



THE UWI QUALITY CIRCLE

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Icons
of Quality
at The UWI

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Stakeholder recognition of the value and excellence of the academic staff of and programmes offered by a higher education institution serves as an unquestionable indicator of its quality. In this issue of *The Quality Circle*, we shine the spotlight on two UWI academic staff members who have received international acclaim for the excellence of their work in the field of literary arts; an area in which The UWI has clearly established its uniqueness. We congratulate them on their stellar performance. We also highlight just a few of The UWI programmes, projects and initiatives that have been recognized regionally or internationally or that address critical regional development issues. We bid farewell to Professor Elsa Leo-Rhynie, former Pro Vice-Chancellor, Undergraduate Studies and Chair of the Board for Undergraduate Studies (BUS), now Principal of the Mona Campus and welcome Professor Marlene Hamilton on her return as Pro Vice-Chancellor, Undergraduate Studies and Chair of BUS.

Dr. Sandra Gift, Senior Programme Officer
Quality Assurance Unit, St Augustine Campus,
Office of The Board for Undergraduate Studies (OBUS)

FAREWELL & WELCOME

The Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies (OBUS) Changes Guard

OBUS extends heartiest congratulations to Prof. Elsa Leo-Rhynie on her appointment as Principal of the Mona Campus effective February 2006. Prior to her appointment as Principal, Prof. Leo Rhynie was Pro Vice-Chancellor and Chair of the Board for Undergraduate Studies at the University of the West Indies having taken up this position in August 2002. She has also served as Deputy Principal of the Mona Campus and as Regional Coordinator of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies at The UWI. Her career has included a Senior Lectureship in Educational Psychology in the Faculty of Education of The UWI, a five-year appointment as Executive Director of the Institute of Management and Production in Jamaica, and thirteen years of high school science teaching at Meadowbrook High School, Jamaica and Haverstock Comprehensive High School, London, England.

Prof. Leo-Rhynie has carried out research and has published extensively in the areas of Education and Training, as well as Gender, and has directed projects for both Government and International Agencies. She has successfully undertaken several consultancy assignments across the Caribbean region, was a member of the Task Force on Crime, chaired by Chief Justice Lensley Wolfe, which produced the Wolfe Report, and in 1993-1994 she co-chaired the National Preparatory Commission which prepared Jamaica's report on the Status of Women for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

Prof. Leo-Rhynie currently serves on a number of Boards and Foundations involved in education, and chairs a Trust which advocates on behalf of early childhood education in Jamaica. She has been a member of the Jamaica Privy Council since 1996, and in 2000, she was awarded the Order of Distinction (Commander Class) for her services to education.

OBUS welcomes back Professor Marlene Hamilton as Chair of the Board for Undergraduate Studies. This is Prof. Hamilton's second stint with OBUS, having been the first Chair upon



Prof. Elsa Leo-Rhynie



Prof. Marlene Hamilton

its establishment in 1996. She served in this capacity until 1998 at which time she was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor for the Office of Administration and Special Initiatives (OASIS). She has also held a number of other portfolios, having also served as Deputy Principal of the Mona Campus between 1991 and 1996, and has the special honour of being the first female to be appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor at The UWI.

Professor Hamilton is a graduate of The UWI whose staff she joined in 1973 as a Lecturer attached to the then Faculty of Education. While there she also served, at various times, as Head of the Department of Educational Studies and Dean of the Faculty. Her own research interests are anchored in Educational and Social Psychology as well as Gender Studies in which areas she has published widely. She has also written on issues concerning Educational Access as well as elements of Social Policy.

Professor Hamilton's administrative responsibilities have, over the years, led to the adoption of several university-wide policies, most noteworthy of which are those addressing Sexual Harassment, HIV/AIDS, and Students with Disabilities. She spearheaded the establishment of a Regional Accreditation Authority for Medical and related Health programmes, which was approved by the CARICOM Heads of Government in 2003/2004. In her capacity as PVC for Administration and Special Initiatives she wrote a proposal for, and secured a UNESCO Chair in Education and HIV/AIDS (the first of its kind). This initiative has attracted significant funding from the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Prof. Hamilton is a member of several professional bodies and has served on a number of public service committees as well as on many ad hoc committees such as the Eisenhower Fellowship and Andres Bello selection boards. She was the Caribbean's representative on the board of the Commonwealth of Learning until the end of 2001.

Professor Hamilton has been the recipient of a number of honours and awards for outstanding achievement, one of the most significant being the award of the Order of Distinction (Commander Class) for service in the field of Tertiary Education by the Jamaican Government in 2002.

ASSURING QUALITY IN THE "UWI 12"

THE GRENADA COUNTRY CONSULTATION



In February 2006, a high-powered delegation from The UWI, led by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris, met with government officials, employers' groups, tertiary institutions and other stakeholders in tertiary education in Grenada for a two-day country consultation. This country consultation was the second in a series planned for all member countries of the "UWI 12", the first being held in St. Lucia in November, 2005. Coming less than two years after the devastation of "Hurricane Ivan" in 2004 and the relatively less destructive "Emily" in 2005, yet another opportunity presented itself for the University to demonstrate its concern for the development of Grenada in general and tertiary education in particular. In the immediate wake of the passage of "Ivan" in 2004, the University, as the region's foremost centre of excellence, publicly committed its resources to play its part in the reconstruction of Grenada after the devastation wrought by this natural disaster.

During the consultation, one of the most important concerns expressed by both the TLIU officials and officials of the Ministry of Education, including the Minister of Education herself, the Honourable Claris Charles, was that of quality assurance. Indeed, the Minister expressed the government's concern for the quality of provision, particularly in the area of teacher education. Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lawrence Carrington, who delivered the University's response to the Grenada agenda as articulated by the Minister of Education, made public the University's decision to expand the scope and quality of the course offerings in teacher education, "as a matter of urgency".

In Grenada and the rest of the "UWI 12", as The UWI presses on with its policy to redefine its role and functions as the Anglophone Caribbean's premier tertiary institution, the matter of quality assurance will be of critical importance. This will be particularly the case as CARICOM countries move closer towards economic integration, a process in which The UWI is committed to being a part. The precise details of the University's role will be worked out in the weeks and months following the country consultation.



PVC of the Board for Non Campus Countries and Distance Education, Professor Lawrence Carrington, addresses participants



Professor Mark McWatt in Sydney, Australia when he went to collect his awards.

Professor McWatt credits his interest in writing to a love of language and an early recognition of the power of words. The physical landscape of Guyana is a continuing source of inspiration to him. This he drew on when he spent a month at a small Benedictine Monastery overlooking the Mazaruni River in Guyana in June 2000 that provided the perfect ambience for completing several of the stories in *Suspended Sentences*.

Professor McWatt has been writing poetry since sixth form. He continued writing all through university submitting manuscripts to publishing houses in Canada that turned them down. However, with experience and hindsight, he recognizes that these poems were not nearly ready for publication at that stage and that rejection then was in fact a blessing in disguise. The rewrites and revisions of some of these earlier works form part of his two collections of poetry published in Europe by Dangaroo Press: *Interiors* (1989) and *The Language of Eldorado* (1994), which won the Guyana Prize for Poetry in 1994. In addition he has had several poems published in literary periodicals and anthologies and is currently completing another collection of poetry, *The Journey to Le Repentir*. This, his third collection, is semi-autobiographical in nature and written in the form of poem sequences, the themes being youth, adolescence, maturity and old age and death. It is interesting to note that *Le Repentir* is the name of a cemetery in Guyana.

A WAY WITH WORDS

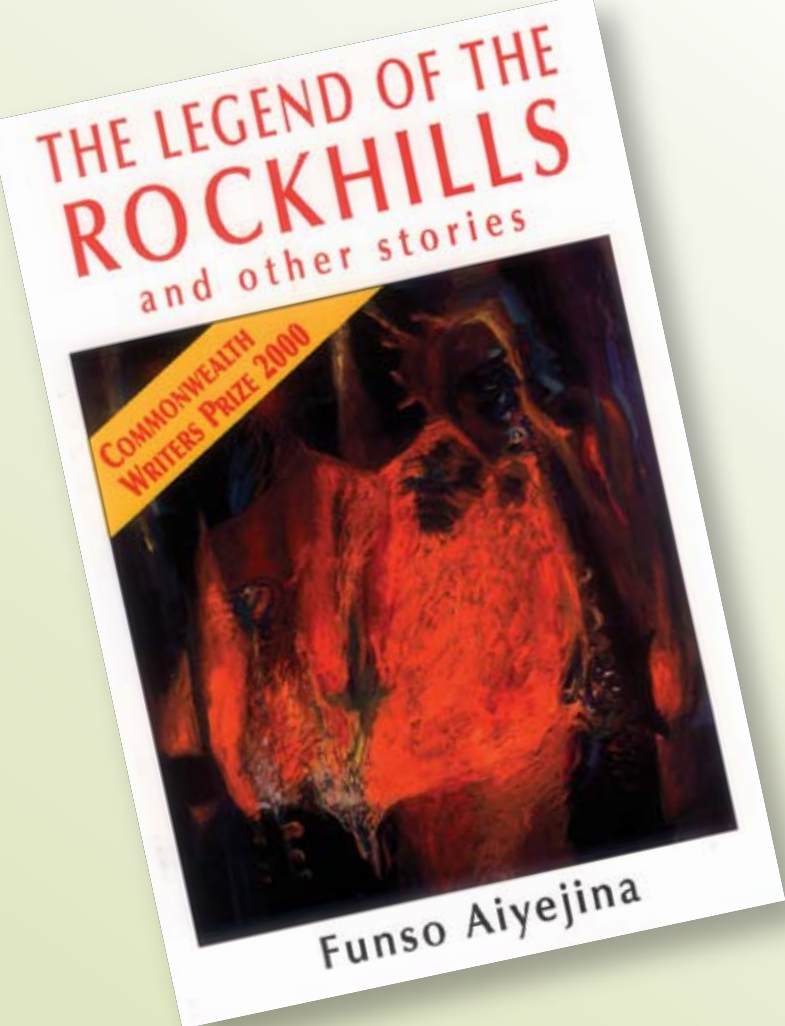
The Cave Hill Campus is particularly proud and pleased at the announcement that Professor Mark McWatt's book, *Suspended Sentences: Fictions of Atonement*, a collection of short stories, published by Peepal Tree Press, 2005, has been awarded the 2006 Commonwealth Writers' prize in two categories, the Overall Best First Book Award and the regional (Canada and the Caribbean) prize for Best First Book of Fiction, as well as the 2006 Casa de las Americas Prize for best Caribbean book in English. The book has been described as "a tour-de-force of invention... a richly dialogic work of fiction". For some of the judges, the collection of stories was seen as "refracting light like a powerful and many-faceted diamond".

Born in Georgetown, Guyana, Professor McWatt lectures in Literatures in English at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies, where he is currently Professor of West Indian Literature. He has published numerous scholarly articles on West Indian Literature, especially Guyanese Literature, and is founding editor and current joint editor of the *Journal of West Indian Literature*. Together with Stewart Brown he co-edited *The Oxford Book of Caribbean Verse* that was published in 2005.

In response to a comment on the success of his first venture into writing short stories, he asserted that he had always wanted to write prose and that a new novel is currently in the works, a brief three-page sketch having already been written. We can therefore look forward with keen anticipation to this author's second foray into the world of novel writing.

Professor McWatt enjoys those aspects of academic life that include teaching and academic writing, scholarly research and attending literary conferences. Though less enthusiastic about the administrative side of the profession, he has served as Dean of the Faculty of Humanities as well as several terms as Head of the Department of Language, Literature and Linguistics at Cave Hill. Not only has he made a sterling contribution to University life but to the wider Caribbean region as well. For many years he was the Chief Examiner for the CXC "English B" syllabus (Literature) and for the CAPE Literatures in English syllabus. He has also been a judge for the Commonwealth Fiction prize, the Guyana Prize for Literature and the Frank Collymore Literary Prize in Barbados. In the past he has judged NIFCA (National Independence Festival of the Creative Arts - Barbados) competitions in Poetry and in Drama and Speech.

When asked what advice he would give to young aspiring writers, he emphasized the necessity for persistence, for not getting discouraged by rejection but continuing to write and revise until success is achieved. He added that reading, and a vivid imagination, played a crucial role in the creative process, as does the ability to think oneself into situations.



Professor Funso Aiyejina

The result is a work in which the English language is constantly transformed and endowed with fresh powers of articulation. Not a single one of these stories seems to have been written in a hurry, merely to 'fill up space.' A coherent collection with a constant integrity of content, style, and artistic poise.

T. Vijay Kumar, reviewing the book in India, affirms:

Ideologically and stylistically, Aiyejina's stories gesture towards Achebe, Soyinka, and interestingly for the Indian reader, to R. K. Narayan. Aiyejina's employment of irony rather than polemics, his even-handed treatment of tradition and modernity, and his use of proverbs as the repositories of communal wisdom, are strongly evocative of Achebe's writing. (*The Book Review*, XXIV. 4, April 2000: 20).

Tanure Ojaide, in *World Literature Today* (74:3), concludes: "*The Legend of the Rockhills* may be Funso Aiyejina's first collection of stories, but it displays maturity of thematic exploration, experienced craftsmanship, and compelling narrative techniques."

In reviewing Aiyejina's second collection of poem, *I, The Supreme and Other Poems*, Jean Antoine-Dunne asserts: "Funso Aiyejina's writings span a life lived in Africa and the New World and celebrate the web of connections he has found therein.... The critical intensity of the opening sequences carry over into the other highly personal sections through the establishment of arcs of remembrance" (*Metro Eireann* July 2005).

Aiyejina's writing career started in his undergraduate days at the University of Ife when he wrote a number of radio plays which were performed on WNBS (Ibadan) and Radio Nigeria (Lagos). His first stage play, *The Character Who Walked Out On His Author* (2004), has been performed in Trinidad, Nigeria, and Jamaica.

Aiyejina's short stories and poems have been published in a wide range of journals, including *Crab Orchard Review*, *From the Horse's Mouth*, *Greenfield Review*, *Okike*, *Toronto Review*, *Trinidad and Tobago Review*, and *West Africa*, and have been included in a number of international anthologies such as *African Radio Narrations and Plays*, *Literature Without Borders*, *The Anchor Book of African Stories* and *The New African Poetry*. He has been described by Gerald Moore and Ulli Beier, editors of *The Penguin Book of Modern African Poetry*, as "one of Nigeria's finest satirists". (p.413) His work has been translated into Russian, German, Urdu, and Hindi.

CRAFTING NARRATIVES

Professor Funso Aiyejina, Deputy Dean, Graduate Studies and Research, Faculty of Humanities and Education, St Augustine Campus is a poet, short story writer, playwright, and literary critic. *A Letter to Lynda and Other Poems* (1988), his first book of poems, won the Association of Nigerian Authors' Poetry Prize in 1989. Since *A Letter to Lynda and Other Poems*, Aiyejina has published *The Legend of the Rockhills and Other Stories* (1999), which won Best First Book (Africa), the Commonwealth Writers Prize, 2000 and attracted reviews from Canada, India, UK, Nigeria, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Kofi Anyidoho, Chairperson, Regional Judging Panel for Africa, in announcing the book as the winning entry for the Commonwealth Prize 2000, had the following to say:

In *The Legend of the Rockhills and Other Stories*, Funso Aiyejina draws as much on his considerable powers as a poet, as on the aesthetics of verbal art of his mother tongue.

The Latin American-Caribbean Centre (LACC)

The Latin American-Caribbean Centre (LACC) is a regional cultural centre, located on the Mona Campus of The University of the West Indies, and serves as a focal point for building bridges of understanding and cooperation between Latin American and Caribbean countries. The Centre is headed by Ms. Annette Insanally.

LACC's establishment was approved by the Rio Group in 1993, in response to the proposal by then Prime Minister P. J. Patterson of Jamaica, as an initiative of The UWI for the creation of a regional cultural centre to serve as a focal point for the integrationist movement involving the Caribbean and Latin America.

The Latin American-Caribbean Centre functions as a clearinghouse, for the English-speaking Caribbean, for information on academic opportunities in Latin America and Spain and has four main operational areas:

1. COLLABORATION WITH CARICOM AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES

- LACC led the process for the formulation of a Philosophical Framework for an Enhanced Primary Spanish Curriculum for CARICOM countries and the design of an Enhanced Primary Curriculum (CARICOM/OAS Project).
- LACC negotiated:
 - Chilean funding for Regional Spanish Methodology Workshops for Secondary School CARICOM teachers for 10 successive years
 - Chilean funding for Regional Primary Spanish Curriculum Developers and Implementers
- LACC coordinated workshops in specialized areas: trade, agricultural and cultural matters in collaboration with international cooperation agencies of regional governments.

2. COLLABORATION WITH HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTES IN THE REGION

- Annual student exchange programmes between the three UWI campuses and Colombian Universities for linguistic and cultural reinforcement of UWI. Spanish majors are organized and managed by LACC. To date, 130 UWI students and 134 Colombian students and academic staff from 15 Universities have participated in summer programmes.
- LACC facilitates annual exchanges of teaching assistants between UWI and Colombian universities. To date, 20 UWI Spanish graduates have had one-year attachments at 12 Colombian universities.
- Migration Studies Seminars examining the socio-economic and cultural impact of intra-regional migration from the Anglophone Caribbean.
- LACC has developed a collaborative Master's Programme in Caribbean Studies to be delivered online.

3. COLLABORATION WITH REGIONAL EMBASSIES IN JAMAICA

- LACC has coordinated:
 - Diverse exhibitions, performances, seminars, and workshops earmarking regional integration in collaboration with regional embassies in Jamaica.

4. LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTRE PROJECTION

- LACC has the potential to be a leading Language Resource Centre for the Anglophone Caribbean in the following areas: language programmes, seminars and workshops for special purposes, e.g. specialized courses in Business Spanish (for professionals, business persons and organizations who are in contact with the Hispanic community); Interpretation and Translation Services (for corporations and international organizations); specialized seminars on conducting business in Latin America; intensive courses in English and Business English for foreigners and professionals living and conducting business in Jamaica and the CARICOM region.



Colombian students on LACC Exchange Programme in Kingston, Jamaica

TMRI

THE TROPICAL MEDICINE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Tropical Medicine Research Institute (TMRI), headed by Professor Terrence Forrester, was established by the University of the West Indies on October 1, 1999. The Institute is committed to improving the health status of Caribbean peoples, through applicable research. Its main aims are to:

- Increase the output of research in major areas affecting the health of regional peoples
- Increase the number of trained research scientists working in health
- Facilitate the uptake of research into policy, programmes and practices, thereby contributing to improvement in the health status of Caribbean peoples.

In order to meet these aims, the Institute operates through three Units on the Mona Campus:

- The Tropical Metabolism Research Unit (TMRU)
- The Epidemiology Research Unit (ERU), and
- The Sickle Cell Unit (SCU)

and through the Chronic Disease Research Centre (CDRC) in Barbados.

The TMRI is also involved in wider CARICOM initiatives. Recently the Institute contributed to the work of the Caribbean Commission on Health and Development, a commission chaired by the Chancellor of The UWI, Sir George Alleyne, to inform decisions by the CARICOM Heads of Governments on the net investments in health, guided by both ethical and development imperatives.

Outreach is an important element of the life of the Institute. In this respect, the TMRI provides in-hospital care for children with severe malnutrition at the TMRU Ward at the University Hospital of the West Indies at Mona. Through its Tropical Metabolism Research Unit, the Institute provides Clinical Nutrition services to the University Hospital, offering nutritional support to the critically ill, and through the Sickle Cell Unit, it provides ambulatory care for approximately 1,200 sickle cell patients per month. In addition to these activities, and the clinical care offered on site, the TMRI also provides an outreach programme for social work and social welfare.

Adapted from the Vice Chancellor's Report to Council, April 2005.

Researcher at work at the TMRI.



A WEALTH OF COCOA RESEARCH

The Cocoa Research Unit (CRU), located on the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI, provides support for the provision of varieties suited to sustainable cocoa production, both locally and globally, by making planting material available with improved traits for high yield potential, disease resistance, high fat content and with good flavour characteristics. It is responsible for the International Cocoa Genebank, located in Trinidad, which is the world's largest and most diverse collection of cocoa germplasm in the public domain. The majority of the research carried out in the Unit is sponsored through international collaboration. Current sponsors for projects in The CRU are:

- Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
- Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Association, UK
- Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement, France
- Common Fund for Commodities, The Netherlands
- World Cocoa Foundation, USA
- United States Department of Agriculture, USA
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft industrieller Forschungsvereinigungen "Otto-von-Guericke" V./Forschungskreis der Ernährungsindustrie e. V., Germany
- Begeleidingscommissie Subsidieregeling Duurzame Ontwikkeling Cacao- en Chocoladesector, The Netherlands
- Cocoa Research Association, UK
- Reading University, UK
- Guittard Chocolate Company, USA
- Lindt and Sprüngli, Switzerland.

The CRU has on-going projects with collaborators in twelve cocoa producing countries as well as France, UK, Germany, USA, and The Netherlands. Through this international effort, the CRU characterises and evaluates cocoa germplasm and makes elite and enhanced genotypes available to cocoa breeders and farmers throughout the world.

NEWS OF REVIEWS, AUDITS AND SURVEYS & FORA

QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEWS 2005 - 2006

CAVE HILL

- Mathematics
- Centre for Gender and Development Studies
- Spanish
- Linguistics
- Government

MONA

- Management Studies
- Linguistics
- Clinical Medicine
- Physics
- Mathematics
- Centre for Gender and Development Studies

ST AUGUSTINE

- Clinical Surgical Sciences
- Physics
- Centre for Language Learning
- Management Studies
- Linguistics
- Spanish

QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEWS 2006 - 2007

CAVE HILL

- Management
- Accounting
- School of Education
- Theology
- Meteorology
- Law
- Computer Science
- Psychology

MONA

- Geography
- Life Sciences
- UWI School of Nursing
- Geology
- Spanish
- CARIMAC

ST AUGUSTINE

- Life Sciences
- Mathematics
- Computer Science
- Civil Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Communication Studies
- Pathology/Microbiology

QUALITY AUDITS 2005 - 2006

CAVE HILL

- Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences
- Faculty of Law
- School of Clinical Medicine and Research
- Theology
- Management

MONA

- Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences
- Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work
- CARIMAC
- UWI School of Nursing

ST AUGUSTINE

- Food Production
- Human Ecology
- Psychology
- Sociology
- French
- Mechanical Engineering

QUALITY AUDITS 2006 - 2007

CAVE HILL

- Department of Languages, Literature and Linguistics
- Centre for Gender and Development Studies
- Department of Government, Sociology and Social Work
- Meteorology

MONA

- Educational Studies
- Library and Information Studies
- Basic Medical Sciences
- UTC

ST AUGUSTINE

- School of Education
- History
- Government
- Economics
- Dental School
- Veterinary School

SURVEYS

- Exit Survey 2006 conducted on all 3 campuses

QUALITY FORA CONDUCTED IN 2005/2006

CAVE HILL

- Assuring Quality in Assessment: November 16, 2005
- Developing Thinking Students: An Imperative for All - May 25, 2006

MONA

- Developing Thinking Students: An Imperative for All. Presented to the Department of Chemistry. November 2005
- Students' Issues Live: Assessment, GPA and more! - March 2006

ST AUGUSTINE

- Assessment - January 19, 2006
- The Quality Assurance Review Process: Opportunities and Challenges - March 09, 2006