



# MONA

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA CAMPUS

NOVEMBER 2014





# NOVEMBER

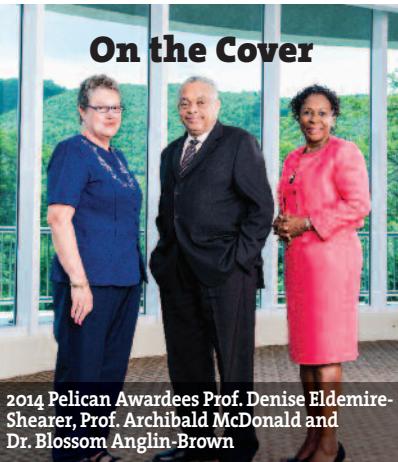
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Garth Richards**



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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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# Think, World Class

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



**S**ince its establishment, The University of the West Indies, Mona, has been at the forefront of innovation and revolutionary thinking in education. As the pioneer of tertiary education in the Caribbean, the Mona Campus has consistently produced graduates who have become trailblazers in all facets of the Caribbean society. From leading medical and scientific researchers discovering innovative treatments for diseases prevalent in the Afro-Caribbean diaspora to prime ministers of the region's strongest economies, UWI graduates are the epitome of world class.

Our teaching and learning framework is unrivalled and at the cutting edge in tertiary education. As a result, over the past several decades, the UWI, Mona Campus has been able to offer the highest quality degree programmes in Jamaica. Jamaican leaders are cultivated on our campus by individuals who are at the forefront of education and research and who possess the zeal to positively mould young minds. As a world-class institution that offers the best in educational

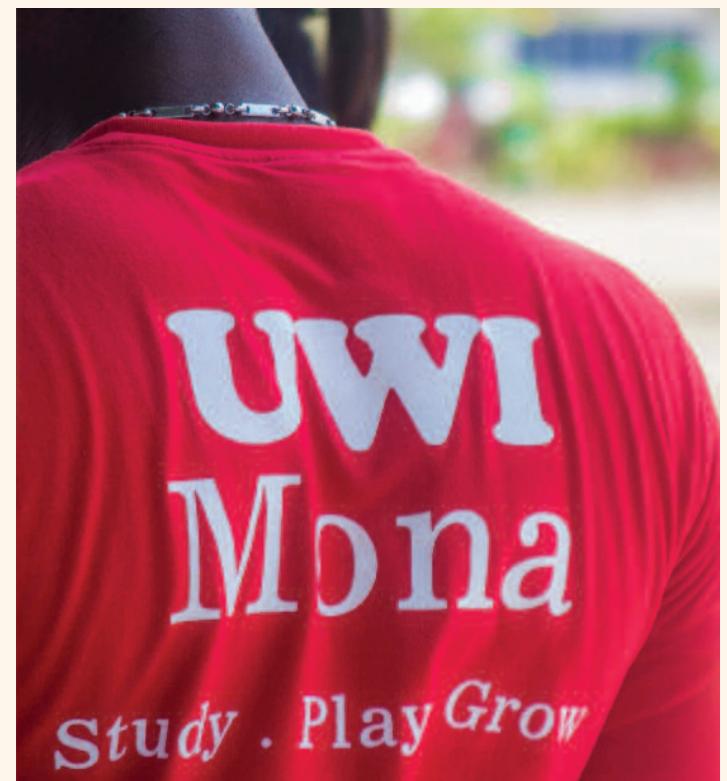
technology, the Mona Campus' comfortable yet competitive learning and teaching environment forces our students and staff to continuously strive for excellence. This determination to excel encapsulates the true essence of Pelican Pride.

The Mona Campus' focus, as we move forward into a new phase of development, is to ensure that we continue to provide students with the best access to first-class tertiary education. We will continue to renovate and improve our teaching and learning infrastructure so that our students can use innovative technology to assist with their studies. Furthermore, we will continue to develop research projects that focus on improving the social, health, economic and developmental needs of the entire Jamaican populace.

The University embraces the responsibility of protecting the welfare and developmental needs of some of our nation's most vulnerable and marginalised communities. Therefore, as the nation's leading tertiary institution we will continue to implement and support social development programmes throughout Jamaica.

The University thus remains committed to our objective of providing world-class tertiary education that will foster world-class thinkers and leaders who will help to strengthen our nation's competitiveness in the global arena.

**Archibald McDonald**  
Principal

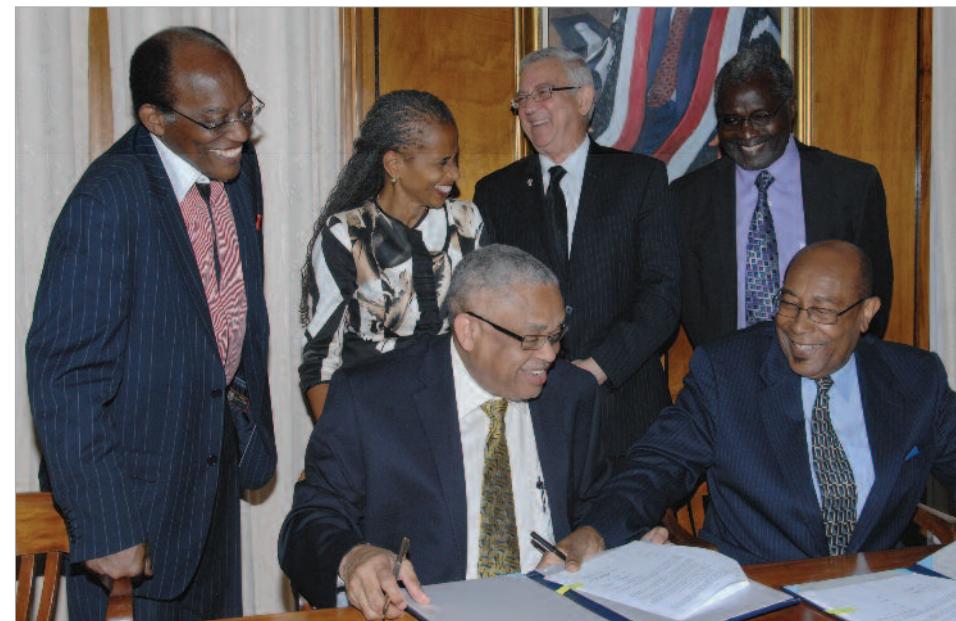


You're wasting more than you think...

NEWS

MONA NOVEMBER 2014

# PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY GETS BOOST FROM UWI-BIOTECH DEAL



Scene at the signing of an agreement between the UWI and Biotech R&D to boost the local pharmaceutical industry. From left (standing): National Director General for Science and Technology, Professor Errol Morrison; Campus Registrar, Dr. Camille Bell-Hutchinson; Education Minister the Hon. Ronald Thwaites; Prof. Ishenkumba Kahwa, Deputy Principal and (seated) UWI Campus Principal Prof. Archibald McDonald and Dr. Henry Lowe, founder of Bio-Tech R&D Institute.

The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Bio-Tech R & D Institute Limited to conduct joint research and development activities with UWI departments on the medicinal potential of Jamaican medicinal plants. The agreement was executed by Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of The UWI, Mona Campus, Professor Archibald McDonald, and Bio-Tech R&D Institute Limited founder/director Dr. Henry Lowe.

The agreement will be effective for a period of three years and is designed to promote training in Research and Development and high-quality research which will lead to wealth creation.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Professor McDonald noted that the agreement was part of a multi-faceted approach which The UWI, Mona was taking in its efforts to promote and encourage the development of a pharmaceutical industry in Jamaica. He added that it was also another in a series of novel and innovative arrange-

ments between The UWI, Mona and private sector entities.

In his remarks, Dr. Lowe stated that the aim was to focus on indigenous plants which had the potential to develop pharmaceutical drugs which could be used in the treatment of cancer and diabetes.

Under the terms of the MOA, The UWI, Mona has agreed to provide access to laboratory space in the Faculty of Science and Technology and other sites, subject to the approval of the Principal, and will also provide access to UWI facilities such as library, online database etc. to facilitate the joint research activities.

The UWI, Mona will also facilitate training of Bio-Tech personnel through structured post-graduate programmes of study or any other specially designed programme in the Faculties of Science and Technology and Medical Sciences, as well as through specially designed training seminars to be conducted jointly with Bio-Tech.

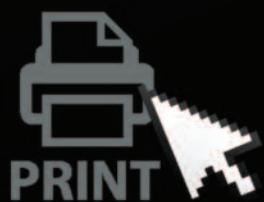
For its part, Bio-Tech will make a J\$59 million investment in the renovation of the old Pharmacology Building on the Mona Campus to bring it to state-of-the-art research laboratory international standards, and a recurrent contribution of J\$6 million per annum for the next three years to provide a minimum of two post-doctoral fellowships and a minimum of two post-graduate scholarships to candidates working within the collaboration.

Bio-Tech will also facilitate technical and academic training of UWI students and staff, through its local and international partners by providing research fellowships, local and international training seminars or online courses relevant to the conduct of collaborative work. Further, the company will provide training in drug research and development activities, product development, marketing and other relevant areas to staff and students in the conversion of Science and Technology into wealth creation.

Researchers at The UWI, Mona will collaborate with researchers at Bio-Tech R & D Institute on screen extracts and compounds provided by Bio-Tech for the prevention and treatment of cancer infection and inflammation, toxicity against normal animal and human blood cells, antiviral, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and any other bioactivity; and the design and conduct of experiments in order to elucidate the mechanism of action of select extracts and compounds found to be bioactive.

Keynote speaker at the ceremony was Minister of Education, Rev. the Hon. Ronald Thwaites, who noted that the signing was a significant example of the partnership which could take place between academia and industry to encourage research and innovation. He also commended the University on its efforts to develop new revenue streams which would assist in making it financially self-sufficient and less reliant on public resources. **M**

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# NEW PROGRAMMES AND NEW VISION

The Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) based at UWI Mona celebrated its 40th anniversary this year with the introduction of four innovative, new degree programmes and advanced plans for transition to a School of Media and Communication.

This major transformational phase, including the introduction of over 40 new courses, will be highlighted by two new undergraduate degree programmes in Film Production and in Animation. Two new Master's degree programmes will also be introduced, one in Media Management and the other in advanced Integrated Marketing Communication. University approval of these programmes has been secured, for introduction by September 2015.

Director of CARIMAC, Prof. Hopeton Dunn, who is leading the reform process, says the Institute is pleased and proud about these new initiatives, which reflect changes in the media industry regionally and globally. "CARIMAC is proactively responding to emerging demands from students and assisting The UWI to play its role in quickening the pace of growth of new economic opportunities in areas such as Animation, Game Design and other Cinematic Arts," Prof Dunn remarked. He attributes the pace of change at CARIMAC to the energy, creativity and dedication of CARIMAC's staff and its partners and associates within and outside of The University, all of whom have worked tirelessly to help prepare and critique the relevant new programmes.

Major changes have already taken place in the manner of delivery of existing programmes. "There was a time when we had specialisations in Print, Radio, Television and Audio - Visuals. Now, all journalism students have to do Print, Television, Radio, Marketing Communication and New Media. These are the conditions under



CARIMAC Director Prof. Hopeton Dunn (centre) shares a light moment with former Governor-General and former Mona Campus Principal Prof. Sir Kenneth Hall (left) and Obediah Wilchcombe, Bahamas Minister of Tourism (right), during 40th anniversary celebrations.

which media and communication are taught today all over the world." In addition to a restructured Journalism degree programme, CARIMAC now also offers first degrees in Digital Media Production (DMP) at the Western Jamaica Campus - WJC) and a BA in Integrated Marketing Communication (IMC At Mona and WJC).

Other CARIMAC programme offerings range from the doctorate in Communication by Research, to existing Master's degrees in Communication for Social and Behaviour Change (CSBC) and Communication Studies (CS). There is also a long-standing diploma programme in Media and Communication and short certificate courses covering over 20 topics, including Animation, Public Speaking and Video Production.

Over the last two years, CARIMAC has been

accepting close to 200 students annually in keeping with continued strong demand for the Institute's programmes at both Mona and WJC. The media institution accepts the highest level of qualified students seeking entry to the Faculty of Humanities and Education. The degree student population at CARIMAC is now well over 400, with scores of others in informal educational and training programmes and special projects. With the old Admission Test now abolished, CARIMAC students are selected on the basis of a close review of their prior academic performance at the secondary level and, where necessary, through interviews.

Courses are offered at both Mona and the WJC. Since 2008, CARIMAC's undergraduate degree programmes in IMC and DMP have been offered at WJC in Montego Bay, forming the largest student presence there from the Faculty of Humanities and Education. Currently, 118 CARIMAC students are enrolled at WJC in the DMP and IMC programmes.

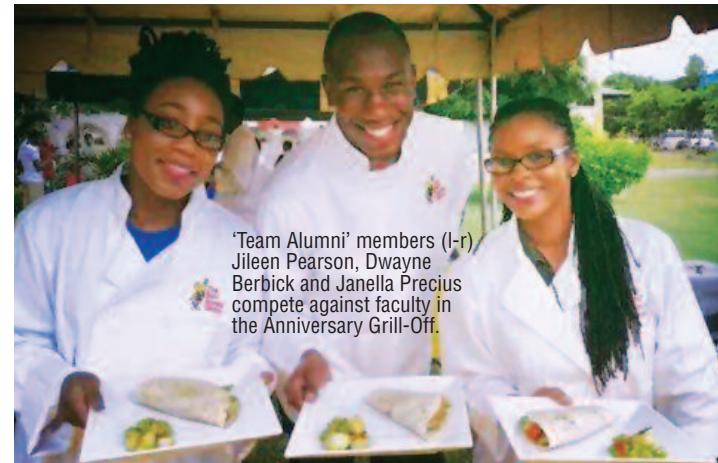
CARIMAC is planning to expand laboratory facilities for expanded future cohorts of certificate and degree students in Animation, Motion Graphics and Game Design, working in association with international and local industry partners. The first two cohorts in 2D cartoon animation graduated from CARIMAC programmes at both Mona and WJC, providing the first group of 100 trained animators from Mona and the Caribbean region overall. The majority have been offered employment within weeks of graduating, while others are seeking to upgrade their skills further or to establish their own Animation enterprises.

## EXPANSION PLANS

The growth and development of its curriculum and student population are but a part of a wider process of expansion underway at CARIMAC. An additional 250-seat classroom has been acquired in 2012/13 and a



CARIMAC journalism student grills Sir Dennis Byron, president of the Caribbean Court of Justice, after his presentation to some 200 media students from The UWI, the University of Technology and the Northern Caribbean University.



'Team Alumni' members (l-r) Jileen Pearson, Dwayne Berwick and Janella Precius compete against faculty in the Anniversary Grill-Off.



Members of the CARIMAC class of 1996 celebrate with Director, Prof. Hopeton Dunn.



Dr. Gary Liu (right) pauses between sessions with participants at the first national conference on digital game design and development hosted by CARIMAC at The UWI, Mona Campus in October. Liu led a hands-on workshop on the fundamentals of game design on the second day of the conference.

## MAJOR CARIMAC 40TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

CARIMAC's 40th Anniversary celebrations brought together some of the thousands of former students who may be found in every major media house and sector in Jamaica, the Caribbean and wider afield. The Homecoming Celebrations October 2014 also involved staff, current students and other stakeholders.

The following key 40th Anniversary activities took place successfully during October 2014:

- Anniversary Academic Conference October 14–15, 2014 in the area of Digital Game Development under the theme "Changing Game: Designing for Development. It was well attended with industry professionals and students joining specially invited international presenters to create model games during the event as part of the demo and training exercises.
- 40th Anniversary Church Service held on Sunday October 19, 2014 at the University Chapel, followed by a Homecoming bunch at UWI Founders Park near CARIMAC, on the Mona Campus.
- Gala Anniversary Banquet was held to a capacity gathering on Saturday, October 25, 2014 at the Grande Jamaica Ballroom of the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston. The event was led by former students, including Guest Speaker the Hon Obie Wilchcombe, Minister of Tourism of the Bahamas, and former CARIMAC student.
- Public Panel Discussion on the Jamaica Music Industry, and a special 40th Anniversary Cake Cutting Ceremony at CARIMAC Western Jamaica Campus on October 30.



# Therapeutic ORTANIQUE

## A TREATMENT FOR HIGH CHOLESTEROL LEVELS

Several accounts have been cited for the origin of the ortanique – that sweet, juicy, flavourful citrus fruit native to Jamaica. A natural orange-tangerine hybrid, many growers claim to be responsible for the development of this tangor. The most credible account is that the ortanique was first found in a market in Christiana in the early 1900s by a man called Swaby, of Harry Watch, Balinoor, Manchester, who purchased six of the fruits from an old woman and planted the seeds. Swaby grew six seedlings, and took their produce to an agricultural show at Shooter's Hill. It was at this show that C. P. Jackson, of Chellaston, Mandeville, first saw and bought two of the fruits. Jackson planted the seeds and developed the produce commercially. He named the fruit "ortanique" — because he regarded it as an "orange-tangerine unique hybrid". The rest is history.

Today, Swaby and Jackson would be pleased to know that the latest discovery about their prized ortanique is that the peel is loaded with bioactive compounds including poly-methoxylated flavones (PMFs) which can be used to treat high levels of cholesterol (hypercholesterolemia) in the body. Dr. Curtis Green, lecturer and laboratory manager at UWI-SODECO (Solutions for Developing Countries), Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona, made this discovery while pursuing



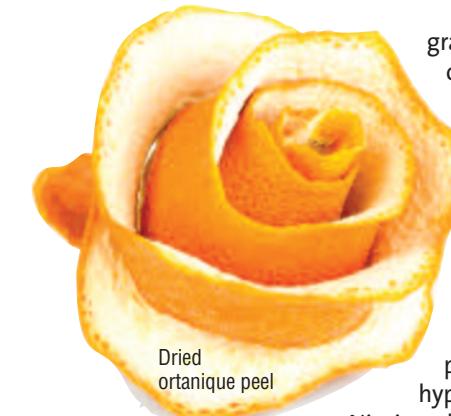
Dr. Curtis Green preparing ortanique peel extract his doctoral degree under the supervision of Prof. Helen Asemota and Dr. Andrew Wheatley in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences, Biochemistry Section. Green developed a potent ortanique peel extract which was awarded a United States patent in 2012.

"We were the first to characterize poly-methoxylated flavones in the peels of all

citrus grown in the Caribbean. The results show that the ortanique not only contains the highest quantity of PMFs, but also has a unique composition of the most potent PMFs in comparison to other citrus fruits. Of all the citrus fruits, the ortanique ranks the highest in PMFs, then the tangerine, sweet orange, sour orange, shaddock, grapefruit and limes in that order," Green said.

Prior research was published in 2004 by Dr. Elzbieta Kurowska of Canada and Dr. John Manthey from Florida which showed that compounds in the tangerine peel reduced cholesterol levels. Green began his research that same year with the aim of filling in the gaps. In 2005, he did a comprehensive study of the available literature on hypercholesterolemia and citrus flavonoids. "I had to look at what was missing and wrote my Ph. D. thesis based on that. I looked at how the citrus flavonoids reduced the cholesterol levels, the mechanisms of action and the effect on the organs. These factors were not in the available literature," Green said.

Green conducted his research in two phases. Phase 1 involved the extraction and chemical characterization of the flavonoids which were compared in 14 different types of citrus peel extracts and found to be highest in the ortanique. Jamaican citrus varieties were also compared to Mexican citrus varieties in order to determine whether or not geo-



graphical origin affected the levels of flavonoids. Phase 2 entailed in vivo testing of the PMFs extract in rat models of hypercholesterolemia compared with Niacin, one of the most potent anti-cholesterol drugs on the market. "Results showed that the PMFs significantly reduced the total serum cholesterol by 45 per cent compared to untreated hypercholesterolemic rats.

Niacin reduced total cholesterol by 20%, compared to untreated hypercholesterolemic rats. This reduction was without adverse effects," Green said.

Green, along with Prof. Barrie Hanchard and Dr Tracey Gibson of the Department of Pathology, did a histopathological assessment of all the organs to see the effect of hypercholesterolemia and whether or not the extract reduced any damage or injury that resulted from hypercholesterolemia.

Dr Donovan McGroder of Pathology was also instrumental in the clinical chemistry assessment of serum samples. "When we fed the ortanique peel extract to the rats, it reduced the deposition of fat droplets in the liver as well as other abnormalities in organ structures that resulted from hypercholesterolemia. It also reduced organ function parameters which corroborated histopathological findings indicating no damage to the organs," Green said.

### GOOD, COST-EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE

Approximately 1 in 500 persons worldwide are affected by hypercholesterolemia, which is implicated in many kinds of cardio-vascular disease – the leading cause of death in the Caribbean. The major conventional drugs used to treat hypercholesterolemia are expensive and can result in adverse side effects. However, the ortanique peel extract is a cost-effective, natural alternative without adverse effects. Moreover, it significantly increases the level of good cholesterol, making it more potent than previously tested citrus varieties.

The product is also a readily available citrus byproduct which is underutilised and sometimes inappropriately discarded, resulting in environmental problems. Green never throws away the peel, but stores it at home. "Once dried, they can last for a very long time. You can use a little piece of the rind to make a tea," Green said.

Green foresees great potential for the commercialisation of the ortanique peel extract, which will be useful for both the treatment and prevention of hypercholesterolemia. An effective amount of the peel extract can be administered to subjects in a variety of ways. It can be sold as oral pharmaceutical tablets, capsules, pills, powders, granules and in liquid dosage forms.

The extract can also be incorporated into various foods and beverages, forming a nutraceutical. Suitable beverages include fruit juices and sodas, and foods include chocolates, snacks, confectionery, pizza, foods made from cereal flour and seasonings and spices used to prepare meat. "The possible applications are numerous. The peel or extract can be added to whatever food or beverage you desire," Green said. M



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UWI MONA BLAZING A TRAIL IN BETTER COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEAF

# SIGNING FOR THE TIMES



Dr. Keren Cumberbatch receives her UWI/Guardian Life Premium Teaching Award from Eric Hosin, president of Guardian Life Ltd.

**T**here are so many assumptions made about the deaf, common among them is that they like being called hearing impaired in this age of political correctness. Truth be told, they are very offended by the term and would strongly prefer to be called deaf. As for the assumption that most deaf folk can lip read: Wrong. They are equally offended by this assumption. It is these nuances and many more that students learn when pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Caribbean Sign Language in the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy at The UWI, Mona.

Specifically, students pursuing this degree as a major or minor or even as a diploma will leave with a deep appreciation that deaf persons operate under different norms and values from the ones used by the hearing society, and therefore they will

be less likely to marginalize the deaf. "Among the several courses, we have a course exclusively dedicated to deaf culture so that interpreters and others do not go out there and commit a whole range of faux pas ... the course also promotes an understanding of the deaf," explained the architect of the programme, Dr. Keren Cumberbatch, who is also a lecturer in the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy and the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

In discussing the genesis of the programme, which was in 2006, Cumberbatch said that a source of inspiration stemmed from an observation while at conferences where she noticed that the authors she had been reading were actually deaf scholars. "Why were there no Caribbean deaf researchers in attendance? The deaf have brains and we are just not educating them properly,"

she reasoned.

However, it may be argued that it was somewhat destiny for Cumberbatch to develop the programme, as her exposure to the deaf dates back to childhood when attending an Anglican primary school in Trinidad and Tobago which included deaf pupils and also through her father Rev. Dr. Niles, who was heavily involved with the deaf through his church.

A self-described "CARICOM lady at heart," Cumberbatch pointed out that the uniqueness of the programme lies in the fact that it is Caribbean focus oriented. "Normally when you learn sign language interpreting outside of Jamaica you learn American Sign Language interpreting, but you are clueless of the needs of the region. As Caribbean people we should pursue this degree to find out about the Caribbean deaf user and what different Caribbean islands experience," she noted, while stressing that obtaining the degree would allow for graduates to move throughout the region to meet the demand for the special skill set.

To facilitate this drive, the programme is constructed so that upon graduation, students are expected to be fluent in three languages – Jamaican Sign Language, Jamaican Creole and English. However, given that there are students from the region sitting the programme, Cumberbatch stated that a variant of the sign in their home territories is usually highlighted. "They leave learning about different sign languages," she said.

Delving further into the programme, Cumberbatch pointed out that four sign language courses are offered at The UWI, three in the beginner, intermediary and advanced categories. The fourth course is specifically geared towards students

in medicine and dentistry and the focus is on different areas depending on the area of selection, whereby the students break into different streams such as physiotherapy, general medicine, dentistry and radiography. It must be noted, however, that though this course is mandatory for all dental students who have to pass the course in order to graduate, for the other streams they have the option to do a sign language course that counts towards their degree as it is deemed a non-English language foundation course. Additionally, weekly tutorials in all the courses are guided by deaf tutors, forcing the student to learn quickly through the immersion process.

In addition to the sign language and deaf culture courses, there are also the required linguistics and language structure courses. "We have the language and interpreting side also, where translation is included even though they are separate fields," she noted. Students are also required to pursue 'The Profession of Interpreting' course so that they learn about ethics, business practices and conventions in industry to get an understanding that signing is a service-based industry. A practicum is also included, where students are required to do a range of settings, be it medical, legal and educational interpreting, so that they can move among the different domains which require different skills. In that course, they do interpretation from voice to sign and sign to voice.

In the meantime, interest in the programme has been encouraging as the numbers have improved from the initial eight persons referred by Jamaica Association for the Deaf to pursue the one-year diploma in the field in 2006. Since then, scores of students have pursued the programme as a minor, while not cognizant that they could obtain sign language as a undergraduate degree. To rectify this, the decision was made last year to include a sign language introductory course in the first year instead of the second year, as an



Students in the Sign Language programme option in the foundation courses category. As it stands now, the first student pursuing a B. A. degree in Caribbean Sign Language will graduate later this year.

As for the future of the programme, Cumberbatch desires that more people support the deaf as they try to become more integrated into society. "I want more people to

be educated in the area. Also, I want more interpreters and more professionals who have sign language as part of their skill set," she said. And with the deaf population, according to the 2011 national census hovering at 75,000 (which includes the elderly who have lost hearing) and purportedly growing, the need will become more urgent. M



On graduation, students are expected to be fluent in Jamaican sign language (or a regional variant) and English

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## UWI MONA'S NEWEST RESEARCH FACILITY

# UWI SODECO



Prof. Terrence Forrester with his team of project leaders. From left to right: Dr. Patrice Francis, Dr. Curtis Green, Dr. Claudia Campbell.

**M**edical research facilities worldwide aim to find answers and breakthroughs to pervading health priorities. UWI SODECO (UWI Solutions for Developing Countries), a new, international research organisation headquartered at Mona, has entered this space with the intent to find solutions to challenging medical questions surrounding obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

Established on the Mona Campus since May 2013, UWI SODECO forms part of a global network with collaborating centres which include the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit UWI, and centres at the University of Auckland in New Zealand, the University of London, the University of Maryland in the USA, Baylor College of Medicine in Texas, Loyola University in Chicago, the University of Cape Town in South Africa and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana.

Funded by the National Institutes of Health, USA, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and private sector endowments through The UWI Development and Endowment Fund, UWI SODECO is headed by Chief Scientist Professor Terrence Forrester who, prior to establishing UWI SODECO, was Founding Director of the Tropical Medicine Research Institute (TMRI).

#### RESEARCH FOCUS

Forrester's research programme aims to better understand the underlying basis of obesity, hypertension and diabetes, with specific focus on unravelling the mechanisms underlying the greater risk of these chronic diseases in populations suffering from intergenerational under-nutrition, and using these discoveries to craft and trial novel interventions for better prevention or management. "The big question is: Why do people who have been malnourished for generations develop explosive obesity, diabetes, hypertension, stroke and heart disease as soon as their economic situations improve? We are trying to find out why this happens when persons who are teleologically crafted for famine are exposed to surfeit. This is how it is in China, India and Sub-Saharan Africa, and this is the main medical focus of UWI SODECO. We ask the research questions in such a way that the information can be used by industry and the health sector to create new treatments. The research will find an answer that can be used to formulate appropriate solutions," Forrester said.

#### ORGANISATION OF FACILITIES

UWI SODECO has 16 staff members – 7 academic, 4 technical, 3 support, 1 administrative and a Manager. In addition to an administrative office on West Road, UWI SODECO operates two Molecular Biology Laboratories in the Faculty of Medical Sciences Teaching and Research Complex. UWI SODECO's Clinical Labs are currently housed.

in the Complex where research projects and human studies involving measurements of body composition, exercise fitness, muscular strength, cardiovascular function and tissue biopsies are performed. Use of the Clinical Labs in this Teaching and Research Complex is temporary, pending the refurbishing of the ground floor of the University Hospital's former School of Nursing which will serve as UWI SODECO's official Clinical Science Laboratories. "It is a lean organisation. Most persons are paid by grant funds and four are core UWI staff members."

UWI SODECO's laboratories are state of the art – a critical component to discover the mechanistic pathways to obesity and cardio-metabolic diseases. The laboratory capability is backed by the expertise provided by the international network of collaborators who train and benchmark the team of scientists in the appropriate methods, as well as perform the assays that they are more adept at carrying out. "We execute our jobs by leveraging our collaborative network. Our staff have been to our laboratories and departments in the network collaborating centres – such experiences expose them to practical international experience," Forrester said.

Sandra Boyne, manager of UWI SODECO, has been spearheading the effort alongside Forrester since the start of the organisation. She has established the administrative framework and machinery that supports UWI SODECO's programme both nationally and internationally. Trained in science herself, she has been conceiving and refining the administrative goals to properly support the research programmes. "We are getting the work done and meeting the study objectives," Boyne said.

Ultimately, UWI SODECO's primary research focus will provide evidence-based, practical solutions to socio-economic problems within the context of developmental biology – all geared towards increasing wealth and investigating pathways to better health.

It has been Forrester's dream for many years to create a new research entity allocated and operating from Mona and oriented globally. At UWI SODECO, his research is mechanisms-based, and designed to find new treatments. "The research effort assumes international benchmarking because of its global funding, but we also act globally, not only for the benchmarking gains, but in pursuit of the primary research agenda," Forrester said. M



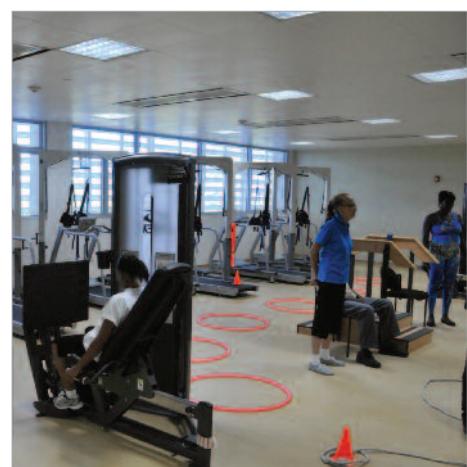
Mrs. Sandra Boyne (left) Manager of UWI SODECO and Prof. Terrence Forrester (right)



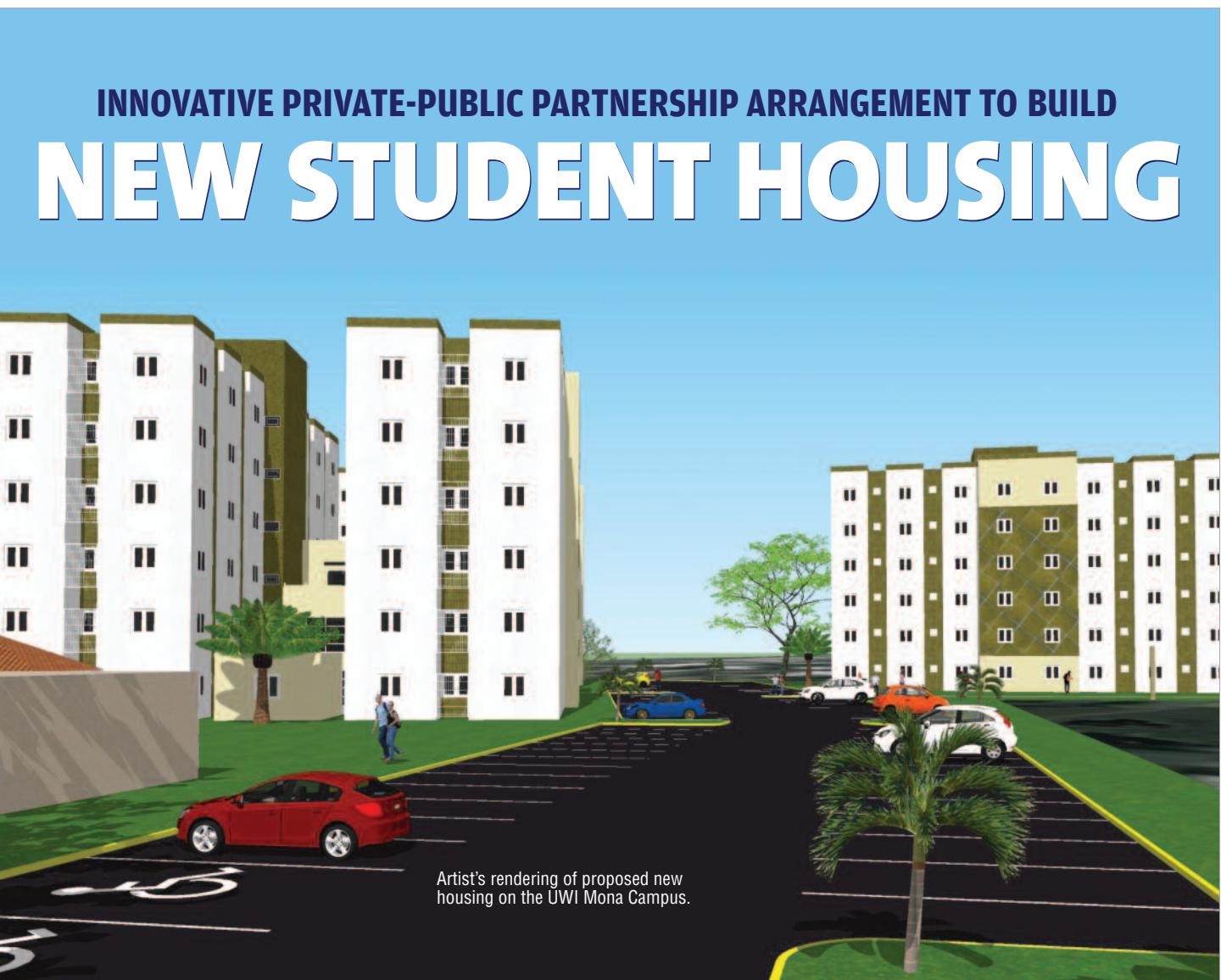
State-of-the-art molecular biology laboratory



Administrative office on West Road, Mona Campus



The clinical laboratory, with specialized treadmills and resistance machines. Some of the tools are used to re-train the muscles of persons who have suffered a stroke.



**G**round was broken at The University of the West Indies, Mona on Thursday, September 18, 2014 for a new housing development which will enable the institution to provide accommodation for an additional 1,584 students over the next three years.

The first set of 576 units will be delivered in time for the start of the 2015/16 academic year.

The project is being facilitated through a public-private partnership between The UWI, Mona and developers and proposed operator of the new residences, K (138 Student Living Jamaica) Limited.

The company is the student accommodations arm of K Limited, a property development company. Phase one of an

estimated \$4B project, will be financed by a loan syndication arrangement led by the Jamaica Mortgage Bank (JMB) and the National Commercial Bank Jamaica Limited (NCB).

Under the terms of the partnership, 138 Student Living will design, build and operate the high quality student accommodations on lands leased from The UWI, Mona.

At the end of the lease period and in accordance with the agreed terms, 138 Student Living will transfer the buildings in good condition to The UWI, free of cost.

The project entails the construction of 11 buildings of six storeys high, with 144 rooms per building. Rooms will be arranged in room clusters of 12, with each bedroom having its own bathroom. Each

cluster of 12 rooms will have a kitchen equipped with stoves/refrigerators and microwave ovens and common area consisting of dining tables and chairs, cable television and comfortable lounge seating will also be provided.

Access for the disabled will be provided to all buildings and rooms will be configured for this population. Construction is slated to last for 36-48 months. The company is expected to deliver 576, 576 and 432 units to the University at the start of each school year in 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively.

In expressing appreciation for the development, UWI, Mona Principal, Professor Archibald McDonald said it represented a new direction for funding tertiary education in Jamaica and the Caribbean.

Prof. McDonald noted that a central plank of the University's strategic plan and Mona's operational plan was the recruitment of a large number of international students who would be able to fund their own education. He added that this was critical to ensuring that no Jamaican student would be denied a UWI education because of inability to pay, since fees from international students would enable the University to provide scholarships, bursaries and other forms of financial assistance to students who were unable to fund themselves.

Professor McDonald pointed out that there is a supply gap of acceptable on-campus student accommodation at Mona. He noted that, with a population of some 15,000 students, The UWI, Mona has just 3500 rooms, resulting in a significant shortfall in the housing stock on Campus.

The Principal added that the Campus had recently been registered with the Department of Education in the USA and was about to sign an agreement with the Government of Nigeria to send students to Mona. The housing project was therefore critically important. He continued that the project demonstrated that the private sector can invest in tertiary education and get a reasonable return on their investment.

"The private sector will understand that when we ask for their involvement in funding tertiary education we are not asking them for handouts. We are seeking business partners which will participate with us in the provision of first world standard of education ... while they will achieve what the private sector and business people are required to do, that is to make a profit on their investment."

Guest speaker at the ceremony was Minister of Education, the Hon. Ronald Thwaites, who noted that this was an



Ground is broken for what will eventually be 1584 new student housing units on the Mona Campus.

undertaking the role of lead bank.

innovative approach to funding tertiary education and could become a model for public-private partnerships in the future. He pointed to the difficulties being faced by the Students Loan Bureau and lamented the reluctance of commercial banks to provide financing for students wishing to pursue tertiary education. However, he informed the audience that the Government had been able to identify funds to enable the Students' Loan Bureau to meet the demand from both new and returning students this year.

Construction funding for the initial phase is being provided under a syndication arrangement involving Jamaica Mortgage Bank (JMB) and National Commercial Bank Jamaica Limited (NCB), with JMB

Speaking on behalf of both financing entities, the Chairman of JMB, Howard Mollison, underscored the significance of the transaction to the banks, noting that it represented the first use of the public-private partnership vehicle to provide student accommodation on the island and that the banks took a very creative approach to structuring the deal.

Mollison stated further that the banks were particularly proud to be associated with the project, given its potential to positively impact the UWI's strategic growth objective and the central role of education and training in furthering Jamaica's Vision 2030 objectives. **M**

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Garth Richards with The UWI's 2014 Premier Award for Leadership

## I LOVE TO LEAD

The ability to get along with the most difficult of persons and to be in control of any situation, along with his buoyant, self-confident demeanour are just some of the many attributes which contributed to the selection of Garth Richards for The UWI's Premier Award for Leadership for 2014. The award is given to persons who show exemplary leadership in three leadership positions.

### MEET Garth Richards 2014 PREMIER AWARDEE FOR LEADERSHIP

organisations in 2011 in his district in Ocho Rios, St. Ann, which still benefit from his assistance.

At 24 years old, Richards manages to juggle all of these involvements with his academic pursuits. He is currently enrolled in the Faculty of Social Sciences, pursuing a Management Studies degree, with a major in Human Resource Management. He aims to be a Personnel Officer someday, but his ultimate career goal is to enter the field of Medicine. "I joined UWI SERT from I entered university because I always wanted to become a doctor; I saw it as an opportunity to gain experience.

When I complete my Management Studies degree, I plan to do a Master's in Public Health, and then pursue the medical degree," Richards said.

A product of York Castle High School and Brown's Town Community College, Richards knows the secrets of being a good leader. He demonstrated this in his earlier years as monitor and prefect at York Castle and as Manager of a Health and Wellness Club which he started at Brown's Town Community College. As head of the Club in college, he organised the training of all members in HIV/AIDS prevention and their certification by the Ministry of Health, in addition to being ex-officio member of the Student Council there.

At The UWI, Mona, he continued this zest for leadership. He has been Programme Director of the 100-member

**"I joined UWI SERT when I entered university because I always wanted to become a doctor ..."**

#### LEADERSHIP ROLES

As a member of the EAC for the Guild of Students since 2012, Richards has been assisting with the planning and execution of a number of charitable UWI programmes, such as the August Town Township programme. He has also been involved in outreach activities with the children at the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre and mentorship programmes for the Mona High School students.

As EAC Chairperson for the Rex Nettleford Hall since 2013 his role is to plan and execute all the outreach programmes for the Hall. The biggest event is the annual Breast Cancer Walk, which attracts approximately 200 participants from across the Campus. All proceeds are donated to the Jamaica Cancer Society.

His biggest and most challenging role, however, is that of President of UWI SERT. He heads a team drawn from all the faculties, though over half are medical students. Their role involves dealing with typical first aid situations, such as asthma attacks, C spine immobilisation for trauma patients and covering UWI sporting events which can entail attending to any injury – from a cut on the finger to a broken bone.

The team also has on-call duties assigned from 6pm-6am on weekdays and 24hrs on weekends. "Without the sporting events, we have about two patients per day. From September to December 2013, we managed over 500 patients and from January to May 2014, over 600 persons were treated. This increase shows that students have been seeing the importance of UWI SERT and, without stretching ourselves too thin, we have been trying to accommodate," Richards said.

The task of heading UWI SERT has aided Richards' development in a number of ways, including whetting his appetite for politics. "I love to lead and I am very



Richards represents Rex Nettleford Hall External Affairs Committee (EAC) during a handing-over ceremony for a donation to the Jamaica Cancer Society.

interested in Jamaica's health care/public health system, that's why I'm interested in politics. My aim is to develop the Jamaican health care and public health systems, especially our customer service skills with regards to how physicians and nurses address patients. It is challenging to work with persons of different views, but I like to find resolutions to problems. I always advise my team members that we are dealing with students' lives, so we have to be responsible and do what we have to do to get our patients comfortable and recovering. I talk to anyone and help everyone," Richards said.

UWI SERT is not only involved in medical services but also has a Public Health Education and Outreach Arm which tours the campus and demonstrates to students and staff hands-only CPR. Additionally, blood pressure checks were given at a health

fair organised last year in conjunction with companies involved in health.

"UWI SERT has its own website now, [www.uwisert.com](http://www.uwisert.com). We implore persons to visit and get to know the organization. This is all a part of promoting the group as we aim to increase our membership to 200," Richards said.

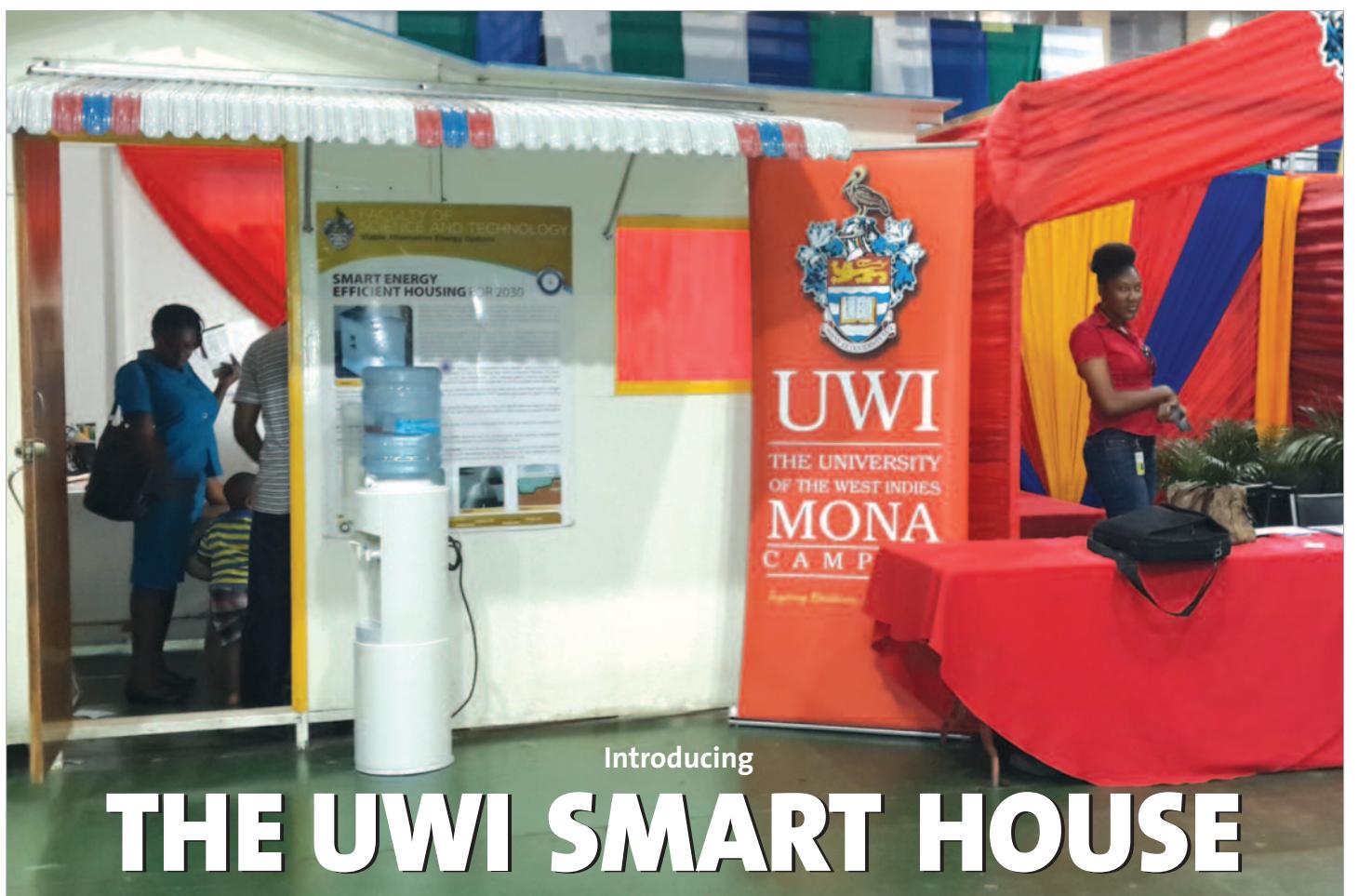
Richards knows what he has to do to get things done and his philosophy of life – True determination brings true success – has been his guiding force. He tries not to get flustered, but remains calm and always remembers the advice of his mother, one of the greatest influences in his life: Never give up, just trust in God for provision. He will guide the way; the Lord will provide. M

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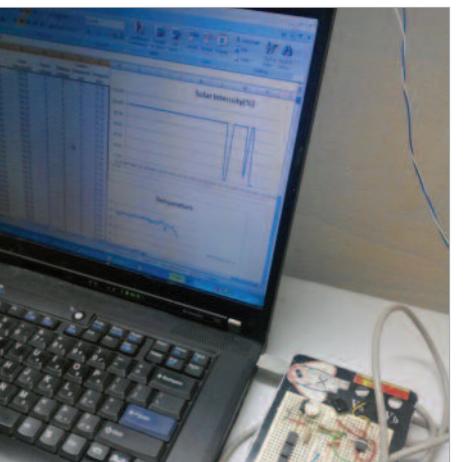
## Introducing THE UWI SMART HOUSE

The Smart House was on display at the Jamaica Teaching Council's National Forum for Innovations in Teaching (FIT) held at the National Arena in October.

An impressive, futuristic, energy-saving housing innovation was recently unveiled by The UWI, Mona's Department of Physics in the Faculty of Science and Technology.

Several research groups within the department collaborated to create the wooden 12-foot by 8-foot 'Smart House' costing approximately J\$500,000.

Leaford Nathan Henderson, the Physics graduate student integral to the design and construction of the Smart House said, "the main inspiration for this project was the perceived need for more Jamaicans to be aware of the options available for effective energy management, primarily centered on the dual focus of energy conservation and renewable energy sources. As we discussed the project with other students and staff in the Department including our Head of Department, Prof. Michael Taylor, we realized that the scope could be broadened to showcase more of the top-quality research being conducted in the Department."



Temperature and sunlight sensor display

"Currently, the Smart House serves to exemplify practical applications for our research – how our work can have a positive impact on the average citizen. The house is also designed to represent an innovative approach to meeting the Vision 2030 goals that Jamaica, as a country, is aiming to achieve," Henderson said.

"A Smart House is an energy-efficient and technologically advanced living space

consisting of various technologies including but not limited to Alternative Energy, Natural Lighting and Cooling and Speech Recognition," said Stefan Watson another Physics graduate student at The UWI.

He added that two major challenges working on the project were "developing speech models for the Jamaican accent and using a speech recognition engine capable of producing a real-time response to commands being issued."

Nevertheless, "the house is designed to allow voice entry, using an electronic lock system. The user can unlock the system with the unique sound of their voice for keyless entry, or choose an alternate method, such as a keypad and pin number access system."

Once inside, appliances such as the television, lights and radio can be turned off using a pre-programmed voice input, which increases ease of access, helpful where occupants have limited mobility," said fellow Physics MPhil graduate student Nathan Henderson.

Dr. Andre Coy, team-leader for the Voice-Activated features of the project noted that "applications of spoken language technology (SLT), such as dictation systems and voice-enabled search are becoming more integrated into our daily lives which allow the use of the voice for performing basic functions or controlling devices.

The Smart House has examples of SLT in the form of keyless (voice-enabled) entry and voice control of appliances. These features were included in the house for two reasons: "Firstly, they highlight some of the advanced technologies that will become commonplace in the future and secondly, they preview some of the work being done on SLT in the Department of Physics," he added.

The voice-enabled door entry:

- Uses the voice of an individual to uniquely identify them.
- Will only open the door when the correct voice is heard by the system.
- Attempts by others to open the door using their voice will be recognised as an attempt to break in and an alert can be sent to the individual or a security company.
- As a bio-metric security measure voice-enabled entry, is potentially safer than other methods as it is more challenging to duplicate the voice (a recording of the correct voice will not work).

### ASSISTANCE FOR THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

"Speech control of devices," Dr. Coy further explained, "has the potential to assist individuals that do not, or are unable to control devices in the traditional way; this includes the disabled and elderly. Anyone can use the technology to turn devices on and off. While this may not be a necessity for most individuals, it can lead to a significant improvement in the quality of life of individuals who are physically challenged. With access to such technology, an individual who has always relied on a caregiver to perform the most basic household tasks can now interact with his/her environment in a way that might otherwise be impossible."

These two applications of SLT showcased two different aspects of SLT: one in which only select individuals are recognised by the system and the other which allows anyone to control devices. This highlights the versatility of the technology and its usefulness in everyday life."

Hailing the timeliness of the Smart House, Watson said: "with the current energy and economic situation in Jamaica the Smart House does provide a unique solution to problems being faced by many Jamaicans, the major one being the increasing high cost of electricity. The Smart House takes full advantage of the island's natural sunshine with its crucial Solar Power/Renewable Energy component.

"The appliances, electronics, and lighting system inside the house are powered with electricity produced by solar panels mounted either on the roof or ground beside the house, so the house has no electricity bill. In addition, the system can be configured to use a wind turbine as well, and the electrical energy produced is stored by batteries, so the house has power even into the night."

Other features of the Smart House include natural and energy-efficient lighting, plus an indoor and outdoor sensor system. "The house is designed with skylights in the roof to allow sunlight to be used for lighting during the day, allowing for a further reduction in the electricity demand for the system since much of the electrical energy consumed in buildings is used for lighting."

During periods when the sunlight is not bright enough for lighting such as during the night, light is provided by fluorescent or LED lighting fixtures, which are more efficient than incandescent bulbs, use much less energy and last much longer when used properly," Henderson said.

"Sensors allow helpful information about the status of the spaces and zones within the house to be monitored and logged for later use. This information can include the temperatures in each room, the soil humidity in the garden, and amount of energy remaining in the batteries storing energy for the appliances."

Adding an energy efficient air-conditioning system, and occupancy sensors, which automatically turn off lights or appliances if a room is unoccupied for extended periods of time are part of the expected blossoming of the project," Henderson confided.

He noted that the Smart House concept was suggested by the Vice-President of The UWI, Mona Alternative Energy Club, Dudley Williams: "The Smart House was

primarily a club project since the idea initially came from a discussion on possible displays the club could present at the University's annual Research Day. The president, Sameer Simms, conceived the design of the house then went on to lead the efforts involved in its completion. The project soon became a project of the Physics Department as the number of participants in the project grew to include persons outside of the club enrolled at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels in the department."

"Initially, the display was intended to be a simple display showcasing the various forms of alternative energy technologies available, but it eventually expanded to include additional research being done in the Physics Department, including Energy Conservation, Climate Studies (integrated weather monitoring station) and perhaps the most popular component, the Voice-Activated Appliances and Entry system, designed by the Electronics/Signal Processing Research Group," Henderson pointed out.

Explaining the process involved in transforming the wooden structure into a Smart House, Henderson said, "the exterior of the Smart House was built in one day by Steven Boxx of the Woodworking Shop, Department of Physics and his carpentry team of Moses Bryan, Carlton Rookwood, Mark Curtis, Kevin Chung, Kevin Buckley and 'Aggi'. The house was then painted and outfitted with the various features and furnishings to complete the display. Henderson expressed confidence that "the different features of the house could easily be applied to Jamaican homes and the entire unit can definitely be developed as a complete package. We are definitely open to the development of this idea into a complete marketable prototype."

"Perhaps the best solution might be to offer different features as modular solutions such as for homeowners who want just a voice-activated door, or want to outfit solar or wind energy solutions which can be installed separately. However the Smart House is a feasible product combining the different features, each useful in [its] own way," Henderson boasted.

"We will continue to improve and work on the Smart House as new ideas are put forward," Henderson added. M

## TEACHERS COLLEGE GRADUATES TO RECEIVE UWI DEGREE



Principals of the eight Government-funded teachers' colleges which have signed a Heads of Agreement with The UWI with (seated l-r) Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Mrs. Elaine Foster-Allen; UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris; Minister of Education, the Hon. Rev. Ronald Thwaites, Mona Principal, Professor Archibald McDonald and Dean of Principals, Teachers' Colleges of Jamaica, Mrs. Yvonne Clarke.

The University of the West Indies (UWI) has signed a Heads of Agreement with eight Government-funded teachers' colleges in Jamaica, which will allow students at the colleges who are pursuing the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degree programme, to be awarded the degree from The UWI. The institutions are: Bethlehem Moravian College, Churches' Teachers' College, the College of Agriculture, Science and Education, G.C. Foster College of Sports and Physical Education, Monogue College, Sam Sharpe Teachers' College, Shortwood Teachers' College,

and St. Joseph's Teachers' College.

The agreement was signed on Tuesday, October 7, at a ceremony held in the Council Room at The UWI, Mona Campus. UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris, and Mona Campus Principal, Professor Archibald McDonald, signed on behalf of the University, while the principals of the teachers colleges signed on behalf of the respective institutions. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Elaine Foster-Allen, signed on behalf of the Government.



The Minister of Education exchanges pleasantries with Principals of the Teachers' colleges prior to the signing ceremony

The agreement follows on a policy decision by the Government of Jamaica that teachers will now require a first degree to gain normal employment in the secondary school system.

Addressing the signing ceremony, Minister of Education, the Hon. Rev. Ronald Thwaites, said that some 11,000 teachers need to be upgraded to the bachelor's level. "...no longer is the broad teacher's diploma adequate for our educational advancement. Specialisations are needed, not only in subject areas, but in teaching methodologies, and character formation," he contended. He said that with the collaboration, more persons will apply to teacher's colleges, because they will now be able to acquire a UWI degree at these institutions.

Professor McDonald said the partnership signals a new pathway in how tertiary education is managed and delivered in Jamaica.

"This is a significant collaboration, which will allow for the integral knowledge exchange between our institution and the teachers' colleges that is specifically designed to enhance the overall management, and consequently the educational output of B.Ed. programmes across Jamaica," he stated. He said that the new arrangement would help to standardize how the B. Ed. is awarded in the teachers' colleges and will provide an opportunity for students to receive qualifications that are more recognized, based on international standards.

The colleges have already begun delivering the programmes under the new arrangement. The degree programmes involved are Early Childhood Education, Primary Education, Special Education, and School Counselling, along with Secondary Education in the following specialisations: Business Studies, Computer Studies, English, Geography, History, Human Ecology, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Religious Education, Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and Social Studies.

Under the Agreement, the University will provide programme coordination through the Joint Board of Teacher Education (JBTE) and the School of Education, Mona. M

New & Improved!

# THREE RECEIVE 2014 UWIAA PELICAN AWARD

**T**he UWI Alumni Association (Jamaica Chapter) presented its prestigious Pelican Award to three outstanding graduates at the annual awards ceremony held Thursday, July 17 at the Mona Visitors' Lodge and Conference Centre. They are Director of the University Health Centre, Dr. Blossom Anglin-Brown, Head of the Department of Community Health and Psychiatry and Coordinator for Graduate Studies and Research; Professor Denise Eldemire-Shearer, and Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The UWI, Mona, Professor Archibald McDonald.

The Pelican Award is presented to a graduate of the University of the West Indies who has excelled in his/her chosen field or an individual who has contributed significantly to the development of the University or has made an outstanding contribution to Jamaica, the Caribbean Region or the world at large. Following are the citations to the three awardees:



**DR. BLOSSOM ANGLIN-BROWN  
MB.BS, DM (MED), MPH, FACG,  
FRCP (EDIN)**

For more than three decades, Dr. Blossom Anglin-Brown has been instrumental in developing health policies and wellness programmes within the University environment, including a workplace policy for HIV/AIDS, a health and wellness policy, and the integration of sexual health as an integral part of wellness.

As Clinical Director of the UWI Health Centre responsible for serving the health needs of a population of over 18,000 students and staff, Dr. Anglin-Brown's interventions and service ethic have been adopted as a model for other campuses in the region. In fact, through her efforts and leadership, The UWI Health Centre holds the distinction of being the first clinic in the region to be named a Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centre for HIV/AIDS.

Attaining the highest level within the University's professional medical category, Dr. Anglin-Brown is also well known for her work on issues of Women and Adolescent Health, and the health risks associated with lead pollution and cadmium. Notably, she has led many public health interventions on lead pollution in the Kintyre community of rural St Andrew.

A longstanding Internal Examiner within the Medical Faculty, Dr. Anglin-Brown has supervised graduate students, published and lectured extensively on health risks, and participated in numerous local, regional and international workshops.

She served as Spokesperson at the United Nations 38th Assembly on Women's Health Issues in New York and was Group Leader and Rapporteur for the final preparatory meeting leading

to the 4th World Congress on Women.

Her distinguished record of professional and public service includes membership of the National AIDS Committee, Representative to the International Labour Organization (ILO); President of the Association of West Indian Gastroenterologists, Chair of the Medical Association of Jamaica Trust, and Chief Organiser for voluntary blood donation, making the University community the largest blood donor in Jamaica.

Despite a hectic and demanding professional schedule, Dr. Anglin-Brown manages a well-rounded and balanced lifestyle which sees her demonstrating strong interest in sports as Master Trainer for volunteers in the 2007 Cricket World Cup and member of the medical volunteer team for the World Junior Games in 2002.

The UWI Alumni Association (Jamaica Chapter) is pleased to recognize Dr. Blossom Anglin-Brown's long and distinguished professional career and her outstanding service to the University and the wider community, and proudly presents her with its 2014 Pelican Award.

**PROFESSOR THE MOST HON. DENISE ELDEMIRE-SHEARER CD,  
MB.BS, DPH**

Any meaningful discourse on issues of aging and care for the elderly could virtually be rendered incomplete without the input of or reference to the work and contribution of Prof. Denise Eldemire-Shearer. It is perhaps fair to say that no one understands the Jamaican elderly, issues of aging and care management more than she does.

Indeed, with over 250 articles, book reviews, monographs, abstracts, technical reports, and other public interventions to her credit,



it is perhaps safe to say that no other local academician has conducted or participated in more research and has written, published and lectured more extensively on this subject in the last three decades, than Prof. Eldemire-Shearer.

And yet, there is another side to the interests of this outstanding and highly accomplished public health specialist, in that Prof. Eldemire-Shearer's professional pursuits have successfully tackled two central, social issues and concerns, namely child abuse and the elderly.

Unquestionably though, it is in addressing the issues of the elderly that she has truly made her mark – researching and documenting the situation of seniors and the factors influencing their health and social well-being. Hardly surprising, the findings of her voluminous research in this area have been used to aid policy development and the implementation of appropriate programmes and interventions.

Never one to be satisfied with conducting research for the sake of doing research, Prof. Eldemire-Shearer through increased public collaboration, including with the Ministry of Health, has been able to impact the broadening of Jamaica's maternal and child health programme to include all aspects of family health in which greater importance has been placed on care for the elderly.

Passionate to her cause, she has been able to masterly combine her considerable University duties, academic and research pursuits, with an outstanding public service involvement and advocacy on this issue at both the local and international levels, serving in such capacities as Chair of the International Year of Older Persons (1999); the Caribbean Community of Retired Persons (since 2011); Patron of the National Council for Seniors (since 2008) and Director, Action Aging Jamaica.

For her work in public health policy and contribution to increasing the levels of public awareness and understanding of wellness and aging, Prof. Eldemire-Shearer has been recognized with numerous awards, including The Gleaner Honour Award, the Principal's Award and the Order of Distinction (Commander Class) from the Government of Jamaica.

From her pathfinding doctoral research thesis on the Jamaican elderly to the riveting epidemiology of sexual abuse of children in Kingston and St. Andrew, Prof. Eldemire-Shearer has dedicated herself, her enormous academic talents, vast knowledge and experience to effecting change and transforming policy on issues of public health and aging.

It is to her credit that Prof. Eldemire-Shearer has been able to successfully contribute not only to academia and research, but to the practical application of the findings of such research in addressing social needs and reality. She did not confine herself to the University, but shared herself with the people and the wider society.

In proud recognition of her unique gift and contribution and an exemplary record of service, the UWI Alumni Association (Jamaica Chapter) is proud to honour Prof. Denise Eldemire-Shearer with its 2014 Pelican Award.

**PROFESSOR ARCHIBALD MCDONALD  
MBBS (UWI), FRCS (EDIN), FACS, DM (UWI)**

It is certainly not the norm for one to combine variants of contrasting professional pursuits and achieve pinnacle status in both; but such is the case of Professor Archibald McDonald.

Much to his credit and enduring legacy, Prof. McDonald, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of Mona Campus, has been able to combine a successful career as a medical practitioner with groundbreaking administrative management and innovative leadership of the University, positively impacting tertiary level educational outcomes in Jamaica.

His pivotal research in trauma and defining role in the epidemiology of injuries, along with a keen sense of the tremendous burden accidents and injuries pose to hospital service delivery, have influenced national policy on better injury prevention and management practices, and most notably, the development of the Jamaica Injury Surveillance System – a user-friendly mechanism to track injuries in hospitals.

As the UWI surgeon who started Emergency Physician Training in Jamaica, Prof. McDonald also played a leadership role in the establishment of Emergency Medicine as an independent academic career path for local medical practitioners, and the Scotia Bank Accident and Emergency Unit at the UWI Hospital in 1993.

It was his spirit of innovation that led to the introduction of the Post Basic Training Programme in Emergency Medicine and the Advanced Trauma Life Support Programme at the UWI Hospital – a programme which has gained international recognition with the American College of Surgeons. He was also instrumental in introducing post-graduate ophthalmology training at the University Hospital.

But perhaps one of his most enduring innovative approaches to impact tertiary education occurred during his tenure as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. Confronted with the national demand for medical doctors, he introduced, with great success, the Full Fee Paying Programme, whereby qualified medical students could enter medical school by paying the full economic cost. The initiative resulted in a marked expansion in the intake of qualified students outside of the 'quota system' and has led to a doubling of students being trained as doctors at the University.

Prof. McDonald also successfully undertook a review of and introduced important changes to the curriculum for medical students, and it was under his leadership that the Faculty received full accreditation from the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professionals. The introduction by him in 2006 of a Master of Sport Medicine programme can only further complement Jamaica's already outstanding achievement and global excellence recognition in sports.

His enormous scholarship, demanding publications and other University responsibilities never prevented Prof. McDonald from contributing to life outside of the campus, which saw him serving with distinction as President of the Association of Surgeons, Chief Executive of The UWI Hospital, Chairman of the Jamaica Research and Educational Network and, more recently, the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network.

*Cont'd on page 30*

MONA NOVEMBER 2014



## MONA CAMPUS TAKES A STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE

Mona captures highlights of the day's events.



On Thursday October 2, 2014 the students and staff of The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus aimed to raise awareness of the United Nations' International Day for Non-Violence observed annually on October 2, the birthday of renowned Indian leader and pacifist, Mahatma Gandhi. The initiative took the form of an attempt to break a Guinness World Record for the 'Longest chain of persons clasping (holding) hands' in a stance against violence.

The UWI, Mona Campus has always been a strong proponent of Non-Violence, and has organized many initiatives aimed at reducing instances of violence and violent expressions among its population. The University provides training for student leaders in dealing with interpersonal violence; has developed an anti-violence pledge for all students, which is included in the information booklet for new students and available on its website; has adopted an Alcohol and Wellness Policy and introduced a Sexual Safety Initiative Programme, looking at the whole issue of sexual violence and sexual harassment.

MONA NOVEMBER 2014



Kingston Mayor, Angela Brown Burke, was among the large audience present at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new hall of residence.



Chinese Ambassador to Jamaica Dong Xiaojun presents scholarship funds to UWI Campus Principal Prof. Archibald McDonald. At left is Prof. Ishenkuma Kahwa, Deputy Principal, UWI Campus and at right, Miss Joy Dickenson, Manager of the Office for Student Financing



## AIS AND UWI ENGINEERING SIGN INTERNSHIP DEAL

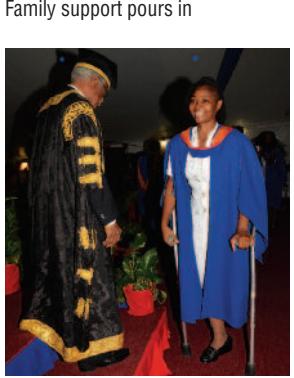
Deputy Dean of the School of Engineering, Dr. Paul Aiken (centre), exchanges pleasantries with Doug Halsall (right), Chairman of Advanced Integrated Systems Ltd. and Everton Grennell (left), Director of Sales at the company during the signing of a memorandum of understanding between The UWI, Mona and AIS Ltd. which will see engineering students at The UWI, Mona engaging in internships at AIS. The MOU will facilitate integration of classroom and lab work with practical experiences, so that the students will possess entrepreneurial skills plus gain necessary work experience while completing the degree programme.

## TAYLOR HALL SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION



LEFT: Winsome O'Sullivan, wife of former Student Services Manager for Taylor Hall, makes a presentation to Edwin Davis on behalf of UWI graduate and former Taylor Hall resident, Winston Ho Fatt. Ho Fatt has committed CAN \$20,000 annually for the next five years towards the establishment of the Mary Ho Fatt and Gladys Myers Educational Fund.

RIGHT: Earlier this year, the hall itself through its own initiatives and contributions from other Taylor Hall alumni, raised another quarter million dollars from which it was able to provide financial assistance and pay hall accommodation fees on behalf of other students for the current academic year. The photo shows some of the recipients.



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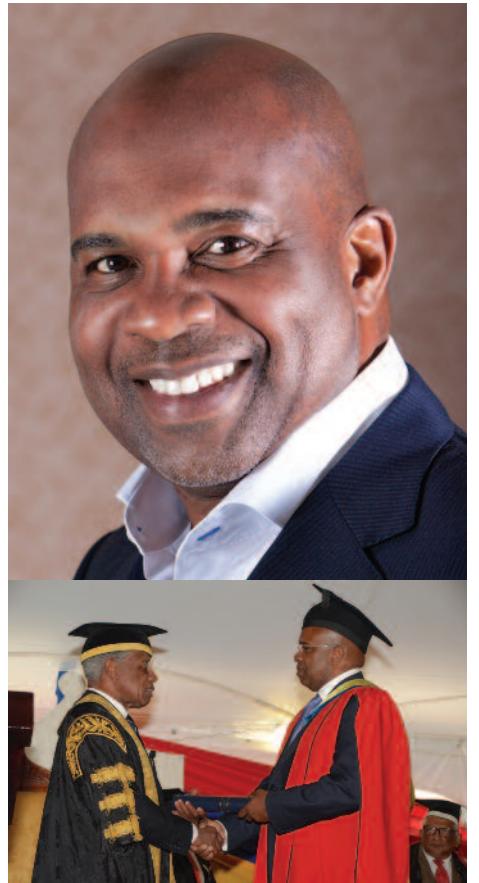
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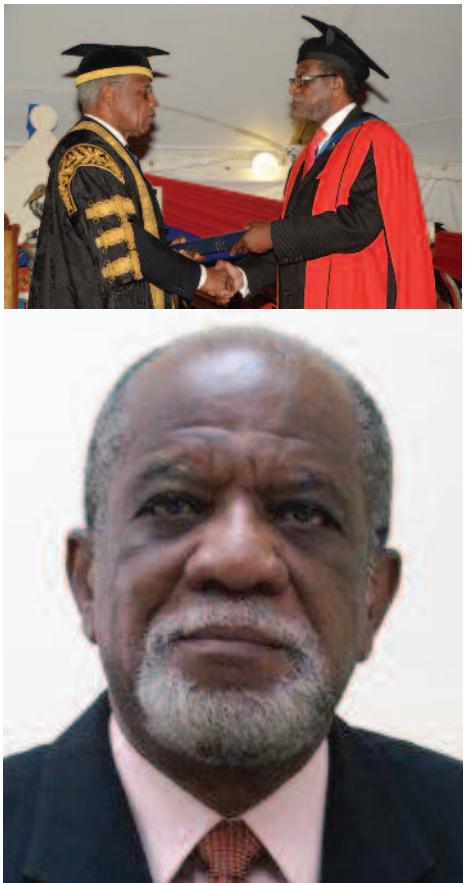
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# UWI Confers 20 Honorary Degrees in 2014 Graduation Ceremonies



Nicholas Brathwaite



Ryland Campbell



Dr. Marjorie Patricia Downes-Grant

The 2014 graduation ceremonies at The University of the West Indies (UWI) saw the conferral of 20 honorary degrees: four at the Cave Hill Campus, six at the Mona Campus, two at the Open Campus, and eight at the St. Augustine Campus. The awardees received honorary doctorates in recognition of their stellar contributions to Caribbean development.

At Mona, the recipients were Global Technology Industry Executive and philanthropist, Nicholas Brathwaite, who received the Doctor of Sciences (DSc); Educator, Banker, Entrepreneur, and Philanthropist Ryland T. Campbell, Ryland T. Campbell who received the Doctor of Laws (LLD); President and CEO of Sagicor Life, Barbados, Dr. Marjorie Patricia Downes-Grant – LLD; Sports Administrator/Retired Business Executive,

Jamaica, the Hon. Michael Fennell – LLD; Scientist, United Kingdom/Jamaica, Professor Alan Jackson – DSc and Founder and Director of Peepal Tree Press, United Kingdom, Dr. Robert Jeremy Poynting, who received the Doctor of Letters (DLitt).

**Nicholas Earle Brathwaite** is a Silicon Valley technology entrepreneur and international business executive. He has been instrumental in creating and/or leading multinational 'high tech' businesses in many countries. Brathwaite is a co-founder and partner of the technology investment firm, Riverwood Capital, based in Menlo Park, California.

Brathwaite currently serves on the boards of several private and public companies in the United States, China and Argentina. He is currently a member of the board of

directors of two publicly traded companies: Power Integrations, Inc., Tessera Technologies Inc. A prolific philanthropist, he is the holder of several patents, author of many international publications, a successful entrepreneur and highly accomplished, globally respected technology industry executive.

**Ryland T. Campbell** has made significant and long-lasting contributions to the development and sustainability of Jamaica's education system, and has occupied several prestigious positions in this field for over three decades. In addition to being a positive force in education, Campbell is renowned for his business acumen and his transformational capabilities in the financial sector. He has served for several years as Chairman, Group President and CEO of Capital and



Mike Fennell

Credit Financial Group Ltd – a group he co-founded. A business entrepreneur with extraordinary vision, Campbell is deemed the epitome of success in the Jamaican business sector and is viewed as an inspirational leader and mentor by many rising entrepreneurs.

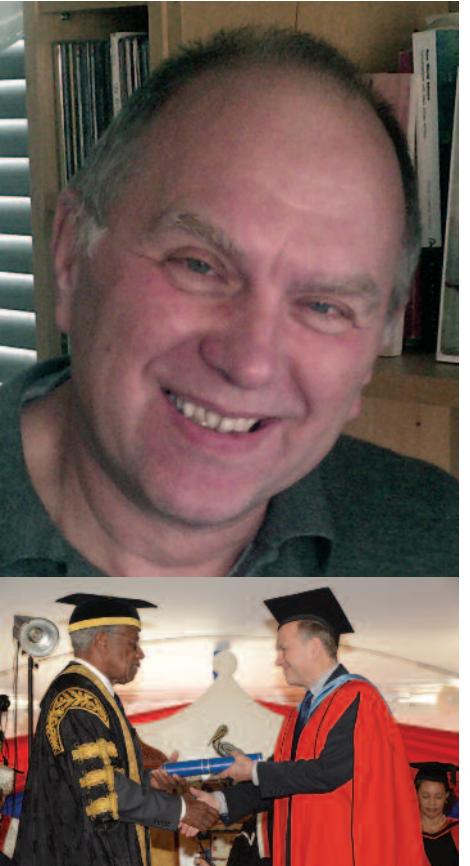
**Dr. Marjorie Patricia Downes-Grant** stands at the top of the finance industry in Barbados, where she is President and CEO of Sagicor Life, Barbados Ltd., the largest financial conglomerate in Barbados and the OECS. Not only is she the leading woman in corporate Barbados, but is also a transformational leader who has done a great deal to ensure that The UWI benefits from her success. She has had extensive experience in business consulting, financial services and development banking, and has been with Sagicor Life since 1991. Dr. Downes-Grant is also director of a number of statutory boards and private companies in Barbados.

**The Hon. Michael S. Fennell, OJ, CD**, is an outstanding Jamaican who has served in various leadership positions at the local, regional and international levels.

At The UWI, Mona Campus, he has served as the Chair of the Placement and Career Services Board for over 26 years, advising on different aspects of students' career development. His career also includes distinguished sports leadership at the national, regional and international levels, including membership on the International Olympic Committee Programme Commission and the IOC Women in Sports Committee. He also served as Chairman of the Commonwealth Games Federation (1994-2003) and President (2003-2001), and Vice-President of the Pan American Sports Organisation (PASO).

For his contribution to sports in Jamaica, he was awarded the national honour of Order of Jamaica in 2005.

**Prof. Alan Jackson** is currently the director at the National Institute for Health Research, Southampton Biomedical Research Centre in Nutrition. Professor Jackson became the first UK professor of human nutrition in 1985, and has been a central driver of Southampton's leadership in the field since. Having trained as a paediatrician, Professor Jackson's early



Dr. Jeremy Poynting

research to determine the pathophysiology of severe acute malnutrition in children helped establish the principles of prevention and care for global application. It was also the basis for the principles of nutrition support for severely sick people in the UK. His international roles include President of the Association for Nutrition; Chair of the International Malnutrition Task Force of IUNS and World Cancer Research Fund, and elected member of the Caribbean Health Research Council.

**Dr. Jeremy Poynting**, who for years has been an authority on Caribbean literature and culture, is recognised for his work as editor and director of Peepal Tree Press and his invaluable contributions to Caribbean literature.



Prof. Alan Jackson

After 25 years of operation, the medium-sized literary publishing house can now be said to be the leading publisher of Caribbean writers. At the heart of the press is Dr. Poynting, founder and director. Through his vision Peepal Tree Press has grown steadily and expanded in remarkable ways. M

**2014 PELICAN AWARDS** from page 23 In proud recognition of his pioneering leadership and truly outstanding record of contribution to the University and the wider community and for making a legendary impact on tertiary educational outcomes,

as well as his distinguished service to the medical profession in Jamaica, the UWI Alumni Association (Jamaica Chapter) is proud to present Prof. Archibald McDonald with its 2014 Pelican Award. M

## DEPARTMENT, 4 FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE VC AWARDS



The University of the West Indies recognised an entire department as well as four faculty members at its Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence Ceremony on October 27, 2014.

The Department of Life Sciences in the Faculty of Science and Technology at the St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago is the first recipient of the newly implemented Vice-Chancellor's Departmental Award for Excellence.

Professor Jonas Addae from the Department of Preclinical

Sciences at the St. Augustine Campus was recognised for his accomplishments in teaching. Professor Simon Mitchell, Head of the Department of Geography and Geology, and Professor Marvin Reid, Director of the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit, received the honour for their research accomplishments while Professor Hopeton Dunn, Director of the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication, was honoured for his contributions to public service. All three are at the Mona Campus in Jamaica.

In the 2013 academic year, a departmental award for excellence was added, allowing for one annual award valued at US\$10,000 to be made to any department, institute, section, site, research unit, or centre that clearly demonstrates the highest commitment to quality, to service and operational excellence.

On the announcement of this year's awardees, Vice-Chancellor E. Nigel Harris stated, "My heartfelt congratulations to this year's recipients of the Vice Chancellor's Awards for Excellence.

Together they represent the best that our university offers to our students, to new knowledge formation in diverse fields and to the

communities in which we live. Their achievement is a reflection not only of what is best about our University but of what is possible in our West Indian societies as a whole."

The 2014 Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence took place on October 27th at the Mona Visitors' Lodge and Conference Centre at The UWI, Mona.

### ABOUT THE AWARDEES

#### The Department of Life Sciences for Quality, Service, Operational Excellence

The history of the Department of Life Sciences dates back to 1922. Among its exemplary accomplishments, the Award recognises its well-managed processes and procedures, data driven decision-making, student and stakeholder-centred development, innovation and demonstration of a results-oriented focus. In the last four years, the Department of Life Sciences has earned external funding in excess of 4.3 million US dollars, won The University's 2012 Award for the most productive research department and a campus award for the most successful project for its work on the Caroni Swamp Research and Development Impact Fund. In the last decade, its teaching accomplishments have been reflected in an estimated 46% increase in the year-one student pass rate and transition to the advanced part of the degree.

#### Professor Jonas Addae for Teaching

Professor Addae, Professor of Physiology in the Department of Preclinical Sciences, Faculty of

Cont'd on page 32

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**VC AWARDS from page 26** Medical Sciences at the St. Augustine Campus, has made a stellar contribution to teaching at The University. He has served as the Head and Principal of the Preclinical Sciences Department and, since 2008, has occasionally acted as Dean of the Faculty.

He was one of the winners of the first UWI/Guardian Life Premium Teaching Awards held in 2000. Professor Addae describes his teaching methodology as intended to generate in students the passion to learn new information using an inquiry-based teaching method, in which students generate most of the relevant questions rather than being given the questions by the lecturer. He is an advocate of contextual learning as well as learning outside of the classroom and believes in the importance of students' understanding their learning skills. As such, for more than a decade, Professor Addae has been conducting learning skills sessions for first-year students in all schools of the Faculty.

**Professor Simon Mitchell for Research**  
Professor Mitchell is Professor of Sedimentary Geology and Head of the Department of Geography and Geology at The University's Mona campus and has also been involved in teaching, research and consultancies in the fields of Geology Mapping and Petroleum Geology around the Caribbean for the past 20 years.

He co-authored volume two of the *Catalogue of Cretaceous Corals* and has authored over 100 journal articles and book chapters along with several other publications. Professor Mitchell has taught 10 courses during his tenure at The UWI; these include extensive field courses including sedimentology and residential geological mapping courses, since he is a proponent of backing up theoretical concepts with laboratory and field-based experience.

**Professor Marvin Reid for Research**  
Professor Reid's current positions include Professor of the Tropical Medicine Research Institute (TMRI) at The UWI, Director of Tropical Metabolism Research Unit at TMRI and an Associate Lecturer in the Department of Community Health and Psychiatry at The University's Mona Campus. This well-respected academic has earned regional and international recognition for his work, especially those related to stable isotope based metabolic research. He has published in excess of 100 peer

reviewed articles, two book chapters and 23 abstracts, as well as several other papers and reports. Professor Reid is currently the principal investigator / project coordinator on a research project funded by the National Institutes of Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The research aims to re-establish nuclear medicine diagnostic service in the public health system in Jamaica.

**Professor Hopeton Dunn for Public Service**  
Professor Dunn has had an outstanding career with accomplishments in research, publication and teaching; however, his Vice-Chancellor's Award is for his enviable record of excellence in public service, locally, regionally and internationally. This public service has been evident in the areas of media and communications, policy making, telecom-

munications, ICT reforms in institution building and capacity development in education and leadership in the cultural and creative Industries. He continues to serve on public boards and other civic organisations while currently Chairman of the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica and a Justice of the Peace for the past 15 years.

At The University's Mona campus, Professor Dunn is Director of the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) as well as a Professor of Communications Policy and Digital Media and Director of the Mona ICT Policy Centre. In addition to his university responsibilities, he has also served on several committees at The UWI, among them the Finance and General Purposes Committee and The UWI Senate's Disciplinary Committee. M

## INAUGURAL GLORIA LYN MEMORIAL PRIZE AWARDED



Xavienne Roma Richardson,(right) a student in the Department of Literatures in English at The UWI, Mona receives the inaugural Gloria Lyn Memorial prize, from Lyn's daughter Cathy. The US\$500 award will be made annually to the student with the highest grade in any of the second year courses in West Indian literature offered at the Mona Campus.

The Gloria Lyn Memorial Fund, launched on 30 October 2014, aims to raise the visibility of literature at The UWI. It has been established by the family of the late Gloria Lyn, the daughter of a Chinese shopkeeper who went on to become a specialist lecturer in 17th Century English renaissance poetry at The UWI, Mona. The Fund aims to bring together a critical mass of thought leaders to raise the visibility of literature at The UWI, and to increase jobs and productivity in the region. In addition to the annual prize, the Fund will also mentor the prize winners and promote the whole value chain of studying literature.

Head of Department, Dr. Michael Bucknor, said "The Department of Literatures in English is delighted at this initiative to support the work of the department in developing our students' ability to think critically, to communicate effectively, and to be innovative and confident leaders of our society."

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# APPOINTMENTS



Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles

## SIR HILARY BECKLES IS NEW UWI VICE-CHANCELLOR

**P**rincipal of The UWI, Cave Hill Campus in Barbados, Sir Hilary Beckles, has been appointed to serve as the next Vice-Chancellor of the University with effect from May 1, 2015. The decision was taken at an Extraordinary Meeting of University Council. Sir Hilary will be the University's seventh Vice-Chancellor.

In making the announcement, University Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne, noted that Sir Hilary would bring to the position impeccable academic credentials, impressive managerial skills and the gravitas that such an office required. He was confident that Sir Hilary would have the confidence and support of the University's many and diverse stakeholders.

The Vice-Chancellor Designate is well known regionally and extra-regionally and is currently the longest serving campus Principal. He has a distinguished record of achievement and service as a university administrator, economic historian and specialist in higher education and development thinking and practice. At the international level, he currently serves as a member of the UN Secretary-General's Science Advisory Board on

Sustainable Development, Chairman of the Caribbean Reparations Commission, Vice President of the International Task Force for the UNESCO Slave Route, adviser to the UN World Culture Report, inter alia. He is the recipient of many honours, awards and honorary degrees and serves on the Boards of several of the region's largest corporations.

Sir Hilary is an avid lover of cricket, was an accomplished cricketer in his youth, has written extensively on the subject and served on the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) for many years. He is married to Mary, a Jamaican (nee Motta) and they have two sons.

The Vice-Chancellor of The UWI is charged with advancing the University's academic reputation and global standing, while championing the strategic direction outlined in the strategic plan for the remaining period of the 2012-2017 plan and beyond.

The Vice-Chancellor must possess the credibility, vision and intellectual respect needed to interact effectively with the highest levels of government, business, other academic and international organizations and civic society, at the regional and international levels.

Additionally, the Vice Chancellor is charged with maintaining and promoting the efficiency and good order of the University for which the Vice-Chancellor shall be responsible to the Council.

## PROF. EUDINE BARRITEAU APPOINTED PRINCIPAL OF UWI OPEN CAMPUS

The University of the West Indies is pleased to announce Professor Eudine Barritaeu as the new principal of The University's Open Campus. She assumed office on August 1,



Prof. Eudine Barritaeu

2014, the start of the new academic year, succeeding Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Hazel Simmons- McDonald.

Professor Barritaeu will build on the platform established by the outgoing Principal .Her imperatives will include overseeing the expansion of online, distance education, particularly those linked to programmes provided by residential campuses, garnering solid links with The UWI's Single Virtual University Space System and broadening the delivery of face to face, professional programmes at The University's more than 46 Open Campus sites.

The Vice-Chancellor must possess the credibility, vision and intellectual respect needed to interact effectively with the highest levels of government, business, other academic and international organizations and civic society, at the regional and international levels.

Professor Barritaeu has served in various roles at The UWI for more than 30 years. She was the second female to be appointed Deputy Principal at the Cave Hill Campus, in 2008. In that role, two of her major accomplishments were serving as Chair of the Cave Hill Campus Institutional Accreditation Exercise, which resulted in full accreditation of the Campus for six years, and serving as Chair of the 2011 UWI Games Organising Committee.

She earlier served as Head of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies at The UWI, and was the first female Campus Coordinator of the School for Graduate Studies and Research.



Prof. Julie Meeks Gardner

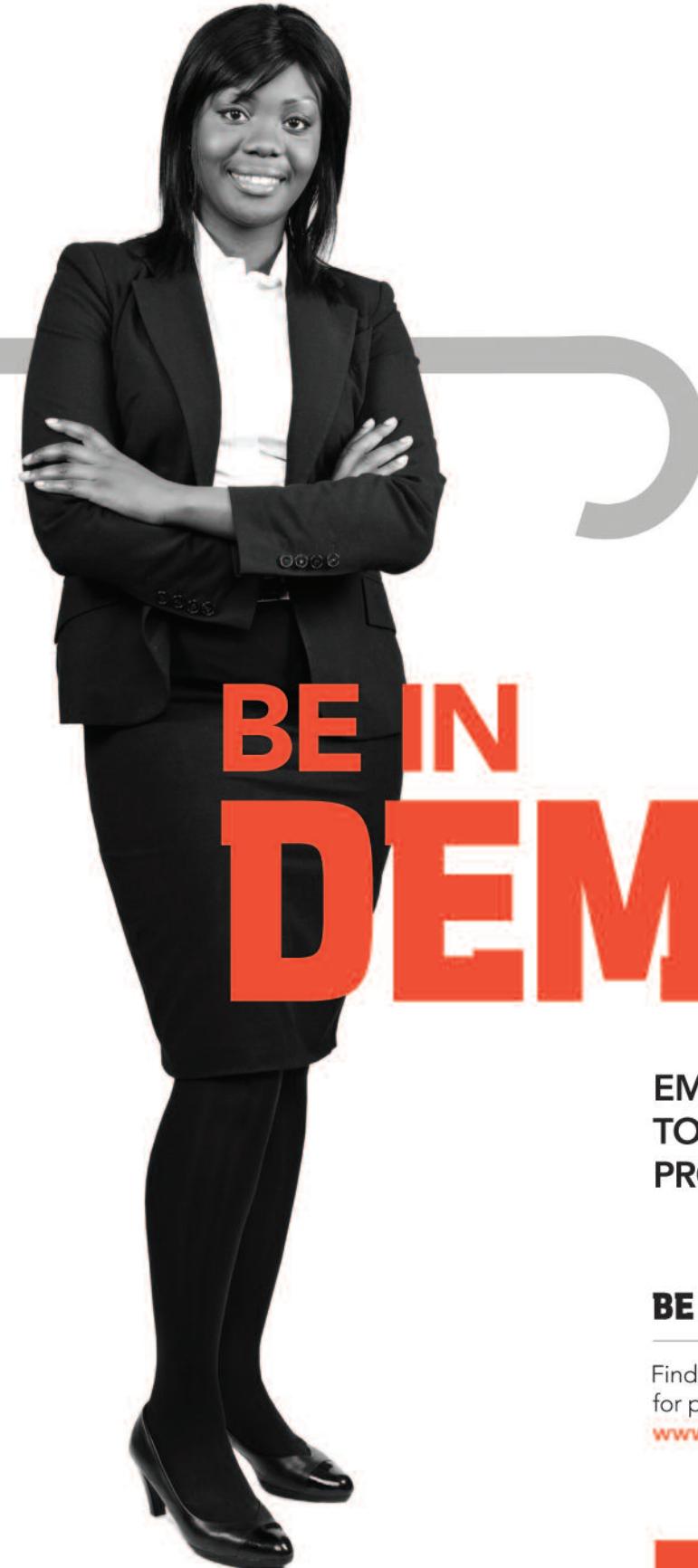
## NEW DEPUTY PRINCIPAL FOR UWI OPEN CAMPUS

**P**rofessor Julie Meeks Gardner is the new Deputy Principal of The UWI's Open Campus. Her appointment took effect on October 1, 2014, succeeding Professor Vivienne Roberts, who has retired.

Julie Meeks Gardner, Professor of Child Development and Nutrition, has been on staff at The UWI for over 20 years. She has focused on the behavioural development of under-nourished children as well as on cross-cultural assessments of child cognition.

Professor Meeks Gardner has been equally dedicated to issues of child development. Among her pioneering work is research on children and violence, including the development of aggression and violence among children, interventions that reduce violence and aggression, children's involvement in gangs and the effects of violence on children in the Caribbean.

In 2004, she was appointed Head of the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC). Under her direction, the CCDC received the Principal's Award for Best Performing Department in the Open Campus, 2012, and Meeks Gardner was the recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research and Public Service, 2011.



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