

Professor E. Nigel Harris Vice Chancellor

The Vice Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

Learning Resource Centre

Thursday 30th October, 2008

5:00 p.m.

PROTOCOL

- Chair, University Registrar, Mr. William Iton
- Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne
- Campus Principal, St Augustine, Professor Clement Sankat
- Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie
- Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Wayne Hunte
- Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor Ronald Young
- Public Orator, Cave Hill Campus, Professor Henry Fraser
- Public Orator, St Augustine Campus Professor Barbara Lalla
- University Bursar, Mr. Winston Bayley
- Awardees
- Honourable Ministers of Government
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps

- Members of Campus Council
- Professors Emeriti
- Staff, Students
- Distinguished Guests

Good Evening.

Let me begin this evening by extending a very warm welcome to everyone here today who has come out to celebrate the recipients of these prestigious awards. Tonight is a night of celebration of the very core values that have elevated the University of the West Indies above any other tertiary institution.

I welcome you to ***The Vice Chancellor's Awards for Excellence.***

The achievements of the individuals who will be honored here tonight embody the core value system that this University cherishes and have placed at the centre of our strategic plan. In the plan, we refer to STRIDE - Strategic Transformation for Relevance, Impact, Distinctiveness and Excellence, and these are the attributes that will be rewarded here tonight.

There will be six awards presented tonight for Excellence in Teaching, Research Accomplishments, Service to the University Community and All-round Excellence all mirror the value system that we hold close. Please understand that these awards do not come easily; the individuals who receive these awards have truly gone through the most exacting evaluation process known to this University - the peer review process! Who better to say that you are the best of the best, but the person who has worked hand in hand with you for years? Over the years this peer review process for choosing the recipients of the Vice Chancellor's Awards has consistently resulted in the selection of excellent award recipients.

The Vice Chancellor's Awards Programme was first established in 1993 under the former Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alister Mc Intyre, to recognise high achievement by academic as well as senior administrative staff of the University. As many as five awards are given in one year in any of the areas of Teaching, Administration and Research Accomplishments, Service to the University Community, Contributions to Public Service, and All-round Excellence in a combination of two or more of the five core areas.

Tonight's awardees have worked in many fields across the University and across each Campus and through years of hard work and dedication they have come to exemplify the ideals of our university.

A perfect example of a commitment to the pursuit of excellence is Dr Colin Depradine, Lecturer in Computer Science in the Department of Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics at the Cave Hill Campus who will receive the award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Depradine has thirteen years of dedicated service to the UWI and his commitment to his students has paid off successfully as he has had the honour of being the first recipient in 2005 of the UWI/Guardian Life Teaching Award from the Cave Hill Campus.

The Award for Research will go to Professor Anselm Hennis, Director of the Chronic Disease Research Centre (CDRC) also based at Cave Hill Campus. Professor Hennis is a fine example of an individual who has a keen sense of individual and social responsibility, dedicating twelve years of service to UWI and producing outstanding scholarly publications and research. Also being recognised for excellence in Research is Professor Celia Christie-Samuels of the Department of Paediatrics (Child Health) at the Mona Campus. Professor

Christie-Samuels is a world authority on childhood diseases and since her appointment nine years ago as Professor and Chair of Paediatrics; she has produced more than 32 publications in prestigious regional and international journals.

Professor Kit Fai Pun, Professor of Industrial Engineering in the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering of the St Augustine Campus will receive the award for All-round Excellent Performance in Teaching and Research. He is highly regarded by both teachers and students as a researcher and teacher. Professor Kit has helped students to develop a capacity for independent thinking and critical analysis. Meanwhile, his commitment to excellence has elevated the Industrial Engineering Programme to modern industry requirements and facilitated external accreditation. Another award for all-round excellence will be presented to Dr Hermi Hewitt, Head of the UWI School of Nursing, Mona. Dr. Hewitt's commitment to teaching and service to the University has helped the Mona Campus to develop not only a BSc degree in Nursing, but also several new graduate courses leading to a Masters Degree. For these achievements Dr. Hewitt will receive the award for

all-round excellent performance in Teaching and Service to the University community.

Last, but certainly not the least, is Professor Archibald McDonald, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona Campus. Professor McDonald will receive the award for Service to the University Community, an award that recognises a high level of community service and dedication to not only personal development, but the development of the region. Professor McDonald's research into trauma has helped to guide national policies on injury prevention and management in Jamaica. He has also helped to significantly increase Faculty enrolment to the Mona Campus through the implementation of the Full Fee Paying programme.

There will be more on each of these recipients later in the programme. But as much as we congratulate them on what they have already accomplished, it is our fervent hope that this type of recognition will spur them on to higher heights and also inspire all of us here and in the wider University Community to keep pushing the boundaries of performance in all that we do. Even as we continue to celebrate the excellence and achievement of this illustrious

University in this, the sixth decade of its existence, let us continue to STRIDE towards the vision of the UWI as outlined in our Strategic Plan, by recognising and awarding excellence in teaching, learning, graduate studies, research, innovation and outreach. Thank you.