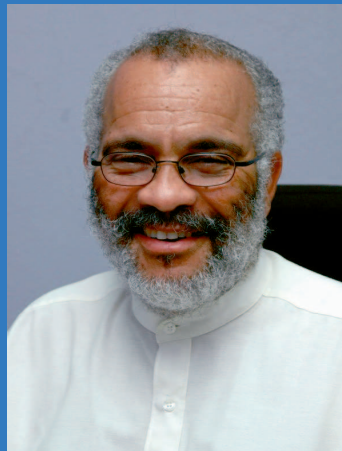


FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
AND EDUCATION

Year ending July 31, 2008



Dr. Swithin Wilmot, BA UWI, DPhil Oxf – Dean

Overview

The Physical Infrastructure

*T*he Faculty continues to face physical infrastructural challenges to accommodate the increased intake of students in the recent past, and the resulting shortage of space threatens sustaining the quality of programmes offered by some departments. Some academic staff offices are now being shared, which in turn, affects the ability of staff to perform their required counseling and student advising functions in privacy.

Additionally, and generally across the Faculty, the deterioration of the physical plant placed a strain on the budget resulting in over-spending on plant maintenance. In this regard, one is pleased that there is now a firm commitment to repair and redesign the Faculty's bathroom facilities that are in great demand from increased student numbers and because of where the Faculty is situated. Meanwhile, work that got underway on the Faculty's Graduate Students' Lounge stalled, though recent assurance from the Projects Office indicates that it will resume shortly.

On a more positive note, the general painting of the Faculty in attractive colours was a significant morale boosting facelift that coincided with the Convocation of Graduates in July 2008 that marked the 60th Anniversary of the UWI. Further, the Faculty applauds the decision to name the Old Arts Block, with administrative offices and lectures' offices, the Roy Augier Building, thereby honouring a cornerstone of the Faculty.

Transformational Academic Initiatives

Various initiatives were pursued in response to the objectives of the University's strategic plan for 2007-2112.

The first priority in the Faculty was to lay the groundwork for the planning process by arranging “in house training/exposure” for Heads of Departments who were to lead the process in their respective departments. The Faculty drew on the expertise of colleagues in the Education Section who put on a workshop for Heads of Department on December 6, 2007, focusing on the following themes:

- Approaching the curriculum reform process
- Transforming the teaching-learning process
- The importance of assessment in teaching and learning
- Ways to develop the UWI graduate as an effective communicator

Related presentations were also made at Faculty Board meetings and these themes guided the deliberations at the annual three-day Faculty Retreat for Heads of Departments, May 5-7, 2008. Various initiatives were agreed and are being pursued.

First, Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies (OBUS) is to conduct a review of English Language courses in the Faculty to ensure that they are in line with the Strategic Plan profile of the ideal UWI graduate as one with developed writing and analytical skills.

Second, the Humanities and Education sections of the Faculty will collaborate on new Bachelor of Arts degrees combining disciplines such as History, Literature, French, Spanish, as well as Math, IT etc. so as to provide quality trained teachers who are grounded in the content of their respective disciplines. This will provide the UWI with a niche in teacher training since the Ministry of Education will accept such graduates as trained teachers.

Third, preparation of a new BA Programme in History and Heritage, Heritage or Heritage Studies got underway and will underscore the relevance of History to nation building.

Fourth, following on a OBUS Quality Review in 2007, reform of the undergraduate programme in the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) has actively begun. When completed, CARIMAC graduates will be more competitive regionally and globally, and UWI will be placed to deal effectively with increasing competition in Media and Communication training across the region. Fifth, the

Department of Library and Information Studies will develop a specialization in Archives and Records Management

Work continued on the restructuring of the School of Education (SOE) into a Graduate School of Education that would more effectively participate in the education transformation process in Jamaica. Between January and June 2008, Professor Elsa Leo-Rhynie led a task force drawn from the Department of Educational Studies and from the Institute of Education. Its deliberations focused on the changed teacher education landscape with several of the local Teachers' Colleges now offering Bachelors degrees, and in some instances, postgraduate programmes in conjunction with overseas universities. While several proposals from the task force are being fine tuned, it was agreed that the post of Director of the SOE would be delinked from its constituent departments, and the new Director be appointed as a Deputy Dean of the FHE, with the mandate to consolidate the restructuring of the SOE into the Graduate School of Education, in keeping with the objectives of the 2007-2112 University's Strategic Plan.

Generally, the Faculty's approach is guided by the reality of limited additional resources and the bottom line is the improved utilization of what already exists. Indeed, since our commitment to our students is our greatest single resource, the focus is to extract incremental improvement while visioning the possible when additional human and physical resources become available.

Other Academic Initiatives

Curriculum Renewal continued apace in respective departments with the reviewing of existing courses and the introduction of new ones. Their aims and objectives, content and evaluation were in line with the Strategic Plan's profile of the ideal UWI graduate: critical and creative thinkers, problem solvers, team players, and lifelong, self-motivated learners.

Under the aegis of the Institute of Caribbean Studies, the Bachelor's Degree in Cultural Enterprise and Entertainment Management was offered for the first time and students responded enthusiastically. Given plans the degree's interdisciplinary nature, moves are underway to strengthen cross-faculty collaboration with the Department of Management Studies.

The post-graduate Diploma in Educational Administration was approved and work started on designing the Masters in Instructional Leadership. Also, the *Journal of Education and Development* was established in the Department of Educational Studies through the use of income-generating funds. Together with the *Caribbean Journal of Education* published by the Institute of Education, colleagues will be better placed to share their research.

In collaboration with the Society for Caribbean Linguistics, the Department of Language Linguistics and Philosophy hosted the inaugural **Caribbean Language and Linguistics Institute** from 30th June to 25th July, 2008, as part of the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of UWI. The Institute accommodated approximately 80 students, 30 from St. Augustine and Cave Hill and 35 from Mona, and the remaining 15 came from the University of Guyana, University of Puerto Rico and from universities in North America and Europe, who were exposed to outstanding regional and international scholars in the discipline of Linguistics.

Graduate Studies

A significant challenge is the provision of quality supervision for students, particularly for the Cultural Studies MPhil and PhD programmes which were permitted to grow without due consideration to resources.

The throughput rate of postgraduate students in the Faculty remains a matter of concern, despite various efforts to improve the situation, including workshops on conducting research and thesis writing. The level of funding available to both full-time and part-time graduate students remains a matter of major concern as far too many graduate students at some point during their studies, request, and are granted Leave of Absence for financial reasons. This is a systemic problem and not one that is confined to the FHE. How to ameliorate the financial difficulties faced by the majority of our postgraduate students remains one of the Faculty's major challenges.

Meanwhile, the Faculty welcomes the restoration of the Elsa Goveia Postgraduate Scholarship in History, and is gratified that three of the sixteen candidates who gained PhDs during the year did so with **High Commendation**.

International Conferences

Symposia and Conferences were held that marked the 60th Anniversary of the University of the West Indies.

On December 4-7, 2007, the Institute of Education, in collaboration with The Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture; Ministry of Commerce, Science and Technology, the Jamaica Teachers' Association and ICT4D Jamaica, successfully staged **EduVision 2007**, an International Biennial Conference on Technology in Education and Human Services with the theme **ICT and Education: Sustaining a Nation's Development**.

Between January 9-12, 2008, the Department of Literatures in English partnered with the Philip Sherlock Centre for Creative Arts and with the West Indian Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies, and hosted "**Noh Lickle Twang!**", **Conference in honour of Louise Bennett-Coverley**. The valuable seminar papers will form the basis of special editions of the *Journal of West Indian Literature* and the *Jamaica Journal*, respectively.

The Institute of Caribbean Studies staged the 3rd Conference on Caribbean Culture, **Global Reggae: Jamaican Popular Music a Yard and Abroad**, between February 18 and 25, 2008. The conference, which attracted wide participation, was streamed live on the internet, and allowed visitors to log on from across the globe - from China to the Caribbean.

On March 13-14, 2008, the School of Education mounted its second Literacy Symposium under the theme, **Literacy for Lifelong Learning: Responding to the Challenge**. It highlighted research and practice aimed at raising the literacy levels of students coming out of the primary and secondary education system and around 450 persons participated.

International Partnerships

The Institute of Education's Caribbean Centre for Teacher Training (CETT) Project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) since 2006, sustained its focus on the improvement of reading in eight Commonwealth Caribbean countries, provides innovative leadership and develops materials to strengthen reading instruction in the early grades of primary school. The project utilized information and communications technology to facilitate

information sharing among institutions and to increase the scope of teachers' access to training. A total of 208 schools, 978 teachers and 22,053 students have benefitted from this second phase of the project.

In partnership with UNESCO, CARIMAC's Caribbean Media Resource Centre, maintains an online resource for regional media and communication professionals, and the Jamaican Language Unit (JLU)/Unit for Caribbean Language Research (UCLR) expanded its website for Caribbean Indigenous and Endangered Languages, at <http://www.mona.uwi.edu/dllp/jlu/ciel/pages/intro.htm>

The Department of History and Archaeology in partnership with the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (DAACS), based at the University of Virginia, USA, carried out excavations on the erstwhile Papine Slave Village site on the Mona Campus in January 2008. It is expected that the collaboration will continue and the findings will further underscore the Mona Campus as a rich heritage site.

The staff and student exchange programme with the Department of Literatures in English and Malmo University, Sweden, continued into its second year with mutually beneficial results.

Two new foreign assistants, one under the Colombia ICETEX-UWI agreement and the other under the UWI/Spain MOU, joined the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures which also continued to enjoy professional services under agreements with Japan, China, and France. Also, students in the Department participated in exchange programmes with Universities in Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Columbia, Martinique, Guadeloupe, France and Spain.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the Brazilian Government was signed in December 2007, committing the Brazilian government to provide a lecturer in Portuguese for two years, in the first instance.

Exploratory talks on possible collaboration and student and staff exchanges between the Faculty and the University of Hannover in Germany were also held in June 2008.

Between January and August 2008, Dr. Frances Botkin, from Towson University, USA, was a Visiting Fulbright Scholar attached to the Department of Literatures in English.

Local and Regional Outreach

The Department of Educational Studies developed beneficial relationships with schools in the vicinity of the Mona campus, with staff and students effecting relevant interventions in Literacy Studies at Mona Primary, Jacks Hill All Age and at the National Children's Home (Hope Gardens), while those in psychology mounted a successful summer pilot programme/two-week summer camp for students of Papine High School who were in need of intervention to arrest deviant behavioural tendencies and practices.

The Change From Within (CFW) Initiative continued to support schools in student, teacher and principal leadership initiatives. Contributions were made to government policy papers on parenting and social policy goals and keynote presentations were made at the OAS and UNESCO jointly sponsored Regional Workshop on Reduction in School Violence, held in Nassau, Bahamas, February 6-8, 2008.

The Institute of Education through the Joint Board of Teacher Education (JBTE), carried out its mandate of institutional strengthening services by providing quality assurance services for teachers colleges in Belize, Cayman and in the Turks and Caicos islands, and participated in the CARICOM meeting for the establishment of the Regional Teacher Education Quality Assurance body.

Several members of the Faculty maintained links with the Caribbean Examination Council's CSEC and CAPE examinations whether as Moderators or as Chief and Assistant Chief Examiners for their respective disciplines.

Awards Received by Staff

Dr. Rose Davies was awarded the Commander of Distinction (CD) for outstanding contribution to Early Childhood Education.

Professor Hyacinth Evans received the Prime Minister's Medal for Excellence in Teaching.

At the Mona Research Day Awards ceremony in January 2008, Professor Waibinte Wariboko received the Principal's Award for the Best Research Publication (Book) for, Ruined by "Race": Afro-Caribbean Missionaries and the Evangelization of Southern Nigeria,

1815-1925. Dr. Nardi Edwards received an award for his essay, “Edward Baugh: the Critic as mediator”, published in the *Journal of West Indian Literature*. Dr. Helen Henningham’s “Promoting Young Children’s Social and Emotional Competence and Preventing Conduct Problems: a cluster randomised controlled trial” won the award for the Research Project attracting the most funds in the Faculty, (397,000 pounds sterling), and is working collaboratively with colleagues in the TMRU.

Dr. Donna Hope’s book, Inna di Dancehall: Popular Culture and the Politics of Identity in Jamaica, received the award for the Bestselling General Interest Book 2004-2007 from the UWI Press.

Dr. Lorna Down received the Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence 2007: for her article “Addressing the challenges of mainstreaming ESD in higher education”, published in the *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*.

Dr. Halden Morris received an award for Outstanding Leadership from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers USA & Jamaica.

Dr Michael Bucknor acted as the Chief Judge of the Canada and Caribbean Regional Adjudication panel for the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize, 2007-2009.

Distinguished Visitors

Dr. Samba M’boup, former Senegalese ambassador to South Africa and now a Professor at the University of South Africa.

Mr. Jean Marc Césaire from *Cine Woule* in Guadeloupe.

Mr. Ignacio Sánchez Taboada, the Deputy Chief of Mission and Head of Cultural Affairs of the Embassy of Spain

Professor Franklin Knight, Johns Hopkins University, USA.

Professor John Baugh, Washington University at St. Louis, Missouri and Professor Emeritus, Stanford University.

Dr. Angela Carpenter, University of Canberra, Australia

Dr. Frank Martinus, Curaçao

Professor John Rickford, Professor of Linguistics at Stanford University

Summary

In essence, the departmental reports underscore that the FHE as a whole continues to be focused on three inter-related strategic areas: quality undergraduate and graduate teaching, research and income generation. Disciplines such as Education and Media and Communication which are in high demand are better poised to generate income while satisfying demand for their services, though the coming of the Open Campus carries implications for decreased income generation in Education and reduced student numbers. Nonetheless, the FHE stands ready to work with the Open Campus so that the UWI can carry forward its mandate to serve the region.