



THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT

Departmental Report August 2020 - July 2021

Dr. Suzette A. Haughton · **Head of Department**

BSc, MSc, UWI, PhD, KCL

ACCESS

STUDENTS

The 2020-21 academic year started with students being unable to attend face to face classes for a second academic year due to the global Covid-19 pandemic. However, the pandemic has not slowed the academic performance of the Department of Government students. Ten (10) of the Department's students won the following awards in recognition of their academic achievements:

- Ann Spackman Prize
- Paulette Wilson Prize
- Rupert Lewis Prize
- Archie Singham Memorial Prize
- Carl Stone Prize
- Nethersole Prize
- Gladstone E. Mills Prize
- Sir Laurence Lindo Prize
- Rosina Wiltshire Prize

The pandemic has also not slowed the national and international contribution of the Department of Government's students. As such, during the 2020-21 academic period David Salmon, an undergraduate student of the Department, published his 100th article in the

nationally acclaimed The Gleaner newspaper. On February 11, 2021, Glenville Mcleod, a PhD student in the Department of Government, received the Governor General Achievement Award for his voluntary activities in the parish of St. Mary. On the weekend of March 12-14, 2021, the UWI Model United Nations (MUN) Team competed in the University of California, Berkeley's 25th Model UN conference. This took place virtually and consisted of two full days of committee sessions, along with out-of-committee work and social sessions, followed by a closing ceremony on the last day. Six delegates represented team UWI in the following committees: Economic and Financial Committee, debating Southeast Asian Economies; the US Senate, debating Data Privacy; the UN Security Council (double delegate), debating the Sudanese Uprising; and the Council of Liberty and Nixon Administration, both crisis committees debated the events of the Nixon administration. Ronaldo Richards, the second-year law delegate in the Economic and Finance Committee (ECOFIN) won a verbal commendation for his excellent performance in the Committee. While two delegates were not able to complete the conference due to personal issues, the team benefitted significantly from the experience of preparing for and competing in the conference. They also gained critical experience (especially among the younger Model UNers (MUNers)) in conducting a conference of this style, where there is a focus on small, specialist, crisis-orientated committees. This will be indispensable in strengthening the skills of those delegates who did not have the opportunity to compete while also strengthening UWI's MUN capacity. Two members of the team's members, Sandre Rhoden and Sydney St. Claire-Douglas, won the Resolution Project which is an internal social venture competition that is held at Harvard National Model United Nations (HNMUN). Both Sandre and Sydney submitted a proposal and made a presentation on how students in poor urban and rural communities could benefit from the use of telecommunication infrastructure and devices in their academic development. Based on their presentation, they won the grand prize on US\$5,000 to be used for a social project in Jamaica. The Department's Graduate/Staff seminar series continued via the Blackboard Collaborate online platform with presentations from MPhil and PhD candidates Howard Reid and Robert Miller respectively. During the 2020-21 academic year, the Department also hosted the PhD oral examination for Mrs. Victoria Angus-White. Mrs. Angus-White presented her PhD thesis titled "An investigation into the relationship between political campaigning and voter apathy and its influence on Jamaica's democracy". Mrs. Angus-White research was supervised by Dr. Stacy Ann Wilson. In an effort to facilitate an empowering, participatory and collaborative learning environment for students, moreso in a year of no physical contact between the teaching staff and student population, the Department hosted a Student Staff Liaison meeting on April 15, 2020. At the meeting the student course representatives were given the opportunity to have fruitful dialogue with the staff in relation to the quality and effectiveness of the courses being offered. The input from the student representatives provided the

Department's teaching staff with much needed data to enhance the student online learning experience. To enhance cross-Faculty cooperation and introduce dynamic courses and programmes to our students, the Department of Government alongside the Faculty of Humanities and Education launched the BA History and International Relations programme. The BA History and International Relations programme is therefore an interdepartmental programme that covers two broad disciplines – History and International Relations. It is suited for students who want to develop their critical thinking skills about the importance of history in political decisions and in current governmental challenges confronting the world. Three leading departments will offer this programme in the upcoming academic year (September 2021)– History and Archaeology, Modern Languages and Literature and the Department of Government. The Department of History and Archaeology will offer the history courses, the foreign language component will be offered by the Department of Modern Languages and Literature and the International Relations courses by the Department of Government. During the 2020-21 academic period, the Department sought to lend its voice to the complex issues faced by women locally and internationally. As such, faculty members; Dr. Lisa Vasciannie, organized and moderated the launch of the UN Women-Alison Anderson McLean Internship on Friday March 12, 2021. Dr. Garry Conille, Resident UN Coordinator commended the Department of Government and the Faculty of Social Sciences for this initiative. The launch focused on women in leadership, gender equality, and women in education. The paid Internship will be open to two students from the Department of Government and the Faculty of Social Sciences. Prof. Eris Schoburgh also moderated the launch of the Women in Local Government Network, on the invitation of the Association of Local Government Authority, and in the dual capacity of lead researcher on local government in the Caribbean and member of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum's (CLGF) Board, April 9, 2021.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

During the academic year, the Department held several guest lectures with the aim of bridging the gaps between theoretical and practical knowledge. These lectures offered students the opportunity to see the real-world application of the knowledge being taught by the Department's teaching staff. Below is a list of guest lectures facilitated by the Department:

- Organisation of American States (OAS) Assistant Secretary General Nestor Mendez conducted a general presentation on the OAS.
- Ms. Jennifer Lester of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) spoke on professional opportunities in international organizations.
- Dr. Calvin McDonald of the IMF spoke on the role of the IMF in promoting global stability.
- Chief Richard Currie, recently elected Leader of the Trelawny Town Maroons and two

members from the Diplomatic Affairs and Foreign Relations portfolio, Alex and Chevaune Moore Minott spoke on "Sovereignty and the Maroon State". The Department's teaching staff also participated in several national and international knowledge sharing academic seminars. These seminars allow for the constant growth of junior and senior staff members through the generation of new knowledge and the presentation of research materials. During the period, the following teaching staff participated in academic seminars:

- Dr. Sonia Gatchair presented on "Ethics in the Public Service" on May 24, 2021, to a group of Government of Jamaica (GoJ) Ministry of Health professionals.
- Mr. Jean-Pierre Murray presented a conference paper entitled, "Intersectionality and the "women-and-children" bias in Human Trafficking" at the Caribbean Studies Association Conference held virtually on June 1, 2021. Mr. Murray also presented twice at the International Studies Association 2021 Annual Convention between on the 6th and 9th of April. He presented two conference papers, (1) Organizational Development and Norm Creation in the Antitrafficking Regime – the UNODC and Human Rights; and (2) The Migration-Security Nexus in the Global South: Securitizing People on the Move in Hispaniola.
- Prof. Eris Schoburgh presented recent research findings at the International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM) Conference held April 20-23, 2021. Title of her paper was "Organisational Response-ability in Local Government: Lessons from managing the COVID 19 pandemic in a Small-island Developing State". Prof. Schoburgh and Dr. Sonia Gatchair presented their paper entitled "Legislating Policy Response-ability in Local Government: Challenges and Prospects" at the 5th Biennial International Conference on Public Policy held July 5-9, 2021. Prof. Schoburgh also participated in the annual Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) Conference, May 31-June 4, 2021 as panel chair and presenter.
- Dr. Lisa Vasciannie presented her paper titled "Electoral Politics in Latin America and the Caribbean: Emerging Trends in Electoral Observation in the Commonwealth Caribbean" at the MPSA Virtual Conference, while Dr. Yonique Campbell presented an academic paper at Oxford University which looked at COVID 19 in the Caribbean.
- Dr. Suzette Haughton participated in an inaugural roundtable with leading scholars from the University of the West Indies, and King's College London's School of Security on March 31, 2021. The roundtable sessions focused on the critical implications of the pandemic for international security and climate change. Her presentation was entitled

'Caribbean Climate Security and COVID-19 Pandemic'. On December 4, 2020, Dr. Haughton also participated in a session on Caribbean perspectives on criminology and criminal justice and discussed "the nature of Jamaica's drug trafficking". She was also interviewed on January 22, 2021 by the UK-based award winning TV and radio presenter, Juliette Foster, on "the regional mobility trends in the Caribbean". Dr. Haughton also led an academic collaboration with Dr. Michelsen of the Department of War Studies, King's College London on possibilities for academic collaboration. Dr. Haughton also participated in a UWI Faculty of Social Sciences seminar on publishing despite competing challenges.

In addition to academic seminars, the Department utilized other mechanisms of professional development aimed at enhancing the output of junior and senior teaching staff. One of these mechanisms include the establishment of research clusters. These clusters facilitate a collegial approach to the development of research while encouraging senior staffers to work alongside junior members in a mentorship a capacity, equally searching for recognition of research outcomes. The development of research clusters also acts as pragmatic solution for a teaching staff that is often asked by the university to carry out numerous time sensitive and competing roles while ensuring that their academic publication annual quota is met. The 1st meeting of the research cluster on Sustainable Urbanisation and Local Economic Development in the Caribbean was convened on February 9, 2021. At this point the cluster is composed of nine (9) core members and one (1) affiliate. The cluster has resulted in a strategy paper, a cross-university research cluster on sustainable urbanization which was accepted by Professor Carol Archer, UTECH and a video presentation on sustainable urbanization in the Commonwealth made during Summer 2020, will be used by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) in support of its call to action on this critical issue and in preparation for the 2021 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

PUBLICATIONS

During the 2020-21 academic year, the following books, book chapters and articles were published:

- Clarke, Christine and **Nelson, Carol** (2020) "Contextualizing Jamaica's Relationship with the International Monetary Fund", Palgrave publisher, November.
- Clarke, Christine and **Nelson, Carol** (2021) "The Evolving Relationship with the International Monetary Fund – There and Back Again", Palgrave publisher, May.
- Haughton, Suzette A. (2021) Jamaica's cyber-security: policies, laws and strategies in Scott N. Romaniuk and Mary Manjikian eds Routledge Companion to Global Cyber-Secu-

city Strategy, Routledge: London and New York, pp.473-483.

- Smith, Trevor and Houghton, Suzette (2021) 'Faculty of Social Sciences Student Satisfaction with Emergency Remote Teaching at the UWI during the COVID-19 pandemic', The UWI Quality Education Forum, Number 25, May, pp. 13-37.
- Vasciannie, Lisa Ann (2021) "Jamaica and Covid-19: issues of law and policy in the first year" The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs, Vol. 110, Issue 4, pp.477-491.
- Walters, Shinique (2021) "International Aid Under the Microscope: European Union Project Cycle Management in Jamaica", UWI Press, April.

ALIGNMENT

PUBLIC SERVICE

During the 2020-21 academic year:

- Prof. Eris Schoburgh assumed the presidency of the Caribbean Studies Association; engaged in all preparatory tasks appertaining to this extra-university service and scholarly activity.
- Dr. Yonique Campell became Senior Policy Advisor to the Minister in the Ministry of Health Wellness effective January 2021.
- Prof. Lloyd Waller established a Social Sciences Vision Research and Policy Group. This cluster is committed to monitoring the country's progress towards the successful completion of Jamaica's Vision 2030 national development plan by investigating and identifying the risk and success factors that will either derail or accelerate the country's progress towards attainment of the Vision 2030 mandate.

AGILITY

Dr. Gavin Daley, along with members of his research team (including Prof. Adullahi Abdulkadri), won the 2020 UWI Principal's Award for Research for the Faculty of Social Sciences. Prof. Denise Eldemire-Shearer made this announcement in February 2021. The areas of the award were:

- Research project attracting the most research funds, and
- Research project with the greatest business, development and economic impact.

Dr. Daley received this Award for his research entitled 'the Tourism Demand Study'. The late announcement was due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

THE DEPARTMENT'S QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW: Access, Alignment and Agility

The Department's 2020 Quality Assurance Review identified nine (9) main areas requiring improvement. Five of the areas are on teaching and learning, one on research, two related to resource matters and one to staffing matters. The Department presented its Plan of Action, as a response to the Quality Assurance Review, on May 6, 2021 to the Faculty of Social Sciences Faculty Board and on June 17, 2021 to UWI's Academic Board. Concerning the status of action, the Department has completed twenty two percent (22%) of the points raised that required improvements. The remaining seventy eight percent (78%) are partially completed. The Department will continue to implement its detailed Plan of Action in the 2021-2022 academic year and beyond.

