Principal’s Message

Message from the Principal

If we should ask ourselves, what is the key ingredient that leads to innovation, we would unhesitatingly answer, creativity. It is this quality that, as administrators, we seek out in selecting those who will lead this University in its mission to find solutions to the myriad challenges facing us as a nation and region in our march towards economic sustainability. Jamaica is not short on creativity. Our successes in the international arena in music, art, dance, medicine, sports and the like attest to our potential, as a people, to apply similar creative approaches to the solutions of our economic problems. So it is that, in building the capacity of the Mona Campus to help fuel national economic development, we must direct the creative energy of our academic and administrative colleagues towards finding solutions to the challenges that, as a Campus, we face.

This issue of MONA highlights some of the creative approaches that we have adopted in helping to solve some of our nation and region’s development challenges. Creative leaders in the Faculties of Humanities & Education, Medical Sciences, Pure & Applied Sciences and Social Sciences have engineered new programmes that are driven by national development imperatives, but that also have work-readiness built in them so that our graduates may hit the ground running as they enter the workplace. To address the importance of environmental protection and sustainability, the Institute of Education has revamped its teacher education curriculum, incorporating biodiversity education as a major component in the new one. Also, in relation to threats to our country’s marine life, significant research work has been undertaken at our Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory to successfully find solutions to the recent lion fish infestation in our waters. No doubt the related article will fascinate you.

One of our major challenges as a university is how to make our vast intellectual resources available to the many students desiring them. Our decision to invest in new state-of-the art facilities to allow expansion of student intake in the Faculties of law and Medicine, addresses the problem of lack of access in these disciplines. What is more, though, in determining that a sizeable proportion of the programmes that we offer in these Faculties are self-financing, guarantees that we are able to confront the financial constraints that would otherwise have...
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPERATIVES
DRIVE NEW PROGRAMMES

UWI, Mona has continued efforts to upgrade its slate of programmes to satisfy student demand which is itself driven by market needs and national development imperatives. Some of the new programmes are:

**BSc in Information Technology** – aims to address the needs of Caribbean organizations for professionals who are able to work effectively at planning, implementing, configuring and maintaining an organization’s IT assets. Graduates will possess the relevant expertise to hold managerial positions in Information Technology or pursue research in the field.

**BSc in Electronics Engineering** – designed to respond to industry demands for employees with technical skills in telecommunication and industrial instrumentation.

**BSc in Tropical Horticulture** – preparing persons with the skills required for cultivation of fruit, vegetable and root crops, ornamental plants, as well as for employing new farming techniques, such as green house and other types of protected agriculture.

**BA in Entertainment and Cultural Enterprise Management** – aimed at producing innovative industry leaders who understand the convergence of media, information technology and culture within the local and global contexts.

**BA in Digital Media Production** – equipping students with modern skills for today’s media and communication market.

**BEd in Primary Maths and Science** – developed by the School of Education in collaboration with the UWI Open Campus in response to the request from the Grenadian Government to build this capacity in Grenada.

New lines of professional training in nursing, other fields now available

**MEDICAL SCIENCES**

New and increased lines of professional training in nursing, medicine, public health and the forensic sciences are now available through the Faculty of Medical Sciences. Some programmes are being delivered using online and face to face modalities. The MSc in Applied Pharmacology programme will provide students with theoretical and practical background for effective careers in pharmacology science, such as medical representatives, clinical research assistants, pre-clinical research assistant, pharmaceutical marketing, pharmaceutical safety and pharmaceutical regulatory affairs.

The DM programmes ensure that specialists in the full range of medical disciplines are found throughout the Caribbean and the rural areas of Jamaica while the School of Nursing (UNISON) continues to play an important role in ensuring that nurses throughout the region are upgraded to the Bachelor’s level through its online nursing programme.

**AGRICULTURE**

The Faculty of Pure & Applied Sciences has introduced new programmes aimed at fuelling the developing agriculture sector. Graduate students in the Department of Life Sciences may now pursue the MSc programme in Entrepreneurship in Agriculture being offered jointly with the Faculty of Social Sciences. An Agro-processing programme is also being developed.

**WEEKEND INITIATIVE**

The Faculty of Social Sciences’ Weekend Initiative caters to the growing number of persons who are unable to pursue degree programmes during the regular work week. Available programmes are: the BSc in Banking and Finance and the BSc Management Studies (Accounting). The BSc Management Studies (General) has also been introduced.

**NEW COURSES**

A range of interesting new courses will also be delivered within existing undergraduate programmes. They include The Theory and Practice of Restorative Justice which seeks to strengthen the Campus’s criminology offerings, Level 11 courses in electronics and revamped Materials Science, Alternative Energy and Medical Physics courses.

The Institute of Caribbean Studies is also introducing four new courses: Music in World Cultures; Popular Musics of the Caribbean; A History of Jazz and the Blues and Bob Marley and His Music.

CATERING TO THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

The Social Work Unit in the Department of Sociology has introduced a new undergraduate course in Disability Studies. This involves several innovative experiential techniques, including simulating a selected disability for a day and making recommendations about improving university access for students with disabilities. Some of the recommendations have already been implemented in the Faculty.

New facilities allow expansion of student intake and address the problem of access in the Faculties of Law and Medicine

pictorially some of Mona’s outreach activities in this regard.

Creative ways of engaging young people’s interest in the sciences are replete throughout the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences. Of particular interest is Dr. Ashley Hamilton-Taylor’s approach to teaching computer science through the use of animation that Dr. Hamilton-Taylor held exposes students’ appreciation of, and heightened engagement in learning when they can themselves be creatively involved. It is their testament that strengthens my resolve to continue to seek out the creative talents in academia and administration to direct the future of this University in seeking solutions to our development challenges.

New facilities allow expansion of student intake and address the problem of access in the Faculties of Law and Medicine

The Exhibition is being used as an approach to teaching computer science

I am especially proud, however, of the creative approaches that our faculty have adopted in seeking to solve the worrying problems of inadequate math and science education in our primary and secondary schools. This issue of MONA captures prevented expansion of access on such a large scale, and within such a short time frame. What this means is that our Medical Faculty will be able to train the full range of health care professionals and clinical specialists, thereby ensuring that good health care is available throughout the region. The expanded Law Faculty will be able to play an increasingly vital role in industries that are at the forefront of economic development – industries such as tourism and hospitality, music and entertainment, media, sports and agriculture. Other Faculties and disciplines on the Mona Campus view the model adopted by the Law and medical Faculties as a template for the way forward in this uncertain economic climate.

Gordon Shirley
Principal and Pro Vice Chancellor

Animation is being used as an approach to teaching computer science
To say that Jamaica has a problem with the lionfish is to put it mildly. These vividly coloured fish with their venomous elongated dorsal spines have been increasing exponentially in the island’s marine habitats.

The lionfish is native to the Indian and Pacific Oceans. In the late 80s and 90s, marine aquaria enthusiasts mainly in the USA imported the fish for their homes and offices. However, for various reasons, the fish were later released into canals and seas and ‘set free’. Since then, they have made their way along the east coast of the USA, the Bahamas, Hispaniola, Cuba, Jamaica and many other countries in the Caribbean.

The lionfish is regarded as highly invasive in the Caribbean because of its adverse effects on other local fish stock. As a ‘sit and wait’ predator, it has the proclivity to gobble up large quantities of juvenile fish that come into its path, thereby assisting in the displacement of different levels of the food chain by taking out some of the supply.

The very presence of the fish in Jamaica’s already degraded local reefs negatively impacts the economy, specifically fisheries, and also public health and tourism, given the propensity of the fish to inflict painful puncture wounds. The situation is aggravated by the fact that the lionfish reproduces all year round in the Caribbean (every four days). A female lionfish is capable of producing two million eggs each year.

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The National Lionfish Management Project in Jamaica was developed as a definitive response to the growing quandary. Led by UWI, Mona through its newly formed Marine Invasive Species Lab at the Discovery Bay Marine Lab, the project is funded by the Global Environment Facility, Government of Jamaica and UWI among other entities to the tune of US$431,000, and is administered by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA). Principal Investigator is Lecturer and Academic Coordinator at the UWI Discovery Bay Marine Lab, Dr. Dayne Buddo.

According to Dr. Buddo the project has several objectives: tracking the lionfish invasion through underwater surveys island wide; documenting the impacts through predation of native fish; designing a trap capable of catching lionfish; and, formulating a management plan for Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean region.

The Marine Invasive Species Lab, the only one of its kind in CARICOM, buttresses the ambitious lionfish management programme, as it is home to the research component of the Project, which also focuses on ballast water management. Other research projects include population tracking island wide; analyses of prey consumed by the lionfish; design of special traps for lionfish; analyses of the genetics of the population; biology and ecology of the Lionfish larvae; impacts of the lionfish on artificial reefs; impacts on local pot fishing and formulation of management plan.

The design of a special trap as a control mechanism for the burgeoning lionfish population is well on the way. The trap will have the dual purpose of defusing the cost associated with diving and spearing the fish while improving coverage of its removal along the
coastline with minimal input. Collaborating closely with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the USA, Dr. Buddo says that there are plans to use a similar design to that of fish traps being used currently. "We are now in the process of collating data from the existing fish traps, which have also been trapping lionfish and trying to figure out what is attracting them to these traps," he says. The results from the collation of this data, which is expected to conclude in August 2011, will be applied in the building of the trap.

Other research data collected so far indicate that the lionfish is not showing any preference to species it consumes. Examinations of the contents of the stomachs of lionfish have found 15 different species of reef fish such as parrot, snappers and doctor fish, wrasses, grunts and chromis as well as crustaceans including crabs and shrimp. This means that there is also need to monetarily quantify the impact of the lionfish. This quantification according to Dr. Buddo should be known by September.

Then there is the impending fall publication of the Lionfish Management Handbook, of which UWI is co-author with NOAA and the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) among other partners. Dr. Buddo describes this manual as a plan of action based on information compiled regarding activities pursued in controlling the lionfish population. "This guide speaks to legislation, regulations, research, strategies for removal, policy and public education through activities such as workshops and tournaments organized to remove the lionfish," he further explains. The Handbook will be available free of cost to all coastal managers across the wider Caribbean.

Overall, the success of the management programme hinges on striking up and maintaining partnerships with government and non-government entities. This is borne out in the recent establishment of a Lionfish Committee, which is comprised of various stakeholders from the government and private sector. This effort is being further pursued through extensive training, which will build capacity. The process includes teaching people including fishermen, NEPA staff and other government agencies that are in the field, hotel staff and diving operators to employ special techniques to minimize the risk of persons being stung. "Even a dead lionfish can sting, so we train persons how to remove them from the reef and how to prepare them for cooking," Dr. Buddo explains, while noting that the consumption of lionfish was catching on with the public.

The UWI, Mona, through its Discovery Bay Marine Lab, is fast emerging as one of the leading authorities on lionfish in the region. In fact many countries are now looking to UWI to conduct research as well as training in their countries. The Dominican Republic, St. Kitts, Antigua and St. Lucia have recently made requests for training and technical cooperation.
across the road from the Mona School of Business. When completed, the building will house “state of the art” facilities for the Department of Basic Medical Sciences. The Department provides the foundation required for students reading for the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MB, BS) and Dentistry. It also prepares students for nursing and physical therapy degrees. Currently, each section of the department is housed in various buildings throughout the Mona Campus. The new construction will bring together the department’s various sections. Anatomy, Biochemistry, Physiology and Pharmacology, which also includes the BB Med Sci.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

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Speak to anyone who has ever visited the UWI, Mona Campus in its more than 60 years of existence and mention will likely be made of its beautiful Queen’s Way entrance leading up to the Campus’ iconic Senate Building, set against majestic blue-tinted hills. That’s one of the few things that has remained constant about Mona. A quiet transformation is taking place as the Campus upgrades its facilities as part of an initiative to create an environment that encourages learning and positive student interaction and experience.

A major development is the new facility which opened in January 2011 to accommodate an expansion in Law and related programmes. Since August 2009, persons entering the Faculty of Law have had different options for pursuing the three year Bachelor of Law (LLB) degree programme full time. The entire degree may now be pursued at the Mona Campus, or persons may complete the first year of the degree programme at Mona or the UWI Mona Western Jamaica Campus. Years two or three may be completed at Mona or at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados.

The changing face of Mona

THE CHANGING FACE OF MONA

The four interlocking buildings, which surround a courtyard area, are an attractive addition to the Campus. The three- and four-storey facility houses classroom and tutorial rooms, lecture theatres, administrative offices, a Law library and student spaces. The fourth level is mainly dedicated to students and for faculty outdoor social events.

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

Perhaps the most ambitious of the current projects is the building which is gradually taking shape on Aqueduct Way.
There will also be provision for a department of Physical Therapy as well as facilities for provision of forensic DNA.

Each discipline will have its own floor/wing with access to shared facilities as well as an Administrative wing.

The massive 218,958 sq. feet building will house a large 500-seat lecture theatre, two medium sized (300-seat) lecture theatres as well as two small (150-seat) lecture theatres. In addition there will be twenty (20) tutorial rooms to accommodate 25 students each, seminar rooms, a large computer laboratory to house 100 workstations, and a large reading room/library. Provision is also being made for an Undergraduate Student Lounge as well as a Graduate and Academic Lounge, both with audio/visual amenities.

**STUDENT HOUSING**

Housing has long been recognised as a challenge on the Mona Campus with only 2000 spaces available for its 14,000-student population. Against that background, construction has begun on two new halls of residence, one on grounds behind the existing Taylor and Irvine Halls of Residence, which will have rooms for 600 undergraduate students, and the other on Gibraltar Hall Road, across from the Old Library, which will provide accommodation for 400 postgraduate students.

**MAJOR RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY**

Led by the Campus Projects Office, Mona has upgraded its Mona Bowl for Sporting Excellence, adding the UWI/Usain Bolt Regupol track and improved facilities for a number of sporting activities. Major renovations have been carried out in the Department of Mathematics, renovations are underway in the Medical Library and the recently opened Confucius Institute, the first of its kind in the English-speaking Caribbean, encourages dissemination and learning of the Chinese Language and culture.

The Campus Projects Office is also upgrading other areas. In continuing recognition of the need for a facility to support the University’s graduate research and teaching programme, a Postgraduate Learning Commons has been established in the Science Library, similar to one which opened at the Main Library in 2009. The PGLC-Science Branch boasts a teaching/computer lab, four group study rooms, a conference room, and a reading and lounge area. Postgraduate students also have access to nine refurbished study carrels on the middle floor of the Library.

The Campus has also constructed a 42-seat computer lab in the Science Library, increasing computer access for the undergraduate population. Located on the ground floor, the lab offers access to the Library’s wide array of electronic services and information resources that are indispensable in developing globally competitive graduates.

The new Basic Medical Sciences building takes shape

**THE CHANGING FACE OF MONA**

[Image of The Monk with a text]
Infusing Biodiversity into Teacher Education

Educate trainee teachers across disciplines on the link between biological diversity and the preservation of all life forms. Guide the trainees so they will incorporate lessons about activities which threaten the survival of ecosystems and the critical need for biodiversity conservation into the education of their students. This was the vision which motivated Dr. Marcelline Collins-Figueroa of the Institute of Education to respond to a call from the Environmental Institute of Education to collaborate with Dr. Marceline Collins-Figueroa of the Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) for project proposals on biodiversity education. The result was the Biodiversity Teacher Education Project, a collaborative effort between the Institute/Joint Board of Teacher Education (JBTE) and the Jamaica Environment Trust. The project was geared towards infusing biodiversity content into subjects across the curriculum being taught in teachers’ colleges. The main objective was to educate a more environmentally knowledgeable and sensitive teacher in every subject.

"It is very important to have a rich biodiversity as there are many benefits. It supports humans not only with food, fuels and medicine but through the provision of other services, such as climate control and the regulation of disease. We get so much from nature, there are aesthetic, spiritual, educational and recreational aspects," Dr. Collins-Figueroa said.

The lecturer is keen for students to learn about the life forms existing in Jamaica, which is regarded as the world’s fifth most diverse island in the world because of the array of endemic plants. Jamaica’s delicately balanced land and aquatic ecosystems feature life forms found in forests, caves, coral reefs, rivers and on dry savannas such as those found on the island’s South Coast. Through the study of biodiversity, students are educated about endangered species, plants, and animals in marine and land ecosystems. They also learn that healthy ecosystems determine the frequency and impact of floods and other disasters, the richness of the soil and sustainability of forests, necessary to protect watersheds and to prevent land slippage.

**CROSS-CURRICULAR APPROACH**

At the core of the project was the determination to involve as many disciplines as possible in biodiversity education. Dr. Collins-Figueroa explained that while biodiversity is taught in the science curriculum and to some extent in social studies, the project presented an opportunity to adopt a cross-curricular approach where students would be guided to incorporate biodiversity into lesson plans and classroom activities of other subjects. This approach resulted in integration of biodiversity into the teaching of subjects such as Language Arts, Music and Mathematics.

At Bethlehem Moravian College, the entire batch of first year students participated in conducting a survey in Malvern, St. Elizabeth, on the use of medicinal herbs. This laid the foundation for research on the range and diversity of herbs actually used by people in the community. Church Teachers’ College started a vegetable garden for their action project. Educators at CASE studied and nurtured birds with the long term plan to open a bird sanctuary. Again the focus was on the cross curricular approach, resulting in activities such as an all-college debate on environmental topics organized by the Language Arts and Social Studies lecturers.

A butterfly garden, which featured the Swallowtail Butterfly, was attempted at Edna Manley College for the Visual and Performing Arts. The environmental club that was formed developed a shade house which housed two species of the endemic butterfly along with host plants. The idea was to use the theme of the butterfly curriculum development work in the art and dance schools. Students were required to write lesson plans and create teaching aids based on the theme to highlight the vulnerability of the butterfly.

Another interesting effort was seen at Moneague College which developed an action plan to restore sections of the famous Fern Gully landmark. Students erected a shade house to be used for the resuscitation and propagation of ferns. The college worked closely with botanists from the Institute of Jamaica to identify ferns for propagation. The college’s environmental club, a direct result of the biodiversity project, focused on improving the environmental ambiance of the campus. The multidisciplinary approach was maintained with biodiversity education being infused into the first-year primary education curriculum.

Projects also included an herbal garden created at Shortwood Teachers’ College and efforts to transform the grounds at Sam Sharpe Teachers’ College into a nature park. Students across disciplines at St Joseph’s Teachers’ College were involved in laying out vegetable beds and the development of a compost heap. Students enrolled in the early childhood programme started taking tyre gardens out to practice schools to expose small children to the wonders and possibilities of the environment.

Completed in 2008, the Biodiversity in Education Project has facilitated different kinds of assessment strategies and ongoing research and experimentation in new teaching techniques which help to determine how students are learning in real world authentic situations. Critically, the cross-curricular approach has been maintained in action projects undertaken by the teacher training institutions.

Dr. Collins-Figueroa noted that the level of success varied among colleges. Impressive results were realized at some colleges which embraced the project concept and where student teachers actively incorporated biodiversity education into lesson plans and teaching for use in their practice teaching. Bad weather affected the viability of some action projects. Bureaucratic red tape delayed permission to work in other areas. Some administrators and student teachers resisted the inclusion of aspects of biodiversity education into their specialist areas.

Those challenges aside, there were positive environmental and social outcomes. Student teachers learnt how to nurture the organisms of the environment, studied local species and habitats while developing social responsibility, and leadership skills. Participation in the actual planning for the project and implementation led to increased self esteem and a sense of ownership among student teachers who were supported by educators who functioned as facilitators. Another accomplishment was meeting the objective to leave active environmental clubs within colleges.

Research is now being conducted among the students who participated in these activities while in teachers’ college to see how they have transitioned into the real world where they are in charge of a class of students. Early reports have been very encouraging as there is evidence of the educational and economic impact. Teachers have applied the knowledge, skills and motivation gained during their participation in the project to initiate vegetable gardens, bee-keeping and fish rearing activities within schools and within their communities.

“We are finding some rich examples,” Dr. Collins-Figueroa enthused. “We are seeing where biodiversity education is being taught in all subjects.”

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Dr. Marcelline Collins-Figueroa

*Image Note:*

- Dr. Marcelline Collins-Figueroa
- Students conducting research and experiments in biodiversity education
- Vegetable gardens, butterfly gardens, and other nature-based educational projects in schools.
Students prepare for competition

REACHING OUT TO GENERATION

By the time the UWIs begins its next Strategic Plan period, the student cohort will include many of those who are currently at varying stages of their high school careers. Across the Mona Campus, departments are organizing activities geared towards connecting with these students and helping them hone skills in areas which will assist them when they later pursue undergraduate studies.

JAMAICAN MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD

There has been a 45 per cent increase in the number of students who have entered the Qualifying Round and sat the First Written Examination of the undergraduate studies. “These statistics indicate that interest in Examination, up from 273 in 2010. UWIS Sterling Asset Management compared to 2010. Some 837 Jamaican Math Olympiad in 2011, 395 students sat the 2011 Round 1 Written Examination, which participated in 2010. In addition, hurricane skills in areas which will assist activities geared towards connecting with secondary school students sitting CAPE Caribbean History.

HAVING FUN WITH PHYSICS

“If we focus first on the students having fun, then they will learn the principles of Physics without even noticing”. This is the philosophy behind the approach lectures, demonstrations, simulations and experimentation during the Workshops, conducted by a team of UWl faculty, postgraduate and undergraduate students. These Workshops and Field Trips are designed to give the students both theoretical knowledge and practical laboratory experience so as to assist them in understanding the application of Physics in “the real world”. This is evidenced by straightforward examples of: grandfather clocks which use the principle of Simple Harmonic Motion while the ringing of the school bell demonstrates the principle of waves and light-sensitive switches/sensors is an example of how the theory of Operational Amplifiers is applied. The Outreach activity was initiated in 2007 as a way of responding to gaps in educational, fun and out of this world!” Commented another: “It was very much accomplishment, leadership qualities and a commitment to becoming an actuary.

“I’m delighted that The Actuarial Foundation has awarded two University of West Indies students with 2010 Caribbean Actuarial Scholarships. The recipients are Tashia Fung from Jamaica whose scholarship is valued at Two Thousand Five Hundred United States Dollars and Johnathon Craig from Trinidad and Tobago who received One Thousand Five Hundred United States Dollars.

The Caribbean Actuarial Scholarship was established in memory of Basil L. and Monica G. Virtue by their son-in-law, G. Virtue by their son-in-law, S. Michael McLaughlin, an actuary who graduated from the University of the West Indies. This scholarship is an annual award to University of West Indies actuarial students who demonstrate a strong record of accomplishment, leadership qualities and a commitment to becoming an actuary.

The Department is now planning a “Science is Fun” Trip for Grade Six students to take place May 30 to June 3. This will involve two - hour sessions of pure fun, playing with science – hands-on and computer simulation.

CALCULATING RISKS: TWO RECEIVE ACTUARIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

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“My delight that The Actuarial Foundation has awarded these scholarships again in the second year of the Caribbean Actuarial Scholarship. In memory of Basil and Monica Virtue of Spanish Town, Jamaica. We have two well deserving students and wish them the best for their studies and a successful actuarial career and hope to continue this scholarship program for many more years,” said Caribbean Actuarial Scholarship representative S. Michael McLaughlin, Deloitte Consulting LLP.

For more information about this scholarship and other initiatives and activities of The Actuarial Foundation, visit www.actuarialfoundation.org.
FEEDING THE SCHOLARLY MIND

Dr. Marvadeen Singh-Wilmot (right) exchanging views with scholarship holder Simone Badai-McCraith (left). Also in the photo are (l-r) Assistant Registrar, Sandra Powell-Mangaroo and recipient of the award for Best Thesis, Dr. Arlene Bailey.

The University of the West Indies, Mona recognized 24 recipients of postgraduate awards at its third annual Scholars Breakfast held at the Terra Nova Hotel in Kingston in March. The event forms part of an initiative to provide improved professional training and develop research competencies among its graduates, in order to satisfy economic development imperatives. The objective is also to strengthen graduate programmes being offered by the institution.

The Scholars’ Breakfast recognised recipients of postgraduate awards at its third annual Scholars’ Breakfast held at the Terra Nova Hotel in Kingston in March. The event forms part of an initiative to provide improved professional training and develop research competencies among its graduates, in order to satisfy economic development imperatives. The objective is also to strengthen graduate programmes being offered by the institution.

The Scholars’ Breakfast recognised students who are pursuing studies in areas driven by market and national development demands. In keeping with this thrust, The UWI, Mona also presented an award for the individual with the Most Outstanding Thesis. This award went to Dr. Arlene Bailey, who received her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Information Systems with High Commendation.

Guest speaker at the event, Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry, Dr. Marvadeen Singh-Wilmot, challenged graduates students at the institution not to be deterred by problems that face them, or the country, but to see each challenge as an opportunity to find solutions for the greater good of mankind. She added that the world belongs to those who see its potential, and argued that as young scholars they must be the ones to see the potential of the world, for no one should care more about the future than those who will have to live it.

Dr. Singh-Wilmot, who graduated from The UWI, Mona in 2003 with a PhD in Chemistry, recently returned from Washington where she had been invited by the US National Academy for discussions to guide the President as he formulates ideas on global science and policy and diplomacy. She told the postgraduate students that being bright was not enough, they also had to care, as the combination would ensure that they would make a difference not just in their own lives, but in the lives of others. She urged them to speak about their work at every opportunity, to generate good ideas and to convert good ideas into good leadership so that their work would impact the world. Most of all, she encouraged the graduates to be passionate about their work, as this would help to promote a culture of scholarship and excellence in their respective fields.

Also addressing the graduates was the recipient of the award for Best Thesis, Dr. Arlene Bailey. She noted that her research was relevant to a critical economic sector as it had focused on the use of information and communication technologies in communities, through telecentres, community access points, cybercentres. She pointed out that her fieldwork had carried her to many communities, both urban and rural; each telecentre with its own interesting story. “One of the telecentres was established in a container, with the intention of being mobile. However, the first community it landed in held on to it, and the community have now come up with a wheelchair option of bringing ICTs to people on the street corner”, she remarked.

Dr. Bailey added that as a result of her research, she had now received a small CARICOM/Canada grant to investigate the usage of ICTs in the Diaspora.

Other speakers were UWi Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris, and Mona Principal, Professor Gordon Shirley Chair was Professor Yvette Jackson, Coordinator for Graduate Studies, in the University’s Office of Graduate Studies and Research which organized the event in collaboration with the Mona Campus Committee for Research & Publication and Graduate Awards.

Mark Figueroa holds the Bachelor of Arts, and Master of Sciences degrees in Economics from The University of the West Indies, Mona and the Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom. He joined the staff of Department of Economics as a Teaching Assistant in 1974, was appointed Lecturer in 1978 and further promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2005. He has served as Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences since 2004. His work covers various aspects of the political economy of the Caribbean. He is a leading scholar of the history of development policy and economic thought in the Caribbean. In particular, he has clarified the insights of the critical tradition in Caribbean economics including those of the region’s most outstanding economist, Nobel Laureate W. Arthur Lewis, and has demonstrated that much has been lost by the tendency among Caribbean economists to focus on their differences rather than points of consensus. His work on garrison communities in Jamaica has demonstrated how electoral data can be used to track their growth and has detailed their impact on political culture and resulting negative socioeconomic outcomes for the country.

He has made significant interventions in debates regarding gender as it relates to education, health and leadership. In particular, he has shown how the decline in the relative educational achievement of males can be linked to long-established male privileges rather than any new tendencies towards marginalizing males.

As a member of the Caribbean Diaspora Ecology Research Group, he has made a distinctive contribution towards a classification system for the collection of data on the analysis of migration which aids our ability to forecast whether remittances can be sustained at current levels in the future.


His leadership record within UWI includes in addition to being Dean, serving as Head of Economics and President and Chief Negotiator for the West Indies Group of University Teachers. Among his innovative contributions are the: first summer school for students in degree programmes, Committee for Students with Disabilities and most recently, teaching of weekend degree programmes in Social Sciences.

As a teacher, he has been active in curriculum reform and helped to launch new courses and programmes, including the History of Economic Thought, Caribbean Economic Thought and Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development/Environmental management as well as the BSc in Business Economics and Social Statistics (BEISS)

Over the years he has been an advisory to or consultant on various projects associated with entities such as the Canadian International Development Agency, the Caribbean Development Bank, Caribbean Studies Association, Commonwealth Secretariat, Disabled People’s International, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Government of Jamaica, Government of Grenada, United Nations Development Fund

Dr. Marvadeen Singh-Wilmot (right) exchanging views with scholarship holder Simone Badai-McCraith (left). Also in the photo are (l-r) Assistant Registrar, Sandra Powell-Mangaroo and recipient of the award for Best Thesis, Dr. Arlene Bailey.
Dr. Roye is the recipient of the first Special Fellowship and was selected from among a group of 20 women who received the L’Oreal-UNESCO International Fellowship. She is also the first Jamaican to have received the L’Oreal-UNESCO International Fellowship in 2000 and among over one thousand one hundred (1000) women scientists from 103 countries worldwide to have been distinguished by Awards or supported in the pursuit of their career through the L’OREAL-UNESCO Women in Science partnership.

The Special Fellowship is in recognition of her distinguished research conducted in the field of plant virology and antiretroviral drug resistance in HIV/AIDS patients and for being a role model to young scientists.

For the past 15 years Dr. Roye has been engaged primarily with molecular virology of geminiviruses with special emphasis on identification, distribution, molecular characterization and control of diseases associated with crops and weeds from the Caribbean. Her research has identified numerous plant viruses in Jamaica, Belize, Barbados, Antigua and St. Kitts and Nevis and has played an integral role in the development of control strategies of these plant viruses.

Locally Dr. Roye’s research has resulted in the identification of more than 24 plant viruses such as red pepper, bean, tomato, scotch bonnet pepper, cabbage and common weeds. Her research has been instrumental in facilitating the control of viruses in two crops by cultivation of resistant varieties of tomato and cabbage. This has enabled the local agriculture market to flourish as these plant viruses can cause significant yield loss.

Dr. Roye’s research in viruses has expanded to humans as since 2008 she along with the Institute of Human Virology of the University of Maryland School of Medicine has embarked on research in the detection of antiretroviral (ARV) drug resistance of HIV in Jamaican patients. The research serves to improve ARV treatment and outcome for HIV-afflicted individuals as well as the quality of life of the HIV patients. In Jamaica where resources to conduct sophisticated laboratory analyses may be deficient Dr. Roye and her team are able to assist by performing viral sequencing of HIV and can provide this vital information to physicians and patients. From the blood samples of individual patients, they are able to sequence the virus and provide very specific information that helps the doctor determine which drug combinations that individual is likely to respond to, so the patient can receive the most effective therapy.

Dr. Roye’s approach to her research is remarkable. She is driven by her desire to impact others by using science to find solutions for people living with HIV, and for farmers, especially since she herself comes from a rural farming community in Jamaica.

The University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona, Dr. Paul Aiken, has been elevated to the grade of Senior Member in the Institute of Electric and Electronics Engineering (IEEE), the world’s largest professional association dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.

Only eight per cent of IEEE’s 400,000 members hold the grade of Senior Member, which requires extensive experience, and reflects professional maturity and documented achievements of significance. Dr. Aiken is the second member of staff at The UWI, Mona to achieve this honour, the other being Dr. Halden Morris, senior lecturer in the Institute of Education.

Paul Aiken has coordinated the development of engineering at the Mona campus and has teaching and research duties in electronics, engineering and physics. He recently served as vice-chair of the IEEE Jamaica section.

He holds a PhD and a MSc in Electrical Engineering from Columbia University, New York, and a MPhil in Physics from The UWI. Over the years, he has held several engineering positions in Jamaica and the USA including Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) engineer at UWI and at Columbia University, and a Senior Test Engineer at Intel Corporation. As a test engineer, Dr. Aiken led international teams of engineers to design factory ready equipment for testing Intel latest microprocessors, and developed practical solutions for solving high-speed signal and power integrity issues.

Professor Elizabeth Thomas-Hope has been elected to the Christensen Fellowship in 2011 at St. Catherine’s College, Oxford University. This Fellowship is awarded each term to eminent scholars in their field. The announcement was made at a recent meeting of the Governing Body of St. Catherine’s College.
The UWI, Mona partnered with First Global Bank Limited to host its annual blood drive on April 5-6. Rex Mettler Hall won the trophy for the hall with the most blood donors from the November 2010 blood drive. Maja Green, manager for Jamaica’s Sunshine Girls netball team presents the trophy to hall representative Wayne Dennis, also a member of the final year social marketing students at the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC). Looking on is Clinical director at Mona’s Health Centre, Dr. Blossom Angie Brown.

A contingent of 50 fourth form students and 10 teachers from the St. Vincent Girls’ High School in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, visited Mona in March. The students are studying Geography, History and the Theatre Arts and expressed the hope that the visit to Jamaica and the University would engender a greater awareness and appreciation for the island’s rich heritage.
FIRST UNIVERSITY TOWNSHIP BASIC SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

UWI, SALISES & EFJ Host Child Rights Workshop for Primary School Students

August Town Primary School children pay keen attention to the laws outlined in the Guide to the Child Care and Protection Act during the Child Rights Workshop for Primary Schools held at UWI, Mona recently. The Workshop was designed to train teachers and students in child rights and research methods, promote research among primary school students and increase the adherence to child rights in schools. It was organized by Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) at UWI, Mona in partnership with UNICEF and the Environmental Foundation for Jamaica (EFJ).

RIDING THE COMPUTER ANIMATION WAVE

Lecturer Dr. Ashley Hamilton-Taylor with illustrations by Robert Tucker (concept by Gabrielle Hamilton-Taylor)

For about two hours one Friday afternoon in May, a fascinated audience watched as first year students in the Department of Computing, Mona mounted a showcase of 3D computer animations developed as part of an introductory course in the Computer Science degree programme. The students had been charged with using animation to tell positive, non-violent, culturally uplifting stories that would be relevant to a Jamaican and wider Caribbean audience. The themes were varied, among them traditional stories, stories about contemporary life, history, current events, sports, music and dance.

The attentive audience watched as animated characters glided across the screen, performed popular local dances, dodged cars which screeched around corners, were taught lessons about life and love, tackled hard social and political issues, and also participated in talent competitions, animation style.

Computer animation involves the use of computers to show a successive series of images so quickly that it fools the human mind into thinking that it is continuous motion. Lecturer Dr. Ashley Hamilton-Taylor explained that the form of computer animation used by the students involves programming 3D characters to move, walk, and dance, and 3D objects to move and change size, colour, etc. in various ways. “We incorporated animation programming into the undergraduate computer science programme four years ago. The goal was to encourage enthusiasm about programming as part of our first-year object-oriented programming course, and to encourage cultural expression in animation.”

The project is an outgrowth of Dr. Hamilton-Taylor’s own research interests, begun when he developed a holistic approach to the development of algorithm animation for computer science education as part of his doctoral dissertation. This included the ethnographic study of instructor teaching methods, the design of the SKA (Support Kit for Animation) software visualization system, which allows instructors and students to interactively create and manipulate data structure diagrams, and development of systems to evaluate the animations at the perceptual and cognitive levels. SKA facilitates visual learning about data structures and algorithms. The research was supported by the National Science Foundation in a collaborative project with the University of Georgia and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Back in Jamaica, Dr. Hamilton-Taylor became involved in the development of Computing and IT in education, government, and industry. He has taught at UWI for over twenty years, and is presently the curriculum coordinator for the Department of Computing, spearheading efforts to continuously develop programs that are on par internationally while addressing national and Caribbean needs.

“We’ve been conducting research in the use of animation and visualisation in the learning process in computer science education and in e-learning in general. We found that animation and visualisation can indeed be an effective medium for learning about algorithms and data structures if perception, attention, graphical design.
Animation programming was introduced to students using the Alice animation language from Carnegie-Mellon University; however, Dr. Hamilton-Taylor notes that early in the project, they encountered problems. “Although the Alice system has many good features, it has technical limitations and bugs which the students found frustrating. They also complained about the difficulty of finding culturally and ethnically appropriate characters for their stories in the character library included with Alice, particularly for role models such as teachers, elders, scientists, businesspersons and athletes. In some cases, students had to change their animation storylines.” In response, “We created a few rudimentary characters and objects of our own, which have been used by students in many animations.” Additionally, they adapted some of the characters to make them more authentic in the local context. One of Dr. Hamilton-Taylor’s postgraduate students, David Soutar, a lecturer in Visual Communication/animation at the Edna Manley College of Visual and Performing Arts, recently developed a character creation program for Alice as his M.Sc. research project, which can be used to create indigenous characters.

Dr. Hamilton-Taylor points out that further research in animation software development is ongoing, as he aims to create a better animation language than Carnegie-Mellon’s Alice. His research group has already developed prototypes of this new animation platform. “A primary objective of developing user-friendly animation software is to encourage cultural self-expression for social change and education,” he says.

Buoyed by the level of interest among the students, the Department of Computing, Mona is now trying to take things to another level. According to Dr. Hamilton-Taylor, “since its inception, The UWI has been at the forefront of technological development in the Caribbean. The region is now in the midst of the next phase of the technological revolution in computing. Interactive visual computing is entering the classroom, the boardroom, and the living room. Recent breakthroughs in mobile and interactive visual computing will radically change the way we work, learn, communicate, and play in the very near future. There is a convergence of tablet computing, smart phones, and laptops. Interactive whiteboards are about to be joined by mainstream 3D displays and virtual reality. New applications are being created which utilize the capabilities of these devices.”

Against that background, the Department is positioning itself to produce researchers and graduates with the necessary skill sets to create these applications in a knowledge-based economy. The intention is to establish a computing research laboratory that will facilitate research and advanced education on the frontiers of computing in interactive visual computing, smart mobile/tablet computing and new media technologies. The Web, Animation, Visualisation and E-learning (WAVE) laboratory. It will have facilities for 3D animation creation, 3D projector viewing, 3D virtual interaction, 3D software creation, 3D video recording, and mobile/tablet software creation. The research laboratory is funded by a New Initiative Grant from the Principal’s Office at UWI, Mona, and is scheduled to open in August 2011.

The possibilities are exciting: “This would involve collaborative work between computing researchers and with researchers in cultural studies, history, and the school of visual arts. Artists would help to create 3D models of local characters e.g. Marcus Garvey, Miss Lou, etc. that can be animated. The WAVE lab would provide the necessary facilities and access to animation/audio/video tools,” Dr. Hamilton-Taylor notes.

The Department now has postgraduate students engaged in research in animation and visualization for e-learning, human-computer interaction, and computer science education. The revised M.Sc. in Computer Science has a User Interface Design, Visualisation and Interactive Media stream.

Some undergraduate students are also developing innovative animations and games while final-year user interface design students have developed animation and web applications. “They have started to develop multimedia and mobile web applications, but we currently lack the hardware and software development tools to enable them to do so effectively”, the lecturer notes. Both groups will benefit from the establishment of the WAVE lab, which will facilitate use of advanced hardware and development tools as part of their thesis research, courses and capstone research projects.

When fully operational the WAVE lab will spearhead the establishment of an infrastructure that will make current and cutting edge new media technology available to researchers. It will also enhance prior research in animation, visualization, and e-learning. With additional funding; other potential areas include virtual reality applications; video and music archiving; tools for distance education; visualisation for the sciences and business; computer-based video/motion-capture security applications and visual analytics.

Dr. Hamilton-Taylor and his postgraduate research group are currently engaged in a number of projects, for which they plan to use the WAVE lab, including:
Riding The Computer Animation Wave

- E-learning for Foreign Language learning (Ph.D. student Michelle McKoy with Dr. Paulette Ramsay, undergraduate Kay-Anne Barrett, Dwayne Redwood, Jovan Neita).
- Cultural/Social/Historical positive game development (undergraduate students Andre Sheckleford, Shomari Morrish-Cooke, Tanielle Davy).
- Compilation of student Alice animations that reflect positive aspirations, Caribbean and African Diaspora culture, and analysis of their design strategies for stories and programming techniques.
- Evaluating the use of animation-based novice programming environments (e.g. Alice) by computer science students, with a goal of designing future animation programming environments (M.Phil. student Robert Tucker, M.Sc. student David Soutar).

“We’re riding the wave of the future of computer animation,” remarked Dr. Hamilton-Taylor.

Krystal tastes success in Botswana

Historic Win in World Universities Debating Competition

Viewers of the popular local television series, Nyammins may be surprised to learn that its young enthusiastic host who travels all over Jamaica in search of creative culinary concoctions, is actually a final year student at the UWI Mona campus. They may be even more surprised to discover that this mature 20 year-old is a twice elected member of the University’s Guild Council and a member of the celebrated debating team which snagged international credits and bragging rights at the World Universities Debating Championship held in Botswana in January.

Krystal Tomlinson

While it took weeks to fully sink in, memories of the thrill experienced by the announcement that she was judged the best speaker in the Public Speaking Competition, still evokes an emotional rush for Krystal Tomlinson. “I was in total shock, looking around as I couldn’t believe what really happened. It was a warm feeling,” Krystal reminisced.

The competition was gruelling with all four UWI Debating Club representatives entering the public speaking component of the annual match-up of tertiary students drawn from over 200 universities worldwide. In the first of three rounds, debaters were challenged to expound on a random phrase, ‘Wacka, Wacka, this is Africa’. Krystal admits to being thrown by the moot as the team prepared for a standardized speck used the opportunity to speak about the unique African experience she was being afforded courtesy of the competition. Having survived first round eliminations, debaters were presented with a motion on human behaviour for which Krystal delivered on the consequences and impact of HIV/AIDS. The presentation was timely given the high infection rate within some African countries and resonated with the audience at the Gaborone International Conference Centre.

At this point, two of the UWI entrants were still standing – Krystal and her debating partner from the 2009 staging of the competition, Ricardo Brooks. For the crucial third round which saw a narrowed field of gifted speakers, Krystal was asked to speak on dress and how it restricts expression which she did, creatively using her cocktail attire to discuss womanhood, maturity and independence. Even though there was a strong buzz about their performance, the team was guarded as although other representatives had come close, the university had never won the prestigious competition. Krystal’s historic win and Ricardo’s fourth place was a significant achievement for UWI Mona.

“We were up against tough competition, speakers from universities such as Harvard, Cornell, Oxford,” she said.

(continued on page 34)
UWI Vice Chancellor is new ACU Chairman

UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris has been named the new Chairman of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU). The announcement was made following meetings in Hong Kong on April 5, 2011.

Established in 1913, the ACU is the oldest and one of the most prestigious inter-university networks in the world. Professor Harris who served as the Association’s Vice Chair for the past two years succeeds Dr. Theuns Eloff, Vice-Chancellor of North-West University, South Africa and will serve as Chairman for a two year term. During his tenure the Association will celebrate its centenary and Professor Harris will also take the lead in the implementation of the Association’s strategic plan 2008-2013 ‘Preparing for a Second Century’.

On his appointment, UWI Vice Chancellor and new ACU Chairman had this to say, “This represents an excellent opportunity to enhance the global visibility of The University of the West Indies and to highlight that despite limited resources, West Indian governments and people have

UWI Vice Chancellor E. Nigel Harris built an institution which is making its mark internationally.”

The ACU’s mission is to contribute to the provision of excellent higher education for the benefit of all people throughout the Commonwealth. In keeping with the Association’s mission Professor Harris also noted that “…bursting new technologies which are revolutionizing the tertiary education sector make it an opportune time to be at the forefront of discussions. Further, in a global economic climate where governments are providing less funding for universities, we are mandated to develop novel coping strategies while increased demands for accountability are also calling for us to translate more effectively into tangible societal benefits. In the face of these demands, coupled with competition from new types of private universities, the traditional Commonwealth Universities represented by the ACU are strategically working toward improving services and meeting new types of needs.”

In March 2010, Professor Harris was elected President of the Association of Universities and Research Institutions of the Caribbean (UNICA); a voluntary regional organisation which like the ACU, fosters cooperation among the higher education institutions in the Caribbean.

DOWNES IS NEW PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The University of the West Indies (UWI) and the association of Caribbean States (ACS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will facilitate cooperation between the two institutions in research, particularly in relation to the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and broadly in the area of sustainable development. Under the terms of the MOU, both parties will also coordinate and implement projects and activities in these areas.

On the ACU side, Professor Dowes, who was the Cave Hill Campus Coordinator for the UWI Strategic Plan 2007-2012, is a Professor of Economics and has been the Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) at the UWI Cave Hill Campus since 1984. He served as University Director of the tri-campus SALISES unit from 2000 to 2008.

Professor Dowes holds BSc and MSc degrees (Economics) from The UWI and a PhD (Economics) from the University of Manchester, UK. He is a recipient of several academic awards and has been a consultant for several regional and international organisations (Caribbean Development Bank, ILD, IDB, World Bank, EU), a consultant to the Government of Barbados and several national organisations. His research interests include Labour/Human Resources Economics, Applied Econometrics, and Development Economics and he is regarded as one of the region’s leading labour economists.

The University of the West Indies congratulates Professor Dowes on his appointment as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and welcomes him to the University’s executive management team.

UWI SIGNS MOU WITH ACS

The MOU is an outcome of the UWI resolution which was adopted last year by the 65th General Assembly entitled, “Towards the Sustainable Development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future Generations”. It was signed by UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris, and ACS Secretary General Ambassador Luis Fernando Andrade Falla. Professor Harris expressed his pleasure at being able to represent the UWI at the signing ceremony. He mentioned the order to develop and deliver on projects that will be beneficial to the marine ecosystems. Professor Harris stated that he himself committed UWI as a keen participant in delivering on the recommendations and the promise of that Report, adding that this MOU takes that one step forward by deepening the relationship between UWI and ACS.

THOMAS-HOPE

Geography and Geology at the UWI (1999-2003), Professor Thomas-Hope is also the Secretary of the Commonwealth Geographic Bureau.

Professor Thomas-Hope will be working with members of the International Migration Institute and the School of Geography and Environment at Oxford University to engage in research on Caribbean migration and environmental issues.
The ceremonies begin on October 15th with the Open Campus Graduation, where Dame Pearlette Louisy, Governor-General of St. Lucia and Mr. Alvin Bully, Cultural Administrator will receive the honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) and Doctor of Letters (Dlitt) degrees respectively.

Graduation ceremonies at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados will take place on October 22nd, when The Most Rev. Dr. The Hon. John W. D. Holder and Professor Compton Bourne receive the honorary LLD; Professor Kwesi Prah and Professor Emeritus Keith A. P. Sandiford are awarded the honorary Dlitt and Dr. Shirley Brathwaite the honorary Doctor of Sciences (DSc) degree.

From October 27th to 29th, the celebrations move to the St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad, where the honorary LLB will be conferred on Mrs. Helen Bhagwan singh, Professor Anantanand Rambachan, Mr. John Reginald Dumas, Sir Fenton H. Ramshawye, Mr. Brain Charles Lara and Ambassador Kamaluddin Mohammed, while Mr. Donald ‘Jackie’ Hinkson and Mr. Roy Cape will receive the honorary Dlitt.

Finally, on November 4th and 5th, the Mona Campus in Jamaica will host the closing set of graduation ceremonies. At Mona Ms. Minna Israel, Mr. Earl Jarrett and the Hon. Usain Bolt, OJ will all receive the Honorary LLD while Professor Lenworth Jacobs and Dr. Erna Brodber will receive the DSc and Dlitt, respectively.

Jamaican author Dr. Erna Brodber has used her writings to offer a measure of healing to those with untold stories. Dr. Brodber earned her BA from The UWI when it was still The University College of the West Indies. She immersed herself in academia and went on to attain an MSc and PhD. Dr. Brodber pursued many other professions before focusing on writing and was a member of staff at the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) at the Mona Campus. While at ISER she worked to collect the oral histories of elders in rural Jamaica, a project that would later inspire her novel Louisiana. Encounters with the Black Power Movement and Women’s Liberation coupled with her early familial indoctrination to the importance of family have caused Dr. Brodber to pen novels that deal with the healing power of community.

The University of the West Indies (UWI) will formally acknowledge the contributions that 20 Caribbean icons have made to regional advancement when it confers honorary degrees at the annual Graduation Ceremonies to be held across its four campuses later this year.

Minna Israel

A career banker, Ms. Minna Israel was appointed President & Country Head of RBTT Bank Jamaica Limited in January, 2008. Prior to her appointment at RBTT Ms. Israel spent numerous years as an executive of the Bank of Nova Scotia in the Bahammas and Jamaica. Her performance and contribution to the wider society have earned her a number of awards including the American Foundation for The University of the West Indies (AFUWJ) Caribbean Luminary Award for her significant contribution to banking in the Caribbean, and the University of Technology, Jamaican (UTECH) Distinguished Alumni Award. She holds a Masters of Business Administration in Finance and General Management from the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario and a BSc in Management Studies from The UWI. She is a member of the UWI Vice Chancellor’s Award selection team and the UWI Capital Development Taskforce.

Mr. Jarrett will receive the Honorary LLD for his sterling contribution to banking in Jamaica. Mr. Jarrett holds both a BSc and an MSc in Accounting and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica. He has been the General Manager of the Jamaica National Building Society (JNBS) since 1999, and has also held leadership positions at the International Union of Housing Finance, the Dudley Grant Memorial Trust and the Jamaica Olympic Games and at the 2009 World Championships. Among his many accolades is his induction into the society of the Order of Jamaica (OJ) (2009), by the Government of Jamaica, for outstanding distinction in the field of Sports; and in 2008, he also received the National Honour, the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander for outstanding service to Jamaica.

International, Bolt was voted the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Male Athlete of the Year (2009, 2008), and was one of two Jamaicans named for the 2009 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation’s (UNESCO) Champion for Sports award.

Professor Lenworth Jacobs received his medical degree at The UWI. He completed his surgical residency in Boston at the Peter Brigham Hospital and the Boston University Medical Center. He has received a Master’s degree in Public Health at Harvard University. Professor Jacobs is a past president of the American Trauma Society, governor of the American College of Surgeons, founder and past president of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma. He is also the founder and national director of the Advanced Trauma Operative Management (ATOM) course. More than 2,200 surgeons have been certified by ATOM across the US, Canada, the Middle East and West Africa.

Professor Jacobs has made more than 200 presentations across the world and has more than 180 publications. He has been conferred with The West African College of Surgeons Honorary Fellow in 2007, The American College of Surgeons Fellowship, American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, National Safety Council 2005 Surgeons’ Award for Service to Safety; and the American Trauma Society President’s Award in 2004.

Usain Bolt will receive an honorary LLD in November.

Professor Ronald Chancellors, Research, in 2005 was reappointed for a further 3-year term, effective August 1, 2011 at he is due to retire at the end of the next academic year, in July 2012. Finally, Ms. Cecile Clayton was re-appointed Deputy University Registrar for a further three-year term, effective August 1, 2011.
KRYSTAL TASTES SUCCESS IN BOTSWANA

On the verge of completing her first degree in International Relations with a double minor in Political Science and African Diaspora Studies, the trip to Botswana was a dream realised. She found the impressive physical infrastructure capable of rivalling any developed country and fell in love with the breathtaking landscape and relaxed tone of the country. There was an immediate commitment to work hard to improve that place by taking home a title for the University and Jamaica. Coming against the backdrop of the Turkey experience, the victory in Botswana was that much sweeter as the mission to bring glory to the university was successful.

“Botswana is pretty and peaceful. A lot of it reminded me of the melting pot of cultures concept having interacted with students from all corners of the world. There she also understood the power of brand Jamaica as everyone wanted to meet and spend time with the Jamaican contingent.

“It was just a mind blowing. My first time on a plane and I ended up in Europe. The UWI offers so much to students, if only they knew and could just find their particular avenue, there is so much to gain,” she told Mona News.

The team placed third in the Caribbean and Latin America region and Krystal was placed as the third best speaker. There was an immediate commitment to work hard to improve that place by taking home a title for the University and Jamaica.

Coming against the backdrop of the Turkey experience, the victory in Botswana was that much sweeter as the mission to bring glory to the university was successful. It has been quite an exciting beginning for the former Merle Grove High School student who having relocated with her family from Kingston to Mandeville, finished fourth and fifth form at Manchester High before completing sixth form at DeCarteret High. She credits her “amazing” mother, Mischelle who she has seen do so much with very little for her and younger brother, Jovian. Though she didn’t attend university herself, her mother was adamant that both children should receive tertiary training. Krystal is eternally grateful as she has thoroughly enjoyed life on campus.

“She is proud when she sees me doing all these things and doing them well. Getting a little job here, applying for a bursary or a scholarship means that the financial pressure is off. I may be out of her pocket for now but never out of her heart.”

Identifying Talented Youth

UWI pursues collaboration with Johns Hopkins University

The University of the West Indies, Mona is collaborating with Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, USA to expose Jamaican students to the Summer Programme of Johns Hopkins’ Centre for Talented Youth (CTY). This is a long established programme aimed at exposing bright and talented children to a whole new world of educational experiences.

Through UWI, Johns Hopkins is offering three all-expenses paid scholarships to three bright/talented students from low-income families in Jamaica. They will be given the opportunity, from July 17-August 5, to attend a range of courses in Maths, Science and the Humanities on CTY campus in the United States, whilst interacting with other similarly talented students from across the world.

Through UWI Mona’s School of Education the American Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SATs) were conducted free of charge on Saturday 30th April with 74 hopefuls from Traditional High, Upgraded High and Primary and Junior High schools. The students who emerged with the best scores within their cohort were: • Jazelle Dixon (Wolmers Girls’ School) • Cheriece Davidson (Campion College) • Odane Dawkins (Glenmuir High School)

For this year, only three students could be chosen but two other students who have done well and qualify will have an opportunity to participate in the 2012 session of the summer programme, as the School of Education anticipates an extended long-term relationship as Mona moves to collaborate with Johns Hopkins in hosting this programme.

An invigilator assists one of the participants

Campus Registrar, Dr. Camille Bell Hutchinsson (centre) in animated discussion with Neetu Dhawan-Gray, Center for Talented Youth (CTY) at Johns Hopkins University and Riquette Bonne Smith, Executive Director , CTY, Bermuda and Board Member, CTY at Johns Hopkins
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