"Medicus curat Natura sanat morbus."
The physician heals Nature makes well.
— Aristotle
In the Faculty of Medical Sciences, oath-taking ceremonies are solemn occasions. June 2014 saw graduates from our five Schools take their oaths, promising to be professional and ethical in all they do.

These attributes and the inherent message took centre stage when we welcomed our incoming classes in September. It was an opportunity to highlight the course *Professionalism, Ethics and Communication in Health Course* (PECH) as it enters its second year.

Our 2014/2015 academic year opened with a three-day training session for all PECH tutors. A PBL workshop and reflection day also took place.

The Trinidad and Tobago Medical Association together with the FMS co-hosted their *20th Medical Update and Research Conference* in July 2014 under the theme ‘Evidence Based Medicine’ covering such diverse topics as prostate surgery, kidney disease and childhood obesity.

Three optometry students implemented a guide dog service in Trinidad and Tobago. Currently there are only two trained guide dogs in the country, one of whom is retired. Students’ research showed four per cent of the population in the Caribbean are differently-abled and would benefit from having a specially trained dog companion.

The UWI Family Day “Bring Back the Ole Time Days” was held in June and all our schools and departments were well represented especially in the back in time cooking competition. Each faculty’s themed interpretation of tent decoration was also well received.

In July we also saw a three-day *Conflict Management and Resolution Skills* workshop hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago Health Training Centre.

And our favourite photographer, Dexter Superville, achieved a merit award conferred by the NY Institute of Photography. Congratulations Dexter!

**Dean’s Message**

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**Best wishes,**

Professor Samuel Ramsewak
Three third-year optometry students – Abigail Cezair, Samantha Jaimungal and Colin Ng Wai – recently implemented a guide dog service in Trinidad and Tobago. What started as a class research project ten months ago has since become an NGO: The Trinidad and Tobago Guide Dog Association (TTGDA).

The students are seeking to form the first ever assistance dog school in the Caribbean.

With the support of their Optometry lecturers and mentors: Dr. John Randall and Dr. Subash Sharma; VEMCO Ltd; South Trinidad K-9 Club; Caribbean Eye Institute, and Trinidad and Tobago Optometrists Association, they are making the project a reality.

Clifford Manchoon, a dog obedience professional, is currently training TTGDA’s first dog, a purebred Labrador Retriever donated by Dr. Shivana Beharry of the Golden Pride Veterinary Clinic.

Currently there are only two trained guide dogs in Trinidad and Tobago, one of whom is retired.

An estimated US$1 million is needed to set up a sustainable program and requires an abundance of support both locally and internationally.

Anyone can help by fostering a puppy, offering donations and by supporting the cause and liking the Facebook page.

UWI Research Awards Recipients

- **Faculty Award, Most Outstanding Researcher**: Professor Shivananda Nayak
- **Campus Award, Most Outstanding Regional Research Project**: Professor Surujpal Teelucksingh (top right), The Caribbean Regional Non-Communicable Diseases Surveillance System Project
- **Special Award**: Dr. Rahul Naidu (below right), The Oral Health of Pre-School Children in Trinidad

The Principal, on behalf of the Awards Selection Committee, has made a request for senior staff members, “to make an even greater effort at mentoring talented researchers, encouraging them to communicate their research to internal and external audiences and apply for a research award in the future.”
Professor Michiko Moriyama of Hiroshima University, Japan, facilitated a workshop: “Diabetes Self-Management Education” at the UWI School of Nursing (UWISON) El Dorado in March.

Professor Chidum Ezenwaka invited Professor Moriyama to the UWI as they had previously met at the Institute of Biomedical & Health Sciences, Hiroshima University, Japan in late 2012 when Ezenwaka received a research invitation fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS).

His lecture at Hiroshima University: “Preventing Diabetes Complications in Developing Countries: a Trinidad and Tobago Experience” prompted Moriyama’s visit. Her background as a nurse informed her public talk: “Nursing Education and Practice in Japan,” and encouraged several local nurses to consider training opportunities in Japan.
Oath-Taking Class of 2014

Dentistry

Medicine

Optometry

Veterinary Medicine
MSE held its yearly Problem Based Learning (PBL) workshop in September. Twenty new PBL tutors attended the all-day workshop where they were introduced to the various aspects of PBL: the educational philosophy; the systematic approach, and the role of the tutor as a facilitator. Dr. Bidyadhar Sa, Dr. Pradeep Sahu and Professor Jonas Addae facilitated the workshop.

Dr. Verrol Simmons presented tutors with a certificate of participation on behalf of the Dean, Professor Samuel Ramsewak.

As the Professionalism, Ethics and Communication in Health (PECH) programme enters its second year, a training course for all the PECH tutors was held in August to ensure that pilot glitches encountered last year were eliminated. Added to the 2014/15 academic calendar is the PECH offering for Year II medical students.

Three Brazilians from the COIMBRA Group of Brazilian Universities, Professor Rossana de Souza e Silva, Executive Director, COIMBRA; Professor Maria Lucia Cavalli Neder, President, COIMBRA, and Professor Paula Teixeira de Sousa Jr., Head, International Relations Office, Federal University of Mato Grosso, visited FMS in May.

The Group is interested in collaboration with The UW1 for higher education opportunities for their students, particularly in the area of sciences (Science without Borders initiative).
Dexter Superville’s photo of the Hari Mandir Temple celebrating Durga Puja in Manzanilla (page 8), has been heaped with accolades from his lecturers at the New York Institute of Photography.

The certificate in Professional Photography allowed Superville to hone his eclectic style. His photo of the Goddess Durga murti being submerged in the sea received a merit award for being, “the most compelling human interest photo for the 2013/2014 school year.”

Superville was also praised for his “most exciting cat photo in the school’s history” (photo at right). Yow, a stray cat who hangs out in his back yard, was the subject of an assignment to capture the inherent characteristic of an animal at play.
The Finale