

# Dynamic Community Engagement

## Building, Strengthening Capacity in Surrounding Communities

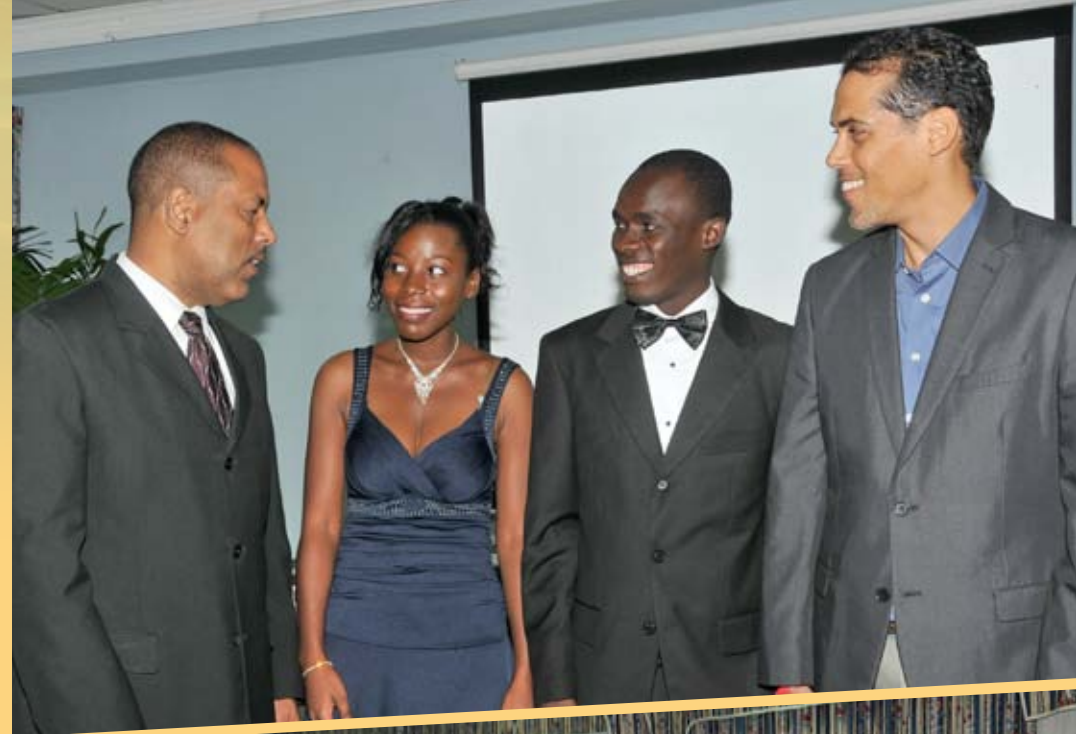
Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010, the UWI, Mona reached out to its neighbours by:

- offering scholarships to 25 students;
- dispatching medical doctors to assist in
- caring for the injured; and
- offering a four-month training programme to a staff member of the national archives and library.

In September 2010, Mona welcomed 25 final year students from the Universite Etat d'Haiti (State University of Haiti) in the first ever such exercise to be undertaken by an Anglophone Caribbean University.

A team led by Dr. Matthew Smith, Lecturer in the Department of History and Coordinator of the Mona-Haiti Initiative, visited Haiti to conduct interviews, assess students' English Language abilities as well as their preparedness for relocation.

Enjoying full scholarships that covered tuition, accommodation, meals, books and a weekly stipend,



the students were registered in the Faculties of Humanities and Education, Social Sciences and Pure and Applied Sciences. The scholarships were partly funded by the Open Society Institution of New York and the Caribbean Development Bank.

The International Students Office assisted the students with the improvement of their command of the English Language through the delivery of a special "English as a Second Language" Programme from September to April 2011.

The students integrated well into campus life and Jamaica. They participated in extra-curricular activities and hosted a "Haiti Day" in November 2010 with the support of the

Department of History and Archaeology. Field trips were also organised by the ISO and OSSD.

After a successful academic year, the students returned to Haiti having been presented with formal certificates of participation. On their return to Haiti they were required to complete a dissertation before being awarded their degrees. All but three of the students have now received their degrees.

The International Students Office (ISO) conducted a survey of the students to obtain their assessment of the programmes and a majority indicated that learning in English was difficult.

Lecturers were impressed by the academic ability of the students and their capacity to assimilate and organise their coursework material. It has been a learning experience on both sides and the survey pointed to a great need for higher degrees. This, we view, as a potential area for future collaboration between the UWI and Haiti.





## Greater August Town Project

Bittersweet emotions best describe the past academic year for the Mona Social Services UWI Township Project in Greater August Town (GAT).

We faced the challenge of the passing of Professor Emeritus Barry Chevannes who initiated the Project which aims to foster the integration of the community of GAT and the Mona Campus.

We embarked on a mission to celebrate the life and continue the work of Professor Chevannes using his six-pillar approach to community development: education, skills training, entrepreneurship, crime and violence reduction, health, sports and culture.

In December 2010, GAT – the UWI honoured the life and work of the late Professor with the unveiling of his portrait at Bryce Hill Plaza, August Town and a tree-lighting ceremony, ushering in the Christmas season. More than 300 residents turned out to hear the University Singers belt out Christmas carols. Throughout the year, communities in the GAT honoured his memory with special events.

It was during this time too, that 25 parents completed a one-day parenting seminar hosted by the Office of the Principal. They received certificates of participation. Meanwhile five students received scholarships to pursue tertiary studies at UWI under the UWI Challenge Scholarship programme.

Mrs. Pauletta Chevannes and Professor Gordon Shirley at the tree-lighting ceremony in honour of the life and work of the late Professor Barry Chevannes.





## Collaboration with the Jamaica National Foundation

The UWI Township Project in collaboration with the Jamaica National Building Society Foundation officially took over operations of the UWI Mona SOURCE at Bryce Hill Plaza, in June 2011. The SOURCE provides residents with easy access to modern state-of-the-art services such as an Internet café, printing and photocopying, conference/meeting room rental.

Additionally, the Barry Chevannes Fathers Inc. Resource Centre was officially opened in August Town on August 9, 2011, in a ceremony hosted by the Office of the Principal, UWI, Mona. The centre is home to the fathers' support group founded by Professor Chevannes and provides counselling, research and access to materials on fathering, male health and relationships. This initiative advances Mona's efforts to foster the sustainable development of the community.



Official opening of the Barry Chevannes Fathers Inc. Resource Centre



Dr. Maurice McNaughton demonstrates the features of a laptop to children from the Providence Basic School

## One laptop per child

Another objective of the GAT Project to make students computer literate was advanced through the handing over of 25 laptops to Mr. Morlton Wilson, Principal of August Town Primary School, under the One Laptop per Child Project.

## Supporting National Imperatives

Throughout the year, UWI Mona had the honour of hosting several conferences, symposia, and fora. In addition to stimulating intellectual discourse, these engagements sought to bring into focus and make critical recommendations on challenging issues of local, national and global importance.

### Visit of Toronto Police Chief

Mr. William Blair, Chief of the Toronto Police Service paid a four-day visit to Jamaica in November 2010. The visit was organised by UWI, Mona in collaboration with the Police Services Commission in order to facilitate interaction between international crime management experts and key stakeholders involved in the ongoing transformation of the Jamaica Constabulary Force.



### The Slashroots Developers' Conference

The Mona School of Business hosted the inaugural Slashroots Developers' Conference in February 2011. The Conference was designed to foster the development of local technological innovations and to provide an environment to support dialogue among stakeholders of innovations, particularly amongst policy makers, members of the technology community and the public and private sectors.

The Conference highlight was a 24-hour national software developer competition dubbed "OpenData Camp", where three-member teams of developers used a 24-hour window to build value-added applications and visualizations. These were used to demonstrate the possibilities that can arise from



increased data access, as well as to showcase the programming skills of local software developers. Two on-going technology development projects featured from the UWI were the Agriculture OpenData Initiative and the Jamaica One Laptop per Child Project.

Dr. Olivene Burke, Project Coordinator, UWI Township, presenting an XO (laptop) to the principal of August Primary, Mr. Morlton Wilson



## The UWI/World Bank Seminar on Jamaica's Economy

In June 17, 2011, the UWI, Mona Campus in collaboration with the World Bank hosted a dissemination seminar titled, Jamaica: Country Economic Memorandum (CEM) "Unlocking Growth". World Bank Senior Economist Zafer Mustafaoglu delivered the main address on the Country Economic Memorandum (CEM), which assesses and makes recommendations on the chief economic and social factors that have challenged growth in the Jamaican economy.

## Organizational Renewal: From Recession to Recovery and Growth

In June 2011, the Mona School of Business hosted a Roundtable titled, "Organizational Renewal: From Recession to Recovery and Growth". The forum engaged senior executives from the private and public sectors in dialogue on organizational renewal, with the aim of finding practical solutions to the economic challenges facing some organizations.

International experts Allan Tilly of Turnaround Management Association International and Paul Casey of Deloitte, Toronto, addressed the topics: "Global Trends in Restructuring" and "Strategic Cost Management", respectively. Local contributors included the Hon. Lascelles Chin of the Lasco Group, Mr. Christopher Levy, President, Jamaica Broilers Group; Mrs. A. Cecile Watson, Managing Director, National Housing Trust and Mrs. Marlene Street-Forrest, General Manager, Jamaica Stock Exchange.





## World Telecommunication and Information Society Conference

In May 2011, the Mona Campus hosted a World Telecommunication and Information Society Day: ICT Policy Conference, through its Telecommunications Policy and Management (TPM) Programme. The event marked International Telecommunications and ICT Day and brought together policy makers, regulators, academics and practitioners in the field of Information and Communications Technology to discuss ICT related issues and strategies. The resulting recommendations focused on practical, innovative approaches and best practices for ICT policy making and regulation in the Caribbean.



Professor Hopeton Dunn, Director of the TPM Programme, Mona School of Business, UWI addresses the gathering at the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day Conference



Mr. Hallam Hope, President of CARITEL, Barbados, makes a point at the TPM ICT Policy Conference hosted by TPM in May 2011.



Former Opposition spokesperson on Energy and Technology, Mr. Phillip Paulwell (right) responds to a comment during a session of the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day Conference. Others are (L-R): Dr. Elaine Wallace, UTECH, Mrs. Michele Thomas, TPM, MSB and Mr. Cordel Green, Broadcasting Commission.

## Popular Music Symposium

“The Social Impact of Jamaican Popular Music” was the theme of a symposium hosted by the Institute of Caribbean Studies on Saturday, February 2011. The Symposium explored topical issues in the Jamaican music landscape, including the impact of music on adolescent sexuality; music and violence; and the implications of dancehall lyrics on Caribbean youth. It was designed to encourage dialogue among researchers, music stakeholders and the public on critical issues in Jamaican popular music.

## Child Rights Workshop for Primary School

In May 2011 the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies partnered with key local and international organisations to organise a Child Rights Workshop for Primary School. The Workshop sought to train teachers from 50 primary schools in child rights and research methodologies and to promote research among primary school students and increase adherence to child rights in schools. Some 180 primary school representatives from across the Island attended the workshop.

Partners included the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ), the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC), UWI, the Early Childhood Commission (ECC), the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Office of the Children’s Advocate (OCA), Office of the Children’s Registry (OCR), the Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child (JCRC), the Child Development Agency (CDA), and the Ministry of Education.

## MSB / IIA Host Symposium on Corporate Governance

The Mona School of Business in collaboration with the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) hosted a symposium on “Corporate Governance” in May 2011.

The distinguished panel included Mr. David Hall, President of the Institute of Internal Auditors; Ms. Margaret Campbell, Corporate Governance Committee, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica; Ms. Greta Bogues, Corporate Governance Committee, Private Sector Organization of Jamaica; Ms. Pamela Munroe-Ellis, Auditor General; Mr. Kevin Mayeaux, Senior Vice President & Chief Officer for the Institute of Internal Auditors - North American Operations Representative; and Dr. Lawrence Nicholson, Lecturer at the Mona School of Business.

## UWI Hosts Symposium on the Tivoli Gardens Incursion

“The Tivoli Incursion-1 Year Later” was the topic of a one-day symposium organised by the Institute of Gender and Development Studies in collaboration with NGOs, Jamaicans for Justice, Sistren Theatre Collective and the Jamaica Civil Society Coalition.