

# **FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES MONA**

**Year ending July 31, 2010**



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# Overview

## Introduction

The Faculty of Social Sciences began the academic year 2009/10 with its Annual Faculty Day under the theme “Life, Career and Strategic Planning in a Time of Uncertainty”. Over the years, the aim of Faculty Day has been to allow staff members the opportunity to participate in achieving the Faculty’s strategic goals. This year focused on exploring opportunities available for professional development so as to improve staff members’ ability to serve and operate more efficiently under the current economic crisis and in an increasingly technological environment. Additionally, the Faculty continued its focus on the implementation of the 2007-2012 Strategic Plan particularly in areas of Teaching, Research, Public Service and a wide cross section of outreach activities.

This year, the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Economic and Social Studies (Mona) was the only Department in the Faculty which had a change in leadership. **Professor Neville Duncan** who served as director for nine (9) years retired and **Professor Brian Meeks** formerly of the Department of Government was appointed director in August 2009. **Professor Anthony Harriott**, head of the Department of Government took up a new position as Director of the Institute of Criminal Justice and Security (ICJS) but remained as HOD until the end of the academic year.

## Teaching and learning

In the academic year 2009/10, the Faculty of Social Sciences at Mona significantly advanced its teaching agenda by making student learning a departmental as well as a Faculty wide focus. One reflection of this is the

increasing number of presentations and publications relating to the scholarship of teaching. In its efforts to enhance the ability of its graduates to contribute to socio-economic development, the Faculty continued to strengthen its thrust towards making its students more work ready. This involved the introduction of new courses and programmes along with a full scale reassessment of “Academic Work-Related and Personal Development Initiatives” available to students in the Faculty. A working group chaired by Eris Schoburgh provided a comprehensive report which will help to standardize approaches taken with respect to these initiatives and strengthen their role within the curriculum.

The work ready philosophy is embedded in the new Masters in Business Management (MBM) at the Mona School of Business. The MBM targets recent graduates and places emphasis on the practical dimension of management and employs a strong experiential learning approach providing students with a choice between an entrepreneurial or an internship focus. The Public Sector Management Unit in the Department of Government continued its practical teaching focus by designing a course in Constitutional and Administrative Law which seeks to identify and explain the purpose behind several key administrative (public) law structures within Jamaica and the Caribbean. In doing so, students will be able to compare and evaluate the case of Jamaica with the United States and other developing countries on global administrative law, constitutional matters and future relationships.

The Social Work Unit in the Department of Sociology Psychology and Social Work (SPSW) commenced a new undergraduate Disability Studies course. Several innovative experiential techniques, including students simulating a selected disability for a day were focused on and analyzed and recommendations about improving access for students with disabilities were brought to the attention of the Social Sciences Faculty Board and some of these have so far been implemented. The department also put forward two new courses on the Theory and Practice of Restorative Justice with a view to strengthening the Faculty’s criminology offerings.

The Department of Management Studies completed the process for approval and implementation of the BSc in Management Studies (Corporate Governance and Business Ethics) Degree which is to be

offered starting September 2010. The programme was designed to enable students to have a deep awareness of the global forces influencing business decision making; to understand the nature of the regulatory environment which would result in active participation in the internal regulation of organizations so as to be able to make sound ethical decisions.

The strengthening of research methods at the graduate level has also received attention. The Department of Government introduced a new course, *Research Development Seminar for MPhil and PhD Students* specifically to assist MPhil/PhD students with the conceptualization, methods choices, and completion strategies for their research. The course focuses on the practical objective of modifying and refining graduate research proposals so as to achieve acceptable professional quality. The Department of Sociology Psychology and Social Work restructured the MSc in Applied Psychology to make the course *Quantitative Data Analysis in the Social Sciences* compulsory, thus increasing the number of credits required to complete the degree up from thirty four (34) to thirty seven (37). In making this quantitative analysis course compulsory, the Faculty believes that this will enhance the quality of the programme by enabling students to better handle the analysis required for their research papers and assist in building a student research programme.

The PhD in Organizational Behaviour was also restructured to retain the comprehensiveness and rigour of the original concept but has been simplified from the original 102 to 79 credits. Additionally, students now have the option to submit either a traditional 60,000-word dissertation or submit a manuscript-based dissertation in accordance with University guidelines. The Faculty also approved changes to the Department of Economics Course offerings which reviewed all examination and assessment instruments ensuring that they are in line with the learning objectives directed towards higher order elements within the relevant learning domains.

## **Research**

The Faculty of Social Sciences continued its varied Research programme. For their efforts a number of staff members were awarded the Principal's

Research Day awards in the different categories. **Densil Williams** received the Best Research Publication for his book *Understanding Exporting in the Small and Micro Enterprise* and in the same category for articles **Eris Schoburgh** and **Mark Figueroa** received awards for their articles *Paradigm Shift or Rhetorical Flourish? The 'New Orthodoxy' of Local Governance in the Caribbean* and *George Cumper and the Critical Tradition: Common Themes in Post World WarII Caribbean Thought*, respectively. **Anthony Harriott** received the Most Outstanding Researcher Award with five publications while **Lawrence Powell** and **Balford Lewis** received the award for the research project attracting the most research funds. The Research Project with the greatest Business/Economic /Development Impact was awarded to **Lloyd Waller, Shakira Maxwell** and **Gavin Daley** for their Project “National Mathematics Programme Monitoring and Evaluation”. An inter-faculty and interdepartmental research collaboration involving colleagues from various departments including **Claremont Kirton** and **Georgia McLeod** of the Department of Economics and **Kristen Fox** of SALISES received the award for the Research Project with the greatest Business/Economic /Development Impact from the Faculty of Medical Sciences. This was for the project entitled Impact of Jamaica National Building Society’s Micro-Credit Programme on Health and Development in Jamaica”.

The Faculty also supported SALISES (Mona) in its research efforts through the launch of a research initiative entitled *Fifty Fifty: Critical reflections in a time of uncertainty*. The aim of this research initiative is to utilize the entire research staff of SALISES along with other colleagues from the Faculty and beyond to engage in research on the challenges and successes since independence, examining how they can be explained and what they can teach us for the future of the Caribbean as a region within the world of newly developed poles of power. Additionally, the initiative intends to focus on the role of regionalism and the Caribbean Diaspora and how these have sustained capacity building and impacted the national and regional economy.

The Faculty Office continued to provide support to the research efforts of staff members. This was in the form of the provision of student assistants, grants to attend conferences and to conduct research. At the Campus level, two members of staff, namely Moji Anderson and Lloyd Waller were

awarded new initiative grants and Eris Schoburgh was awarded a Mona Research Fellowship.

As in former years, the Faculty's research examined and engaged a wide cross section of critical areas and continues to impact national and regional policy making, analysis and evaluation. These were reflected in the presentations, academic publications and technical reports of staff in the various units. With respect to varying emerging issues in diversifying and dynamic sectors of the economy, the Faculty has been developing a profile in Tourism, Transportation, Information and Communication Technologies, Micro, Small and Medium businesses, renewable energy and the study of migration and the Caribbean Diaspora. Fewer works have been produced on agriculture and mining but the financial sector and matters relating to fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policy continued to predominate. Topics in the areas of crime, violence, security and justice continue to occupy colleagues from various departments. In many cases these are related to gender and health concerns. The latter has received considerable attention with HIV/AIDS and various psychological disorders including depression featuring prominently.

This year, academic research and publications covered issues to include: examining the small and medium enterprise sectors and their exporting outputs; small locally owned firms and family owned businesses and employment relations practises therein; local perspectives on global risk trends; knowledge management capabilities on organisational effectiveness; international management reforms; correcting regional disparities through business clustering in the transportation infrastructure and the politics of infrastructure projects; foreign direct investments; the financial crises and the global recession; the IMF agreement and its implications; managing the Jamaican economy during the IMF loan period and after; international relations and border issues; regional integration; security issues to include law enforcement and maritime security.

Other research issues explored were: children at risk, child poverty, parental issues, eating disorders, disabilities, and gender issues; health issues and how these affect the economy; H1N1 pandemic and the implications for Jamaica; HIV and homosexuality; the impact of migration and remittances on development; Crime and violence and issues of justice

in Jamaica, the Caribbean and the Americas; class and race issues; cultural, social and artistic issues to include Rastafari, revivalism, the effects of reggae and dancehall and how these affect societies; black power, social values and social justices; government and governance, public sector reform and local governance, online social networks and their uses and effects; issues relating to small island states such as Haiti, St Lucia, the Dominican Republic and Grenada; improving various social science disciplines to include improving teaching strategies in the classroom; political and economic thought. The following table provides a comparative study of publications produced over the last three academic years.

<b>Faculty of Social Sciences Departmental Publications 2007 – 2010</b>												
<b>Dept.</b>	<b>Books/Monographs</b>			<b>Book Chapters</b>			<b>Journals Articles</b>			<b>Total</b>		
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2007-2009	2008-2009	2009-2010	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
ECON	0	2	1	1	1	1	14	5	7	15	8	9
GOVT	5	5	3	5	6	0	18	9	7	28	20	10
DOMS	1	0	1	1	5	0	11	8	14	13	13	15
MSB	1	0	2	1	1	5	3	4	1	5	5	8
SALISES	1	7	3	4	5	5	2	15	9	7	27	17
SPSW	1	0	1	0	8	5	15	10	11	16	18	17
CHTM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	9	14	11	12	26	16	63	51	49	74	91	76

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

In an effort to impact the national and regional economy and to build capacity in the economy’s traditional sectors, the Faculty of Social Sciences remained very active in the area of Public Service. Over the year, the Faculty through its departments forged a number of linkages with external organizations in staging a number of symposia, conferences and seminars aimed at informing national and regional policy in a number of critical areas. In this regard, the Department of Government collaborated with the Office of the Principal and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) to organise a one day symposium entitled “Situating Jamaica in the Caribbean of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. The Symposium

represented the beginning of a collaborative effort between the Faculty and the MFAFT on the establishment of a Policy Planning Unit in the Ministry which will be carrying out research aimed at strengthening the strategic dimensions of diplomacy. The symposium also served as preparation for Jamaica's assumption of the chairmanship of CARICOM. The Department of Economics, also in conjunction with the Office of the Principal, hosted four seminars which were all open to the public, namely: *Economic Stagnation and Prospects for Progress*; *Public Sector Revenue and Expenditure Policy*; *The Debt Problem* and *IMF Engagement and Effective Macroeconomic Policy Co-ordination for Sustained Growth*. Additionally, the department collaborated with the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) to host a seminar entitled *The Jamaican Economy: Implications of the IMF Agreement*.

The Department of Management Studies was also active in public service and contributed to strengthening national and regional security with the delivery of a workshop on *Reconstruction of Stability in the Aftermath of Tivoli Gardens* for the Jamaica Constabulary Force. This was done in conjunction with the Centre for Hemispheric Defense Studies in July 2010. Similarly, in an effort to sustain and strengthen national and regional governance, the Department of Government in collaboration with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) continued its work on trade policy by training senior government officials from several countries of the region.

The Faculty also supported SALISES which in conjunction with the Faculty of Humanities (Mona) and Duke University co-hosted a conference entitled 'States of Freedom, Freedom of States' to examine broad themes of Caribbean countries and their social, cultural, economic and political histories in modern 'world systems' and considering these issues from within the perspectives of particular notions of freedoms. Beyond the conference, this collaboration aims to develop synergistic work which integrates and exchanges knowledge across disciplines and to further develop, strengthen and publicize an existing relationship between the University of the West Indies and Duke University.

Staff members of the Faculty of Social Sciences remained active in public service by serving on various boards, committees and other bodies of professional organisations, educational institutions, policy making and



inter-governmental organizations, state and private sector companies and international journals. Additionally, a number of staff members remained active in the media by writing articles for newspapers and serving as special guest editors and by participating in radio and television interviews.

Some of the institutions and organisations served included: Red Cross, Institute of Jamaica, Michael Manley Foundation, School Boards, College of Insurance and Professional Studies, Caribbean Examinations Council, UNICEF, The Path Programme Committee, Sickle Cell Support, High School Associations, Violence Prevention Alliance, National Library of Jamaica, National Taskforce for Persons with Disabilities, Jamaica Environmental Trust, Jamaica Stock Exchange, National Insurance Scheme, Financial Services Commission, Forest Conservation Fund, Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica Trade Policy Committee, Optimist Club of Kingston, National Youth Development, Early Childhood Commission, Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions, Friends of Liberty Hall, Caribbean Studies Association, National Steering Committee on Decentralisation, Local Government Reform, Jamaica Money Market Brokers, Churches Credit Union, Caribbean Brands and various Advisory committees and Review boards.

Colleagues were also active in service to a wide range of journals including among these: American Review of Political Economy, Southern Journal of Canadian Studies, International Bulletin of Political Psychology, British Journal of Social Work, Journal of Diplomatic Language, Journal of Cross-cultural Psychology, Journal of Business, Finance and Economics in Emerging Economies, Frontiers in Finance and Economics, Caribbean Review of Books, Caribbean Reasoning Series, Jamaica Journal, Journal of Business and Entrepreneurship, Lexington Books Caribbean Series and Caribbean Journals of Education, Social Work, and Psychology.

## **Outreach Activities**

In addition to honouring its mandate to remain relevant and active in public service, the Faculty of Social Sciences increased its outreach activities to ensure that its work remain supportive to all stakeholders by contributing to national, regional and community development. In this regard, the Faculty supported the Department of Government through

the Centre for Leadership and Governance, in its work to implement the results of the 'Build Civil Society Capacity to Support Good Governance by Local Authorities' project. The Project is UNDP funded and includes representatives of the Department of Local Government, the National Association of Parish Development Committees (NAPDEC) and the UNDP. The Centre for leadership and governance in conjunction with the Justice Training Institute continues to contribute significantly to building a mutually supportive network amongst the heads of Jamaica's eleven public sector anti-corruption institutions which include: the offices of the Contractor General; the Chief Justice; the Director of Public Prosecutions; the Commissioner of Customs; the Tax Administration and the Anti-corruption Branch of the JCF among others. The Centre is currently finalizing manuals based on consultants reports, which it is hoped will enhance the training of prosecutors in best practices related to anti-corruption cases and to sensitize magistrates on the importance of the control of corruption in Jamaica's governance systems.

Professor Ian Boxill delivered several public lectures on casino gaming in Grenada. Professor Patricia Anderson and Dr Heather Ricketts held six dissemination workshops on 'Parenting in Jamaica and the Changing Role of Fathers in Jamaican Family Life' across the island over the period which culminated in working papers for research done for PIOJ/UNICEF.

As part of its outreach activities and mandate to make the University more accessible, the Faculty of Social Sciences implemented its Weekend Programme in August 2009. Presently, the Programme offers two degrees with the objectives of expanding enrolment, meeting the needs of the community and utilizing the University's facilities more effectively. The two degrees offered on Saturdays are: BSc Banking and Finance and BSc Management Studies (Accounting). An additional programme, BSc Management Studies (General) was approved for the 2010/2011 academic year. The FSS Weekend Programme started with 47 students in Semester 1 and five joined the programme in Semester 2 but during the year the Programme experienced an attrition rate of approximately thirty five percent due to financial difficulties and job demands. Overall, the Programme is expected to continue growing as it is an attractive option for persons who find it difficult to obtain time off, as well as persons who just prefer the convenience of studying on the weekend.

## **Conclusion**

The Faculty of Social Sciences recognizes that the process to successfully implement the core values of the Strategic Plan is a dynamic one and as such is continually seeking to improve the procedures which will make this possible. In this regard, the Faculty intends to continue to develop new courses which are relevant and will be able to impact the society. In addition, the Faculty will seek to improve its teaching quality by ensuring that all lecturers both old and new are trained and certified to deliver at the standard required by the UWI and that learning opportunities for students are improved through the use of technology and practice.

In its focus on research, the Faculty intends to continue supporting staff in their research efforts and in doing so will be formalizing the use of research clusters so as to encourage more collaboration and partnership which was evident in 2009/10. Over the year, notwithstanding the economic climate and challenges, the Faculty has seen a renewed vigour of participation in public service and outreach activities from staff members and hopes that this will continue. So far, the Faculty has tried to ensure that its work is supportive of the Strategic Plan and has demonstrated efforts through its research, public service and outreach activities to diversify the economies of the region, build capacity particularly in social sectors and improve the national and regional security through quality research.