

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Mona

Year ending July 31, 2018



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Dean

– *Dean’s Overview* –

INTRODUCTION

The Faculty began the 2017–18 academic year with the staging of its Annual Faculty Day under the theme “Ready, Set, Goals”. This year an additional day was added as a strategic planning retreat day to discuss in detail the Faculty’s initiatives in relation to the 2017–22 UWI “Triple A” Strategic Plan. In the Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty Day marks the official start of preparations for the new academic year, with the main goal being to foster a singleness of purpose in all aspects of faculty operations and building team spirit.

There were no major changes in the management of the Faculty this year, except that Dr David McBean was appointed Executive Director of the Mona School of Business on April 1, 2018. The Faculty welcomes Dr McBean and thanks Mr Michael Williams who acted in the post for eighteen months. There was also a change of governance in regards to the Centre for Disabilities Studies. This is in keeping with the Campus’ strategic direction for Disabilities Studies as an important and unique discipline. Consequently, the Centre was placed under the auspices of the Dean’s office in the Faculty. Of note, the faculty welcomed the Centre and its head, Senator Dr Floyd Morris. The Faculty would also like to congratulate Dr Aldrie Henry-Lee who was appointed University Director for the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) in January 2018. The appointment is for three years.

ACCESS

Students

In academic year 2017–18, the Faculty of Social Sciences welcomed a total of two thousand, eight hundred and twenty two (2,822) new students into the Faculty. Of this number, two thousand, five hundred (2,500) were undergraduate and three hundred and twenty two (322) were graduate students. This was an increase of four hundred and seventy (470) over the previous academic year. In an effort to address the challenges of insufficient space and overcrowding when hosting all new students at once, the Faculty broke with tradition from having orientation exercise on one day for all departments, to having orientation sessions on two days with departmental sessions on each day.

Over the period, significant efforts were made to enhance the quality and appeal of both undergraduate and graduate programmes. In this regard, a number of new programmes were approved by the Faculty's Board, namely: MSc Hospitality Management, BSc Hospitality Operations Management and a Postgraduate Diploma in Hospitality Management. The BSc Hospitality Operations Management is a collaboration between the Centre for Hotel and Tourism Management and the Swiss Education Group, Cesar Ritz Colleges. It was designed to provide students with international exposure, intensive training and development in hospitality management in a European environment. It is hoped that this will provide them with a greater mix of experience as well as academic and practical knowledge to increase their competitiveness. In keeping with the University's strategic plan to build international partnerships, the BSc in Hospitality Operations Management was designed as a "Special" degree to focus on the operations of international organizations, including food and beverage management, meetings and conventions, and entertainment.

As part of the need to remain relevant in the industry, the MSc Hospitality Management Programme was designed to address the global shocks that have threatened the sustainability of tourism in the region. The programme includes: the core management competencies of human resource

management and accounting; general tourism and tourism management; destination management; marketing of tourism; consumer behavior; planning and policy; risk, crises and disaster management. The Post Graduate Diploma in Hospitality Management was designed out of the need for alignment with the Industry. In this regard, the programme is a collaboration between The UWI and Florida International University, where managers already working in the hospitality sector can benefit from advanced training which would help them in progressing in their careers.

In the same vein, an extensive revision of the Master of Social Work was done and approved by the Board with the intention to maintain the programme's alignment with the global standards developed by the International Association of the Schools of Social Work (IASSW) of which the programme at Mona is a member. In an effort to offer students access and to improve the quality of the academic content of the programme, the revisions sought to address low throughput; the need to increase enrollment of less prepared students from institutions other than UWI; and challenges faced by students with writing, communication and insufficient practice content.

Additionally, the Department of Government designed two new courses, namely: International Trade and Digital Technology (GOVT 3205) and International Trade regulation (GOVT 3206). GOVT 3205 was developed to help students understand how technology influences international trade and the role that this relationship plays in accessing the world as a global market place. GOVT 3206 was designed to introduce students to the legal framework behind the multilateral trade system which is a central element of globalization. The course also examines emerging issues such as trade and labour, the environment, sustainable development and human rights.

The Faculty continued with its efforts to enhance teaching and learning. At the beginning of the academic year on September 7 and 14, 2017 respectively, the teaching and learning committee, which is led by Professor Garth Lipps, conducted two seminars with the objective being

to establish initiatives on how to address high failure rates in some courses and ways in which we could improve students' overall health and functioning. In a similar vein, the Mona School of Business and Management (MSBM) contracted the services of Mrs Merritt Henry (former manager of Career and Placement Services) to assist students in career development and preparation for the working world. Additionally, all MSBM students, both graduate and undergraduate, were assigned an academic advisor. It is hoped that this initiative will improve our academic service to our students and increase throughput. Team building exercises were also designed to build synergies within the MBA Mona, MBA Western Jamaica Campus and the MBM cohorts.

In focusing on improving the quality of our students, the Department of Government hosted a workshop for students pursuing FOUN 1301 – Law Governance, Economy and Society in the Caribbean. The purpose of the workshop was to give students a more refined and direct approach to answering questions. The workshop was facilitated by Mr Glenville McLeod who is a lecturer in the department. The Department of Economics also collaborated with The League for Future Economists to launch a mentorship programme for students. The programme was designed to help students connect with innovative and engaging persons in academia who specialize in Economics or its related areas. Mentors are tasked with aiding in the personal and professional growth of their mentees by involving them in a number of activities. The areas of focus are: relationship building; academic skills and personal development; life after University; the importance of building a network and job shadowing opportunities.

RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES

During the academic year 2017–18, five students completed their PhDs and one completed her DBA. This is evidenced in the chart below:

Faculty of Social Sciences PhD/ DBA Oral Examinations Academic Year 2017–2018

	PhD/ DBA Candidate	Thesis Title
1.	Dianne Gordon, PhD	Non-Farm Rural Enterprise and Rural Development in Jamaica: An Evaluation of the Development Effectiveness of Selected Rural Enterprise
2.	Yvonne Jones-Nelson, PhD	An Analysis of the Housing Market in High Growth Tourism Areas of Jamaica
3.	Julian Mckoy Davis, PhD	Financial Preparation for Retirement and Financial Independence Among 30–80 Years Old in Jamaica
4.	Cheralee Morgan, DBA	The Role of Entrepreneurial Networks on Firm Performance: A Focus on Jamaican Small Firms
5.	Sherlette Rookwood-Brown, PhD	We Want Justice! Factors Influencing Employees' Perception of Overall Fairness of Performance Appraisal Systems and its Impact on Organizational Commitment
6.	Tanzia Saunders, PhD	A Critical Evaluation of the Regulatory Framework Governing Employment in Post Independent Jamaica: The Case of Administrative Heads in Central Government 2000–2013

The Faculty continued its drive to make research relevant to our various stakeholders. In this regard, Dr Orville Taylor presented a paper on “Decent Work, Staff Motivation and Crime Prevention Outcomes” at the Jamaica Constabulary Force retreat in September 2017. Also, the biennial *Dying to be Beautiful* Conference held in December 2017 under the theme “Dying to Be Beautiful? Body Image, Eating Behaviours and Health in the Caribbean” facilitated evidence-based discussions between Caribbean and international citizens who share a common ground. The discussions examined the cumulative effect of factors such as culture,

globalization, migration, economics, politics and history and their impact on the human body.

Additionally, some Faculty members were awarded the Principal's Research Days Awards. In this regard, the Faculty wishes to congratulate the following awardees. In the category of Best Research Publication, Dr Tracy-Ann Johnson-Myers for her book *The Mixed Member Proportional System: Providing Greater Representation for Women? A Case Study of the New Zealand Experience*; Dr Lisa Vasciannie for her article, "International Election Observation in Guyana 1964–2000"; Dr Indiana Minto Coy in collaboration with the MSBM, for her article, "The Role of the Diaspora in the Emergence of Economic and Territorial Intelligence in Haiti"; Dr Andre Haughton and Dr Eris Schoburgh who both received the award for Most Outstanding Researcher for articles published over the period. Dr Haughton's articles were as follows: "Developing Sustainable Balance of Payment in Small Countries: Lessons from Macroeconomic Deadlock in Jamaica"; "Exchange Rate Movements, Stock Prices and Volatility in the Caribbean and Latin America", "Current Account and Real Exchange Rate Dynamics in the Caribbean and Latin America Compared to the G7 Countries" and "Assessing the Economic Impact of the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission's (JCDC) Talent Competition on Jamaica's Economy 2011–2017". Dr Schoburgh's articles were: "Is Self Help Orientation Sufficient Basis for Local (Economic) Development?" and "Informal Citizenship". She also completed the *Handbook of Research on Sub-National Governance and Development*. The award for the Project attracting the most funds was awarded to Dr Maurice McNaughton for the Project *Going Global – Digital Jobs and Gender in Haiti*. Dr Michelle McLeod and Dr McNaughton won the award for the Research Project with the greatest Business, Economic, Development Impact for their work on *Open Data and Interactive Community Mapping: Empowering Local Community Tourism*.

The Faculty is proud to announce that SALISES, Mona won the bid to complete the first Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) report for Jamaica. The SDG Report is a United Nations Initiative which is intended to narrow the gaps, bridge the divide and translate shared

vision into national development plans and strategy. Additionally, in September 2017, Dr Claudette Crawford Brown from the Social Work Unit was interviewed by NBC TV. From this interview, NBC will be producing a documentary on her work as an outstanding social work scholar and activist.

In continuing with its effort at facilitating research collaboration, the Faculty through the Department of Sociology Psychology and Social Work joined with the School for Graduate Studies and Research and the UWI Press to launch the re-birth of the Caribbean Journal of Psychology. The Faculty would like to thank Dr Marina Ramkissoon, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies for spearheading this initiative. In January 2018, SALISES Mona hosted a Vice Chancellor's forum under the theme "Economic Transformation with Social Growth: W. Arthur Lewis's Contribution". The Forum was held to promote awareness of the Institute's plethora of offerings to students and the wider community. Displays were mounted reflecting the work of the Institute as well as a new feature called "Where are they now?" depicting past students in their current role of employment.

In academic year 2017-18, both SALISES and the Department of Economics held annual conferences. The Department of Economics for the second year hosted their Annual Conference in March 2018 with Professor Elie Tamer from Harvard University giving the keynote address on "Thoughts on Casual Inference in Games". Other notable panel discussion topics were "Firm Dynamics and Market Structures", "Health Labour and Education", and "Economic Growth and Development". SALISES hosted its annual conference in April 2018 in Montego Bay under the theme "Sustainable Futures for the Caribbean: Critical Interventions and the 2030 Agenda".

The Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work collaborated with the Department of History and Archeology to host a public forum which examined the topic "Is History still relevant in Jamaica today?" The Faculty brought the perspectives of anthropologists and sociologists and was represented by Dr Moji Anderson and Dr Michael Barnett respectively. Additionally, the Faculty joined with the Faculty of Humanities

and Education to co-host a public forum entitled “From Black Power to Black Panther to Afro-Futurism”. This forum facilitated discussions on the record breaking Ryan Coogler Film *Black Panther*. The discussions explored the film’s creative production, the political history that preceded the film, and the steady cultural and psychological impact that the movie has maintained since its release.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The FSS, in keeping with one of its key strategic objectives, to “Enhance the Physical Environment/Infrastructure of the FSS” was successful in renovating some areas of the Faculty to improve the overall attractiveness and usefulness of its facilities for all stakeholders, including students. As a result, major landscaping was done to the FSS gardens, and blocks F and G of the Alister McIntyre Complex were renovated and refurbished. From this effort, a large lecture theatre on the ground floor of block G was created and, on block F, two offices for staff, three class rooms and one conference room were established.

OUTREACH

Over the period, the Faculty participated in a number of initiatives aimed at enhancing different underserved communities in an effort to further the University’s vision. In this regard, Dr Andre Haughton from the Department of Economics hosted the Scarce Commodity Innocent Plant Symposium in April 2017. The symposium showcased and discussed some of the medical cannabis products that are currently being researched and developed by local businesses and households.

The Faculty also supported Dr Crawford Brown’s outreach initiative to have four students from the Caribbean Social Work Issues class participate in a two week service learning project on violence prevention at the Shortwood Practising Primary School. The students used art activities that were developed by Dr Crawford Brown to foster violence prevention. Additionally, the Faculty provided CAPE Seminars in Sociology, Caribbean Studies and Communication to a group of high school students from

three high schools. This was spearheaded by Dr Orville Beckford. There was also collaboration with the Spanish Town Hospital where a workshop entitled “Child Safe guarding: Beyond Child Protection” was conducted. This outreach initiative was spearheaded by an interdisciplinary team led by the Child Protection Unit and the Family Services Agency along with the FSS. The Faculty’s representative was Mrs Rose Robinson Hall from the Social Work Unit. SALISES also hosted a public forum themed “Protecting the Nation’s Children: Challenges and Opportunities”. This was a joint effort with the Child Protection and Family Services Agency and the Office of Children’s Advocate.

ALIGNMENT

In celebration of the UWI’s 70th Anniversary, the Faculty hosted a forum on March 15, 2018 under the theme “Reflections and Imaginings: The Faculty of Social Sciences’ Contribution to the region and the World”. The panelists were: Drs Mark Figueroa and Noel Cowell; Professors Aldrie Henry-Lee and Rupert Lewis; Mr Howard Mitchell, representing the private sector and Ms Ren-Neasha Blake, representing the voice of the students. Dr Eris Schoburgh, Associate Dean for Special Projects, was the lead organizer for this remarkable initiative.

Over the period, the Faculty continued its efforts at bridging the gap between academia and industry. In this regard, the MSBM conducted a Bloomberg Training Session on how to integrate Bloomberg Applications into the classroom. The Bloomberg Application is designed to create a link between the class room and the financial industry. It is a career building mechanism which offers students various job listing and networking tools. Thirteen staff members participated in the training session which was conducted by Mr Jason Goodwin who is the Bloomberg Caribbean Representative. Additionally, the Faculty is proud to highlight the fact that the MSBM won the International Innovation Award at the AMBA Excellence Awards February 2018. The award was granted for the school’s first-world Bloomberg Financial Markets Lab. The Lab provides a range of services to include data analytics, communication, electronic trading and a wide array of economic data, and is equipped with a global

financial markets simulator provided by Stock Trak. After completing training in the lab, students are able to apply theoretical learning in a more practical setting.

In an effort to increase research projects which responds to both industry and government demands, the Faculty supported the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work in its collaboration with the Jamaica Business Development Corporation to host an Employee Engagement Conference in October 2017, under the theme “Stimulate. Inspire. Empower. Engage”. The conference was designed to help managers discern when employees are disengaged, how to be the best boss your team ever had and how to achieve growth through empowerment. Additionally, there was collaboration with the Old Dominion University which resulted in the staging of a suicide assessment and intervention with seventy (70) guidance counsellors, child care workers, and deans of discipline from Western Jamaica. This initiative was spearheaded by Ms Georgia Rose from the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work.

In an effort to better align our students with the opportunities available to them in the world of work, the Psychology Unit hosted its Psychology Day under the theme “From Research to Practice”. This year, the focus was on educating both UWI and high school students on what they could do with a Psychology degree. Students were informed on how to prepare for graduate school and the workplace. Similarly, the Department of Government in collaboration with UNESCO Jamaica Youth Advisory Committee hosted a forum in October 2017 which engaged in discussions on the topic “Jamaican Youths: Architects of our Own Future”.

In a bid to promote greater activism and public awareness, the Department of Economics in collaboration with CAPRI and the IMF hosted an exclusive conversation with the IMF's Managing Director, Ms Christine Lagarde in November 2017. This event was well attended by students, lecturers and members of the public. Additionally, the Department of Economics, in February 2018, hosted the first installment of its Policy Discussion series for the academic year 2017–18 entitled “The End of Devaluations? The Implications for Business and Economy of Jamaica's

New Exchange Rate Landscape”. The presentations highlighted features of Jamaica’s new foreign exchange landscape and addressed implications for the common man. In April 2018, the Department of Economics hosted another one of its Policy Discussion Series forum, this time in collaboration with the PIOJ, entitled; “Where is the Growth? Assessing the GOJ’s Recent Growth-Inducement Efforts”.

AGILITY

In an effort to enhance the global presence of the University, the Mona School of Business and Management (MSBM) established a special marketing initiative aimed at attracting an increased number of overseas students by contracting the services of Keystone Academic Solutions to promote six of its graduate programmes internationally. The contract includes promoting the MSBM programmes on their website and the provision of leads for follow up. The Faculty is also happy to report that the MBA programme was re-accredited by the Association of MBAs (AMBA) for a period of five years which is the maximum period granted for accreditation. The AMBA is the only global MBA-specific accreditation body which accredits the leading 2% of the world’s business schools with MBA programmes. It is hoped that this achievement will add to the international profile of the University. Additionally, in an effort to engage with various alumni, SALISES collaborated with its alumni and developed a work plan for the 2017–18 academic year. This work plan included the mentorship of new students and the hosting of a round table discussion.

The Department of Government strengthened its Parliamentary Internship Programme with a dual purpose, specifically to give students practical experience and to enhance the UWT’s presence in government. Six graduate students were chosen to participate in the Programme. The Faculty also congratulates Sara Bryant and Raven Fearon, two MSBM undergraduate students who won the prestigious National Commercial Bank (NBC) Vision Award in December 2017. The NCB Vision Award is a partnership between NCB and the UWI. The students were awarded for their proposed venture of the Bull Head Mountains Eco-lodge which is an alternative and remote accommodation to escape the usual mundane

all-inclusive type accommodations. Additionally, the Faculty continues to support students to take advantage of potential opportunities in both the local and international marketplace through the continuance of the Cooperative Accounting Programme. In the academic year 2017–18, the programme had forty student interns, four MSc students and thirty six (36) undergraduate students. Seven of these students were assigned to Ernst and Young in Trinidad and Tobago, twenty at Ernst and Young in Jamaica and thirteen were assigned to Price WaterhouseCoopers (PWC) Jamaica. The Cooperative Accounting Programme is a collaborative initiative between The UWI Mona and the public and private sectors which offers accounting students the opportunity to graduate with special skills and experience. Additionally, the programme responds to the demand for 'experienced' graduates by aligning students with partner companies to gain invaluable work experience as well as the opportunity to earn as they study. This collaboration was originally launched in 2013.

The Faculty is proud to announce that this year's Vincent Hosang UWI Venture Competition (UWIVC) was won by a team of three MSBM MBA students, namely: Shanalee Cawley, Kristopher Henry and Tricia Bent who pitched business ideas under the team named "ECO-Structures Limited". The idea presented was of an environmental business that will operate as a fully functional manufacturing plant, allowing for low-cost eco-friendly construction solutions employing in a patented formula. The UWIVC competition was launched in 2002 as a project of the Vincent Hosang Entrepreneurship Programme, and is designed to encourage members of the University community to use their talents and skills to harness entrepreneurial ideas that can be grown into full fledged operating businesses. This year, seventeen (17) teams entered the competition and five teams made it through to the final round.

The Department of Government joined with the University (Centre) to administer a series of focus group sessions among the four Campuses with the purpose being: to conceptualize business process perspectives at UWI; to conceptualize an ideal process and to determine base information system requirements for core processes for the One UWI Business Initiative. The Faculty established a Diversity and Inclusion

Sub-committee, led by Associate Dean for Special Projects, Dr Eris Schoburgh. The Committee explored the findings of an information-gathering exercise to determine the next steps for this area of focus. The meeting noted the implications for a Faculty's response to the varying diversity issues, and the need for a clear mandate and also recognized the positive moves made so far with respect to the issue of disabilities.

Over the period, amidst severe challenges, the Faculty has worked hard to improve the quality of teaching, learning and student development by advancing knowledge through the design of new programmes and courses and revising existing ones. It has sought to improve the quality, quantity and impact of our research through increased collaboration and alignment with industry and government and to create an environment that is conducive to learning by our landscaping, refurbishing and renovation initiatives.