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# Open Letter

The e-newsletter of the Open Campus, UWI

## Open Campus Developments

### The UWI Open Campus Holds Discussions Agreement with Anton de Kom University



*The Principal and Deputy Principal of the UWI Open Campus (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> from right) pose with the official delegation from the Anton de Kom University in Suriname.*

The Principal and the Deputy Principal of The UWI Open Campus, Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald and Professor Vivienne Roberts, recently met with a delegation from the Anton de Kom University at the Open Campus Learning Centre at Cave Hill in Barbados. The meeting was convened to formally explore arrangements for collaboration in the offering of programmes between both institutions through blended learning facilities.

Representatives from the Surinamese institution included Dr. Allan Li Fo Sjoe, President; Mr. Dennis Whip, Representative, Faculty of Technological Sciences; Mr. Jai Toelsie, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences; Mr. Maarten Schalkwijk, Director, The Institute of Graduate Studies; Mrs. Letitia Beck, Representative, Faculty of Social Science and Mr. Edgar Akrum, Representing all Research Institutes.

The delegation discussed a wide range of partnership options including distance education offerings in the areas of Education, Business Information Technology and New Media, Good Governance, Health and Human Services and Justice and Security.

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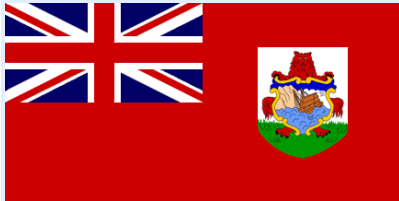
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## Bermuda Joins The UWI Family



At the recently concluded Annual Business Meeting of the University of the West Indies' Council, which was held for the first time at the St Augustine Campus, the petition by Bermuda to be recognised as a full contributing country was unanimously accepted. This means that the Government of Bermuda will contribute to the revenues of the UWI based on an agreed formula. Bermuda's addition will transform the UWI-12 to the UWI 13, contributing countries which do not host a physical campus. The effective date of Bermuda's recognition as a full contributing country of the UWI will be on completion of the legislative measures which that country needs to put in place to honour its obligation, but it is anticipated that this will be before the start of the 2009/2010 academic year.

Bermuda's Minister of Education, the Hon Elvin James, JP MP, today welcomed the news that Bermuda's application to become a Contributing Country of the University of the West Indies had been accepted by acclamation by the University Council. The Minister said, "Bermuda welcomes the opportunity to take a more active role in support of the University of the West Indies. Our students will now have more educational options than ever before, and this partnership can only have positive outcomes for everyone involved."

The Minister noted that during his visit to the Cave Hill Campus he had been impressed by the facilities, the dedication of the faculty, and the interest of the student population. "Having ready access to three physical campuses as well as the Open Campus will enable Bermudians to have access to education in ways that have never before been available," said the Minister. Minister James said that he looks forward to future meetings with the University Administration and anticipates, with pleasure, having Bermuda included as one of the "UWI-13".

## UWI Open Campus Students at Suriname Youth Fair



The relationship between Suriname and the University of the West Indies (UWI) continues to blossom through the participation of current students from all the UWI campuses, including the Open Campus, at Suriname Youth Fair. The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Community Development of Suriname is hosting a Youth Fair from May 29 – June 3, 2009. The fair is being staged to inform Surinamese citizens of the educational opportunities available within CARICOM and the wider Caribbean. Eight UWI students were invited to promote the UWI at this Youth Fair. The students who will be representing the UWI Open Campus are Ambassadors Teshia Jn Baptiste from Open Campus Saint Lucia and Joelle Jackman from Open Campus Trinidad & Tobago.

## BUS Approves New Open Campus Entrepreneurship Certificate Programme

The Board for Undergraduate Studies at the University of the West Indies (UWI) has approved the newest certificate programme from the UWI Open Campus. The Certificate in Entrepreneurship was designed to prepare emerging entrepreneurs as well as veteran business owners to start a business or to upgrade their knowledge base and qualifications.

The programme can be completed as a stand-alone certification or as a precursor to later degree studies. The programme, divided into three segments, offers participants to undertake 24 credit hours or eight courses over two semesters. The classes begin in August 2009 and more information may be had at our website - [www.open.uwi.edu](http://www.open.uwi.edu).

## Summer Courses at the UWI Open Campus



The UWI Open Campus is now inviting registration for its popular online courses during the Summer Session. The Summer courses are aimed at registered and prospective University students, career-training professionals, and qualified persons who are interested in accelerating their degree programme, exploring a new interest, improving skills or retooling for a job.

Current UWI students can enrol in general UWI foundation, management, education, substance abuse prevention and treatment, linguistics and gender studies courses.

Other participants are being invited to register to upgrade their career skills and improve their résumés through a variety of courses. The UWI Open Campus e-tutors are well-trained and always willing to help wherever students are located in the Caribbean region. The Summer Session runs from June 1 to July 17, 2009. Registration ends June 13 and late registration is from June 14-20, 2009.

## OECS Nationals Eligible for Academic Awards to Study at Cave Hill

The Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) has extended the deadline for the *Arthur Lewis Awards for OECS Nationals*, for study at Cave Hill to June 15, 2009. The award is open to nationals of the OECS. A maximum of 30 awards will be made annually for full-time study towards a degree in any discipline, with the exception of Law and Medicine.

The programme honours the memory of the Caribbean's most celebrated economist, the late Sir Arthur Lewis of Saint Lucia. A Nobel Laureate, the late Sir Arthur served the University at various periods as an academic, Principal and Vice-Chancellor. The awards are available to nationals of the OECS who have gained admission to the UWI at Cave Hill and OECS nationals who expect to qualify for entry to the Cave Hill Campus.

The awards shall be for a period of up to three (3) years and the value of each award shall be equal to the value of the economic cost and tuition fees applicable to the Cave Hill Campus for the duration of the Award.

Application forms can be obtained from the UWI Open Campus or downloaded from <http://cavehill.uwi.edu/financial-info/financial-aid.htm>.

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## UWI Open Campus Barbados Recognition & Awards Ceremony

Seventy students who successfully completed several specialised certificate courses and Associate Degree programmes were rewarded for their achievements at the presentation of graduates and awards ceremony held in Lecture Theatre I of the Cave Hill Campus on Saturday, April 18, 2009. The guest speaker at the function was the Barbados Minister of Education and Human Resource Development the Hon. Ronald Jones. The Barbados Minister lauded the UWI Open Campus for affording Barbadians the opportunity to improve themselves academically and thereby providing them greater job security.

The *Barbados Advocate* noted in its report of the event, that Minister Jones stressed the importance of continuing studies, and also stated that although Barbados is feeling the pressures of the global financial crisis, the country will survive because "the right things have been done over time, namely educating our people. We have given our people opportunities to re-mould and re-fashion themselves that as we emerge out of a crisis those persons are equipped to keep moving forward within their lives... We must continue to put resources into education so that people could have the opportunity to study to learn, to benefit from what the country has to offer", the Minister added. "...The world is opening the spaces for persons to study to learn to stay on the cutting edge of their intellectual pursuit. And you have demonstrated that by utilising the model as used by the Open Campus of the UWI..."

The Acting Head of the Open Campus Barbados, Dr. Dan Carter, told the gathering that the courses offered by the UWI Open Campus will enhance their job security and will equip them as individuals to face the world's financial crisis with some degree of confidence. "The workforce today must be one that is multi-skilled, the worker in today's business private sector environment must be able to do several tasks efficiently," he stated. Some of the programmes successfully completed by these former students at the Barbados Open Campus included Certificates in Property Management, Project Management, Marketing, Public Relations and Advertising, Human Resources Management, Guidance and Counselling, and Associate Degrees in Business Management, Administrative Professional Office Management and Administrative Professional Secretaries.

## The SWTC Trains 49 More Regional Social Workers



Mrs. Luz Longsworth, Director, Open Campus Country Sites receives a bouquet from one of the recent social worker graduate, Mr. Wayne Robinson, in appreciation of her charge to the latest batch of trained social workers from the SWTC.

It began 46 years ago, the internationally-renowned Regional Four-Month Course in the Principles and Practice of Social Work offered by the UWI's Social Welfare Training Centre (SWTC). On April 3, 2009, 49 successful former students of the 2009 course from Antigua & Barbuda, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines received their certificates from the SWTC. The Unit is now a part of the UWI Open Campus's Consortium for Social Development and Research (CSDR). Guest speaker at the function was Mrs. Luz Longsworth, Director of the Open Campus Country Sites (OCCS), who spoke for the need to weave quality into the fabric of Caribbean society through proper education and training in human services. The Regional Four-Month Course brings together persons from the Caribbean region who are working in the broad field of social work, both on a professional and voluntary basis. Participants came from a wide range of social service agencies including health, correctional services, policing, counseling, religion, community development, social welfare, service clubs and youth work. In addition to lectures, tutorials and the production of several papers, the students did their three-week practicum training in 24 social service agencies within the government and non-governmental sectors in Jamaica.

## UWI Open Campus Bahamas Participates in Research Day

Open Campus Bahamas participated in the UWI Annual Research Day held in the Bahamas via a Public Education Research Forum on Thursday April 16, 2009. Open Campus Bahamas, one of three UWI entities, was pleased to collaborate with the other two - the School of Clinical Medicine and Research and the Centre for Hotel & Tourism Management in this venture. This was made possible by Professor Howard Spencer, Acting Head, Open Campus Bahamas, who facilitated an expanded programme in the UWI Research Day Activities. Professor Julie Meeks-Gardner, Director, Consortium for Social Development and Research of the UWI Open Campus, was invited to deliver a presentation on, "Children and Violence in the Caribbean." Mr. Earl Alfred, Programme Officer at the Open Campus Bahamas also made a presentation on, 'Preliminary Report on the Concerns of Bahamian Applicants to the University of the West Indies.' Regional Coordinator, Northern & Western Caribbean, Ms. Annesia Welsh along with Mr. Derrick Thompson, Country Sites Telecommunications Manager (CATS) also visited Open Campus Bahamas during the period. They met with members of staff, students and the Executive members of the Alumni Association to discuss strategies for improved services, marketing and capacity building and attended Research Day sessions.



(L-R): Donna Smith-Wallace, Derrick Thompson, Annesia Welsh, Marvin Hanna, Earl Alfred.



Minister of Education and Human Resource Development, the Hon. Ronald Jones addressing successful UWI Open Campus graduates and Certificate-holders in Barbados.



Director, Open Campus Sites Mrs. Luz Longsworth presents Mr. Mark Watson with his certificate for completing the Guidance and Counselling Programme.



Acting Head, UWI Open Campus Barbados Dr. Dan Carter presents the Long Service Award to educator Mr. Joseph King.



Dr. Dan Carter presents the Best Overall Student Award to Ms. Shakirah Bourne of the Marketing, Public Relations & Advertising Programme

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## Grenadian Represents Regional UWI Open Campus Students



Grenadian student of the UWI Open Campus, Omawalii McMillan, has been selected to be the Student Representative for the 13 countries which make up the Open Campus, UWI's newest campus. Although Open Campus Centres are located in Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Christopher (St Kitts) & Nevis, St Lucia, and St Vincent & the Grenadines there can only be one representative of the student body. Each country is, however, entitled to put in place its own association or chapter with its own managing committee. To date, only Belize and Grenada have organised student associations, complete with managing committees. Mr. McMillan is the elected President of the Grenada Association.

Since his election to office, Mr. McMillan has attended the Open Campus Council Meeting held in Grenada on March 20<sup>th</sup> after which he represented the student body at the Annual Business Meeting of the University Council in Trinidad & Tobago on April 24. Mr. McMillan also attended the meeting of the University Finance and General Purposes Committee on May 29 in Barbados. When asked his view on this selection Mr. McMillan responded:

"Given all that the University of the West Indies represents, I am honored to be part of the continuing process of Caribbean Education and regional integration. To represent the UWI Open Campus students not just in my native island Grenada but also across the region seems so appropriate given my strong advocacy in youth strengthening, empowerment and contribution towards the future of our Caribbean society. I am standing upon a rich tradition of 60 years as the premier Caribbean tertiary institution, promoting regionalism, Caribbean research and development and extensive educational opportunities. Once again the University is engaging the region in its most revolutionary form of education to date, the UWI Open Campus. I am pleased to work with the University on behalf of students across the region to make our Caribbean dream of universal education a success"

## LIME and the UWI Open Campus in St. Kitts & Nevis

On March 03, 2009, The University of the West Indies, Open Campus, St. Kitts and Nevis, received a donation from local telecom provider, Lime (formerly Cable and Wireless). The value of this generous donation was EC\$10,000 and is intended to help boost the library stocks at this OC Site. Present on this occasion from the UWI-OC site were Mrs. P Olivia Edgecombe-Howell, Country Head, and Ms. Virginia Browne, Librarian, and representing LIME were Mr. David Lake, Country Manager, and Mrs. Lavern Caines, Vice President, Corporate Communications.



L to R : L. Caines, V. Browne, P. O Edgecombe-Howell, D. Lake

In thanking LIME, Mrs. Edgecombe-Howell commented on the longstanding and very beneficial relationship with the telecom Company that dates back to a time when the Company was known as SKANTEL -- the entity which evolved into Cable & Wireless and now, LIME . The original donation from SKANTEL amounted, over time, to a total of EC\$90,000. These funds are still being utilized to cushion hardships experienced by some needy students currently enrolled in UWI programmes. Mrs. Edgecombe-Howell referred to the donation of EC\$10,000 as part of a legacy that started nearly twenty years ago and still goes on. She seized the opportunity to urge other corporate partners, alumni and friends of the University to follow the good example established by LIME, through their ongoing generosity and support. The funds will be used to purchase much needed books, journals and other information materials to upgrade the Centre Library.



Mrs. Edgecombe-Howell receiving the cheque from Mr. Lake

## UWI Open Campus Trinidad & Tobago Staff Achievements

The UWI Open Campus congratulates the following staff members for their recent achievements.



Ms. Germaine Braithwaite



Ms. Chrystal Gilchrist



Ms. Latoya Joseph

Ms. Braithwaite was awarded the Master's degree in Human Resource Management by the UWI on October 22nd, 2008. She is the Coordinator of the Sangre Grande Open Campus site. Ms. Gilchrist has been working with the institution for the last five years and has successfully completed her Bachelor's of Science degree in Business Management with the University of Sunderland, March 2009. She received Honours in the Second Division. Ms. Joseph has recently received a certificate in Computer Repairs and Maintenance with the Open Campus Learning Skills and Information Technology Centre (LSIT). She is a general maintenance assistant.

Other academic accomplishments include the achievement of five CXC passes by Ms. Keisha Lincoln, who started out as a cleaner at our Tobago Centre in September 2007, without any CXC/GCE passes. Over three different sittings of the CXC Examinations, the last being in January 2009, she achieved passes in English Language, Principles of Business, Social Studies, Office Administration and Food and Nutrition. She is currently an Office Attendant. Ms. Candice Sylvan, recently satisfied the requirements of the Association of Business Executives to achieve the Level 5 Diploma in Business Management. Congratulations to all members of staff for their academic achievements. We look forward to highlighting future accomplishments.

## Your Feedback is Welcome

We welcome your comments on the Open Campus, UWI, and encourage you to send your comments on the *Open Letter* to us via e-mail to [marketing@open.uwi.edu](mailto:marketing@open.uwi.edu) or please visit our website [www.open.uwi.edu](http://www.open.uwi.edu).