



# MONA

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA CAMPUS

JUNE 2012



MONA GOING GREEN

ROBOTICS TEAM EXCELS

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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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# TIMES OF CHALLENGE EQUAL TIMES OF OPPORTUNITY

**D**eveloping and maintaining a 'world class university' requires the seamless conjoining of many factors. First and foremost, it requires an unshakeable vision of, and commitment towards achieving excellence at all times, in all spheres of operations - in pedagogy, in research, in the quality of administrative and support services, inter alia. Such aspiration towards sustained excellence must have the support of a first-rate faculty with the requisite skills-sets, the best administrative talents, and the brightest and best students.

Without question, The University of the West Indies (UWI) has some of the brightest minds serving in our academic and administrative spheres. Our students number among the most gifted found anywhere. Our mission of excellence has been well established, nurtured by leaders going back to our inception in 1948 as a college of the University of London, through our gaining full independent university status in 1962. Our continuing strong performance in the areas of teaching, research and outreach, along with the stellar achievements of our graduates over the years, have all helped us amass a rich legacy and solid reputation as an institution of excellence.

As Principal of The UWI, Mona Campus, I have made solidifying this reputation of excellence a primary focus. This has necessitated an ongoing process of review and renewal to ensure continued relevance of purpose and responsiveness to identified needs. Against this background four broad areas have received special attention under my watch. These include the suite of programmes offered at Mona, student services and development,

our administrative processes and infrastructure development.

The process of reviewing and optimising our programme offerings was a direct response to demands for specific skills sets by market forces, as well as a desire to carry out The UWI's mandate of supporting national developmental imperatives. Programmes such as the MSc in Forensic Science and the DM in Pathology seek to develop expertise in forensic science to support the accurate and timely dispensation of justice, an area of particular importance within the Jamaican context. Programmes in dentistry, law, engineering, physical therapy, nursing, among others, respond to critical needs for those skills sets in industry and the society at large.



The ongoing intense focus on creating a learning environment that fosters positive student experience is critical to our mission of producing the ideal graduate. I firmly believe that graduates must possess attributes that go well beyond a keen understanding of academic concepts. While students at Mona, they would have had, and exploited opportunities to develop latent talents, build cultural identity, develop and engage leadership skills and serve the community, among others. We recognise that such development activities are best accomplished in an environment that is comfortable, student friendly, provides the appropriate mix of developmental programmes, and encourages peer-to-peer sharing and social interactions.

To this end, the campus has expanded the number and areas of focus of the development programmes offered through the Office of Student Services and Development. Through student groups like the Pop Society, Dramatic Arts Society and others, the Philip Sherlock Centre

for the Creative Arts has intensified efforts to help students develop their talents and build cultural identity. Generally, the campus has increased significantly the number of dedicated student spaces, including gazebos and learning commons which are fully equipped with seminar rooms, conference rooms and computing facilities, to enhance student comfort and encourage peer to peer sharing. Additionally, the extensive renovation of facilities, including libraries, lecture rooms and offices, is geared towards creating the optimal teaching and learning space for the comfort of staff and students.

The optimal engagement of our human resources, both academic and administrative, has been another major area of focus. This has involved the streamlining of administrative processes, resulting in the integration of the human resource and student information systems. Integration of these systems now allows us to better define our human resource needs thereby improving efficiency in the hiring process. It has also allowed us to automate the admissions process, enabling better enrolment management and improved communication with students.

Probably the most visible aspect of the process of renewal on campus is the ongoing programme of infrastructure development. The developments seek to modernise the teaching and learning facilities to provide both staff and students with the most conducive teaching and learning space and technologies in support of our continuing quest for institutional excellence. It further seeks to enable The UWI, Mona Campus to respond adequately to market demand for expertise in various specialist areas that are currently underserved in the local context. Additionally, it seeks to advance important strategic priorities, including increasing/diversifying revenue streams and containing cost, so as to mitigate fallout resulting from any reduction in our subvention from government.

Among the developments taking place are:

- The establishment of a cogeneration plant which, when completed, will greatly improve the campus's energy security, drastically reduce its energy expenditure, and allow us to operate independently of the Jamaica Public Service (JPS) grid. Completion and commissioning of the system is expected well before the start of the new school year.
- The construction of a two storey, 48,000 square foot

commercial building to house a call centre and technology park, which will boast 1,100 seats and operate on a 24-hour, seven days a week cycle. The facility will be capable of providing full-time employment to some 3,300 persons, assuming a 40-hour work week. Staffing for the facility will be drawn first and foremost from our student population, allowing them an opportunity to gain valuable work experience and earn an income to help them meet the financial demands of their education.

- The construction of four 6-storey and one 4-storey undergraduate blocks on lands adjacent to Chancellor, Irvine and Taylor Halls; as well as four 6-storey graduate blocks in the vicinity of the Mona Post Office, is intended to address the critical housing needs of students of the Mona Campus. When completed, the 400 rooms graduate and 600 rooms undergraduate facilities will increase the campus room stock by some 50%. The facilities will boast the most modern amenities available to students anywhere.

- Attracting much attention is the new Basic Medical Sciences building on West and Aqueduct Roads. Providing 250,000 square feet of space for lecture theatres, laboratories, offices, meeting rooms, lounge areas and recreational space, the facility will allow Mona to accept more of the qualified persons vying to enter medical school. The environmentally friendly building boasts its own museum space, exhibition hall, full service physiotherapy facilities, including a swimming pool for hydrotherapy, grass-crete parking bays, electric and hydro solar engineering and a cantilevered louvered facade for protection from the sun, keeping the building cool all day.

These are just the first in a series of planned developments for the campus. In spite of the many challenges we face as a university, a nation and a region, opportunities abound. If we hope to emerge stronger, more resilient from this difficult period, we must make the tough decisions now to exploit those opportunities. Our continued excellence as an institution demands this.



**Gordon Shirley**  
PVC & Principal



# MONA GOES GREEN

Efforts to effect a greener, more environmentally-friendly space are underway at The UWI, Mona campus. Commencing four years ago, a number of plans have been put in place to revolutionise the 652-acre campus in response to the needs of the environment. These include the vertical, instead of horizontal, development of new buildings, to allow for the preservation of more green areas. A prime example is the new Basic Medical Sciences Complex set to open in

September which will total 300,000 square feet on completion on four acres of land. Older buildings, such as the halls of residence – Irvine, Taylor and Chancellor – were built on 20 acres.

“There has been a paradigm shift from sprawling developments to taller buildings in order to not overly abuse the environment. By adding more storeys, we reduce the use of the green space,” said Campus Projects Manager Devon Smith.



Grass being planted on the rooftop of the Basic Medical Sciences complex.

Attention is also being paid to building placement and orientation. As far as possible, existing trees have been retained and buildings erected around them, such as the old cotton tree surrounding the Basic Medical Sciences Complex. According to Smith, “We encourage our designers to preserve the features of the land and we build according to the dictates of the land, so we try to minimise the cutting down of trees. If we have to cut, we replace.”

The campus will also be utilising what Smith terms the “Manhattan Concept” in the architecture of the Basic Medical Sciences Complex, thus placing grass and flowering shrubs on the rooftops. This concept has been extended to parking areas which now feature more grass with the use of grasscretres instead of asphalted concretes.

Another area of focus is the use of environmentally-friendly paint products, such as the trowel-on finishes on some of the buildings, instead of the standard paints.

The limestone-based trowel-on finish has been used predominantly on the new Faculty of Law building next to the Mona School of Business. A cost-saving initiative, the trowel-on can last 15-20 years with just a wash with water once per year.

The fitting of aluminum panels to some walls at the Basic Medical Sciences Complex has also replaced the time-consuming painting and rendering exercise and reduced operating costs while adding a long-lasting, elegant appearance. The campus plans to continue in this vein and to employ landscaping on every development. “We must be trendsetters and all involved – the contractors, subcontractors and suppliers



Efforts to effect a greener, more environmentally friendly space are underway.

- must be just as environmentally focussed as we are," the Campus Projects Manager said.

*Energy Conservation Initiatives*

The campus has also been taking strides to restructure its internal operations in the area of energy conservation. Precipitated by a budget cut in 2005, the status of the University was assessed in relation to its energy consumption. An energy audit was conducted which revealed that the majority of the campus' energy usage was from air-conditioning (47%) and lighting (23%). The following measures were therefore implemented to address this situation:

- The refrigerant in the air-conditioning system was replaced with a more cost-effective, environmentally-friendly type.
- A power capacitor bank was installed to enhance the efficiency of power usage.
- A lighting retrofit project was conducted at the Bursary, Senate Building, which involved changing the ballasts to a more energy-efficient type and replacing the lighting tubes with T-8 and T-5 tubes. This resulted in improved lighting conditions so the exercise was extended to 15 other high usage buildings on campus.

- A central Computerised Energy Management System was installed at the University to measure the improvements gained from the implementation of various energy conservation measures. It allows greater monitoring and control of significant energy consuming equipment as well as lighting. Water consumption for various areas will be accurately monitored and this system will assist in the overall reduction of the campus' utility costs.

Another project to improve lighting was implemented using Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting. This was conducted in the West Indies Collection Section of the Main Library and produced positive results.

With the University's energy demand lowered and controlled, attention is now turned to the supply of electricity and alternative energy uses. "Lighting has improved substantially. It is now brighter and burns less energy. Also, consumption has remained relatively stable despite the addition of new buildings. We now need to focus on alternative energy and cogeneration," said Campus Bursar Elaine Robinson.

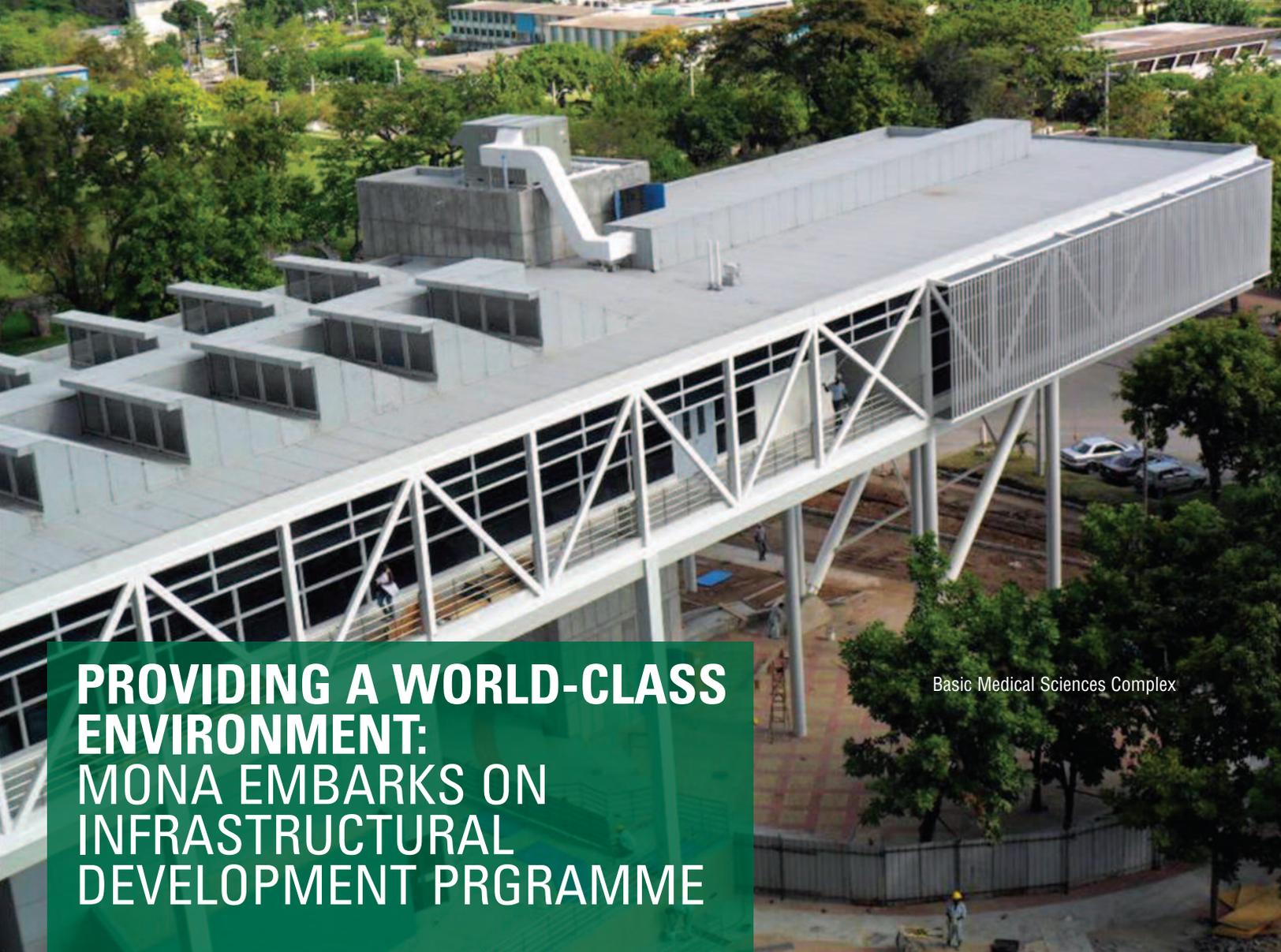
**With the University's energy demand lowered and controlled, attention is now turned to the supply of electricity and alternative energy uses.**

More conscious of how it consumes energy, the University is looking at the establishment of modern cooling, lighting and solar heating facilities. An Energy Centre is planned to cool areas such as the Basic Medical Sciences Complex, the Call Centre, the Faculty of Law, the Monash School of Business and the Administrative Building, thus replacing air-conditioning units.

For more energy-efficient lighting, an electronic Building Management System has been established in the Faculty of Law to regulate temperature and lighting and will be in force in the Basic Medical Sciences building as well. Solar panels to heat water and some of the equipment at the Basic Medical Sciences Complex is also being considered.

Additionally, to maximise energy efficiency and minimise the heat load, buildings will be designed and orientated to guard against the sun, with the addition of aluminium panels acting as shading devices. Insulating devices will also be placed on some of the roofs to prevent heat build-up.

With these plans coming on stream, the mandate is for the entire University to get involved – not just the administrators, but the students as well. "We need to integrate our concepts into the curriculum. We are trying to link with the halls to get the students to become more energy conscious," the Campus Bursar said. 



Basic Medical Sciences Complex

## PROVIDING A WORLD-CLASS ENVIRONMENT: MONA EMBARKS ON INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The University of the West Indies, (UWI), Mona has embarked on a programme of infrastructural development to provide quality new facilities for students as well as renovating and upgrading buildings to achieve maximum functionality and aesthetic appeal on the Campus. The flagship building in this programme is the new multi-storey Basic Medical Sciences Complex, which is expected to be completed for the start of the 2012/2013 academic year.

This was announced by Principal of The UWI, Mona Campus, Professor Gordon Shirley at the annual meeting of the Mona Campus Council held Friday, March 2, 2012 in the Council Room. Professor Shirley was reporting on developments at the Mona Campus over the past year.

He told members of the governing Campus Council that the 330,000 square foot state-of-the-art Basic Medical Sciences building will provide students with a world-class environment in which to achieve their medical education. It will house facilities for Anatomy, Biochemistry, Physiology and Pharmacology and there will also be provision for physical therapy and forensic DNA. The massive structure will house a 500-seat lecture theatre, two medium-sized lecture theatres, tutorial and seminar rooms, a computer laboratory to house 100 workstations and a reading room/library.

Professor Shirley informed members that construction is also well-advanced on 600 undergraduate and 400 postgraduate student rooms, which will boost room stock on the Mona Campus by

45 per cent. Laboratories in the Departments of Microbiology and Pathology have also been refurbished and seminar rooms and office spaces renovated, the Principal said.

He pointed out that the Mona Campus is creating new opportunities to strengthen its competitiveness and finding new ways to deliver on its objectives in a constantly changing and challenging funding environment. Faced with the nearly 30 per cent cumulative cut in Government funding during the 2010/2011 financial year, Professor Shirley said that the institution has adopted an aggressive programme of expenditure reduction and evaluation of programmes to assess their relevance and reliability, while at the same time substantially improving income generation from non-traditional sources. **M**



By  
Derrick McKoy  
Faculty of Law, Mona

I recently had cause to consider the following: Think of a country where the ruling political party encourages political contributions to the party's funds by way of loans, so as to avoid oversight; where those who had made those loans received from the party leader and those close to the centres of power promises of "civic" honours and appointments to one of the houses of legislature as an inducement for those political contributions; where the central government, over several administrations traversing decades, pursued policies which encouraged business leaders to bribe public officials overseas; that prosecutions for corruption were under political

control and not vested in the hands of an independent agency; that when it was disclosed that one of the country's strategic enterprises was engaged in such corrupt activities, the government quashed those investigations; that when that decision was appealed to the highest court, that tribunal declared that it is in the power of the anticorruption agency to exercise its independent decision not to investigate; that members of the houses of legislature had developed the practice over many years of making fraudulent claims and receiving payments from the government for their living expenses; and that the government for several years ignored the complaints of its regional trading and political partners that its approach to corruption was ineffective.

Many would have little difficulty declaring such a country to be corrupt. Far more difficult, of course, would be to guess the

# N PIECE t always what they seem!

identity of the country. After all, in the developing world we have many contestants that would fit that description. However, these allegations did not arise in a developing country in Africa or Latin America. We are not speaking of the emerging economies of Eastern Europe, nor are we describing an underdeveloped country in Asia. In fact, with only minor modifications, all that was said above would be a description of the United Kingdom in fairly recent times.

In this litany of complaints, it is difficult to find one that is worse than the others. A fraudulent claim for a duck house even from a well respected Member of Parliament is certainly offensive, but the contretemps over allegations of a British company bribing Saudi officials to secure export sales seems to be the best candidate for what is really grand corruption. That the Serious Frauds Office may have been prevented by the UK government, as was alleged in the press, from pursuing its investigation into corruption is one thing; but that government ministers seemed to have accepted that the bribery of foreign officials was an appropriate way to do business abroad is quite another. There are many in the Commonwealth Caribbean who would find very disturbing the equanimity with which former UK ministers of government accepted bribery as a normal course of British companies doing business abroad.

Although everything on this list of corrupt activities has been attributed by the UK press to UK governments, few think of the UK as a corrupt country. Had the press attributed all or any of those complaints to an African, Asian, Caribbean or Latin American country, certainly if those allegations arose in the Commonwealth Caribbean, we would have had no difficulty at all raising the indictment of corruption. We therefore seem to live in a peculiarly distorted world. We place significant emphasis on the perception of corruption in the distribution of public goods and services, yet we more readily perceive this corruption in some countries. We cannot see it in others, even when the most compelling evidence suggests otherwise. So this is the reality of the world we live in, where the perception of corruption weighs more heavily on poor underdeveloped countries where the task of addressing corruption is even more daunting.

Those of us engaged in the anticorruption struggle have been guilty of creating and promoting this warped state of affairs. In the anti-corruption struggle, too many have been converted to the view that the end justifies the means. Thus, we have emphasised the perception of corruption, rather than corruption itself, perhaps because the perception of corruption is easy to model and thus easy to measure while the measurement and management of actual corruption is rather more difficult. We have promoted the utilization of

Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, even though it has been argued by Fredrick Galtung, one of the principal methodologists at Transparency International responsible for the much of the work on the original Corruption Perception Index, that the index is based on significantly flawed scientific methodology. We have lauded development agencies when they used that index to award aid, when we know that no country by any of its own activities or policies can change its place on the Corruption Perception Index from year to year. And we have turned a blind eye as Transparency International's promotes the Corruption Perception Index more than the Bribe Payers Index, because we recognise that governments in developing countries, the usual objects of the Corruption Perception Index, are soft targets while the objects of the Bribe Payers Index, private corporations from developed countries, are far more resilient opponents.

Perhaps it is time for us to put an end to this warped state of affairs. After all, we know where it leads. We know that corruption is debilitating to the distribution of all public goods, and especially in the field of public procurements. We know that improving capacity, capability and the application of best practices are essential to the public procurement processes, but the best trained and most able procurement officers will be insufficient to the challenges if they still operate in a corrupt environment. Finally, and most importantly, we now know that the corruption perception methodology does not work, and it is time to admit it. That methodology suffices to justify the political statements on which future administrative and political actions may be based, but it does not prescribe what that administrative framework should be. We need to find ways to build effective anticorruption regimes in underdeveloped and under-resourced countries, and not continue to harp on assessment indices that serve only to confirm the low expectations of overseas development agencies that mean well but who may not always achieve good.

There is an interesting footnote to this entire discussion. At a conference in Port of Spain in the latter part of 2010, I first raised for consideration this litany of complaints arising in the UK that, in comparison to the situations in developing countries, no one seemed to regard as really corrupt. A well respected journalist from the UK, who had written quite extensively on corruption in East Africa, commented that when she initiated a discussion of UK corruption among her colleagues from the developing world, she invariably got this response: "Only a duck house?" they would ask. "In our countries you should see what our politicians steal!" So, even uncontrovertible evidence of corruption in the UK still stands as an indictment of us in the developing world. 

**T**he year was 2010. Eighteen year old Jeremy Hall, was trying to identify an area of study that would challenge his analytically inclined mind, incorporate things he liked to do while testing his mettle. Science enthusiast, Samuel Duncan, 18, was on a similar search for a programme which would engage the creativity which led him to designing his own toys.

One year earlier, in 2009, The UWI, Mona had introduced a programme in electronic engineering. Could this be the right fit? Head of the Electronic Unit in the Department of Physics, Dr. Paul Aiken, was convinced that the programme would absorb their interests and skill sets. He was a part of The UWI

Mona recruiting outreach programme which visited and conducted presentations at Glenmuir High School in Clarendon, Jamaica where both Jeremy and Samuel were students. Both now admit that their final decision was fuelled by the “rather persuasive” Dr Aiken. “He sold the idea to us and he did a better job than anybody else,” Samuel recalls. Now, two years older and in their second year, both feel that they made the correct decision.

The electronics engineering programme currently has 75 students, equally spread across the first to final years of study. This number seems set to expand in the next academic year, given that some 200 students have applied to pursue the programme.

So why this interest? Judging from the testimonials, the programme is solid and appeals to those who wish to delve into the analytical, creative and challenging realm of study.

“I have done checks even with syllabuses from other international universities and we [at The UWI Mona] are covering a host of material. In fact we are covering the same and in some cases, more material than some of the other programmes elsewhere. I am very proud of the programme here and very happy to be one of the pioneering students,” says Jeremy.

Similarly, Samuel says that he has found the programme to be very competitive. “The level of practicality that we

**A** testament to the solidity and competitiveness of the programme is the recent success of a six member team from The UWI, Mona electronics engineering programme, which placed 17th out of 54 universities in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) South East Conference Student Competition held in Orlando, Florida, USA from March 15-19. Team members were Jeremy Hall and Samuel Duncan as well as Oshane Thomas, Darrell Gordon, Aston Hamilton and Jason McGowan. They were accompanied by their lecturer Mr. Leonardo Clarke and technical advisor Mr. Ralph Johnson.

The IEEE South East Conference Student Competition is one of three activities that allow universities or schools in Region 3, (the South eastern states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia and areas of Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and the country of Jamaica), to come together to showcase their work and abilities, as well as participate in some activities such as electronics or computer sciences which are linked to the IEEE. The organization offers the opportunity for interfacing with

worldwide professionals in the field. Mona’s performance exceeded all expectations. The team, which initially set out to enter just the robotics competition, went on to enter the software, website, paper and T-shirt competitions as well. The first time entrants, comprised solely of second year students (unlike the other participating universities) trounced the likes of recognized southern institutions of the USA such as the University of Kentucky, University of Memphis, Virginia Tech and Georgia Institute of Technology

Florida,” he says.

Six persons ended up participating, and after the first semester was completed, the students began to fine tune robots done for competition purposes. “Each student built something individually for the purpose of the course. We did not use leggo kits. We went instead to the machine workshop because this is engineering and it is prudent to foster design skills, so we bent and cut metal as part of the whole design process,” he says.

## TEAM EXCELLS AT IEEE COMPETITION

in the robotics competition. Samuel Duncan, spokesperson for the UWI-Mona IEEE Student Branch, placed in the final eight of the paper competition. He attributes the team’s success to preparation which began in the first semester of their second year. Duncan recalls their lecturers giving them course work as a project so as to familiarize them with the competition and requirements. “We were promised that students who participated in the robotics project and did well would be entered into the IEEE competition in Orlando

When the course was over, the students then had to bring all of this work together to build one robot. Hall describes the outcome, which was entered in the competition, as not having a humanoid form that had arms. “Ours moved on wheels and it had extensions that were used to take readings off a chart. It was more like a remote- driven car,” he states.

Being able to interact with peers at the competition as well as attend various presentations and conferences was extremely useful to the team. Duncan

# ENGINEERING PROGRAMME: ROBOTICS BUILDING

encounter here, I have not heard any such thing from my friends in other institutions. However, he adds that both knowledge and the material are the common denominators at all universities and therefore, “whether the programme is new or not, the success that one experiences depends largely on applying oneself and being disciplined and willing to learn.”

Dr. Aiken notes that a distinction must be made between electrical and electronic engineering in order to put the area of study in perspective. In simple layman terms, the electrical engineering has to do with everything that generates electricity that comes to a socket while the electronic area deals with everything that is plugged into that socket or uses a

battery. “The engineering programme now targets the technology and science behind all of that,” he explains.

Students are introduced to the concept of engineering, the basic science of engineering, advanced physics and computer sciences among other topics in the first year of the programme. In the second year, the focus revolves around the core “... everything that you must know if you are to become an electronics engineer,” points out Dr. Aiken. In the third and final year, application is at the forefront. “For example, there is a third year course called Broadband Systems, which deals with 4G technology with your cell phone and communications and that is state of the art, so we have a specialist come in and lecture in this area,” he

notes.

Once the first cohort of students graduates in June 2012, the Faculty plans to apply for US/Europe based accreditation for the programme. “Accreditation is benchmarking, so once you graduate from an accredited programme it tells everybody around the world that ... these students are just as qualified as any student around the world from any other university,” Dr. Aiken acknowledges.

He adds that the programme is skillfully aligned with national needs and nation building. “The current focus is on telecommunication and industrial automation.” **M**

says it offered a wonderful opportunity to network as well as more exposure to robotics. “We realized where our place was in relation to those universities that had been doing these things for a while, and we became aware that we were

were concerned with international marketability. “We were able to remain current on information and trends relating to our specialties,” he says.

“What was really encouraging or exciting

The robot managed to go around a track, two and a half times.” Little did they know that other designs would go around a track 10 or 19 times,” he adds, laughing.

Dr. Aiken says that on their return, he had members of the team recount their experiences at the competition and “they pretty much mesmerized the first year students.” In fact, “the first year students were taken aback because they did not realize that their colleagues had that type of capability and potential. “Their fellow students were solving problems in a much shorter time than their counterparts there from some top universities. They were faced with similar problems and they realized that they could overcome those problems in a much faster way than those students from what are considered better universities,” he marvels.

“What they saw at the conference is what I had been telling them from high school. Although the US based universities may have the exposure and the facilities, they too can compete with them and this is why we made sure to get the team to Orlando,” he says, while extending gratitude to The UWI Mona for its support of the venture. **M**



Members of the Robotics team: Jeremy Hall, Samuel Duncan, Oshane Thomas, Darrell Gordon, Jason McGowan and Aston Hamilton.

doing quite well in comparison especially for our first experience,” he enthuses. In addition, he notes that participation in the competition also fostered opportunities for those students who

about what they accomplished was that they did a pre-demonstration before they left for Orlando and we asked what was it that they wanted to achieve...and they achieved that objective,” Dr. Aiken says.

## Regional Headquarters

The University Finance and General Purposes Committee has ratified the decision taken by the Naming Committee to name

the new Vice Chancellery Building at the Mona Campus “The University of the West Indies – Regional Headquarters.”

## Approval of the 2012-2017 UWI Strategic Plan

The 2012 annual business meeting of the Council of the University of the West Indies approved the Strategic Plan that will guide the institution for the five-year period 2012-2017. The new plan reinforces the University’s core functions of teaching and learning, and research and innovation. In addition to these areas, the Plan now places special focus on the need for greater employee engagement; strengthening of the UWI’s regional

remit; and diversification of its financial base.

The 2012-2017 Strategic Plan was developed using a Balanced Scorecard framework, which is intended to provide the metrics needed to assess implementation of strategies and the attainment of objectives more effectively than was possible in previous plans.

## New School of Business and Management

The 2012 annual business meeting of the University Council approved the merger of the Department of Management Studies and the Mona School of Business.

The new entity, which will be located in Faculty of Social Sciences, will be called the Mona School of Business and Management. The merger will facilitate

attainment of the goal of getting institutional accreditation for all business programmes at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

## Faculty of Science and Technology

Effective August 2012, the Faculty of Pure & Applied Sciences (at Mona and Cave Hill) will be renamed the Faculty of Science and Technology. The decision was taken at the 2012 annual business meeting of the University Council,

held at Mona. The decision to rename the faculty signals the strengthening of focus on technology, particularly information communication technologies (ICT), as well as the repositioning of science with technology

throughout the institution. The three campuses will now carry a Faculty science and technology, St Augustine Campus having established such a faculty some time ago. **M**

# Appointments



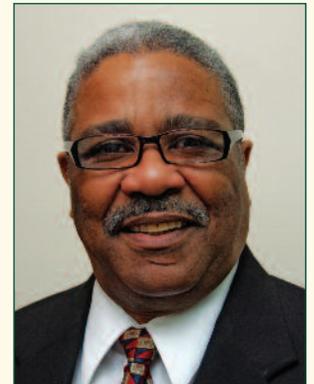
**Professor Yvette Jackson**, Coordinator for Graduate Studies at the Mona Campus, has been elevated to the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor for Graduate Studies, succeeding the incumbent, Professor Ronald Young who retires at the end of the current academic year.



**Dr. Derrick McKoy**  
The University Finance and General Purposes Committee, at its meeting on May 25, 2012 also approved the recommendation to appoint Dr. Derrick McKoy to the post of Dean, Faculty of Law at Mona for a full term of four years, with effect from August 1, 2012.

### Prof. Duggan

The Faculty of Social Sciences will get a new Dean, since the incumbent Professor Mark Figueroa will have served two consecutive terms. Professor Evan Duggan, currently Executive Director of the Mona School of Business, will succeed Professor Figueroa as Dean of the Faculty for two years until his retirement in 2014.



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UWI student Danielle Myers and Fulbright student Christina Brooks draw a sketch of a burial, while UWI student Oshane Robinson and staff from the Jamaica National Heritage Trust search for artefacts and human remains. (Photo courtesy of K. Monteith).



**Recent Gravesite  
Discovery  
Provides for Fuller  
Understanding  
of the Papine  
Estate's Spatial  
Layout**



On the last day of January 2012, Craig Hall, Clerk of Works and Project Supervisor at The UWI, Mona campus, went about his usual duties of inspecting the drainage trench recently dug by construction site workers for the imposing new Basic Medical Sciences

Complex (BMSC) that now dominates Aqueduct Way, near the border between the Mona campus and the University Hospital.

Upon examining the walls of the trench, Hall realized that what was staring back at him were fragments of human bones. Recognizing the potential significance of the discovery, he immediately contacted Ms Gillian Scarlett, University Architect, who in turn made contact with Dr. Stephan Lenik, the Archaeologist in the Department of History and Archaeology, UWI, Mona.

The find, which has generated great public interest, underlines the fact that the Mona campus is located on a multi-layered heritage site, parts of which date back to the days when sugar was king and plantation slavery was the rotten underpinning of the kingdom.

The Mona campus is actually located across the core of two of St Andrew’s sugar estates: Mona and Papine. Pulled together from smaller parcels whose ownership goes back to the English conquest in 1655, the two estates established their names and configurations by the mid-1700s.

By 1757, Mona, formerly ‘Yeamans’, was in the hand of local landowner and politician Philip Pinnock, who owned and lost thousands of acres in St Andrew. He sold to John Kennion, who mortgaged the estate to William and Thomas Bond, a London merchant and magistrate respectively. Louis Verley, whose widow was the last private owner, bought Mona around the mid-1800s from the Bond heirs.

Papine, which bounded Mona to the north, across a narrow lane, Shed Lane, was first known by that name while owned by Scottish merchant and planter Alexander Grant. Grant sold in 1774 to William Jackson and by the 1780s, the estate was owned by James Wildman whose son, JB Wildman was perhaps the best-recorded owner. Wildman’s heirs eventually sold to Verley, who owned most of the properties in the vicinity by the time he died soon after the turn of the century.

It is on lands once associated with the Papine estate that the bones were found, in an area known as West Road which has, since the 1950s been mainly used for UWI staff housing, a part of which has now given way to the new BMSC.

Dr Lenik, upon visiting the site with Hall, immediately recognized a fragment of a mandible, or lower jaw, and confirmed that the

bones were human. Work on the trench was immediately suspended, and the following day, Lenik returned with Mr. Selvenious Walters, Archaeologist at the Jamaica National Heritage Trust. Both devised an approach to ensure the preservation of the cemetery, since it was likely that continuing the trench along its intended path would disturb additional burials.

Indeed, in the days that followed, a close examination of the trench walls indicated that there were at least six, perhaps eight graves that had been disturbed. The team led by Lenik which



Lecturer Stephan Lenik and Dean Swithin Wilmot observe the trench sidewall, as UWI student Danielle Myers, Fulbright student Christina Brooks, and JNHT staff look on. (Photo courtesy of K. Monteith).

undertook this work included UWI, Mona Archaeology students Oshane Robinson and Danielle Myers; American Fulbright Archaeology scholars attached to the Department, Heidi Savery and Christina Brooks, and Archaeologists from the JNHT. The team carefully recorded the graves with drawings and photographs, and GPS points were collected with the assistance of the UWI Mona GeoInformatics Institute. The positions of the finds in the trench were recorded, and intact bones and artefacts that remained in the graves were left in place. Artefacts and bone fragments in the backfill removed from the trench were collected for analysis. Finally, tarpaulins

were used to cover the graves and the area was cordoned off.

The find, though unexpected, was not altogether surprising. Papine had been a working sugar estate throughout the eighteenth to the late 19th century, but there had been no prior knowledge of the precise location of any burial ground associated with any of the former estates, other than an individual grave, which is that of an East Indian immigrant labourer, Jaghi, located near to Taylor Hall.

Surveyors of Jamaican properties in the 18th and 19th centuries rarely marked

burial grounds on the agricultural estates they were mapping. There have been instances, specifically at Seville Estate, where burials took place within homes. However there is nothing to indicate that the Papine burials were placed in or near houses, nor are there any above-ground markers, oral traditions, or other documents to indicate evidence of a cemetery.

Indeed, the recent discovery has generated much speculation as to whether these graves are part of a slave burial ground associated with the Papine estate, given the close proximity of the graves to the known

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Say AMEN! Mrs Jacqueline Young, (right) author and publisher of the book, *AMEN: A Pictorial Journey to Historic Churches in Jamaica* hands over a donation of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (JA\$500,000.00) to Dr. Kathleen E. A. Monteith, Head of the Department of History and Archaeology. This sum represents proceeds from the sale of this book, all of which is being donated to research into heritage, and the restoration of historic churches in Jamaica. The Department will use the funds to finance field trips for students taking courses in Heritage Studies.



## LAP FOR LIFE

1. Campus Registrar, Dr. Camille Bell Hutchinson (in yellow shirt) led members of staff and students on the Office of the Campus Registrar's fund-raising *Lap for Life* in support of two year-old Jadon Dixon, son of staff member Tracey-Ann Lothian, who required live-saving surgery overseas. Contributions came from members of staff and students, including the Pop Society who staged a special concert to help raise funds.

The inaugural *Lap-for-Life* had almost fifty members of staff, students and other well-wishers participating and evolved into two laps around the Ring Road. The OCR *Lap-for-Life* will now be an annual fundraiser to help support staff members (and/or their dependents) who require critical medical care that is not available locally.

2. Corporate sponsors Ms. Jeanette Lewis, (left) Public Relations Manager, Columbus Communications Jamaica Ltd (FLOW) and Mr. Dwight Hyde, (right) Branch Manager, NCB University Branch make their donations to Tracey-Ann Lothian as Miss Kay Brown, Business Development Office, Mona looks on. A donation was also received from Restaurants of Jamaica (KFC).



area where the Papine slave village was once located.

Archaeological survey of that area known to have been the site of the Papine slave village has been conducted on several occasions since the 1980s by the Department of History and Archaeology, and more recently in collaboration with the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (DAACS). These projects have unearthed artefacts which further confirm occupation of the area and provide information about daily life among the enslaved.

To properly understand the location of the recent discovery in relation to the early 19th century lay-out of the Papine estate, a current map of the West Road area indicating the location of the recently discovered graves, was over-layed with a detailed 1834 survey map of the Papine estate. This showed that the gravesite may have been at the western boundary of the 4-plus acre estate Works Yard, close to the edge of the canefields. The slave village was in the vicinity of the Works, meaning a portion of the aqueduct, sugar-mill, boiling and curing house and the distillery. The overlay also indicated that the graves would have been located close to the estate Overseer housing.

The big question therefore remains, who are the people whose graves have been recently discovered?

Dr Lenik notes that the absence of historical documentation and the nature of the disturbance of the site caused by the digging equipment which has destroyed the context of the remains, makes it difficult to date the gravesite or to identify the individuals who are interred there: "Unfortunately, the fragmentary condition of the bones frustrates attempts at identification".

Moreover, as Lenik points out, "With few exceptions, the collected artefacts or bones cannot be associated with individual burials, and without this context, or the precise 3-dimensional location of an object, it is impossible to link any dateable artefacts to the burials themselves. The context of finds is crucial for archaeologists and historians, and virtually all the bones and artefacts on the bottom of the trench or in the backdirt were removed from their context."

In addition, while the bones may belong to enslaved persons who lived and worked on the Papine estate, one also has to bear in mind that they could very well be those of free labourers who continued to live on the property in the decades following the abolition of slavery, or the occupants of the Overseer's house, which is known to have been located close to the area of the find as indicated on the 1834 map.

Whomever the graves are associated with, their discovery and location provide additional information about estate life, and therefore the history of Jamaica in general.

Lenik notes, "this important cemetery site is now being preserved. This discovery allows for the cemetery to be spatially referenced in relation to the Papine works, village, and fields, thereby providing a fuller understanding of this plantation's spatial layout." He added that research and analysis of the data is ongoing, and that decisions are to be taken on measures to re-bury the remains and to commemorate the site: **M**

*Contributors to this article: Dr. Kathleen E.A. Monteith, Head, Department of History and Archaeology, Dr. Stephan Lenik, Lecturer in Archaeology, Department of History and Archaeology, and Dr. Suzanne Francis Brown, Consultant to the University of the West Indies Archives.*



# *Celebrates*

The

UWI, Mona hosted its annual Homecoming & Commemoration Celebrations February 16-19, 2012.

This year was a special one for the University. Jamaica celebrates its 50th year of independence while The UWI commemorates the 50th anniversary of its own transition from a College of the University of London, established in 1948, to a full-fledged degree granting institution in its own right in 1962. Celebrations included a Parade of alumni, staff and students.



The Principal presents the awards for Best Group in the Parade to AZ Preston Hall (Large group) – top, and Western Jamaica Campus (Small Group)-below



From the outset, the Celebrations have been dedicated to an individual who has achieved local, regional or international recognition in his or her field and/or made a significant contribution to the institution. The 2012 honouree was Professor Orlando Patterson, a member of the 1962 UCWI graduating class and John Cowles Professor of Sociology, Harvard University. He was honoured for his outstanding scholarship and international contribution to the dialogue on issues of culture, race and society.

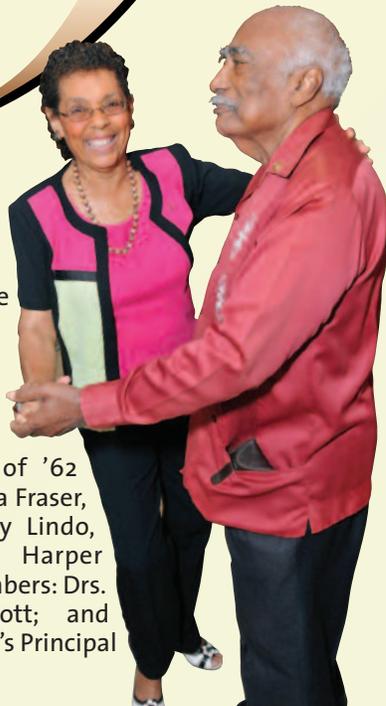
Flag raising ceremony ▶

Students participating in the University Parade ▼



# 50

Locksley & Pauline Lindo (Class of 1962) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Homecoming luncheon held at the Mona Visitors' Lodge and Conference Centre ▶



Members of the Class of 1962 and the Class of 1948 were special guests at the Flag raising ceremony (l-r) Class of '62 members: Dr. Barry Wade, Gloria Fraser, Pauline Fingall Lindo, Locksley Lindo, Daphne Wilson and Cedric Harper celebrate with Class of '48 members: Drs. Keith McKenzie & Owen Minott; and Harry Russell, Class of '62. Mona's Principal (in back) shares the moment ▼



The Principal poses with Miss UWI and the Hall Queens (l-r) Ms. Rex Nettleford Hall, Anique Herbert; Ms. UWI, Kadira Carter; Ms. Irvine Hall, Felicia Christie; Ms. Mary Seacole Hall, Julia Simpson; Ms. Preston Hall, Dacia Lewis and Ms. Tayloria, Honica Brown

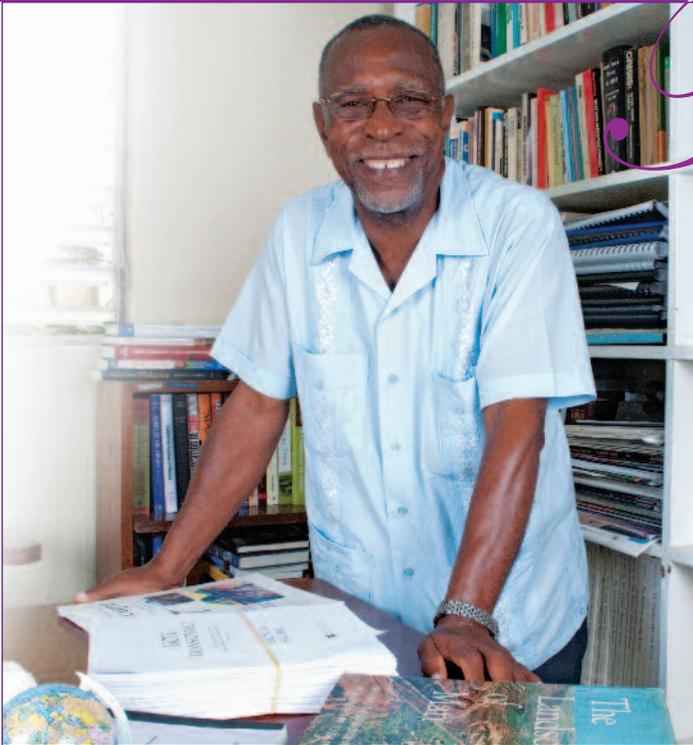


## Caribbean Day Concert



Caribbean Day highlighted the food and culture of the countries that contribute to The UWI. Another highlight was the lunch-hour concert.





**Professor Veront Satchell**

***Dr. Satchell holds the Bachelor of Arts (General), the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees from The University of the West Indies, Mona as well as a Trained Teacher's Certificate from Mico Teachers (now University) College.***

Veront Satchell is an economic historian, who also has an interest in landscape history, heritage studies, theology and historical archaeology. He is widely regarded for his original, distinctive research which has made an important contribution to scholarship on the history of Jamaica, the Caribbean and the Atlantic, as well as to historical approaches to problems of social and economic development.

Initially, Professor Satchell's research focused on the changing pattern of land tenure in Jamaica and its impact on small farmers. His subsequent work has focused on technological and economic change, concentrating on the sugar industry in Jamaica during the period of slavery, as well as, social movements, popular religious views and state repression, using the career of Alexander Bedward and Bedwardism as an example.

Professor Satchell is the author of the book *From Plots to Plantations, Land Transaction in Jamaica 1866-1900*, which has become the standard examination of the emergence of the post-emancipation peasantry in Jamaica. Another recent publication *Hope Transformed: A Historical Sketch of the Hope Landscape, St Andrew 1660-1960*, uses the archival records of a

The University of the West Indies is pleased to announced the promotion to the rank of Professor of two members of staff: Dr. Veront Satchell, Senior Lecturer in the Department of History and Archaeology, Faculty of

large Jamaican plantation to provide a history of Jamaica in the period from settlement to the 1960s.

Satchell has also written 22 chapters in books and journal articles on topics including the development of steam power in the Jamaican sugar industry and how the developments in steam helped to shape changes in the sugar industry, the history of the rail transport system in Jamaica, and the land lease programme. The articles have appeared in a number of international journals, including the *Industrial Archaeology Review*, *Journal of Transport History*, *Plantation Society in the Americas*, as well as the *Harvard University Encarta Afropeadia*. He has also contributed to a number of reports including "Disaster, Development and Poverty, with special emphasis on Small Island Developing States – The Caribbean Region" – a joint Japan International Cooperation Agency and Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency project aimed at mitigating disaster damages and linking disaster management programmes with development, and conducted a research project aimed at inventorying all Registered Anglican Church lands and identifying their potential use.

His work has gained international recognition as evidenced by the award of the Andrew Mellon Foundation Summer Fellowship at the Huntington Library, a British Council Fellowship to visit the London School of Economics and Social Sciences and the Andrew Mellon Foundation Summer Fellowship at the American Philosophical Society and the Commonwealth Research Fellowship at the Birmingham Reference Library and the Public Records Office, London, UK. He has also presented at international conferences in the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Professor Satchell is a member of the Board of Directors of Mico University College, the Jamaica Heritage Trust, the Registrar General's Department, the Board of Managers at The Queen's School, Member of the Anglican Diocesan Education and Youth Board and Member of the Board, Jamaica Church (Anglican) Missionary Society. He has been involved in pastoral care and counselling to persons, including youths at risk, and initiated a Teacher Education Fund to Assist Needy Students through Teachers College. He has also been a member of the UWI/August Town Peace Initiative, part of the Partners for Peace UWI/Inner City Programme. **M**

*Humanities & Education and Dr. Paula Tennant, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Life Sciences, Faculty of Pure & Applied Sciences, to the rank of Professor, both with effect from May 23, 2012.*

***Dr. Tennant holds the Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours in Botany (with Biochemistry) from The University of the West Indies, Mona and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA as well as a Teaching Diploma with Honours in Mathematics and a minor in General Science from Shortwood Teachers' College, Kingston, Jamaica. She joined the staff of The University of the West Indies, Mona in 1997 as a Research Fellow, then was promoted first to Lecturer (2000) then Senior Lecturer in the area of Molecular Plant Pathology in 2008.***

Paula Tennant is a renowned authority in the area of plant biotechnology stemming from her work on the development of transgenic papaya for the control of papaya ringspot virus in papaya in Jamaica. The papaya ringspot virus causes ring-spotting blemishes on the fruits of diseased trees which eventually decline in vigour and fruit production. Using biotechnological methods or genetic engineering, Dr. Tennant and fellow researchers have been able to transfer a gene of the virus to papaya to confer virus resistance, resulting in what is commonly known as transgenic papaya (papaya in which genetic material responsible for a trait (that is, a gene) has been transferred from one organism (the virus) to another (the papaya). Safety studies using animal models have shown that the consumption of these transgenic papaya poses no health risks. Her contribution has therefore had great significance for farmers locally since improved virus detection techniques and virus control programmes will allow them to find new solutions to problems of propagation and production.

Recently, Dr. Tennant has extended her virology expertise to other viruses causing crop diseases in Jamaica, including citrus, sweet potato and pumpkin.

Dr Tennant has published steadily in a range of journals including *Transgenic Research*, *European Journal of Plant Pathology*, *Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture* and *Archives of Virology*, which are all renowned international journals in the field of molecular plant pathology. This signifies that her work has been recognised internationally, in the region, and among editors of the transgenic plant literature. She has co-edited five international scientific volumes in the area of Biotechnology, has been an editor for three journals, and a reviewer for at least eleven journals and reviews. She has a



**Professor Paula Tennant**

number of invited book chapters, review articles and conference presentations that provide worthwhile data and commentary relative to transgenic plant acceptance. In addition to academic training at the graduate and undergraduate levels, Professor Tennant has conducted several training workshops for teachers and professionals, exposing them to new knowledge and techniques for them to incorporate into their activities.

In recognition of her achievement, Professor Tennant was recipient of the Principal's Award for the Most Outstanding Researcher 2008-2009 in the Faculty of Pure & Applied Sciences, the Faculty's award for Outstanding Achievement in Course Assessments of Lecturers 2007-2008 and joint recipient of the Principal's Award for the Best Publication 2007-2008. She also received the Young Agriculturalist Award from the Caribbean Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) St Lucia in 2001 and the 1996 Young Scientist of the Year Award from the Scientific Research Council/Shell Companies Award, Jamaica.

She has received research grants from the Jamaica Agricultural Development Foundation and the International Foundation of Science, and served as Consultant to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Jamaica Citrus Protection Agency Ltd. Professor Tennant has also served as Visiting Scientist at Cornell University, Visiting Lecturer at the Universidad de los Andes, Merida, Venezuela and Visiting Scientist, US Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center, Hawaii. 

# BANKING



## Mobile Financial Services could provide alternative to traditional banking channels

By  
Maurice McNaughton

Mobile finance is the access to, and delivery of financial services using the mobile phone as the channel, as an alternative to more traditional channels such as the bank branch or ATMs. While mobile banking and mobile commerce are also commonly used terms, Mobile finance conveys the broad spectrum of financial services delivered over the mobile phone. These include traditional banking, mobile payments (eg. bill payments and point-of sale transactions), remittances, and even other financial services such as micro-finance.

Use of the mobile phone as a device for the delivery of financial services, has captured the imagination of developing countries, businesses and academic researchers across the world, as well as multi-lateral agencies such as the World



Bank. The potential for mobile payments as a catalyst for greater financial inclusion has been demonstrated in countries like Kenya where one of the most celebrated success cases worldwide of ICT driving development (ICT4D), the MPesa mobile payments system is not only used by more than half of the adult population but is currently used by the majority of poor (51 percent) and rural (59 percent) households. With its high customer penetration and ubiquitous agent network, MPesa's use has now extended well beyond the initial use for mobile payments, and provides access to a wide range of financial products, such as savings, insurance, and loans.

### *Prospects for mobile banking*

In 2011 The UWI, through the Mona School of Business (MSB) in partnership with Solutions for Society, an emerging societal Think Tank, conducted a major research study on the prospects for Mobile Financial services in Jamaica. The project was managed by Professor Terrence Forrester, Director, Tropical

Medicine Research Institute, and Professor Evan Duggan and Dr. Maurice McNaughton, both of the MSB. The primary objective was to evaluate the economic potential for implementing a Mobile financial system in Jamaica and to work in consultation with policy-makers, the private sector and multi-lateral agencies to develop a comprehensive guide that could help to determine the most appropriate framework for the broad-based introduction of mobile financial services. Global trends and other country experiences indicate that the degree of financial exclusion provides a major impetus for demand and the effective introduction of mobile finance. As a result, the research included a national survey to determine the level of access that Jamaicans have to financial services in the formal banking sector. Although various estimates and anecdotal claims have been made in the past, this was the first definitive national survey to be done of the financially excluded, i.e. persons without an account at a bank or other

# BY CELLPHONE?



Dr. Maurice McNaughton

established financial institution, often referred to as the “Unbanked”.

The findings of this study were interesting and instructive:

- 34% of the adult population in Jamaica do not own bank accounts and must use cash and or the non-bank payment outlets at relatively high costs (Unbanked)
- Of the 66% that own a bank account, only 12% own transactional accounts (money transfer accounts, checking accounts and credit cards – Highly Banked)
- Therefore, over 80% of adult Jamaicans have limited access to a low-cost, safe, payments channel

### *Potential benefits*

These findings provide significant and compelling rationale for the potential benefits from the implementation of a mobile financial system. Not only would it provide an effective platform for extending the banking sector’s reach to traditionally unbanked consumers, but it has considerable potential to provide

large numbers of the population with access to low-cost, efficient payments and remittances channel that can drive: financial inclusion, more efficient commerce, and indirectly job creation and innovation through a more vibrant, inclusive financial sector.

Other key recommendations of the study included adhering to the principle of interoperability, i.e.

operating the system in such a way that the various commercial banks and other financial entities such as credit unions, bill payment companies and remittance

companies can plug into a common mobile financial services ecosystem. This would avoid costly duplication and consumers would have the convenience of interacting with other consumers and businesses regardless of banking affiliation. The system should also accommodate the role of banking agents, i.e. registered entities that can carry out limited scope financial transactions such as enrollment, cash-in / cash-out outside the mainstream banks, in order to help with providing broad-based access to, and adoption of the services.

The Mobile Financial Services conference held in the Faculty of Law building at UWI on Dec 12th, 2011 brought a successful conclusion to the project and provided industry stakeholders with answers to key issues relating to: What is the most appropriate model for an inclusive, broad-based Mobile Payments System in Jamaica? Main speakers were Mr. Carl Rosenquist, an international mobile payments expert, and Dr Dawn Elliott, Associate Professor, Department of

Economics at Texas Christian University, both of whom were key participants in the study. Other speakers included Mr. David Lowe, Advisor to the Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce and Mr. Livingstone Morrison, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Jamaica, with responsibility for Administration and Technical Services, including Payments System. BOJ) Governor, Brian Wynter, as well as over 90 practitioners and policy-makers from the public and private sectors, and the financial and telecommunications industry, attended the conference.

Given Jamaica’s sound retail financial infrastructure, strong telecommunications sector and high mobile penetration (> 100%), a mobile financial system appears to offer enormous potential as a catalyst for financial inclusion and more efficient commerce through lower transaction costs, both critical enablers of economic development. The BOJ has been relatively cautious in determining the rules & standards within which a mobile payments system will function, with a view to establishing the appropriate regulatory framework. While prudential integrity and stability of the financial system as well as consumer protection are paramount, it is also critical that the decision-makers ultimately determine the right balance for the role of Regulation in the introduction of mobile financial services - enabling versus constraining, developmental versus controlling, innovation vs lagging.

The Project was made possible through funding from: USAID/Jamaica, National Commercial Bank, and the Jamaica National Building Society Foundation. More information and detailed reports from the study can be retrieved from the conference website at:

<http://mfconferenceja.coe-msb.org/> 



## CHANGING CHILDBEARING NORMS IMPACT FERTILITY LEVELS



**Dr. Sharon Priestley**

It's no longer the norm for families to consist of six or more children. Conventional wisdom has attributed this decline in family size to modernization, industrialization, and urbanization with their accompanying improvement in population health status, declines in disease outbreaks and mortality, along with improved child survival and contraceptive use.

However, little attention has been given to the impact of primary and secondary infertility on fertility levels. This is of significance in the Jamaican context where sterility has historically been an important factor dampening birth rates.

Post-graduate student, Sharon-Rose Priestley decided to tackle the issue. She found that the documented explanations for fertility decline were provided mainly at the macro level, yet the biological and behavioral limits faced by individual women were not given much attention. The result was a dissertation which received High Commendation and the award for Most Outstanding Thesis at the PhD level for 2011. The award was

presented at The UWI Scholarship Breakfast, hosted by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research in March 2012. The Annual Breakfast is the Office's method of honoring its high achieving postgraduate research scholars.

The dissertation examined the levels, trends and correlates of primary and secondary infertility over the last 40 years to quantify their contribution relative to other factors, for example, the use of contraceptives, which had been deemed almost entirely responsible for fertility decline. Primary infertility is the term used when a woman has never had a successful live birth, and secondary infertility is the inability to conceive after already having a successful live birth.

The study utilized data on women aged 15 to 49 years, and is based on a comparative analysis of census and reproductive health survey data. Dr. Priestley's methodology involved an approach commonly used in population studies ( the Bongaarts' Proximate Determinants framework) which allows researchers to assess the level of fertility change which can be attributed to factors such as contraceptive use, exposure to childbearing in unions, postpartum infecundity, abortion and sterility. Sterility was then assessed to determine the extent to which it was due to either infertility or impairment. Having highlighted the contribution of infertility from this framework, the study then examined other social and demographic factors (e.g. age, level of education, class status) which could influence infertility levels in women.

Dr Priestley's research revealed that in 1989, some 15 per cent of the reduction in total fertility was attributed to primary sterility. By 2002, the contribution had declined to 7 per cent. She noted that contraception continues to play a major role in reducing fertility from the

maximum possible, while sterility plays a much smaller role.

The results of her analysis showed that the prevalence of primary infertility is estimated to be 40 percent in 1989 and in 2002, among sexually active women of childbearing age, though there was an increase in the interim. In the case of secondary infertility, about 60 per cent of women experienced this condition over the four reproductive health survey years generally affecting women 25 years or older, across all union types.

The extent of fertility impairment among women of childbearing age was 31 per cent in 2002. The inability to conceive was found particularly among women over age 30, mothers, women in stable unions, and women with the lowest levels of education. These women had difficulty conceiving, had experienced foetal loss, or had waited at least two years without conceiving.

Although similar levels of childlessness were recorded in the census of 2001 (30.5%) and reproductive health survey of 2002 (29.6%), the decline in childlessness reported in census data (1991-2001) is greater than the extent reported through fertility surveys (1989-2002). Both census and survey data show that the proportion of mothers between age 15 and 49 with small family sizes of 1-2 children has increased, while those with 3-5 children have increased only slightly, and those with 6 and more children have declined. This has helped to keep fertility as low as it is.

The shift in the desire for children among the youngest women 15-19, evident from the increase in the percent desiring no/no more children among childless women and mothers in this age range, also point to changing childbearing norms.

Dr Priestley pointed out that in spite of the fact that most women achieve motherhood, women in Jamaica are not achieving their desired family size as

many have never had a pregnancy, are not able to become pregnant and are not exercising any form of fertility limitation. Women who have one child have difficulty having more children, which is due primarily to subfecundity. A larger proportion of mothers rather than the childless are found to have fecundity impairment. The proportion of women with impairment is higher among those in marital and common-law unions and

among women with primary education or less” she said.

The prevalence of infertility and impairment described in the study suggest that fertility constraints are contributing to the low levels of fertility and population growth observed.

“We therefore recommend that health screening for conditions related to

infertility be introduced so that women may achieve the family size they desire and exercise greater control over their fertility,” says Dr Priestley.

She concludes: “The decline in fertility in Jamaica has been impacted mainly by contraceptive use and to a lengthening of the duration of the postpartum period of infecundability, while permanent sterility plays a much lesser role.” **M**



Kevin Miller

Imagine lying critically ill on your hospital bed, your personal physician is attending to other patients on another ward on the other side of the hospital, but needs to constantly monitor your condition. In between checking on his other patients, the doctor picks up his handheld device or cell phone, and without leaving their bedside, is able to access up to the second information which lets him know whether there is any change in your situation.

Far-fetched? Not if you listen to Kevin Miller, Data Controller in the Department of Computing, Mona. His thesis for the Master of Science degree in Computing “Applications of Policy

## Applying computer science to health

based Agents in Wireless Body Sensor Mesh Network for Health Sector” received High Commendation and was awarded the prize for Best Thesis at the Master’s level by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research at its Annual Scholarship Breakfast to honour high achieving post graduate research scholars.

The rather intimidating title of his thesis refers to an ingenious computer programme which highlights the possible applications of modern information technology and wireless sensor networks in the medical field. According to Kevin, in the summer of 2008, he was introduced to ideas about applying mobile intelligent agents in the health sector. This had always been an area of interest, and so his research effort began.

Wireless sensor networks are critical to the process of gathering the information needed by smart environments, whether in buildings, utilities, industrial, home, shipboard, transportation systems automation, or elsewhere. They represent a significant technology that can be applied in a range of areas like human health, the environment and so on.

The sensors are very tiny devices which

could be used to monitor the physiological health conditions of a patient and convey this information to the handheld device of the appropriate doctor through wireless communication, locally, or via the Internet. Using mobile intelligent agents reduces the communication costs, especially over low bandwidth links, by moving the processing function to the place where data is available rather than bringing the data to a central processor. In addition, these agents can be programmed to function in an efficient manner based on certain well known policies practised by the medical profession.

Against that background, Kevin’s work focused on developing appropriate policy based intelligent agents for routing patient information arising from wireless body sensors for processing and communicating this information through a hospital mesh network on to the traditional network/Internet.

The research effort has tremendous implications for medical care in the future. Buoyed by the positive response to his initial efforts, Kevin is now enrolled in the PhD programme, where he is still researching the application of mobile intelligent agents in the health sector. **M**

# PRINCE HARRY'S



# VISIT



*Mona played host to Prince Henry of Wales, popularly known as Prince Harry, on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, as part of a visit to Jamaica to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee - the 60th year since her coronation as Queen of England.*

*While at Mona, Prince Harry visited the UWI, Mona Bowl for Sporting Excellence where he met with Jamaica's elite athletes, Mona scholarship athletes, Hansle Parchment and Jason Young and student from neighbouring schools.*

*Prince Harry also toured the newly established Faculty of Law building, and sat in on a mock moot court session with students in the Faculty. Afterwards, he unveiled a plaque in honour of his grandmother's Diamond Jubilee.*

*In recognition of his visit, Prince Harry was declared an Honorary Fellow of The UWI by the Vice Chancellor.*



# AS OLD AS THE HILLS



Professor Kevin Burke, first head of Geology Department, leans against the boulder which he unveiled at the UWI, Mona Founders' Park as part of activities to commemorate the Department's 50th anniversary. Past and present members and graduates of the Department participated in the celebrations which were held May 17-19 at Mona.

Current head of the department, Professor Simon Mitchell, (in yellow shirt) informed the gathering that the boulder is from Newcastle, and came down to the flatter lands during a big debris flow, perhaps a few thousand years ago when Jamaica was full of volcanoes. The boulder is estimated to be about 50 million years old.

### **CORRECTION: What's in a Name**

In an article "What's in a Name" published in the December 2011 issue of the Mona magazine, it was stated that Sir Henry de la Beche carried out a "geographical survey" of part of Jamaica and that his map and report are "considered to be the first geographic representation of the Western

Hemisphere". The article went on to say that the map was published by the "Geographical Society of London".

This was incorrect. Sir Henry's fame relates to his geological work, which resulted in the production of a geological map, published by the Geological Society of London.

We sincerely apologise for this error. 

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*The University of the West Indies, Mona deeply regrets the passing of Professor Emeritus the Hon. Manley West, retired Head of the former Department of Pharmacology (now Basic Medical Sciences) on Tuesday, April 24, 2012.*

*His career at The UWI, Mona began as Assistant Lecturer in Pharmacology in 1964, then promoted to Lecturer and Internal Examiner in Pharmacology in 1968. He also served as Senior Lecturer and Internal Examiner in Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Medicine and the DM in Anaesthetics.*

*In 1975, Dr. West served as Acting Head of the Department of Pharmacology and in that same year was appointed Head of Department and Chief Internal Examiner. He was appointed Professor of Pharmacology in 1981.*

*Professor West received national and international acclaim for his development (along with Dr Albert Lockhart) of the drug Canasol as a treatment for glaucoma. For this achievement he was awarded the Order of Merit from the Government of Jamaica and the Gold Musgrave medal from the Institute of Jamaica. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) also conferred on him the Bio-Diversity Gold medal for the conversion of a plant compound to medicine, and he was awarded the Legacy of Honour, for the Caribbean for his contribution to mankind.*



Professor Manley West was a strong advocate for advancement through education and provided valuable mentorship to both students and staff. He had many inspiring stories; the one that readily comes to mind is how he got the idea for Canasol. The fishermen on his boats had told him that fishing at nights was facilitated by their improved vision from smoking marijuana, and Prof West sought to identify what the agent could be. I don't know what the formula for Canasol is, as Professor West was not a man to share that secret; but, I'm almost sure there must be an alkaloid in there. All his students learnt very early that isolating these compounds was the first step to gaining his respect, and then producing the crystals was definitely a 'shoe in' to a PhD.

When he was head of the section, he would be at work every morning by 7:30 - 8 am and most days he would be the last one to leave. Daily he would walk up and down the corridor, checking on every piece of equipment; anything that went missing and certainly anything I broke, he

would know. Two of his most prized pieces were 'the freeze-dryer (for drying extracts)' and the 'tonometer (for measuring eye pressure)'; only one person had permission to handle the first (not me) and I had to go through rigorous training to be trusted with the latter.

But, that's the academic side of him; Prof West was also a shrewd financial adviser. He provided great counsel for both the young and old; one of his popular sayings being 'If you don't use it, you're going to lose it'.

Professor West treated all his graduate students as his children and he always had some fatherly advice to share. I asked one of his past graduates who is now lecturer in the Department of Pharmacology at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta to share her memories of him and I quote: "He was much more than my academic advisor. He had many discussions with me about life. He thought that I was waaay too focused on career and thought that I should think about the social and relational aspects

of life. He told me many times that relationships were very important in the making of a total person...."

For every staff member I asked to share their memories of him, there would first be a smile that stretched from ear to ear, and then their eyes looked upward. After the initial thoughts, the resounding theme was that with all his accolades, he treated everyone with respect; he never considered himself too great to sit with any member of his staff for some crackers, tea or Sancrista Cream Sherry. He spent more than half of his life in Pharmacology; I believe he was truly happy to be here. He was actually in the department, at work, for his eightieth birthday.

We are grateful for the significant strides he made for our section. He will always be known as one of the brilliant researchers at UWI; in Pharmacology we will remember him as an excellent mentor and sincere friend. **M**

**Maxine Gossell-Williams, on behalf of the Department of Basic Medical Sciences.**

# FHE OPENS VIDEO & TELECONFERENCE CENTRE

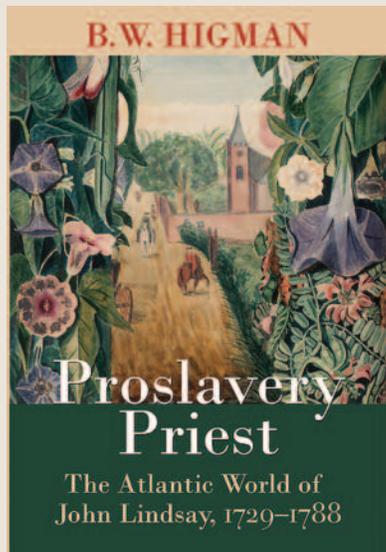


Mona Principal Professor Gordon Shirley, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Humanities & Education, Professor Waibinte Wariboko (right) and other members of staff and students, seem pleased by the report on recent developments in media programming at the UWI Mona Western Jamaica Campus (WJC) being delivered by Patrick Prendergast (see photo inset) Lecturer, Caribbean Institute of Media & Communication. Occasion was the official opening of the Faculty's video and teleconference centre held jointly at Mona and the WJC on May 16.



## UWI PRESS WINS TWO INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

Two UWI Press books and authors received international recognition at the American Library Association Meeting held on June 23, 2012, in Anaheim, California. The books were chosen as ForeWord 2011 Book of the Year winners. They are *Proslavery Priest: The Atlantic World of John Lindsay, 1729-1788*, by Barry Higman, which received Gold, and *Jamaican*



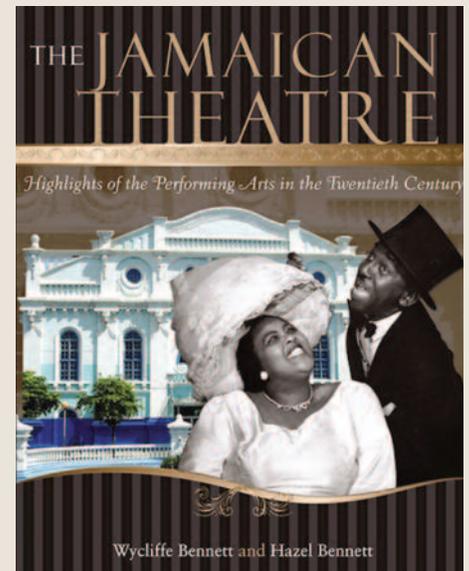
*Theatre: Highlights of the Performing Arts in the Twentieth Century*, by Wycliffe and Hazel Bennett, which was awarded a Silver award.

ForeWord awards represent independent publishing at its finest and are selected from thousands of books by librarians and booksellers based on editorial excellence, professional production, originality, author credentials relative

to the book, and the value the book adds to its genre.

The books were highlighted at the American Library Association Meeting, which had 25,000 attendees, and they will be promoted at the international Frankfurt Book Fair in October.

During the last twenty years, UWI Press books and authors have received forty-two local, national and international book awards; during the last five years alone, the Press has garnered twenty-nine book awards for editorial and production excellence." 





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