

5. *Quality Enhancement Initiatives*

The Deputy Principal's Office continued in 2006–2007 to conduct student assessment of teaching and courses. The assessment covered 93% of undergraduate courses and modules taught on the campus and some 42% of students participated in the assessment process. To the Campus's credit the average rating for teaching was 4.2 out of 5 on a five-point rating scale. Only 21 or 3% of lecturers or tutors fell below the minimum acceptable standard of 3 and the Campus initiated follow-up remedial activity for these faculty members.

Courses received a generally lower average satisfaction rating of 3.9. The challenge is to attain a higher level of student response. Clinical Medicine continued to be assessed by a different instrument, with high levels of satisfaction on average. A database covering seven semesters of assessments has been produced for better detection of trends. This will now be referenced to the course pass rates to determine whether or not there is any correlation.

Driven by the strategic imperative to strengthen graduate studies, the Campus also made some preliminary attempts to assess all graduate courses.

In furtherance of improving teaching and learning quality, the Instructional Development Unit was assigned a second post, with a focus on IT applications to teaching and learning.

A Student Perception Survey of administrative offices across

the campus was started, to better gauge the quality of service in these areas of student interface. The Campus average was a rather low 3.4 on a five-point scale. The challenge is to achieve a better client-oriented approach within the administrative offices, since this affects the regard and support for the University when students become alumni.

The Deputy Principal's Office followed up with four departments on the recommendations arising from their five-year disciplinary reviews, although implementation of some of these was constrained by resource limitations.

Recognising the need to ensure up-to-date web pages for the Campus as part of its quality indicators, the Office contracted students to work with departments to make their pages current. This project continues into 2007–2008 with fair success.

There is no gainsaying that during the year the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) led the way in curricula reform on the Mona Campus. Curricula reform is an ongoing process and the Faculties' undergraduate programmes are constantly being reviewed and improved in keeping with modern trends in education. This demonstrates the Campus's commitment to the first of the four strategic aims of the 2007–2012 UWI Strategic Plan: to produce graduates of high quality through enhancing teaching and learning.

In the Faculty of Medical Sciences the Dean established a



Medical Education Unit (MEU). One of its crucial remits is to monitor the quality of the programmes in the Faculty. It is also involved in training of academic staff in pedagogic techniques. Although many aspects of training are provided by the Instructional Development Unit, there are aspects such as clinical training which are unique to the health sciences. The MEU is also required to pursue research in medical education to inform the Faculty's admissions policy and to track its graduates beyond their graduation to assess their performance in the workplace. The MEU is also involved in the development of assessment tools for teaching and is actively pursuing the development of a teaching career track in keeping with the UWI's Strategic Plan. However, the Faculty maintains that teachers must display scholarship by constantly analyzing the effectiveness of their teaching methods and publishing the results of their research.

Although the development of teaching portfolios is encouraged, the Faculty does not support the notion of assessment of teachers at the University level on the basis of student assessments and portfolio development only. Consequently, the FMS is intent on establishing in academic year 2007-2008 an undergraduate committee to monitor quality in all its undergraduate programmes.

The second cohort of students in the revised MB BS programme graduated in June 2007. Ninety-six students sat the final examinations and the results were the best seen in recent years and probably the best ever, with only nine students failing and no student failing more than one subject. Seven students graduated with honours degrees.

The Stage 1 of the MB BS Programme continues to be very challenging. The new curriculum was revised and all modules

are now UWI courses. The revised regulations require that all students pass all courses. The GPA system was implemented and requires that all students maintain a minimum GPA of 2. In the stage 1 examinations held June 2007 some 20 percent of students failed. The Faculty introduced a remedial programme for the first time at this level. It included not only an academic component but also psychological and cultural components. The results of this intervention were astounding, with all students passing the supplemental examination held six weeks after the first examination. The Faculty recognizes that a significant number of its students suffer from psychological challenges and also have difficulty making the cultural and social adjustments to campus and university life. Arising out of this successful remedial programme, the Faculty has designed, with assistance from a private contractor, an orientation programme for all new students, which addresses all these issues. This is to be incorporated into the orientation programme as of academic year 2007-2008.

In order to provide students with an excellent learning environment and produce students of quality, a modern and technologically advanced infrastructure is required. The construction of the new Basic Medical Sciences complex is due to begin early in calendar year 2008. This is not only important to allow maintenance of the University's fully accredited status, but also to provide modern facilities for its students and to facilitate cutting edge research in its research laboratories. During the year under review the refurbishing of the Hopwood Centre was completed and the computer laboratory is now open with 70 computers available for student use.

In the health sciences information is increasing more rapidly than in other disciplines. Students must keep abreast of this



new information. Online resources are therefore more important than books and the Faculty is encouraging the medical library to invest more in this area. All areas of the Faculty are now on the UWI network and wireless internet is accessible in most areas.

The Campus entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health, which gives UWI students first call on training facilities in government institutions. This is important in order to ensure the continuation of small group teaching in all programmes that have a clinical component. Undergraduate teaching commenced at the Cornwall Regional Hospital in Montego Bay. This programme will be expanded gradually with the objective of developing a full clinical training facility over three years, with capacity to accommodate one hundred medical and nursing students.

All Doctor of Medicine (DM) programmes were revised and the regulations reviewed and published. A research component is now included in all DM programmes. Through the Research Resource Centre in the Office of the Dean, residents are trained in basic research methodology and biostatistics. This programme is to be offered online during academic year 2007-2008. Efforts were made to improve supervision of students in research degree programmes but there is still a lot of work to be done in this area. In this regard, the Graduate Committee has been mandated to ensure that the throughput rate for graduate students is significantly improved.

The Faculty of Social Sciences developed, at the undergraduate level, a number of policy initiatives through its Staff Student Liaison Committee. Following previous initiatives to develop a code of conduct for instructional sessions, a general code of conduct was produced. A job description was also

developed for student class representatives with a view to enhancing their role in departmental staff student liaison committees, student evaluation and the maintenance of a dialogue between students, their lecturers and their departments. At the request of the students, modifications were proposed to the student evaluation instruments to include a greater role for the evaluation of tutors. The dialogue on a plagiarism policy continued and a draft policy was discussed by the Staff Student Liaison Committee and taken to the Faculty Board and from there to Academic Board. To support implementation of the plagiarism policy Mona Information Technology Services (MITS) introduced plagiarism detection software in April 2007 and training sessions were held for academics.

The Department of Economics completed the first round of its curriculum review at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. It also advanced its use of online instruction towards its goal to have all first and second year courses internet optimized and all third year courses internet supported by the end of 2007. The Department of Management Studies also continued with its programme of putting its courses in an online format. The Centre for Hotel and Tourism Management continued its curriculum review towards the more effective articulation of its programmes with those of the community colleges from which it obtains an increasing number of students.

In the Faculty of Humanities and Education, the Institute of Education continued to focus on the quality assurance of programmes and institutional strengthening of teachers colleges, research, graduate studies, and services to the education sector. Targets were met in the provision of staff development workshops for teachers colleges, and in the assessment of the practicum in Jamaica, Belize, the Bahamas and Turks and

Investing in IT Infrastructure to Strengthen the Regional Teacher Education System

A strategic objective of the Institute of Education is to enable the education community of the region, and, in particular, the teacher education sector, to design, develop and deliver high quality academic and professional teacher education programmes that meet international standards, consistent with one of our missions, to support, facilitate and promote Teacher Education in the Region. The Institute of Education through the Joint Board of Education (JBTE) has therefore invested significant resources in its information technology infrastructure, which now includes a bank of modern servers outfitted with sophisticated software and peripherals to ensure efficient and sustainable ICT capabilities; and a robust Wireless Wide Area Network (WWAN).

The IOE technology infrastructure includes: on-line course delivery systems such as Virtual University and the Modular Object Oriented Distance Learning Environment, MOODLE; E-mail and Messenger Services in which all member institutions of the JBTE can deploy their e-mail and messenger services through the JBTE servers. The services are dedicated to the institutions served and the domains are deployed accordingly. All lecturers and administrators are given free e-mail services on the system. There is access to on-line publications including the IOE Publication Series – the official journal of the Institute, as well as the Caribbean Journal of Education – the official Journal of the School of Education. Also available on this system are restricted access

to PROQUEST, an on-line library facility and College Information System (CIS), a new college information system through the JBTE. The system is being configured to collect demographic and other information from all college students and to feed this information to the JBTE, thus replacing a dated college manager system that was initiated some 15 years ago. The WWAN currently links all teachers colleges except the College of Agriculture Science and Education (CASE). The system is capable of delivering synchronous video, voice and data. The IOE Local Network and EduLab support the wider educational community. The Institute maintains a small Local Area network to supply connectivity and workstation support to some 23 staff offices located in the School of Education.

Caicos Islands. The Institute continues to deliver graduate programmes and courses in the School of Education and to provide administrative support for graduate studies.

The annual professional conference focusing on the theme of “Quality for Transformation” was organized and co-coordinated by the Joint Board of Teacher Education (JBTE) for staff of the teachers colleges and members of the Institute of Education. About 350 persons attended this conference.

All academic members of staff in the Institute of Education were involved in the teaching practice exercise led by Dr Lorna Down and Dr Nadine Scott in February 2007. Work continued in collaboration with college lecturers to review the criteria for assessment in language in order to strengthen comparability across colleges with regard to performance in English. The operationalization of the JBTE language policy across teachers’ colleges also continued. The JBTE led the development of the framework for training Spanish teachers for the primary school system and a programme for training these teachers of Spanish was developed.

Through JBTE intervention, colleges offering programmes for the secondary system were included in the eLearning project of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Technology to improve teaching/learning quality in secondary schools. On the invitation of Colbourne College in Westmoreland and the International University of the Caribbean (IUC) visits were made to initiate membership of these institutions in the JBTE. Membership of the IUC has since been formalised.

Research Output

The Campus continued to work towards increasing its

research output. Notably, in the year under review, the FMS published 175 papers in peer reviewed journals. Ninety abstracts were also published and there were 226 presentations at local, regional and international conferences. The Faculty’s publication rate of 1.05 per Faculty member exceeded the target of 1.0 set for the year and represents a slight increase over last year.

The schedule of New Externally Funded Grants (Appendix I) indicates some of the areas of research undertaken on the Campus during the year. Other research activities pursued with assistance from the Campus Research Fellowship and the New Initiatives Programme are reflected in Appendix II. Support for research by staff and students was also obtained through the central University Research and Publications Grants. The increased support for research facilitated the pursuit of studies in areas identified in the Strategic Plan as critical to the development of the Region.

The strengthening of the Office of Sponsored Research (OSR) enabled it to provide a greater level of technical assistance to researchers in developing research proposals and accessing external grants to support their research. The Office submitted six projects in response to the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica October 2006 call for proposals. The proposals were from the Departments of Chemistry and Basic Medical Sciences, the Centre for Gender and Development Studies and the Section of Psychiatry on behalf of the Caribbean Institute of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. The OSR is also engaged in formulating a proposal aimed at improving the quality of research produced on the Mona Campus. The proposal is entitled “The Modernization of Research Facilities at the Mona Campus – UWI” and has as one of its main objectives



an increase in the number of project disclosures to at least 10 per annum.

Recognising and Rewarding Quality

The Mona Campus was not without its share of achievements for quality performance in research, teaching, public service and administration during the academic year.

Professor Alvin Wint, Chair of the Strategic Transformation Team and the Strategic Planning Task Force, was promoted to Pro Vice Chancellor, Office of the Board of Undergraduate Studies.

Dr Tomlin Paul, Lecturer in the Department of Community Health and Psychiatry and Professor Susan P. Walker, Head, Child Development Research Group, Epidemiology Research Unit, Tropical Medicine Research Institute (TMRI) received Vice Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in teaching and research respectively for the 2006–2007 academic year.

The Principal's Research Awards were given as follows:

Faculty of Humanities & Education

The Best Research Publication

Book: *From Nation to Diaspora*

– Dr Curdella Forbes, Department of Literatures in English

Article: "Beautiful and Dangerous"

– Dr Aleric Josephs, Department of History and Archaeology

The Research Project Attracting The Most Research Funds

- "Promoting Young Children's Social and Emotional Competence and Preventing Aggression in Basic Schools"
– Dr Helen Baker-Henningham, Department of Educational Studies. Dr Henningham's award for attracting the most research funds in the Faculty of Humanities and Education, is worthy of special mention since she attracted a highly coveted Wellcome Trust research grant of over a quarter million pounds sterling (£250,000) and will spend the next two years working collaboratively with colleagues in the TMRU.

Mona GeoInformatics

The recently established Mona GeoInformatics (MGI) has produced a diversified suite of products and services that meet local and regional needs and which provide adequate revenue for long-term sustainability and a revenue stream for the Mona Campus. Already it has established an international presence through its Geographic Information System and Global Positioning System

services, initiating or expanding international collaboration with Harvard and Oxford Universities and the Planetary Science Institute, among others. It provided international assistance to researchers from University of Pennsylvania, San Diego State University, Wesleyan University and expanded its services to the St. Lucia Government in developing its GIS capacity. At the local

level MGI research and development activity has reaped remarkable success with is GPS tracking and in-car navigation, natural hazards modeling and social analyses, providing services to organizations such as the Jamaica Defense Force, Jamaica National Building Society, the Electoral Office of Jamaica, the Ministry of Health and the Centre for Disaster Risk Management.



Faculty of Medical Sciences

The Best Research Publication

Articles

- “Effects of Early Childhood Psychosocial Stimulation and Nutritional Supplementation on Cognition and Education in Growth-Retarded Jamaican Children: Prospective Cohort Study.”
– Professor Susan Walker, Dr Christine Powell, Mrs Susan Chang-Lopez and collaborators, Tropical Medicine Research Institute
- “Human T Lymphotropic Virus Types I and II Western Blot Seroindefinite Status and its Association with Exposure to Prototype HTLV-1.”
– Professor Barrie Hanchard, Department of Pathology and Professor Rainford Wilks, Tropical Medicine Research Institute
- “Aqueous Chemistry of the Vanadium(III) (VIII) and the VIII-Dipicolinate Systems and a Comparison of the Effect of Three Oxidation States of Vanadium Compounds on Diabetic Hyperglycemia in Rats.”
– Dr Ruby Lisa Lindo, Department of Basic Medical Sciences

The Most Outstanding Researchers

- *Five publications* – Professor Susan Walker
Tropical Medicine Research Institute
- *Eight publications* – Dr Dalip Ragoobirsingh
Department of Basic Medical Sciences
- *Ten publications* – Dr Helen Trotman-Edwards
Department of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Child Health

The Research Project Attracting the Most Research Funds

- “The Epidemiology of HTLV-1 in Jamaica.”
– Professor Barrie Hanchard and collaborators,
Department of Pathology

Faculty of Pure & Applied Sciences

The Best Research Publication

- “The Effects of Rainfall on the Distribution of Inorganic Nitrogen and Phosphorus in Discovery Bay, Jamaica.”
– Dr Anthony Greenaway and collaborator, Department of Chemistry

The Most Outstanding Research Activity

- “The Threat of Dengue Fever – Assessment of Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change in Human Health in the Caribbean.”
– Professor Anthony Chen, Department of Physics
– Professor Wilma Bailey, Department of Geography and Geology
– Dr Dharmaratne Amarakoon, Department of Physics
– Dr Michael Taylor, Department of Physics and collaborators

The Research Project Attracting The Most Research Funds

- “Endangered Species Conservation in the Portland Bight Protected Area.”
– Dr Byron Wilson, Department of Life Sciences

The Research Project with the Greatest Business/Economic/Development Impact

- “Asbestos Removal from Succaba Pen, Old Harbour.”
– Professor Ishenkumba Kahwa, Department of Chemistry



Centre for Gender and Development

The Research Project Attracting the Most Research Funds

- "Gender Differentials in Enrolment and Performance at the Secondary and Tertiary Levels of Education Systems in the Anglophone Caribbean"
– Professor Barbara Bailey, Centre for Gender and Development Studies

The Research Project with the Greatest Business/Economic/Development Impact

- "Gender, Training and Research"
– Professor Barbara Bailey and collaborators, Centre for Gender and Development Studies

Faculty of Social Sciences

The Best Research Publication

Article:

- "Crime, Disorder and Major Natural Disasters: The Caribbean Experience in Current Issues in International Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice"
– Professor Anthony Harriott, Department of Government

The Most Outstanding Researcher

Five publications – Professor Anthony Harriott, Department of Government

The Research Project Attracting the Most Research Funds

- "South-South Cooperation for Determining Good Practices for Crime Prevention in the Developing World"
– Professor Anthony Harriott and collaborator, Department of Government

The Research Project with the Greatest Business/Economic/Development Impact

- "Establishment and Development of a Regional Agricultural Policy Network in the Caribbean"
– Mr Claremont Kirton, Department of Economics and Ms Arlene Bailey, Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work

Members of Staff, retirees and Council Member who received National Honours were:

- Professor Edwin Jones, Dept of Govt, the Order of Jamaica (OJ): excellence in academia and public service
- Professor Patricia Anderson, Dept of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work, the Order of Distinction, Commander class (CD): outstanding contribution to research to develop public policy
- Dr Ivor Crandon, Dept of Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, Order of Distinction (CD): service in the field of medicine
- Dr Rose Davies, Institute of Education, Order of Distinction (CD): outstanding contribution to the development of early childhood education
- Professor Joseph Frederick, Advanced Training and Research in Fertility Management Unit, Order of Distinction (CD): service in the field of medical research
- Professor Maureen Samms-Vaughan, Dept of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Child Health, Order of Distinction (CD): Early Childhood Development and Healthcare
- Mr Parris Lyew-Ayee, (Council Member), Order of Distinction (CD): service in the Bauxite/Alumina Industry



- Dr Wendel Abel, Dept of Community Health and Psychiatry, Order of Distinction, Officer Rank: Mental Health and Social Services
- Dr Hazel Bennett, Order of Distinction, Officer Rank: services in the fields of library development and education.

The Mona Online Research Database (MORD) received the Association of Caribbean University and Research Institution Libraries' (ACURIL) "Research, Content Driven, Knowledge, and Effective Access to Information Award" in June 2007.

Notable Accomplishments

International Recognition for Research Activity

Findings from recent research presented in an issue of *The Lancet* involving two researchers from the University of the West Indies show that more than 200 million children under 5 years fail to reach their potential in cognitive development because of poverty, poor health and nutrition, and lack of early stimulation. This was presented in the first paper in a three part Series on child development, which began in January 2007. Professor Susan Walker of the Tropical Medicine Research Institute is lead author of the second paper in the series and Dr Julie Meeks Gardner of the Caribbean Child Development Centre is a co-author. Professor Walker and Dr Meeks Gardner are also members of the International Child Development Steering Group which initiated and coordinated the series.

The Series shows that most of these children – 89 million – live in south Asia and that ten countries (India, Nigeria, China, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Tanzania) account for 145 million (66%) of the 219 million disadvantaged children in the developing world.

In the second paper in the Series researchers identify the main causes of poor child development – stunting, iodine and iron deficiencies, and inadequate cognitive and social-emotional stimulation. Other potential risk factors include exposure to violence, maternal depression, exposure to lead and arsenic, and some infectious diseases. Interventions that address these causal factors can therefore reduce the burden of poor child development, say the authors of the final paper in the Series, which deals with the assessment strategies that exist to tackle poor child development, identifies effective programmes, and defines characteristics of effectiveness.

Professor Terrence Forrester, Director of the Tropical Medicine Research Institute (TMRI) was among the honourees at the first Anthony N Sabga 'Caribbean Awards for Excellence' launched by the Ansa McAl Foundation with the aim of encouraging the pursuit of excellence by Caribbean people for the benefit of the region. The gala award ceremony took place during 2007 at the Hilton Trinidad Hotel in Port-of-Spain.

As Director of TMRI, Professor Forrester has the main responsibility for coordinating research on priority health issues in the Caribbean and facilitating the uptake of research findings into policy and programmes. The Institute is also involved in providing training at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and operates a postdoctoral fellowship programme. The Tropical Medicine Research Institute (TMRI) seeks to increase the output of research in major areas affecting the health of regional peoples, increase the number of trained research scientists working in health and facilitate the uptake of research into policy, programmes and practice, thereby contributing to improvement in the health status of Caribbean peoples.

