

# FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION

## **Mona**

Year ending July 31, 2018



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# Overview

## INTRODUCTION

During the year under review, which saw the “Triple A’ Strategic Plan” coming into effect, and also witnessed the various activities marking the 70th Anniversary of the University as the premier provider of tertiary education in the Caribbean, the Faculty of Humanities and Education ably continued with its efforts to achieve financial self-sufficiency, foster employee engagement and development, enhance administrative efficiency via the use of information communication technologies, promote student learning and development, foster knowledge production through research and publication, and strengthen, through voluntary community outreach, the public image of the Mona Campus and the wider University. As the various subheadings highlighting these efforts might show, the Faculty had equally demonstrated an unwavering commitment and support for the cardinal aims of the “Triple A’ Strategic Plan,” which calls for greater “access” to tertiary education via increasing student enrollment, greater institutional “agility” in responding to change within the tertiary education sector, and a more conscious “alignment” between institutional research and industry requirements for Caribbean socioeconomic development in the twenty-first century.

## **INCOME GENERATION AND FUNDRAISING**

In addition to the existing self-financing programmes, the following new ones were introduced during the year under review: Bachelor of Arts (B.A) in Film Studies, and Master of Education (M.Ed.) for Sustainable Development, Global Citizenship and Peace. With a view to revenue generation, whilst also promoting access to tertiary education, the Faculty concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to partner with the UWI Open Campus to offer online courses and programmes on Caribbean popular culture.

The Caribbean Center for Educational Planning (CCEP) was established in the previous academic year with a view to enhancing revenue generation. During the year under review, the Center was able to conclude a contract negotiation with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, through its Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, to train “principals and other school administrators with the competencies required to develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate a ‘School Improvement Plan.’” The idea of earning additional revenue, whilst providing students the opportunity of meeting degree programme credit requirements, also induced the range of course offerings at the just concluded 2018 Summer School.

Finally, the Faculty was very pleased, and indeed grateful to two philanthropists, who made very generous bequests to the Department of Library and Information Studies during the year in review. The late Dr Phillipa “Pippa” Fray, a former librarian in the Department, donated seven hundred and eighty thousand, two hundred and thirty one dollars and eighty one cents (\$789,231.81). Mrs. Ouida Fay Rowe, a former student of the Department, also donated five hundred thousand Jamaican dollars (J\$500,000).

## **EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Faculty, in order to build on previous efforts aimed at establishing a creative, caring, professional, self-motivated, and accountable workforce, undertook a number of targeted activities to promote employee engagement

and development. During the first semester of the year under review, a career development seminar for academic staff was held on 24th November, 2017, to discuss the peer-review processes for publication, among other pertinent career-related themes. The pivotal address of that seminar, “The Peer Review Process: the publisher’s perspective,” was given by the Director of the UWI Press, Dr Joseph Powell. It was well received by attendees, especially those who had recently joined the academy after completing their terminal degrees. As noteworthy examples of academic staff development, the Faculty celebrated the promotion of the following colleagues to senior positions: Drs. Disraeli Hutton and Donna Hope, who were elevated to the rank of full Professor; and Drs. Nina Bruni, Saran Stewart, and Aleric Josephs, who rose to the rank of Senior Lecturer.

On 9th March, 2018, a workshop on “Collaboration and Productivity at the Workplace” was held for sixty-one (61) secretaries and administrative assistants. Speakers included the Campus Registrar, Dr Camille Bell-Hutchinson, the Director of Human Resource Management Division, Dr Allister Hinds, Dr Marina Ramkissoon, and Professor John Bewaji. Attendees, given the various themes addressed by the speakers, found the workshop very rewarding and enriching. On 3rd May, 2018, another workshop on “Self Development” was held for twenty-three (23) auxiliary support staff (office attendants). Without any direct cost to the Faculty, this workshop was facilitated by Mr. Rohan Wishart and Mrs. Clairlyn Williams, HEART Trust NTA lecturers with specialization in hospitality management and housekeeping. Like the former, attendees also found this workshop relevant and beneficial. “Certificate of Participation,” signed by the Campus Registrar and the Dean, were handed out to attendees at both workshops.

In addition to these workshops, many employees in the Faculty also benefitted from periodic training sessions organized by the Human Resource Management Division to build new capacities and also strengthen those existing. For example, incoming Heads of Department had benefitted from such training sessions at the start of the academic year under review to acquaint them with prescribed administrative functions,

protocols and procedures associated with their position within the Mona Campus establishment.

## **INTERNAL OPERATIONAL PROCESSES**

The internal operational processes of the Faculty have been designed to primarily promote and facilitate the core business of knowledge production and dissemination through research and effective teaching. Development of curriculums and instructional materials at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels were pursued via Faculty-wide subcommittees consisting of representatives from the various Departments, Schools, and Institute making up the Faculty. These subcommittees, headed by Deputy Deans, were ably supported by administrative staff in the Faculty Office. Curriculum development activities, including other matters about student development emanating from these subcommittees, were routinely presented to the Faculty Board for discussions and approval before implementation.

Every academic year, and the year under review was no exception, we have always worked to improve the internal operational and administrative processes undergirding the core business mentioned above. Streamlining took the form of crafting and putting in place smarter “Operational Guidelines,” which included “Templates” for presenting new courses and programmes for approval. Additionally, Faculty-specific “Ethics Guidelines,” to facilitate the passage of ethics clearance applications for research projects by both staff and students, were crafted by the Faculty Ethics Committee and approved by the Campus Ethics Committee. The Faculty Ethics Committee, which consisted of representatives from the various Departments, Schools, and Institute, came into being in 2016/17. Overall, these developments in the internal operational processes had the net effect of facilitating the administration of quality control activities, encouraging learning through research and teaching, and also promoting harmonious, collegial relationships in the Faculty.

## **UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT**

### **Curriculum Development**

Numerous activities related to the renewal of existing curriculums, as well as the design and development of new ones, kept the Faculty Subcommittee for Undergraduate Studies very busy throughout the year in review. There were, however, certain milestones worth mentioning in this endeavor in part because of their relevance to the “Triple A’ Strategic Plan”: the provision of a minor programme in Creative Writing, which would become a full degree programme in due time; and a self-financing BA degree programme in Film Studies, whose design mirrored the template of the BA programme in Cultural and Creative Industries introduced in 2016/17. All of the new courses in both the minor and major programmes were vetted by the Subcommittee, and successfully taken through the various quality control committees within the Mona Campus and the wider University. It is worth noting that the new programme in Film Studies, and the earlier programme in Cultural and Creative Industries, have thus far added forty one (41) students to the 2018/19 undergraduate enrollment register of the Faculty.

Aside from these programmes just mentioned, several existing courses drawn across the entire Faculty were routinely reviewed for their thematic, bibliographical, testing and assessment adequacies, among others. It is also significant to note that the Subcommittee reviewed forty eight (48) course outlines from the Teachers’ Colleges that constitute the “Colleges of the UWI.” Given the terms of affiliation, it is the Faculty’s responsibility to ensure that these Colleges met the quality assurance standards of the University of the West Indies. Finally, in support of a new B.Sc. programme in Sports Coaching and Sports Kinetics proposed by the Faculty of Sport, the following new courses were developed by the Faculty of Humanities and Education: Origins and Growth of Modern Sport (from the Department of History and Archaeology), and Sports Ethics (from the Department of Language Linguistics and Philosophy). The development of these courses readily reflect cross-Faculty cooperation aimed at promoting the aims of the “Triple A’ Strategic Plan.”

The resolve of the Faculty to maintain an admirable standard of academic quality control, through the activities of the Faculty Subcommittee, was complemented, strengthened, and underscored by the Quality Assurance Unit of the Board for Undergraduate Studies (BUS). Under the auspices of this Unit, the School of Education, the Department of Library and Information Studies, and the English Language Section (ELS) in the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, had their programmes externally reviewed. Whilst commending the efforts of the Faculty at maintaining strong quality assurance standards through existing internal mechanisms, the External Review Teams also made recommendations to strengthen and enhance teaching, learning, and student development. To intensify efforts at making tertiary education more accessible, and thereby increase student enrollment, the Review Committees recommended a more robust move towards multimodal delivery of programmes in the Faculty.

### **Learning Environment and Student Development**

Since 2015/16 the Faculty, with the help of the Campus Principal's Office, has been steadily equipping the major teaching venues with multimedia facilities and also updating and renovating the physical infrastructure for greater aesthetic appeal. This is because a conducive learning environment is essential to the realization of the scholastic benefits of curriculum development for both staff and students. At present, except for two classrooms, all others capable of seating between 50 and 100 students have been outfitted with multimedia facilities. These provisions will certainly bolster the Faculty's capacity, as recommended by the External Quality Assurance Review Teams, to move stridently towards a more blended delivery of programmes.

However, although much has been done to renovate the physical infrastructure generally, one major building is still crying for massive renovation. This is the "New Humanities Building" with about forty five (45) staff offices, one videoconferencing room, six (6) small tutorial rooms capable of sitting fifteen (15) students, and one departmental office. It is, however, hopeful that with the availability of funds attention

will be paid to this building because its importance to the core business of the Faculty has not been lost on the administration of the Mona Campus.

As part of the expansive effort aimed at promoting student development, via the promotion of student centeredness as well as student retention within the Faculty, the various academic units (Institute, Schools, and Departments) worked to secure bursaries from external sources to assist needy students. Two examples will suffice here. Through the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, the Embassy of Spain paid the fees for eight (8) students in the Department to sit for the “DELE Spanish Proficiency Examinations at the B2 Level” in May 2018. On April 16, 2018, the Caribbean School of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) negotiated and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a key industry player in media and communication in Jamaica, the Limners and Bards Limited (The Lab), to offer three (3) scholarships to students pursuing degree programmes in media and communication studies in CARIMAC.

### **Some Notable Achievements by Undergraduate Students**

Students undertook many and varied out-of-classroom social and academic activities during the year in review. However, the following are highlighted because of their anticipated impact on national development. Under the auspices of the Department of Language Linguistics and Philosophy, students in the BA Linguistics programme partnered with the United States Peace Corps to train American volunteers seeking to acquire a working knowledge of Jamaican Creole to enable them to participate in rural community development projects.

Mr. Patrick Meikle, an Animation Programme student in the Caribbean School of Media and Communication, was chosen “as a member of Team Jamaica Animation” to represent Jamaica at the “Annual Kidscreen Summit,” which was held in Miami, the United States, from 12 to 15 February, 2018. The Summit, held annually, among other things, was aimed at celebrating “children’s entertainment excellence that pays tribute

to outstanding television/digital content and broadcasting work from around the world.”

With some support and guidance from academic staff, Chinese Language students in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, were able to broadcast the daily national news of *News Talk 93 FM* (a Mona Campus based Radio Outfit) in Chinese throughout April 2018. This was part of an initiative by the Department, known as “Foreign Languages on the Radio,” intended to foster foreign language education and acquisition nationally.

The University of the West Indies Library and Information Student Society (UWI-LISS) in the Department of Library and Information Studies donated books to the Library of the Mona Heights Primary School. With some support and guidance from academic staff in the Department, the Society also initiated a proposal to adopt the Library of the Mona Heights Primary School. In various subtle ways the activities outlined might have had the salubrious effect of promoting the aims of the “‘Triple A’ Strategic Plan” in particular, and the image of the Mona Campus and the wider University generally.

### **Teaching and Learning: Postgraduate Studies**

Oversight responsibility for new curriculum development, including the revision and renewal of existing ones, is the primary function of the Faculty Subcommittee for postgraduate studies. Like the Subcommittee for Undergraduate Studies, this Subcommittee is also led by a Deputy Dean. The successful passage of two innovative multidisciplinary programmes – M.A. in African and Diaspora Studies, and M.Ed. in Education for Sustainable Development, Global Citizenship and Peace-through the Campus and the University quality assurance committees represented a highpoint in the activities of this Subcommittee.

Both programmes scholastically represent the ongoing thrust of the Faculty to produce cutting edge multidisciplinary programmes capable of making graduates more marketable globally. Additionally, in a very direct way, the first programme showed the Faculty’s support for the

“Triple ‘A’ Strategic Plan.” It was actually put together at the request of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Hilary Beckles, as part of a bilateral agreement between the University of Lagos, Nigeria, and the University of the West Indies, to promote African and Diaspora scholarship on both sides of the Atlantic. Among other objectives, this joint programme represents part of a bigger project to establish the physical presence of the UWI on all continents in accordance with the “Plan.”

The Subcommittee also worked in various ways to enhance the postgraduate student learning experience. Similar to what was done in the previous academic year, workshops pertinent to the postgraduate student learning experience were conducted. With the usual support from the Office of Graduate Studies, a seminar on “Ethical Issues in Humanities Research” was held on 7 June, 2018. Similarly, timely and theme-specific seminars, whenever appropriate, were also organized by the various academic units in the Faculty to enrich the postgraduate learning experience. Without exemption, all the academic units ran weekly (and in some cases fortnightly) staff/postgraduate seminars aimed at discussing research findings. The net benefit of this concerted effort can be seen, in part, from the following list of postgraduate students who successfully completed and defended their dissertations during the year in review: Ingrid Hunt Anderson (Educational Psychology), Zifus James (Theology), Warrick Lattibeaudiere (French), Schontal Moore (Education), Renee Nelson (History), Laura Richards (Education), and Daidrah Smith (Linguistics). It is also pertinent to note that two of these persons, Moore and Richards, were recommended for the award of their degrees with High Commendation.

## **INNOVATION, RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS**

As it has been recently, the academic year in review witnessed a strengthening of the existing enabling environment aimed at promoting innovative thinking, individual and group research endeavors, and the dissemination of research findings via teaching and publications. This enabling environment, among other activities, was kept agog by structured weekly (or fortnightly) staff/postgraduate seminars, sponsored local and international conferences and symposiums, as well as memorial and

distinguished public lectures. Many colleagues, drawn from different disciplines, secured funding either from external agencies, or from the Mona Campus Principal's "New Initiative Grant," or from the "Mona Campus Research Fellowship," to pursue various individual or group research initiatives. The outcomes of these activities gave rise to numerous publications in the form of refereed books, book chapters, journal articles, and conference proceedings. The short list of conferences, seminars and public lectures presented in the Table below is intended to indicate the active involvement of every academic unit (Schools, Institute, and Department) in the promotion of scholarship within the Faculty.

**A Short List of Conferences, Seminars, Memorial & Distinguished Lectures, and Symposiums**

Schools/Institute/Departments	Conferences/Seminars/Memorial & Distinguished Lectures/Symposiums
Modern Languages and Literatures (DMLL)	1) "The West Indian Presence in Cuba" (Conference) 2) "Literature in the Revolution and Revolution in the Literature: 50 Years of Cuban Writing" (2nd Coulthard-Mailer Lecture)
Department of History and Archaeology (DoHA)	1) "Pine and Palm: The Geographies of Black Struggle in 1960s North America" (Elsa Goveia Memorial Lecture) 2) "That Unforgettable Thing: Memory and the Force of History" (Professorial Inaugural Lecture)
Literatures in English (DLIE)	1) "The African Poetry Book Fund, Transforming the Landscape of African Poetry" (11th Edward Baugh Distinguished Lecture)
Library & Information Studies (DLIS), the Mona Campus Library, and the Caribbean School of Media and Communication (CARIMAC)	1) "Media and Information Literacy in Critical Times: Reimagining Ways of Learning and Information Environments" (UNESCO/UWI Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue Conference and Youth Agenda)

Schools/Institute/Departments	Conferences/Seminars/Memorial & Distinguished Lectures/Symposiums
Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS)	1)“Hyphenated Realities and Identification ‘Outside’ Culture” (2nd Annual Stuart Hall Distinguished Lecture) 2)“The Creative Echo Chamber: Evolution and Innovation in Jamaican Music” (21st Annual Bob Marley Lecture)
Caribbean School of Media and Communication (CARIMAC)	1)“News and Information: Two Different Sides of the Coin” (8th CARIMAC/Aggrey Brown Distinguished Lecture) 2)“Understanding Fintech & Blockchain Ransomware & Cyber Threats to Governance” (5th National Cyber Security Conference)
School of Education (SOE)	1)“Talk the Poem National Poetry Recitation Competition”

**Outcomes of Research Activities: Peer-Reviewed Book Publications**

- **Rowe J. Yvette & White A. Livingston**, *Producing Television in Small Markets*, Kingston, Jamaica: Univ. of the West Indies Press, 2018
- **Kennedy Michelle**, *What do Jamaican Children Speak?: A Language Resource*, Kingston, Jamaica: UWI Press, 2017
- **Bamikole Lawrence**, *Violence and Democratic Politics*, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria: Greenland Publishing Company, 2017
- **Roofe Carmel & Bezzina, C.** (Eds), *Intercultural Studies in Curriculum: Theory, Policy and Practice*, Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave MacMillan, 2017
- **Ramsay Paulette & Antonio Tillis** (Eds), *A Bi-Lingual Afro-Hispanic Reader and Anthology*, Kingston, Jamaica: Ian Randle Publishers, 2018
- Christopher DeCorse & **Zachary J.M. Beier** (Eds), *British Forts and Their Communities: Archaeological and Historical Perspectives*, Gainesville-Florida: The University Press of Florida, 2018

### **Recognition for Research Accomplishments: Awards and Honors**

- Professor John Bewaji: Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in the Category of "Outstanding Research Accomplishments"
- Professor Paulette Ramsay: Farquharson Institute of Public Affairs (FIPA) Award of the Century for "Outstanding Scholarship in Literary and Language Studies and Creative Writing"
- Dr Michael Bucknor: Farquharson Institute of Public Affairs (FIPA) Award for "Outstanding Promotion of Caribbean Literature"
- Dr Michael Bucknor: Mona Campus Principal's Research Awards 2018 (The Best Research Publication–Article Category)
- Dr Nina Bruni: Appointed member of the "Academia Dominicana de la Lengua (Corresponding to the Real Academia Espanola, RAE-Spain) in recognition of contributions to the study of Dominican Literature and Culture
- Dr Saran Stewart: Mona Campus Principal's Research Awards 2018 (The Best Research Publication-Article Category)
- Dr Saran Stewart: Mona Campus Principal's Research Awards 2018 (The Most Outstanding Researcher/Research Activity Category)
- Dr Zoyah Kinkead-Clark & Collaborator: Mona Campus Principal's Research Awards 2018 (The Best Research Publication-Article Category)
- Dr Yewande Lewis-Fokum & Collaborator: Mona Campus Principal's Research Awards 2018 (The Best Research Publication-Article Category)

### **OUTREACH AND MARKETING INITIATIVES**

Outreach and marketing initiatives of the Faculty were coordinated by the Faculty Outreach and Marketing Subcommittee led by the Associate Dean for Outreach and Marketing. These activities, some of which will be outlined shortly, were intended to achieve certain key objectives. For instance, increasing student enrollment by promoting the image of the

Faculty as well as its academic offerings among potential applicants in secondary schools across the island; and encouraging voluntary contributions to society, through individual academic staff activism, participation in community projects and civil associations, as well as serving on advisory boards of public educational, socio-cultural, and economic agencies or entities.

With respect to the first objective, the Subcommittee, in concert with the Mona Campus Recruitment Office, visited the following secondary schools where presentations were made: Wolmer's Girls School, Immaculate Conception High School, Campion College, Alpha Convent of Mercy Academy, Wolmer's Boys School, Calabar High School, and Camperdown High School. To complement the efforts of the Subcommittee, the various academic units also undertook initiatives to advertise their own programmes to island-wide audiences. Via the "Modern Languages and Literatures Day," which was supported by the Chinese, French, Japanese, and Spanish embassies in Kingston, the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures highlighted the benefits of foreign language education to an audience of approximately two hundred (200) students from forty (40) High Schools across the island.

At different times during the course of the year in review, Modern Languages and Literatures, History and Archaeology, Literatures in English, and the Caribbean School of Media and Communication had organized workshops that were principally aimed at preparing sixth form students for the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE). The annual "Grade 9 Mathematics Problem-Solving Competition," which was organized by the School of Education and intended to promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills, attracted an impressive audience from thirty (30) high and junior schools across the island.

Academic staff, depending on their areas of specialization, were invited to sit on the advisory boards of public institutions with a view to contributing to policy formulation for the advancement of society. Among others, some of these public institutions were: Caribbean Examination Council, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management

Agency, Organization of American States (OAS), Jamaica National Council on Education, Jamaica National Heritage Trust, and Jamaica Library Board. The Mona Campus and the University as a whole, as a means of inducement, have always rewarded volunteerism through participation in public outreach activities during staff evaluation and promotion exercises.

The Faculty in 2016/17, in an effort to promote its image and the UWI brand generally, while also simultaneously seeking to attract more applicants for its academic programmes, entered into an agreement with the *Sunday Gleaner* to fortnightly publish a series of short newspaper articles on the relevance of the Humanities. Under the overarching title of “Humanities in Action,” twelve (12) articles were published during the year in review by graduates of the Faculty and members of its academic staff. “Not just Thinking, Critical Thinking in the New Economy,” and “Critical Thinking and Career Choices in the Creative Industries,” among many others, emphasized the centrality of critical thinking in the pedagogical and theoretical approaches of the Humanities to wealth and knowledge creation, acquisition and consumption. Arrangements are now afoot, with the support of the Board for Undergraduate Studies (BUS), to revise some of these articles for publication in a special edition of its journal, *Quality Forum*.

## **INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

While seeking new international collaborations and partnerships to promote research, teaching and learning, efforts were also made by the Faculty Office and the various academic units (Schools, Institute, and Departments) to strengthen those that were already secured. Regarding the latter, the Department of Library and Information Studies had previously secured UNESCO funding for a feasibility study to determine the usefulness, or otherwise, of establishing a global “Media and Information Literacy Institute.” However, having completed the initial study to the admiration and satisfaction of UNESCO, the Department has been called upon to undertake a related study to expand the findings of the first.

While the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures began new partnerships, others merely initiated discussions for new external collaborations. The School of Education and the Caribbean School of Media and Communication belong in the latter category. To support the newly introduced M.Ed. programme in Education for Sustainable Development, the School of Education initiated talks with the London South Bank University (LSBU) for teaching and research collaboration in this area. The Department of Mass Communication at the Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, initiated talks for collaboration with the School of Media and Communication to facilitate student exchanges, including a visiting lecturer appointment to be funded by the Fulbright Programme. The results of these talks might be known during the course of this academic year, 2018/19.

Finally, with respect to new partnerships, four (4) Spanish Language students from the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures spent the second semester of the year in review at the University of Valladolid, Spain, to enhance their oral and written competencies in Spanish Language under the Erasmus Mundus Language Exchange Programme. Secondly, under an Agreement brokered by the International Students' Office of the Mona Campus, another set of students and three (3) lecturers from the same Department participated in a "Spanish Language Immersion/Cultural Programme" at the University of Guantanamo, Cuba, from June 1st to June 25th, 2018. On aggregate, given the challenges and performances in the various areas highlighted, the year in review was encouraging for the Faculty as it sought to rebuild and reposition itself as a globally competitive teaching and research entity within the Mona Campus for the advancement of scholarship in the humanities and education based disciplines.