

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Outreach to the Wider Community



Mona continued to advance in 2007–08 the range of programmes that specifically target the strengthening and broadening of our relationship and communication with the wider community.

Community Development and Engagement

Mona's research into Jamaica's chronic crime problem has shown that preventive strategies will be the most effective in reversing the alarming escalation in criminal activity. Our Campus Township Project implemented during the year marks a consolidated effort to engage the neighbouring inner city communities such as August Town and Hermitage in developmental work.

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Through this project we hope to deepen the relationship with these surrounding communities, promoting educational development, skills training, health and nutrition, community development, economic development, violence prevention and, of course, the development of sports and culture. Already there are signs of remarkable progress and we hope that this project will serve as a model for the entire country in our collective effort to eradicate the scourge that threatens our personal security and national economic growth. This project though led by senior faculty and administrative staff engages fully student participation.

Students themselves were involved in more than 30 outreach projects to communities. Communities and organizations benefiting in the reporting year included Craig Town, Hope Valley, Anderson's Place of Safety, Best Care Boys' Home, United Negro Improvement, Mustard Seed, UWI Hospital, Mona High, Mona Rehab Centre, Bustamante Children's Hospital, August Town Seventh Day Adventist Basic School Street People Feeding Programme, Jamaica Children National Home, Mona Common Basic Schools, Jamaica Aids Support and Mount Liverty All-Age School.

Faculties and other units of the Campus mounted workshops for high school students and professional bodies. Of note was the *Binding Techniques Workshop* that the library conducted in response to a request from the Jamaica Library Service (JLS) for assistance in training its staff.



The UWI Library Bindery conducted workshops in Kingston, St Ann and St Elizabeth. The Bindery devised a two-tier programme at basic and advanced levels and the Preservation and Conservation Librarian, Mr Dunstan Newman, prepared a manual, *A Guide to Simple Book Repair*, that would be tested in the programme. As a result of the positive feedback from the Jamaica Library Service, the Mona Library has been asked to conduct six Disaster Management workshops in different parishes for the JLS staff in the coming year.



The UWI Students Emergency Response Team (UWISERT) is a student community project that serves the entire campus community. The group, headquartered in Rex Nettleford Hall with officers in all the other halls of residence, provides emergency medical services to students and staff at all public events occurring on the Campus. UWISERT raised funds during the year to purchase an ambulance to enhance the service that the group delivers.



Service on External Bodies

Faculty and Senior Administrative Staff serve the national interest through leadership of, or membership in some 400 committees, boards and other bodies. These include international journals, professional organizations, educational institutions, civic, regulatory, policy making and inter-governmental organisations, as well as state and private sector companies. In addition, a number of colleagues remained active participants in the media, trade union and the political arena. Some of the institutions and organisations served during the reporting year included: American Review of Political Economy, European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Journal of Aging in Emerging Societies, Journal of Diplomatic Language, Journal of Organisational and Enduser Computing, Caribbean Studies Association, Constabulary Force Staff College, Archaeological Society of Jamaica, Banana Board, Bellevue Hospital, Agricultural Research Development Institute, Board of Teacher Education, Bustamante Hospital for Children, Coffee Industry Board, Environmental Foundation of Jamaica, Statistical Institute of Jamaica, Early Childhood Commission, Grace Kennedy & Company,

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Conferences and Symposia

In its outreach to the wider community Mona stages a number of conferences and symposia, most of them regional and international, all aimed at engaging the country and the region in dialogue that will influence policy formulation towards economic, social and cultural development.

The 60th anniversary celebrations of the past year provided opportunities for staging many more conferences than is the norm in any one academic year. Twenty-three of these forums, among them the Regional Conference on Crime and Security, the Global Reggae Conference, Annual Nursing/Midwifery Research Conference and a conference on Economic Growth and Transformation are reported on below.

Mona Academic Conference

The Mona Academic Conference 2007 was held on Friday, August 31 to Sunday, September 2 under the theme “Freedom: Retrospective and Prospective.” The keynote address was delivered by Professor Ruth Simmons, President of Brown’s University.



“Urban Cultures of the Caribbean” Conference

The Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work in association with the Institute of Caribbean Studies and the Department of Geography and Geology hosted a conference on “Urban Cultures of the Caribbean” from September 27–29, 2007. This was followed by a book launch, *The Caribbean City*, published by Ian Randle Publishers.

Conference on Economic Growth and Transformation

The Department of Economics and the Association of Caribbean Economists (ACE) jointly held a Conference under the theme “Economic Growth and Transformation – Reassessing Challenges and Prospects at

the dawn of the 21st Century” from September 28 to 30, 2007 at the Graduate Lecture Theatre. The Conference was opened by Professor Richard Eckaus, renowned development economist of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Conference on Issues Facing Persons with Disabilities

The University Special Students Alumni along with the Office of Student Services and Development held a conference entitled “Inclusive Education: Meeting the Challenges Facing Persons with Disabilities” on October 18, 2007 at the newly established UWI Lions Club Resource Centre for Students with Special Needs, UWI, Mona.

Cultural Studies Graduate Symposium

This Symposium was held October 23–24, 2007 under the theme, “African/Jamaican Creativity and Spirituality” to honour the work and contribution of Stuart Hall. The Symposium was jointly organised by the Institute of Caribbean Studies, the Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts, UWI, Mona, and the Jamaica Bicentenary Planning Committee.

Symposium on Qualitative Enquiry in the Caribbean

The School of Education staged a symposium under the theme, “Research through Qualitative Enquiry: Past, Present and Future” on October 26 and 27, 2007.

Regional Conference on Crime and Security

A two-day regional conference on Crime and Security was held on October 29 and 30, 2007. One of the Conference’s main highlights was an address given at the Opening Ceremony by the guest speaker, the former Minister of National Security, the Honourable Derrick Smith.



Service on External Bodies (cont'd)

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica, Caribbean Examinations Council, Institute of Jamaica, National Library of Jamaica, University of Technology Mechanical Engineering Advisory and Industry Engineering Committees, Mico College, Police Staff College, University Council of Jamaica, CVSS United Way Jamaica, Jamaica Manufacturers Association, Michael Manley Foundation, Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica, Jamaica Bureau of Standards, Jamaica Deposit Insurance Scheme, Jamaica Financial Services Commission, Jamaica Stock Exchange, Planning Institute of Jamaica, Statistical Institute of Jamaica, Task Forces/Advisory groups on Local Government Reform, National Security, Poverty and Social Welfare and Vulnerable Groups, National Taskforce for Persons with Disabilities, CARICOM, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, Tobago House of Assembly, UN International Law Commission, UNESCO, UNICEF, Andrews Memorial Hospital, University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica Bauxite Trading Company, Bank of Nova Scotia Jamaica, First Caribbean International Bank, Jamaica Flour Mills, Jamaica Money Market Brokers, National Commercial Bank and Forest Conservation Fund.

Faculty of Medical Sciences Annual Research Conference

The 16th Annual Research Conference was held November 14–16, 2007 at the Main Medical Lecture Theatre under the theme, “Sports and Exercise Medicine”. The highlight of the Conference was the Sir Kenneth Standard Lecture which was delivered by Dr. David Hughes. His presentation was entitled, “Sports and Exercise Medicine-Boutique Medicine for the Elite Athlete or Public Health Panacea?”



Forum on Gender-Related Issues at the UWI, Mona Campus

The Office of the Principal held a forum on November 26, 2007 on the topic, “the Gender Imbalance in Tertiary Student Enrolment at the UWI, Mona”. This Forum marked the first step of a Campus initiative to address the issue of the widening and increasing gender gap in student enrolment. The aim of the Forum was to explore and develop strategies that would address the gender disparity problem.

Regional Conference on Mental Health Research

The UWI in collaboration with the Pan America Health Organization (PAHO) staged a regional conference from December 3–5, 2007 under the theme, “Strengthening Mental Health Research Capacity in Latin America and the Caribbean”. One of the Conference’s main aims was the identification of mental health research needs and priority areas for policy formulation.



Natural Products Symposium

The Department of Chemistry hosted the annual Mona Symposium: Natural Products and Medicinal Chemistry, between January 7 and 10, 2008. It has the unique distinction of being the Campus’s longest running conference as this year marked the 22nd instalment of the event.

Miss Lou Conference

This Multidisciplinary Conference in honour of the late Louise Bennett-Coverley was held January 9–12, 2008 under the theme “Noh Lickle Twang”. The conference was hosted by the Faculty of Humanities and Education in collaboration with the Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts and the West Indian Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies.

Seventh Annual Perinatal Audit and Symposium

The Department of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Child Health held its seventh (7th) annual Perinatal Audit and Symposium on February 8 and 9, 2008 under the theme, “Infections in the Perinatal Period and Beyond”.

6th Annual Caribbean Reasoning Conference

The Centre for Caribbean Thought at the University of the West Indies in collaboration with the Department of Africana Studies, Brown University and the University of California, Los Angeles presented the 6th Annual Caribbean Conference titled “M.G. Smith and the Emergence of Social Anthropology and Social Theory in the Caribbean and Beyond,” on June 11–13, 2008 at the University of the West Indies, Mona.

7th Psychology Conference

The Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work held its seventh (7th) annual Psychology Conference from February 13 to 15, 2008 under the theme, “The Roots of Psychology: Theory, Research and Practice”.

Global Reggae Conference

As a part of the University’s 60th anniversary celebrations, the Institute of Caribbean Studies and the Faculty of Social Sciences jointly held the first of its kind – Global Reggae Conference – from February 18 to 24, 2008 under the theme, “Global Reggae: Jamaican Popular Music A Yard and Abroad”.

Conference on “Advancements in Medicine”

This conference, hosted by the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona Campus in collaboration with the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, Hennepin County Medical Centre, Vanderbilt University and the Ministry of Health, Jamaica was held on February 21–23, 2008 at the Sunset Jamaica Grande Hotel.

Literacy Symposium

This Symposium was held by the School of Education on March 13–14, 2008 under the theme, “Literacy for Lifelong Learning: Responding to the Challenge”. The Symposium’s Opening Ceremony featured a keynote address from Dr Julia Davies, Senior Lecturer at the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom. Another highlight of the Ceremony was an address given by the Honourable Andrew Holness, Minister of Education.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work

The Department of Chemistry staged a symposium on April 28, 2008 under the theme, “Managing Risk in the Work Environment: My Life, My Work, My Safe Work”. The keynote speaker was Dr Benjamin Alli, Technical Cooperation and Advisory Services Co-ordinator for the International Labour Organization (ILO) HIV/AIDS Global Programme.



SALISES Conference

The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) staged its ninth Conference on March 26–28, 2008, entitled “Reinventing the Political Economy Tradition of the Caribbean” to honour the work of Professor Norman Girvan.

Annual Nursing/Midwifery Research Conference

The UWI School of Nursing, Mona (UWISON) held its annual Conference and Mary Seivwright Day on May 29–30 under the theme “Facing the Challenges of Nursing through Research.” An exhibition on the contribution of Dr the Honourable Mary Seivwright, O.J., first West Indian Director of the Advanced Nursing Education Unit (ANEU) to nursing education was also mounted at the conference to mark the 60th Anniversary of the UWI.



Canadian Government & UWI Mona Ideas Forum

The Government of Canada, in collaboration with The Mona Campus hosted an Ideas Forum, at the Mona Visitors’ Lodge and Conference Centre on June 23 and 24, 2008 aimed at facilitating independent policy discussion on the core issues affecting Caribbean development. This was a follow-up to the successful forum held in Barbados in 2007, which discussed issues related to the promotion and advancement of regional security; educational capacity and sustainability; governance, citizenship and accountability; and economic growth and entrepreneurship.

Cutting Edge Developments in Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health

The department of Chemistry hosted a Symposium themed “Cutting Edge Developments in Global Occupational and Environmental, Safety and Health (OESH)” on July 29, 2008. The Symposium explored several issues related to occupational health and safety including global alcohol and health trends, new approaches to OESH internship experiences, impact of silica and Re-integrating Preventative OESH measures into Primary Health Care.