A partnership between The UWI, Mona and 138 Student Living – a subsidiary of K-Limited – to refurbish, remodel and operate its halls of residence, has revolutionised the management of student housing. Irvine Hall is being refurbished, demolishing some of the old buildings to make way for new ones, adding another 1,100 rooms to bring world-class accommodation and ‘home comforts’ to campus living. And this is only the beginning.

The agreement for the construction of 1,584 houses at a cost of \$4 billion over three years should increase the number of rooms on the Mona Campus to about 6,000. The first 480 units have already been delivered, 500 will be handed over soon and the balance is scheduled for handover in 2017. This makes the University the largest single owner of ‘hotel’ rooms on the island.

“Because of the cash flow problems we have not been able to maintain the facilities properly, so outsourcing gives us the opportunity to do the renovations which are necessary and have world-class accommodation for our students,” Professor McDonald explained.

New housing is only one component of the overall strategy to increase revenues, Mona’s principal continued: “We are trying to increase the number of international students. It has been slow, but what we have done is to attract more regional students especially from Trinidad and Tobago. Whenever you bring students from outside of Jamaica, you need to provide accommodation for them”.

K Limited and UWI’s other partners will recover their investments from the savings and earnings. Ambitious as this is, it is only the tip of the iceberg.

The next three to five years will see major changes on Campus, among them the conversion of the 15-room Mona Visitors’ Lodge & Conference Centre into a 150-room hotel; and the development of College Common. Replacing the Mona Visitors’ Lodge will improve the offerings at what is already a “very nice place for weddings” to provide modern conference facilities and a one-of-a-kind wedding location.

Over at College Common, the UWI-owned residential property, things are about to change. The 100-acre property which is currently home to some of the University’s senior academic and administrative staff, is a laid-back community of colonial-style homes on up to an acre of land. Its current layout makes it difficult to secure and maintain, Professor McDonald said, noting: “College Common has been there for 60-odd years, it is exactly as the British left it, only it is much worse as the houses are in disrepair.”

A mix of town houses, apartments and up-scale homes, some of which will be offered as high-end rentals to companies and Embassies, will replace the run-down old houses, provide staff with updated facilities and the university with much-needed revenue to continue funding the extensive development plans that are being rolled out.

There is no doubt this project could reap big benefits. After all, the Mona Campus sits on some prime lands, in a coveted zip code. And pulling everything together, an ultra-modern Campus/Student centre housing a modern auditorium for university functions including the annual graduation exercise, the housing of the students’ union, a place where students meet, study or just hang out. In addition to the coffee shops, meeting and reading rooms, the centre is expected to be a hub of activity for the 18,000 students on roll.

But plans would not be complete without an adequate supply of water and cost-effective energy. In fact, the co-generation plant that is already cooling several of the buildings on campus will also provide electricity. Once completed, the plant is expected to only reduce the campus’ dependence on the national grid, and slash energy costs by as much as 50 percent – that translates to roughly \$50 million dollars in monthly savings.

In addition, the University’s well-publicised water woes are about to disappear. A new well providing 750,000 gallons a day will more than satisfy the campus’ 500,000-gallon daily requirement, saving an additional \$20 million in water charges. With all these coming together, Professor McDonald is delighted.



WELL DONE! Mark Tippet, (left) president, North Star Development Jamaica Limited accepts congratulations from Dr. Horace Chang, minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation with responsibility for water, works and housing; as they, along with Mona Principal, Professor Archibald McDonald (right), turn on the pipe during a ceremony to commission the water well at the Campus.



One of the new halls of residence developed through a public-private partnership between The University and 138 Student Living

“If you were to look at our audited statements we would not be able to afford all of this,” he said. But the private/public partnership agreements have allowed the University to improve campus facilities and the value of the services on offer.

“I see this as a new model for the funding of tertiary education,” McDonald said, noting that institutions need money to stay competitive amidst growing competition.

And how much will all this development cost? On the conservative side, more than US\$2 billion. What is important, however, is that The University will not spend ‘one red cent’, as the saying goes. As Professor McDonald puts it, Corporate Jamaica is finally seeing the value of partnering with the institution.

The benefits are mutual, ranging from product design, development and testing to skills transfer, professional development and income generation; and for students, industry-specific training, internships and scholarships.

Investors including local corporations like the Jamaica Public Service, the French giant Total, and US marijuana company CITIVA, all fund projects that improve their products and outputs, and add to their bottom line. And the improvements to the Mona Campus are not all.

Over at the University Hospital of the West Indies, in addition to the installation of a fully computerised medical filing system, slated for completion early next year, architectural designs for a major rebuilding project are on the ‘drawing board’. Several buildings

will be demolished and replaced, Professor McDonald said.

This year, as the University prepares to begin clinical trials of marijuana extracts to treat epilepsy in children and chronic pain; the expansion and relocation of the Western Jamaica Medical Campus has begun and negotiations are underway for the construction of a modern medical facility on the site of the new campus to take advantage of the growing medical tourism market.

Even so, The UWI Mona continues to look for ways to leverage the many opportunities available, with entrepreneurs with the acumen and fortitude to take up the challenges. Take the Usain Bolt Track for instance. There are plans for a gym and winter sports centre around the state-of-the art running track.

“We just need someone to manage the process, but then that might be for my successor,” Professor McDonald said thoughtfully.

And there are so many things to do. With world-class athletes and universities lining up to experience the training that made the ‘Big Man’ a legend – and the opportunities presented by an Olympic-sized swimming pool – Mona’s standing as the home of the athlete dubbed the ‘Living Legend’ is destined to soar. **M**



Work underway in the early stages of construction

SPARKS LAUNCHES UWI AS A 'BIG DEAL' IN CLIMATE DATA COMPUTING



Member of the the Climate Studies Group and a Research Fellow in the Department of Physics, Mona, Jayarka Campbell (left) receives a warm greeting from Gerard Alleng, Senior Climate Change Specialist at the Inter American Development Bank as Peter Chan, Sales Director and General Manager for Dell Latin America and the Caribbean and Mona's Principal, Professor Archibald McDonald share the moment.

A new 'high performance' or 'Super Computer' launched on Nov 30, during climate change week, will help produce the 'Big Data' Caribbean small island states (SIDS) need to accurately project and mitigate the effects of climate change on the region.

Effectively, the new system, described as "one of the fastest in the Caribbean," by Dell's Peter Chan, gives the Caribbean a massive boost in its climate research capabilities. It has also catapulted The UWI, Mona Campus to 'computing heavyweight' status.

Launched in the midst of the recent Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) meeting at the Regional Headquarters of The UWI, the Scientific Platform for Applied Research and Knowledge Sharing or SPARKS as it is called, was acquired as part of the Investment Plan for the five-year Caribbean Regional Track of the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR).

SPARKS not only provides much needed computing capacity for climate researchers at The UWI; it also plugs a gaping hole.

At the launch, principal of the UWI's Mona Campus Professor Archibald McDonald said SPARKS will enhance the region's standing and recognition for research and as leaders in Climate Research. He noted: "The system will facilitate our scientists to provide climate projection models and high resolution maps for the Caribbean thus giving the region a firmer grasp to understand and manage the impacts of climate change... to evaluate for potential risk and impacts and effectively mitigate those risks as we build more resilient infrastructure".

Increased processing speeds, faster turnaround times and the ability to run multiple data sets at higher resolution will improve the decision-making process in Jamaica and the Caribbean, Head of the Climate Group Professor Michael Taylor

explained in an interview with *Mona Magazine*.

His excitement is infectious as he outlined the advantages SPARKS brings to The UWI in terms of "faster simulations at higher resolutions, providing more accurate and credible data, and information that will improve climate projections in the short, medium and long term".

"Climate research and downscaling methods will no longer be limited by the available hardware and software," he said.

SPARKS is filling the research gap that prevented regional scientists from making more of the kinds of credible long term climate projections which their counterparts in the developed world are able to produce easily and quickly. So when the IPCC produces its next global assessment report there will be much more information from the Caribbean, making SPARKS a critical tool in the regional fight against climate change.

Immediately, SPARKS, answers the need for the collection, analysis, modeling, storage, access and dissemination of climate information in the Caribbean. Long-term: SPARKS will allow climate researchers to produce even more accurate and reliable climate projections at higher spatial resolutions and facilitate the piloting and scaling up of innovative climate resilient initiatives, including the development of information products and services for use at the regional and national levels.

Aside, Jamaica and The UWI, Mona are now way ahead of their counterparts in the English-speaking Caribbean and on par with some of the leading institutions in the developed world. This improvement in computing capacity is an asset for attracting more high-level staff and students from outside the region. "This significantly opens up the research capabilities of the University to include research computing - an area we have not delved in on a wide scale in the past as the processing of big data could only be done with partners

overseas," Professor Taylor said.

Before SPARKS, the University's data processing capacity restricted climate researchers to a single data run at a time, each taking up to six months; there was limited storage and no redundancy. "If anything went wrong, we simply had to start over," Jay Campbell, research fellow with the Climate Studies Group at Mona told the distinguished guests at the launch.

In an interview, he noted that aside from the usual specifications, of the computer that sits in Mona Information Technology Services (MITS) building, SPARKS has a capacity equivalent to more of 5,000 CDs and is expandable; it is also able to complete a run that usually takes six months in just over two days.

Aside from its importance to crunching climate data for the IPCC reports, SPARKS will provide support for countless research ranging from the social sciences to botany and mathematics. It is set to revolutionise

the DNA sequencing, medicinal, biological and other data driven research now being undertaken at the UWI. And with the impending start of the Mona's clinical trials of medical marijuana products, Taylor believes the super computer will make for a more exciting time for UWI researchers.

More importantly, UWI climate researchers agree that a supercomputer will pull in additional revenues, and bring together the foremost agencies at the forefront of the regional climate fight.

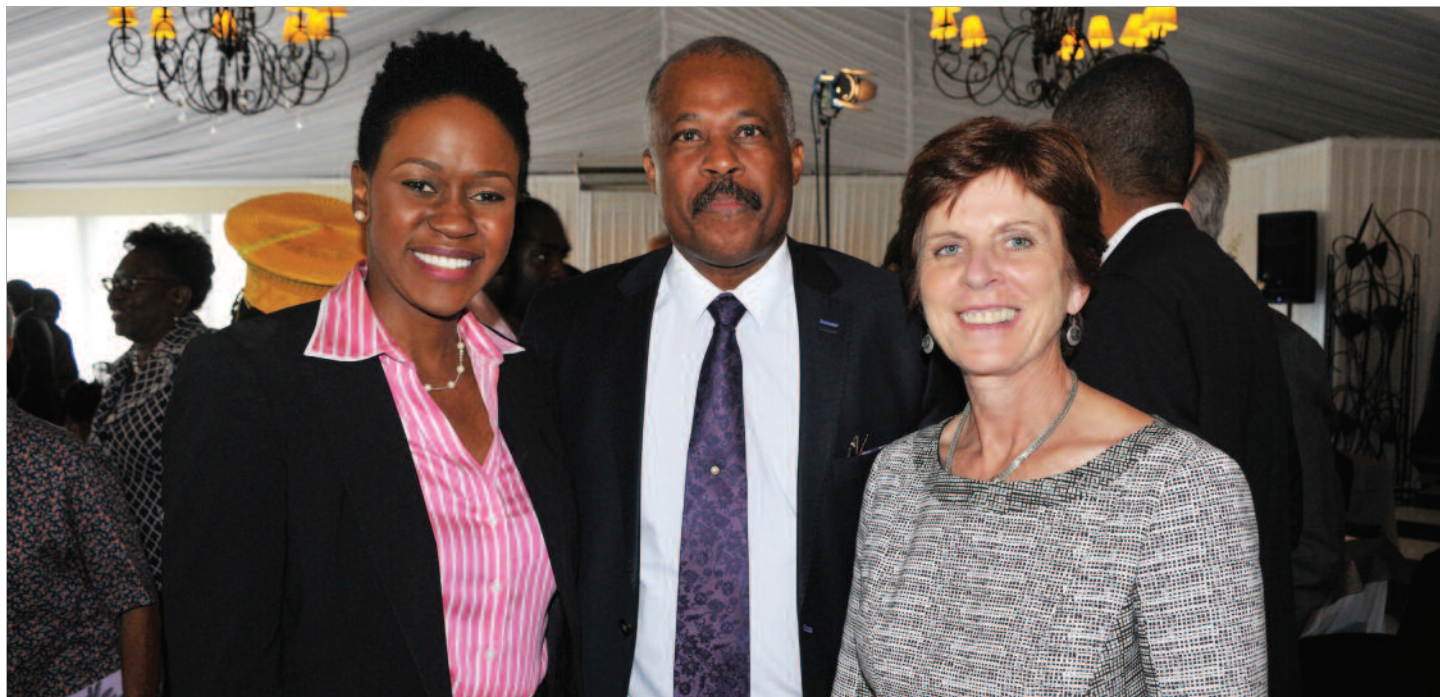
SPARKS, the result of a partnership between Dell and Fujitsu is valued at US\$742,376 or and is funded by Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through its US\$10.39 million grant funding to implement the PPCR). The project is managed through Mona Office for Research and Innovation.

What is clear, SPARKS is a "game-changer" for climate research at the regional level and for the University's research community. **M**



Head of the Climate Studies Group at Mona, Professor Michael Taylor, (left) in conversation with the Group's founder, Professor Anthony Chen. Chen was a member of the IPCC team which, along with Al Gore, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 for efforts made to increase and disseminate greater knowledge of man-made climate change and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change.

UWI ESTABLISHES MCINTYRE/NETTLEFORD SCHOLARSHIP



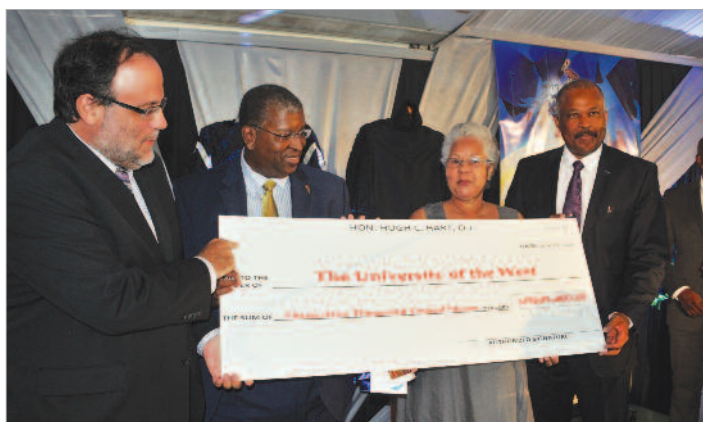
(R-L) Professor Louise Richardson, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford; Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies and Mariame Robinson, Rhodes Scholar and President & CEO of First Global Bank, at the launch of the McIntyre/Nettleford Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship Fund at the Terra Nova Hotel on June 10, 2016. First Global Bank sponsored the event.

The University of the West Indies (UWI) has established a new scholarship fund for high-achieving youth from disenfranchised backgrounds. The scholarship was launched at a luncheon on Friday 10 June, 2016 at Terra Nova Hotel in Jamaica. Professor Louise Richardson, the first female Vice-Chancellor of the 800-year-old Oxford University, was the featured speaker.

The scholarship will cover all costs for an undergraduate degree at The UWI, and will be maintained through an endowment fund, in which the investment income will support the scholarship awards. The fund honours two of The UWI's former Vice-Chancellors, Sir Alistair McIntyre, and the late Professor Rex Nettleford, who are both among a list of distinguished Caribbean nationals who graduated from Oxford University.

Professor Louise Richardson congratulated The UWI on the establishment of the scholarship. Noting that The UWI is just 68 years old, she said "an investment in an endowment for scholarships today, will have grown exponentially by the time The UWI celebrates its centenary—many lives will be transformed in the process."

Speaking at the luncheon, themed *The Ethical University: Poverty Must Fall: Empowering Marginalized Communities*, Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles explained that the scholarship fund "recognises the importance of making an educational experience accessible to our most promising young scholars." He added, "The scholarship celebrates the history of connectedness between Oxford and The UWI."



(l-r) Senator Mark Golding, an Oxford graduate; Donovan Walker, Partner, Hart, Muirhead & Fatta, Attorneys-at-Law; Lady McIntyre, wife of Sir Alistair McIntyre and Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies with the cheque for US\$35,000 donated by Oxford graduate and Attorney-at-Law, Hugh Hart, to the McIntyre/Nettleford Scholarship Fund.

Also speaking at the event was Mariame Robinson, President and CEO of First Global Bank, which sponsored the luncheon. She recounted her "transformative and truly enjoyable" experience at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar in the '90s and reminded guests that "the norms and access we have today come from other shoulders that we are standing on from prior generations." Oxford alumni, the Hon. Hugh Hart, O.J., Attorney at Law and Hon. Roderick Rainford, former Secretary-General of CARICOM, were also in attendance and presented pledges as early donors towards the scholarship. **M**



ROGER MAIS COLLECTION INSCRIBED IN THE REGIONAL MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

Deputy Principal of The UWI, Mona Campus, Professor Ishenkumba Kahwa, accepts the official Certificate acknowledging the inscription of the work of the late Jamaican journalist, novelist, poet, and playwright, Roger Mais, in the UNESCO Memory of the World Latin America and Caribbean Regional Register from Adviser for Communication and Information, UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean, Mrs. Isabel Viera-Bermudez, (right) at a ceremony held in the Main Library's Multifunctional Room. Sharing the moment (l-r) are head of the West Indies Special Collections, Mrs. Frances Salmon, and Campus Librarian, Dr. Paulette Kerr.

The Roger Mais Collection held at the Main Library at The University of the West Indies, Mona has been officially inscribed in the UNESCO Memory of the World Latin America and Caribbean Regional Register.

The official Certificate acknowledging the inscription of the work of the late Jamaican journalist, novelist, poet, and playwright, was handed over to Deputy Principal of The UWI, Mona Campus, Professor Ishenkumba Kahwa, by Adviser for Communication and Information, UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean, Mrs. Isabel Viera-Bermudez, at a ceremony held in the Main Library's Multifunctional Room, recently.

The Memory of the World Register was established in 1995. Its objectives are to facilitate the preservation of the world's documentary heritage; assist universal access to documentary heritage and increase awareness of the existence and significance of documentary heritage. This is achieved by the maintenance of national regional and international registers.

Roger Mais (1905-1955) has been recognized as one of the first postcolonial literary figures to emerge in the former British Empire. His legacy lies in the large quantity of unpublished material left after his untimely death.



Roger Mais

He is the quintessential anti-colonial activist whose contribution included literary, political, artistic and journalistic output. His collection covers over 20 years of activism and chronicles the birth and development of the anti-colonial, nationalist struggles of the colonized against the colonizer which led to political independence, the creation of a literary tradition and the birth of an artistic movement.

The Roger Mais Collection comprises both published and unpublished material. It is noted for its juxtaposition of literary and political writings reflecting Mais's twin interests. It includes virtually every literary genre – poetry, short stories, drama, novels, as well as journalistic pieces and pieces on his theory of fiction; in all, over 300 pieces.

The Collection is made up of 87 short stories, 19 plays, 17 radio plays, 7 novels (3 unpublished), one unfinished novel, and one folder with over 50 poems.

Many of the typescripts have been annotated and corrected. In addition, 21 handwritten notebooks constituting an important part of the Collection include drafts and fragments illustrating the development of his craft; and letters to newspaper editors addressing contemporary social and political events.

The Collection also includes newspaper clippings, mainly of Mais's articles but including other pieces of interest to him: holographs in both pen and pencil; correspondence with overseas publishers, mainly from the United States; correspondence with his literary agents, and personal letters including letters to writers like John Hearne.

In a presentation at the ceremony, head of the West Indies Special Collections, Mrs. Frances Salmon, noted that in order to be accepted for inclusion in the Register, the Mais collection had to satisfy criteria including whether the

Cont'd on page 26



Celebrating the moment!

Anticipating A Great Future

Graduates charged to “take care” of institution and be “openly proud” of its lineage.

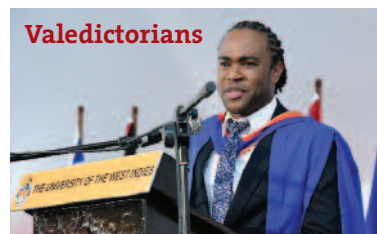
Three thousand one hundred and eighty candidates – 2,414 at the undergraduate and 766 at the postgraduate level – satisfied the requirements for the award of degrees at the annual graduation ceremonies held at The UWI, Mona Campus on October 31 and November 1, 2016. One hundred and seventy-four of them graduated with first-class honours degrees, among them the four valedictorians: Chelsi Ricketts, Faculty of Humanities & Education; Dr. Marlon Reid, Faculty of Medical Sciences; Gavin Campbell, Faculty of

Science & Technology, and Sheldon Henry, Faculty of Social Sciences.

Special mention was made of Kristina Degree, who defied the odds to graduate with First Class Honours in Accounting; Chivel Greenland who, with little or no financial support from home, graduated with First Class Honours in Economics and First Class honours graduate in Medical Sciences, violinist Jessica Yap, who created a foundation “Pass it on”, and mobilized J\$ 4.5 million to date to support needy medical students.

The 2016 ceremonies marked the end of the tenure of Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne, who demits office in April 2017. In his final address, the Chancellor commented on the 4% increase in the student body which now stands at 17,591.

He highlighted the increase in international students and several new partnerships which The UWI, Mona has



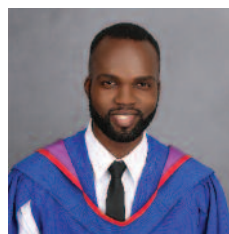
Gavin Campbell, Science & Technology



Sheldon Henry, Social Sciences



Chelsi Ricketts, Humanities & Education



Dr. Marlon Reid, Medical Sciences



Outstanding track and field sprinter, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce graciously accepts the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) from the Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne; at right, internationally acclaimed poet Lorna Goodison expresses her delight after accepting the honorary Doctor of Letters (DLitt) degree from Sir George.

established with other universities as a part of the continuing effort at internationalization of tertiary educational offerings. He mentioned several new programmes which have been introduced, in particular graduate programmes on ageing studies and in Pharmacy and commended Mona on new external funded grants totalling \$J 1.4 billion, several collaborative agreements for research in various areas including development of the cannabis industry in Jamaica and studies on the pharmacological properties of two of the most active principles of the plant. He also spoke to the introduction of bottled water, Pelican Pure, which is the first commercialization effort of the Mona Business Support Services.

The Chancellor observed that since its inception, the University has kept faith with its founding principles: to contribute to developing a West Indian outlook; to fill the need for leadership; to improve the position of women, to be a centre of scholarly work, and a leader in research.

He said that he had an “unshakeable confidence” in the future of the institution. In a charge to the graduates he noted: “Some of my confidence depends on you and those who have preceded you. It depends on those of you who will continue in academia and uphold its time-honoured traditions as well as those who pursue the multiple extramural careers that can lead to success. It depends on you being good ambassadors for the University and being openly proud of a lineage which though short is brilliant. It depends on you being good Pelicans and never forgetting to show your Pelican Pride.

My confidence also stems from the attitudes and practices displayed by our member governments which have recognized the virtue and value of a regional institution with all the connotations of governance and the observance of arrangements that have been validated and legitimized over the years.”



Husband and wife, Glenroy and Nathalee Prendergast, both graduated from the MBA programme



Higher degree graduates in a reflective mood



Selfie – graduation style!



Long-serving staff at The UWI, Mona Library show off their awards at the ceremony, L-R: Karlene Robinson, 15 years; Cheryl Folkes, 15 years; Paulette Kerr, 30 years; Robert Murray, 15 years; Shawnette Allen, 21 years and Godfrey Walker, 15 years.

CELEBRATING LONG-SERVING STAFF

The UWI, Mona recognised the service of over 130 members of its staff at the annual Long Service Awards Ceremony held Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at the Mona Visitors' Lodge & Conference Centre.

The staff were recognised for periods of service exceeding 15, 21, or 30 years. Guest speaker at the event was Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Edmund Bartlett.

Highlights of the ceremony are captured in the pictorial.



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, addresses long-serving members of The UWI, Mona staff at the Awards Ceremony on December 13.



Proud moment: 30-year awardees (l-r) Dudley Wright, Lindon Thomas and Orville Walker (right) share their pride in the moment



Prof. McDonald congratulates Nadia Williams on 30 years of service to The UWI, Mona



We made it! L-R: Schontal Moore, 15 years; Rosemarie Campbell, 30 years; Suzette Green-Miller, 15 years and Marcia Thomas-Phillips, 15 years.



Shane Brooks (right) accepts his 15-year award from the Director of Human Resource Development, Dr. Alister Hinds



UWI Mona staff members recognized for 15 years of service



A group of Mona staffers celebrating 15 years of service



Still going strong, 21 years after joining UWI, Mona staff.

DON ROBOTHAM IS 2017 HOMECOMING HONOUREE

The University of the West Indies, Mona will honour Jamaican anthropologist Professor Don Robotham, during the annual Homecoming Celebrations which will take place February 12–18, 2017 at Mona. Robotham is a distinguished member of the Class of 1967 which will celebrate its Golden Anniversary on the Mona Campus from September 20–24, 2017.

The annual Homecoming Celebrations provide an opportunity to celebrate the founding of the University and recognize its regional nature, while assisting to engender a greater sense of belonging and develop a feeling of camaraderie among staff, students and graduates.

This year's Homecoming activities will again be staged with the theme 'Re-Igniting the Pelican Flame', as part of an effort to reinforce and strengthen a sense of pride about the Mona Campus among members of the UWI Community, and to identify and showcase achievements from individuals or groups who exemplify the UWI tradition of excellence.

The Mona Homecoming Celebrations begin on Sunday, February 12 with the annual Commemoration Service at the University Chapel. The University Parade of alumni, staff and students takes place on Thursday, February 16, beginning at 3.00 p.m. from the Students' Union, and culminating at the Assembly Hall with the Flag Raising ceremony, which begins at 4.00 p.m. The ceremony will include a Grand Showcase of Pelican Pride, during which high achievers and the 2017 Honouree will be recognized as they participate in a 'walk of pride'.

The celebrations continue on Friday, February 17, with the Caribbean Day Festival of Food and Culture, featuring cuisine,



Prof. Don Robotham

displays and cultural performances, reflective of our diverse Caribbean culture. The Festival of Food and Culture starts at 12:00 noon on the lawns behind the flag-pole area, across from the Assembly Hall.

The day will end with "A Celebration of Excellence" to include a public lecture by Professor Robotham, followed by a reception and after-party.

'Re-Igniting the Pelican Flame', is part of an effort to reinforce and strengthen a sense of pride about the Mona Campus among members of the UWI Community

A UWI graduate, Don Robotham was appointed the inaugural Director, the Advanced Research Collaborative, in 2012. He has been Professor of Anthropology at the Graduate Center, City University of New York since 1999 and formerly Executive Officer, Office of Educational Opportunity and Diversity Programs.

Previously, he was Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean of the School for Graduate Studies and Research at the University of the West Indies. His fieldwork has been



A section of the Homecoming Parade

in the gold mines of Ghana and in various countries in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Robotham has provided important critiques of the theory of cultural pluralism and of localization alternatives to globalization and neoliberalism. He has also published extensively on anthropological theory, economic anthropology, and political economy as well as on issues of development in the Caribbean and West Africa.

The Homecoming Celebrations have traditionally been dedicated to an individual who has excelled at the local, regional or international level, or who has made a significant contribution to the institution.

Other honourees have been former Principal, Professor the Hon. Elsa Leo-Rhynie, The first Caribbean national to serve as Judge on the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Justice Patrick Robinson, late former Vice Chancellors Professor the Hon.

Rex Nettleford and Sir Philip Sherlock; Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Leslie Robinson; eminent historian, Sir Roy Augier; Professor Emeritus, Daphne Douglas, the first Jamaican woman to be named Professor at The University of the West Indies; Professor Anthony Chen, former Head of the Climate Studies Group, one of the leading centres for climate change research in the Caribbean; and noted sociologist, Professor Orlando Patterson. **M**



UWI MONA HOMECOMING SCHEDULE 2017

Sunday February 12

9:15 am Commemoration Service, UWI Chapel

Thursday February 16

3:00 pm University Parade of Alumni
4:00 pm Flag Raising Ceremony

Friday February 17

Noon Caribbean Day Festival of Food & Culture
5:30 pm Annual Homecoming Public Lecture
Alumni Link-up

Saturday February 18
Football match



Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago, Dr. Keith Rowley, unveils the plaque honouring him as a UWI graduate who has become a head of government. Sharing the moment (l-r) are Minister of Education, the Hon. Ruel Reid; President of the Mona Guild of Students, Mikiela Gonzales; Mona Principal, Professor Archibald McDonald, and Mrs. Rowley.

The Honourable Dr. Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago describes The UWI as “The star in the crown of Caribbean nations that has kept the dream of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) alive.” Dr. Rowley, a graduate of UWI Mona, was speaking at a ceremony at the campus on July 20, 2016, where he was inducted into Prime Minister’s Park. The park honours UWI graduates who are or have been heads of government. He reminded the gathering, “It is the responsibility of all of us who have had the privilege of studying at The UWI, to ensure it continues to serve generations to come.”

The induction was among a schedule of activities from July 17-20, during Dr. Rowley’s first official visit to Jamaica as Prime Minister. At The UWI, he met with UWI Vice-Chancellor, Professor Hilary Beckles, Mona’s Principal Professor Archibald Mc-

Donald, and other members of the University’s executive management team, as well as students from Trinidad & Tobago studying at Mona. He was also given a tour of Mona’s Faculty of Medical Sciences’.

During the visit, Dr. Rowley clearly defined his expectation that The UWI should continue to ensure its relevance in the Caribbean context and called on the University “to supply the governments of the region with a steady stream of scientific data to make informed decisions.” He emphasised that government decision-making that was based on data would achieve the right outcomes.

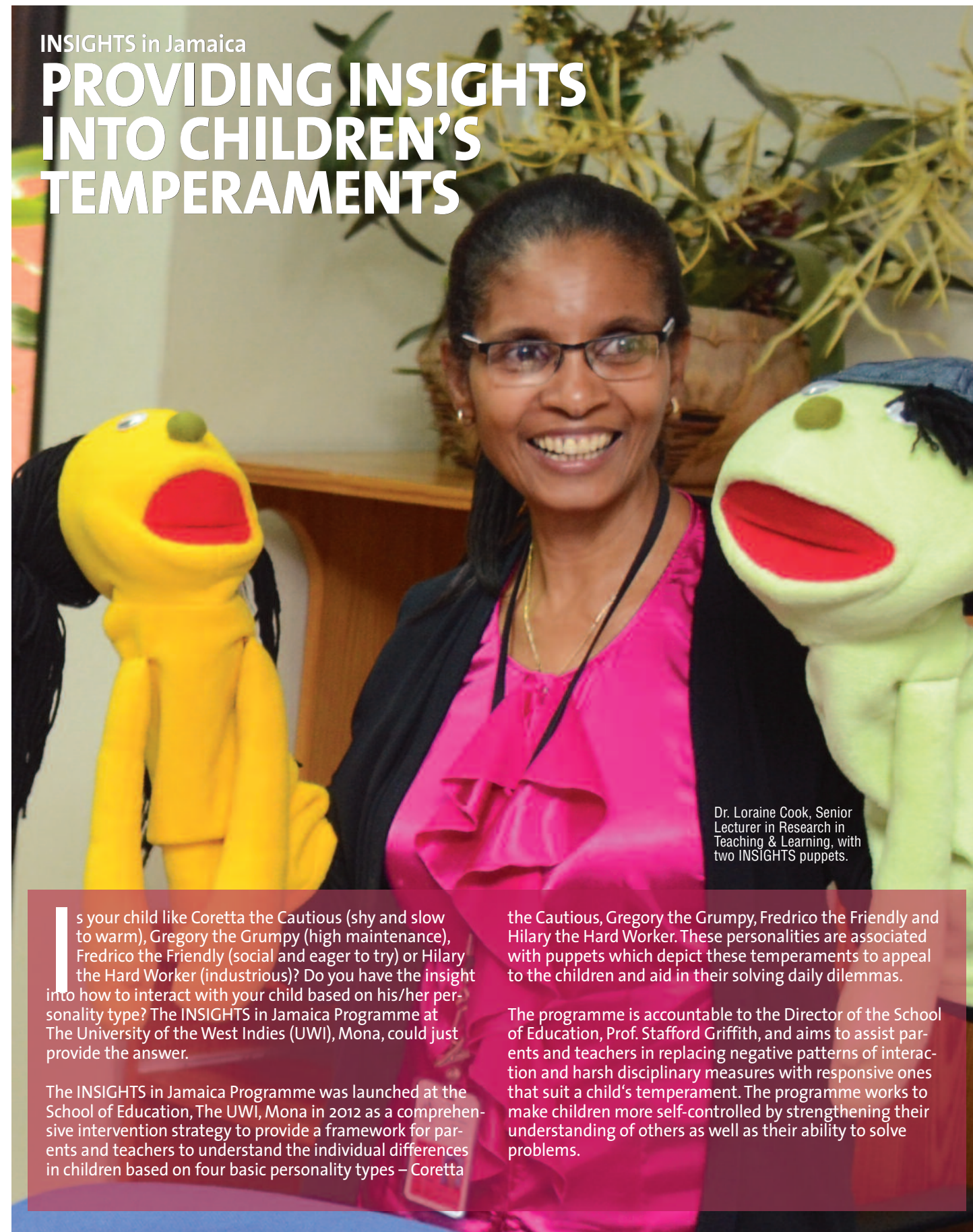
This official visit of Dr. Rowley to Jamaica was aimed at advancing diplomatic relations between the two largest CARICOM nations. He noted that there was great fragmentation taking place across the region with each island establishing institu-

tions within their country that could benefit from a collective approach and as a result, “The Caribbean regional identity is being lost.” He suggested that The UWI model could serve as a template for other areas of inter-regional cooperation.

Later that afternoon, Dr. Rowley met with University staff and students at a town-hall meeting at the Regional Headquarters. During his town hall remarks, Dr. Rowley sought to ease the worry among students about the possible cuts to the government’s funding of tertiary-level education. He expressed, “I want to thank you students for being so excited about your future and to give you the assurance that our Chancellor and our Vice-Chancellor and our PVCs, our teachers and the taxpayers of the region have promised you a bright future and that future could be delivered to you if only you grasp it with both hands.” **M**

INSIGHTS in Jamaica

PROVIDING INSIGHTS INTO CHILDREN’S TEMPERAMENTS



Dr. Loraine Cook, Senior Lecturer in Research in Teaching & Learning, with two INSIGHTS puppets.

Is your child like Coretta the Cautious (shy and slow to warm), Gregory the Grumpy (high maintenance), Fredrico the Friendly (social and eager to try) or Hilary the Hard Worker (industrious)? Do you have the insight into how to interact with your child based on his/her personality type? The INSIGHTS in Jamaica Programme at The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, could just provide the answer.

The INSIGHTS in Jamaica Programme was launched at the School of Education, The UWI, Mona in 2012 as a comprehensive intervention strategy to provide a framework for parents and teachers to understand the individual differences in children based on four basic personality types – Coretta

the Cautious, Gregory the Grumpy, Fredrico the Friendly and Hilary the Hard Worker. These personalities are associated with puppets which depict these temperaments to appeal to the children and aid in their solving daily dilemmas.

The programme is accountable to the Director of the School of Education, Prof. Stafford Griffith, and aims to assist parents and teachers in replacing negative patterns of interaction and harsh disciplinary measures with responsive ones that suit a child’s temperament. The programme works to make children more self-controlled by strengthening their understanding of others as well as their ability to solve problems.

Dr. Loraine Cook, Senior Lecturer in Research in Teaching and Learning, The UWI, Mona, was instrumental in launching the programme in Jamaica, which materialised after she had discussions with the developer of the programme, Prof. Sandee McClowry from New York University. Subsequently, Dr. Cook held dialogue with Dr. Rose Davies, former Teacher Educator in Early Childhood Education, School of Education, The UWI, Mona, which led to the establishment of a steering committee to organise an INSIGHTS intervention workshop for educators headed by Prof. Zellynne Jennings-Craig, former Director of the School of Education, The UWI, Mona.

Committee members comprised Dr. Rose Davies (Chair of the Committee); Dr. Cook; Winsome John-Gayle, former Executive Director of the Early Childhood Commission; and Dr. Marcia Stewart, Director, the Joint Board of Teacher Education. Prof. McClowry and her husband Dr. Mark Spellman held a workshop on April 26 and 27, 2012 with 13 Development Officers from the Early Childhood Commission and teacher-trainers from teachers' colleges which set into flame the vision for INSIGHTS in Jamaica.

At the end of the workshop, the participants were very positive about the programme and felt that it would provide parents with strategies that would help to discipline their children in a gentler way. They also felt that it would enhance teachers' strategies in classroom management.

Based on the outcome of the workshop, Prof. McClowry acquired funds from CHASE to set up the programme for three years, from 2014-2017. Three schools participated in 2014 – Alpha Infant and Primary School, Central Branch Infant School and John Mills Primary School – and between January 2014 to August 2016, the INSIGHTS programme reached 3,036 children, 169 parents and 88 teachers through administering the programme in 15 urban schools and four rural schools.

"We are trying to get into all the schools and to focus on under-resourced communities," Dr. Cook said. INSIGHTS therefore received additional funding for one year (2014-2015) from the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) through the United States Embassy to expand into four rural communities – Bethabara Infant, Christiana Moravian Infant, Craighead All Age and St Ann's Bay Infant School. A total of 488 children, 32 parents and 17 teachers participated in this programme.



Dr. Cook launches INSIGHTS at UWI, Mona with programme founder Prof. Sandee McClowry of New York University

"The sky is the limit for the programme. The far-reaching effects are enormous, as the programme is all about children and helping them to grow into better adults."

The INSIGHTS programme targets five year-olds and Grade 1 classrooms and the parents and teachers of these students. "Age five is the formative stage. Adults will have a good chance to influence children at that age as then they are like wet cement – you can mold them," Dr. Cook said.

The programme is unique in its focus as it deals with children's temperaments while introducing parents and teachers to behavioural management strategies. Children are also exposed to conflict man-

agement strategies which entails learning how to manage their own emotions while responding to others. "We help them to accept differences in people from an early age and to accept themselves," Dr. Cook said.


The INSIGHTS programme is implemented at three levels – the initial implementation for institutions receiving the programme for the first time; re-entry for institutions that have previously participated in the INSIGHTS programme; and licensing for schools that have completed the re-entry stage of the programme and have rented the programme materials to be used at their schools.

At the re-entry stage, the INSIGHTS in Jamaica team trains facilitators to ensure the fidelity of the programme. A Guidance Counsellor and a senior teacher selected by the principal are trained, and at the end of that stage the schools are invited to be licensed.

Feedback on the INSIGHTS programme from the participating schools has been very positive. A teacher from Christiana Moravian Basic School said: "The INSIGHTS programme was really informative. I have learnt a lot. I think I am better able now to know about the different temperaments of children and how to deal with children according to their temperaments and accept the fact that they are really like that. The programme has made me better able to deal with children in the classes."

A teacher from Dupont Infant School had this to say: "The programme has been very helpful. It sensitizes us to better understand student's temperaments and we have new ways of dealing with their situations. It helps us to understand children more as well as ourselves."

Additionally, INSIGHTS in Jamaica has had a very competent and committed team. Programme Coordinator Rochelle Williams, Administrative Assistant Shauyagaye Panton, and the Advisory Committee including Prof. Sandee McClowry, Dr. Rose Davies, Dr. Joan Reid, Dr. Mairette Newman, Gail Mitchell, Andrew Collins and Bruce Fletcher have worked to ensure the success of the programme.

The current Project Manager is Dr. Zoyah Kinkead-Clarke. "The sky is the limit for the programme. The far-reaching effects are enormous, as the programme is all about children and helping them to grow into better adults," Dr. Cook said. 

UWI Recognises Excellence with Vice-Chancellor's Awards



Back row: L-R: Mr. Floyd Reifer, Professor Jayaraj Jayaraman, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Professor Verene Shepherd, Mr. Jessel Murray. Front row: L-R: Dr. Farid Youssef, The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (represented by Ms. Camille Renaud and Dr. Fasil Muddeen), Professor Jennifer Knight-Madden.

Seven awards for excellence were presented at The UWI's 2015/2016 Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence. A University tradition for more than 20 years, the awards recognise excellence in teaching, administration and research accomplishments, service to the University community, contributions to public service, and all-round excellence in a combination of two or more of these core areas. A departmental award is also given for

service and operational excellence. The presentation ceremony which is rotated annually among The University's four campuses took place on 19 October, 2016 at The UWI St Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago.

THE 2015/2016 AWARDEES

Professor Jennifer Knight-Madden, Caribbean Institute for Health Research (formerly Tropical Medicine Research

Institute), Regional Headquarters | Excellence Award for Research Accomplishments

Professor Verene Shepherd, Institute for Gender and Development Studies, Regional Coordinating Unit | Excellence Award for Contribution to Public Service

Dr. Farid Youssef, Department of Pre-Clinical Sciences, St Augustine Campus | Excellence Award for Teaching

Professor Jayaraj Jayaraman, Department of Life Sciences, St Augustine Campus | Excellence Award for Research Accomplishments

Mr. Jessel Murray, Department of Creative and Festival Arts, St Augustine Campus | All-round excellence in University Service and Public Service

Mr. Floyd Reifer, The Academy of Sport, Cave Hill Campus | Excellence Award for Outstanding Service to the University Community

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, St Augustine Campus | Departmental Award for Excellence. 



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Inez Schpektor runs her hands over the laundry basins where the Jews had washed their laundry. The basins are located in front of the Caribbean Institute of Media & Communication (CARIMAC) site

GIBRALTAR CAMP REFUGEE MAKES PILGRIMAGE TO MONA

Inez Schpektor was only 11 years old when she departed Spain with her family, eventually arriving at a refugee camp in what was then the British colony of Jamaica. Gibraltar Camp, as it was known, is now the site of the Mona Campus of The University of the West Indies. Some 74 years later, Inez returned to Jamaica for the first reunion remembering the Polish and Dutch Jewish refugees who were given safe haven at Mona during World War II.

Inset: A sign provides information on the significance of the site

Right: Inez Schpektor poses with family members in front of one of the wooden buildings which housed refugees at the Gibraltar Camp.



GATEWAY TO OUR HERITAGE: GIBRALTAR CAMP

GIBRALTAR CAMP WAS A CIVILIAN FACILITY ESTABLISHED BY THE BRITISH IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT IN 1940, TO HOUSE EVACUEES FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN FORTRESS COLONY OF GIBRALTAR. SEVERAL GROUPS OF JEWISH REFUGEES FROM NAZI-DOMINATED EUROPE, ALSO SHELTERED HERE DURING WORLD WAR 2.

THE MAIN GATE INTO THE CAMP WAS LOCATED HERE, NEAR TO THE PRESENT IRVINE HALL GATE.

THE CAMP WAS BOUNDED BY THE HOPE RIVER TO THE EAST, SHED LANE AND THE LINDO GAP ROAD TO THE NORTH, THE OLD MONA ESTATE WORKS TO THE WEST, AND THE HERMITAGE ROAD TO THE SOUTH.

UWI APPOINTS 3 NEW PROFESSORS

Three new professors have been appointed at The UWI, Mona Campus. They are **Dr. Asha Badaloo**, of the Tropical Medicine Research Institute (TMRI), Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona Campus; **Dr. Jean-Pierre Louboutin** of the Faculty of Science and Technology and **Dr. James Robertson**, of the Faculty of Humanities and Education, Mona Campus, who were all promoted to professors, following the assessment of their individual academic accomplishments and contributions to their respective fields.

DR. ASHA BADALOO has a record of research as well as substantial contribution to the University community through graduate training, scholarly and professional service.

She has held a Wellcome Trust Fellowship in the UK and was a Fulbright Scholar at Baylor College of Medicine, USA. Dr. Badaloo's main area of research is in the use of stable isotopes to investigate human metabolism and she is a recognised expert

in these research techniques.

A substantial part of her research has focused on understanding the impact of severe childhood malnutrition on metabolism of protein and lipids, which has earned international recognition for its contribution to advances in the management of severely malnourished children.

Dr. Badaloo has 40 peer-reviewed publications, many in high impact international journals, and three book chapters. She has raised research funds to support her work from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and has had several successful international collaborations.

Dr. Badaloo contributes to teaching of nutrition on the MBBS and the Masters in Nutrition. She has supervised a number of graduate students and co-ordinates the PhD Nutrition programme. She currently chairs the TMRI training committee and represents the TMRI on the FMS Graduate Studies Committee. Dr. Badaloo has served on national and regional nutrition committees. She has acted as reviewer for prestigious international journals and has presented her research at several regional and international conferences.

DR. JEAN-PIERRE LOUBOUTIN joined the staff of the Department of Basic Medical Sciences in 2012 as Senior Lecturer. He is a well-respected academic who since 2012, has published some 10 book chapters and 16 peer-reviewed articles. Overall, he has published over 90 peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *Nature Methods*, *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, *Annals of Neurology*, *PNAS*, *Stem Cells*, *American Journal of Pathology*, among others, and 17 book chapters.

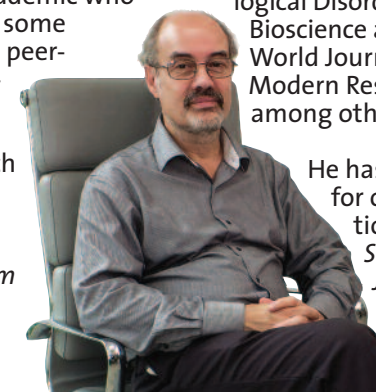
Dr. Louboutin has international stature as an academic researcher, mainly in the area of neurodegenerative diseases with the objective of understanding their development as a means of combating the disease. The most noteworthy feature of his work has been the application of gene therapy and stem cell technology to diseases of the central nervous system.

Dr. Louboutin has contributed significantly to the teaching of Anatomy in the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), the Bachelor of Science Physical Therapy, and the Bachelor Biomedical Sciences programmes of the Faculty of Medical Sciences at Mona.

He is currently assisting in the development of a laboratory dedicated to Histotechnology in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences. He has also received significant funding for the research through the National Institutes of Health; French Muscular Dystrophy Association (AFM), the French Spatial Agency CNES, Research Regional Committee of the Hospital of Nantes, and the Principal's Initiative Grant.

The newly appointed professor has also contributed significantly to the life of the University, through his participation in various societies and committees. He has served as a member of the Editorial Boards for thirty one international journals including *CNS & Neurological Disorders*; *Advances in Bioscience and Biotechnology*; *World Journal of Stem Cells*; *Modern Research in Inflammation*, among others.

He has also served as reviewer for over sixty-five international journals including *Stem Cells*, *American Journal of Pathology*, *Neurobiology of Disease*, *Gene Therapy*, among others. *Cont'd on page 26*




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ROGER MAIS from page 13

heritage was unique and irreplaceable; whether its disappearance would constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity; whether it had created great impact over time and/or within a particular cultural area of the region, and if it had had great influence (positive or negative) on the course of history.

In addition, the Library chose to prove its significance in the areas of Authenticity, Time, Subject and Theme. She noted that the value and importance of the Roger Mais Manuscript Collection at the UWI Library at Mona could not be overstated as Mais was a major figure not only in Jamaican and Caribbean literary and political history, but in the whole field of postcolonial literature in English.

She pointed to his concern with the lives of Jamaica's lower classes in the urban and rural areas, adding that this impacted the work of younger generations of Caribbean writers. His imprisonment in 1944 for an article condemning British colonialism also made him an iconic figure in the struggle for independence.

Roger Mais was posthumously awarded the Order of Jamaica in 1978. 

3 NEW PROFESSORS from page 21

DR. JAMES ROBERTSON has been a member of the Department of History and Archaeology since August 1995, when he was recruited as a Lecturer. His research has clustered around aspects of urban history, cultural history and the stories that communities tell themselves to comprehend their current status.

Dr. Robertson is well-published, and has received numerous grants and fellowships including the Andrew W. Mellon, Gilder-Lerner and John Carter Brown Library




Fellowships as well as those offered by the National Maritime Museum, the Henry E. Huntington Library, The British Library and Oxford Brookes University. His book, *Gone is the Ancient Glory! Spanish Town, Jamaica, 1534-2000*, is the first English-language urban history to cover the development of a Caribbean town from its foundation to the present.

He has published one book, 17 single-authored refereed articles, nine chapters in refereed volumes, contributed to co-authored articles and co-edited a special issue of *Caribbean Quarterly*.

Dr. Robertson has also published a further 14 articles in various academic but non-refereed journals, along with at least nine chapters in non-refereed

academic volumes, and 27 reviews. He is currently working on three books and has been a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Early American History* since its foundation in 2009.

He has developed six new courses, and recast and taught a further four courses, two at the postgraduate level. He has also supervised one PhD and is serving as a committee member for two more. He has also supervised 15 Masters degrees in areas such as Heritage Studies, History and Geography, and is currently supervising four Heritage Studies MAs and one History MPhil.

Dr. Robertson has been the Department's liaison with the University Library since 1996. 

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