

Guest Editorial

“Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity”

Academic institutions, especially universities and other institutions of higher learning are often committed to faculty or staff research, scholarship as well as creative and innovative activities. Research in all forms contributes to educating students, improving society, advancing knowledge in all disciplines and enhancing the reputation of these institutions, locally, regionally and internationally. Both faculty research and teaching skills weigh heavily in the promotion of academic staff in these institutions. Higher institutions often support all forms of scholarly inquiry and creative activity as well as encourage the integration of research, teaching and service to local industry, government establishments and other local and international bodies.

Students conducting graduate work should be encouraged to understand that their work should result in the publication of one or more journal articles. They should ensure that they are familiar with the literature and should adequately reflect or recognize the work that has already been carried out in their areas of research. They must have good experimental designs and adopt internationally recognized experimental methods to ensure that their work could be publishable. The academic supervisors and advisers should guide their students and ensure that they develop well defined researchable topics, which are publishable at the end of their studies.

There is need for more research and publication particularly in the Engineering field. All researchers, staff or research students must realize that research should not be seen as complete unless the findings are published. If not, the work may go unnoticed, since there is no definite result of

the work. A graduate thesis should not be seen as final publication product, since such research could only be found in academic libraries and not usually easily accessible to interested scholars.

The West Indian Journal of Engineering provides a good forum for scholars to publish their work. The Journal deals with work not only conducted at the Faculty of Engineering at St. Augustine, Trinidad, but work conducted elsewhere but are relevant to the Caribbean region and the international community as a whole. Six themes have earlier been identified for emphasis in the work to be published in the Journal. These include research and development, energy, the environment, agriculture and food, manufacture and industry and engineering education. Publication of research in other areas is also greatly encouraged.

Professor Edwin Ekwue

Deputy Dean (Research and Post-graduate Student Affairs)

Faculty of Engineering