



# FACULTY OF SPORT

Year Ending July 31st, 2022

Dean



**Dr. Akshai Mansingh**

*MBBS (UWI), FACS, MSpMed (UNSW),  
DM (Ortho)*

# OVERVIEW

## Executive Summary

This academic year was another challenging year for students and staff. Teaching remained virtual though cross campus teaching was strengthened across all Academies. Whereas academic standards were maintained, the lack of sporting activities impacted on the overall student experience. On the field we continued to see our students excel at international and national levels and our teams that did compete performed creditably. Students competed at the Olympics in 2021 and at the World Championships in 2022. Two main grant funded projects were completed. The collaboration with CREPS of the French Antilles on research on coaching education in the Caribbean region was followed by a further grant to set up coaching courses. A UNDP funded project on Climate Change and Sport is also being followed by implementation of recommendations from that study.

The Faculty launched its first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on West Indies Cricket: Our Story. This was well received with participants from all continents. There was also collaboration in other conferences across sister faculties. As countries eased restrictions on movement, we hosted visiting teams, with the Rugby North America tournament being the largest at Mona. This was televised by SportsMax and saw integration of students in the organisation and running of the tournament as part of their practical experience. This integrated approach is a model we hope to follow going forward. We welcomed our first Deputy Dean, Mrs. Amanda Reifer, who will concentrate on Business Development and International Partnerships. With the worst of the pandemic behind us, we look forward to more student engagement and sporting activities in the upcoming years.

## ACCESS

The Faculty welcomed its fourth cohort of students despite a 24 percent decline in new student enrolment across the four campuses in comparison with 2020/2021. Our highest intake since inception has been the pre-pandemic year 2019/2020.

**Table 1: New Student Enrolment 2021/2022**

	Cave Hill	Mona	Open Campus	St. Augustine	Total
Certificate				4	4
Undergraduate	34	15	41	14	104
Graduate	7	14	n/a	n/a	21

Scholarships were offered to 65 athletes at Mona. The third award of the Dr. Tulsi Dyal Singh scholarship at Mona was made to finalising Sport Coaching student Milissa Fletcher. At Cave Hill, 5 undergraduate scholarships and 2 grants were awarded.

### **Student Achievement**

#### **Graduation 2021**

A total of forty-one (41) graduates were awarded their degrees from the combined graduation ceremonies at Cave Hill, Mona and St. Augustine.

#### **Dean's List**

Thirty-five (35) students of the Cave Hill, Mona and St. Augustine Academies of Sport were recognised for achieving the Dean's List for 2021/2022.

#### **Athletes of the Year 2021**

Two of our students received the award of Athlete of the Year in their respective sport at the RJRGLEANER Sports Foundation National Awards held on January 21, 2022 in Jamaica. Ms. Shauna-Kay Hines, a second-year student enrolled in the BSc Sport Leadership and Management programme at the Open Campus Academy of Sport, received the award for Para Taekwondo. She was Jamaica's first taekwondo representative at the Paralympic Games held in Japan in 2021. Ms. Llori Sharpe, a third-year student enrolled in the Sport Sciences programme at the Cave Hill Academy of Sport, received the award for Cycling. Llori has been an outstanding triathlete who is now focussed on professional cycling and has made the Dean's List each academic year.

#### **Chevening Scholar**

Ms Sherneil Charlery, 2019 graduate of the BSc Sport Sciences programme, is a 2021 Chevening Scholar and is currently pursuing MSc Sport and Exercise Biomechanics at Leeds Beckett University.

### **Teaching, Learning and Student Development**

The Faculty continued cross campus teaching between the Mona and St. Augustine campuses with the use of the Cross Campus Moodle platform. The Cave Hill Academy of Sport joined in the delivery of one of their courses via this platform to students of the Mona campus. Through the platform, students of the Open Campus Academy of Sport were able to register for some courses which were not available to them in their usual mode. Students pursuing the BSc. Sport Kinetics practicums at Mona were given real world experience in fitness training at the UWI Sports Medicine Clinic. They were also able to assist in the training of the national hockey team. Students in the BSc Sport Coaching programme were allowed to have first-hand experience training student athletes. These opportunities have helped to prepare them for life after the degree. Onsite practicums for graduate students were successfully completed and students benefited significantly from the experiential learning which was integrated into the Rugby Tournament activities in July. A career exposition session organised specifically for students in the Faculty at Mona was held in February 2022. The session was planned in collaboration with the Office of Placement & Career Services as part of its Annual Career Awareness Month Activities in February. Two guests in the sport journalism/media industry were invited to have an open discussion with the students. The students were very appreciative of the session and recommended that similar sessions be organised in the future.

### **Programme Development**

The Faculty focussed on income generating short courses this year. Workshops in Applied Governance and Sports Injury Management and certificate courses in Sport Broadcasting Level 2 and Sport Marketing were successfully developed and delivered.

**Cross campus comments were solicited for two 3 credit free electives** Sport Experience and Sport Marketing. However, these were not received in time for submission to AQAC. We plan to advance same during

2022/2023. Our first foray into MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) was very successful. With the support of the Office of Online Learning we were able to develop the content for the course “West Indies Cricket: Our Story” and it was launched on June 27, 2022 on the Future Learn platform. The first report on the course statistics, confirmed that there were 66 active learners out of the 117 joiners who accessed the course during the period. We have received very positive comments from the learners with some stating that the course has either met or exceeded their expectations.

## ALIGNMENT

### Research and Innovation

The Faculty hosted the inaugural Sports Law Conference in collaboration with the Faculties of Law at Cave Hill, Mona and St. Augustine in September 2021. Although no income was generated, the conference was well received by all the participants. Material from the conference was used in the delivery of the Sport Law courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The Mona Academy of Sport contributed to the Faculty’s research output with two peer reviewed articles. Faculty members from all campuses contributed to the fifteen (15) articles published in the Sport Matters column of the Trinidad Guardian. Research culture in the Faculty was fostered during the year with the inclusion of eight (8) article submissions from our graduate students at the Mona Academy to the Trinidad Guardian. Six students of the Mona Academy had articles that were published this year. The Faculty successfully completed a collaborative research project involving the Resource Center for Sports Expertise and Performance in the Antilles Guyane (CREPS Antilles Guyane), and the Faculty of Sport Sciences Université des Antilles in November 2021. The project sought to examine several aspects of elite coaching in the region – including an identification of educational needs of coaches as well as the challenges faced by them and administrators. Plans have already been made to advance to Phase 2 of the project based on the report.

A Climate Change and Sport Study was commissioned by the Faculty to guide its work in relation to Climate Change and Sport in the Caribbean region. Funding valued at USD22,500 was procured through the UNDP. The final report was received in December 2021 and shared publicly in a discussion on Climate Change and Sport. This was a feature segment of

the webinar titled UWI-UNDP Public Policy Think Tank for a Blue Economy. The first phase of this study focused on athletics, cricket, and football, three of the most popular sports in the region. The study will be used to inform the development of academic courses and research as well as the Faculty's outreach activities aimed at producing SDG-engaged, well-rounded graduates and at ensuring that existing and future sport facilities are more climate-resilient.

## National Engagement and Outreach

Under the oversight of the Faculty, the project management and technical consultancies to finalise a business case and business plan for the Usain Bolt UWI Sport & Exercise Medicine Centre, was successfully completed. The project was funded by the Government of Jamaica through the Public Investment Management Committee (PIMC). Given the completion of the consultancy, the creation of the Centre was identified as one of several legacy projects for implementation by the Government in celebration of the nation's Diamond Jubilee in 2022.

The Faculty maintained its partnership agreements with CPL, Trinidad Guardian, Jamaica Cricket Association, Jamaica Hockey Federation, KSAFA, National Powerlifting Association (Jamaica), SporTT (Trinidad), and Americas Federation of Netball Associations (AFNA). In addition to the AFNA Governance & Leadership workshop, assistance was also rendered to the organisation in the form of organising and facilitating their strategic planning process. The same assistance was also rendered to the Trinidad and Tobago Netball Federation. In both instances, plans were submitted and approved by the executives.

An MOU was signed with Rugby League Jamaica Ltd. (RLJ) and the Jamaica Rugby Football Union (JRFU) on July 15, during the Rugby Americas North (RAN) Women's 12s and Men's Under-19s Tournament. Discussions are also very advanced for the signing of an MOU with Melbourne Polytechnic which will feature collaboration to create an environment for seamless transition from academia to application for sport professionals. It is expected that this will be signed early in 2022/2023. The main outreach of the Faculty this year was through its wellness initiatives for the respective campus communities on the Open Campus, Mona and St. Augustine Campuses. At Mona, the UWI Moves programme was held weekly with adjustments made as necessary for COVID-19 restrictions. At Open Campus, OC Burn featured online workout sessions, aerobics and free weight sessions. Their fitness publication OC Bien/Well continued to be published and disseminated to staff monthly. While at St. Augustine, the Academy continued its Online Fitness Sessions via Zoom during the period. This was offered to the campus community free of charge and was conducted by our five gym attendants.

# AGILITY

## Regional and International Collaboration

The Mona Academy of Sport successfully renewed a contract with PUMA to supply gears for the Mona track and field team for another three (3) years. The Faculty explored partnership feasibilities with Rajasthan Royals, CANOC, World Athletics, University of Guantanamo Cuba, University of Regina, Pan Am Sports Association. These will be advanced in 2022/2023.

## Income Generation

The Faculty earned modest income from the short courses and rental of our facilities during the year. We were elated with the F&GPC, Mona, approval of the five-year lease of the swimming pool at the Mona Bowl which will result in significant cost savings for the Mona Academy of Sport.

## Staff Matters

Mrs. Amanda Reifer was appointed as Deputy Dean, Business Development and International Partnerships with effect from January 3, 2022.

Mr. Kervin Jean completed his tenure as Acting Head of the St. Augustine Academy of Sport on July 31st. The Faculty extends sincere gratitude to Mr. Jean for ably fulfilling his additional duties and warmly welcomes incoming head, Dr. Anand Rampersad.

## Resignations

The following members of staff resigned from their positions in the Faculty:

Ms. Katheryn Stewart – December 2021

Ms. Sharnice Small – July 2022