



3. IMPROVED RESEARCH OUTPUT AND **IMPACT**

3. IMPROVED RESEARCH OUTPUT AND IMPACT

Along with the steady growth in graduate student enrolment over the Strategic Plan period, has come an increase in the number of research students. (Chart 5)

This augurs well for a university that is committed to carving its niche in the global higher education marketplace as a research-driven institution, committed to solving challenges related to the region, the Caribbean Diaspora and other tropical regions. The discussions initiated around, and the finances invested during the year in development of a Science Park, university-wide and inter-institutional research and educational initiatives in agriculture and renewable energy, among others, are indicative of Mona's commitment to increasing its overall output in the area of applied research.

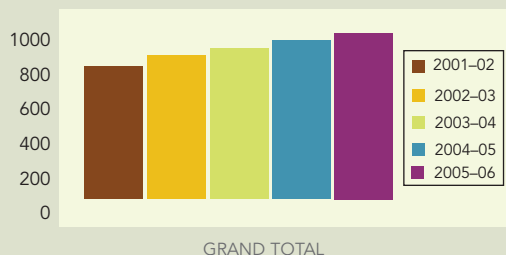


Chart 5. Research Degree Students, 2001/02–2005/06

The Campus continued to garner external funding support for much of its research. Internally, support for research through the Research Fellowship Programme and the New Initiative Grants was increased by 100% (vide Appendix II). Grants to the Campus through the central University Research and Publications facility for staff and student research support, also increased.

With the support of the STT, and in collaboration with MITS and HRMD, the Library launched the Mona Online Research Database (MORD), (www.mord.uwimona.edu.jm) allowing researchers and students ready access to staff publications, the strengthening of research-based teaching and more collaborative research activities among faculty and with external colleagues. For the first time, the research on the Campus for the period 1993–2005 was available globally through the internet. The Library was subsequently invited to share its experiences with colleagues from St Augustine and Cave Hill Campuses. Additionally, the Library published *Research for Development*, Vol. 3, 2002–2005, a catalogue of research undertaken on the Campus during this period.



A proposal from the STT to strengthen the Office of Sponsored Research (OSR) met with approval from the Campus' Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GPC). This will enable the OSR to provide a greater level of technical assistance to researchers in developing research proposals and accessing external grants to support their research. Also on the recommendation of the STT, four new research centres were funded on the Campus. These were the Centres for Leadership and Governance, Public Safety and Justice, Ageing and Wellness and the Caribbean Institute for Mental Health and Substance Abuse (CARIMENSA). Caribbean Genetics (CARIGEN) was also established. These entities, in addition to pursuing their mandate to undertake research that will guide national policies in the respective areas, will be developing critically needed academic programmes in their areas of specialization.

In the Faculty of Medical Sciences, research output in peer-reviewed journals increased from 128 in 2004–05 to 150 in 2005–06, representing a 17% growth. Conference presentations also increased to 261 from 217 in the previous year.

The Faculty's Research Day was again held in November 2005 under the theme, "*Clinical Trials: Building Capacity and Competence.*" The selection of this theme was strategic as the Faculty has now established a Centre for Clinical Trials, which is expected to provide some income for the Faculty.

The Faculty of Social Sciences continued to be engaged in significant areas of applied research. Reports were prepared for a wider range of agencies – national, regional and international – than in the previous year. These proposals covered a variety of areas and in many cases a number of items were

1. (Below) Mr Joseph Pereira, Deputy Principal, UWI, Mona Campus, addresses the audience at the Opening Ceremony of the Annual Faculty of Medical Sciences' Research Day, held in November 2005

2. VC E. Nigel Harris share a light moment with Dean Archie McDonald (right), and guest speaker John Brown

RESEARCH DAY – FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES 2005



" CLINICAL TRIALS: BUILDING CAPACITY AND COMPETENCE "

completed in a particular field, or involved the interdisciplinary cooperation of faculty from different departments. Areas covered included, *Caribbean Census Reports, Expenditure on Services for Children in Jamaica, Policy Making Process in Jamaica, Production Integration in CARICOM, Family Court System, Delivery of Social Services, Crime and National Security, Natural Disasters, Sugar Industry Reform, Health Services, Local Government and Governance*. The production of the *Jamaica Human Development Report* was one example of interdisciplinary research cooperation.

The Faculty furthered its work towards establishing clear norms for research output related to each discipline. At the same time the Faculty's Evaluation and Promotion Committee examined keenly the research record of a number of academic staff members, resulting in shortened contracts and/or denial of promotion. In some cases, this has had the positive effect of spurring faculty towards greater research productivity. During the year, a number of staff members who had worked for some time on temporary contracts were offered regular contracts. It is expected that this change of status will put these members of staff in a better frame of mind with respect to conducting research.

The Faculty Office in collaboration with the departments of Government and Sociology, Psychology and Social Work took the initiative

to provide support for a semester off for five junior members of staff completing their doctoral theses. In addition, other young Faculty members were granted similar support, either by their departments or by the Campus Staff Development Fund. It is expected that this will assist staff members in increasing their research productivity. One of these staff members submitted her final draft and is expected to graduate during 2006–07; two others provided drafts for their supervisors and may also be able to graduate during the same period.

The Faculty Research Funding Committee established a calendar of meetings during the year at which applications for support from staff and graduate students were considered. These were primarily for conference attendance but support was also given for research assistance. A policy was developed to provide staff with part-time student assistants (under-

Professor Helen Jacobs of the Department of Chemistry receiving the Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence for Research Accomplishments



graduate and graduate). This was a new initiative taken late in the year and was only taken up by a few members of staff. It is expected that in 2006–07 a much larger number of staff members will avail themselves of this facility.

In the past it has been recognized that faculty present many papers at conferences but they often do not convert these into publications. During the year, a fund was established which is dedicated to facilitate the production of refereed publications from papers Faculty members presented at various conferences. Support was earmarked for two publications arising from conferences put on by the Centre for Caribbean Political Thought. Meanwhile the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Research produced two volumes of the journal *Social and Economic Studies*, which were dedicated to the conference held in March 2005 highlighting the work of Sir

Arthur Lewis. Other journals associated with the Faculty have adopted a similar approach and will be eligible for support. Departments within the Faculty undertook a number of activities, including the reinvigoration of regular seminars, at which staff presented their work. The promotion of a research methods seminar for colleagues who have a weak research record was another.

The Natural Products Institute (NPI) in the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences realised its target of 3 publications per staff member and presented their findings at two local and two international conferences. On the commercial side, the Institute is seeking to patent a process which will see processing in Jamaica of the active ingredients of Jamaican bitterwood. Currently this processing is done overseas. In addition, work is being carried out on a number of unutilized essential oils to deter-

Young Scientist Award

Lecturer in the Climate Group Studies Section of the Department of Physics, Dr Michael Taylor, was named recipient of the *Young Scientists/Technologist Award* for 2005. The award was presented at the 19th Annual Conference of the Scientific Research Council, which was held at the Pegasus Hotel with the theme, *Energy in the 21st Century*. The *Young Scientists/Technologist Award* is an annual award, which was first presented in 1990. The award is based on research activity, publications and a paper presented at the conference. Dr Taylor gave an outstanding paper on the relationship between the work he is doing on climate variability and change and its relevance to the energy sector.



mine their commercial viability, among other possibilities.

The Business Development Office continues to assist research units and researchers in developing the commercial potential of their research output. The Office guided the transformation of Monalnfomatics into the premier Geographic Information Systems (GIS) facility in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. It is now internationally recognized, with significant research and development (R&D) capacity and already ahead of its 2 year break-even target. During the year its R&D capability improved with the recruitment of two honours graduates and the unit procured critical equipment including computers, server, large format plotter and a field vehicle.

The research activities of the Campus were showcased during the annual Research Day held in January 2006 under the theme, *CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME): Opportunities and Challenges*. The event continues to attract many students from high schools across Jamaica and the interest of the academic staff in the Principal's research awards continues to grow.



Dr Lou-Anne Barclay receiving the Principals' Award for the Most Outstanding Researcher in the Faculty of Social Sciences

Foresight-Based Model Workshop

A new foresight-based model of development planning, developed by the UWI and the University of Technology with the University of Surrey in the UK, is now in demand in South-East Asia. Professor Anthony Clayton, who leads the foresight project team, was asked by the UN to present the foresight model at a three-day workshop in Bangkok in December, 2006. Delegates from Thailand, Malaysia and other countries across the region attended the workshop to learn about the new approach to development planning. According to Professor Clayton, some of the Asian tiger economies now face new challenges with the emergence of China as the new global hub of manufacturing. He notes that the textile industry in Bangladesh, for example, is now threatened by the rapidly expanding supply of even cheaper textiles from China, while electronics manufacturers in Japan have to reposition themselves to accommodate increasing, lower-cost competition from their neighbour. The foresight model, which has been used in Africa and the Caribbean, was recently featured by the British Council as being in the top 1% of innovative and successful development projects, and has received similar recognition from the Commonwealth Science Council and the republic of South Africa.



THE ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY CONTINUES TO ATTRACT MANY STUDENTS FROM HIGH SCHOOLS ACROSS JAMAICA AND THE INTEREST OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF IN THE PRINCIPAL'S RESEARCH AWARDS CONTINUES TO GROW.

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

Various conferences and seminars which represent the type from which we can expect to see future publications, were organized or hosted on the Campus during the year. Notable among them were the conferences held in honour of two outstanding personalities, Richard Hart, historian and activist, who was awarded an honorary degree by the University at the 2005 graduation ceremony and Professor Barry Chevannes who had retired from the Faculty of Social Sciences, having served as Dean for two terms. The conference honouring Professor Chevannes and reflecting the breadth and influence of his research, sought to analyse and propose solutions to some of the pressing issues related to urban youth violence, governance, globalisation, gender identity, native religions and social cohesion in the Caribbean. Faculty also participated in other conferences that

involved collaboration across faculties and external agencies.

A collaborative effort of the Association of Caribbean Social Work Educators (ACSWE), the Department of Sociology, Psychology & Social Work, the Social Welfare Training Centre, UWI, and the Jamaica Association of Social Workers, the *7th Biennial Caribbean and International Social Work Educators Conference* was held at the Social Sciences Lecture Theatre between August 8 and 11, 2005. The conference dealt with various issues affecting social work educators, practitioners, students, researchers and policy makers from across the Caribbean, North America and Europe. Particular emphasis was placed on the role of social work educators in the formation of professionals competent to serve the Jamaican population and those within the region and in the towns and cities across the globe.

1. (Below) Mr Karl Hendrickson addressing the audience
2. Most Hon Edward Seaga receives the book of the previous year's conference proceedings
3. Platform party in light exchange

MONA ACADEMIC CONFERENCE 2005



TOURISM, THE DRIVER OF CHANGE IN THE JAMAICAN ECONOMY

The Mona Academic Conference, under the theme, *Tourism, the Driver of Change in the Jamaican Economy* was held between August 26 and 28, 2005 while the Faculty of Medical Sciences held its 14th Annual Research Conference from November 16 to 18, 2006. At the conference, held at the Mona Visitors' Lodge and Conference Centre, the *Kenneth Standard Distinguished Lecture* was delivered and was followed on subsequent days by presentations of scientific papers (oral and posters) and a workshop on clinical trials.

A collaborative effort between the Office of Sponsored Research and the University of Miami Bioethics programme, the conference, *The Responsible Conduct of Research: Beyond the Boundaries – the Role of Ethics in Ensuring Responsible Research* was held on May 19 and 20, 2006 while the Mona Association of Postgraduate Students (MAPS) hosted its third annual conference on February 15 & 17, 2006 under the theme, *Regional Integration through Research Implementation*.

The 7th *Social History Project One (1) Day Symposium* held on Saturday March 18, 2006 dealt with a wide area of scholarship such as oral history, sports and leisure, women and gender, folklore and culture, landscape and the environment and politics and society.

UWISON's *Annual Nursing Midwifery Research Conference* and *Mary Jane Seivwright Day* were held in Ocho Rios on June 1-3, 2006.

The *Caribbean Journal of Nursing and Midwifery* was launched at this conference. The 2006 Conference, together with the UDOP conference, were special events for the School of Nursing as it celebrated 40 years of service to the development of nursing education in the Caribbean. The highlight of the conference was the keynote address delivered by Professor Loretta Sweet Jemmott, Assistant Provost for Minority, Equity and Gender at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

Global Change and Caribbean Vulnerability: Environment, Economy and Society at Risk was the theme of the international seminar that took place at the Mona Campus between July 24 and 28, 2006. The conference brought together researchers from Geography and related disciplines in the natural and social sciences to share their views on the interrelated impacts of global change on Caribbean people, societies and landscapes. Papers were presented on a number of themes including *environmental change in the Caribbean Basin: current trends and future predictions; vulnerable Caribbean natural systems: the impacts of environmental change and population pressure; vulnerable Caribbean economies and societies: the impacts of globalization and environmental change*. Specific topics that were considered included issues such as conservation, biodiversity, national parks and protected areas, island biogeography, water resources and land degradation.



Above:

