



UWI Connect

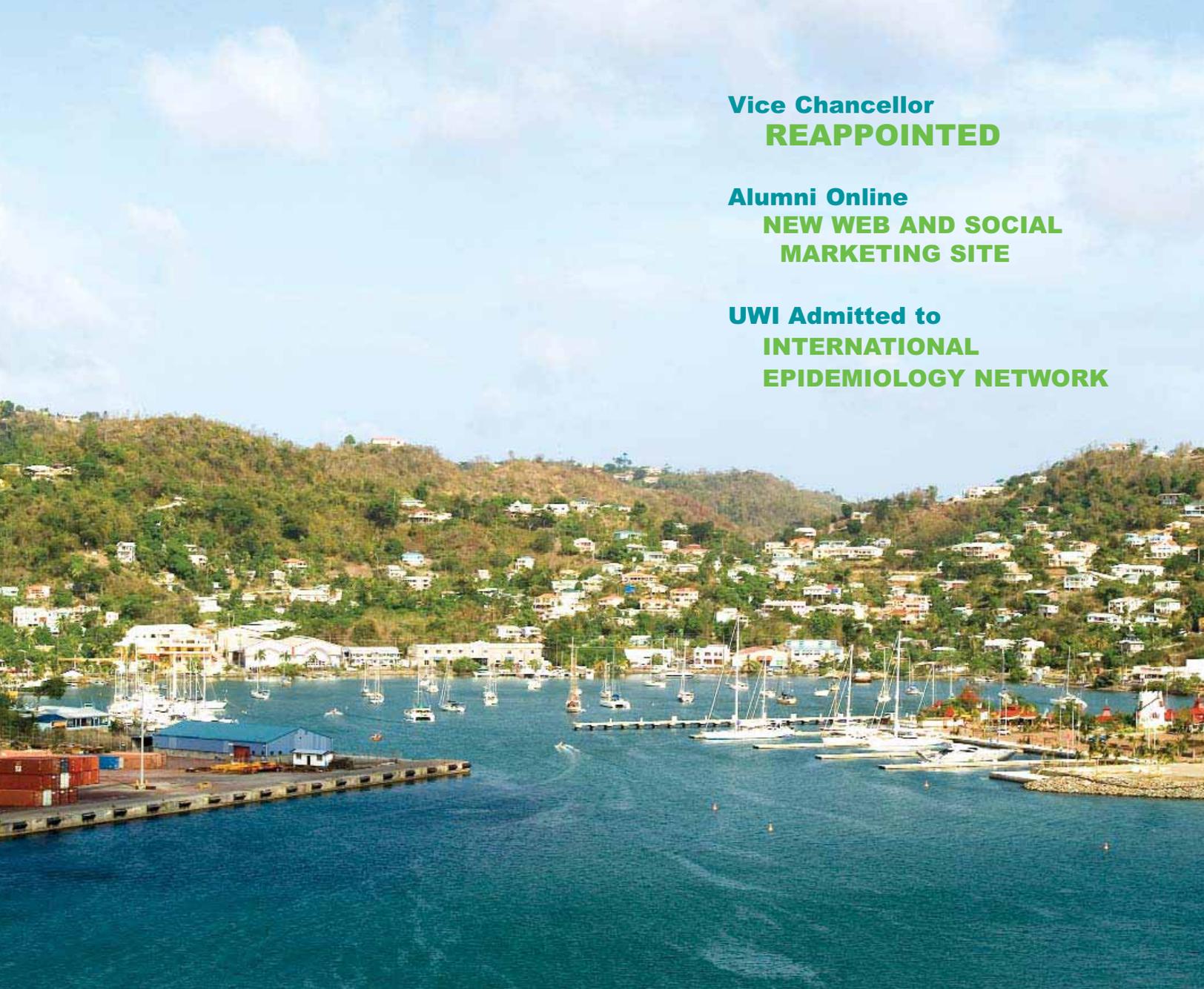


The Alumni Magazine of The University of the West Indies

Volume 4, Issue 3

Website: www.alumnionline.uwi.edu

March - May 2009



**Vice Chancellor
REAPPOINTED**

**Alumni Online
NEW WEB AND SOCIAL
MARKETING SITE**

**UWI Admitted to
INTERNATIONAL
EPIDEMIOLOGY NETWORK**



UWIAA

“One UWI, One Alumni Family”

Editorial

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world", wrote Anne Frank and I encourage you to read our philanthropy section and learn more about how you can make a difference in a young student's life by contributing to a scholarship or bursary. We wish alumni and friends of the UWI to feel privileged to be in the position to make a difference and to know that even the smallest gift, pooled with others, can make a significant impact on someone's life. Scholarships do indeed change lives!

In this issue we will also focus on the UWI's new web and social networking site for our alumni population, ALUMNI Online (AO) which will help us stay "connected" to our graduates through the Internet, and also allow our graduates to interact with each other and to network, find jobs and friends among other things and feel like a part of the UWI family. This new site will provide an integrated system which provides privacy and security and we encourage all alumni to join the community at www.alumnionline@uwi.edu

Our student alumni section focuses on UWI STAT activities and highlights why we encourage these students to focus on their strengths, rather than improve their weaknesses, though the latter should be addressed as well of course. By allowing each student to contribute in his/her way, these regional groups are really impacting significantly at the national and regional levels.

I hope you enjoy this issue which aims to showcase a variety of campus and regional news, as well as individual achievements and which I hope will leave you "empowered" with "Pelican Pride" and inspired to show it through philanthropy.

Celia Davidson Francis
Editor-in-Chief

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Cover photo: UWI Open Campus country: Grenada
Photo by: Jeremy Francis, CARIMAC graduate

UWI Connect

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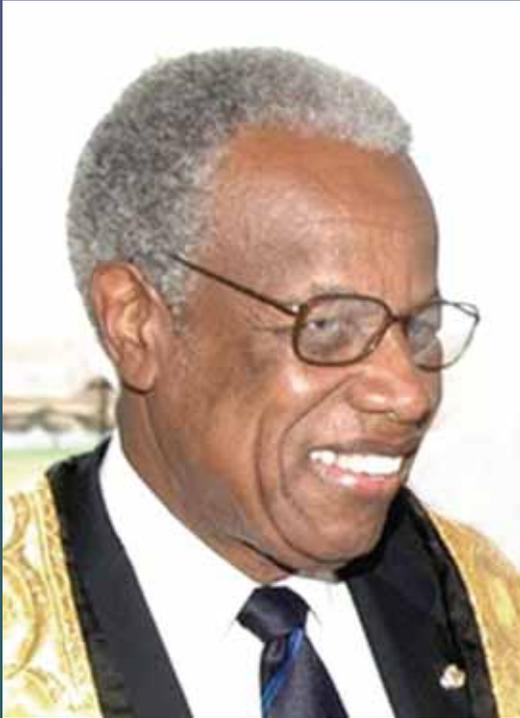
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Yvonne Graham, graduate, Mona School of Business, UWI

UWI Connect is accepting advertisements for upcoming issues. Please contact the Institutional Advancement Division at (876) 977-0052/4 or e-mail: iad.mona@alumni.uwi.edu for advertising rates and information.



The UWI Alumni Association (UWIAA) encourages all graduates to send articles/information to UWI Connect.

In the Public Eye



Sir George Alleyne

The Irish Writer, Brendan F. Behan said, "There is no such thing as bad publicity, except your own obituary" which is similar to a quotation attributed to Oscar Wilde "The only thing worse than being talked about is not being talked about at all". These sayings and several of that ilk come to mind as I read various news items about The University of The West Indies. In general the University has a good press in the Caribbean and abroad, but occasionally one sees pieces that are not quite so complimentary.

I was struck recently by an article in a Caribbean newspaper which put The University and the West Indies Cricket team together as hapless examples of Caribbean regionalism. "The utter travesties that The University of the West Indies and the West Indian cricket team have become are but the most potent indicators of how distant and faint the siren song of Caribbean unity has become." Of course this is at a time when the West Indies cricket team has not quite lived up to the hopes and aspirations of the public. The criteria by which one judges the

performance of a cricket team are fairly easy. The team wins or loses, and one or other result is accompanied by outpourings of joy or frustration. In addition there are thousands if not millions of cricket fans who have strong opinions on the merits or demerits of one or other player. But the fact that West Indians continue to follow the fortunes of the team faithfully is an indication of a deep and abiding commitment to the sport and an identification of how we identify with its fortunes. But I wonder if the University would be well served if the West Indian public followed the fortunes of the University with similar fanatic zeal and would rejoice over its many and varied stellar accomplishments.

Universities cannot show quick wins or losses, but the data show quite clearly a positive picture of achievement over the past 60 years. Many of these were chronicled last year as we celebrated our sixtieth anniversary. The fact that it has survived and withstood the fissiparous tendencies that have threatened over the years is itself a measure of success. It is some indication that in spite of the numerous queries and criticisms there is some merit in a regional approach to tertiary education.

It is not always appreciated how much the University has changed and adapted to the challenges posed by its environment and I cite a few examples. The clear indication that the University presence was not being felt fully in those countries without a major campus has led to a most ambitious and bold development in the form of the Open Campus which will provide the best of blended learning throughout the Caribbean. The growth of the University has not been recognised and even persons close to tertiary education are amazed that there are now some 40,000 students in the University - an almost vertiginous rate of growth. The University offers a range of programmes and courses as or more diverse than can be found in many institutions of its size. It is also not recognised the extent to which the University is adjusting to the social realities and doing its part in ensuring the social mobilisation that is essential in the Caribbean. In Mona for example there has been a steady and deliberate effort to enroll students from the lower middle and lower economic classes and this has been done without any sacrifice of academic performance. Instead of bemoaning the gender imbalance there are now structured programmes with major student support to encourage more males into tertiary education. The MACHO programme (Males at Cave Hill Operation) is an example.

Numerous success stories can be told and perhaps it is our fault that we do not market them sufficiently, but the recent flowering of publications such as this one is an attempt to keep our publics informed. Of course the recipients of this magazine are by definition interested, but we hope that you will do your part to seek out the nuggets of achievement and share the information with others.

On balance, I welcome all comments about our University as in another more popular version of Wilde's comment, "the only thing worse than bad publicity is no publicity at all".

Dr. Monique Ford



"The heights of great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight, but they while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night."

This quote by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, is applicable to the life and journey of an extraordinary Caribbean Woman; Dr. Monique Ford. The second of four children born to a Mr. and Mrs. Linval Ford in Jamaica, she began her education at Our Lady of the Angels Prep School in Kingston. Her parents, a teacher and pharmacy representative, placed a high value on education and encouraged her interest in science.

The next phase of her educational journey at high school served to demonstrate that although she had a keen love of the Spanish language, her love for the sciences was equally strong. In fact, it is here that she recognised her interest in applied research and also here that her value of self-discipline was developed.

After high school, Dr. Ford attended The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus and graduated from the Faculty of Medical Science with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery with Honours. The UWI had an indelible impact on the next step of her journey; it formed the firm foundation on which she built her academic career. At the UWI she worked with and was taught by Mayo trained lecturers.

Her excellent work at the UWI landed her a scholarship to the Mayo Graduate School and the EV Ellington Memorial Award which is given for outstanding performance (Distinction in Biochemistry). Dr. Ford's commitment to excellence never floundered. She received the Excellence in Internship Award (2003) and Intern of the Year (2002-2003). In 2005 she soared again and received the LeeAnn McCaffrey, M.D., Women in Medicine Award at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine for outstanding achievement in medicine. She has made presentations and poster presentations at regional and international meetings and conferences and has published extensively. Dr. Ford's areas of specialisation are cardiology and internal medicine and she is currently an Instructor in Medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and a Senior Associate Consultant in the division of Cardiovascular Diseases.

Dr. Ford identifies the scholarship and mentorship that she received at the UWI as being an important building block for her success. She noted that although the lecturers were stern, they "wanted you to be an excellent physician" and "after examinations they were the persons that would take us out and treat us". While studying abroad she found the reputation of the UWI to be exemplary. The graduates of the UWI stand out in any programme in which they are a part. It is this legacy which fuels her obligation to give back.

She recalls that her time on campus was one filled with camaraderie and a Caribbean vibe. Despite being an off campus Irvinite she spent countless hours on the Hall socialising with students from various Caribbean islands. It was a "big family of Caribbean people", one which shared the stresses of exams and supported each other.

She has not forgotten about her homeland and intends to return home to open a catheterization centre. Her love for her people and culture finds her networking with her countrymen in the area in a bid to quell her homesickness. She is actively involved in philanthropy and assisting her Alma Mater. She is the Chairperson of the Jamaica Minnesota Organisation (JMO) Medical Education Programme. Activities have included an annual drive to obtain medical books, equipment and audio visual material for needy Jamaican medical students.

Dr. Ford also worked with the group Organisation for Strategic Development in Jamaica (OSDJ) to organise the hosting of an annual medical conference "Advancement in Medicine: A US and Caribbean Perspective". The first conference was held in 2005 in Runaway Bay, Jamaica. This conference has borne fruit and faculty from both the UWI and Mayo Clinic have lectured and worked at both institutions as a result.

In a more informal way there has also been the facilitation of rotations for UWI students at the Mayo Clinic and students from the Mayo Clinic at the University Hospital and Kingston Public Hospital. In spite of her hectic schedule, she finds balance by taking time to travel with friends, participate in yoga, tennis, art appreciation and wine tasting.

The UWI salutes another Caribbean star whose light, which shone first "in the west", now illuminates far beyond the region's shores.

Written by Lacey-Ann Bartley

Candia Williams - UWIAA Montserrat

Born and educated in Montserrat, Mrs. Williams attended the UWI Mona Campus from 1972-75 where she completed a B.Sc. in Natural Sciences, majoring in Botany. She attended the Cave Hill Campus Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies in 1989, where she completed an Advanced Diploma in Natural Resources Management and Environmental Sciences. She also completed a postgraduate

diploma in Environmental and Natural Resources Planning and Management from the Technical University in Dresden, Federal Republic of Germany.

Mrs. Williams has taught in Montserrat and Antigua and worked in the Environmental field in Antigua in the Environment Unit, the Ministry of Planning and the Fisheries Division. She accessed funding and set up the



Montserrat Information Office which assisted in the relocation of Montserratians in Antigua following the onset of the volcanic crisis in Montserrat.

She recently worked as co-ordinator of a project on Poverty Assessment in Montserrat. She is the secretary for the Montserrat Farmers Association and volunteers on the Credit Committee of the local St. Patrick's Cooperative Credit Union.

She is a proud UWI graduate and believes that the "Caribbean pride" which is instilled by the institution is invaluable.

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The University of the West Indies

“ONE University FOUR Campuses”

“Legacy in Motion” Scholarships



Michael Flanigan (2nd left), Chairman, American Foundation for The University of the West Indies (AFUWI) presents the organisation's cheque of J\$3.6M to The University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona Principal, Professor Gordon Shirley, while UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris (left) and University Bursar, Winston Bayley (right) look on. The AFUWI cheque will fund scholarships to the UWI in the new academic year.

The American Foundation for The University of the West Indies (AFUWI) has provided J\$3.6M towards scholarships at The University of the West Indies (UWI), for the coming academic year. The money represents proceeds from the AFUWI Legacy Awards 2009 Gala, the organisation's premier fund-raising event which is hosted in New York each January.

The hardworking AFUWI Gala Committee, Ms. Ann-Marie Grant, the Director of AFUWI and her assistant Marsha Wallace worked with the IAD, alumni and a team of volunteers and their collective efforts paid off. This Gala raised the greatest amount of money in the past five years.

AFUWI, a non profit Foundation, which over the past decade has provided scholarships and grants and funded special projects to foster the development of the UWI, has since 1998, recognised

individuals and organisations "linked to the Caribbean who have made exceptional contributions to the world around them".

Mr. Michael Flanigan, AFUWI Chairman, presented the scholarship cheque on behalf of AFUWI to UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris on May 1, 2009.

Noting that each year, hundreds of worthy applicants apply for scholarships at the UWI, Professor Harris praised the AFUWI for "widening the window of opportunity for many deserving scholars". Professor Harris said that it was with the cooperation of organisations like AFUWI and generous corporate donors that the UWI can ensure those in challenging circumstances get a tertiary education.

Mr. Flanigan noted that the AFUWI has regularly facilitated donations and scholarships from individuals and corporations overseas for the UWI and its students, and last year presented 30 scholarships valued at over J\$12,240,000 to individual UWI students for tuition and books.

The AFUWI, he said, "is committed to the development of the Caribbean region and sees The University of the West Indies as central to achieving this".

New Web and Social Marketing Site for UWI Graduates

The Institutional Advancement Division (IAD) of The University of the West Indies will launch ALUMNI Online, the new web and social networking site for all UWI alumni, on June 30, 2009.

Director of Alumni Relations, Celia Davidson Francis said that this complimentary service will provide the UWI alumni population with an easy and effective way of keeping in touch with each other, as well as with their Alma Mater. She noted that "alumni will be able to 'connect' not only in the Caribbean, but also internationally and will be able to network, make new business contacts, advertise their talents and skills and keep in touch with others who share the same interests".

Mrs. Davidson Francis said that "UWI graduates will be able to browse the site which gives information about such things as the 16 UWI Caribbean countries, the UWI Alumni Association Chapters and events, the Student Alumni Programme and Points of Pride. Graduates can create their own personal profile page, upload photos, send messages, create blogs and more. Online donations will also be possible."

The IAD, a division of the Office of the Vice Chancellor, works to create opportunities for alumni of the entire regional institution to maintain and create relationships, which this web service easily facilitates. Mrs. Davidson Francis said, "The University Chief Information



The Alumni Online (AO) team (standing l-r) Marlon Walcott, Niel Williams, Damain Willacy-Thompson, Brigitte Collins and seated Celia Davidson Francis

Communication and Technology Officer, Mrs. Brigitte Collins and her team are working closely with the IAD team to provide this service to our graduates, and will ensure that the site is dynamic and has video clips and graphics, which enhance this online community. We hope that the graduates of all four UWI campuses: Cave Hill, Mona, Open and St. Augustine, will fully utilise and enjoy www.alumnionline.uwi.edu - it is your online community".



Everyday Philanthropy

Show your “*Pelican Pride*” through PHILANTHROPY. Don’t wait...start helping your Alma Mater today!

HELP:

- Build a better University for a better Caribbean and a better world
- Attract and keep faculty who are engaged in every area of interdisciplinary innovation
- Build a student body preparing for leadership in a global environment

The University of the West Indies needs you to “CONNECT” and assist via sustained care, wisdom and generosity.

Show your “Pelican Pride” and donate to provide:

1. FACULTY:

Faculty teach and mentor graduate and professional students and inspire and prepare undergraduates to take on the challenges of their respective fields. They also produce groundbreaking research. Recruiting and retaining superb faculty members, particularly in a highly competitive market requires resources that can only be provided through endowed and term Chairs/Professorships.

2. SCHOLARSHIPS:

Undergraduate Scholarships:

UWI has as one of its highest priorities making a UWI education available to all outstanding students of talent and high potential who can benefit from and contribute to the University.

Scholarships make this happen and we are striving to increase the number of scholarships available to students with financial need. Endowing undergraduate scholarships is becoming a more and more popular philanthropic option for alumni and friends who are donors through the UWI Regional Endowment Fund (UWIREF). We encourage more persons to assist new generations of UWI students.

Scholarships change lives!

Graduate and Professional Student

Aid: Graduate and professional students represent the future of academia and various professions: they are tomorrow’s leaders. But they are not only the future,

today they help attract the best faculty, providing them with fresh insights in their research and teaching and their presence enriches the entire curriculum to the benefit of the undergraduate student population

3. BUILDINGS AND RENOVATIONS:

Keeping UWI as the University of choice requires academic facilities that foster innovation and other spaces that enhance co-curricular, service, civic and sporting activities. Help build and renovate buildings for research, teaching and student life.

4. PROGRAMMES AND RESEARCH:

The breadth and depth of its programmes and research is what makes UWI distinctive. Whether it’s a breakthrough in sickle cell research or cancer treatment, Nobel Peace prize winning environmental contributions, managing climate change or the improvement of the educational system, UWI has the expertise and knowledge to equip the Caribbean region and the world with improvements, innovations and entrepreneurial breakthroughs.

Opportunity to Increase Philanthropic Efforts

UWIAA Chapters are stepping up efforts to provide more scholarships and bursaries in the wake of tuition increases which were recently confirmed at the annual business meeting of the University Council as follows:

- For the Mona Campus, an across-the-board increase of 10% (including the Faculty of Medical Sciences) over the fees for the current academic year was approved. This level of increase is below the inflation rate in Jamaica, reported to be at 12.8% in February 2009 and equates to a recovery of 19.2% of economic costs.
- At the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados as well as at the St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad, tuition fees remained unchanged for the incoming academic year due to significant increases in enrolment at those campuses. These fees equate, respectively, to 19.2% and 19.3% of economic costs.
- Tuition fees for the Open Campus which are calculated on a credit hour basis also remained unchanged at US\$240 per three-credit course at the Undergraduate level and US\$550 per course for Graduate programmes.
- The tuition fees recommended for self-financed programmes on all four campuses were also endorsed by Council. As a result of the above decisions students entering the Faculties of the Humanities & Education, the Social Sciences, the Pure & Applied Sciences and the Department of Advanced Nursing at Mona will pay a flat fee of J\$184,717 in academic year 2009/2010 (compared to J\$167,925 this year). Students entering the Faculty of Law will pay J\$201,011 (compared with J\$182,737), while for the Faculty of Medical Sciences, returning Pre-Clinical students will pay J\$309,214 and Clinical students J\$589,109. The merged fee of J\$444,574 is applicable to new Medical students entering the Faculty for the first time in academic year 2009/2010.

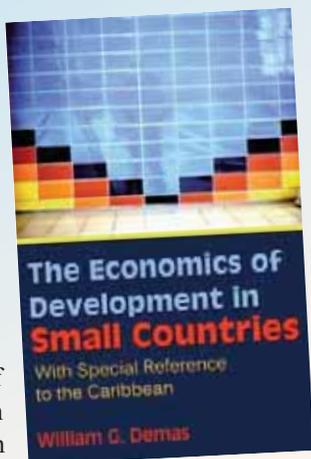
Donations to the UWIAA Chapters, the Campus Endowment Funds or to the UWI Regional Endowment Fund for student scholarships are welcomed. For information contact iad.mona@alumni.uwi.edu

New Publications

The Economics of Development in Small Countries: With Special Reference to the Caribbean by William G. Demas

First published in 1965, this classic work by William Demas, former president of the Caribbean Development Bank and committed regional integrationist, was released in a limited edition and has been widely unavailable for decades.

Adapted from a four-lecture series presented at McGill University in 1964, *The Economics of Development in Small Countries* deals with the special problems faced in analysing the economics of small countries and seeks to apply these concepts to West Indian economies. Demas's thesis is that economic development and the achievement of self-sustained growth cannot be considered in isolation from the size of the country.



This edition includes a new introduction by Hilary McD. Beckles, in which he considers the groundbreaking work in the context of forty-five years of regional development and finds Demas's analysis as relevant and important today as it was in 1964.

Beyond Borders: Cross-culturalism and the Caribbean Canon Edited by Jennifer Rahim with Barbara Lalla

Beyond Borders is a multidisciplinary collection of essays with a focus on contemporary issues in Caribbean cultural studies. Culture and cultural identification are without a doubt highly charged political Goliaths with local and global ramifications. As a result, there is a growing demand for



information in the field for both research and teaching purposes. The essays in this collection explore cross-cultural themes and issues across a range of disciplines that include literature, language, education, history and popular culture.

The issues of cultural survival and negotiation, with which most of these essays deal, serve to foreground a history of domination, resistance and marvellous evolutions within and beyond the borders of this archipelago. It is no longer possible to pass culture off as simply a matter of commonalities, interests and values, as if politics and power were innocent of influencing what gets defined and consumed as culture. *Beyond Borders* offers a forum for contemporary debates on Caribbean culture in this ongoing process of evolution.

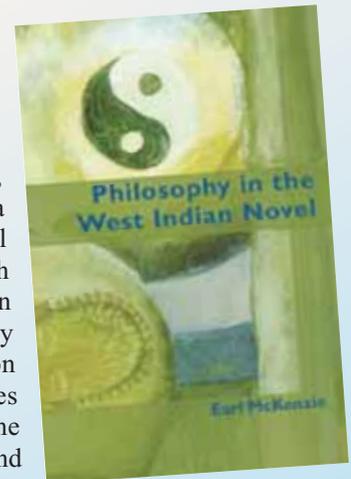
Philosophy and the West Indian Novel by Earl McKenzie

Earl McKenzie's pioneering philosophical study of the West Indian novel is based on three main assumptions: first, that philosophy is a reflection on the fundamental questions we can ask about ourselves and our world; second, that literature, particularly the novel, is the best method yet devised to provide a "human face" to these reflections; and third, Caribbean philosophy is at present embedded in other forms of cultural expression, like literature, and these forms need to be excavated to reveal what lies within.

McKenzie examines ten novels by George Lamming, Roger Mais, Wilson Harris, V.S. Naipaul, Orlando Patterson, Jean Rhys, Erna Brodber, Lakshmi Persaud, Earl Lovelace and Jamaica Kincaid, each selected to represent differences in geography, chronology, ethnicity and gender. In this cross-section of novels, McKenzie identifies ancestral influences from the philosophies of Europe, Africa and India, and shows how

West Indian fiction embodies ideas from several areas of philosophy, including metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of education, social and political philosophy, ethics, feminist philosophy, and philosophy of literature.

Philosophy in the West Indian Novel uncovers sections of the mostly unknown Caribbean philosophical mosaic, and McKenzie's work will encourage further study and reflection on philosophical ideas in a Caribbean context. It will be of interest to philosophers, literary critics, educators, social scientists, and anyone interested in Caribbean studies.



Information provided by the UWI Press

Vice Chancellor Reappointed



Most of you may already know that the Vice Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, Professor E. Nigel Harris, who is in the penultimate year of his six-year contract was reappointed by the UWI's highest governing body, the University Council, for a second six-year term, effective August 1, 2010.

You may not however know why. His contract was renewed based on a very favourable appraisal of his performance, which included the 360° feed-back report which was administered for the first time on a sitting Vice Chancellor.

Highlights of his achievements during his first term as Vice Chancellor include:

- the introduction of the Open Campus
- a much more inclusive approach to strategic planning and several administrative reforms, such as a comprehensive review of the University's admissions and examinations procedures and the reorganisation of graduate studies
- the introduction of the UWI Consulting Company
- transformational initiatives in the areas of alumni relations, communications and marketing

The year-long celebration of the institution's sixtieth anniversary in 2008 was also a highlight of his first term.

His re-election will allow him to continue to guide the UWI and the advancement of the University, which is becoming increasingly important in the face of growing competition and the harsh global economic climate.

The evolution of the UWI continues as we move towards the next academic year and we can look to the future with hope, as Professor Harris has an unswerving commitment to serving our Caribbean Community.

The Relevance of the CSME in the Global Economy

Economic collaboration is not a new phenomenon to the Caribbean region. The attempted formation of a Federation in 1958 was the first contemporary initiative towards integration of Caribbean economies. The subsequent formations of the Caribbean Free Trade Area (CARIFTA) in 1968, and its translation into a stronger Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) in 1973, prove that the drive for economic integration has consistently shaped Caribbean development for decades.

New global realities, represented by an aggressive capitalist world order, dictate that enhanced economic integration is required for socio-economic and political survival of national economies; the Caribbean territories being no exception. The present economic recession means that lending policies of multi-national aid agencies will be revised, and more than likely, not in favour of Caribbean regional development. Such lessons are already written in our history. The economic recession of the 1980s resulted in the implementation of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) which had negative effects on the socio-economic development of many countries, including those of the Caribbean.

CARICOM has allowed member states to benefit from economies of scale to enhance regional and global competitiveness through the pooling of resources. Our close proximity to one another and shared historical and cultural backgrounds are of benefit as we share a common goal of survival.

The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) is the means through which an increased integration has been proposed; building on the strong foundations of CARICOM initiatives. Such an attempt at advanced economic integration is, without a doubt, a pragmatic regional response to increasing global threats - both natural and anthropogenic - in order to sustain Caribbean development. The CSME represents a single economic space where people, goods, services and capital can move freely, requiring the harmonisation of social, economic and trade policies by participating member states (CARICOM 2005).

The importance of the CSME can be viewed



Seema Kadir, UWI STAT CSME Essay Competition winner. She received \$120,000 prize money provided by the Office of the Principal (Mona) as well as the Professor E. Nigel Harris trophy.

in a two-fold manner - 1) intra-regional benefits to member states and 2) extra-regional, global implications. Both aspects portray the CSME as relevant to the survival of Caribbean nations in the broader context of the global economy. Although not mutually exclusive, both serve to reduce our individual vulnerabilities, replacing them with collective coping strategies.

There are several intra-regional benefits to increasing economic integration. Firstly, a single market and economy means a further reduction of intra-regional competition. Secondly, it allows for the solidification of a unified regional domestic market allowing individual countries to more easily tap into the collective demands of the regional population. According to the World Bank (2004) the Caribbean has a collective market of approximately 32 million. Further, it encourages the harnessing of our natural resources, by our local human capital; reducing the economic leakages and vulnerabilities inherent in

allowing foreign Trans-national companies to operate within the region. We have already seen such benefits of economic integration under CARICOM through the establishment of Pan-Caribbean firms, such as, the TCL Group of Companies.

The TCL Group of Companies is the sole Caribbean producer of cement products with subsidiaries operating in several countries including Trinidad, Barbados, Jamaica, Anguilla and Nevis. Operating as one regional group, as opposed to several individual national companies, means that entities do not compete with each other, but rather collaborate in serving the collective demands of the regional construction sectors (TCL Group of Companies 2005a).

Being a regional company, taking into consideration local interests, this group of companies also avoids several limitations that would have occurred if cement production was controlled by an external company. Economic gains are maintained within the region and reinvested into local economies, such as, the provision of university scholarships in support of education, and the research and development of renewable energy sources. In addition, investments in improving social conditions and promoting local cultures of the region are also demonstrated. Other risks, such as the sudden withdrawal of operations, are unlikely to occur as a Caribbean conscience has been created. Hence, collectively engaging in economic activities through such Pan-Caribbean entities contribute to our socio-economic development in a sustainable manner, necessary for maintaining our stability in the global economy.

In addition, operating as a unified economy means that we are further forced to ensure that we are our brother's keeper, if the CSME is to survive. Assisting each other in post-disaster periods is one such example. After the devastating impact of Hurricane Ivan in 2004, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago extended financial assistance to the affected countries of Grenada and Jamaica.

Already in place is the issuing of the CSME Passports which would facilitate the

The Relevance of the CSME in the Global Economy cont'd

free movement of labour, goods and services. The proposed single currency would enhance this free movement, boosting time-space compression, thereby, allowing the region to keep pace within globally competitive markets.

Moving away from the core economic benefits, the CSME will undoubtedly enhance the socio-cultural dimensions that are authentically "Caribbean" in nature (food, music, festivals) even in the face of globalisation. However, for these to become reality, commitment to the CSME is vital. We must bear in mind that all member states are inter-dependent. Therefore, we must maintain allegiance to trading partners within the CSME. The decision of 12 CARICOM countries in 2005 to sign the PetroCaribe Agreement with Venezuela to purchase oil, rather than trading with Trinidad, can be seen as counter-productive to the CSME. Jamaica's importing of rice from the United States in 2008, instead of its CARICOM partner, Guyana, is yet another case in point.

There are also extra-regional, global implications to participating in a single market and economy. Firstly, the pooling of our capital (human, financial, natural, social and physical) in establishing more Pan-Caribbean organisations means that we will be trading as Trans-national entities, attempting to match the structural strengths of our global competitors. Collectively we can increase our global competitiveness and avoid further marginalisation.

Increased economic integration through the CSME means greater collective strength. The CSME, therefore, can allow us to engage in global trade matters with a stronger, unified voice, rather than individual whispers, which can easily go unheard. Participation as a regional bloc will allow us to increase our leverage on negotiations because of our increased market size and therefore, economic importance. In addition, it increases our voting power. Regional negotiations also ensure that the benefits secured are regionally homogenous; reducing disparities which presently exist.

A recent example is the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations between CARIFORUM (Caribbean) countries and the European Union (EU). The

key to establishing a successful globally competitive single market and economy has its roots in the lessons learnt (both successes and failures) from our CARICOM initiatives of the past. In addition, member states must understand the economies of each individual country, as socio-economic disparities do exist.

For instance, the free movement of labour can easily result in those member states that are more industrialised, such as Trinidad and Tobago, attracting labour from smaller islands. This intensification of intra-regional migration from the lesser developed countries towards the more developed, would change population structures and put additional strain on economies. For instance, within the more developed countries, increased tensions between nationalities may result, as job competition becomes stronger. Further, the exacerbation of urban issues will result, such as, housing shortages and resultant squatting.

The idea of Pan-Caribbean companies must involve the establishing of subsidiary firms in lesser developed member states, in order to develop the agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors. This would expand their economic base, and with substantial reinvestment, there would be reduction in vulnerabilities to external forces. Consequently, improvements in social conditions would be gained, overall offsetting intra-territorial disparities.

The enhanced economic integration must not be a case of the more developed states exploiting the resources of the smaller, less developed islands - a regional replication of the global capitalist political and socio-economics, resulting in exacerbated problems in the region. Policies must seek to equally incorporate and sustainably develop the lesser developed member states in the various sectors. There is no doubt that increased economic integration is necessary in the region as global geopolitics demand that we conform to the universal liberal system or be obliterated by global competitors.

In order to succeed in this new round of global liberalism, the Caribbean needs to closely examine its past CARICOM experiences. Further, our anticipatory planning with respect to possible consequences of free movement of labour, goods and services under the CSME will determine our success at this advanced state of economic integration. Overall, as we embark on the CSME, we must remember that paramount to our success are the commitment and the recognition that all member states have vital contributions to make to regional development; for collectively we are stronger than individually in competing in the global economy.

Excerpts taken from essay by Seema Kadir



Kevon Kerr from Cornwall College, CSME Essay Winner in the 5th to 6th form category received a cash prize of \$15,000 from the Office of the Principal (Mona). Here Angella Brown, Events and Projects Officer, IAD, presents his trophy.

“Trinidad and Tobago Style”

- The UWI STAT Ambassadors (St. Augustine Corps) visited Arima Government High School and spoke with students about opportunities for tertiary education at the UWI, and about the CSME. The presentations were well received and an invitation was extended by the school’s administrators for UWI STAT to return for similar activities in the future.



Mrs. Celia Davidson Francis, Director, Alumni Relations for UWI; Mr. Jerry Medford, Alumnus Representative; Ms. Charmain Subero, Campus Alumni Representative, St. Augustine and Mr. James Richardson, President of the Alumni Association St. Augustine Chapter, receiving a token of appreciation from UWI STAT for their outstanding support.



A cross section of Ambassadors hard at work at the UWI STAT strategic planning retreat.

- Through the efforts of the UWIAA Trinidad and Tobago Chapter, Ambassador Ashley Maloney, VP (Membership), Ambassador Prunella Mungroo, VP (Alumni Relations) and the IAD, UWI STAT hosted its induction of Ambassadors in conjunction with the Meet and Greet for participants in the UWI Alumni Association’s Central Executive Committee Meetings. The Director of Alumni Relations, Mrs. Celia Davidson Francis was present and the evening’s activities were quite warm and cordial. Ambassadors and UWIAA Presidents from all UWI countries also were able to chat and familiarise themselves with each others’ work.



UWI students and STAT Ambassadors observing a moment of silence at the AIDS Week UWI candlelight vigil.

- The main objective of the CARICOM workshop was to report on the research done by the Commission on the Dreams and Visions of Youth in Trinidad, and their perspective on a variety of issues, including the CSME. Among the issues identified by the research was inflation, unemployment, the inability to participate in the decision-making processes and the invasion of foreign identities into the Caribbean identity. Following the presentation, participants were asked to make recommendations on how the results found should be utilised. This segment raised issues of bureaucracy in governmental institutions and the identification of methods of assistance by participants. Participants were encouraged to incorporate the youth perspective from the research in their organisation and their individual spheres. UWI STAT proposes to promote research on St. Augustine Campus and also attempt to correlate local research with that being done regionally.



Newly inducted UWI STAT Ambassadors pose with Mrs. Celia Davidson Francis (seated left) and Mr. James Richardson.



Footprints Campaign 2009 on St. Augustine Campus.

Mona Corps - UWI STAT Most Vibrant Society 2009



Dr. Thelora Reynolds, Director of Student Services and Development at Mona (left), presents Jeffrey Foreman, UWI STAT President, Mona, with the award.

UWI STAT Mona received the award for Most Vibrant Society at the 2009 Office of Student Services and Development Student Awards Ceremony. The award is the third honour to be received by the Mona group since its inception in 2006, the first two being for Best New Group and Best Service Group in 2007 and 2008 respectively. Members of the 2009 Executive were also presented with awards for their contribution towards the group's success in implementing the following:

- Promotional activities during orientation week and a party hosted for C.H.A.R.E.S. in December.
- UWI STAT Awareness:
At a presentation at the opening of the Office of International Students, members were encouraged to wear UWI STAT shirts on particular days and the group participated in Irvine Hall's Culturama festival. The most significant promotion initiated over this period came in the form of partnering with

RETV in the latter's tour of high schools across the island. The tour was used as an opportunity to promote the UWI as tertiary institution of choice for Jamaicans. In a separate activity, Ambassadors from Mona visited high schools in four of the Open Campus countries to promote the University.

- Stronger bonds were created with the local UWIAA Chapter as the group gained representation on its Executive Committee. Efforts were also made to encourage 2008 graduates to become members of the UWIAA.
- Successful staging of HIV/AIDS Awareness Week between November 24 and December 1, 2008. The week of activities raised awareness about HIV/AIDS prevention, facilitated HIV/AIDS testing with counseling, and obtained donations for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Sponsorship for the week was provided by Ditto Print Ltd. and the Bank of Jamaica (BOJ).
- On March 16, 2009 Martha's House, a home for children afflicted with HIV/AIDS, was gutted by fire. As part of UWI STAT's continued support of the home, members volunteered to assist with a clean up exercise on April 4.
- Commemoration and Alumni Week in February. UWI STAT played a key role in promoting all events during the week and selling tickets for the Pelican Awards and Concert. On Caribbean Day, the group used the students' Island Associations' event as an opportunity to work with them and further promote Caribbean Integration.
- The annual Footprints campaign, to encourage students to give back to the University, was launched during Commemoration and Alumni Week. The campaign ran for a month and involved members in soliciting contributions from students to go towards improving facilities at the Main Library.
- The relationship between UWI STAT and the CARICOM Commission for Youth was enhanced as Pedro Medford was invited to the CARICOM Secretariat to take part in compiling a report on youth perspectives on the CSME. Mr. Medford now serves as a consultant to the Commission.
- Inaugural Caribbean High Tea Party. With sponsorship from Tetley and FirstCaribbean International Bank, the group brought together members of the UWI community, alumni association and friends to enjoy an afternoon of Caribbean integration and fun. The event featured various performances and cuisines reflecting the different cultures of the Caribbean islands, holding true to the IAD's mantra, "One UWI, One Alumni Family".

Written by Jeffrey Foreman, UWI STAT President (Mona)

News from UWI STAT Cave Hill

HIV/AIDS: Live up show

- Several Ambassadors represented the Corps, being a part of the live studio audience, asking pertinent questions to the panel that was present, relating to HIV/AIDS.

Footprints and Recruitment Day

- There was a display on the Guild lawn and items that were obtained from the IAD Office (pens, bookmarks and some other STAT information) were given to the student population. Tins for collecting donations and registration forms were available and emphasis was placed on leaving a positive "mark or footprint" on their Alma Mater. Additionally a large number of persons expressed interest in UWI STAT and time was spent informing students of the role of UWI STAT and instilling "Pelican Pride" within the student body.



Kamal Wood (VP of CARICOM Relations) speaking to the Corps about what UWI STAT involves.



The 2009 - 2010 Executive with the new members of the Barbados based Corps at Cave Hill.

"UWI STAT Promoting Regional Pride"

The inaugural UWI STAT CSME Awareness Week was held on The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, from March 1 - 6, 2009. The goal of the week of activities was to raise awareness of the opportunities and benefits that can be derived by students from the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

The week commenced with a Church Service at the Mona Chapel, led by the Baptist Chaplain, Mr. Trevor Edwards. The sermon was indeed insightful and paved the way for an excellent week.

On March 4, 2009, the CSME Debate Competition took place and saw the mighty A.Z. Preston Hall emerging champions over Taylor Hall, in the parliamentary-style debate. The UWI Debating Society was very instrumental in this event, providing two judges to oversee the competition.

A panel discussion followed on March 5, 2009 with the theme "Opportunities from CSME". The panelists were Mr. David Prendergast, Head of the CSME Unit, Jamaica, Mr. Dwayne Gutzmer, CARICOM Youth Ambassador of Jamaica and Mr. Pedro Medford, UWI STAT Ambassador. It was an open session, which was informative and gave members of the audience an opportunity to get answers to their questions and concerns about CARICOM and the CSME.

A weeklong display in the Main Library, depicted geographical and historical information of the various member states of CARICOM, the history of regional integration and information regarding how to obtain a CARICOM skills certificate. The information was obtained from the Public Information Unit at the CARICOM Secretariat and the CSME Unit in Barbados.

The continuation of the annual UWI STAT CSME Essay Competition saw the competition being extended to tertiary students at the UWI through the sponsorship of the Office of the Principal, Mona. The winners from the high school category were Mr. Kevon Kerr, from Cornwall College, and Mr. Cato Powell from Frome Technical High School. Both students wrote on the role of the media in promoting the CSME while the winner from the tertiary section was Ms. Seema Kadir, a student in the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, who wrote on the relevance of the CSME in a global economy.

The support of Mr. Prendergast and his staff was phenomenal and UWI STAT (Mona) is truly grateful. The CARICOM Commission on Youth Development invited the Mona Corps to participate in the compilation of the youth policy report document on "Youth and the CSME", which is to be presented to the CARICOM Heads of Government in July 2009. The group was represented by Ambassador Pedro Medford, who attended meetings in Kingston, Jamaica and also visited the CARICOM Secretariat in Turkeyen, Guyana in February 2009.

Written by: Pedro Medford, VP of CARICOM Relations, UWI STAT (Mona)



Candice York collecting a trophy from Pedro Medford, VP of CARICOM Relations, UWI STAT (Mona), for Seema Kadir, the winner of the Essay Competition (tertiary section).



Angellique Virtue of Preston Hall, member of the Winning Debate Team, collects her award from Pedro Medford.



Andre Bernard of Preston Hall (right), member of the Winning Debate Team, collects his award from Pedro Medford.

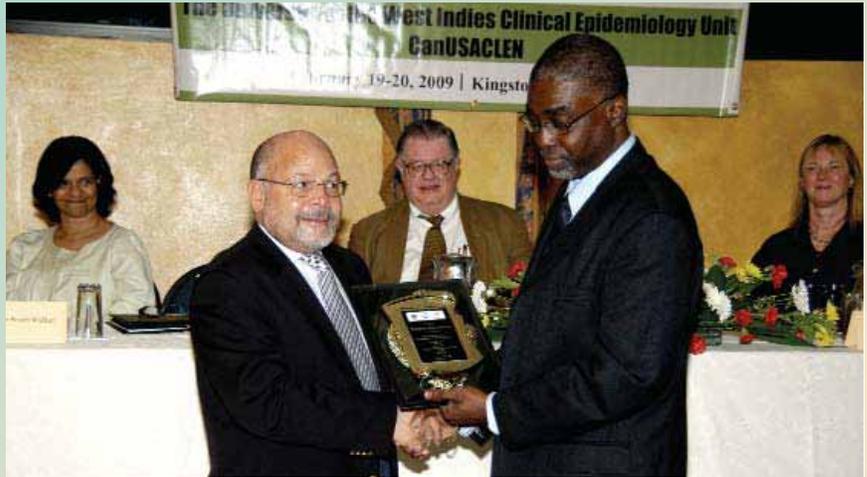
UWI Admitted to International Epidemiology Network

The Epidemiology Research Unit (ERU) in the Tropical Medicine Research Institute, UWI, along with colleagues from the Faculties of Medical Sciences and Social Sciences and the Centre for Gender and Development Studies of The University of the West Indies (UWI), have been admitted to the International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLLEN) as a Clinical Epidemiology Unit (CEU) of the Canada/USA International Clinical Epidemiology Network (CanUSACLEN) branch of INCLLEN. The UWI-CEU was launched on February 19, 2009, at the Mona Visitor's Lodge and Conference Centre, UWI.

The launch of the UWI-CEU places the UWI among seven regional networks and 82 Clinical Epidemiology Units in 24 countries. This will enhance opportunities for the Caribbean to advance the development of its human resources and increasing capacity in health research and leadership training in the region.

INCLLEN, established in 1980 in the USA, as a project of the Rockefeller Foundation and a non-profit organisation since 1988, has helped clinicians and other scientists obtain the knowledge and tools to improve the health of people in the developing world. Its multidisciplinary faculty includes clinical epidemiologists, health and social scientists, biostatisticians and clinical economists who believe that fighting disease in an age of limited financial resources depends on integrating the principles of clinical epidemiology into his or her own practice.

Noting that INCLLEN has a membership comprising 64 medical institutions and partnerships with major universities like the University of Ottawa, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, McMaster and others all over the world including China, India, Colombia, Spain and France, Professor Rainford Wilks, Director of the UWI's Epidemiology Research Unit, said that "the UWI-CEU will benefit from INCLLEN's carefully designed training and other support which will help in the assessment of the factors that determine the most effective prevention and treatment strategies".



Professor Alan Jackson (left) receiving a plaque from Professor Rainford Wilks in appreciation for his Keynote Lecture. Looking on at back are: Professor Susan Walker of the ERU, Chair of the proceedings; Professor Charlie Goldsmith, McMaster University, Canada and CanUSACLEN; Dr. Laura Sadowski, Cook County Hospital and Rush Medical School, Chicago, Illinois, USA and CanUSACLEN/INCLLEN.

INCLLEN, Professor Wilks explained, provides a forum for researchers to discuss critical health issues through educational programmes, global meetings and an international communications network and supports young researchers while providing opportunities for participation in collaborative clinical studies.

Professor E. Nigel Harris, Vice Chancellor of the UWI stressed the importance of trained epidemiologists and biostatisticians and welcomed the association with INCLLEN.

Noting that UWI and its partners have responsibilities related to "the prevention of disease and maintenance of health; development of systems for effective healthcare and the development of models of healthcare delivery that can inform the world", Professor Harris stressed the importance of well-trained epidemiologists and biostatisticians in this effort.

Meanwhile, guest speaker, Professor Alan Jackson, former director of The University of the West Indies Tropical Metabolism Research Unit noted that the entry of UWI into CanUSACLEN/INCLLEN presents considerable opportunities.

Noting the value of network and consensus in tackling problems at the world level, Professor Jackson pointed to "the importance of structures, systems, processes and people in achieving health improvement and the importance of research in moving from policy to change".

Professor Peter Tugwell of INCLLEN hailed UWI's entry into INCLLEN as "a landmark" for the organisation which "has always wanted to partner with the Caribbean". "Immediate benefits to the UWI", he said, "include opportunities for training including access to the virtual campus, improved competitiveness in research proposals, improved access to funding agencies and journals".

Written by Marcia Erskine

The Caribbean Community Honours one of its Sons

The Caribbean Community's decision to formally acknowledge and celebrate this much admired and treasured Caribbean man, the Most Honourable Percival James Patterson, signals the Region's sanity, sense of purpose and solid commitment to all that its constituent members perceive to be right for growth and development through the economic, political, social, cultural and spiritual empowerment of its people.

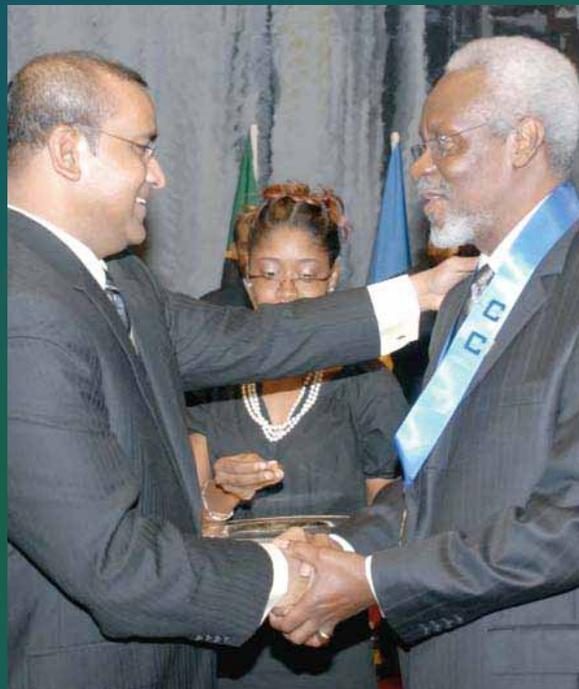
For such have been the values and vision espoused by the Most Honourable P. J. Patterson in his long and distinguished years, both as politician and public servant, in his native Jamaica and as an active participant in the shaping and building of an integrated Caribbean from Carifta to CARICOM. He is just as well known through his outstanding and widely acclaimed negotiating expertise in the international fora of the world, ranging from the ACP-EU Lomé exercises, in evidence of which now stands the Patterson-Ramphal room in the Hall of the European Commission. He is an acclaimed Champion of the development agenda, through the Non-Aligned deliberations among many of the countries of the Third, or should I say, Two Thirds World. These are supported by the ideas which once fueled the New International Economic Order, to the latter-day phenomenon of Globalisation which draws on such institutional constructs as the old World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) headquartered in Washington, the EPA residing in the European Union and the WTO likewise in Europe.

Impatient of debate is his priceless legacy of wisdom, rooted in a deep understanding of post-colonial geo-political realities and of the need to reserve psychic and emotional space, free of fundamentalist ideological strictures, thus affording him the application of measured reflection, characteristic calm in combat and sound judgment guiding conclusions.

A product of the dialectic sensibility of

rural Jamaica, he fully demonstrated its tradition of grit and stamina. Infused by an aristocracy of spirit; of a stubborn steadfastness informed by an enduring patience; of the consciousness of an exploited past, and of a determination to develop for his country a self-respecting future, that trumps self-contempt and self-doubt, he was to develop a commitment to socio-economic and psycho-cultural transformation of the majority of his people into the creators of their own destiny as first-class citizens on Planet Earth.

As an inter-generational Caribbean man growing up with modern Jamaica and, by extension, with the modern Caribbean, he was the beneficiary of the transition from colony through self-government to Independence. He was fortunate to enjoy the political mentorship of Jamaican Founding Father Norman Washington Manley, who



President Bharrat Jagdeo of Guyana, Chairman of CARICOM, presents the award to the Most Honourable Percival James Patterson.

quickly recognised in him from his undergraduate years at the regional University College of the West Indies (later The University of the West Indies), such qualities of leadership as contained passion, sustained application and concentration of inner reserve. From father to son: he was to develop a remarkable partnership with the legendary Michael Manley in the innovative explorations of national, regional and international relations and to a track record as a negotiator par excellence. These would all lead him not only to the Presidency of the flagship People's National Party and a great reputation as a campaigner in electoral combat, but also to a universally acknowledged iconic stature on the international stage, as a respected advocate of the developing countries. He was to become, as well, a doyen of the

Caribbean integration movement and hemispheric co-operation. Added to all this has been his achievement as the unprecedented four-term Prime Minister of Jamaica where, before him, two terms were regarded as better than too many.

Achievements over decades of hard work and serious application were to attract such designations borrowed from the popular musical genre as "Young gifted and black" and "Percy, Percy, please have mercy". This was to be followed by yet another popular title - "Black Prince of Belair". These lyrical attributions are fitting for a man who, in his youth, was instrumental in pioneering the famous reggae group, the Skatalites, to international prominence.

Indeed, the ancestral pedigree turned on the now historic journey of so many Caribbean sons and daughters from the Outhouse to the Great House, and on the capacity for a display of tolerance one to another,

The Caribbean Community Honours one of its Sons (cont'd)

despite frequent enough lapses of which he was a forgiving victim. Agreeing to disagree agreeably was to be the hallmark of the democratic governance over which he presided in Jamaica as was the civility he brought to debate and discourse within CARICOM.

As long distance runner rather than sprinter, he had honed his Caribbean integrationist commitments from very early at the regional UCWI where as a student he headed the External Affairs Commission which exposed him to international affairs as much as to Caribbean regionalism and beyond, especially when he came in contact with fellow students from the developing world pursuing law studies at Middle Temple and the London School of Economics. It is to his lasting credit and the Caribbean's enduring good fortune that a prosperous, successful law career did not keep him away from public life and service which are now being formally acknowledged and celebrated.

He is arguably the most instrumental single Head of Government in the Caribbean Community to give political support and leadership to the long, complex and tortuous process of negotiating the revised Treaty of Chaguaramas which was to form the basis of the CSME, a process that engaged the period from 1996 to 2002. P. J. Patterson's multi-faceted contribution extended from his leadership in the creation of the historic Rose Hall Declaration on Regional Governance and Integrated Development, as well, to the vital roles he played in the cooling of tempers on such tension-filled occasions as Guyana's response to Suriname's somewhat spirited diplomacy over disputed territory, to Haiti's accession to CARICOM membership, to courageously keeping the political lid on the subsequent abandonment by Washington of the Community's "peace plan", to dealing with Haiti's turmoil in preference to the ousting of the then Haitian President and to the creation of an institutional regional linkage between the Community and West Indies Cricket - two of the three regional iconic structures.

This, inter alia, undoubtedly exhibited the honouree's sincere and utter commitment to Caribbean integration - thanks to his political upbringing, his intellectual conviction and emotional choice.

The Caribbean Community is specially honoured to be able to confer on The Most Honourable Percival Noel James Patterson, its highest and most prestigious Award, the Order of the Caribbean Community.

By Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford, OM, OCC, Vice Chancellor Emeritus, UWI

Noteworthy Achievements

Vice Chancellor Emeritus, Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford, was presented with the Chancellor's Medal on April 24, 2009.

UWISON was named PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Development in the Caribbean at the Official Launch on May 29, 2009.

Six Senior Lecturers promoted to the rank of Professor

From Cave Hill Campus:

Dr. Jane Bryce - Faculty of Humanities and Education - brings new African Literature works to the public and has established a strong presence in the field of African Literary Studies.

From Mona Campus:

Dr. Marvin Reid - Director of the Sickle Cell Unit of the Tropical Medicine Research Institute - significant contribution to medical undergraduate students (Nutrition, Nursing), supervision of PhD students and training of Laboratory personnel in Chromatography.

From Open Campus:

Dr. Vivienne Roberts, Deputy Principal - engages with a wide range of stakeholders through her ability to write about complex issues in a clear and accessible style.

From St. Augustine Campus:

Dr. Terrence Seemungal - Department of Clinical Medical Sciences - invaluable contribution to the study of lung health, as well as to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Dr. Chidum Ezenwaka - Department of Para-Clinical Medical Sciences - makes significant contributions to diabetes research, and continues to be a productive investigator.

Dr. Paul Shaw - Department of Food Production in the School of Agriculture - well-respected in the field of environmental change, with many publications in international and peer-reviewed journals.

“Celebrating Firsts”



Omawalli McMillan
First President UWI STAT Open Campus

Omawalli McMillan was born in Grenada twenty-six years ago and describes himself as a young political activist with a keen interest in regional integration. He has the distinguished title of being the first President of the UWI Open Campus Student Guild. In addition, he is the first President of the Vice Chancellor's UWI STAT Ambassador Corps for the recently formed Open Campus. He is an ideal fit for both roles as at the forefront of his personal agenda is regional awareness, identity and youth empowerment through education,

which both of the aforementioned positions also advocate. "A regional identity should be cultivated at all levels and especially among us youth," he stated enthusiastically in a brief telephone interview. The sound of hope, passion and future was ripe in his voice and coloured his outlook with promise.

He believes that, "CARICOM is the answer to our problems" as a region and that "the European Union model of integration should be a blue print for what we are trying to achieve". He however notes that the approach we take must be tailored to suit our culture, way of life and hemispheric realities. This strong belief in Caribbean regionalism is fueled by the 'spirit' he feels when traveling around the region. "All Caribbean islands feel like home, the spirit is same, we have so much in common yet we let the differences hold of us back", he commented.

Given all that The University of the West Indies represents, he is honoured to be a part of the beacon of Caribbean education and regional integration. To represent the University throughout the region and the world is seemingly appropriate to Mr. McMillan given his strong advocacy in the areas of youth empowerment and contribution towards the future of our Caribbean society. He is proud of the UWI's 60 year old, rich tradition as the premier Caribbean institution, promoting regionalism, Caribbean research and development and extensive educational opportunities. He is pleased to work with the University, all members of the UWI STAT Ambassador Corps and all stakeholders, to maintain the prestigious image of the University.

Omawalli, the third of four children is no stranger to activism. His father, Zide Mohammed (Guyanese) is a prominent poet and author who championed the cause of black empowerment through his work. He attributes his strong will and management skills to the influence of his mother, Cynthia McMillan, a strong business woman.

'Wally' as he is fondly called, is an avid contributor to local political, economic and social opinion columns in Grenada. His words are supported by action as he is the founder and director of the "Get my vote" Campaign to sensitise young people to vote in the recent Grenada elections. A firm believer in equal rights and equity of pay for women, 'Wally' posits that if women play a more active role in politics then it will change the political and social landscape. Negative or positive implications arising from his belief will depend on one's perspective. Omawalli is determined to follow in his Alma Mater's footsteps and have significant impact on his region, as he is certain that in the next 10 years, he will become the youngest ever Grenadian Prime Minister.

Written by Lacey-Ann Bartley

“Happenings” on the Campus you attended

ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

- Professor Clement Sankat, during the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding with Buccoo Reef Trust on May 8, 2009, said that he wants to see UWI increase its presence in Tobago. Recognising the past achievements of the partnership, including significant increases in collaborative research on the science and management of reef systems in Tobago, Professor Sankat said he believed it was now the ideal time to push the partnership to a higher level of interaction. Dr. Richard Langton signed on behalf of the Buccoo Reef Trust.
- New MSc. in Science and Management of Tropical Biodiversity: The new MSc. will afford students the opportunity to meet and learn from professionals working in the industry on aspects of the management and exploitation of terrestrial and marine tropical environments and will produce professionals in the environmental management sector.
- Dr. Dave Chadee’s work has contributed significantly to refining methods to eradicate and control the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the source of four known serotypes of Dengue Fever (DF), and their potentially fatal complications. He was asked to collaborate with a team from Tulane University in New Orleans in developing a lethal ovitrap, a device designed to trap eggs and kill the laying mosquitoes, and for this work the team has received a grant of TT\$1.5 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Since then, he’s undertaken countless studies and collaborated with several others to examine possibly every aspect of this particular mosquito’s existence.
- **Region’s first BSc. in Optometry**
This degree will assist with preventing “preventable blindness” through effective screening and monitoring of health care systems. It is unique, as it is “a hybrid of all the different [academic] systems, designed to suit the demands and evolving needs of the region”.

CAVE HILL CAMPUS

- The 8th Caribbean Institute in Gender and Development: An Intensive Training Programme will be offered from July 2 – 31, 2009 at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill. Open to men and women working or interested in the field of social development, the course opens participants to the complex issues of gender and development within Caribbean societies from a feminist perspective. Practitioners within government and non-governmental institutions, community-based and service oriented organisations are especially encouraged to apply.
- The Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, Department of Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics is inviting applicants for its one-year programme in the Diploma in Information Technology. Students completing the Diploma will considerably increase their market value, as they will be in an excellent position to understand and manage information technology-related issues in the workplace. Courses include: Computing in Business, Website Development, Business Programming, Desktop Publishing and Photo Editing. The programme commences in October 2009.

MONA CAMPUS

- **8th Psychology Conference**
“Psychology of Caribbean People: At Home and Abroad” was the theme of the 8th annual Psychology Conference, which was held from March 11-13, 2009 at the Old Dramatic Theatre, UWI, Mona.

The Conference began with an Opening Ceremony on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 5 p.m. Professor Elsa Leo-Rhynie, former principal of UWI, Mona was the guest speaker. She addressed the historical development of the psychology programme at the UWI, Mona.

OPEN CAMPUS

St. Lucia

- The University of the West Indies Open Campus, St. Lucia, was the recipient of a collection of Mr. Roderick (Roddy) Walcott’s works donated by his widow Mrs. Estella Walcott, and made possible through a grant from UNESCO. The formal donation of the collection occurred on Tuesday April 7, 2009. Miss Carrie Walcott, the daughter of the late Mr. Roderick Walcott, travelled from Toronto, Canada to represent the Walcott family at the event.
- Members of the Caribbean Network of Art Presenters (CARIBNET) met at the UWI Open Campus, St. Lucia on March 20 and March 21. CARIBNET is a non-governmental organisation whose purpose is to promote, support and develop the arts of the Caribbean region through the exchange of information, performances, exhibitions and the production of events and cultural activities. Mrs. Veronica Simon, indicated that the Open Campus is committed to providing vibrant artistic and cultural interaction and she has entered into discussions with CARIBNET to work towards providing appropriate training for teachers and other persons involved in the arts.

Dominica

• The UWI Open Campus Dominica's Distinguished National Lecture

The University of the West Indies Open Campus, Dominica collaborated with the National Bank of Dominica Limited (NBD) to bring to the Dominican public another informative and exciting educational event in the form of the Second NBD/UWI Open Campus Dominica Distinguished National Lecture on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at the Fort Young Hotel in Roseau. This year's lecture entitled "The Crisis in Education and Leadership: What Role has Gender Privileging played in the Caribbean?" was delivered by Dr. Mark Figueroa, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences (Mona).

Cayman

- UWI Open Campus Cayman Islands recently mounted the first face-to-face course in computer literacy. The 30-hour course ran for some three months and was geared at enabling students to learn via the Internet in the blended distance learning mode. It is hoped that in the future more e-learning initiatives will be supported, and that this offering will be made available to all the Open Campus centres across the Caribbean.

Admission officers from all four campuses of The University of the West Indies descended on the Cayman Islands to promote programme offerings during the first week of March. Marjorie Bolero-Haughton headed the team, ably assisted by Janet Caroo from Cave Hill, Patricia Brown from St. Augustine and Melissa Gayle from the Graduate Studies section at Mona as well as Anneshia Welsh, the Regional Coordinator for the Northern and Western Caribbean and Robert Geofroy, the acting Head of the Open Campus in Cayman. The campaign culminated with a presentation to some two hundred parents of John Gray High School as well as the Cayman Prep and High School.

The visit was a great success and interest in UWI in this small Caribbean country has heightened considerably. Persons expressed interest in studying Medicine at Mona, in Agriculture and the Sciences as well as Engineering.

Bermuda joins the UWI family

The petition by Bermuda to be recognised as a full contributing country was unanimously accepted at the recently concluded Annual Business Meeting of The University of the West Indies' Council. This means that the Government of Bermuda will now contribute to the revenues of the UWI based on an agreed formula and students from Bermuda would be charged tuition fees at the subsidised rate. Bermuda will be a part of the Open Campus and thus what is now referred to as the "UWI-12", that is, contributing countries which do not host a physical traditional campus, will now be known as the "UWI-13". The effective date of Bermuda's recognition as a full contributing country of the UWI should take place well before the start of the 2009/2010 academic year and will be dependent on the completion of the legislative measures which that country needs to put in place to honour its obligation.

Bermuda's Minister of Education, the Hon Elvin James, JP, MP, 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.

He also stated that he looks forward to future meetings with the University Administration and is looking forward to having Bermuda included as one of the "UWI-13". Bermudan students will now be able to access UWI education at a subsidised cost and an Open Campus Centre will also be established on the island. This opportunity allows the University to expand its scope and appeal.

The University of the West Indies strives to have a strong understanding of the issues faced by small and developing countries and to positively affect national education and leadership, as well as policy.

Increased access to tertiary level education at the UWI will allow young Bermudians to obtain the skill, knowledge and expertise needed to play their part in contributing to not only national but also regional development.

Open Campus People

- Mrs. Jasmine Babb has joined The University of the West Indies, Open Campus as Director of Human Resources. She has extensive experience in and knowledge of change management environments and she is committed to improving the policies and procedures of the Open Campus Human Resources Department.
- Mr. Earl Aldred has been appointed Programme Officer. He brings to the Open Campus his significant background in Research in Adult Education, Curriculum Development and Conference Planning.

As you know, your UWI Alumni Association (UWIAA) Chapters aim to host social events that are enjoyable and informative: and most importantly which are applicable to the various stages of life and career of their diverse members. Basically the objective is to have FUN, rekindle old friendships, network and reconnect.

UPCOMING UWIAA CHAPTER EVENTS WORLDWIDE:

UWIAA - Toronto

May 24, 2009

- Annual Luncheon

The UWIAA Toronto

Chapter will host their annual luncheon at the Hawthorn Room, Delta Toronto Airport West, 5444 Dixie Road, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. Alumni are expected to have a lot of fun and donations to UWI will be accepted ("what you can give") towards the scholarships that they give on an annual basis to the UWI campuses.



UWIAA - The Bahamas

June 25, 2009 - Town Hall Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The UWIAA Chapter in the Bahamas will have the UWI Vice Chancellor Professor E. Nigel Harris meet with alumni at a Town Hall Meeting in Nassau, The Bahamas, at the Paul H. Farquharson Conference Centre, Police Headquarters. The "Meet and Greet" will begin at 6:45 p.m., and will be followed by the Town Hall Meeting from 7:30 - 9.00 p.m. This will be an opportunity for graduates to meet the Vice Chancellor in a fairly informal setting.



UWIAA - Washington DC

June 28, 2009 - Church Service and Reception at 4:00 p.m.

The UWIAA Washington DC

Chapter will celebrate its 20th Anniversary with UWI Vice Chancellor Professor E. Nigel Harris as the featured speaker. This will be Professor Harris' first official visit to meet with alumni and other UWI friends in the DC metro area. It will be held on Sunday, June 28, 2009 at the Holy Comforter Episcopal Church at 701 Oglethorpe Street, NW, Washington DC, USA.



UWIAA - Trinidad and Tobago

June 28, 2009 - Annual Car Rally from 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The UWIAA Chapter in Trinidad

and Tobago will host their Annual Car Rally in association with the Trinidad Rally Club which will include UWIAA members as drivers. They will go all over the country, ending up at the TSTT Staff Club, not far from the campus. Afterwards there will be a "lyme" with games, music, food and fun!



If you are in the area, please do plan to attend!

The UWIAA Chapters encourage everyone who attends to take part in the annual UWIAA **"Every Dollar Makes a Difference" Campaign** as they recognise that no matter how small, all donations are welcome and appreciated as they will assist in providing UWIAA student scholarships and bursaries! Donations may be given directly to the Chapters or sent to the IAD. (Simply indicate the Chapter with which you would like your donation to be affiliated).

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Kathleen Bibiana Drayton

The Caribbean lost a stalwart educator and pioneer in the regional gender movement with the passing of Kathleen Bibiana Drayton, at age 78. She joined The University of the West Indies at Cave Hill as a lecturer in the Faculty of Education in 1973 and had an unbroken association with the institution until her retirement as senior lecturer in 1991. Mrs. Drayton was a co-founder of the Women and Development Studies which later gave rise to the UWI Institute for Gender Development and Studies.

Born in Trinidad and Tobago in 1930, Kathleen Drayton lived and worked in several Caribbean countries, as well as in Ghana and Scotland. In 1963, she accompanied her husband to British Guiana to assist with the setting up of the University of Guyana, which was launched in the same year. While there, she lectured first in English and English Methods at the Government Training College. This was followed by periods of lecturing in English and Education at the University of Guyana.

After joining Cave Hill's faculty, Mrs. Drayton helped to establish the Diploma in Education programmes, and functioned in several senior administrative capacities in the faculty including several periods as Acting Dean. In establishing a programme of Women and Development Studies (WDS) at The University of the West Indies, she worked as part of a team that included Joycelin Massiah, Peggy Antrobus and Christine Barrow.

Ms. Monica Linton

Miss Linton joined the staff of The University of the West Indies in 1966 and she is best known for her role in the Examinations Section until her retirement in 1993. She continued to work within the Examinations Section post retirement until November 2008 with quiet dedication and commitment.

Dr. Trona Bennett

Trona described as a devout mother and hard worker was just sixty when she died suddenly under tragic circumstances. She was a graduate of The University of the West Indies, Faculty of Medical Sciences in 1973 with honours in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. She moved to St. Lucia from 1988 and started the Tapion Hospital. She was passionate about her work and loved her patients.

Dr. Bennett was also a trailblazer in the field of laparoscopy and built a substantial practice in St. Lucia. She worked with tireless commitment and dedication and always encouraged her peers to strive for excellence.

Mr. Hubert A McLeod

Mr. McLeod was a founding member of MONATS (the Mona Administrative and Technical Staff Association) and an avid supporter. He was a very vibrant member and was its third President from 1977-1981. He was also principally responsible for the establishment of the MONATS Canteen, built to benefit the members. He worked in the Department of Chemistry and lived by his Prayer for Survival (1984) "to act in the interest of all".

Professor Charles Egerton Denbow, C.D.

Professor Denbow was a distinguished member of the Department of Medical Sciences and served for many years as its Head. He was a dedicated and committed Consultant who focused on cardiovascular diseases within the Caribbean and contributed significantly through research and publications.

His work and publications are world renowned and featured in many acclaimed international medical journals.

The legacy of this distinguished educator, doctor and researcher will live on and his contribution to the development of the Medical Sciences will never be forgotten.

Professor Faridah Moosdeen

Professor Moosdeen made a significant contribution to the scholarship of The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. She joined the UWI family in 1994 as a Professor of Medical Microbiology in the Department of Microbiology. During her time at the UWI she took interest in hospital acquired diseases and epidemiology.

Her work extended to formulating appropriate guidelines for the use and the administration of antibiotics at the University Hospital of the West Indies. Her work and research lead to the creation of a manual which is used at the UHWI and further afield.



The University of the West Indies Vice Chancellor's Presidents Club

UWI Alumni Association (UWIAA) Chapters

UWIAA - Presidents

Mr. Ricardo Knight - Barbados
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 Mr. Randy Boucher - St. Vincent & The Grenadines
 Mr. Ferdinand Fortune and Mr Michael Henville - Toronto
 Mr. James Richardson - Trinidad & Tobago
 Mr. Vernon Barrett - United Kingdom
 Ms. Sha-Shana Crichton - Washington DC

UWIAA - Past Presidents

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 Mr. Jerry Medford - Trinidad & Tobago
 Mr. Frederick Bowen - Trinidad & Tobago
 Mr. Ulric Warner - Trinidad & Tobago
 Mr. Daniel Sankar - Trinidad & Tobago

Prof. Franklin Knight - Washington DC
 Ms. Maud Fuller - Toronto

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 Dr. Karl Massiah - Canada
 Dr. Homer Bloomfield - Commonwealth of The Bahamas
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 Dr. Deo Singh - Trinidad & Tobago
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 Dr. Novelle Kirwan - Florida (Central)
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 Dr. Sonia Henry-Heywood - Jamaica
 Dr. Richard Whitelocke - Jamaica
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 UWI Open Campus

Alumnus and Council Representatives

For Aug 1, 2007- July 31, 2009 (2 Years)

Alumnus Representative
 Mr. Jerry Medford (Trinidad and Tobago)

For Aug 1, 2008 - July 31, 2009 (1 Year)

Council Representative
 Mrs. Missouri Sherman-Peter (Commonwealth of The Bahamas)