

SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES

Year ending July 31, 2006



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Overview

*F*or the academic year 2005-2006, the School of Continuing Studies maintained a strong focus on continuing education programmes, outreach and public education initiatives, research and community development projects and technical assistance.

The work of the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) focused on research, technical assistance, networking activities and outreach through public service. Work on the development and hosting of Early Childhood Development (ECD) related databases was a key activity during the academic year and grant funding from the IDB to create a database of interventions for children affected by HIV/AIDS was successfully negotiated.

The Trade Union Education Institute was renamed the Hugh Lawson Shearer Trade Union Education Institute in honour of Hugh Lawson Shearer, who initiated its founding along with Michael Manley and Hopeton Caven in 1963. The re-naming ceremony was chaired by the Vice Chancellor Prof. E. Nigel Harris and the Keynote Speaker was the Prime Minister, the Hon. P.J. Patterson. The Governor-General, Prof. the Hon. Kenneth Hall, the Most Hon. Denise Elder mire Shearer, and the leadership of the Trade Unions were among the participants.

For the first time the Social Welfare Training Centre (SWTC) offered the Regional Four Month Course in the Principles and Practice of Social Work in the Cayman Islands. The offer was in response to a request by the Department of Children & Family Services in the Cayman Islands to provide training for their para-professional social workers. The course was adapted to meet the needs of the department.

The Jamaica Eastern Centre achieved several of its targets set in the last academic year. The programme review of Computer Studies increased IT enrolment by over 50% and collaboration with the Ministry of Education

resulted in the launch of day classes for IT certification. Through the MOU Training Programme, the Centre began the training of Public Sector employees in a range of 10 week business and professional development courses.

For the year under review, the School in Montego Bay continued to play a pivotal role in providing part-time tertiary education for working adults in Western Jamaica. Trends noted in the enrolment profile of students may present opportunities for the University to offer a greater variety of distance programmes.

The School hosted the Fourth Campus Strategic Planning Workshop, June 26-27, 2006 at Mona. Resident Tutors and Administrative Assistants joined colleagues from the Office of the Board for Non-Campus Countries & Distance Education (BNCCDE), Distance Education Centre (DEC) and Tertiary Level Institutions Unit (TLIU) to discuss the proposals for restructuring the sector that falls under the BNCCDE. The two-day workshop was led by Mr. Larry Goldstein, UWT's Strategic Planning Consultant and Dr. Vivienne Roberts, (TLIU) Chair of the Fourth Campus Planning Taskforce.