



Principal's Report 2006



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Winners of the Research Awards pose with Prof. the Hon. Kenneth O. Hall Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal



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New Academic Programmes

The Campus continued to introduce programmes that provide new opportunities, locally, for higher education. These include offerings that were formerly unavailable, as well as provision of existing offerings through new modalities. Thirty new academic programmes were introduced in the combined faculties - Pure and Applied Sciences, Humanities and Education and Social Sciences - during the year, spread across Diploma and Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degree programmes.

Table 1: New Programmes by Faculty

Programme Type	Name/Option	Faculty/Dept.	Funding
MPHIL	Diabetology	School for Graduate Studies	UGC
"	Marketing	"	"
"	Social Development	"	"
PHD	Migration & Diaspora Studies	"	"
"	Marketing	"	"
"	Management	"	"
"	Labour Relations	"	"
"	Humanities & Education Policy	"	"
"	Behavioural Studies	"	"
"	Creative Arts	"	"
"	Gerontology	"	"
"	Urban Studies	"	"
"	Landscape History	"	"
BED	Primary Education (MICO)	Humanities & Education	Self-financing
"	Literacy Studies (Moneague)	"	"
MED	Early Childhood Development Leadership	"	"
"	Literacy Studies	"	"
PHD	Curriculum Development	"	UGC
MA	Philosophy	"	"
DM	Haematology	Medical Sciences	"
MSC	Epidemiology	"	"
DIP	Information Technology	Pure & Applied Sciences	Self-financing
"	Plant Production	"	"
"	Plant Protection	"	"
MPHIL	Environmental & Experimental Biology	"	UGC
PHD	Environmental & Experimental Biology	"	"
MSC	Accounting (Part-time)	Social Sciences	Self-financing
"	International Economics & International Law	"	"
"	Tourism & Hospitality	"	"
PHD	Information Systems	"	"



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Postgraduate Programmes

The majority of the Campus' postgraduate programmes are either run by the Faculties as self-financing programmes or offered by the Mona School of Business, a company limited by guarantee and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Mona Campus.

On-Line Master of Education

The on-line Master of Education in Leadership in Early Childhood Development was launched at the end of the 2003-4 academic year. Developed by the UWI's Institute of Education, the programme is one component of a larger project, Child Focus II: Strengthening Early Childhood Development in the Caribbean, coordinated by the Caribbean Child Development Centre at the UWI. Funding support for the development of the programme was provided by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB).

The Web-based programme targets the critical need to provide trained leaders for early childhood systems, in recognition of the fact that the majority of individuals in early childhood leadership positions lack adequate training for their jobs. The course is delivered by the School of Education through a mix of face-to-face, summer and on-line sessions, with courses offered during four-week summer sessions as well as on-line during the two semesters of the academic year. Over the period, participants cover topics including child development, contemporary early childhood development issues, programme management, leadership, strategic management and change. There is also a Research Methods component.

Initiatives of the Faculty of Social Sciences

In the Faculty of Social Sciences, a new major in Anthropology was designed and the MSc in International Economics and International Law was finalized, the

former in the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work and the latter offered jointly by the Departments of Economics and Government. In the Department of Management Studies plans were also completed for the introduction of a part-time MSc in Accounting, which has received an overwhelming response. Plans were made for the launching of both this programme and the full-time version on a self-financing basis. Plans for two new self-financing programmes were also put in place. These are the MSc in National Security and Strategic Studies in the Department of Management Studies with a start-up date of August 2005 and a PhD in Organisational Behaviour in the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social work.

The number of Staff/Student Liaison Committees across Faculties grew, were strengthened during the year and met regularly. In the Faculty of Social Sciences, an effort was made to ensure that each department had an active Staff/Student Liaison Committee. It is expected that the departmental representatives on the Faculty Committee will ensure that their departmental committees are fully activated in 2005-2006. Consultations were completed within the Faculty Staff/Student Liaison Committee on a Code of Conduct for Instructional Sessions which was approved by the Faculty Board. It is hoped that this Code will provide a framework within which both staff and students avoid unnecessary disruptions and friction and thereby enhance the instructional process. This Code of Conduct was shared with the Committee of Deans. Preliminary discussions were also held regarding a general faculty code of conduct and the issue of plagiarism. Both of these topics will be central to the Staff/Student Liaison Committee programme and are scheduled for completion in 2005-2006.

Student assessments of faculty were acceptable and in most cases, good. Individual departments adopted their



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own approaches with regard to the maintaining and enhancing of quality in the teaching programme.

Within the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Department of Government sought to maintain the tutorial system despite the pressures of numbers and most of its lectures and courses continued to get high student ratings. The Department of Economics responded to the pressure of student numbers by stepping up its use of information technology solutions involving the greater use of online material, including the initiation of online tutorials. There were some initial difficulties with the latter, owing to problems with the adequacy of the infrastructure. This initiative, however, has received the support of the Strategic Transformation Team and efforts will be made in 2005-2006 to enhance these developments. The Centre for Hotel and Tourism Management and the Department of Management Studies are also participating in the programme to place more courses online. In general, there is a move to utilize a greater use of internet and intranet solutions.

The Faculty of Humanities and Education (FHE), in recognition of the importance of writing for academic success, with the approval of Mona Academic Board and the Board for Undergraduate Studies, decided that as of the start of the 2005/06 academic year, every student of the Faculty would be required to do a writing course at each of the three levels in order to fulfill requirements for the Bachelor's degree.

The year-long, 6 credit, foundation writing course, UC120, will be discontinued and redesigned to be offered as two separate 3-credit courses, one in each semester, at the first level. Subsequent courses will be offered at levels two and three.

Another important curriculum development during the year was the approval of a new B.A. Degree in Liberal Studies designed primarily for students wishing to pursue

studies in two or more disciplines within the Faculty and/or across faculties. In strategic terms, this development moves the Faculty more in the direction of offering students a broad liberal education rather than narrow specializations at the undergraduate level. It is also intended to provide students with wider exploratory intellectual options, as well as a stronger foundation on which to pursue postgraduate studies and careers in teaching. The degree will have its first students in the 2005/06 academic year.

Discussions between the Faculty and the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts on the articulation of both programmes, were also brought to a successful conclusion with a recommendation being made to the Board for Undergraduate Studies for ratification. Similar discussions with the teachers colleges are also in progress in keeping with both the University's and Faculty's strategic objectives.

At the request of the Minister of Education, Youth and Culture, following her presentation as guest speaker in one of the FHE's regular Faculty Board meetings, a team from the School of Education developed a research agenda with senior colleagues at the Ministry. The School committed to undertaking research that will inform policy decisions to be made by the Ministry in a number of areas including violence in schools, which is already on the research agenda of a number of faculty members of the School. This collaboration with the Ministry is consonant with a decision taken in the Faculty Retreat of 2003/04 that the School of Education take a more active role in leading the transformation of the Jamaican education system.



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Curriculum Review

The Academic Quality Assurance Committee has been ensuring that all disciplines review all courses over 5 years old, within a three-year timeframe. In the Faculty of Medical Sciences, self-studies in the clinical areas were, and continue to be, conducted to satisfy the University auditing and MBBS programme accreditation requirements. A review of the MBBS curriculum was conducted to ensure best practices in teaching and to attempt harmonization with the programme at the Cave Hill and St Augustine Campuses.

The Faculty of Humanities and Education instituted in 2002-03 a Faculty Quality Control Committee to vet all new courses, programmes and proposals before they are put to the Faculty Board for ratification. This has proved to be a successful innovation. It has ensured more

careful and timely scrutiny of new courses and offerings. With its membership drawn from all departments, it also ensures a multidisciplinary approach to quality control within the Faculty.

As an administrative innovation, however, perhaps the Quality Control Committee's most significant impact has been on the Faculty Board meetings. Since no time is spent discussing details of new courses and the like in Board meetings, this sub-committee has allowed the Faculty Board to devote an hour of its monthly meetings to intellectual enrichment of its members.

Consequent of the curriculum review activities, the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences reduced the number of courses drastically in Mathematics (46%), and overall in the Faculty (13.6%). The mean number of students per course rose by 41% in Mathematics, 33% in Geology, and

The Vincent HoSang Entrepreneurship Programme

Established in 2002, the Vincent HoSang Entrepreneurship Programme, aimed at encouraging students to become entrepreneurs, currently has six projects in incubation. Those started in 2004-05 were the *ACT Company*, a company involved in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment tools for common psycho-social disorders; the *VALUE Company*, a vending machine company; and *Ornamental Fish Farms*, a company dealing in ornamental fish breeding and exporting.

Ornamental Fish Farms emerged the 2004 winners of the UWI - Opportunity Funding Corporation Venture Challenge Business Competition (OFCVC) as well as the second place winners among 21 entrants at the 2004 Annual OFCVC hosted by Clark Atlanta University, USA.

As part of the incubation process of the programme, members of the projects are exposed to training in Financial Analysis / Presentation, Market Research, Writing the Business Plan and Oral Presentations, in preparation for their exposure to potential financial backers from the private sector.



Mr Vincent HoSang,
Entrepreneur in
Residence, Mona
School of Business



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12% in Life Sciences. In Computer Science mean registration per course fell by 23.5%. These changes were probably related in part to the introduction of Mathematics as a prerequisite for entry into Computer Science.

Rewarding Quality

Excellence in teaching, research and public service is every year recognized by the Campus. This year the Campus in collaboration with Guardian Life hosted the first Premium Teaching Award on October 7, 2004. The award recognizes the outstanding teaching accomplishments of the University's academic staff particularly in developing structures and processes that help to create an environment in which teaching excellence is valued and fostered. The second aspect of this collaborative venture will be a UWI/Guardian Life Premium Lecture that will alternate yearly with the Premium Teaching Award.

Academic staff members at Mona received three of the five prestigious Vice Chancellor's Awards for Excellence for the 2004/2005 academic year: Professor Michael Brandy of the Department of Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthetics and Intensive Care in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, for Teaching; Professor Rainford Wilks, of the Tropical Medicine Research Institute for Research Accomplishments; and Professor Edwin Jones of the Department of Government, Faculty of Social Sciences, for Public Service.

At Research Day 2005, some 25 awards were given to faculty and departments for outstanding performance in research activity, publication, attracting research funding and for research projects with greatest business / economic impact.



Winners of the Opportunity Funding Corporation Venture Challenge Business Competition – OFVC (l-r) Natalia Fong-Kong, Cecil Bailey, Shellion Dillion-Burrell and Michael Martin proudly displaying their winning trophy.



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Professor Michael Branday receives the the Vice-Chancellor Award for Excellence in Teaching from VC Professor E. Nigel Harris.

Professor Rainford Wilks receives the Vice-Chancellor Award for Excellence in Research Accomplishments from VC Professor E. Nigel Harris.



Professor Edwin Jones receives the Vice-Chancellor Award for Excellence in Public Service from VC, Professor E. Nigel Harris.