



SUPPORTING STRATEGIC ECONOMIC IMPERATIVES

Supporting Strategic Economic Imperatives

Curriculum review and reform in the 2008–09 academic year continued to focus on supporting the developing sectors within the economy.

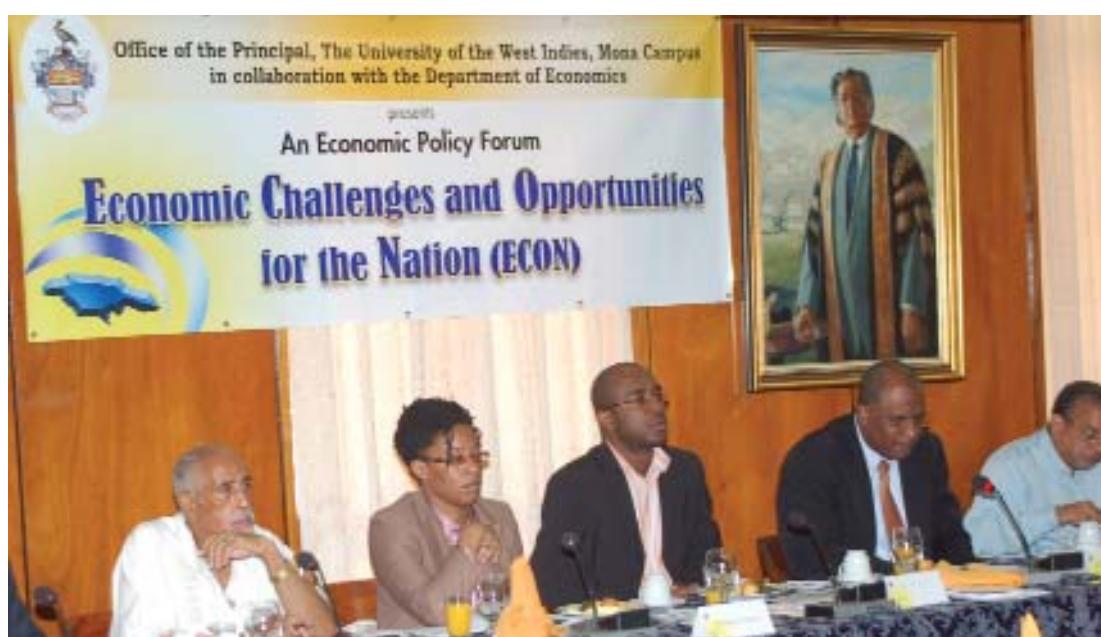
Among the new undergraduate programmes that were introduced were the BSc in Electronics Engineering, Tropical Horticulture, Medical Physics & Bio-Engineering, Banking & Finance, Minors in Social Policy and Development and Management Studies (Corporate Governance and Business Ethics); and the BA in History and Heritage, and Digital Media Production, Journalism.

At the postgraduate level the MSc Forensic Science, Doctorate of Public Health (DrPH), and Doctorate in Business Administration were offered for the first time, while the MSc in Tropical Ecosystems Assessment, Conservations & Management (TEACM); and Medical Microbiology were offered as restructured programmes. In all, some 50 new courses were introduced to respond to shifting or unfilled needs.

We separated the Agriculture Unit from the Department of Life Sciences to enable its expanded

role in supporting national agriculture and food security concerns. In addition to developing the programme in Tropical Horticulture, we advanced preparatory work on other areas such as agro-processing. Collaborations with the Office of the Principal, Faculty of Social Sciences and Mona School of Business produced an advanced draft of the MSc curriculum for a programme in Agricultural Entrepreneurship. This programme will be finalised for approval in the current academic year.

Our Electronics Unit and Physics Department collaborated with the Faculty of Engineering at St Augustine to develop a new Electronics Engineering programme – the first UWI Engineering programme to be offered outside of the St Augustine Campus. The Life Sciences Department designed a Marine Biology major and a Caribbean Biodiversity course to expose students to Jamaica’s marine resources and the need to develop and protect



them. The Physics Department, having revamped the electronics programme, introduced majors in Materials Science, Medical Physics and a refashioned first year Physics programme for delivery in the current academic year. The Department of Mathematics implemented a Mathematics Bridging Programme to assist students entering the University with deficiencies in mathematical skills and competences to successfully access mathematics-rich courses in disciplines such as mathematics, computing, physics and chemistry.

The Campus reviewed its research activity and redirected funding, through the Research Fellowship and the New Initiative Grants Programmes to research that specifically targeted national and regional development. In particular, we supported multi-faculty, multi-disciplinary policy clusters in areas of immediate relevance to Government. Research projects focusing on Crime, Violence and Security, Regional Development, Energy, Agriculture and Agribusiness, Offshore Banking, Gaming, Health Care and the Gender Imbalance in the Secondary and Tertiary Education System, were among those receiving funding support during the year.

Our research continues to have a favourable impact on national policy making, analysis and evaluation. This year, academic research and publications covered a wide range of topics including: foreign direct investment, government budgets, finance, financial institutions and their impact on economic growth and development, growth theory; migration experiences, remittances and development; crime, violence and development, policing, organised crime and politics; telecentres, software development, regulation, mobile telephony and the digital divide; culture and survival, entrepreneurship and small businesses; casino gambling in Jamaica, marketing, planning and related issues in tourism; commodity chains, trade liberalisation, regional integration, issues in globalisation; CARICOM and

security governance, corruption, ethics, social justice and social values; local governance in the Caribbean; user fees in Jamaica's health care services; children, child rights, poverty, political culture; the contract system of employment in the Caribbean public sector; urban regeneration management in Jamaica; gender issues; developmental psychology in Caribbean school-aged children, counselling, psychology and psychotherapy; men who have sex with men, trans-border relationships, family life and health; creolisation; and Caribbean language, thought, culture, art and fiction.

Many of these areas of focus were showcased in the annual Research Day, and in the international conferences and symposia we held during the year to demonstrate the value of UWI research and policy analysis to Governments.

Supporting the Sports Industry

The Campus made significant strides towards development of its Sports Programme to support Jamaica's burgeoning Sports Industry. We currently have nine football and nine track and field scholars, with a mandate for excellence in performance. In addition to academic support, the scholars are provided with nutrition and physiotherapy assistance. Already the Campus has accrued benefits



Mona Sports Research: International Impact



UWI researcher Dr Rachel Irving, Research Fellow, Department of Basic Medical Sciences was invited to make a presentation at the 56th Annual Meeting of the American College of Sport Medicine in Washington. Dr Irving's presentation explored the role of genes in elite Jamaican and USA sprinters. The abstract has been targeted for publication in *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*, Volume 41:5 Supplement.

from this scholarship programme, as the football team has moved into Premier League ranking, and the track scholars have been excelling at meets.

This Scholarship programme and other initiatives launched in the current academic year are intended to interface and interconnect with the academic sports programmes that exist and are being developed at the UWI. There is postgraduate teaching centred around Sports Medicine, Sports Psychology and Sports Management, as well as on-going research work on various aspects of Sports.

We established a Caribbean Sports Medicine Clinic, offering sports psychology treatment and medical

care for injury treatment and management. The facility houses a database of injuries and treatments for clients. Since its start, test cricketers, international track and field athletes, national netballers and professional footballers have come to the clinic for treatment.

The Campus engaged external partners to develop the Mona Bowl into a Centre of Excellence in Sports and a high performance facility, and to support development of the services Mona offers to the sporting community, including drug testing and rehabilitative therapy. Developments of our arrangements with the Jamaica Football Federation are well underway. They expect to begin construction of the practice football fields (natural and artificial) in January 2010. This indoor football complex will be complete with changing, equipment and treatment rooms, reception area, administrative office spaces and accommodation for players. Construction is expected to take six months.

Given the current levels and dynamism of the sports initiatives at UWI, Mona, Olympian Grace Jackson was re-assigned as Sports Development Officer in the Office of the Principal, with responsibility for liaising with sports bodies and personalities and the media, as well as overall promotion of Sports development at the Campus.



CONFERENCES AND OTHER SYMPOSIA IN 2008–09

As in previous years, the Campus mounted a number of forums – including regional and international – to address key issues affecting national and regional development and influence relevant policy formation. Some of these forums are highlighted below.

The Office of the Principal held the first in a series of seminars aimed at focusing attention on the future of Caribbean agriculture and food. This one-day seminar entitled **Caribbean Agriculture and Food in a Changing Global Context** brought together academics and stakeholders from the agriculture and food sector and provided an opportunity for researchers at the University and other academic institutions to discuss relevant and current research related to the present agricultural challenges facing Jamaica and the Region.



Principal Shirley in his opening remarks observed that a further objective of the seminar was to help participants understand the impediments to the growth in agriculture in Jamaica and the Region as a whole and to find appropriate solutions at both the policy and technical levels for the way forward.

Guest speakers at the seminar were Dr the Honourable Christopher Tufton, Minister of Agriculture and Professor David Sparling, Associate Professor and Dean, College of Management and Economics, University of Guelph, Canada. Dr Tufton in his address gave an overview of the current and future plans of the Government of Jamaica for Agriculture

while Professor Sparling spoke on the changing agri-food environment and its implications for Caribbean agriculture and agri-food education.

Presentations at the seminar focused on topics including: Challenges and Opportunities in the Agricultural Sector; Science, Technology and Innovation in Caribbean Agriculture and Food; The Social Dimensions of Caribbean Agriculture and Food and the Educational, Training and Developmental Needs of Agriculture and Food Industries.

Food Security and Agricultural Development – this seminar explored the future of Food Security and Agricultural Development in the Americas with the aim of both understanding the challenges and identifying possible solutions. The seminar was an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to discuss existing research and research in progress related to the current food security and agricultural development challenges and opportunities in the Americas. The conference brought together practitioners and researchers in the Americas – the Caribbean, Latin America and the United States of America as well as Canada – to discuss the challenges, strategies and solutions to Food Security and Agricultural Development at the policy and technical levels.

Understanding Your Pain – a public forum that featured presentations by medical doctors specialising in pain management, pharmacists and physical therapists among other specialists on pain management techniques, causes and solutions to pains including arthritis, cancer, back and neck pains.

Managing Sickle Cell Disease – In keeping with its mandate to improve the lives of individuals affected by sickle cell disease through research, education and clinical care, the Sickle Cell Unit hosted this conference to share knowledge about the disease in order to improve the care and treatment of persons affected by sickle cell.

CONFERENCES AND OTHER SYMPOSIA IN 2008–09

Global Update: HIV/AIDS in Pregnant Women and in Children – a distinguished guest lecture by Professor Sten H. Vermund, Amos Christie Chair in Global Health, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, USA. The occasion was also used to launch the book “Pediatric and Perinatal HIV/AIDS in Jamaica”, Special Issue, “*West Indian Medical Journal*”, 2008; 57(3):187–320.

Transforming Research into Policy and Practice was the theme of the third International Advancements in Medicine Conference. It was designed to provide a forum through which medical and healthcare professionals in Jamaica and those from other parts of the world could share knowledge on current developments in medicine as well as to help identify and implement solutions that will lead to improvements in the healthcare delivery systems of Jamaica.

Medical Disorders during Pregnancy and the Neonatal Period was the theme of the 8th Annual Perinatal Audit and Symposium. Topics included “Infertility and Subsequent Pregnancy” and “Preterm Infant”.

Abortion Public Forum – a public discussion entitled “Establishing Common Ground: A Conversation on Reforming the Law on Abortion in Jamaica”.

Novel Approaches to Agriculture and Agribusinesses – a public forum where presentations were made by Dr Monty Jones, Dr Adewale Adekunle, Ralph Von Kaufman and Myra Wonperesis, members of a delegation from the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

The 2009–2010 Fiscal Budget – a panel discussion that examined the estimates of expenditure; revenue measures and tax administration reform; the size of government debt and its implications; and the implications of the budget for the macro-economy.

The Dilemma of Freer and Safer Trade: Coping with the Problem of Foreign Pests and Diseases in an Era of Globalization – a public seminar with guest speaker Dr Edward Evans, Assistant Professor and Associate Director, Centre for Tropical Agriculture, University of Florida.

Tertiary Education at the Crossroads – a forum that focused on the role of tertiary education in national development and the financing of tertiary education. Participants included colleagues from Jamaica’s tertiary institutions, the Ministry of Education and the Planning Institute of Jamaica.

National Integrity Action Forum – involving newspaper columnists, talk-show hosts, television presenters and other ‘opinion shapers’ in dialogue around recommendations to more effectively combat corruption and to strengthen Jamaica’s integrity framework.

Prospects for Economic Union in the Caribbean – a public lecture by the Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves, that highlighted various social and economic Caribbean issues.



Merritone and the Sound System in the Development of Jamaican Popular Music – the theme of the Symposium hosted to mark the fifty-eight years of Merritone in Jamaica and explore its contribution to Jamaican Popular music development.

CONFERENCES AND OTHER SYMPOSIA IN 2008–09



Professor Gerry Stoker of the University of Southampton delivered the keynote address entitled “The Micro foundations of Governance: Why Psychology Rather than Economics could be key to better Intergovernmental Relations” at the conference, **Local Governance and Intergovernmental Relations: Examining the Past, Assessing the Present and Predicting the Future**. The conference addressed several topics including comparative local governance in a context of regional integration, managing competition, partnerships and networks in local governance, fiscal decentralisation and local government viability and issues related to local democracy such as the party system and gender equality. The conference sought to provide a forum for discussing theoretical and empirical developments in local governance in the hemisphere, expose management innovations in urban and local development, and to serve as an arena for policy learning.

Gender-based Violence, Abductions and Disappearances – a public discussion to examine the recent reports and to examine the causes and explore concrete solutions. There was information-sharing, exploration of new options and strengthening of the linkages between institutional programmes to reduce gender-based violence. Experts from the University, Woman Inc, the Dispute Resolution Foundation, the Peace Management Initiative/Violence Prevention Alliance, among other institutions, made presentations, and victims of abuse shared their stories. The forum also featured practical prevention strategies for males and females, personal safety tips, and an outline of the procedures and actions recommended for victims of gender-based violence or abduction. The proposal for an ‘Ananda Alert’ – a warning system to better protect our children and young people was also discussed.

Family Business Governance Workshop – a three-day workshop designed to assist business operators to better manage their enterprises.

Caribbean Environments: Perspectives, Practice and Policy – a Caribbean Regional Conference on the environment organised as part of the Environmental Management programme. The Conference provided a forum in which perspectives



and issues surrounding environmental research, practice and the formulation and implementation of policy could be shared and discussed. It featured paper presentations, poster sessions, and roundtable discussions addressing diverse environmental issues, including environmental education, climate change, waste and pollution, tourism and environmental policy. The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica provided funding for the Conference.

New Technologies: Media and Communication in a Cultural Context – the theme of the Inaugural Caribbean Culture and Media Conference. Local and overseas presenters shared at the Conference on topics including the Convergence of Politics, Culture and Media, Converged Media and Caribbean History and New Media Technologies and Visual Storytelling.

Innovation, Demand and Competitiveness in Telecommunications: Implications for the Caribbean Region and Beyond was the theme of the inaugural staging of the International

CONFERENCES AND OTHER SYMPOSIA IN 2008–09

Telecommunications Society (ITS) Conference in the Caribbean. The event was designed to provide an international forum for practitioners and researchers to focus on all aspects of telecommunications and related technologies. This inaugural staging in the Caribbean specifically provided an occasion for the dissemination and exchange of information on innovation, demand, and competitiveness related to the deployment and use of information and communication technologies for a variety of application domains, particularly in the Caribbean region, but also in other areas of the world with similar profiles.

Diversification of CARICOM Exports: Opportunities and Challenges was the topic of a symposium where speakers included Marie Freckleton,

UWI, Mona, Robert Gregory, Jamaica Trade and Invest; Veona Maloney, Caribbean Export Development Agency, Barbados; and Norris Herbert, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Trinidad and Tobago.

Providing Strategic and Sustainable Solutions for Public and Private Sector Organizations – a one-day business conference, the first in the Caribbean Business Renewal Conference series designed to cover a range of multidisciplinary approaches that will provide participants with an opportunity to explore, collaborate, and share their thoughts on a broad range of issues. Topics addressed included: Business and Finance, Trade and Investment, Tourism and Marketing, Crime, Law and Justice and Environmental and Sustainable Practices.

