

## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS



**Dr. Damien King**, PhD *NYU*, MSc *UWI*, BA *York*  
Head of Department

### **WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT**

**D**uring the year under review, the Department continued efforts towards achievement of the goals outlined in the strategic plan. The undergraduate programmes, particularly those in Economics and Banking and Finance, continue to be very popular and highly respected. Our revised first year courses are among the largest in the University, attracting large numbers of students from other departments and faculties. The MSc programme in Economics continues to be oversubscribed, with graduates typically being highly demanded in the public and private sectors. The popularity of our programmes is reflective of our emphasis on ongoing curriculum reform and public engagement. Faculty members continued to foster the visibility of the Department through public lectures, symposia, radio and television interviews, and articles in the printed media. This, combined with our research output and involvement in several scholarly, professional and public service activities, has resulted

in the Department of Economics continuing to make a valuable contribution to the UWI, Jamaica and the region.

Two new faculty members, Drs Nekeisha Spencer and Terence Yhip, were added to the Department during the year. Dr Spencer is a graduate of Binghamton University of New York where she holds a PhD and MA in Economics. She is a former student of the University of the West Indies, Mona where she graduated with MSc Economics and a BSc in Economics and Statistics. Terence Yhip, a visiting fellow for Academic Year 2015/16, holds a PhD in Economics from McGill University, Canada. The Department also said farewell to Miss Kimoy Sloley, Assistant Lecturer in the Department since August 2013 and Sherona Forrester, Assistant Lecturer for Academic year 2015/16. Miss Forrester is the recipient of the prestigious Rhodes scholarship for 2016. She has accepted a spot at the Oxford University, where she will read for an MPhil in Economics, starting in the academic year 2017/2018. Miss Petri-Ann Watson resigned her post as Senior Secretary in the Department to take up a position as Programme Coordinator in the Mona School of Business and Management. Dr Damien King's two terms as Head of Department came to an end on July 31, 2016. He was appointed to the post in the 2010/2011 academic year. Having received a research fellowship from the Principal's Office, Dr King is on one-year's research leave. The Department is extremely grateful for his years of leadership. Prof David Tennant replaced him as Head in August 2016.

The Department submitted a proposal to the Faculty of Social Sciences Faculty Board and Academic Board for a PhD programme in Economics. The objective of the programme is to provide students with strong foundations in microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometric theory, and to provide the resources and an enabling environment for students to acquire the skills necessary to conduct and disseminate advanced economic research. This will equip them to foster research-based policy formation at the highest level. This proposal will next be submitted to the Campus Committee for Graduate Studies and Research.

Undergraduate curriculum reform is ongoing. ECON3038: Operations Research II was changed to ECON3003 Game Theory for harmonization

purposes. ECON3034: Resource & Environmental Economics was introduced and will be offered in AY 2016–17. Environmental economics continues to play a significant role in developing and understanding solutions to current environmental problems. Its application is seen in issues relating to climate change, energy, pollution, water resource management, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation issues. This course addresses such issues by examining the underlying theories and tools that can be used to effectively guide policymakers in dealing with environmental challenges.

As part of the UWI Mona Research Days activities in February 2016, Drs Samuel Braithwaite and Terence Yhip created an interactive model of Jamaica's GDP, National Debt and other critical macroeconomic indicators. Using Microsoft Excel, the simple model sought to give users an appreciation of the relationship and interaction between key macroeconomic variables. It invited participants to pretend that they were the Minister of Finance for a day, and challenged them to consider the implications of the changes that they would make. For example, why not pay civil servants more? Why not lower interest rates rapidly and dramatically? Why not pump more money into subsidies and tax incentives? The well-received interactive model allowed the audience to see the impact of the changes in the macroeconomic variables that they had long been considering.

Professor Edward E Ghartey was voted President-elect and Program Chair of the African Finance and Economics Association (AFEA) for the 2017 annual Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) meeting, to be held in Chicago, USA. His election took place at the January 2016 ASSA meeting. The annual ASSA meeting is organized by the American Economic Association (AEA), the most prestigious economics society in the USA. The AEA was founded in 1885, and is headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, USA.

Professor Abdullahi Abdulkadri, on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 gave his inaugural Professorial Lecture, titled "Making informed decisions: The critical role of economics in evidenced-based decision making". During the lecture, he took the audience on a tour of his upbringing, his

scholarly and professional work, his professional relationships and experiences. Noting the many hats he has worn in terms of courses taught and fields of research, Professor Abdulkadri is indeed a Professor of Applied Economics. In underscoring the critical role of economics in the decision making process, he showcased his applied work in fields such as agricultural economics, environmental economics, energy economics, and health economics. Using a mixture of “complex” equations and practical explanations, he catered to the diverse audience of students, non-academics, and academics from different fields.

On Wednesday, March 30, 2016, Professor Mark Figueroa delivered a farewell lecture, to celebrate his years of service to the Department. The farewell lecture was titled, “Lessons from W. Arthur Lewis for Contemporary Economics.” This was a fitting topic, as Professor Figueroa spent much of his career researching and writing on the work of W. Arthur Lewis. Professor Figueroa officially left the DoE at the end of the 2014/2015 academic year.

The Department continued to engage in outreach activities during the academic year. On Wednesday, June 8, 2016, the Department of Economics in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean, hosted a half-day forum on “Enhancing the contribution of Preferential Trade Agreements to inclusive and equitable trade in the Caribbean.” The forum was opened by Dr. Damien King, Head of Department, and featured presentations from Dr. Marie Freckleton – Senior Lecturer in the Department, Dr. Andrea Pellandra of ECLAC, and Ms. Marcia Thomas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jamaica. The forum was attended by academics and members of the public and private sectors.

In response to Britain’s vote to leave the EU, the Office of the Vice Chancellor, in collaboration with the Department of Economics and the Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CAPRI), hosted a well-executed, and well attended, one day forum on June 29 titled, “BREXIT: Implications for the Caribbean.” The forum had two main parts; a panel discussion and a series of presentations. Presentations were made by persons in Jamaica, the wider Caribbean, the USA, and the UK.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT

At the beginning of the academic year, 2015/2016, Dr. Nadine McCloud-Rose was promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer.

## PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Braithwaite Samuel**, "Endogenous Growth and Human Capital: Revisiting the Lewis Model and Strategy". SALISES 17th Annual Conference. March 30, 2016
- **Clarke Christine**, "Does the Coach Matter? Evidence from Jamaica" The Second Academic Conference on Football, Library Multifunction Room, UWI Mona
- **Figueroa Mark** "Lessons from W. Arthur Lewis for Contemporary Economics" UWI Regional Headquarters, March 30, 2016
- **Ghartey Edward**, "Effects of exchange rates on prices and inflation in Ghana," Roundtable Conference, Institute of Economic Affairs, Accra, Ghana, July 29, 2016.
- **Ghartey Edward**, "Empirical evidence of the role of financial developing and economic growth in Caribbean countries" XLVII Annual Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance Conference. November 18, 2015.
- **Ghartey Edward**, "Empirical Evidence of Exchange Rate pass-through to prices and inflation in Ghana" Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA) organized by the American Economic Association, San Francisco. January 2, 2016.
- **Haughton Andre**, "Rethinking Economic Growth Theory, Escaping Third World Deadlock" IEA-RIDGE-IDB Roundtable on Economic Development and Growth 100 years after Arthur Lewis's Birth. October 14, 2015.
- **Haughton Andre**, "Monetary Mechanism and Interest Rate Speed of Adjustment in Jamaica" XLVII Annual Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance Conference. November 18, 2015.
- **Keil Jan**, "Financial Constraints and Investment – Evidence from

- U.S. Companies" IEA-RIDGE-IDB Roundtable on Economic Development and Growth 100 years after Arthur Lewis' Birth, Finance and Economics Conference, Frankfurt, Germany, Aug 5 –7, 2015
- **Keil Jan**, "The Greek Debt Crisis – A Critical Perspective", Embassy of Germany, November 4, 2015
  - **King Damien** "Correspondent Banking" JN Sponsored Forum, January 19, 2016
  - **King Damien** "How do Countries Get out of Debt? October 14, 2015
  - **King Damien**, "Asymmetric Bias and Self-Fulfilling Sovereign Defaults" Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association Annual Conference, October 15–17, 2015 (co-authored with David Tennant and Marlon Tracey)
  - **King Damien**, "Lessons of the Greek Debt Crisis" Embassy of Germany, November 4, 2015
  - **Spencer, Nekeisha**, "Green Economy: A Tool for Sustainable Development" Discussant, Launch of the Green Economy Scoping Study for Jamaica, Kingston, Jamaica, March 22, 2016
  - **Spencer, Nekeisha**, "The Impact of Hurricanes on Scholastic Achievement" Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies Conference, Barbados, March 30, 2016
  - **Spencer, Nekeisha**, "From Vision to Reality: A Backcasting Model of Jamaica's Renewable Energy Target International Conference Santiago de Cuba, June 18–20, 2016 (with Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Alecia Evans, Sidonia Mckenzie and members of the PROCEED team)
  - **Spencer Nekeisha**, "Hurricanes? Let's Make a Move" Venice Summer Institute Workshop on Climate Change and Migration, Venice, Italy, July 22–23, 2016 (with Mikhail-Ann Urquhart)
  - **Tennant David**, "Sound Banking Systems and Economic Growth" Eastern Caribbean Central Bank's Annual Conference with Commercial Banks. November 4–6, 2015

- **Yhip Terence**, “Credit Analysis in the 21st Century – Is the Glass Really Half Empty?” UWI George Willie Lecture Series, March 23, 2016

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS RESEARCH SEMINARS**

- **Braithwaite Samuel** “Human Capital Flight and Growth, Revisiting the Lewis Model and Strategy”, February 11, 2016
- **Ghartey Edward** “The Causal Nexus between Growth & Financing Development in Trinidad and Tobago” September 10, 2015
- **Haughton Andre** “The Speed of Adjustment and the Monetary Mechanism in Jamaica, October 29, 2015
- **Keil Jan** “Is Lending Biased Against Certain Sectors”, January 28, 2016
- **Whitely Patrice and Spencer Nekeisha** “Who gets the Job? Sex, Class and Discrimination”. April 14, 2016

#### **PUBLICATION**

##### **Refereed Book:**

- **Tennant, D** and Tracey, M, *Sovereign Debt and Credit Rating Bias*, Palgrave-MacMillan. December 2015.

##### **Refereed Journal Articles**

- Fray-Aiken, C. M., Wilks, R. J., **Abdulkadri, A. O.**, & McCaw-Binns, A. M. "Cost of care of chronic non-communicable diseases in Jamaican patients: the role of obesity." *Farmeconomia. Health Economics and Therapeutic Pathways* 17.2 (2016): 81-95.
- **Abdulkadri, A.O.** "Big Data in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Policy Implications for Official Statistics". *MSBM Business Review*, Jan-Feb (2016): 46-48.
- **Spencer, N.** and Solomon Polachek, “Hurricane Watch: Battening Down the Effects of the Storm on Local Crop Production”, *Ecological Economics* (2015) 120: 234-240

- Whitely, P “ “A” is for Attendance: The Impact of Class Attendance on Student Performance”, the *Journal of Education and Development in the Caribbean*, Volume 15, No. 1, 2016.

#### **Technical Report**

- **Abdulkadri, A., Evans, A.** and Ash, T. “An Assessment of Big Data for Official Statistics in the Caribbean: Challenges and Opportunities”, UN ECLAC- Studies and Perspectives Series – The Caribbean – No. 48, 2016.
- **Spencer, N**, “Natural Disaster Sovereign Risk: The Case of the Agriculture Sector in Jamaica”, World Bank November 2015.
- **Whitely Patrice** and Christie Tamoya “Improving Tax Compliance in Jamaica” USAID, October 2016.

#### **PUBLIC SERVICE**

##### **Dr Andre Haughton**

- Member, Private Sector of Jamaica Economic Policy committee (PSOJ EPC)
- Member, Inter-American Development Bank Civil Society Consultation

##### **Professor David Tennant**

- Member, Supervisory Committee of the Bank of Jamaica

##### **Professor Edward Ghartey**

- President-elect and Program Chair of African Finance and Economics Association for 2017

##### **Dr Terrence Yhip**

- Panellist for Tax Forum at the Hugh Lawson Shearer Union Education Institute for Social Development and Research Open Campus March 20, 2016.



## Department of Economics

### Dr Christine Clarke

- Member, Board of the Bank of Jamaica
- Panellist for Holding Leaders Accountable in Economics and Governance, AZ Preston Hall March 10, 2016
- Special Lecture on Estimating Economic Returns for Social Investments, SALISES Graduate Cohort, March 10, 2016

### STUDENTS

The number of students registered in the Department's undergraduate programme is as follows:

<b>Major/Minor</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Banking and Finance Major	486
Banking & Finance Major Economics Major	97
Business, Economic & Social Statistics	1
Economics Major	455
Economics Major Statistics Major	56
Economics Minor	102
Statistics Major	22
Statistics Minor	8

The number of students registered in the Department's graduate programme is as follows:

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Total</b>
MSc Economics	57
MSc International Economics & International Law	1