Principal’s Message

The period just ended has been particularly challenging for the Mona Campus. In February of this year, the UWI community was devastated by the passing of Caribbean cultural icon Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford. Professor Nettleford’s career as an academic and administrator was spent entirely at Mona. Indeed, he always said that what he achieved was because of UWI, which facilitated him and allowed him to be who he was. UWI was his base, the place that centred him, and from which he drew his strength. The Mona Campus is poorer for his passing and will miss him in immeasurable ways. A section of this issue of the MONA News pays tribute to the memory of this extraordinary man.

We pay tribute of another kind to members of our community who have been at the forefront of efforts to assist our neighbour, Haiti which suffered the effects of a devastating earthquake in January. Mona provided medical and financial assistance and mounted courses in Haitian creole designed to bridge the language barrier between disaster relief experts and the Haitian population. Come September, Mona will also welcome a group of Haitian students who will complete their undergraduate studies at this Campus, as part of an initiative to rebuild the administrative capacity of that country. I am confident that staff and students alike will assist them to make the inevitable adjustments to life in our community.

At another level, Mona will have to make adjustments aimed at minimizing the impact of the recent cut indicated in the Budget Estimates submitted to Parliament by the Government of Jamaica. The initiatives include accelerating the pace of transformation into a more agile and self-reliant campus, the introduction of new academic programmes, an increased focus on long-term programmes that would be attractive to international students, and a focus on units that are capable of generating income. Administrative reform is also high on the Agenda of the campus.

In anticipation of the budget cut, the Campus had already begun a programme to aggressively transform itself into an institution capable of greater self sufficiency. This includes:

- A review of the expenditure on overseas travel
- Reduction in security and utility costs
- Elimination of overtime
- Elimination of Sale of Leave
- A freeze on vacancies and a more cost-effective manner of handling replacement of staff on leave.

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- Reduction in security and utility costs
- A review of the expenditure on overseas travel with a view to reducing this.

Mona will introduce two new academic programmes in Dentistry and Law at the start of the 2010-2011 academic year.
academic year. These programmes are highly supportive of national development, but there is also a strong unfilled demand for them. The programmes will be offered in combination with a number of existing areas of academic focus to enhance the relevance of existing programme offerings.

The Campus has also been reviewing the management of self-funded programmes in order to streamline these offerings and bring them into a more formal structure. We will be looking more closely at a number of units which have income-generating capabilities such as the Mona Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS), Mona Geoinformatics (MGIS), Caribbean Institute of Genetics (CARIGEN), the Mona School of Business (MSB), the Business Development Office (BDO) and the Mona Institute of Applied Sciences. Other units such as the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC), Laboratories in the Faculties of Medical Sciences (such as Pathology, Microbiology and Haematology) and Pure and Applied Sciences, as well as the Language Unit in the Faculty of Humanities & Education, all have income earning potential that needs to be explored.

In this respect, the Campus will be moving to take advantage of the income generating potential and intellectual property right opportunities of path breaking projects developed by academic staff of the Campus such as the Global Positioning System (GPS) developed by Mona Geoinformatics, and the Cardiac Simulator developed by academics in the Departments of Surgery and Computing. Such projects place Mona in an excellent position to garner international research grants.

The Campus has embarked on a number of projects intended to meet the demands of the expanding student intake and to support income generating activities. Some, like the expansion of the UWI School of Nursing and the establishment of the Western Jamaica Campus are already complete. Projects underway or yet to be started include:

- The Basic Medical Sciences Complex (which will enable the release of facilities currently used in the delivery of the MBBS programme)
- New student housing facilities to accommodate 800 undergraduate and 200 graduate students. These will be entirely self-financing.
- A multi-purpose Sport facility capable of seating 6000 persons and which will be used for Convocation exercises as well as an Examination Centre. The Facility will also be used for the staging of major sporting and entertainment events on an income generating basis.

There is much more to be done but I am confident that we will overcome these challenges, as we have so many others in the past, and that we will emerge even stronger, and true to our mission of Inspiring Excellence and Producing Leaders for our country, the region and beyond.

The declaration on Haiti was the culmination of the two days of UNICA meetings, hosted by The University of the West Indies. The UNICA conference, “Partnering for Sustainability” was held on March 15, 2010 at the UWI Institute of Critical Thinking, St. Augustine and focused specifically on mobilizing Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes to partner with Haiti in the rebuilding effort, with an emphasis on its tertiary sector. The conference and AGM were attended by representatives of UNICA member institutions including The University of Puerto Rico; The University of the West Indies; University of the Netherland Antilles; Anton De Kom University of Suriname; Universidad Latinomericana y del Caribe; University of the Virgin Islands; Instituto de Estudios Caribenos; In Dame, Université Caraïbe and Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Sede San Andrés. The Organization of American States and the Caribbean Agricultural Research Development Institute were also represented.

According to Professor Harris, “There is legitimate concern that the response to the reconstruction of Haiti will be fragmented and not linked to the wishes of the Haitian people, themselves. In planning our intervention, we therefore recognize that our contribution must be focused and guided by the Haitian community. We are concentrating on the rebuilding of the tertiary education sector because we believe that Haiti’s recovery and repositioning will be very dependent on the expansion of its human knowledge resources and expertise. We have invited our Haitian colleagues to participate in these two days of meetings to share with us their critical perspectives on the way forward.”

Also speaking at the briefing was Professor Wilson Laleau Vice Rector, Academic Affairs, Université d’Etat d’Haiti, who expressed sincere thanks to UNICA on behalf of the people of Haiti, for its assistance and commitment to rebuilding the nation. Other speakers at the media briefing included Professor Nivia Fernandez Hernandez of the University of Puerto Rico who represented outgoing UNICA president Dr. Ramon de la Torre; and Dr. Matthew Smith of the Department of History and Archaeology, UWI Mona, who was appointed Head of the UNICA-Haiti Response taskforce.

Founded in 1967, The Association of Universities and Research Institutions of the Caribbean fosters cooperation among the higher education institutions in the Caribbean region. UNICA is an independent, voluntary organization that facilitates academic contacts and promotes collaborative projects involving institutions and academicians from across the entire region. UNICA supports the regionalization of higher education in the Caribbean and each year the Association gathers the highest rank officials of the universities in the Caribbean region to participate in its Annual General Meeting.
Five members of the academic staff at the Cave Hill, Mona and St. Augustine Campuses of The University of the West Indies, namely, Professor John Agard, Dr. Kusha Haraksingh, Dr. Dave Chadee, Professor Maureen Samms-Vaughan and Professor Clive Landis will receive the prestigious Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence for the academic year 2009/2010 at a ceremony to be held on October 21, 2010 at the Cave Hill Campus. The Awards will be presented by the Vice Chancellor.

The annual Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence was initiated in 1993 by former Vice Chancellor, Sir Alister McIntyre, to recognize high achievement by academic as well as senior administrative staff. As many as five awards may be given in any one year in one or other of the following areas: 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 the four core areas. Each award is valued at US$5,000.

The recipient at the Mona Campus is Professor Maureen Samms-Vaughan, Professor of Child Health, Child Development and Behaviour, Department of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Child Health, for Contribution to Public Service.

At the St Augustine Campus, recipients are Professor John Agard, Professor of Tropical Island Ecology and Head, Department of Life Sciences, Faculty of Science and Agriculture, for All-round Performance in the combined areas of Research Accomplishments and Contribution to Public Service, Dr. Kusha Haraksingh, Senior Lecturer, Department of History, Faculty of Humanities and Education for Contribution to Public Service, and Dr. Dave Chadee, Senior Lecturer in Parasitology, Department of Life Sciences, for Research Accomplishments.

The other recipient from the Cave Hill Campus is Professor Clive Landis, Professor in Cardiovascular Research, Chronic Disease Research Centre, for Research Accomplishments.

Professor Maureen Samms-Vaughan is considered an ambassador for the University in the area of child development and is a significant contributor to public service. She was on secondment to the Government of Jamaica for two years as Executive Chairman of the National Early Childhood Commission, a position she served with distinction. She has published two books entitled *The Jamaican Pre-School Child: the Status of Early Childhood Development in Jamaica and Cognition, Educational Attainment and Behaviour in a cohort of Jamaican Children at age 11-12 years*. These books have become reference texts used as policy guides in the Ministries of Health and Education in Jamaica. Professor Samms-Vaughan has authored and published over 58 research papers and abstracts in peer-reviewed journals. Her research has attracted significant amounts of grant funding to the University of the West Indies. The quality of her research accomplishments has been recognized internationally, demonstrated by her election as Editor or Consulting Editor to scholarly journals such as International Journal of Early Years Education, Children’s Issues Coalition Journal and Caribbean Journal of Psychology.

Professor Samms-Vaughan’s contribution to non-governmental organizations has been diverse and extensive. She has been a consultant and an advisor to the Jamaica Attention Deficit Disorder Association since 1998 and has served as consultant to UNICEF and PAHO. Despite her hectic schedule, Professor Samms-Vaughan finds time to serve her community through her service on the Boards of Vaz Preparatory School, The Queen’s High School and Family Life Ministries. For her exemplary public service Professor Samms-Vaughan was in 2007 awarded the Jamaican National Honour, Commander of the Order of Distinction for service in the field of Early Childhood Development and Child Health.

Professor John Agard has an outstanding publication record. He has published over 8 book chapters and 20 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Professor Agard is recognized by the United Nations as an expert on climate change and Small Island Developing States; was a lead author of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 4th assessment report – Chapter 21, Small islands – and as such, shared in the IPCC’s Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. Professor Agard has been very effective in generating research funds and is considered an excellent supervisor of research graduate students. His contribution to public service both locally and internationally has been extensive. He has served on several boards, including the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) of which he was Chairman. He was instrumental in getting several important pieces of legislation on environmental regulation approved in Trinidad & Tobago.

Dr. Kusha Haraksingh was appointed Commissioner and first Chairman of the CARICOM Competition Commission, an essential pillar of the Single Market and Economy (CSME). His public service activities which included providing pro-bono advice to the West Indies Players Association, and representing them in arbitration proceedings before the Chief Justice of Barbados, have made a significant impact on the lives of many Caribbean citizens. Dr. Haraksingh sits on various University Committees such as the Augmented Pensions Committee, the Standing Committee on Ordinances and Regulations, and serves as Chair of the St Augustine Examinations Committee and Chair of the University Archives and Records Management Committee.

Dr. Dave Chadee is an accomplished researcher and has an outstanding publication record in refereed journals and chapters/books. He has published over 180 scientific papers, 10 book chapters and 1 book. In 2007 he was the lead-author of a paper published in the esteemed journal, ‘Science’ entitled, Genetics: a breakthrough for global public health. He is presently on the Editorial Board of five international peer-reviewed journals, Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata, Annals of Medical Entomology, European Journal of General Medicine, Open Public Health Journal and Journal of Parasitological Research.

Dr. Chadee’s work, which has gained international recognition, has had an undeniable impact on regional development. He was the recipient of two fellowship awards, the Wellcome Trust Scholar (1985-1987) and the Gorgas Memorial Institute Fellow (1998-1999). He was also conferred with an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 1998 by the University of Dundee in recognition of his research. Dr. Chadee has been very effective in generating research funds and has been considered an excellent supervisor of research graduate students.

Professor Clive Landis has an outstanding publication record, having published 64 papers in peer-reviewed journals. In the past five years, Professor Landis has published 25 papers, 20 as first author or senior author and has gained national, regional and international recognition. He has, on several occasions been invited to present keynote lectures in the UK, US and Australia as an internationally acclaimed leader in the field of heart surgery, particularly as it relates to the dangerous systemic inflammatory response experienced by patients undergoing this procedure. Professor Landis received the Principal’s Award for Excellence, Cave Hill Campus, for the academic year 2008/2009. 

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**University Rose Townhouse Complex**

- 2,200 sq ft 2 bedroom Town House
- 430 sq ft Master bedroom suite
- Ceramic floor tiles
- Solid surface countertops
- Double car port
- Play area
- Intercom and security cameras

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**Listing Agent**

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- Price: $25,000,000.00
The University of the West Indies will confer 15 honorary degrees at the upcoming graduation ceremonies.

Five honorary degrees will be awarded at The UWI, Mona Campus. Two Jamaican entrepreneurs, Mr. George N. Ashenheim and Hon. William A. McConnell, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD). Consultant Physician Dr. Knox Hagley of Grenada, and Neurosurgeon and educator Dr. Renn Holness will both receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) while the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) will be conferred on author, educator and former Public Orator at The UWI, Mona Campus, Professor Edward Baugh.

Ten honorary degrees will be conferred at the other three UWI campuses. At Cave Hill, the Doctor of Laws degree will be conferred on theologian and educator, the Rev. Dr. Kortright Davis of Antigua, the Hon. Elliott D. Mottley, QC of Barbados, Professor Naana J. Opoku-Agyemang of Ghana and Bandleader, Mr. Charles E. Straker of Barbados.

At the St. Augustine Campus, public servant Mr. Doddridge Alleyne, broadcast journalist, Mr. Hans Hanoomansingh and women’s advocate Mrs. Diana Mahabir-Wyatt will all receive the honorary Doctor of Law degree while the degree of Doctor of Science will be conferred on Trinidadian chemist, Mr. Thomas Gatcliffe.

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Chromium and Zinc in JAMALCO Bauxite which was undertaken by Dr. Michael Coley and Dr. Anthony Greenaway, of the Department of Chemistry. The award for the Best Research Publication in the Faculty of Social Sciences went to Dr. Densil Williams, Department of Management Studies for his book Understanding exporting in the small and micro enterprise. Also receiving this award was Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Mark Figueroa for his article George Cumper and the Critical Tradition: Common Themes in Post World War II Caribbean Thought and Dr. Eris Schoburgh, Department of Government, for her article Paradigm Shift or Rhetorical Flourish? The ‘New Orthodoxy’ of Local Governance in the Caribbean.

The Most Outstanding Researcher in the Faculty was Professor Anthony Harriott, Department of Government, with five Publications. The Research Project Attracting the Most Research Funds was Political Culture of Democracy in Jamaica, 2008: The Impact of Governance, USAID, LAPOP, Centre for Leadership and Governance, UWI, (2009) conducted by Dr. Lawrence Powell, Department of Government and Mr. Balford Lewis, Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work.

The Research Project with the Greatest Business/Economic/Development Impact was National Mathematics Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Project undertaken by Dr. Lloyd Waller, Department of Government, Mrs. Shakira Maxwell, Centre for Gender and Development Studies and Mr. Gavin Daley, Department of Government.

The annual Research Day exercise highlights innovative work being undertaken at the Mona Campus through a mixture of exhibitions, departmental presentations, campus tours and lectures. The awards ceremony was initiated by the Office of the Principal to recognize research excellence within the academy.
Homecoming honouree issues challenge “Let us become UWI Alums in more than name”

Trustees Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Delaware, and 2010 Homecoming honouree Professor Patricia Martin-DeLeon has challenged graduates of The UWI to position themselves to become integrally represented in the life of the institution. She said this was important to enhance its image and ensure that the institution maintains its unique perspective and would help it strive for excellence in all areas in the future.

“Alumni involvement will ensure that the baton will be securely passed to the next generation. Let us not drop the baton-for it is all about the FUTURE. Let us make sure that the next generation that comes after us find us faithful. We want this institution that has served us so well to serve others to come. We who value the University’s mission should help to keep it at the leading edge in teaching, research, and community outreach or service.”

Professor DeLeon was addressing the hundreds of alumni, staff, students and members of the wider community who gathered at the Mona Visitors’ Lodge & Conference Centre February 20, 2010 for the Dinner which climaxed the annual Homecoming Celebrations and Alumni Week. She urged UWI graduates to be alumni in more than name and to earn the title through their actions, participation, commitment and dedication to the institution.

Reminiscing on her own days at Mona, she expressed delight at being back on campus and seeing the many changes that have occurred. “Buildings have grown taller, some have gotten wider and yet my favorite ackee trees by Taylor Hall are still in place. What is even more delightful is the bond that I feel here today and the sense of community that I have enjoyed …. I do feel that I have a sense of place here, with powerful memories and moments. Professor DeLeon said that during her years at Mona as an undergrad, her interest in extracting the secrets of nature was greatly fostered by her professors. “For me it was fascinating to see how Prof. Ivan Goodbody’s eyes would light up when he spoke about tunicates (tiny marine animals with a sac-like body), and how Prof. Skelding peering through the microscope could become excited about tiny organelles in sections of plants, organelles which I was sure were not there because I could not see them” She added that as a postgraduate student, she owed much of her development as a scientist to Dr. Molly Thorburn. “She taught by example. Her passion for her work was contagious… The enthusiasm and dedication of these professors to their fields impacted me greatly.”

Drawing on her experiences and the challenges she had faced, she urged current students to have the courage to study whatever field that was interesting and that they thought was important. She also argued that it was essential to keep abreast in the constantly changing technological age, to be adaptable and willing to change without resting on one’s laurels.

Professor DeLeon reminded alumni of the importance of embracing the opportunity to be a Mentor and to develop relationships by sharing experiences to promote the careers of others. “Mentoring …protects and nurtures and is a powerful natural human relationship with a lasting legacy. Mentoring, as I see it, is an intergenerational transfer process with a symbiotic relationship in which both the mentee and the mentor benefit. It is certainly a two-way street, a 2-way learning experience.”

“... the three lessons learned during my journey and that I would like to share with you are the importance of maintaining the courage of one’s conviction, remaining adaptable to change, embracing opportunities to grow in new ways and developing mentoring relationships by sharing experiences to promote the careers of others,” she concluded.
REMEmBRANCE delivered by Professor Edward Baugh, at The University Chapel

We are met in ritual remembrance of Professor the Honourable Ralston Miltton Nettleford, member of the Order of Merit, member of the Order of the Caribbean Community, Fellow of the Institute of Jamaica, Honorary Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford.

Having spoken those honorific words, with due formality, on behalf of the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor and the entire University of the West Indies, I can now proceed to speak about Rex, just Rex, everybody’s Rex. That name, Rex, and the wide currency of its usage are a mark of the man, since it connotes a blend of affectionate informality with style and regality. For “rex”, as you know, is the Latin word for “king,” and our Rex was a prince, let alone the Kumina king.

His life will stand as a superlative example of how talent, wisdom, sacrifice and nurturing and education can combine to produce the highest excellence out of circumstances of limited social and material privilege. Rex has described himself as “a typical member of the so-called 70 percent clan, the legendary 70 percent of the Jamaican population who were born to a mother who did not have the benefit of confetti.” He was raised by his mother and his maternal grandmother, both examples of that wonder of the world, the strong Jamaican woman. The boy they raised has already become a legend.

Ever since the news of his death broke, there has been an unprecedented spate of eulogies in the media, so much so that, to adapt his famous phrase about gilding the anthurium, one must now be careful not to gild the ebony. The best of those tributes should be collected in a book that will be an invaluable bequest to posterity.

Two Saturdays ago my wife was reading one of the newspapers, when I heard her give out, “Boy, every puss, dog and fowl have something to say about Rex!” It occurs to me that, with those words – “puss,” “dog” and “fowl” – she spoke a deeper truth than the off-hand remark might have intended; for one of Rex’s signal contributions was that he spoke up for puss, dog and fowl, and worked to make them feel that they were people too.

Whatever shall we remember about him? Well, to begin with, the sheer presence of the man: the easy authority, the self-assurance without arrogance, the sartorial individuality and elegance of the liberated man. Beyond the presence, though, were the extraordinary range and volume of talent and achievement. His life was many, simultaneous, mutually energizing careers. The achievement in each, separately, would have been enough to earn him a place in history. He was scholar, educator, author, dancer, choreographer, administrator, institution builder. Which other dancer-choreographer has also been a dancer, choreographer, founder and artistic director of a dance theatre company? And which other dancer-choreographer has also been head of a Trade Union Education Institute? Then there were the myriad works of voluntary public service, local, regional and international: service on boards and committees, and all the lectures and speeches he was asked to give. When he was appointed Ambassador-at-large for Jamaica, he had already, for years, been performing that function, not least through the monumental spirit-lifting achievement of the National Dance Theatre Company. Where did he find the time and energy to do all the things he did? I got part of the answer when he was asked to give. When he was asked me to look at any draft of a lecture. And which other dancer-choreographer never ran two of the sentences seemed too long and convoluted. He never had any idea of cultural diversity. In him the artist and the activist were one. His essentially educational mission was articulated in his many books, on dance, culture and identity. These works have ensured for him a place in the intellectual history of the Caribbean. He also developed his idea of communal “renewal and continuity” through the language of the body, dance.

A related feature of his capacity to articulate ideas was his eloquence. His mastery of English was a factor of his self-assurance as a Caribbean person. Sometimes he would run rings of words round us, but we would still go away impressed. Once, to my surprise, he asked me
His twenty-five years as Director called “the kitchen cabinet” of only too natural, since he had for successive Vice-Chancellors. years been a member of what he preceding years, the transition was of the Department of Extra-Mural Deputy Vice-Chancellor for the two years at Oxford on a Rhodes scholarship, and that was only preparation for returning. It is an achievement of the institution that he is the first of its graduates to have become its Vice-Chancellor. When he was appointed to that position in 1998, having been stage of my knowing Rex, as to what he meant to the so-called little people.

We have heard of his financial help to young people of limited means to further their education. Many of us have experienced his meticulous kindness in sharing information. When, in his travels, he came across some article or book review which he knew would be of particular interest to you, soon enough you would receive a clipping or a photo-copy, with a feature of his leadership style was his accessibility, to ‘puss, dog and fowl’ and closely related to this was his thoughtfulness and generosity towards others, and his unreserved gratitude to all who nurtured and mentored him in his early years. A few years ago, a retired maintenance worker who had been re-hired on contract, was told, unjustly as he thought, that his services would no longer be needed. In telling his story, he said to me, “I vex, I vex, so I just go and talk to Mr Rex.” (I don’t think he realized that he was a dub poet.) That story was an eye-opener to me, even at that late note in his own hand. As for his gratitude to persons who helped to make him, whether as benefactors, mentors or role models, he has spoken warmly of Dr. Herbert Morrison, who, as Rex’s close friend Barbara Clouston has written, was like a father to him when he was a schoolboy at Cornwall College. He has singled out teachers like Clifford Francis at the elementary school at Bunker’s Hill, and Rupert Miller and Phillip Wright at Cornwall. Then, at the UCWI, there were Elsa Goveia, Roy Augier and John Parry. At Oxford, there was Isaiah Berlin. But perhaps the one who may be called his chief mentor and promoter was Philip Sherlock.

To his siblings, to his other relatives, to Sam, to Miss Morgan, to Miss Ruby, to his beloved NDTU family, we say, “Take courage from his strength and his example.” Tonight the music of alleluias will lift with the gentle breeze blowing across the cane-piece. As it rises, to Bunker’s Hill, to Accompong, to the Jamaican poet, Roger Mais, wrote years ago: “Men of ideas outlive their times” Professor Nettleford was just such a man. The creator of original ideas, he was always willing to engage in and to exchange them, and he was motivated to act on any ones he considered worthy, moving them to implementation.

When the Radio Education Unit came under his direction, it had already amassed an impressive assortment of programmes highlighting the Arts, mainly Caribbean Literature and Music, Caribbean Geography and History. Rex approved – yes – but made his ideas known that Government, Politics, and the national Genealogy should share the collection in equal measure, so that the data on those topics for the so-called little ‘person in the street’ might be significantly improved.

For years I had been agitating for proper housing for the Radio Unit’s archival collection of reel tapes, stored at the time in boxes at the back of a room. With some annoyance I turned to Rex. Once I put my ideas for improving the situation he said simply, “Write the Proposal”... and that was that. He caught the idea as adroitly as a cricketer in the slips. He did whatever it was he did and volia! The Radio Unit was extended to accommodate « The Library of the Spoken Word ». It stands as another of the many monuments to Nettleford’s openness to ideas. “Men of ideas outlive their times” idea(s) held by such a man do not end with his death... they grow like seed springing up a multitude.”

Alma Mock Yen
Former Staff Tutor,
Radio Education Unit

HE HAD TIME FOR PEOPLE

He validated people for their achievements. He sent letters to every staff member who graduated from UWI, notes to recipients of awards, etc. He validated their hopes and dreams: a young
security guard sent him some of his writings and poems. He had previously sent copies to others more likely to be experts...and had not got any reply. Prof read them all, put in suggestions....

Once I came across a bank account - in it he had placed any order to provide refreshments and bus fares for students in rehearsals. Many were like the nine lepers, and never returned to thank him- but it did not stop his generosity. "Veronica ‘Ronnie’ Salter Senior Administrative Officer, Caribbean Quarterly"

A TEXTURED AND DYNAMIC PLAYER
His was always a call for reinvention and renewal for his beloved outreach sectors – which have now become the Open Campus.

Professor Nettleford urged his Resident Tutors and Staff Tutors to always keep in the forefront of their mind that their role was to bring the University to the people of the region; that it was our mandate to be creative, inventive and cutting edge, to lead in directions that were unanticipated, unwanted but needed; to build bridges between the University and the communities it served. To build bridges between lofty academic ideas and practical applications for the betterment of the individual Caribbean man and woman who would not normally have access to the University.

In his afterword to the publication “Breaking down the Walls”, a history of the Extra Mural Department, Prof paid tribute to legacy, which you were so lovingly bequeathing to us. It is our sincere promise to you therefore that we shall continue the robust exploration of our “creative imagination”. If nothing else, we simply must continue to.... reject the notions of minstrelsy that so easily attend upon our avocation, and communicate the music with excellence.

So, as you continue your heavenly “Yang Ka Tao”; “Ung Ka Taa” and even an occasional “Wah ba da ba daaus, we shall indeed, heed your Middle and Far East... His early forays into dance were in fact setting movement to folksongs, movement appropriate to the work songs, social songs and ritual music that he observed in the community around him, expanding on the natural gestures and attitudes effected in communication, for, as we all know, tying the hands of the Jamaican or Caribbean man renders him almost unable to speak, and definitely removes the ability to communicate emphasis.

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His was always a call for reinvention and renewal for his beloved outreach sectors – which have now become the Open Campus.

Professor Nettleford urged his Resident Tutors and Staff Tutors to always keep in the forefront of their mind that their role was to bring the University to the people of the region; that it was our mandate to be creative, inventive and cutting edge, to lead in directions that were unanticipated, unwanted but needed; to build bridges between the University and the communities it served. To build bridges between lofty academic ideas and practical applications for the betterment of the individual Caribbean man and woman who would not normally have access to the University.

In his afterword to the publication “Breaking down the Walls”, a history of the Extra Mural Department, Prof paid tribute to legacy, which you were so lovingly bequeathing to us. It is our sincere promise to you therefore that we shall continue the robust exploration of our “creative imagination”. If nothing else, we simply must continue to.... reject the notions of minstrelsy that so easily attend upon our avocation, and communicate the music with excellence.

So, as you continue your heavenly “Yang Ka Tao”; “Ung Ka Taa” and even an occasional “Wah ba da ba daaus, we shall indeed, heed your Middle and Far East... His early forays into dance were in fact setting movement to folksongs, movement appropriate to the work songs, social songs and ritual music that he observed in the community around him, expanding on the natural gestures and attitudes effected in communication, for, as we all know, tying the hands of the Jamaican or Caribbean man renders him almost unable to speak, and definitely removes the ability to communicate emphasis.

... challenge to “renewal and continuity” Franklyn Halliburton and Lillieh H. Nelson The University Singers

A THINKING MAN
Rex Nettleford brought his understanding of the history and culture of the Caribbean, a keen sense of identity and that we had grown from “the dynamic collision of the cultures of Europe and Africa on foreign soil” with all the subsequent influences of the and mood.

At the granting of Independence in 1962, Nettleford and Eddy Thomas were charged with producing a dance show Roots and Rhythms at The Little Theatre. They drew on dancers who had performed in Pantomimes between 1959 and 1962, dancers who had performed in various dance schools who had become accustomed to working together, with the addition of classical ballet dancers. The success of that show led Rex to conceptualize a national company from a nucleus of dancers who wanted a new approach to dance, another kind of challenge...

The early offerings were experimental and exciting for the dancers. From the very outset, the focus was dance theatre, drawing on the talents of musicians, singers and creative technicians. In the five years of his co-directorship, Thomas introduced the music of twentieth century composers of Art Music, some of
NDTC is but a vehicle for Rex Nettleford's vision, a vision of the absolute importance of the creative arts in everyday life, the necessity of having opportunities for self-expression, the INWARD STRETCH and OUTWARD REACH that ensures understanding of identity and 'interpreting ourselves to ourselves and the world'.

As John Maxwell recently reminded us: 'It is impossible to do justice to Rex Nettleford. For example, it is unprecedented and amazing that of Oxford's more than 7000 Rhodes scholars, Nettleford should be among four singled out for special centenary honour and even more extraordinary that the University of Oxford (sic) should create, in his honour, a special prize in Cultural Studies, a discipline almost unknown when he was at university.' And, as one of the recipients of that prize, I stand here in his honour, humbled to say – 'Great son and father of this soil, wi proud of you: proud a every walk you walk, every talk you talk and every dance you dance….you will always be in our words and our deeds as we make steps to fulfill the work you started.'

Sonjah Stanley Niiaah
The Cultural Studies Collective, UWI Mona

No matter where he went he ultimately assumed the position of the proverbial ‘head cornerstone’ – never to be ignored, and making its contribution to the foundation of life by any means necessary.

He is gone, and we have lost the measure of man he was, even to his enemies. We can only take counsel in fact that when giant trees die, it is only at first that the space they occupied seems large and hard to fill. While no tree will be like the one before, Prof. himself reminded us consistently, 'the future is secure' and we know this even more now because of the legacy he left us.

WI PROUD OF YOU

He was a man who stood in the forefront of a tradition of re-engineering black space - one who undoubtedly took inspiration from Bunker's Hill, his place of birth and easily the crucible of Trelawny's resistance to slavery and colonialism, indeed a home of the maroons among whom the British were first defeated in the Black Atlantic.

... Prof. Nettleford held the reigns of psychic, cosmological and physical marriance which were the blueprints used by the peasantry and later the poor, who have found their way in a wild Atlantic world of ruptured roots.

No matter where he went he ultimately assumed the position of
President of the UW Alumni Association (Jamaica Chapter) Mr. Athelstan Bellamy (left) presenting the prestigious 2010 Pelican Award to General Manager of the Jamaica National Building Society, Mr. Earl Jarrett. The Association hailed him for his “impactful and distinctive leadership...his long and meritorious service; for his outstanding achievements in business and excellence in his chosen profession; for so admirably demonstrating his faith in and commitment to the cause of people development, and for his continued association and close work with the University.”

In response, Mr. Jarrett spoke to the outstanding contribution which the University was making: “I wondered what would happen should the situation arise in Jamaica where we have a day without a UWI graduate? I am absolutely certain that the economy of Jamaica – the public and private sector - would come to a complete halt. And this is something that we should note as graduates of The University of the West Indies.

He went on: “I do hope that the University and the Alumni recognize the enormous opportunity that exists to influence the direction and formulation of the policies of our countries in the region. Many graduates end up at the highest levels of leadership across the Caribbean.

Today, this University boasts a large number of regional leaders including five current Prime Ministers. This vast reservoir of influence should be tapped and leveraged to the advantage of the University.

Secondly, I encourage the University and the Alumni to use this asset base for the advancement of the goals of the University. It has the distinction of being Caribbean based, with its pulse on the dynamic and varied needs of our peoples. It is, therefore, uniquely positioned as an important institution in the development of the peoples in our respective countries.

One way to do so is by adopting and promulgating the values and principles of the University starting with the motto, “Oriens Ex Occidente Lux – Light rising from the West.”
FOUR PROMOTED TO RANK OF PROFESSOR

The University of the West Indies, Mona is pleased to announce the promotion of four members of staff to the rank of Professor. They are: Senior Lecturers in the Department of Economics, Dr. Edward Ghartey and Mr. Claremont Kirton; Senior Lecturer in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences, Dr. Wayne McLaughlin and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Dr. Minerva Thame.

Professor Ghartey has a distinguished record of original work. His main areas of research and publication focus are on international finance, public finance, macroeconomic and monetary policy issues. He has carried out applied work on countries and regions such as Ghana, Jamaica and the Caribbean that have received little attention in the literature. He has also published on export-led economic growth for Japan, Taiwan and the US.

The main contribution of his work is his application of recently developed econometric techniques to new questions and using answers derived to inform policy. He has also applied advanced time-series techniques to a wide variety of policy related issues in emerging markets, particularly Ghana and the Caribbean.

Professor Ghartey has published several articles in international refereed journals, monographs, chapters in books as well as six international conference proceedings. His publications include titles such as “Is the Caribbean Community an Optimum Currency Area” which contributed to the debate on whether the Caribbean Community is an optimum currency area. Another, “Random Walk as a Universal Test of Weak-Form Foreign Exchange Market Efficiency: A Proof,” provided a test for foreign exchange market efficiency for developing countries that do not have a forward foreign market.


Professor Ghartey has been the recipient of several University of the West Indies, Research and Publication Awards for excellence in his field. He has also received grants from Ford Foundation, Social Sciences, Humanities, and Education Research Council in the US, and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. He has chaired several and presented more than forty completed papers at distinguished academic meetings, and international conferences in the US, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean region.
Mr. Claremont Kirton

holds the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Economics from The University of the West Indies, Mona. He joined the staff of The University of the West Indies as Lecturer in the Department of Economics in 1977, and has also served as Visiting Lecturer/Scholar at universities in the United States, the United Kingdom, Curacao, Surinam, Cuba and Guyana. He is an accomplished development economist and public intellectual with a focus on the Caribbean region, and in particular, the Jamaican economy.

Professor Kirton has achieved distinction as an exceptional teacher, administrator and public servant. His academic work has concentrated on Caribbean economic development, with specific reference to important economic aspects of remittances as well as their role and that of the financial sector, in economic development, leading to useful policy implications. Additionally, his work on the relationship between crime and development in Jamaica has been particularly useful and relevant for developing country policymaking beyond the Caribbean, contributing as it does to an understanding of the linkages between micro-level social dynamics and macro-level outcomes.

Mr. Kirton has coordinated the undergraduate teaching programme in the Department of Economics over many years as well as provided leadership in the area of curriculum review. As a teacher, he is highly regarded for his innovative use of instructional techniques, high student assessment scores, administrative leadership, and his care for the holistic development of his students. He has been responsible for the introduction of a number of new and modified courses. More recently, he initiated and coordinated the establishment and successful implementation of the BSc degree programme in Banking and Finance, offered jointly by the Departments of Economics and Management Studies.

Dr. Wayne McLaughlin

holds the Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Biology from the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Biochemistry from The University of the West Indies, Mona. He also has post-graduate training and experience in Forensic DNA analysis and the Interpretation of DNA mixtures and statistical analysis, as well as project implementation and management.

Dr. Wayne McLaughlin joined the staff of The University of the West Indies, Mona in 1989 as Lecturer in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences – Biochemistry Section and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2002. He is currently head of Department and also Director of Caribbean Genetics (CARIGEN), the commercial forensic DNA laboratory at The UWI, Mona.

Professor McLaughlin is an accomplished molecular biologist who has developed a diverse and productive research programme that is focused on molecular plant pathology issues. He and his colleagues have carried out pioneering research on the transfer of plasmids in slow-growing rhizobia and later on the molecular characterization of whitefly-transmitted geminiviruses infecting crop plants in Jamaica such as the common bean, pepper and tomato. Of particular note was the identification of the introduced Tomato yellow leaf curl virus and the Tomato dwarf leaf curl virus, as the cause of a leaf curl and dwarfing disease of tomato.

Dr. McLaughlin has also worked on lethal yellowing of citrus, a review which has devastated certain trees in the Caribbean, including Jamaica. Results of these works have contributed to new knowledge about viruses and bacteria affecting important crops in the region. Additionally, his research led to the identification of a strain of Pseudomonas and Bacillus which protect Scotch Bonnet peppers from diseases caused by Tobacco Etch Virus. Work done in greenhouses has shown that germination and plant growth is increased by these pathogens and work is now in progress to identify the mechanism by which the pathogens induce resistance to the virus. He has published over 30 original and review papers in local, regional and international journals.

As an academic, Professor McLaughlin has been instrumental in developing and implementing undergraduate curricula and graduate research in the areas of molecular biology and biotechnology, and, more recently in forensic science.

His interest into the area of Forensic Genetics and Human Molecular Genetics led him in 2005, to establish Caribbean Genetics (CARIGEN), the first independent DNA laboratory in the Caribbean to provide expert witness and DNA analysis to the legal profession in both civil and criminal cases. Since then, he has served as expert witness in several criminal cases and the unit has provided services to both local and regional courts. Professor McLaughlin was also the forensic DNA expert witness in the landmark case R vs. Stafford Webb for rape (2006). Genetic studies are also underway in Diabetes Mellitus, Autism, HIV/AIDS, the diagnosis and monitoring of patients with Hepatitis B and C and the susceptibility of Jamaican women in Breast Cancer.

His laboratory is recognized internationally in the area of molecular biology and has hosted several regional workshops and undertaken consultancies in molecular pathology of plant diseases.

The quality of his work has been recognized by his receiving a number of awards, including two Fulbright Awards, the Scientific Council Award for Best Scientific Performance in 1982 and 1987 and the Silver Musgrave Medal in 2001 for outstanding merit in the field of Science from the Institute of Jamaica.

Evidence of the respect with which Professor McLaughlin is regarded professionally is shown in the number of boards and committees on which he serves, including membership in the American Phytopathological Society, Member of the Jamaica Society for Agricultural Sciences, Board Member of the Coconut Industry Board and Chairman of the Research Committee, Board Member of Seprod Limited, Deputy Chairman of the National Biosafety Committee, and Member of the editorial committee of the Jamaica Journal. He is the Deputy Chairman of the Biosafety Committee of the National Commission of Science and Technology, a member of the CARICOM Biotechnology Working Group and has also served as reviewer for local, regional and international journals.
Dr. Minerva Thame holds the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery Degree (1985), Doctor of Medicine Degree in Paediatrics (1991), as well as the Doctor of Philosophy in Community Health (1999) from the University of the West Indies. She also holds a Diploma in Child Health (1988) from the University of the West Indies.

She joined the staff of The University of the West Indies, Mona in 1992 as a Research Fellow at the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit. She was an Associate Lecturer in the Section of Child Health from 2002 – 2005 and was appointed Senior Lecturer in Child Health and Head of the Section in 2005. During this period she was also a Consultant Paediatrician at the University Hospital of the West Indies.

Minerva Thame has distinguished herself in the areas of teaching, research, publication and administration. As Head of Section, she ensured efficient and equitable administration of the functions of the Section. Her contribution to the teaching and the further development of courses and programmes in the Section of Child Health has been significant. She contributed to the revision of the curriculum and the regulations as well as to the development of the Study Guide for the Child Health component of the MB BS programme. Professor Thame actively promoted research theses to advance the development of research in Paediatrics. Currently all DM students do a research paper, many of which have been published in peer reviewed journals.

Professor Thame also has an impressive record of research focusing on the areas of maternal nutrition and how it impacts foetal growth and birth outcome. Her studies relate directly to the concept of the developmental origins of health and disease. For her doctoral thesis she explored the impact of maternal size during pregnancy, on placental and foetal growth and on the outcome of the new born. This study was the largest ever done worldwide and the only one which measured growth at seven time points during pregnancy. Subsequently, she went on to examine two high risk groups; pregnant women with sickle cell disease and pregnant teenagers. She has created new knowledge and has raised important issues with respect to the relationship between the intra-uterine environment, birth outcome and long term development. Her work is well known in the international community and has resulted in several areas of international collaboration and research grants. She has attracted over one hundred thousand United States dollars in research grants.

Professor Thame has published over 35 papers and 28 abstracts, many of which are in international peer reviewed journals.

The newly appointed professor has also contributed significantly to the life of the University, providing leadership and support by serving on a number of committees at the Faculty and Campus levels. She is presently the Chair of the Speciality Board in Child Health, Faculty of Medical Sciences; she is also a member of the Accreditation Committee and the Graduate Studies committee, Faculty of Medical Sciences. She previously served on the Ethics Committee, (UWI, Mona/UHWW).

Minerva Thame has an outstanding record of public service. She served as President of the Paediatric Association of Jamaica from 2002 – 2003 and is the Vice President of the Caribbean College of Paediatricians. She is currently a Director of the Jamaica Down’s Syndrome Foundation and a member of Down’s Syndrome International. She has been a reviewer for the West Indian Medical Journal, BMC Pregnancy and Child birth, Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology, Archives of Diseases in Childhood, Public Health Nutrition and the European Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

And she also holds the Bachelor of Science Degree in Paediatrics (1991), Doctor of Medicine Degree in Paediatrics (1991) as well as the Doctor of Philosophy in Community Health (1999) from the University of the West Indies. She also holds a Diploma in Child Health (1988) from the University of the West Indies.

The objectives of the five – year agreement include, but are not limited to, enhancing staff development opportunities; sharing knowledge and skills in areas of competence and increasing education enrichment opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students of UWI and University of Reading. The agreement will also focus on promoting joint research and collaborative bidding for international projects; advancing knowledge and skills in the area of institutional management in higher education; promoting cultural and educational ties among

Promoting performance at the highest international standards as well as facilitating inter-cultural competence will also feature in the collaborative agreement.

Caribbean students and professionals in the Caribbean Diaspora and between Caribbean and non-Caribbean students and professionals.

UWI-UK collaboration to create Champion Teachers of Maths & Science

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The University of the West Indies, Mona and the Water Resources Authority (WRA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to improve knowledge of water resources in the island, and enhance staff and institutional capacity in the water and education sectors. This will be done through research and development in water resources planning, management, and development.

Under the terms of the MOU, The UWI, Mona in collaboration with the WRA will: identify and formulate water resources research projects; prepare proposals for funding of water resources research projects; seek funding to facilitate projects and cooperate with the WRA on public education programmes, especially in the areas of disaster management and climate change impacts on water resources, using research data to highlight water resources problems and recommend solutions. It will also provide the WRA with information from its research base for collaborative projects, and trained personnel to augment its professional staff. The UWI, Mona will also identify students for projects to build capacity and institutional building in the water and education sectors; assist with supervision of students in carrying out projects at all levels in collaboration with The UWI and provide relevant data to The UWI to facilitate research.

Speaking at the signing, at the UWI, Minister of Water and Housing, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, said water is one of the critical elements in the development process and is an indicator of the quality of life, but there are not enough experts in this field. “Being a small country, we need to ensure that the entire body of experts and knowledge come together in a collaborative effort, to ensure we can make the kind of decisions required, with the best advice and guidance required,” he said.

Dr. Chang added that the UWI student body and its academic research will benefit from the collaboration and the WRA’s work. He noted that climate change is topical and the country must make some critical decisions as it relates to source and management of water, and related resources.

“That’s why this collaborative effort is of major significance now. Much work has been done over the years in the department of geology and geography, but a lot of times the university is accused of its research being above the heads of everyone – but it is now the responsibility of agencies, such as the WRA and policy-makers to ensure that this body of research is related to the practical day to day affairs of the country,” Minister Chang argued.

UWI, Mona Principal, Professor Gordon Shirley lauded the collaborative effort, noting that “managing water in the short, medium and long term really requires the development of know-how and systemic analysis.” He said the WRA has this know-how and that “when we combine it with the kinds of capacities that we have here in the faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, and the Department of Geology and Geography, and the work that is being done with the Mona Geo-Informatics group, there is enormous potential.”

He noted that The UWI, Mona has acted “very quickly” to partner with the WRA in this sharing of research information, and identifying the kinds of projects that would take the agency’s agenda forward. The Principal also highlighted the fact that the collaboration will provide students with the opportunity to work on real projects through internships, which would help them to understand how to leverage their knowledge in assisting with nation building.

In his remarks, Chairman of the WRA, Dr. Parris Lyew-Ayee, Jnr. stressed the importance of the programme being a university-wide one, as the research components extend beyond the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences to economics, and public health, among other areas.

“We need to continue to supply excellent graduates from the UWI to continue to help Jamaica,” Dr. Ayee said, noting the need for more hydrologists, hydrogeologists, and related professionals, in order to secure the continuity of the island’s water resources programme.
What does kicking a football, throwing a basketball and drinking from a water fountain all have in common? The short answer is Physics of two dimensional (2D) motion i.e. Projectile Motion.

In 2007, the Department of Physics initiated this Outreach activity as a way of responding to gaps in teaching Physics at the sixth form level owing to insufficient equipment in some high schools to teach particular topics such as Operational Amplifiers. Students also have an opportunity to conduct experiments as part of their School Based Assessment (SBA), an internal component for the CAPE examination, during these Workshops.

Additionally, the Workshops provide the students with close interaction with lecturers with greater expertise in teaching Physics, as the Workshops are conducted primarily by a team of UWI lecturers supplemented by graduate students. One of the coordinators of the Workshop and Lecturer in the Department of Physics, Dr. Michael Ponnambalam outlines that the Workshop helps the students to "taste and see that Physics is fun," and has been a tremendous success since its initiation.

These Workshops continued at UWI, Mona Campus in the Department of Physics over the period January 11-14. The Series allowed over nine hundred sixth form and community college students from twenty-four schools in the corporate and rural areas to participate in one day Physics Workshops covering specific topics on the CAPE Units 1 and 2 syllabuses.

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BRINGING PHYSICS ALIVE!

The Department of Chemistry, Mona hosted the 23rd Natural Products and Medicinal Chemistry Symposium on January 4-7. As part of the Opening Ceremony there was a pre-launch of the book, “The Department of Chemistry, UWI, Mona” authored by Ken Magnus, former Dean of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, and Dr. Robert Lancashire, Professor of Chemistry, UWI, Mona. The book gives an account of the history of the Department of Chemistry highlighting its teaching, research and the impact to public policy. It also paints a vivid picture of the founding of the then University College of the West Indies, the struggles, victories and victories. The Symposium featured a number of international plenary speakers from the United Kingdom, USA, Japan and Sweden.

The University of the West Indies, Mona hosted the International Reggae Conference under the theme, "International Reggae: Current and Future Trends in Popular Music" from February 17-20. The International Reggae Conference provides an opportunity for artistes, musicians, scholars, cultural practitioners, entrepreneurs and music lovers from around the world to share their perspectives on the ways in which reggae and dancehall have been appropriated and adapted in a variety of cultural contexts.
Autism is a lifelong developmental disability which affects a person’s ability to communicate, play and socially interact with others and understand language. Autism usually appears as developmental delays before age three and is more prominent in males, with a male female ratio of 4:1.

In the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-IV), these diagnostic categories are under the heading of “Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDDs).” The disorders are defined by deficits in three core areas: social skills, communication, and behaviors and/or interests. Types of autism spectrum disorders, or PDDs, include:

- Autistic Disorder
- Asperger Syndrome
- Childhood Disintegrative Disorder
- Rett Syndrome
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS)

All these disorders are characterized by different degrees of impairment in communication skills, social interactions, and restricted, repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior. Children with autism spectrum disorders may be non-verbal and antisocial, as in the case of many with “classic” autism, or Autistic Disorder. On the other end of the spectrum are children with a high-functioning form of autism characterized by idiosyncratic social skills and play, such as Asperger Syndrome. Two out of every three children with Autistic Disorder are mentally impaired; mental impairment is most frequent at the severe end of the spectrum. Children with Asperger Syndrome have normal development.

Treatment for people with autism should include early diagnosis to increase the child’s chances for success; speech therapy; occupational therapy – fine motor and co-ordination problems; behaviour thera-py and appropriate Education Placement.

WU’s Research on Autism

While there is much research on autism in developed countries, there is very limited information available on the epidemiology of autism in developing countries. As the high prevalence of this condition is now considered a worldwide public health epidemic, studies from developing countries are particularly important in the quest for identifying underlying causes, which could lead to reduction in prevalence and/or severity and impact of this condition.

Professor Maureen Samms-Vaughan and colleagues from The University of the West Indies have done several studies on autism, which have been published as abstracts or full papers. These studies have looked at the effects of the environment on autistic spectrum disorder in Jamaica, Obstetric complications and autism in Jamaican children, Maternal stress associated with raising Autistic children in Jamaica and The role of early childhood professionals in the early identification of autistic disorder. The study on The effects of the environment on the autistic spectrum disorder in Jamaica conducted by Hall and Samms-Vaughan et al (2001) investigated the possibility that an environmental trigger interacting with a genetic component causes autism. It examined the relationship between environmental pollutants or toxins, like mercury and autistic disorder. In this study no association was found between living close to possible environmental toxins, use of household chemicals and autism during pregnancy.

Roberson, Hall et al (2001) examined Obstetric complications and autism in Jamaican children, this study explored the relationship between obstetric and perinatal history and the diagnosis of autistic disorder in Jamaican children. This study found that mothers of autistic children had higher rates of complications during labour and pregnancy and a larger percentage of autistic children were either born prematurely or late. The study also found that mothers of autistic children tended to be older and had fewer children. These findings are in keeping with previous research in developed countries.

Maternal stress associated with raising autistic children in Jamaica was a study by Siles and Samms-Vaughan (2001) which investigated the correlation between levels of stress and raising an autistic child in Jamaica. They found that there was an association between raising an autistic child and maternal stress but this depended on the severity of the autism.

Samms-Vaughan and Franklin-Barton (2008) examined the role of early childhood professionals in the early identification of autism. This study found that even though there was maternal concern about language development at an early age, identification and diagnosis was made more than twenty-four months after. In comparison with developed countries, mothers of autistic children in Jamaica identified developmental concerns at about the same time of 21.3 months, but there was significantly greater delay in diagnosis in Jamaican parents obtaining a diagnosis, 43.8 months for Jamaican children and 37.2 months for children in the USA. Late diagnosis impacts on the receipt of early intervention services, which is known to improve outcome. The following recommendations were made: Primary health care professional and educators should be educated about autistic spectrum disorder (ASD).

The general public should be educated about the milestones for child development and the “red flags” for developmental delays for which assistance should be sought by the parent.

• General practitioners and early childhood paediatricians should listen carefully to parental concern.

Current research

The University of the West Indies is collaborating with the University of Texas Health Science Centre at Houston (UTHSC-H) on a study entitled “Epidemiological Study of Autism in Jamaica.” The study is funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Fogarty International Center (FIC), and is investigating how genetic and environment factors interact and may cause Autism Spectrum Disorders. The long term goal for the project is to develop a large scale population – based Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) study in Jamaica. Currently the team is conducting a pilot age and sex matched case-control study aimed at:

• Examining whether exposure to mercury, lead, arsenic and cadmium contribute to the development of autism.

• Assessing the role of genes and their interactions with the heavy metals like lead and ASD.

• Assessing demographic and socioeconomic and lifestyle parental factors (e.g. smoking and drinking) for their impact on the development of autism.

The research process involves collecting information by questionnaire, including:

• Socio-demographic information and family history.

• A dietary and environmental exposure questionnaire.

• Biological samples (saliva, hair and blood) to test for genes and heavy metals.

The study will run for two years and will enroll 150 previously diagnosed autistic children and 150 matched controls, between the ages of 2 and 8 years. The study began enrollment in December 2009 and so far 41 cases and 21 controls have been enrolled.

Further information on this study may be obtained by contacting the UW I research team at 619-0707.
Saving Lives Through Enterprise
Transforming criminal gangs into strategic enterprise partnership

Students in the Department of Management Studies, Mona are participating in an innovative programme aimed at encouraging best entrepreneurial practices in low-income communities. The university students, who are pursuing a Social Entrepreneurship module as part of the BSc degree option in Management and Entrepreneurship, will assist in establishing meaningful and effective partnerships with youth in rural and ‘inner-city’ communities in order to help them become engaged in entrepreneurial activity.

The initiative is being coordinated by the Office of Social Entrepreneurship (OSE), and Youth Crime Watch Jamaica (YCWJ) located in the Department of Management Studies, Mona. YCWJ is a non-governmental organization which aims to provide a crime-free, drug-free environment through a youth-led movement, to instill positive values, foster good citizenship and build self-confidence in young people and to enable youth to become resources for preventing crime, drug use and violence in their schools and neighbourhoods. The collaborative project is called Saving Lives through Enterprise.

This is an alternative training and education programme which seeks to stem the formation of violent gangs while aiding in transforming gang members into entrepreneurs within the micro small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector. Lecturer and researcher in the department of Management Studies, Dr. Kadamawe Kn’lfe says that the OSE and YCWJ have noted the importance of entrepreneurship in violence prevention and a path from gang formation. Referencing Herbert Gayle, in Adolescent Male Survivability in Jamaica, 2002, Dr. Kn’lfe said, “It is significant to note that Jamaica has been consistently ranked among the countries with the highest rates of criminal activity. This is juxtaposed against being ranked by Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM 2005 and 2006) as being amongst the most innovative and creative people in the world, being placed in the top five countries in the world for entrepreneurial start ups, with women being ranked in the top three in the world in the start up of new enterprises. ‘Jamaicans are innately creative as brought out in their motivation for entrepreneurial activity.’”

The most recent initiative of the OSC and YCWJ is the launch of “Books for Life programme” in primary, junior high and all-age schools. The project seeks to improve literacy in schools which tend to have the highest numbers of ‘at risk youths’ who are most likely to become caught up in gang violence.

In addition, core groups of students from 21 schools in Kingston and Montego Bay will be taken through two months of business management skill training, preparing them to lead income-earning initiatives in their schools. Done in collaboration with the National Centre for Youth Development (NCYD) in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, the programme is a rare opportunity to reach a group of children whose environments do not have the institutions that can support a sustainable community-based business.

Lead Director of YCWJ Allan Bernard explains the main goal of their programmes is to “Empower youngsters to resist violence and taking a focus of empowerment through entrepreneurship.”

He also noted, “We are going to be preparing advisor leadership first at the levels of Principals, Guidance Counsellors and Parent Teachers Associations, then we are going to build a student core group in each school by training them in how to identify viable projects, raise funds to power it and then build activities to promote it.”

The students of Social Entrepreneurship in the Department of Management Studies will be involved in preparing the students.

Dr. Kn’lfe explained that the overall vision is, “To develop a model of sustainable community development, which seeks to prevent the formation of and entry into violent gangs and to transform existing gang members into partners for enterprise emphasizing the empowering of youth and women in entrepreneurship. Our purpose is to provide a viable economic alternative for youth in rural and ‘inner-city’ communities through establishing meaningful and effective partnerships with YCWJ, Social Development Commission (SDC), Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), the Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC) and other supporting institutions, thus reducing the attractiveness of entering and continue to engage in gang related activities.”

Dr. Kn’lfe also said that the UWI students involved in the programmes of the OSE, several of whom are from low employment communities, are very eager about their work. “They have a strong urge of giving back because they understand the universal landscape,” he said.

In September, the OSE and YCWJ start the Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship (SAGE) programme that will encourage clusters of schools to work in symbiotic relationships while pursuing sustainable businesses. SAGE will be run as a pilot project in both traditional and non-traditional schools so as to engender cross-school collaboration and build meaningful relationships. SAGE is the brainchild of Dr. Basil Burke of the UWI Consulting Office, who has partnered with and provides significant mentoring and guidance to OSE & YCWJ in how to roll out the social entrepreneurship activities. According to Dr. Kn’lfe, “this collaboration across generations of faculties can produce pragmatic and effective intervention programmes. Additionally, this process dovetails with and supports the Principals’-pal’s thrust for UWI to meaningfully engage the communities as reflected in the UWI Township Programme.”

Dr. Kn’lfe added: “Each school will have its own business idea and we want them to know that one business can strengthen another’s business, so you are creating a real-world situation. We want to emphasize inventing entrepreneurs; those are persons who can innovate and come up with technologies that can be transformed into enterprise.”

Saving Lives Through Enterprise
Transforming criminal gangs into strategic enterprise partnership

Students pursuing the degree option in Management and Entrepreneurship debate how to engage youth in rural and inner-city communities in entrepreneurial activity.
The UWI, Mona football team made history on Saturday, March 20 at the Vauxhall High School football field as the team was crowned champion of the Claro/KSAFA (Kingston and St. Andrew Football Association) Major League Competition. The win qualifies the UWI, Mona team to play in the Super League next season, a first for any tertiary institution.

The UWI Mona team defeated Brown’s Town 3-0 thanks in part to two goals scored by Andre Bernal, a UWI football scholarship recipient, and one by O’Neil Fairweather. Andre Bernal is UWI’s leading goal scorer and jointly holds second place as the League’s leading goal scorer, having scored 12 goals in 10 Matches.

The Team had an uneven start in the beginning of the competition which saw UWI, Mona losing its first game of the Major League season. However, the Team was able to turn this around, winning six consecutive matches thereafter. UWI, Mona Football Team Coach, Neville “Bertis” Bell commented: “the season was a tough one because on some occasions the matches were played consecutively. However, the Team consisted of quality players who had a plan and executed it well” to position themselves at the top in the Major League. While, UWI, Mona and Rockfort ended the competition with the same number of points UWI, Mona claimed the competitive edge because of their outstanding performance and based on the goal difference advantage between the two leading teams.

Coach Bell attributed the success of the Team to “the commitment and dedication of the players made possible partly from the support of the UWI’s scholarship programme, which has allowed the players to be more focused”.

UWI, Mona has since the 2008/9 academic year initiated a football scholarship programme as part of the UWI Sports Scholarship initiative designed to enhance students’ learning and development and ensure character building. The programme provides players with financial, nutritional and academic support. To date, over twenty-five students have received football scholarships which cover the cost of tuition and/or accommodation to qualified athletes.
The University of the West Indies, Mona has initiated several sports development programmes recently including the upgrading of facilities at the Mona Bowl and improving the technical expertise through the acquisition of some of Jamaica’s best coaches. Additionally, a nutrition programme has been initiated to ensure that the athletes’ nutritional needs are well managed.

In the 2008/9 academic year UWI, Mona offered Sports scholarships for the first time to eleven (11) football and eight (8) track and field athletes valuing three million dollars (J$3M). The 2009/10 academic year saw fifteen (15) students benefitting from sports scholarships, eight (8) track and field and seven (7) football athletes. The scholarships valued over three and half million (J$3.5M) The UWI, Mona grants scholarships of tuition and/or accommodation to qualified athletes.

The UWI, Mona collaborated with the Inter Secondary Schools Sports Association (ISSA) to host the inaugural staging of the UWI, Mona Football Scholarship Festival on January 7-9, 2010 at the Mona Bowl. The Football Scholarship Festival is a part of the re-focused sports development efforts by the institution.

The event allowed talented and academically eligible young athletes to be recruited by local and overseas coaches and provided an opportunity for them to attend a University free of cost through participation in the Festival.

This staging represented the first of an annual event on the Campus’ Sporting Calendar. The University also intends to offer a holistic development to the athletes beyond the field of play through motivational talks and information sharing sessions highlighting UWI’s academic offerings.

The Festival involved a series of games being played over the three-day period, with the participants, consisting of senior high school footballers island wide, playing against the UWI, Mona team in scouting matches. There was an All-Manning All-Dacosta pre-game match, followed by the UWI, Mona’s Major League Game against Police.

UWI Revolution Heads to Super League

The UWI Revolution netball team blasted its way into the Super League, emerging champions in the 2010 Supreme Ventures /Jamaica Netball Association (JNA) Divisional ‘A’ League after defeating the Jetsetters “A”, 55-42, in the final round of the competition held recently (May 15, 2010) at the National Stadium. The UWI, Mona team is a newcomer to the Divisional ‘A’ League and has surfaced from a three-year hiatus in active netball club league competition. This win represents the first time that UWI, Mona has entered the competition at such a prestigious level.

UWI Revolution Coach, Conrad Parks, described the finals as “shocking” as the Jetsetters “A” team, having played in the Super League for a number of years, was thought to be superior to the newcomers. The UWI Revolution took the lead in the first quarter of the match and maintained it in all but the third quarter. Parks attributes the team’s success to “dedication, hard work and an extreme motivation to succeed.”

He outlined that the UWI Revolution had a close win, 39-37, in the team’s first match during the qualifying Open League against a more experienced team, Blade United. The Revolution went on to lose its second match by 3 points to Molynes “B”. This represented the only loss for the team as Revolution went on to “strike gold”, winning 14 from a total of 15 matches. “The UWI Revolution had many close encounters but with a determined attitude to win and good team work, from the centre court, attacking third and defenders they achieved victory in a seamless manner,” Parks declared.

UWI Revolution Centre, Zalika Paul, was named most valuable player in the League. Other top UWI, Mona Revolution players include Goal Shooter, Alicia Williams, who top scored for the Team with an 89% accuracy rating, and Shawnette Kerr, Goal Attack who scored 13 goals from 18 attempts.  

MEMBERS OF THE NETBALL TEAM WITH COACH, CONRAD PARKS (LEFT)
The excitement was palpable as German track manufacturers BSW handed over its signature blue Regupol track to the world’s fastest man, the Hon. Usain Bolt, on Friday, April 30, 2010. Hundreds of persons trekked to the Mona Bowl for the historic opening ceremony which took place at the UWI, Mona Bowl for Sporting Excellence. The 400-metre track was a gift to Usain Bolt, following on his record-breaking runs on a similar track at Berlin last summer, and was laid on land donated by the UWI, Mona, which has been Bolt’s training ground for several years.

Mona Principal, Professor Gordon Shirley, noted that sports was a multi-billion dollar industry and that with proper facilities and systems in place, there is immense potential for significant earnings/benefits to redound to the Caribbean Region. He noted that Jamaica had a solid tradition of sporting excellence as well as an extensive pool of young talent. Against that background, Professor Shirley remarked that the development of the track was another plank in Mona’s plans to establish a first rate sporting facility on the campus. Mona’s mission, the Principal said, was “To have world class facilities for training, competition and recreation, supported by a full range of complementary services and continuous research for the holistic development of persons with sporting career interests within Jamaica, across the Region and beyond.”

He pointed to steps already taken, including agreements signed with Bolt’s Racers Track Club and the IAAF High Performance Training Centre for both entities to be based at the Mona Bowl, as well as with the Jamaica Football Federation for the establishment of a Football Academy at Mona. The Campus had also introduced a sports scholarship programme and initiated additional teaching and research programmes in sports. The Principal pointed to other initiatives in sports medicine, nutrition and testing. "We are also hoping to build a large multi-purpose indoor facility, which will allow us to have all the court games, such as basketball, volleyball, netball... We have already expanded the swimming pool. We have put in the beach volleyball facilities, we are upgrading the cricket pitch and we are going to upgrade football fields which are used by premier league club August Town," he said.

Principal and CEO of BSW Regupol Ulf Poeppe, expressed delight at his company’s involvement, noting that the track was the most modern and sophisticated in the world, and would assist Jamaica to continue its dominance of world sprinting. Racers head coach Glen Mills, who was instrumental in getting the track laid at UWI, expressed his gratitude to BSW and the UWI, noting that the track would be a tremendous boost to the Club’s training programme.

The handing over ceremony was chaired by Sports Development Director at the UWI, Olympic 200m silver medallist Grace Jackson, who said that efforts would now be made to raise funds to erect spectator stands for the facility.
A wide range of programmes including:

Law
- 5-year programme in Mona
- Legislate Jamaica
- Corporate & Commercial law

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- International & Cultural Enterprise Management
- Music & Technology
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- Managing learning difficulties

Medical Sciences
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- Global Peace initiative
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APPLICATION DATES
November to January

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