



**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE  
WEST INDIES**

## Outreach Overview

The entire department is involved in outreach activities, from undergrads to the highest level of staff.

Activities are aimed at getting young students interested in physics, aiding in understanding and exam preparation for teens, as well as professional development opportunities, through exciting physics applications and their impact on everyday lives and careers.

The department is committed to Jamaica reclaiming the number 1 spot in CSEC and CAPE Physics through making available our resources, time, and personnel to aid in several ways, highlighted in this brochure.

Many schools, organisations and individuals have participated and the feedback has been excellent.

AND THERE'S EVEN MORE TO COME IN THE FUTURE!



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*Department of Physics*



# *Outreach Activities*

# Outreach Activity Details



## Professional Development

The department organises and hosts a biennial Alternative Energy Certificate Course. We offer 3 modules in topics including wind, hydro, solar power and energy management.

We frequently host several workshops within the department in alternative energy and climate studies for both local and international organisations .

## Teacher Training

Teacher training activities are mainly geared towards introducing new lab resources., at both the CAPE and CSEC levels.

There is also emphasis placed on strengthening confidence in explaining difficult concepts at the high school level.

## High School Labs

Our lab facilities and staff are available, at a school's request, to carry out lab exercises that may be difficult at their institutions due to lack of equipment. Set up, demonstration, and concept explanation are a part of the package. This also gives students the opportunity to see our campus first hand.

## Other

There are other ways in which the Physics department reaches out and engages children and adults alike:

### Field Trips

The department visits several primary and high schools to participate in exhibits or career fairs. We have also do in house demonstrations for students, which span all aspects of physics, with a lot of playfulness.

### Science Fairs

The department, in conjunction with the Faculty of Science and Technology, participates in many science fairs across the island (Eastern—Portland, Western—Montego Bay, Central—Clarendon) to encourage a love of science to students, as well as showcase our research activities. These fairs also give students the chance to find out about entry requirements, degree options and career paths for their future.

### Physics Marathons for CAPE and CSEC

In conjunction with the Faculty of Science and Technology, our students and staff members have extended themselves for past paper marathons and review sessions in preparation for the CSEC and CAPE exams. Upon request, these sessions can be organised in house or at a central location.

### Public Lectures

The department hosts several public lectures, covering various topics, throughout the year. These are open to the public. Both local and international speakers have presented and some lectures series are streamed online.

## CAPE Workshop

The department plays host to almost 1000 high school students each year for our CAPE Workshop. This workshop is held in January and is a 1-day intensive course on a specific topic in the CAPE syllabus. The course comprises of a 3-hour teaching session in the morning, and a 3 hour lab session in the afternoon., which can be used as 2 Internal Assessment (IA) reports. There are 6 sessions (1 held at the UWI Western Campus and the others at the Mona Campus) with a maximum capacity of 100 Unit 1 and 100 Unit 2 students per day.

The response has been overwhelming, as seen in a 2010 Jamaica Observer article: [http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/145223\\_Students\\_laud-UWI-Physics-workshop](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/145223_Students_laud-UWI-Physics-workshop). Many current and former UWI Physics students attended and appreciated the workshop and now help in its coordination and running, as well as demonstrate the lab session.

Below is a picture of the 2013 Rhodes Scholar, Mr. Vincent Taylor, when he attended the workshop with Monroe College in 2008. He went on to double major in Electronics and Computer Science .

