

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION

Year ending July 31, 2010



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Overview

The Faculty of Humanities and Education maintained its commitment to the major goals of the 2007-2012 University Strategic Plan and pursued various initiatives within the constraints of available resources.

Transformational Academic Initiatives

Teaching and Learning

The Faculty maintained its reputation for high quality teaching with several colleagues attaining minimum scores of 4.5 and above out of 5 in the students' assessments exercise. The Faculty demonstrated its commitment to the infusion of modern technology to enhance teaching and learning with on line/e-learning components being used in several courses across all the disciplines. Included are Power Point slides presented in lectures, print material from a variety of sources, sample/model student assignments, Internet links, film clips, worksheets, practice tests and assignments. Moreover, this commitment extended to the delivery of LING3002 (L30B) Advanced Syntax via video teleconferencing with colleagues in St. Augustine and can be seen as an important step to the sharing of teaching expertise across the campuses.

The Faculty also worked closely with the Instructional Development Unit (IDU) to develop and improve the pedagogical skills of its teaching staff. Members of various departments registered in the Post-graduate Teaching Certificate Programme, and other colleagues, inclusive of graduate students, registered for at least one of the several modules/workshops to enhance teaching and learning effectiveness mounted by the IDU.

Three colleagues, Mrs. Caroline Dyché, Dr Mairette Newman and Dr. Michele Stewart, with acknowledged skills and competences in teaching and learning, were added to the IDU's list of Faculty Associates.

Turning out the Ideal UWI Graduate

Internships and other out of classroom learning experiences, locally, regionally and internationally, continued to form part of the students' exposure and training in disciplines such as Archaeology, Education, Media and Communication, Library Studies and Modern Languages.

For example, French, Portuguese and Spanish Students participated in the Inter-campus Modern Language Theatre Festival which was held at St. Augustine, May 24-27, 2010.

Two French / International Relations Students were selected for the UWI-UAG-Bordeaux IV programme and will join four others who are studying there. Another student is currently at the University Antilles-Guyane. Twelve others were selected for the French assistantship programme. Also, seven Spanish Majors were offered assistantships positions in Colombian High School and Universities under the UWI-ICETEX Colombia Exchange programme.

Concerned about the levels of the analytical and communication skills of students that come to us from the secondary sector, the Language section of the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy included Student Debates and Mock Trials in the Foundations course 1002/UC10B **'Language: Argument'** to enhance effective communication and critical thinking. The Philosophy Section is also developing a Course in Critical Thinking to be proposed as a Foundation Course across the University.

New Courses and Programmes (Undergraduate).

The Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) made significant headway in curriculum restructuring with new programmes by way of the the BA in Digital Media Production and the BA in Journalism.

The BA in Digital Media Production began at the Western Jamaica Campus in September 2009 and meets an increasing demand in the media and communication services for specific and focused skills in web-based media design and production technologies. The programme is designed to produce graduates with a high level of proficiency, and with a high degree of critical and analytical thinking who can cope with and adapt to the changes. Graduates from this programme will find careers in managing and monitoring Internet-based promotions and marketing; preparing images, video and audio for platforms such as the internet and television; preparing, repurposing and laying out content for web, print and video; and creating storyboards and scripts for video.

The BA in Journalism enables Carimac to close a gap on other media and communication schools that offer this fundamental discipline in media. The programme takes account of the changes in media platforms that are increasingly converged and which demand value-added and flexible skills that can work efficiently across all journalistic platforms. This will be achieved through the delivery of instruction that will develop skills fundamental to content creation and production technique in print, broadcast and multimedia, supported by other courses that will provide a context that broadens the awareness and the critical thinking and analytical skills of the students. The programme will equip graduates to pursue careers in broadcast, print and new media journalism as reporters, news editors, editors, sub-editors, photographers, videographers, page designers, presenters and producers.

Both the BA in Digital Media Production and the BA in Journalism were offered for the first time at the Mona Campus in September 2010.

Graduate Studies and Research

Two new graduate programmes in the School of Education merit particular mention since they reflect its mandate to enhance the delivery of quality education in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean.

First, the Master of Arts in Teacher Education and Teacher Development aims to help teacher educators and teacher leaders acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to participate in the delivery of good

teacher education and development. The programme is designed to improve the quality of teacher education and teacher development in Jamaica and the Caribbean through the preparation of educators who will have acquired the requisite pedagogical training, practical and theoretical knowledge to become high quality teacher educators and leaders. The target group comprises education professionals particularly:

- Teachers aspiring to work in various teacher education programmes
- Teacher educators wishing to upgrade and improve their practices
- Teachers and teacher educators wishing to extend their discipline-specific content knowledge while at the same time advancing their pedagogical content knowledge
- Teachers and other educators with leadership responsibilities for professional, school and institutional development, e.g. coaches, mentors, co-operating teachers, education officers, inspectors, supervisors, educators in other professions.

Second, the School of Education is designing Graduate programmes in Leadership in Technical Vocational Education & Training (TVET) and Workforce Development (WFD). The MA has been approved and will be offered from January 2011 and plans are underway for the development of M.Phil/PhD programmes. The strategic development of capacities in TVET and WFD are critical to the sustainable social, ecological and economic development in the Caribbean and these new academic programmes focus on capacity building and strengthening for enhanced strategic leadership and management of TVET systems and WFD in Caribbean territories. Indeed, whereas graduates of TVET programmes are currently in great demand throughout the Caribbean, there is no graduate studies programme in the region geared towards developing the leadership capacity to design and manage this critical area of training and development. Graduates of this advanced level programme will be prepared to meet the needs of public and private sector industrial organizations, training institutions, and Ministries of Education for

individuals who are capable and prepared to facilitate/provide capacity building, quality training, and leadership to monitor and guide developments in TVET and workforce preparation. Partnership with the Open Campus will be important to extending the programmes' reach.

Significant/Path Breaking Research

Four colleagues published books during the period under review:

- Professor Patrick Bryan: *Edward Seaga and the Challenges of Modern Jamaica*, UWI West Indies Press
- Dr. Donna Hope Marquis: *Man Vibes: Masculinities in the Jamaican Dancehall*, Ian Randle Publishers
- Dr. Sonjah Stanley Niaah: *Dancehall: From Slave Ship to Ghetto*, University of Ottawa Press
- Professor Claudette Williams: *The Devil in the Details: Cuban Antislavery Narrative in the Postmodern Age*. UWI Press.

Professor Williams also delivered her Inaugural Professorial Lecture on April 23, 2010. Her presentation was entitled, *The other side of the Pancake: Reading and Reasoning in a Postmodern Mode*.

Dr. Matthew Smith's book, *Red and Black in Haiti: Radicalism, Conflict, and Political Change, 1934-1957* shared the Gordon K. & Sybil Lewis Award for 2010 from the Caribbean Studies Association for the best publication in Caribbean History.

At the Mona Research Day Awards ceremony in January 2010, Dr. Smith also received the Principal's Award for Best Research Publication (Book) for his book. Dr. Sabrina Rampersad received the Principal's Award for Best Article publication for "Targeting the Jamaican Ostionoid: The Blue Marlin Archaeological Project", published in the *Journal of Caribbean History*. The Caribbean Centre for Teacher Training (CETT) Project directed by the Institute of Education and which reinforced the competence of primary school teachers in literacy education won the Award for the Project Attracting the Most Research Funds, as well as the Award for the

Research Project with the Most Business/Economic/Development Impact.

Dr. John Ayotunde Bewaji received the prestigious Simon Guggenheim Research Fellowship.

National and Regional Outreach

The School of Education (SOE) was particularly active and only some of its activities are highlighted here.

On January 28 and 29, 2010, the SOE provided solid support for the theme for Research Day at the Mona Campus, “Education for a Better Nation, a Stronger Region”, by way of sessions on topics such as Dealing with Violence and Aggression in select schools and New Directions in TVET at the UWI. There was also a Breakfast Forum attended by about 150 principals from secondary schools and the Teachers Colleges at which various colleagues in the SOE highlighted aspects of their research in the following areas:

- Revealing the essential characteristics, qualities and behaviours of the high performing principals in the Jamaican education system
- Identifying Master Teachers :The process and lessons learned from Jamaica’s experience 1999-2009
- Supporting Beginning Teachers
- The E-learning project in secondary schools

The Science, Mathematics and Information Technology (SMIT) Centre in the SOE also conducted a Forum in which colleagues shared their work in promoting innovative teaching and research in science and maths and IT.

On February 16, 2010, the SOE, in collaboration with the Open Campus, launched the new B.Ed programme in Primary Maths and Science that was developed in response to the request from the Grenadian Government.

Between May 28 and June 11, 2010, seven science and five mathematics teachers in the MEd in Science and Mathematics Education, as well as Dr.

Marcia Rainford, and Ms Camella Buddo, lecturers in Science and Mathematics Education respectively, participated in a Study Tour organized by the Institute of Education at the University of Reading, UK, in collaboration with the Department of Educational Studies. The tour enabled them to observe best practices for the teaching and learning of Mathematics and Science in primary and secondary schools in the UK with a view to implementing similar practices in Jamaican classrooms.

As has been the custom, several colleagues in the Faculty supported the Caribbean Examinations Council's CSEC and CAPE examinations by serving as Chief and Assistant Chief Examiners in respective disciplines, and the Departments mounted workshops in their respective disciplines for teachers and students in support of the respective CXC/CAPE syllabi.

A significant development was the publication by the Department of History and Archaeology of a collection of Essays, entitled, *The Caribbean, the Atlantic World & Global Transformation: Lectures in Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations in History*, which specifically supports the teaching of two CAPE History Units. The publication was well received locally and is being marketed in the region.

Another new and welcome initiative in marketing and outreach was CARIMAC's hosting of its inaugural Open Week during May 11 to 14, 2010, under the theme "Promoting Media and Communication Scholarship". Final year students showcased their productions from the specializations in Print and Online Journalism, Broadcast Journalism-Radio and Television and Multimedia and Social Marketing and Public Relations. Projects from the Graduate Programs in Communication Studies and Communication for Social and Behaviour Change, ranging from emergency response communication during disasters to the use of information communication technology in agriculture were also highlighted. Faculty members also presented current research on financial journalism, alternative media and investigating information-seeking habits. The attendance at the various sessions was most encouraging and included media industry representatives, prospective employers of CARIMAC graduates and future students of media and communication.

It is hoped that other disciplines will either revive their practice of Open Days or emulate Carimac's bold initiative.

The Faculty's response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti in January 2010 was immediate and focused. The Department of History and Archaeology, in conjunction with the Office of the Principal, hosted a number of public seminars and lectures between February and June 2010, on various aspects of Haitian history and heritage. The Jamaican Language Unit in the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, mounted a course on Haitian Creole for security agencies involved in Jamaica's initiatives to assist in the rebuilding of Haiti, and the Department of Modern Languages organized the showing of a documentary on Haitian women, *Haitian Women: Pillars of the Global Economy*, in collaboration with the Centre for Gender Studies and Development. Finally, Drs. Matthew Smith and Marie-Jose Nzungou-Tayo were very instrumental to the various UWI initiatives to support Haitian tertiary institutions and to bring Haitian students to the Mona Campus.

Initiatives in International Collaboration

In partnership with Taiyuan University of Technology in China, the Confucius Institute which falls under the umbrella of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, was formally opened at the Mona Campus on July 19, 2010. The first of its kind in the English speaking Caribbean, the Institute promotes Chinese Culture and Language (Mandarin), and is part of an initiative to deepen educational cooperation between China and Jamaica.

Language teaching will also benefit from a Japanese Cultural Grant for a new language laboratory.

Agreements were also finalized for student and staff exchange programmes between the Faculty of Humanities and Education and the Latin American Center at the Freie Universitat Berlin, and at the Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany, respectively.