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Open Letter

THE E-NEWSLETTER OF THE UWI OPEN CAMPUS

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Scholarships awarded from CHASE to The UWI Open Campus and other TLIs for Early Childhood Programmes

An official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education Fund (CHASE) and seven training institutions for the provision of scholarships was carried out on November 11, at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica. The MOU spells out that the Parties agree to collaborate in the funding, management and implementation of the Scholarship Programme, which offers scholarships to eligible students who are pursuing a course of study leading to qualifications at the undergraduate and/or the postgraduate level in Early Childhood Education. The CHASE Fund shall provide funding from its annual budget to underwrite the cost of tuition for students who apply for and are successful in meeting the criteria for award.

The UWI Open Campus offers an online programme leading to a Bachelors' degree in Early Childhood Development and Family Studies. Deputy Principal, Professor Julie Meeks signed on behalf of The UWI Open Campus. Interested persons can read more about the programme on the website - <http://www.open.uwi.edu/ecdfs>



Deputy Principal of The UWI Open Campus, Professor Julie Meeks, receives the signed MOU for Early Childhood scholarships from Chairman of the Board of the CHASE Fund, Mr Billy Heaven, at a ceremony in Kingston, Jamaica on November 11.



Representatives of the seven tertiary level institutions who received scholarships for their students in Early Childhood programmes from the CHASE Fund, with CHASE Board Chairman, Mr Billy Heaven (far left), and Chair of the Early Childhood Fund, Dr Rose Davies (far right). The institutions were: Church Teachers' College; Shortwood Teachers' College; St Joseph's Teachers' College; Mico University College; Sam Sharpe Teachers' College; and The University of the West Indies, Open Campus.

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Open Letter

US\$1,388,000 USAID Project to assist Girls in State Care Launched in Jamaica



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The launch of the Transitional Living Programme for Children in State Care project was held at the Regional Headquarters of The UWI in Kingston, Jamaica on Friday, October 31, 2014. The UWI Open Campus' Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) is implementing the project, which is funded by USAID at a cost of US\$1.3 million. Pictured above, after the official launch (left to right): Ms. Denise Herbol, Mission Director of the USAID; Ms. Rosalee Gage-Grey, Executive Director of the Caribbean Development Agency (CDA); Professor V. Eudine Barribeau, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of the UWI Open Campus; Professor Julie Meeks, Deputy Principal, UWI Open Campus and Principal Investigator of the project; Mr. Charles Young, Chair of the CDA Children Advisory Panel; Ms. Jasmine Barnes, CDA, who sang the song, 'The Greatest Love Of All' at the launch; Hon. Lisa Hanna, Minister of Youth & Culture, Jamaica; and Professor E. Nigel Harris, Vice-Chancellor of The UWI.

A US\$1,388,000 project to improve the lives of approximately 400 children in State care was launched on October 30, 2014 at The University of the West Indies (UWI) Regional Headquarters, Mona, in Kingston, Jamaica. This project, named the Transitional Living Programme for Children in State Care (TLPCSC) is being implemented by The UWI Open Campus' Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) in collaboration with the Child Development Agency (CDA) as part of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Development Grants Programme. Representatives from The UWI Open Campus (UWI OC) and the USAID signed the Grant Agreement on August 27, 2014.

The goal of the TLPCSC project is to provide services to improve preparation for the transition to independent living for children leaving residential care. This outcome will be accomplished through the implementation of an exit-readiness programme teaching life skills, job skills training and mentorship. The project seeks to address issues of

employability, lifestyle choices/health, family and the environment and to secure public-private partnership for employment opportunities. It will also create a safe and appropriate transitional living facility housing 40 girls on leaving State care in Jamaica.

This project represents a milestone toward improving the circumstances of children in State care in Jamaica. Each year some 700 adolescents are discharged from Jamaica's child protection system on reaching the age of 18 years. Many do not experience a successful transition into adulthood and therefore cannot make an optimal contribution to national development.



The UWI Open Campus Guild of Students Induction Ceremony & Retreat 2014

The Open Campus Student Guild recently held its Induction Ceremony and Retreat in Kingston, Jamaica, on November 7 & 8, 2014. Here, Guild Council Members pose at the Induction Ceremony with Assistant Registrar, Student Services, Daniella Hickling. A mix of Student Guild Executive Members and Guild Chapters Members from various UWI Open Campus sites attended the meetings.

In the front row from left to right: Fallan Skinner-Thomas, Guild President & Chapter Chairman of St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago; Howard Brown (Guild), VP Special Projects & Fundraising & Chapter Chairman of Denbigh, Jamaica; Ruthlyn Matthias, Guild Office Manager (centre); Rayon Walters (Guild), Assistant Secretary & Chapter Chairman of Mandeville, Jamaica; Javanna Haughton, Student Representative of Port Antonio, Jamaica; In the back row from left to right: Daniella Hickling, Assistant Registrar, Student Support; Samantha Stewart, Guild Secretary & Student Representative of Vere, Jamaica; Siddena Stephens, Chapter Chairman of Camp Road, Jamaica; Norman Banfield

(Guild), Public Relations Officer & Acting Chapter Chairman of the Cayman Islands; and Kurt McKenzie, Guild Postgraduate Representative of the Cayman Islands.



Republic Bank Assists Grenadian Students with EC\$22,870.00 in Bursaries



Mr. Keith Johnson, General Manager of the Republic Bank Grenada Ltd., presents a cheque to Dr. Nicole Phillip-Dowe, Head of UWI Open Campus Grenada, while awardees' broad smiles express their appreciation.

Republic Bank continues to provide educational support for young people through ongoing partnerships with higher education institutions like The UWI Open Campus and the T.A. Marryshow Community College. Recently 12 students received tuition bursaries from the bank totaling EC\$21,870.00 for the first semester of the 2014/2015 academic year. The top CXC student in Grenada, Sanjali Mahbubani, was also awarded EC\$1,000.00 for her outstanding performance in the 2014 CXC examinations.

This is the seventh consecutive year that Republic Bank has provided Grenadian nationals with opportunities to further their education through its Bursary Programme with The University of the West Indies, Open Campus Grenada.



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Awardees in Grenada access the Open Campus student dashboard

This is the seventh consecutive year that Republic Bank has provided Grenadian nationals with opportunities to further their education through its Bursary Programme with The University of the West Indies, Open Campus Grenada. This programme allows persons to work and study at their own pace in their own countries while pursuing a bachelor's degree through online or face-to-face delivery methods.

On making the presentations to the awardees, Republic Bank Managing Director, Mr. Keith A. Johnson, congratulated all on their academic achievement, and encouraged them to continue with their academic advancement.

The Bursary programme complements the Bank's UWI Scholarship, which is available each year to assist one qualified Grenadian to pursue a full-time bachelor's degree at any of the residential UWI campuses in the region. Eligibility for both the Bank's Scholarship and Bursary Awards is based on academic ability and financial need. Information on applying for these awards may be obtained from The UWI Open Campus' Grenada site at Marryshow House in St. George's, Grenada.

The UWI Open Campus Offers New Masters in Instructional Design and Technology in January 2015



The University of the West Indies (UWI) Open Campus has created a Masters programme in Instructional Design and Technology to align with its current Post Graduate Diploma programme in Instructional Design and Technology. The new programme will begin in January 2015. Interested persons are encouraged to apply online at <http://apply.open.uwi.edu/>

According to the Director of the Campus's Academic Programming and Delivery (APAD) Division, Dr. Joel Warrican, "...this programme was developed on demand from our Caribbean teachers, educators and trainers [because of] the new imperatives within our technology-driven educational landscape. Teachers and trainers in the 21st century need to continuously upgrade their skills and become proficient in the use of technology in the classroom in order to effectively facilitate the teaching/learning process, both online and in face-to-face environments."

According to the Director of the Campus's Academic Programming and Delivery (APAD) Division, Dr. Joel Warrican, "...this programme was developed on demand from our Caribbean teachers, educators and trainers [because of] the new imperatives within our technology-driven educational landscape."



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The Master of Science in Instructional Design and Technology is geared towards preparing educators, trainers, curriculum development professionals, instructional designers, multimedia specialists, and human resource development professionals, among others, to make them more uniquely qualified in their fields. The programme will help them effectively utilise collaborative and interactive learning tools; design, facilitate and manage learning environments; conduct needs assessments; and create appropriate tools/resources that are applicable to specific learning environments, among other abilities.

The 45-credit programme with 11 core courses will be delivered online. It is specifically designed for persons engaged in the design, development, delivery, evaluation and management of educational and instructional programmes delivered or supported by a variety of instructional technologies. Some of these will include Internet-based instructional, video and teleconferencing tools, as well as other emerging technologies that have the potential to support instruction and learning.

The programme will be offered over 30 months. However, students will have the option of exiting upon successful completion of the first six courses, when they will be eligible for the award of the postgraduate Diploma in Instructional Design. An undergraduate degree (at least a Lower Second Class or its equivalent) from an approved tertiary institution is the basic requirement for entry. Holders of the postgraduate Diploma in Instructional Design may transition into the programme as per Board for Graduate Studies and Research Regulations.



New UWI Open Campus Programmes For 2015/2016

The Academic Programming and Delivery (APAD) division of The UWI Open Campus has developed a suite of new programmes to add to the current offerings from the Open Campus. Applications will begin in January 2015.

More information on these degrees will be available at:

<http://www.open.uwi.edu/prospective/welcome>

GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- EdD Educational Leadership in Schools and Educational Systems
- EdD Educational Leadership in Higher Education
- MSc Management & Educational Leadership
- Postgraduate Diploma in Management & Educational Leadership

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- BSc Accounting
- BSc Management Studies (International Management)
- BSc Psychology
- BSc Management Studies (Financial Management)
- BSc Sociology
- BSc Management Studies (Tourism and Hospitality Management)
- BSc Political Science
- BSc Management Studies (Human Resource Management)
- BSc Management Studies
- BSc Management Studies (Marketing)
- BSc Management Studies (Entrepreneurship)



Open Campus Principal Attends International Conference on Distance Education in Bali



Professor V. Eudine Barriteau, Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor, recently attended the International Conference on Distance Education (ICDE) Presidents' Summit on Open Education Models in Bali, Indonesia from November 19 – 21 to network with presidents, CEOs and other high level executives of blended learning and open and distance learning institutions from around the world. The ICDE is the leading global membership organisation for enhancing the quality of open, distance,

flexible and online education, including e-learning. The UWI Open Campus has been a member of that organisation since 2009.

According to Professor Barriteau "This was a very relevant and useful conference and I am very pleased the Open Campus is a member of this network. I established linkages with colleagues at Universities engaged in blended and E-Learning in South Africa, The United Arab Emirates, Canada and the USA. Presentations included, *'The Future of Technology in Higher Education'*, *'Models for Sustainable Blended Learning'* and, *'The Role of Digital Marketing'*. I found the latter most useful in exploring how websites can be very useful in attracting potential students"

Educational leaders from around the world also attended the 2014 Presidents' Summit, which focused on developing sustainable business models and developing strategic pedagogical approaches. Topics discussed included: the opportunities that new technologies bring, strategies for striving for quality, expanding business models, and much more.

The Summit's theme was *"Leadership Challenges: Approaches Towards Successful Open Education Models."*

Findings Presented on Impact Evaluation of Youth Programmes in Jamaica

The findings from impact evaluation studies of two youth programmes in Jamaica, on which The UWI Open Campus collaborated, were presented on November 6, 2014 at The Knutsford Court Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica. The event was hosted by the Youth Development Programme (YDP) of the Ministry of Youth and Culture. The studies were undertaken for the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) to assess the impact of the National Youth Service (NYS) Non-Residential Corps Programme and the Career Advancement Programme (CAP) of the Ministry of Education. The findings, based on a mixed methods study design, are the result of over two years of research collaboration between the Social Welfare Training Centre (SWTC), Open Campus, UWI and the Department of Educational Psychology at the College of Education, University of North Texas.

The quantitative research findings for the Career Advancement Programme (CAP) demonstrate that this relatively young programme, launched in 2010, is well-positioned to serve the needs of a very important segment of youth in Jamaica – those aged 16 to 18 years who finish high school without plans for tertiary level study, training or employment.



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Members of the research team, which conducted an impact evaluation of youth programmes in Jamaica include (left to right): Mr. Lincoln Williams, Head, Social Welfare Training Centre (SWTC); Mrs. Uki Atkinson, Focus Group Facilitator; Dr. Darrell Hull, Associate Professor, Educational Psychology, University of North Texas; Mrs. Carolyn Thomas, Junior Research Fellow, SWTC; and Dr. Jimmy Tindigarukayo, Senior Research Fellow, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), UWI.



Discussing the presentation findings (from left to right): Dr. Darrell Hull, Associate Professor, Educational Psychology, University of North Texas; Mr. Melvin Smith, Executive Director, NYS; Ms. Maureen Webber, Chairman, NYS; and Mr. Lincoln Williams, Head, SWTC.

The quantitative research findings reveal the NYS Corps Programme's success in developing youths' workplace skills, particularly in problem solving and adaptability to change, as well as solid impact on participants' confidence in taking steps toward education and career goals. The programme's support of academic skills, in reading and even more so in mathematics, was also demonstrated as an area of programme strength. Focus groups, incorporated as a qualitative research component of the study, provided youth insights on valuable life skills gained from the NYS. These included communication, teamwork, and technical skills, as well as an understanding of professional conduct in the workplace.

Participants voiced their desire to have their perspectives and ideas heard, and identified a need for broader accessibility of NYS programmes. The findings also revealed the organisation's increasing capacity to serve the youth of Jamaica and support the current shift emphasising programmes that serve a broader spectrum and greater number of youth. The research was well received by NYS representatives in attendance.

The quantitative research findings for the Career Advancement Programme (CAP) demonstrated that this relatively young programme, launched in 2010, is well-positioned to serve the needs of a very important segment of youth in Jamaica. They are youth aged 16 to 18 years who finish high school without plans for tertiary level study,

training or employment. The study results showed gains in youths' workplace skills, particularly in the areas of communication and adaptability to change, as well as strong evidence of impact in the areas of problem solving and technical literacy. The results also show the programme's strength in developing academic skills, including modest gains in reading skills and a robust impact on mathematics abilities.

Focus groups provided insights on the value of the CAP programme from the perspective of both participants and their parents/guardians. The CAP students and parents alike stated the value of the CAP, noting that it provided critical learning opportunities beyond the high school experience and a chance for youth to develop career skills. The study findings were well received by CAP representatives from the Ministry of Education and HEART Trust NTA. Presenters noted the value of the research findings for understanding programme strengths and achievements, and for identifying areas for programme development to ensure the education needs of all youth are met as effectively as possible.

The studies, combined with the SWTC's experience in youth development training, provide a strong foundation for further research and programme development for youth in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean region.



Former UWI Open Campus Leaders Honoured



The Governor General of Saint Lucia, Dame Pearlette Louisy (centre in blue) at the 2014 Principal's Dinner for Honorees hosted by The UWI Open Campus Principal on October 10, 2014. From left to right: Professor E. Nigel Harris, Vice-Chancellor, UWI; Professor Julie Meeks, Deputy Principal UWI Open Campus; Professor V. Eudine Barribeau, PVC and Principal UWI Open Campus; the Governor General; Professor Vivienne Roberts, former Deputy Principal UWI Open Campus; Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald, former PVC and Principal UWI Open Campus; and Sir George Alleyne, Chancellor of The UWI.

Current Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor of The UWI Open Campus, Professor V. Eudine Barribeau, confirmed that at its last meeting on October 20, 2014 The UWI's Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GPC), considered and approved with acclamation the titles of 'Emerita Professor' on Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald and Professor Vivienne Roberts, former first Pro Vice-Chancellor & Principal and Deputy Principal of The UWI Open Campus, respectively. Professor Simmons-McDonald retired with effect from July 31, 2014, followed by Professor Vivienne Roberts on September 20, 2014. The Campus honoured Professors Simmons-McDonald and Roberts at its pre-graduation dinner on October 10, 2014 for their pioneering work in establishing The UWI Open Campus.



Current Principal, Professor V. Eudine Barribeau (centre) is flanked by former Principal Hazel Simmons-McDonald and former Deputy Principal, Professor Vivienne Roberts at the 2014 UWI Campus Graduation in Saint Lucia.



Head of Open Campus Bahamas Appointed to The UWI Senate



*Dr. Barbara Rodgers-Newbold
Head of The UWI Open Campus Bahamas*

The University of The West Indies (UWI) announced the appointment of Dr. Barbara Rodgers-Newbold to the University's Senate. This appointment makes her the first Bahamian at the UWI Open Campus to be appointed to the University's Senate. Dr. Rodgers-Newbold is the Country Head for UWI Open Campus Bahamas and is the first Bahamian to serve in that position. The Senate is headed by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor E. Nigel Harris, and serves as the academic authority for the University. Along with the responsibility to determine the academic policy of the University, the Senate has the powers to regulate the admission of persons to the University, and controls, disallows or gives directions to any act of any Faculty, School, Institute, Department, Division, Centre, or other unit of learning and research.

As a member of the Senate, Dr. Rodgers-Newbold will join other Senators from the various campuses and other management and governing bodies in promoting, developing, and administering continuing studies and external and extension work in the Contributing Countries such as the Bahamas through the Academic Board of the Open Campus. Among other duties, the University's Senators are responsible for the control and general direction of research, instruction

and examinations of the award of Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates, and other distinctions. Senators are also responsible for making regulations for the discipline of students of the University and presiding over matters pertaining to students' complaints and discipline.

In her current capacity as Country Head, Dr. Rodgers-Newbold has responsibilities for the growth and development of the Open Campus in the Bahamas, including student support services, outreach activities, and recruitment and enrolment of students in both the online and face-to-face professional development programmes. Under her direction and leadership, the Open Campus Bahamas has experienced significant growth in student application and enrolment in the Online Degree, Diploma and Certificate Programmes in both Nassau and the Family Islands, and in the professional development courses for the improvement of workplace skills and competencies.

Prior to joining the UWI, as Head of the Open Campus Bahamas, Dr. Rodgers-Newbold was a Corporate Training Consultant and served as a part-time Lecturer and e-Tutor for the UWI Open Campus. In addition to heading the Open Campus Bahamas, Dr. Rodgers-Newbold also serves as a Research Supervisor in UWI's Graduate Programme. Since joining the University, she has served on several UWI Committees such as the Open Campus Marketing Task Force, the Programme Planning and Monitoring Committee, the Open Campus Academic Regulations Sub-Committee, and the CPE-SME Selection Committee. Dr. Rodgers-Newbold has also served on the Bahamas National Advisory Committee on Industrial & Technical Education and Training.

Under her direction and leadership the Open Campus Bahamas has experienced significant growth in student application and enrolment in the Online Degree, Diploma and Certificate Programmes in both Nassau and the Family Islands, and in the professional development courses for the development of workplace skills and competencies.



The UWI Open Campus Belize Country Conference 2014 *Climate Change and You*



Mrs. Jane Bennet, Head Open Campus Belize presenting at the 2014 Country Conference, "Climate Change and You", in Belize in October.

The UWI Open Campus Belize with support from the Government of Belize hosted this year's Country Conference under the theme, "*Climate Change and You*". The vision behind this year's Country Conference was to identify, discuss and take the necessary action on a combination of factors that threaten the stability of the Region's economies and the well-being of its people. An official High School Poster Competition, which was won by Pedro Bernal of Ladyville Technical High School was one of the 2014 conference activities. The conference was held on October 28 – 29, 2014.

Topics presented included areas such as:

- Energy: Moving Towards a Low Carbon Economy in the Face of a Changing Climate
- Addressing Agriculture and Food Security in the Face of a Changing Climate Regime
- Climate Change and Freshwater Supply, Demand and Management
- Health and Impacts of Climate Change Factors
- Tourism and Climate Variability and Change
- Higher Education Adapting and Contributing to Climate Change Policies
- Gender Sensitive Responses to Climate Change

The Belize Country Conference on Climate Change brought together professionals from across the Caribbean, the US and Belize working in the area of climate change or within sectors of their national economies. They addressed the issue of climate change as well as its impact on aspects of economic development.

High schools within the Belize District submitted posters under the theme, "Climate Change and You." The top four submissions were from Belize High School, Gwen Lizarraga High School, St. Catherine Academy and Ladyville Technical High School.

All winners received cash prizes and certificates while all participating schools received trophies.



Pedro Bernal, the first place winner in the Open Campus Belize Climate Change Poster Competition.



The Open Campus Montserrat continues its Support of the Annual Alliouagana Festival of the Word



Ms. Gracelyn Cassell, Head, UWI Open Campus Montserrat

The sixth annual Alliouagana Festival of the Word (AFW) took place from November 13-16, 2014, at the Montserrat Cultural Centre. This event, dubbed "The Alliouagana Festival of the Word" (Alliouagana is the Amerindian name for the island), is organised each year by The University of the West Indies Open Campus, under the leadership of Campus Head, Ms. Gracelyn Cassell. This year's theme was *Let's Talk: Giving Youth a Voice*. This theme facilitated a focus on books for young people, how to write for a younger audience, the cultural importance for Montserrat of the spoken word in storytelling, poetry and drama, and the need to let youth voice their joys and share their concerns and fears about their present and future lives.

As Chair of the Steering Committee, Open Campus Montserrat Head, Ms. Cassell, stated that: "We strive to attract growing numbers of visitors, award winning authors, and publishers to sustain economic and cultural growth in Montserrat through mutually beneficial linkages with local, regional, and global markets. The Steering Committee for the Alliouagana Festival of the Word owes a deep debt of gratitude to the presenters who have generously agreed to participate in the Festival and the numerous volunteers who have given of their time, talent and resources. The assistance of the Montserrat Tourist Board and all sponsors and partners is also deeply appreciated. Together we will build an event that can be enjoyed by all and which will contribute to [the] economic, social and cultural development on the island of Montserrat."



The November Festival started with an interesting Symposium, named after Montserrat's international singing star, the late Alphonsus "Arrow" Cassell. The theme was, *"Arts and Entertainment: Implications for Creative and Cultural Industries in the Caribbean"*. Six guest speakers from the Caribbean and beyond participated. They included feature speaker, Professor Ian Boxill of the UWI Mona Campus; Trinidad-based trade consultant, Aurelia Bruce; librarian, Cherry Ann Smart and historian, James Robertson, both from the UWI Mona Campus. Professor Linda Sturtz from Beloit College and Shawn Daniels, Project Scientist with the locally based Coral Cays Conservation project, were the other presenters.

The event included the opening of an exhibition highlighting the work of artist Dem Pollock and craftswoman Maggie Peters, who made Montserrat their home and contributed much towards the development of young artists locally. Several books were also launched during the Festival, including "All Over again" by Montserratian, A-dZiko Simba Gegele, a gifted storyteller and performer, based in Jamaica. Her brilliant first novel portrays family life and growing up as seen through the eyes of a young boy, and won the inaugural Burt award for Caribbean literature.

The Steering Committee for the Alliouagana Festival of the Word owes a deep debt of gratitude to the presenters who have generously agreed to participate in the Festival and the numerous volunteers who have given of their time, talent and resources. The assistance of the Montserrat Tourist Board and all sponsors and partners is also deeply appreciated.



Another featured book was “Sketcher” by Jamaican-born, award-winning author, Roland Watson Grant, with the story (although quite different) also narrated by a young boy. This book, which grew from a short story of the same name, has been translated into Turkish with other translations pending.

Several other writers and resource persons conducted workshops and interactive sessions, including publisher, Ibrahim Ahmad, of Akashic books, who explained the publishing process for aspiring writers. United States based author, Jason Reynolds, who encouraged young people to use their voices to tell their stories also presented.

Media specialist, Nerissa Golden, gave a comprehensive session on social media, and encouraged writers and others to use these to promote their work. The weekend was incomplete without drama — and Antiguan writer and dramatist, Dorene O’Marde and cast, staged his play, “This World Spin One Way” to an appreciative audience.

During the Festival weekend, the Coral Cay Conservation group, based on the island, involved children with innovative activities. This culminated with the book lovers’ parade and marine environmental puppet show. The audience enjoyed the presentation of the winning skits coming out of the annual Montserrat Volcano Observatory creative writing competition.

The organisers of the Alliouagana Festival of the Word welcomed the support of its new partner, the Canadian Organisation for Development through Education (CODE). Ms. Simba’s participation was sponsored by CODE, the Burt Award winner, and provided books for the children in Montserrat.



A-dZiko reads to children at the Lookout Primary School in Montserrat



A-dZiko presents at workshop



Audience taking in a skit at Alliouagana Festival of the Word



EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS in The UWI Open Campus



At the 2014 Staff Awards in Saint Lucia, the DFATD/SDEC team celebrates with the Open Campus. From left to right: Professor Julie Meeks Gardner, Deputy Principal; Mr. Kirk Humphrey, Senior Development Officer representing the High Commission of Canada; Professor V. Eudine Barriteau, PVC & Principal; Mrs. Mitra Knight, Director of the DFATD/SDEC Project; and Dr. Joel Warrican, Director, APAD

1. The DFATD/SDEC Project

The ultimate goal of the UWI Open Campus' Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development/ Strengthening Distance Education in the Caribbean (DFATD-SDEC) project is to increase employment and income generating opportunities for Caribbean women and men. The project's aim is to improve the capacity of The Open Campus to broaden post-secondary education access for under-served communities through enhanced learning sites and programmes. The specific aims are: developing and delivering new online programmes, building institutional capacity and infrastructure design and planning. Among the project activities are: the DFATD-SDEC funding of the development and delivery of online programmes by the Academic Programming and Planning Division (APAD) and the identification, procurement and installation of a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system and the training of staff in its use. The building of the Banner Test Bed and the assessment of infrastructure needs for the Open Campus Country Sites are other project activities that are being considered.

2. Proposal to Restructure the Open Campus Early Childhood Institutions (ECIs)

Led by Deputy Principal, Professor Julie Meeks and Head of the Caribbean Child Development Centre, Ceceile Minott, the UWI Open Campus proposes to convert the four Early Childhood Centres that it manages into model laboratory preschools. Located in Antigua & Barbuda, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago, these schools are designed to expose pre-service and in-service teachers to the pedagogy and practices of model international early childhood practices. In

addition, they will support research activities across The UWI. The proposal was supported at the UWI Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on October 29, 2014. The conversion will be supported by a bequest to the Sir Luther Williams early childhood centre in Antigua, and grants from the Culture Health Arts Sports and Education (CHASE) Fund to the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) in Jamaica.

3. Institutional Accreditation

Since receiving institutional accreditation from the Barbados Accreditation Council in 2013, the UWI Open Campus has been granted mutual recognition by the following national accrediting bodies.

- Antigua & Barbuda
- Belize
- Dominica
- Montserrat
- Jamaica
- Trinidad and Tobago



4. Online Enrolment at the start of Academic Year 2014/2015

As of October 6, 2014, 4,776 students were enrolled in 35 undergraduate and postgraduate online programmes for Semester I, 2014/2015. Of these, 4,570 were in undergraduate and Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) programmes, 206 were enrolled in postgraduate programmes and 1,355 of these students are new admissions.

5. Enhancing Student Development and Learning

The UWI Open Campus has unanimously approved a suite of proposals to develop a range of Campus-wide scholarships for its students. These proposals are to be refined and circulated to potential funders to increase financial support for deserving students.

6. Facilities Development

Open Campus Chaguanas – The Esmond D. Ramesar Open Campus Centre: The Campus is pleased to report that the work on the development of facilities is progressing satisfactorily on this new site in Chaguanas, which will consolidate operations in Central Trinidad. The Principal and Open Campus Senior Management Team who were in Trinidad for regional meetings, toured the Site on September 30, 2014. The UWI Open Campus thanks the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training for its consistent and considerable support in the provision of resources for the development of this facility.

Open Campus Grenada: The Hope Campus, St. Andrews: The Open Campus Grenada's leadership, working with ACUITAS Caribbean Limited, Project Management & Development, Engineering and Architectural Consultants, is well advanced in developing a Project Implementation Plan for the optimum utilisation of the 88 acres of land gifted by the Government of Grenada to the UWI, Open Campus in 2010. The Plan includes, among other facilities, the construction of IT-equipped, multi-purpose classrooms, administrative offices, videoconferencing facilities, joint usage library enabling the housing of the Grenada National Archives and specialist collections, a performing arts centre and conference facilities. The UWI Open Campus thanks the Government of Grenada for investment in expanding the tertiary educational landscape of the country.

Universal Service Fund Project: The Government of Jamaica has agreed to support the Open Campus in its commitment to upgrade sites in Jamaica. While the Open Campus must source funds for civil works, the Government of Jamaica will provide funds for technological upgrades. The USF Project is currently in the implementation stage of Phase 1 of the Project. This involves work on the following four sites: Camp Road, Kingston; Mandeville, Manchester; May Pen, Clarendon and Savanna-la-Mar, Westmoreland. The UWI Open Campus thanks the Government of Jamaica for enabling it to enhance the information technology needs of its students and by extrapolation the human resource needs of the people of Jamaica.



Accompanying the Principal (front right) on the tour were: Ms. Karen Lequay, Campus Librarian (far right), Dr. Francis Severin, OCCS Director, (second from right), Mr. Tommy Chen, Open Campus CIO (not in picture), and Mr. Eric Baron, HR Director (third from right in back row).

Principal V. Eudine Barribeau (third from right) points out something to the ACUITAS foreman at the development site in Chaguanas, Trinidad & Tobago. ACUITAS is a project and construction management company in Trinidad and Tobago and in the Caribbean. The Principal was on a tour of the construction site of the proposed new buildings to house The UWI Open Campus in central Trinidad. The construction of Phase 1 is off the ground with the focus being on draining and laying down underground infrastructure to support the Campus's buildings.





The UWI Open Campus Staff Awards 2014 Highlights

The Open Campus recognises the importance of rewarding staff for excellence of service and performance. In this regard, from 2011/2012, the Campus introduced the Principal's Award for Excellence to recognise and reward staff in the Academic, Senior administrative and Professional and Administrative, Technical & Service Staff (ATSS) categories who have performed excellently in their jobs. The Award also lauds winners for going beyond the limits of their immediate job descriptions, normal expectations and terms of reference to provide sterling service to the UWI Open Campus. The awards for excellence follow similar guidelines used for these awards at the other UWI campuses. Some variations are made to accommodate the special circumstances under which the Open Campus operates.

This year's recipients for the Principal's Award for Excellence were:

Senior Administrative and Professional (including Directors of Divisions) for outstanding work to improve and enhance efficiency and effectiveness of operations at the Open Campus.

- **Mrs. Gillian Holder, Senior Assistant Registrar,** Registry – Assessment, Awards and Records, Barbados



Mrs. Gillian Holder receives her award from the Principal



Ms. Sandra Evans is happy with her Principal's Award



Mr. Richard Wallen thanks the Principal for his award



Mrs. Deborah Dalrymple gladly accepts her award on behalf of her department in St. Vincent & the Grenadines from the Principal

Administrative, Technical & Service (ATS) Staff – for outstanding work to improve and enhance efficiency and effectiveness of operations at the UWI Open Campus.

- **Mr. Richard Wallen – Clerical Assistant**
Hugh Lawson Shearer Trade Union Education Institute, Jamaica

Special Award – For extraordinary special contributions to the UWI Open Campus and for enhancing the image of the Open Campus and The UWI.

- **Ms. Sandra Evans** – Assistant Site Coordinator,
Savanna-La-Mar, Jamaica

Best Performing Department – For the department with a demonstrated consistent high level of efficiency, effectiveness of operations and excellence of service to all stakeholders over the past three years.

- **Open Campus Country Sites, St. Vincent and the Grenadines**



The UWI Open Campus Staff Awards 2014 Highlights





*Wishing All of Our Loyal Readers
and Supporters a
Very Happy Holiday Season
and All Good Things for 2015!*