

# THE UWI MONA WESTERN JAMAICA CAMPUS

## Montego Bay, Jamaica

Year ending July 31, 2019



**PATRICK PRENDERGAST, PhD**  
**CAMPUS DIRECTOR**

---

# Overview

---

The UWI Mona – Western Jamaica Campus entered its 11th year of operations in the city of Montego Bay with high expectations from both internal and external stakeholders. The 2018–2019 academic year was the second year of full roll out of the UWI’s 2017–2022 Triple ‘A’ Strategy which requires deliberate and intentional action towards increasing opportunities for access to higher education, improving standards and processes consistent with industries served, and providing evidence-based response to present and future needs of a developing society.

Additionally, with a new principal on board and a renewed thrust by senior administration to support the development of the campus, 2018–2019 became a new base year for another ten year roll out of the UWI Mona WJC becoming the point of reference for excellence in the delivery of higher education in Western Jamaica. In fact, on March 22, 2019, ground was broken for the construction of new facilities at Barnett Estates. This event has led to increased engagement with varying levels of stakeholders on matters to do with development of the physical plant, introduction of academic programmes that will meet the needs of the region, possibilities for student accommodation, and capacity building to ensure financial, administrative, and human resource sustainability of the campus.

As part of expanding our culture of success and enhancing Mona’s commitment to quality academic programming, sound research output, and impactful community enterprise, the campus also developed new collaborative capacity building, community mapping, and social change initiatives with the Mona Social Services. This has led to a memorandum of understanding with the Social Development Commission as well as further leveraging of existing corporate relationships and academic partnerships to ensure transformation and sustainability of both the campus and the city in which it is located.

The annual WJC Week in October 2018 was a demonstration of the critical value of partnership and networking between the campus and major stakeholders at the local, national and regional levels. The 2018 edition of WJC Week included:

- The 3rd WJC Honor Society Awards which recognizes and rewards the top academic performances across all faculties was fully sponsored by members of the community and staff;

- The 3rd annual media appreciation seminar focused on connecting the regional news and information personnel with the UN Inter-Panel Climate Change 2.0 Report and had UWI Professor Michael Taylor as well Director General of the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Ronald Jackson as special presenters; and
- The 3rd WJC Sustainable Cities Symposium held under the theme *Information Assurance and the Drive towards SMART City Status* in collaboration with North Carolina-based Forsyth Technical Community College, Mona School of Business and Management, Jamaica Computer Society, Jamaica Constable Force, and the Ministry of National Security.

In November 2018, the WJC Psychology Unit (Department of Psychology, Sociology and Social Work) in collaboration with the Office of the Campus Director launched a public education initiative around issues of child and adolescent development. This initiative included a weekly public engagement session – lectures, seminar, workshop and panel discussion – and explored such topics as *Parenting in the 21st century; Fathering in Jamaica; Understanding disabilities among children and adolescents; and Promoting healthy body imaging among children and adolescents in the age of social media*. The series had a combined participation of approximately 1,000 parents, teachers, health and education professionals, and students from across St. James.

The UWI Mona-WJC successfully participated in UWI Research Days 2019 under the thematic area of Law, Governance and Society. The successful and highly acclaimed WJC exposition was framed as a Zone of Success Opportunities (ZOSO) and focused on the impact of crime on the psycho-social and economic wellbeing of the region. A public lecture entitled, *Scamming Nah Dun? The psychology of crime in Western Jamaica*, was delivered by Ms. Georgia Rose as a signature event.

The 5th annual Study Abroad Programme by the Virginia-based Old Dominion University (ODU) was hosted in March 2019. The WJC-facilitated one-week programme was expanded to include orientation lecture at Mona and as well as cultural experiences at Kingston locations such as Devon House and the Bob Marley Museum. Other added features included a public lecture and seminar by visiting ODU professor, Dr. Narketta Sparkman-Key on *Mental Health and Black Adolescent Suicide*, as well as an exceptional ODU Doctorial-UWISON students' panel discussion on Cultural Competencies. The ODU students continued their Human Services Programme with the Women's Centre in Montego Bay.

The UWI Mona-WJC finally crossed the 900 marker for student registration in 2018–2019. The official registration at July 31, 2019 showed 867 undergraduates in 17 majors and 60 graduate students in 2 programmes totaling 927. As usual, the majority of students are registered in the Faculty of Social Sciences (639) followed by Humanities and Education (105), Medical Sciences (93), Science & Technology, (19)

and Law (11). The official registration for FMS reflects only the four levels of UWISON students and not the approximately 40 students who do the first two years of the MBBS programme at WJC. The near 5 percent increase in total registration is consistent with that of the last four years, but is due largely to a 12.5 percent increase in the undergraduate numbers. There was a 23 percent reduction in the graduate programme intake.

### **ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

Though significant effort was made over the period under review to correct what is a critical anomaly, our academic staffing continues to be predominantly adjunct. Adjustments to the scheduling of teaching and increased access to the students have led to better relations between faculty and students; but the effort at increasing both the number and presence of full time faculty continues.

The energy behind ensuring improved quality of delivery and engagement was unceasing in 2018/2019. The Institute of Caribbean Studies submitted to St. Augustine and Cave Hill a course entitled Food and Culture. This will be presented with resolutions to the comments before FAQAC and the expectation is that this course will eventually be offered at the WJC as the department seeks to expand beyond its current offering of minors at the Montego Bay site.

The innovation in instruction within the FMS is also noteworthy. The FMS team at WJC is motivated by its contribution to the development of new thrusts in the teaching of surgery, the adoption of instructional objectives for all senior surgery core topics, as well as adaptation to the flipped classroom content delivery methodology across the teaching sites. The successful streaming of Biochemistry lectures from WJC to Mona by Dr. Cheryl Stewart is a significant step towards higher level engagement of both the faculty and students at WJC with the main campus at Mona. Improved engagement for both academics and students is also seen with MSBM's introduction of the Executive in Residence initiative at the WJC.

The Department of Computing experienced its largest intake of new students to the BSc Information Technology programme for the year 2018/19. This was based on work done to adjust regulations for the BSc, IT students entering the faculty of Science and Technology. However, in CARIMAC, the numbers remained consistent with previous year due primarily to the lack of expansion in lab capacity for the Digital Media Production programme and a seemingly flat interest in the Integrated Marketing Communication programme. And, despite the removal of a couple low intake programmes in Government, the consistent growth in student numbers remain within the FSS. The upward trend over the last few years has been in Accounting, Psychology and Tourism Management.

Our students continue to perform within the expectations. From UWISON, a final year student placed second in the annual NAJ/LASCO Nursing Student of the Year Competition while of the finalizing class of twenty-one students, two were awarded first class honors and the other 19, upper second class honors. The passes in the Regional Examination Nurse Registration licensure examination was 63.3% in October 2018 and 100% in April 2019, just about 125 undergraduates were eligible for graduation 2019 with about ten percent achieving first class honors and just over 50% with second class degrees. Greater effort will have to be made over the next couple of years at positioning the campus as the best choice for higher education in the Western region.

## PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Anderson, Ricardo.** “Improving Education with Technology in Jamaica”, Intelligent Tutoring Systems and Artificial Intelligence: Changing Education and Impacting Business, Intelligent Tutoring Systems Conference, June 3–7, 2019, Kingston, Jamaica.
- **Campbell, S.,** “A Caribbean Man’s Analytic Auto ethnography of Suicide”, Caribbean Studies Association Conference (CSA), Santa Marta, June 4, 2019.
- **Douse, Hugh.** “Trying the Two-Foot Dance of Gods: Jamaicans and Stan Lee” ICS Staff/Postgraduate Seminar Presentation, Faculty of Humanities and Education, UWI, Mona, Room N4, November 22, 2018.
- **Drummonds, Anthony O.** and Deanne Cranford-Wesley. *Cybercrime and the JamaicaEye*, UWI Research Days 2019, February 6–8, 2019.
- **Grant-Reid, Nadia.** (2019). “Effect of Vocational Training on Employment and Wage Premium: Evidence from Jamaican Panel Data.” WECOM UWI Regional Headquarters, March 21–22, 2019. (Oral presentation)
- **Plummer, Nicole** and Erin MacLeod. “If you don’t make money, Then you don’t make sense”: Representing Wealth in Popular Jamaican Music, Global Reggae Conference, February 13–16, 2019, The UWI, Mona Campus (9 pages).
- **Wright, G.; Waugh-Brown, V.** “The occurrence of chronic sorrow and coping strategies employed by adult oncology patients in western Jamaica” presented at CARPHA 64th Annual Research Conference, June 21, 2019 in Trinidad.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books and Monographs

- Mullings J, Barton-Gooden A, Garriques-Lloyd S, **Noble-Myrie V**, Reid S and Paul T. “Pathways to Sustainable Development Goal # 3: Integrating human

rights, health equity and social justice into health policies and programmes in Jamaica”. In *Advances in Sociology Research*. Volume 27, 2019 ISBN: 987-1-53615-802-1 (ebook). Nova Science Publishers. Hauppauge, New York, USA.

### Refereed Journal Articles

- Carvalho A, Evans-Gilbert T.: “*The Pathophysiology of Marijuana-induced Encephalopathy and Possible Epilepsy after Ingestion in Children: A Case Series.*” *Innovations in Clinical Neuroscience*. 2019; 16(3-4):16–18.

### Non-refereed

- Plummer, Nicole. “*Humanities Matters: Relevance of Humanities in Today’s World.*” *The Gleaner*, Sept. 23, 2018, <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/art-leisure/20180923/humanities-matters-relevance-humanities-todays-world>.
- Waugh-Brown, V. “*Is Cornwall Regional Hospital Sick unto Death?*” *The Jamaica Observer* (Thursday May 3, 2018).

### Technical Reports

- East J, Ferguson T, Newnham M, Titus I, Vickers I, Brown H: “*Guidelines on Management of the Patient with Diabetic Foot Infection*” *West Indian Medical Journal* (2019); 68(Suppl. 2) (18-26), DOI: 10.7727/wimj.2018.194.
- Simpson L, Chin S, East J, Wilson C, Copeland J, Cornwall D, et al: “*Guidelines on Management of the Patient with Breast Cancer*”, *West Indian Medical Journal* (2019); 68(Suppl. 2) (55-72), DOI: 10.7727/wimj.2018.198.

## INCOME GENERATION

Over the last few years we had increased our income generation capacity primarily through expansion of rental of the physical plant and summer school operations. However in 2018–2019 we were forced to scale back our effort in both areas due to lack of financing for needed upgrade of critical support systems such as the information technology infrastructure and the already heavily repurposed failing physical plant, as well as changes to both the management of the campus’ financial health and our marketing communication and recruitment activities. Just over J\$2.2 million dollars was generated from facilities rental down from J\$2.9 million dollars in the previous year. Summer School generated J\$8.4 million from 299 registrations down from the J\$11 million and 382 registrations in 2018.

Financial assistance to students in the form of scholarships, bursaries and grants based on both needs and academic performance, remained fairly even for the period under

review. The MoBay City Run, MAICA Foundation, Business Process Industry Association, and WJC Student Honor Society Awards are the main WJC-based funding sources totaling just under three million dollars annually. Additionally, the UWISON initiated a needy student fund through a small grant received from the Henry Ford University. This fund is administered through the School's Student Welfare Coordinator and support those who are unable to afford meals while at school. There are other scholarships and bursaries offered by corporate and philanthropic institutions and those relationships are being strengthened through working with the Office of Students Financing at Mona.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

- Miss Sandra March (MSBM) and Mrs. Veronica Waugh-Brown (UWISON) both serve as a Justices of the Peace for St. James while Mrs. Verona Henry-Ferguson (UWISON) serves as Chairperson for the Nurse Educators Special Interest Group of the Nurses Association of Jamaica.
- Campus Director, Patrick Prendergast serves as co-chair of the newly established Mayor's Advisory Council in recognition of the campus' consistency in education and advocacy for the planned development of the city of Montego Bay.

## **STUDENTS**

UWISON year 4 student, Miss Abigaile Jones placed second in the NAJ/LASCO Nursing student of the year Competition. Two students received the MAICA Impact scholarship amounting to CAD\$5000.00.

The FMS-WJC students continue to perform well in the Basic Science programme. During the 2018–19 academic year, Ms. Rodean Sylvester received Faculty and WJC Campus awards for her excellent performance in exams. Ms. Mike-Ann Channer, who moved into Year 3, also received Faculty awards for her academic performance.

This year, the Institute of Caribbean Studies, Stuart Hall Prize in Cultural Studies winner emerged from the Western Jamaica Campus. She is Ms. Sashauna Williams. This is the first time the winner of the Stuart Hall Prize for best performance in several Cultural Studies courses.

## **CONCLUSION**

The UWI Mona-Western Jamaica Campus continued its slow but sustained growth in new student intake, improved the quality assurance of our academic programmes, and deepened its commitment to the region's growth and development through its adoption and projection of new teaching, research, outreach and physical infrastructure development. The thrust towards establishing the UWI Mona-Western Jamaica

Campus as the Centre of Excellence in Higher Education across the western region and repositioning it as the preferred institution for study is clearly on in earnest.

While the five percent growth in student population may be considered marginal, it should be noted that 2018–2019 was the third consecutive year of surpassing the 300 marker for new student registration which stood at 323 as at July 31, 2019. The campus is graduating on average, just over 100 students each year ready to serve in critical areas of development from medicine to tourism, business and cultural enterprise. Both the academic, administrative and support staff are involved in purpose-designed professional development activities aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness of service to the various stakeholders. Importantly, at the community level, our visibility and impact are strengthened by the introduction of social development and technical and capacity building initiatives led by Mona Social Services and integrating staff and students of the campus.

We must however quickly overcome the challenges associated with operating at an old facility and a location that limits applied and immediate experience especially for the scientific based programmes. Strengthening our alignment with the social, cultural, economic and civic instructions of the region, becoming even more agile in our response to the needs of our various publics – students, staff, current and prospective clients, and expanding our unique programme offerings requires support at all levels. The strong engagement of senior administration over the last academic year is therefore not only welcomed but desired; and must be strengthened especially as the campus transitions into its second decade of expansion in transforming the life and wellbeing of the western region.