

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES Mona

Year ending July 31, 2023



HEATHER RICKETTS
BSc, MPhil, PhD.
DEAN

Dean's Overview

THE FSS AT A GLANCE IN AY 2022–2023

Leadership

The Faculty welcomed its first female Dean, Dr Heather Ricketts on August 1, 2022. The Faculty thanks former Dean, Professor David Tennant, who demitted office on July 31, 2022, for his outstanding leadership and stewardship over the 2018–2022 period.

Resumption of Face-to-Face Activities

The Faculty resumed full face-to-face teaching and learning after two and a half years of emergency remote teaching due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Resumption was initially rocky largely on account of infrastructure deterioration over the 'lockdown' period.

Strategic Planning

The Faculty's Strategic Plan for the period 2022–2027 was finalized in alignment with the UWI Triple A Strategy and the FSS REACH Vision – **R** realizing Impact Through Research; **E**xceeding the Expectations of Our Stakeholders; **A**ctively Working Towards Financial Sustainability; **C**ommitted to being Caring, Accountable, Motivated and Professional Individuals; **H**arnessing our Resources Through Continuous Improvement. The operationalization of the FSS Strategic Plan for the AY 2022–2023 resulted in several key strategic achievements, some of which are highlighted in this report.

Enrolment

As the table below shows, except for the Mona School of Business & Management, enrolment had declined relative to the previous year 2021/22. Overall, this reduction was 8.8%.

Department/ Programme	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Department of Economics	342	319	325	278
Department of Government	360	320	184	134
Mona School of Business & Management (MSBM)	511	622	505	527
Sociology, Psychology & Social Work	269	265	210	177
FSS Mona	1482	1526	1224	1116

Anniversaries

The Mona School of Business & Management (MSBM) celebrated its 10th Anniversary of the merger of the Department of Management Studies (DOMS) and Mona School of Business. Commemorative activities included: the launch of a newly redesigned MBSM website; an inaugural James Moss Solomon Memorial Lecture delivered by Senator Don Wehby, CEO of the Grace Kennedy Group; a 10th Anniversary Church service; and a Securities Seminar under the theme “Understanding the framework of the Securities Industry”, sponsored by Victoria Mutual Wealth and in partnership with the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce and the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica.

Graduation

The 2022–2023 Graduation ceremonies saw a total of 1,325 undergraduate being awarded their BSc degrees and 369 graduate students (MSc, MBA, MPhil, PhD, DBA).

Board Membership

In terms of Board Membership, approximately 64 FSS faculty and staff members served on approximately 194 boards, committees, and technical and working groups. Representation included the public sector, private sector, non-UWI scholarly/professional associations/entities or civil society/NGO/Other.

ACCESS

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Prizes Awarded to Students

Undergraduate and Graduate Awards

The Faculty hosted its second virtual Student Awards Ceremony on February 23, 2023 via its YouTube channel @FSSUWIMONA (<https://youtu.be/eyIhOYuy7Y0>), to recognize the outstanding academic performance of 346 students. These included:

(i) Undergraduate Awards (47 Honours Society Inductees – Level I; 12 Honours Society Inductees – Level II; 119 First Class Honours; 1 Undergraduate Diploma Distinction; and 33 Special Awards) and (ii) Graduate Awards (68 Graduate Distinctions and 66 Special Awards).

Dean's List (Semester II)

The exceptional academic performance of 338 undergraduate students resulted in them earning a place on the Dean's List for Semester II. This included 47 students from the Mona Western Jamaica Campus and 5 students from the Weekend Programmes.

Marketing initiatives to attract increased numbers of students to the University

Significant efforts were made to market the Faculty in an attempt to achieve enrollment levels at least on par with those in the AY 2019–2020, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. These efforts included:

The launch of a Recruitment Page on the Faculty's Website

The Recruitment webpage (<https://www.mona.uwi.edu/socsci/recruitment>) is a central hub of information for prospective students, making it easier for them to navigate the application process. The webpage highlights the popular programmes available in the Social Sciences and suggests a choice of programmes based on students' interests and personality. This helps students explore their options and make informed decisions about their educational paths.

The Hosting of FSS Talks Session with Prospective Students

The Faculty hosted an FSS Talks session for over 130 High School students on March 30, 2023, the primary objective of which was to introduce them to the diverse disciplines in the Faculty.

Telephoning Applicants Who Had Received an Offer but Had Not Yet Accepted

The Faculty telephoned applicants who received programme offers, but had not accepted in order to understand the reasons for not accepting and encourage their acceptance of the offer. This reaped limited success.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Efforts made to improve the quality of teaching, learning and student development

To better serve its students, a number of efforts were taken to improve the quality of teaching, learning and student development. These included:

The Expansion of the Roll-With-It Programme for Students and Staff

Spearheaded by the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Student Experience, the Faculty's Roll-With-It-Programme was expanded to continue to build the mental resilience of students and staff especially post COVID-19. Initiatives included:

- “A Week of Sleep” – A 5-day sleep series highlighting the importance of being well-rested (September 12–16, 2022)
- “Building Mental Resilience” – A celebration of FSS Mental Health Week (October 2022)
- “November Fest: A 4-Week Challenge on Changing your Mindset”, wherein mental training challenges and activities are disseminated to improve dedication and commitment to personal goals (November 2022)
- “Stress and Overwhelm Survey” of First Year Students (November 2022)
- “Stressed Out? Discover the roadmap for academic mastery” Seminar (January 19, 2023)
- “Enhancing Teaching Techniques and Student Engagement” Seminar (January 26, 2023)
- February Love (February 2023)
- “Managing Stress – Discover the Roadmap for Academic Mastery” Seminar (April 13, 2023)

FSS Food Cupboard Initiative

Spearheaded by the Associate Dean for Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation, the Faculty launched its Food Cupboard Initiative to alleviate/reduce food insecurity among FSS students in the main, in January 2023. The Faculty partnered with The Free Likkle Cupboard, a local NGO that provides food cupboards at no cost. The Faculty received its first donation from the Grace Kennedy Foundation. There is on-going promotion to staff, students and potential partners to donate to this initiative as a means of sustaining the supply in the cupboard.

OAS-UWI 75th Anniversary Commemorative Cookbook

The Faculty partnered with the Organization of American States (OAS) and Grace Foods to publish a unique 75th Anniversary commemorative cookbook, featuring 75 recipes showcasing the rich culture of the Caribbean and other OAS member states. The proceeds from the sale of the cookbook are earmarked to fund an OAS-UWI 75th Anniversary Commemorative Scholarships Fund.

Curriculum Advising and Programme Planning (CAPP)

Work continued on the CAPP project to facilitate the digital declaration of an additional number of degree majors and minors in the Faculty. This has significantly reduced the processing time of students' academic records for confirmation of degree completion. The goal is to have the student-interface with CAPP piloted by AY2024/25, whereby students can track their progress through their programmes.

Academic Advising Programme

The Faculty continued its formal Academic Advising Programme to enhance the academic guidance provided to FSS students. Positive reviews were received from students who were selected for the programme, and numerous students who were not selected made requests to be assigned to advisors. The programme remained the only of its kind offered on the Mona Campus and was recognized as a best practice by other faculties and institutions, who expressed interest in adopting the programme.

Academic Governance Framework

An Academic Governance Framework was designed to improve accountability and transparency within the Faculty around examination matters. The framework highlights the various roles and responsibilities of lecturers, programme coordinators, unit heads and administrators within the departments and faculty in handling exam scripts, mark sheets and other exam administrative processes.

Full Automation of Automated Student Request System (ASRS)

As the largest Faculty on the Mona Campus, the FSS engaged the Registry Information Systems (RIS) in an exploration of the full automation of the ASRS to improve the processing time. The areas in which the FSS sought support for in the initial phase were: Change of enrollment status from Full Time (FT) to Part Time (PT); Change of enrollment status from PT to FT; Addition/Change of Major; Addition/Change of Minor; Leave of Absence; Late Leave of Absence; Late Adjustment to Registration; Voluntary Withdrawal; Waivers of the Requirement to Withdraw; Resolution of the need for overrides Semester II registration for yearlong courses; and Maximum credit overrides.

ALIGNMENT

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Efforts made to improve the quality, quantity and impact of research, innovation and publication

The Faculty continued its initiatives aimed at increasing research productivity, specifically, its publication output. These efforts included:

Research Writers' Retreat for Academics

Spearheaded by the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, and the Research and Planning Officer, the Faculty hosted the 4th staging of the Research Writers' Retreat. The retreat took place from Thursday, January 5, to Sunday, January 8, 2023, at The Cardiff Hotel & Spa in Runaway Bay. Eleven (11) members of the academic staff participated, guided by 3 Professors in Residence. Feedback was positive, with attendees indicating that the retreat offered a structured and conducive environment for them to focus. The retreat has garnered recognition as a successful model, and the 2024 retreat will be jointly hosted with the Faculty of Science and Technology who approached the FSS to partner. Research Seminars

Research seminars continued to play an essential role in strengthening the Faculty's research culture. Faculty members either hosted or participated in over 31 research seminars. These seminars contributed significantly to the growth and advancement of knowledge within the following fields: Green Economy and Sustainability; Economic Development and Policy; Social Issues and Social Policy; Governance and Politics; and Research Methodology and Writing.

Seminar to Increase Involvement in Grant Writing

As a proactive step towards advancing research, innovation, and publication, the FSS Grant Writing Committee hosted a virtual Panel Discussion "*What is in it for me? Benefits of Grant Writing*" on November 1, 2022. Eight-six (86) persons attended the session and the presentations included:

- "An overview of MORI's support structure in grantsmanship" (Dr Julie-Ann Grant, Grant Development Coordinator at the Mona Office for Research and Innovation).
- "What Donors Want" (Miss Debbie Emamdíe, Senior Project Officer and Unit Head at the University Office of Research, the University of the West Indies).

- “A perspective on Partnerships and Publications in the grant writing process” (Professor Corin Bailey, Director of the Institute of Criminal Justice and Security at the University of the West Indies, Regional Headquarters).
- “The benefits of grant writing for career progression” (Dr Arlene Bailey, Senior Research Fellow at SALISES Mona).

Innovative Efforts to Generate Research Topics

Innovative efforts were implemented to generate research topics, and promote innovation and publication. These included:

- A “Lunch Time Policy Series” implemented by the Department of Economics and Department of Government. The initiative was developed to generate research ideas and initiatives and forge collaborations between the UWI community, industry experts, the government and international organizations. The series examined a range of pertinent economic and socio-political issues affecting Jamaica’s development.
- A seminar entitled “*Chat GPT & Research*” on June 1, 2023 which highlighted the usefulness of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology as a tool for researchers to streamline the idea generation process, enhance creativity, and provide data-driven insights. The seminar was hosted by the Marketing Officer, the Mona Information Technology Services (MITS) Information Technology Officer, and the Professor of Information Systems at the Mona School of Business and Management.

Editorial Board Membership

Faculty members continued to serve as journal reviewers and members of editorial boards. During the year, Professor Eris Schoburgh (Department of Government) was elected to the Editorial Board of the Public Management Review (PMMR), one of the leading journals in the field of public management and public policy. She also assumed the Vice-Presidency of the International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM) with responsibility for Latin America and the Caribbean. Additionally, Dr Indianna Minto-Coy and Professor Lila Rao-Graham (Mona School of Business and Management) were appointed Emerald Brand Ambassador, Emerald Publishing, and the new holder of the GraceKennedy S. Carlton Alexander Chair in Management Studies at the UWI Mona, respectively.

NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Research that responds to industry / government demands

FSS Research Activity

FSS researchers played a vital role in addressing immediate and long-term challenges, driving innovation, fostering economic growth, and improving the overall well-being of society during the AY 2022–2023. They engaged in robust research activities: 23 conference presentations; 14 refereed journal articles and book chapters, 4 technical reports, including policy papers; and the launch of 2 books. Topics included: Health and Social Well-being; Sustainable Development; Migration and Policy; Education and Youth; Sports and Performance; Evaluation and Development; Global Economy and Political Culture; and Food Security and Sustainability.

Initiatives to Increase and Improve Academic/Industry Research Partnerships

The Faculty increased and improved academic/industry research partnerships through active engagements with various organizations and groups, research partnerships and collaborations. These included:

Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES)

- **Collaboration between academia and industry in the field of information and communication technologies:** Research Fellows played a significant role in coordinating the publication of the proceedings of the AIS SIG GlobDev 2022 Workshop on ICTs and Global Development.
- **Collaboration and partnerships in the field of migration and development:** Research Fellows participated in various events and working groups related to international migration and development, including attending stakeholder engagement sessions and stocktaking meetings organized by the International Organization for Migration, as well as participating in discussions on climate mobility and World Development Reports.
- **Collaboration in the field of democracy research:** Research Fellows served as country experts for the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) project, co-hosted by the University of Gothenburg and the University of Notre Dame. The VDem project is a new approach to the conceptualization and measurement of democracy and is one of the largest social science research-oriented data collection programmes.
- **Collaboration in the field of criminal justice and corrections:** Research Fellows served as Technical Secretary and Chair of the Juvenile Working Group for The Bureau of Standards Jamaica's Correctional Services Standards Technical

Committee. Additionally, Fellows participated in webinars, meetings, and expert panels, such as the Howard League for Penal Reform and the International Corrections & Prisons Association Delphi Panel.

The Department of Economics

- **Collaboration with the Government of Jamaica (GOJ), Ministries, Departments and Agencies around a myriad of economic, public and social policy activities:** Proposal for the establishment of a Fiscal Research Centre/ Institute within the Department of Economics with GOJ promised endowment of \$200,000,000.

The Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work

- **Collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):** Researchers within the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work finalized and validated a data appreciation tool for UNFPA Data Appreciation Project.

The Mona School of Business and Management

- **Partnership with Business Development Corporation (JBDC):** The Mona School of Business and Management initiated a partnership with Business Development Corporation (JBDC) for final projects with graduate students, enhancing industry-academic collaboration.

The Department of Government

- **Partnership with the Embassy of Japan in Jamaica:** The Department of Government in partnership with the Embassy of Japan in Jamaica hosted two lectures – (i) a lecture on the “Free and Open International Cooperation (FOIC) Framework” delivered by Mr. So Umezaki, Director, Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), and (ii) a lecture on “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” delivered by Dr. Masami Ishida, Professor in the Department of International Development Studies at the Bioresource College at the Nihon University in Japan.
- **Partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Jamaica Office:** The Department of Government in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Jamaica Office hosted two lectures: (i) a lecture on “Transformation of Global Health Governance and Japan’s Role in it” delivered by Professor Kayo Takuma from Tokyo Metropolitan University, and (ii) a lecture on “Educational Development in Modernization in Japan” delivered by Dr. Nobuko Kayashima, Senior Research Adviser at Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development of JICA .

AGILITY

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Efforts made to enhance the global presence of the University

Faculty members actively sought out regional and international collaborations and partnerships with various institutions with the specific intention to expand the UWI's global footprint. These included:

- Continued partnership between the United Nations (UN) Jamaica and the Department of Economics to host the Jamaican Economy Panel (JEP), which brings together a select group of economic and public sector experts who address a monthly series of socioeconomic questions in formats that seek to engage and empower the public.
- Guest Lectures and Public Lecture Series hosted by the Department of Government with lectures delivered by members of the diplomatic corps and visiting academics (The European Union in Jamaica, Embassy of Japan, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency).
- The Department of Government accepted an invitation from the U.S. Embassy, Kingston to attend a film screening “Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice” showcasing issues related to civil and political rights in the USA, commemorating Black History Month.
- The Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work (SPSW) signed a partnership agreement with the Public Assistance Program, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, an initiative under the National Poverty Reduction Program (NPRP) of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), to place Social Work students at the Public Assistance Division of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security as part of their course of study.
- Partnerships with other Universities
 - The new course titled Caribbean Cultures and Heritage: Debating Cultural Curatorship (SOCI6121) taught through The Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work and co-taught by the University of St Andrews (Scotland)
 - Preliminary discussions being held with St Mary's University, Canada for dual degree programmes (The Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work)
 - Yale University for their “Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale” conference (Department of Economics)

- McGill University and the Tokyo Metropolitan University to strengthen international academic partnerships (Department of Government)
- Queen's University, Smith Business School Partnership to strengthen international academic partnerships (The Mona School of Business and Management)
- Birmingham City University to conduct the workshop "Perspectives on Youth Work, Communities and Change: Comparative Approaches in the Caribbean, Latin America and the UK" on July 19, 2022 (Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies)
- Successful joint British Academy Grant application with the School of Advanced Studies at the University of London and Dr Doreen Gordon (The Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work) to develop the writing skills of early and mid-career academics at universities in the region. UWI Mona will be one of the locations where training will be carried out in January 2024.
- Promotion of the BSc/MSc Politics and International Cooperation (MPIC) Programme¹ through the Department of Government's attendance at various events organized by the Embassy of France in Jamaica, and visits to the University of Sciences Po, Bordeaux.

Initiatives aimed at increasing the number of international students enrolled at Mona and increasing partnerships with international institutions

Updating of the Faculty's Departmental Brochures

There was increased demand for FSS programme brochures from University representatives from the Offices of the Campus Principal and the Campus Registrar, to facilitate their overseas marketing trips. The Faculty's Departmental brochures were updated with an attractive, streamlined design.

Partnerships for Development

The Faculty hosted a Partnerships for Development Series including Ambassadors, Resident Representatives and Chargé D'affaires from Germany, Colombia, Costa Rica, Britain, The United Nations Population Fund, The Organization of American States, The Embassy of Argentina (Donation of books on the Falkland Islands), The Embassy of Germany (Entrepreneurship Training Programme), The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (expression of support for a possible project) and The High Commission of Canada (hosted Canada Film Festival). This series is aimed at increasing the number of international exchange programmes, inviting guest lecturers to enrich the student experience in classes, and co-hosting workshops and seminars.

¹ <https://www.mona.uwi.edu/socsci/programmes/bscm-sc-politics-and-international-cooperation>

Memorandum of Understanding

A Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Cape Coast, Ghana and the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work was signed to promote staff exchanges and academic collaboration.

CONCLUSION

Faculty members exhibited tremendous resilience over the two and a half years of virtual operations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, in spite of their own personal challenges and the required COVID-19 mitigation protocols. Returning to face-to-face operations was therefore with cautious optimism. The Faculty prepared its Strategic Plan in alignment with the new UWI 2022–2027 Strategic Plan, continued to provide outstanding teaching and learning, continued to publish, engage in thought leadership, public service and advocacy. The Faculty also exhibited great strength in its ability to manage the changes brought about by staff movements – new Dean, new Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies, Mona, new Head of Department for Sociology, Psychology and Social Work, and the secondment of the Professor of Tourism to the Caribbean Maritime University (CMU) to serve as President. The Faculty extends gratitude to those who demitted office, including Professor David Tennant, former Dean; Dr Orville Taylor, former Head, Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work; Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee, former University Director and Mona Campus Director, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES); and Professor Andrew Spencer, former Deputy Executive Director of the Mona School of Business and Management (MSBM).



Photos of the FSS Food Cupboard