

# WESTERN JAMAICA CAMPUS

## Montego Bay

Year ending July 31, 2018



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Acting Campus Director

## – Overview –

The 2017–2018 academic year represented the tenth year of the campus’ establishment in the city of Montego Bay. This provided the framework for deepening our relationship with the varied partners and stakeholders spread across the Western region and allowed us to maximize the opportunities and potential for reviewing our academic programming, exploring possibilities for applied research, as well as expanding community outreach and student engagement. It also allowed for regularizing the relationship between the leadership and management of the campus with the Deans, Heads of Department, Sections and units including Estate Management and the Projects Office.

The faculty and staff at the UWI Mona – Western Jamaica Campus in Montego Bay is committed to being “the best little piece of UWI in the West”. For the period under review the major thrust continued to be improving the quality assurance processes, responding to student needs in the areas of health and wellness, establishing social development and study spaces, and promoting an overall culture of student success. Effort was also expended in creating platforms for increased staff engagement and opportunities for contributing to University and community life.

At the end of the 2017–2018 academic year there were 889 officially registered students at the UWI Mona-WJC. This total still does not include the more than 50 students who do two years of MBBS programme before going to Mona-Kingston. 811 undergraduates and 78 graduates (Mona School of Business and Management) are spread across the Faculties of Humanities and Education, Medicine, Law, Science and Technology, and Social Sciences. While there has been an overall increase of 5.5 % in student population, the new student intake surpassed 300 for the second consecutive year. Sustained growth in the student population can be achieved with a more robust communication support plan driven by the development of an evidence-based strategic and operational plan for the next decade.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- Anderson, R. and Longworth, L. (Editors) (2016) *Economic transformation of Jamaica – Policies, competitiveness and technology innovations*. Indiana, USA: Trafford Publishing.
- Campbell, Steffon (2017) “Out of many one Love? A Comparative study on the nature of sexual communication in polyamory and monogamy in the Caribbean” (115–141) in Karen Carpenter (Editor) *Interweaving Tapestries of Culture and Sexuality in the Caribbean*. Palgrave Macmillan
- Anthony O. Drummonds & Daniel T. Fokum, “An Ontology Model for Mobile Agents towards Reducing Malware Activity in the Internet of Things”, 11th Faculty of Science and Technology Conference 2018, Apr. 25–27, 2018, UWI, Mona
- Plummer, N. (2018) “The Call to Resistance: The Weaponisation of Language in the Music of Tanya Stephens” in *Rough Riding: Tanya Stephens and the Power of Music to Transform Society* edited by Adwoa Onuora, Anna Kasafi Perkins and Ajamu Nangwaya, UWI, Press.

## **PUBLIC LECTURES**

The Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) supported by the Public Affairs Division of the US Embassy in Jamaica executed its second public lecture and awards presentation during Journalism Week in November 2017. The lecture examined the topic: Who Watches the WatchDog: Media Accountability in the Digital Age given all the controversy and discussion recently about the need for a Media Complaints Commission.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

- Ms. Inderia Adjudah, WJC Administrative Officer, continues to serve as Chairman of the Administrative Professionals Week Committee 2016/2017 for the St. James Chapter of The Jamaica Association of Administrative Professionals. She is also a member of the MoBay

City Run Committee in charge of Volunteers/ Marshalls and Water Stations

- Mr. Patrick Prendergast and Ms. Inderia Adjudah serve as Board members of the non-profit iloveMobay Foundation.
- Ms. Nicole Plummer and Mr. Steffon Campbell continue to play critical research and communication roles as part of the Rastafari Coral Gardens Committee/UWI-Mona, WJC Working Group
- Ms Georgia Rose serves on various boards and committees within the Western Regional Mental Health Authority and is a consultant/researcher with the Primary Education Unit of the Ministry of Education

## **INCOME GENERATION**

While there was a marginal increase in new student intake for the 2017–2018 academic year the demand on the limited space available for teaching, co-curricular and other critical community enterprise activities remains significant. The demand for the use of the campus' facilities increased partly due to our accessibility, continued customer satisfaction along with word-of-mouth referrals. Creating a strategic balance between the internal obligations and external requests allowed the campus to increase its earnings from basic rental of space to just over JA\$2.932 million dollars up from JA\$2.490 million dollars. With this in mind, facility rental is an area for development as there is potential for growth in income generation.

The WJC Branch Library continues to generate some income from its reprographic and allied services to the tune of JA\$1.042 million. The WJC Summer School also continues to be a significant revenue stream for the campus. Over the last three years, the WJC Summer School generated after expenses revenue of approximately \$5 million per year. Summer School 2018 grossed just fewer than \$11 million from 382 registrations across 25 courses.

## **INTERNAL OPERATIONS**

The quest for ensuring quality assurance and improved delivery of services at the campus included specialized meetings and training between the WJC units and Mona sections with responsibility for Admissions, Registration Information Systems and Examinations. The campus successfully participated in the pilot and roll out of the eTimesheet system and the Bursary facilitated training of administrative staff in Financial Code and Procurement Policy. Further work needs to be done on streamlining the organizational structure and staffing at the campus and should be advanced by planned management, operational, and staff audits.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENTERPRISE**

With the formal engagement of Mona Social Services at the WJC, there is now an established partnership with the Social Development Commission. The major thrust of this partnership is the promotion of good governance and leadership practices at the community level across St. James. Among the highlights of the year is the first Governance Conference for Community Leaders held at the campus on May 29, 2018 under the theme, “Strengthening Our Leaders to Build Communities”. The MSS alongside the UWI, Mona-WJC staff, SDC and USAID also led a pre-Labour day project at Women’s Centre in Montego Bay on May 17, 2018 as well as capacity building training with members of the Rastafari Coral Gardens Benevolent Society resulting in 15 persons being certified in effective communication, book and records keeping, and proposal writing.

The UWI Community Film Project (UWICFP) continues its expansion as a significant part of the community outreach agenda. In 2017–2018 the UWICFP training included communities in St Ann with the support of the Jamaica Social investment Fund while its GATTFEST was this year hosted at the Palace Cineplex in Fairview, Montego Bay which allowed for greater exposure of the locally produced films to the wider community.

The second installment of JAMPRO/UWI Mona-WJC Creative Industries Open House Forum was held at the UWI Mona – WJC, February 22–23 2018. Approximately 50 persons from across the creative industries participated in the JAMPRO forum which was designed to provide information to industry practitioners in the creative sectors on the ease of doing business, to serve as an annual relationship-deepening opportunity with public and private sector partners, as well as share information on the business and economic growth potential in the creative sectors.

WJC Week 2017, held October 8–15, was expanded to include students and staff attending a special church service, a media appreciation breakfast with 12 of the Western Jamaica-based reporters and journalists from all the major local media houses, and the first Sustainable Cities Symposium under the theme Partnerships for Development. The symposium brought together researchers and practitioners from public and corporate entities involved in the development of the city as well as a student leaders' forum which explored related youth and development issues. Presentation at the symposium included faculty from WJC, UTech Western, Montego Bay Community College as well as Urban Development Corporation, St James Municipal Corporation and Jamaica Public Service Company.

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

The UWI School of Nursing continued its hold on the annual LASCO/NAJ Nursing Student and School of the Year Competition. For the third consecutive year a UWISON-WJC student was triumphant with Mr. Desmond Campbell being declared Student Nurse of the Year 2018–2019. The UWISON-WJC was also once again voted Nursing School of Year 2018–2019 for the fourth consecutive year.

## **CONCLUSION – CHANGING LIVES . . . TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES**

As the 10th year of our establishment in the city of Montego Bay as a response to the growing cry for increased access to higher education in the Western Jamaica region, the 2017–2018 academic year could be seen

as a defining marker for how far we have come as well as being a foundational year for both positioning the WJC as the best little piece of UWI out west as well as making UWI Mona the campus of choice among all stakeholder and interest groups. We have seen sustained growth in the new student intake, improved the quality assurance of our academic programmes, new study spaces and student success activities, graduated over 900 students, deepened our partnerships within and across the entire community, and built on our leadership role as a higher education institution.

The next ten years of our existence should be undergirded by a positive reflection on the legacy of brand excellence which is the UWI and being proactive in the design and implementation of new initiatives to realize the new Triple A strategic plan of the UWI. The positioning of the UWI Mona-Western Jamaica campus as the most critical player in the lives, wellbeing and sustainable development of the city of Montego Bay and the region generally must be our driving force. The culture of success will require the UWI Mona-Western Jamaica campus to increase its student and staff engagement opportunities, aligning the academy with industry in research and personal and corporate development initiatives, and expanding our unique programme offerings to include a community of practice and wealth generation.