

**UWI DISTANCE  
EDUCATION CENTRE  
(UWIDEC)**

**Derrick Thompson, BSc (Hons.), Dip  
Bus. Admin.  
– Acting Campus Coordinator**

**WORK OF THE CENTRE**

*I*n April 2004 the UWIDEC embraced a paradigm shift. This was in keeping with the university's plan of restructuring the outreach sector and the UWIDEC in particular. The restructuring started with the strengthening of the administrative structure through new appointments (Senior Assistant Registrar and Finance Officer) stationed at the Cave Hill campus. In the new administrative structure, the emphasis was placed on redefining and developing the product.

UWIDEC has embraced a “blended learning” approach for content delivery using a mixed mode delivery system. The modes are face-to-face, print, audio-conferencing and asynchronous (online) teaching and learning. With the first three technologies already fully developed and in use, the focus of the centre was on adopting and implementing the asynchronous or online component.

The target was to have 13 courses fully delivered by Blended Learning (BL) by academic year 2005/2006. A number of training workshops

for academics (Course Coordinators and Tutors), technical staff, administrative support staff and students were held. These training workshops were designed to sharpen existing skills and build new ones and to sensitize and prepare the participants for the adoption of online learning technologies in their respective roles.

In addition to its core offerings from the faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities and Education, UWIDEC also sought to diversify the product through increased programmes and widening of access. To this end, discussions have been held with interested representatives of various departments with a view to working with them to develop online programmes.

Work was also done on the development and delivery of a certificate course on local e-governance for a regional audience (<http://e-gov.dec.uwi.edu>). This was delivered totally on-line.

The department also continued work on the planning of the Fourth Pan-Commonwealth Conference on Open Learning (PCF4). UWIDEC has the distinction of co-hosting the forum with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL). The conference is set for October 31 – November 3 in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. (<http://pcf4.dec.uwi.edu>).

During the period under review, the Caribbean Universities Project for Integrated Distance Education (CUPIDE) was resumed. The objective of the project is to develop the human resources within the region through enabling each of the five participating universities to develop and deliver quality distance education programmes using ICT. (<http://www.cupide.org.jm>).

### **Income Generation**

The main income generating activities were:

Summer School – Income (3.1M JMD), expenditure (2.3M JMD)

Rental of Teleconferencing facility by other regional non-UWI entities – 780,000 JMD

Facilities rental – 3M JMD

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

### **Christine Marrett**

- Member, Caribbean Association for Distance and Open Learning
- Public Relations Officer, Jamaica Association for Distance and Open Learning
- Member, Association of Caribbean Higher Education Administrators

### **Charmaine McKenzie**

- Member of the Board, National Library of Jamaica
- Member, Jamaican Association of Distance and Open Learning
- Hon. Editor, Jamaican Historical Society *Bulletin*
- Editor, Grace, Kennedy Foundation Lectures

### **Vilma McClenan**

- Member, Jamaican Council for Adult Education (JACAE)
- President, Jamaica Association of Open and Distance Learning (JADOL)
- Member, Caribbean Regional Council for Adult Education (CARCAE)
- Member, Executive Committee and Caribbean Representative on the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE)

### **Derrick Thompson**

- Treasurer, Jamaican Association of Distance and Open Learning

## **Categories of students**

### **Undergraduate Programmes**

Country	Centre	Faculty	Programme	Total
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JAMAICA				
	BROWN'S TOWN	Humanities & Education	BEd. Admin.	9
		Social Sciences	BSc Mgt. Studies	35
	DENBIGH	Humanities & Education	BEd. Admin.	11
		Social Sciences	BSc Mgt. Studies	52
	MANDEVILLE	Humanities & Education	BEd. Admin.	12
		Social Sciences	BSc Mgt. Studies	63
	MONA CAMPUS	Humanities & Education	BEd. Admin.	6
		Social Sciences	BSc Mgt. Studies	82
	MONTEGO BAY	Humanities & Education	BEd. Admin.	10
		Social Sciences	BSc Mgt. Studies	92
	MORANT BAY	Humanities & Education	BEd. Admin.	11
		Social Sciences	BSc Mgt. Studies	20
	OCHO RIOS	Education	BEd. Admin.	10
		Social Sciences	BSc Mgt. Studies	75
	PORT ANTONIO	Humanities & Education	BEd. Admin.	7
		Social Sciences	BSc Mgt. Studies	32
	SAVANAH-LA-MAR	Education	BEd. Admin.	34
		Social Sciences	BSc Mgt. Studies	60
	VERE	Humanities & Education	BEd. Admin.	2
		Social Sciences	BSc Mgt. Studies	10
<b>Total</b>				<b>633</b>

### Post Graduate Programmes

Country	Centre	Faculty	Programme	Total
JAMAICA	MONA CAMPUS	Medical Sciences	MSc Counselling	32