



Open Letter

The e-newsletter of the Open Campus, UWI

Open Campus Developments

Open Campus Expanding UWI Alumni Base in Dominica

By Dr. Francis Severin, Head, Open Campus, Dominica



Director of the UWI Open Campus Country Sites (OCCS), Mrs. Luz Longworth, held the attention of the approximately 60 alumni gathered for the AGM of the UWI Alumni Association (UWIAA) Dominica Chapter at the Fort Young Hotel on Thursday, October 2, 2008, eloquently speaking to the theme, **"The UWI Open Campus: A Transformational Agenda."** She underscored the importance of the Chapter in raising the profile of the UWI in Dominica, indicating that it was "a key player in this time of change and transformation in UWI's history."

She noted that, thanks to the transformational thinking of our forebears several decades ago, the region now had a University of over 39,000 on-campus students and approximately 22,000 distance or continuing education students regionally. She added that the UWI could claim credit for having produced several Caribbean leaders, including 14 Prime Ministers, 3 Governors-General, 4 Nobel Prize Winners, numerous leaders in government, industry and all sectors of the economy not just in the Caribbean but around the world.

She maintained that the forefathers of the University defied all odds in establishing this great institution that has served the Caribbean so well. Turning specifically to the Open Campus, she explained that "openness" signified the expansion of access to tertiary education for the peoples of our region. Building upon that argument, Mrs. Longworth indicated that the Open Campus was seeking to create a transformational agenda in three areas: (a) attitudes to development and the socio-economic challenges that confront us; (b) attitudes to education and progress through education; and (c) our attitudes to ourselves. She elaborated on each of the foregoing in turn.

Mrs. Longworth noted that the Open Campus planned to upgrade its sites over the next three years, by increasing its computer stock in the labs, increasing its broadband, and installing videoconferencing and extending wireless access for students. She said that through its commitment to developing appropriate technology and ensuring that knowledge transfer occurred right here in the Caribbean, the UWI Open Campus will play a central leadership role in making sure that our countries moved apace with the 21st Century and that our people were properly equipped to compete.

She concluded her address by appealing to alumni thus: "As alumni you are a key partner in this transformation exercise – you are our eyes and ears, our hands and feet, you are our conscience and we rely on you to keep us honest and hold us to the promises that we are making. But you are also an integral part of this change and so we look forward to your ideas and your input and involvement in many of the things that we want to achieve right here in Dominica."

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Prior to the Director's presentation, alumnus Mr. Daryl Bobb kicked off the evening's proceedings with the National Anthem, followed by the invocation led by Dean of the Roseau Cathedral, Reverend Father Charles Martin (UWI graduate). The Chapter's Vice President Dr. Hazel Shillingford-Ricketts rendered a few welcome remarks and led alumni in proclaiming the UWIAA Pledge.

Ms. Irma Edwards and Mrs. Yvanette Baron-George delivered the President's and Treasurer's Reports respectively. A musical interlude by Mr. Bobb followed. Dr. Francis O. Severin, Head of Centre, Dominica, and Chair of the event, introduced Mrs. Longworth.

Presiding at the election for the Executive Committee was Ms. Merina Williams, Dominica's Chief Election Officer, who is also a UWI graduate. From the floor, an alumnus moved that the entire executive be returned to serve for an additional year since it had done an excellent job. The suggestion was overwhelmingly supported by the general membership.

The returned executive committee comprises the following: Ms. Irma Edwards – President; Dr. Hazel Shillingford-Ricketts - Vice President; Mrs. Yvanette Baron George – Treasurer; Mrs. Marcella LaRocque Menal – Secretary; Ms. Mandra Fagan - Assistant Secretary/Treasurer; and Mr. Edgar Hunter - Public Relations Officer.



President of the Dominica UWIAA, Ms. Irma Edwards, presents her Annual Report.



A section of the UWIAA membership in Dominica repeats the UWIAA Alumni Pledge at the last meeting.



Dominica Alumni. Front row: Mrs. Yvanette Baron-George; Mrs. Hazel Shillingford-Ricketts; Mrs. Marcella LaRocque-Menal; Ms. Mandra Fagan. Standing: Dr. Francis Severin; Ms. Irma Edwards & Mr. Edgar Hunter.

Preparations in Place for the Second Country Conference in Montserrat



Ms. Gracelyn Cassell, Head, Open Campus, Montserrat

Plans are fully underway for the upcoming Country Conference in Montserrat. The conference will be held from November 13 -14, 2008. According to the Head of Open Campus in Montserrat, Miss Gracelyn Cassell, the Conference promises to be very interesting based on the quality of the submissions to date. The central theme of the conference is on the sustainable development of Montserrat, especially in light of its most recent volcanic activities.

For those participants who will be travelling into Montserrat for the event, Miss Cassell states that the Government of Montserrat and WINAIR (www.fly-winair.com) introduced new arrangements on 30th September, to replace CARIB AVIATIONS as the carrier between Montserrat and Antigua.

Conference participants who would like assistance with travel arrangements between Antigua and Montserrat in November are asked to send their travel itinerary to the Open Campus site so that the staff can facilitate these arrangements. Those requiring assistance are asked to contact the office at montserrat@open.uwi.edu.

Open Campus to Welcome New Intake of Students in January 2009



The Open Campus has invited prospective students for January 2009 admission into the BSc programmes in Management, Accounting and Economics. This will be the first official January intake for the new Open Campus at UWI. The deadline for applying online was November 14, 2008. Ms. Simone Augier, the Open Campus Registrar reveals that the intake of new students is part of the Open Campus's thrust to increase UWI's overall student enrolment to bring the University's total student population to well over 40,000.

Admissions for the 2009/2010 academic year will be open in December 2008. Applications for admission for undergraduate programmes can be made online via the website: www.open.uwi.edu/admissions. Confirmation receipts and all relevant accompanying documents must be submitted to the nearest UWI location immediately after submitting online applications. Information on matters related to fees, matriculation requirements, etc. may be obtained from our website or from the UWI country sites. For further information, please contact us at admissions@open.uwi.edu.

All new students will be exposed to the Open Campus experience through special orientation sessions at all sites and online. These have been designed to ensure that all new students make a smooth transition into university life as Open Campus students.

CCDC Report on the Development of the Child Rights Education Course



Ms. Heather Gallimore, CCDC

In January 2008, the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) received support from the then School of Continuing Studies (SCS) Director's Office for the preparation of the proposed course in Child Rights. A sum of JA\$240,000 was requested to spearhead the development activities. Ms. Heather Gallimore, an associate at CCDC, was contracted to provide communication, technical coordination and facilitation services to support this development.

From January to September, 2008, Ms. Gallimore prepared the original proposal to UNICEF, revised the proposal including adding terms of reference for project personnel and drafted the proposed work plan. Ms. Gallimore also developed the course framework, collected and collated resource materials, and prepared the draft extended course outline which was reviewed at stakeholder consultations in October 2008 and finalised for implementation.

She also arranged for two groups of professionals - social workers and child protection officers - to participate in the first offering of the course. As part of her project work, Ms. Gallimore participated in and contributed to stakeholder meetings and discussions, including the Early Childhood Commission GC7 Project, the National Parent Support Commission Working Group, and the OAS Education for Democratic Citizenship in the Caribbean Project Advisory Committee. As CCDC's representative, she liaised with numerous partners, locally and internationally on behalf of CCDC and this project.

In August 2008, the project proposal was approved by UNICEF and signed. The grant will provide J\$1.7M over the next 12 months for the delivery, evaluation and revision of the course to social workers and child protection officers. Course delivery will commence in January 2009 and a revised course delivered in May 2009.

St. Lucia Hosts Regional Lecture Series



Mrs. Veronica Simon, Professor Rhoda Reddock, Ms. Marva A. Phillips and Ms. Brenda Calixte at the head table

The University of The West Indies Open Campus Consortium for Social Development and Research and its subsidiary Hugh Lawson Shearer Trade Union Education Institute have been hosting a regional lecture series under the theme, "**Forever Indebted to Women: Caribbean Women and the Regional Labour Movement**". The lecture series is dedicated to the Caribbean Women who have left an indelible mark on trade union development throughout the region. This particular series complements other symposia that have been held previously in honour of trade union men in the region.

Trade union education plays a critical role in labour studies and is vital to the continuous development of regional workers. With the advent of globalization, events such as this play a crucial role in integrating regional workers in a more dynamic labour economy.

The St. Lucia lecture was delivered on 22nd October, by Professor Rhoda Reddock, the Deputy Campus Principal of The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus and former Head of the Gender and Development Studies at St. Augustine. Her publications include: *Women, Labour and Politics in Trinidad and Tobago: A History*; *Plantation Women: International Experiences*; *Caribbean Sociology: Introductory Readings* and the edited collection, *Interrogating Caribbean Masculinities*.



Audience questions to the panel in St. Lucia.

Open Campus Students Receive Sponsorship for Substance Abuse On-Line Programme

Three Barbadian students from the Open Campus are to benefit from sponsorship of the Substance Abuse Programme from the Peter Moores Barbados Trust. The funding is the result of efforts by the Friends of Addiction Studies Committee. The on-line Certificate in Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment is a regional, UWI-based on-line continuing education program in drug demand reduction, which will upgrade the professional qualifications of individuals engaged in national, regional and international efforts to prevent substance abuse in the Caribbean region and beyond.

The programme seeks to enhance the regional response to the challenges associated with substance abuse through training and the development of a lasting network of professionals in this field, thereby improving the environment and the quality of care and service for their communities.



Students in the online Certificate in Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention programme pose with sponsors from the Peter Moore's Foundation. From left to right: Mr. Antonio Taylor, Programme Assistant, Certificate in Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention; Ms. Karen Ring, Academic Committee Member and Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences, Cave Hill Campus; Ms. Julia Edey, Recipient; Ms. Shamira Shorey, Recipient; Mr. Adrian Gooding, Recipient; Prof. Sean Carrington, Chairman, Peter Moore's Foundation and Dean, Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, Cave Hill Campus; and Ms. Sonia Johnson, Friends of Addiction Studies Committee Member and Business Development Officer, Cave Hill Campus.

Open Campus People

St. Hugh's Honours Dr. Christine Marrett



Photo Courtesy: Lilileth Nelson

Dr. Christine Marrett (centre) at the St. Hugh's Past Students' Association Annual General Meeting with specially-invited guests and distance education colleagues Vilma McClenan and Charmaine McKenzie.

On 27th September at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, the St Hugh's Past Students Association (SHPSA) honoured Dr Christine Marrett by naming her Distinguished Past Student for 2007/2008 for her outstanding achievements in the field of Distance and Open Learning. This award was given in recognition and acknowledgment of her work in distance learning over 25 years, commencing with her first appointment as, and significantly, the first employee of the UWI UWIDITE, one of the "grandparents" of the Open Campus. Dr. Marrett was also co-recipient along with Ms. Vilma McClenan, of the Gleaner's Honour Award for 2007 in the category *Education and Public Service* for "unique contribution to the development and growth of Distance Learning through the University of the West Indies".

Dr. Marrett attended the St. Hugh's High School for Girls in St. Andrew, Jamaica for six years before reading for a first degree in Languages at the University of the West Indies in 1973. In 1978, she completed a Diploma in Mass Communications at CARIMAC. She was invited to join the brand-new UWI Distance Teaching Experiment (UWIDITE) and became its first employee. Under the guidance of the visionary Professor Gerald C. Lalor, Christine found her vocation in the development of distance education. She continued her professional development in the field by pursuing a Diploma in the Practice of Higher Education (University of Surrey, 1994), a Master's in Public Sector Management (UWI, 1995), and most recently a Doctorate in Social Policy (UWI, 2006).

Her most rewarding professional achievement came in 2003 when she was given the responsibility for drafting the proposal and later leading the operational management of CUPIDE, the UWI-UNESCO Caribbean Universities Project for Integrated Distance Education. Funded by the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for Capacity Building through UNESCO, CUPIDE links five Caribbean universities to deliver quality distance education programmes using ICTs; it serves The University of the West Indies, the University of Technology, Jamaica, the University of Guyana, the Anton de Kom University of Suriname, and the University Quisqueya in Haiti.

Dr. Marrett has written and published widely on distance education and has presented papers at conferences across the Caribbean as well as in the USA and Canada. She is a founding member of both the Jamaica Association for Distance and Open Learning (JADOL) and the Caribbean Association for Distance and Open Learning (CARADOL). She has also served on the Executive of the SHPSA for more than a decade, and also serves the Foundation. She has been editor of the *Leinster Links* newsletter and created the official email *messageboard* on *yahogroups*.

As a member of the Jack's Hill community, Dr. Marrett extends her significant organizational talents to the community as Chairman of the Board of the Infant and Primary School. She also volunteers as coordinator of the Jack's Hill Community Council's Youth, Education and Development Committee.

Correction

The Open Letter wishes to make a correction to information carried in the last issue of this newsletter. It was stated that the Social Welfare Training Centre (SWTC), a unit of the Open Campus's Consortium for Social Development and Research (CSDR) is responsible for producing the publication, *Journal of Social Work*. This is not correct; in fact, the Association of Caribbean Social Work Educators (ACSWE), is the proprietor (and main funder) of the journal. The SWTC has housed the administration of the journal and gives in-kind support to the journal as a member of the ACSWE). We apologise for the error.

New Appointments at the Open Campus Academic Programming and Delivery (APAD)



Mrs. Diane Thurab-Nkhosi
Curriculum Development Specialist
Undergraduate Programmes



Dr. Denise Gaspard-Richards
Programme Coordinator
Undergraduate Programmes

Other recent APAD appointments include: Dr. Ngoni Chipere, Programme Coordinator, Undergraduate Programmes (OC, Cave Hill); Dr. Monica Masino Programme Coordinator, Pre-University & Professional Programmes (OC, Cave Hill); Mrs. Sonia Warmington Assistant Programme Coordinator, Pre-University & Professional Programmes, (OC, Mona); Mrs. Paulette Bell-Kerr, Assistant Curriculum Specialist, Pre-University & Professional Programmes (OC, Mona); Mr. Kevin Ramsobhag, Learning Support Supervisor, (OC, St. Augustine); Mrs. Rhonda Small Charles, Course Delivery Assistant, (OC, St. Augustine); and Ms. Asha Stewart Course Delivery Assistant (OC, St. Augustine); Ms. Alecia Walters, Course Delivery Assistant (OC, Mona).

Open Campus Country Sites (OCCS)



Mrs. Cheryl Sloley
Regional Coordinator
Eastern Caribbean



Ms. Anneshia Welsh
Regional Coordinator
Northern & Western Caribbean

Registry



Mrs. Gillian Beckles is the Assistant Registrar (Assessment, Awards & Records) for the Open Campus. Mrs. Beckles was formerly the Assistant Registrar, Examinations, UWIDEC, and is located at the Open Campus, Cave Hill.



Mrs. Marlene Saunders-Sobers has been appointed Assistant Registrar (Admissions & Recruitment) and she is located at the Open Campus, St. Augustine.

Your Feedback is Welcome

We welcome your comments on the Open Campus, UWI, and encourage you to send your comments on the *Open Letter* to us via e-mail @ marketing@open.uwi.edu.