



**THE UNIVERSITY  
OF THE  
WEST INDIES**

# UWI GLOBAL NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 2, May 2022

*Emerging Stronger Together  
from the Pandemic*



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## Our Mission

To lead The UWI's global engagement strategic initiatives, build robust partnerships, foster collaborations and strengthen opportunities for resource mobilization.

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## Message from The Pro Vice-Chancellor for Global Affairs

**Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy**

In October 2020, I had the privilege of convening, on behalf of our regional university, a virtual Development Partner Forum on *“Investing in Higher Education to Build More Diversified and Resilient Post-COVID Economies in the Caribbean”*. The Forum was organized jointly with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) and brought together heads of government from across the region as well as representatives from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the CARICOM Secretariat, Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), EU, USAID and several others.

Mindful of the projections of our UWI COVID-19 Task Force as well as the studies that had been done by The UWI and by regional development agencies, we were deeply concerned about the effect that the multiple exogenous shocks precipitated by the pandemic, could have on eroding the gains that the Caribbean region had made in human capital development in past decades, thus in turn, contributing to exacerbating poverty and increasing inequality across the Caribbean.

By convening our community of development partners, The UWI sought to shine a light on this impending human development crisis and on the need for greater investment in the knowledge economy, if we are to emerge stronger together and build more competitive and diversified economies, more inclusive and resilient societies.

I have often used the platform presented by our engagements with international partners to underscore the fact that education remains at the heart of development. Thus, in order to avert the danger of millions of Caribbean nationals sliding back into poverty, we need to collectively mobilize greater technical and financial support for research, innovation, entrepreneurship and data-driven decision-making; for new technologies, better connectivity and ICT infrastructure to bridge the digital divide and facilitate digital inclusion; for digital transformation initiatives in higher education to help to strengthen institutional resilience and competitiveness; for climate-smart innovative solutions to effectively address the climate crisis faced by the Caribbean; and for increased access to higher education to ensure that students from all communities and all backgrounds can achieve their potential and have opportunities for social mobility.

The contribution of higher education to society transcends the teaching function and awarding of university degrees. It is about shaping mindsets and value systems through knowledge creation and knowledge exchange as well as the harnessing of indigenous knowledge to tackle issues that are relevant to our unique circumstances as vulnerable small island developing states in a region grappling with high debt and low growth. It is equally about promoting regionalism and a collective pride in the achievements of our diverse peoples as well as boosting confidence in the immense potential of our Caribbean civilization.

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***Given our region's history marked by centuries of exploitation and wealth extraction, the development agenda of our post-colonial societies both demands and deserves a robust and well-resourced higher education system that will continue to strengthen our young democracies and to ramp up education and skills-building in its broadest sense, to effectively position our societies for growth and shared prosperity.***

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For The UWI as 'a global university rooted in the Caribbean', the pandemic has no doubt tested our resilience in the face of adversity. Nevertheless, as you will read in this newsletter, we have continued to leverage international partnerships in support of our Triple A strategic priorities: Access, Alignment and Agility; to extend the reach and recognition of UWI research and to provide international exposure as well as opportunities to our students so they by the time they graduate, they are competent and committed global citizens. As an SDG-engaged university, we have continued to make important contributions to advancing the 2030 sustainable development agenda, through our leadership of networks such as the Global University Consortium on SDG-13, our global advocacy at international fora and the establishment of our Global Institute for Climate-Smart and Resilient Development.

This edition of our UWI Global Newsletter features these and other examples of initiatives that highlight The UWI's efforts to advance its mission and strengthen its contribution as a developmental force in the Caribbean. We are thankful to our governments and partner agencies for their unwavering support, particularly during this challenging time. The Office of Global Affairs remains steadfast in its commitment to harness our global partnerships to amplify the reach and impact of The UWI's teaching, research and advocacy, as we continue to join forces to help us emerge stronger together from the COVID-19 pandemic. ■





## One Ocean Expedition

By Mr. Kevin Manning, Cluster Management Consultant, Office of Global Affairs, The UWI

The One Ocean Expedition was an excellent example of UWI global partnerships in action and a major success for the region. This initiative was realized through The UWI's leadership of SDG-13 in the International Association of Universities' Global Cluster on Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development (HESD).

In 2018, the International Association of Universities nominated The University of the West Indies (The UWI) to lead Sustainable Development Goal 13 – Climate Action and the University of Bergen (UiB) to lead SDG 14 – Life Below Water.

Through The UWI's leadership of the Global University Consortium on SDG-13, close collaborations were forged with UiB from the very beginning, with climate researchers from the UiB serving as members and in turn The UWI being a member of the Cluster headed by UiB. The program generated many joint UWI-UiB symposia, webinars, research collaborations and proposals with development partners. One such collaboration was the One Ocean Initiative, a project that was led by the University of Bergen to give prominence to the important role of ocean science and climate research in advancing the SDGs. Because of the partnership between The UWI and UiB, a port stop at one of our UWI campus territories was included in the itinerary for the One Ocean voyage.

In August 2021, the research expedition departed Norway on the Statsraad Lehmkuhl, a 107-year-old ship with state-of-the-art research instrumentation to visit thirty-six (36) ports globally and sail over 55,000 nautical miles conducting scientific research and promoting knowledge exchange on marine science, climate change and sustainable development. The



*The Statsraad Lehmkuhl docked in Port Royal, Jamaica*

One Ocean Expedition is recognized as part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, contributing to advancing SDG-4 (Quality Education), SDG-13 (Climate Action), SDG-14 (Life Below Water), SDG-17 (Partnerships for the Global Goals).

On November 13, 2021 the research vessel docked at Jamaica's Port Royal. During their 4-day stay on the island, the 33 visiting students and faculty carried out on-vessel tours and public education sessions, toured The UWI Port Royal Marine Laboratory, and participated in a Knowledge Exchange Forum hosted by The UWI Mona Campus. Co-ordinator of The UWI Port Royal Marine Lab, Dr. Suzanne Palmer, described the event as, "an inspiring day of knowledge exchange and discussions between international students and lecturers of the One Ocean Field Course and those from the Faculty of Science and Technology here at UWI." The One Ocean visiting faculty and students came from a wide range of institutions including Stanford University, MC Gill University, University of Washington, University of Austin Texas, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of Bergen and many others. Thanks to our UWI-UiB partnership

within our Global University Consortium on SDG-13, the participation of two UWI Mona graduate students was made possible through sponsorship for the One Ocean research and marine data collection during the Caribbean segment between Curacao, Kingston and Havana.



**Photo (center L-R):** Professor Kerim Hestnes Nisancioglu (UiB); Ms. Chauntelle Green, The UWI; Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs, The UWI and Mr. Deron Maitland, The UWI along with Faculty and other students from the One Ocean Expedition as they visited the Regional Headquarters of The UWI (Photo: Mr. Ian Forrest).

Speaking before the crowd gathered for the Knowledge Exchange Forum at The UWI Mona Campus, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Global Affairs, Dr. Stacy Kennedy highlighted that the One Ocean Expedition is a convergence on many important narratives “ it is a story about the resilience of The UWI in the face of adversity and challenges brought on by the pandemic. It is a story of interconnectedness, not only of the SDGs, life on land, land below water, and climate action, but also the interconnectedness of our regions when it comes to ocean science and marine conservation.”



*Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs, The UWI, speaking to attendees at the Knowledge Exchange Forum hosted at The UWI.*

This historic vessel itself played another key role in the One Ocean Expedition, as it was the backdrop to the solidification of the partnership between University of Bergen and The University of the West Indies with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU was signed by UiB’s lead for the One Ocean Expedition, Prof. Kerim Nisancioglu, Professor for Climate Research and Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs, during a reception hosted by the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jamaica and Her Excellency Beate Styrø, Norwegian Ambassador to Jamaica.



**Photo L-R:** Professor Kerim Hestnes Nisancioglu (UiB) and Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs, The UWI as they sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the partnership between UiB and The UWI.

The MOU signing formalized an already robust relationship between The UWI and University of Bergen and will facilitate further research collaborations, knowledge sharing and global advocacy on the importance of marine conservation and the wider Sustainable Development Goals. The UWI and UiB continue to have partnership discussions on a range of other collaboration opportunities, including a climate action symposium with University of Cape Town when the One Ocean Expedition docks there in January 2023. Stay tuned.

For more information: <https://www.mona.uwi.edu/fpas/uwitvthe-uwi-mona-campus-hosts-participants-%E2%80%98one-ocean-expedition%E2%80%99-research-vessel> ■



# Reflections on the One Ocean Field Course

By: Ms. Chauntelle Green, Student, MPhil in Marine Sciences - Department of Life Sciences, The UWI

In May 2021, I was encouraged by my supervisor, Dr. Suzanne Palmer, to apply for the One Ocean Field Course organized by the University of Bergen. I was one of two UWI students selected for the postgraduate course and joined an international cohort of interdisciplinary students from countries including Norway, USA, Canada, Cuba, and Cameroon. Weekly webinars started in September, with lectures delivered by faculty and professionals from partnering institutions including The UWI, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Health of Mother Earth Foundation, covering topics such as hurricanes, sea level rise, marine resources, and historical ocean data. We were also divided into groups, charged with conducting research throughout the semester on one of the above topics and delivering to classmates along the way.

In November, the class of 20 students and 10 faculty met in Curaçao, to start our almost month-long Caribbean voyage aboard the historic sailing vessel, Statsraad Lehmkuhl. With extended periods at sea, we quickly had to get our sea legs (and stomachs) in order, as not only were we there for research, but to also become Blue Watch, conducting sailing shifts around our class time. It certainly was an experience sharing quarters with the class and sleeping in hammocks, swaying with the wave-riding vessel. Sailing shifts included helms watch (my favourite), fire watch, buoy watch and look out

At any point during our watch, we could also be called upon to go aloft, hoist sails, brace the yards and what felt like pulling miles of rope. I will never forget the 'Man Overboard Drill', where we had to slow and turn the boat around by bracing the yards (horizontal spars that hold the sails) which weighed tonnes, all with our bare hands.

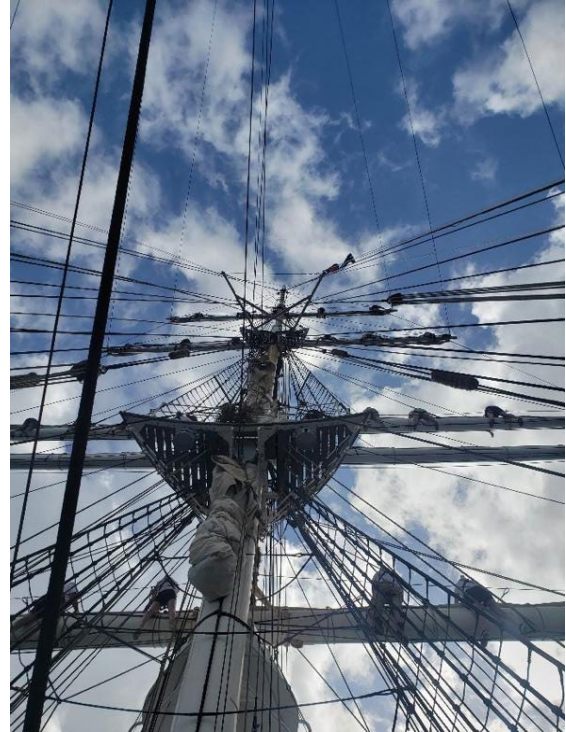
Between our sailing shifts, we had on-deck lectures and worked on our group projects. In my group's case, deploying instruments to collect information on depth and temperature via the traditional methods of hemp rope at several points between Curacao and Cuba. This allowed us to study a data scarce region and develop a protocol for traditional sampling. We also had the opportunity to interact with other sailors on board who were keen to help us in our studies and exchange stories on culture and their Journey to Statsraad. Downtime allowed for shanties, learning Scandinavian phrases, teaching Jamaica phrases and a personal highlight, watching Pirates of the Caribbean on the hoisted sails while sailing the tall ship.

During the field course, we made two ports of call in Jamaica and Cuba. At each port, we were involved in outreach activities, preparing lesson plans for high



Ms. Chauntelle Green getting ready to board Statsraad Lehmkuhl in Curaçao





*Shanty lessons on deck (left) and singing the ship into Havana (right)*

schools to incorporate into their curricula and hosting students on the vessel for workshops. We were also required to disseminate our findings at two seminars held at The UWI and Hotel Nacional de Cuba, our last

official activity. Seven COVID tests later, I returned home from an unforgettable and otherworldly experience and the biggest extension of gratitude to the coordinators for facilitating my participation. ■



*One Ocean Field Course Cohort and Blue Watch Leaders (Photo: Jesper Rosenmai)*



# One Ocean Expedition Experience

By: Mr. Deron Maitland, Student, MPhil in Applied Physics (Climate Science) -  
Department of Physics, The UWI

A quick look at the aims of the Climate Change Causes, Consequences, and Solutions/ One Ocean Field Course (SDG313) taken from its curriculum shows a course in which “field-based teaching will take place on board the sailing vessel Statsraad Lehmkuhl from Curacao to Havana as part of the One Ocean Expedition and the UN Ocean Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development”. The course which was hosted and facilitated by the University of Bergen, Norway (UiB), represented a “unique opportunity for students to engage in hands-on field work in a truly interdisciplinary and international learning environment... be introduced to the political and societal impacts of climate change and, gain hands-on experience with oceanographic field work (historic and contemporary)... the course was designed to foster a strong international network of PhDs and lecturers.”

The 23 students on board were placed into four groups to work on different projects namely, reproduction of historical sea level measurements (Challenger Expedition), sea level change & extremes, hurricanes and fisheries (Lobster migration across Caribbean). The groups, guided by mentors, were tasked with researching these areas and preparing materials to communicate their findings to local students and other lay people. My project sought to investigate and quantify sea level rise on the south coast of Jamaica, specifically along the coast of Kingston and Portmore. For that reason, I was placed in the sea level change group where I was able to leverage my knowledge to provide insight on sea level rise in the Caribbean.



Mr. Deron Maitland getting ready to board Statsraad Lehmkuhl



Mr. Deron Maitland (left) along with other students, setting up CTD (specialized equipment to measure ocean temperature, depth and

During our time in port in Kingston, Jamaica and Havana, Cuba the materials produced were used during the outreach activities, a 4–6-hour open day, where local schools and the general public were invited to visit the ship and learn about the science of climate change, and in particular the field measurements done aboard.



**Sea level Group Members R-L:** Aurora Baardsen (UiB, Norway), Deron Maitland (UWI, Jamaica), Leilane Passos (UiB, Brazil), Kristine Steinsland (UiB, Norway) and Patty Standing (University of Texas, USA), sitting with one map produced for outreach activity in Jamaica and Cuba

It was on one of these open days in Kingston where I was also given the opportunity to meet the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica, who came to visit the sailing vessel. The stop in Kingston also included a knowledge sharing forum between The UWI and UiB where all One Ocean groups presented their projects and graduate students from The UWI also presented some of the ocean related science which Caribbean scientists are currently doing.



**L-R:** The Hon. Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica meeting Professor Kerim Hestnes Nisancioglu (UiB), Ms. Chauntelle Green and Mr. Deron Maitland, The UWI

### **Sailing on the Caribbean Sea**

One Ocean was my first time on a boat for an extended period. I believed I would be that man who boarded a ship for the first time and never fell victim to seasickness. That strength and confidence didn't last longer than the first few hours at sea. During my time onboard the Statsraad Lehmkuhl, besides being a passenger, I was also a member of the boat's crew. For 8 hours daily, the SDG313 group were responsible for sailing the ship including: steering the ship; setting sails and pulling in sails; being look-out for obstacles in the ship's path and storms and cleaning deck etc.



SDG313 group pulling ropes to set sails (Inset: pulling sails up in the masts)



As an avid cook I volunteered in the kitchen because I wanted to learn more about Norwegian food and cooking techniques.

### **Overall Takeaways**

My major reason for applying for SDG313 was to get hands-on experience and to see how the data I use daily is collected and calibrated. What I got from the One Ocean Field course was a once in a lifetime experience and opportunity. While gaining the hands-on experience and skills I hoped to learn during the course, I was surrounded by some of the very best, current, and future scholars of climate change and its impact on the ocean. The opportunity to learn from them and contribute my own Caribbean perspective was invaluable. The interdisciplinary structure of the course greatly benefitted my understanding of the overall ocean system and its interconnectedness. I not only benefited from their vast knowledge in the present, but the network built during the course along with the historic MOU between The UWI and UiB also opened doors for future opportunities to study and collaborate. This was only possible through the support of the Office of Global Affairs and the Office of Graduate Studies at The UWI and I will be forever grateful. ■



# Climate Justice in the Caribbean

By Mr. Kevin Manning, Cluster Management Consultant, Office of Global Affairs, The UWI

**CLIMATE JUSTICE IN THE CARIBBEAN**

*A conversation on the key issues facing the Caribbean and the need for Climate Justice.*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022**  
9:00 a.m. Jamaica | 10:00 a.m. Eastern Caribbean/AST

**SOLVE CLIMATE BY 2030**  
Event

LIVE BROADCAST  
**UWI tv**  
GLOBAL

LIVE ON [www.uwitv.org](http://www.uwitv.org) [www.facebook.com/uwitv](https://www.facebook.com/uwitv)

In February 2022, the Open Society University Network (OSUN), through one of its founding members Bard College, continued its Global Teach-In initiative. This unique project is aimed at having a global series of webinars and campus dialogues that are concentrated on engaging staff and students around the aim of bringing awareness to the issues of climate change.

On March 30, 2022, The University of the West Indies (The UWI) participated in this global event by organizing a webinar discussion on Climate Justice in the Caribbean. Through an MOU signed in September 2020, The UWI has developed a strong partnership with the Open Society Foundations (OSF) and has in the past, executed several OSF-funded projects in a range of areas related to human rights, gender justice, education, community empowerment and climate change.

An OSF-supported stocktaking of all UWI climate-related teaching, research, projects and initiatives as



well as the development of an institutional strategy on climate justice, have enabled The UWI to further highlight the historical underpinnings of why the Caribbean is a highly vulnerable region. The strategy aims to support new research, teaching, and learning; as well as ensure knowledge transfer on issues which are unique to small island states by focusing on issues such as just transitions to low carbon economies and climate justice, more broadly.





*Ms. Yamide Dagnet,  
Global Director, Climate Justice,  
Open Society Foundations*

The Global Teach-In webinar provided a forum for The UWI to shine a light on climate justice in the Caribbean. The newly appointed Director for Climate Justice at the Open Society Foundation, Ms. Yamide Dagnet delivered remarks on behalf of the foundation. Ms. Dagnet spoke on the importance of climate justice and the need for this discussion to focus on the work that both The UWI and Open Society Foundations, through this partnership, will be advocating in the Caribbean region.



*Dr. James Fletcher, Managing Director, SOLORICON Ltd*

This webinar also hosted Dr. James Fletcher, Former Energy Minister of Saint Lucia and Founder and Managing Director, SOLORICON Ltd. Dr. Fletcher emphasized the need to shift the conversation from ‘climate change’ to ‘climate crisis,’ noting that climate change suggests a slow-moving transition but he warned that “we do not have time, so really what we are faced with is a crisis; a catastrophe that is unfolding

at a very rapid rate...we now must adjust our response to suit the urgency.” He encouraged the Caribbean to make its own efforts, to end the self-inflicted damage and build resilience in areas such as water systems, public health, and public infrastructure.



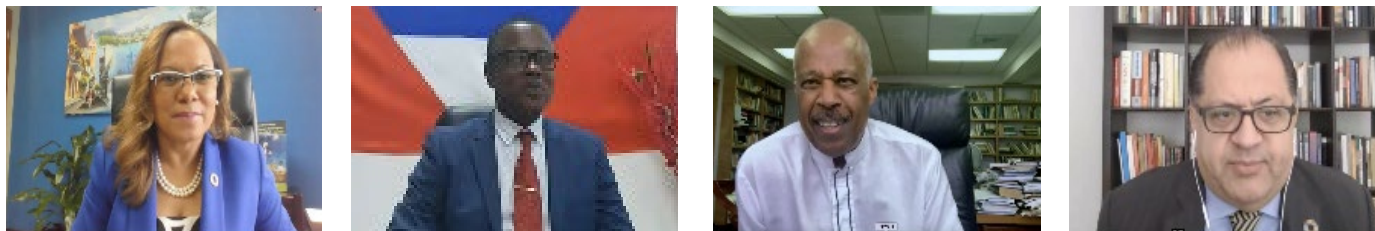
*Dr. Emily Dick-Forde,  
Deputy Principal (Ag.),  
Open Campus and Management Committee Member,  
Global Institute for Climate-Smart Resilient Development,  
The UWI.*

Dr. Emily Dick-Forde, Acting Deputy Principal, The UWI Open Campus, and Management Committee Member of the UWI Global Institute for Climate-Smart and Resilient Development emphasized the need to shift the focus away from national borders and examine what is good and necessary for the world. She further emphasized a critical need to ensure that climate justice is at the forefront of the region’s focus given its history and the systems inherited.

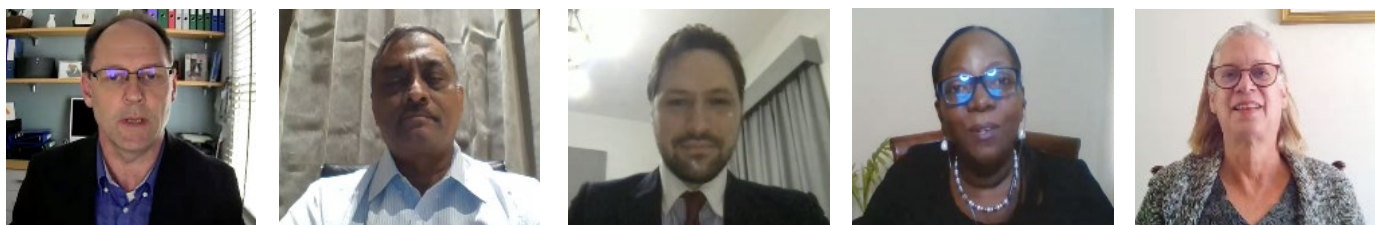
This webinar demonstrated the importance of partnerships at the regional and international levels to share new knowledge on the unique challenges faced by small island developing states in the Caribbean. The Global Teach-In is a platform to highlight the significance of climate justice in the Caribbean and the important role of The UWI as a leading activist university, leveraging international partnerships to amplify the voice of the Caribbean on matters like the climate crisis, which presents an existential threat to the region. ■

# The UWI and UNDP Strengthen Research-Policy Linkages for a Thriving Blue Economy

By Mr. Kevin Manning, Cluster Management Consultant, Office of Global Affairs, The UWI



*Top L-R: Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs, The UWI; The Hon. Dean Jonas, Minister of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy, Antigua and Barbuda; Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor, The UWI; Dr. Luis Felipe López-Calva, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean;*



*L-R: Dr. Julian Roberts, Managing Director, Blue Resources Ltd.; Dr. Akshai Mansingh, Dean, Faculty of Sport, The UWI; Matthew Goldie-Scot, Managing Director, Thuso Group; Dr. Emily Dick-Forde, Deputy Principal (Ag.), Open Campus and Management Committee Member, Global Institute for Climate-Smart Resilient Development, The UWI; Ms. Valerie Cliff, Resident Representative UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.*

The Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados, Ms. Mia Amor Mottley once described her country as being a large marine economy as opposed to a small island developing state. This shift in mindset speaks volumes as to where we should focus our efforts when considering the vast economic opportunities presented by our marine environment.

What lies beneath - The Blue Economy has become a vital and key focal point for the Caribbean in recent years. This unique sector retains significant potential to support economic diversification, and particularly, to build more inclusive and sustainable post-COVID economies. The focus on the Blue Economy has become an essential topic in recent years, as the region continues to grapple with the challenges

of an uncertain global economy and high external vulnerabilities. The Blue Economy has the potential to be a game changer for this region. Current estimates of the potential economic value is approximately 24 trillion USD<sup>[1]</sup> of potential earnings from services and direct outputs that could be derived from the sector.

Recognizing this potential, in 2019 the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The UWI signed a joint agreement with the intention of supporting regional governments in the area of public policy on the Blue Economy. This strategic partnership has been instrumental to supporting the development of two key areas of the blue economy - restoration and protection as well as sustainable economic activity<sup>[2]</sup>.

On April 4, 2022, The UWI and UNDP held a joint virtual webinar to a global audience entitled “**Strengthening Research Policy Linkages for a Thriving Blue Economy in the Caribbean**”. The two-fold aim of the webinar was to celebrate the longstanding partnership between UNDP and The UWI and to highlight key research products funded by the UNDP within the framework of our joint public policy think tank for a blue economy.

The high-level webinar saw opening remarks being delivered by the Honourable Dean Jonas, Minister of Social Transformation & Blue Economy, Antigua & Barbuda. In his address, the Minister thanked the UNDP for ensuring that the voice of Caribbean Small Island Developing states is heard (SIDS). He went on to say that SIDS are among the states worst affected by climate change but noted however, that “as large ocean states, they also stand to benefit from emerging industries worth approximately US\$2.5 trillion, this includes agriculture, marine renewable energy through the sustainable diversification of our economies.”

Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor, The UWI also delivered remarks and stressed that “MOUs are not always MODos. We know that by tradition, but this is an instance within which The UWI and UNDP have gone off to establish a legacy of action.” He further explained that while the term “existential threat” may be seen as over used, within the context of the Caribbean, it is “a matter of survival of our economy, the survival of our society, the very survival of our civilization. We take the matter very seriously indeed.”

Dr. Luis Felipe López-Calva, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, reaffirmed the UNDP’s commitment to the region and to ensuring that the benefits of the Blue Economy are realized. Speaking of the extreme vulnerability facing SIDS, Dr. López-Calva lauded SIDS for “their ownership and leadership in overcoming those vulnerabilities and enhancing a holistic resilience and sustainable development approach,” as well as “their

**The Blue Economy has the potential to be a game changer for this region. Current estimates of the potential economic value is approximately 24 trillion USD<sup>[1]</sup> of potential earnings from services and direct outputs that could be derived from the sector.**

immense contribution in positioning climate action as a global priority.” He also shared that in their Report on Human Development in the Anthropocene, the UNDP argued for more “nature-based solutions and the idea of making the stock of natural capital as an engine for prosperity, inclusion and resilience,” and noted that in the Caribbean this is a thing of great value.

The webinar also featured key presentations from Dr. Julian Roberts who discussed the Challenges and Opportunities for the Blue Economy in the Caribbean; Dr. Akshai Mansingh and Mr. Matthew Goldie-Scot who spoke about Climate Change and Sport as well as Dr. Emily Dick-Forde who presented on the Global Institute for Climate-Smart and Resilient Development (GISCRD) and the role it is playing as a virtual hub bringing together climate, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction expertise from across all our UWI campuses to provide knowledge-driven solutions to projects with regional governments and multilateral development partners.

This UWI-UNDP Public Policy Think Tank for a Blue Economy will support the Caribbean’s commitment to sustainable economic diversification and will help to strengthen the region’s economic resilience in times of global shocks. ■

<sup>[1]</sup> Caribbean Development Bank, 2018. Financing the Blue Economy: A Caribbean Development Opportunity;

<sup>[2]</sup> Andrew Hudson – [Blue Economy: A sustainable ocean economic paradigm](#)





## A Tribute to our colleague and friend *Dr. Hugh Sealy*

The Office of Global Affairs had the privilege and pleasure of working closely with Dr. Hugh Sealy for our numerous research collaborations and global advocacy opportunities linked to our university's work to tackle climate change. Commenting on Dr. Sealy's invaluable contributions, Pro Vice-Chancellor Global Affairs, Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy said, "We are all deeply saddened and will miss our dear colleague. Dr. Sealy was committed to the vision of a one-UWI approach to advancing climate action and was steadfast in his dedicated contributions to the success of our Global Climate-Smart Institute. He was always very willing to share his knowledge and experience leading climate negotiations at the international level and to build awareness of the multiple vulnerabilities of Caribbean SIDS as well as the need for urgent action by global players."

Dr. Hugh Sealy was a Lecturer on climate change and water resources management at The UWI's Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), Cave Hill Campus, and passed away on

March 18, 2022. Dr. Sealy put his mind and heart into tackling the climate crisis facing the Caribbean. His teaching, research, scholarly publications, and expert contributions to technical advisory boards reflected his passion and commitment to advancing the science on climate change issues faced by small states of the Caribbean.

We miss his gentle but forthright style, his thoughtful and thought-provoking contributions and his dedication to climate action. We are committed to continuing to honour his memory as we advance the various collaborations with our international and regional partners.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

"When a flame is extinguished, it is the radiance of our past words and actions that will continue to inspire, uplift and provide a guiding light to future generations." – Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs

## Exploring new funding opportunities

By Mr. Dale James, Programme Manager, Office of Global Affairs, The UWI

The concept of 'servant leadership' is often applied to SCRUM Masters as they are asked to lead with no recognition other than being the facilitator who assisted a team with developing the final product. The Office of Global Affairs (OGA) has taken on the servant leadership role as the team mobilizes new opportunities for The UWI to achieve its strategic goals. One of these is a series of one-UWI information and capacity-building sessions executed in collaboration with key partner agencies.

As The UWI proactively moves to scale up its resource mobilisation efforts as part of the second phase of its Triple 'A' Strategic Plan, the Office of Global Affairs has embraced this opportunity. In February 2022, the Office strategically engaged one of its key partners, OBREAL, to share its experience and knowledge on accessing the new European Union funding opportunities under the European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students (ERASMUS) plus programme.



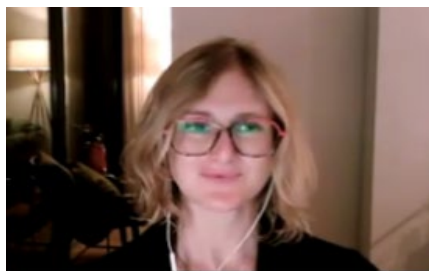
*Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy,  
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs,  
The UWI*



*Mr. Ian Forrest,  
former Programme Officer,  
Office of Global Affairs, The UWI*



*Mr. Dale James,  
Programme Manager, Office of Global  
Partnerships and Sustainable Futures,  
The UWI*



*Ms. Elizabeth Colucci,  
Global Projects Director for the  
OBREAL Global Observatory*



*Angel Manuel Rafael,  
Project Manager at OBREAL Global*

OBREAL's team worked alongside the OGA to host the second of many information and capacity-building sessions on resource mobilization. This webinar was attended by a wide cross section of UWI faculty and staff and provided an opportunity for hands-on

learning together with colleagues from OBREAL who shared insightful and useful tips on a host of funding opportunities available to The UWI under the new EU funding instruments.

The UWI's membership in OBREAL has proven to be extremely important and timely given its commitment to assisting member institutions with developing new project proposals. The key to any new partnership is understanding how best we can support each other's institutional priorities and capitalize on our shared skills and experiences, which could then be translated into meaningful opportunities for collaboration, whether funding opportunities, technical support, knowledge exchange or research projects.

Resource mobilisation is central to the business of The UWI since our traditional sources of funding have become more limited owing to the fact that our regional governments continue to operate in a low growth, high debt environment, with the region's social and economic conditions further affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we continue to promote global integration to advance development across the SDGs for this region, what better way to illustrate advocacy in action than by embracing joint collaborations with institutions such as OBREAL. Our main goal in the revenue revolution is to proactively generate and secure new funding opportunities and have a distributed approach to winning grants, whereby all Departments can raise the funding 'bar' and expand the revenue streams for The UWI.

The UWI remains committed to advancing this region and the OGA will continue to be the servant leader who leverages regional and international partnerships to advance The UWI's strategic priorities. ■

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## An Exercise in Agility:

### *Partnering with the Canadian High Commission to promote the 2022-2023 Short Term Exchange Programmes to Canada*

**By Mr. Ian Forrest, former Programme Officer, Office of Global Affairs, The UWI**

**W**hile travel for many is a desirable goal, the inability to afford it, is in too many instances the reality.

In 2007, the Canadian Government created opportunities for faculty and staff at tertiary institutions across the Americas to travel to Canada to spend time alongside their peers at Canadian Universities and Colleges. The initiative was designed to foster scholarly activities, greater multicultural understanding as well as different approaches to teaching, learning and problem solving. In 2009, the opportunity was extended to include students. Easily, this was a game changer. As the programmes covered the conceivable range of expenses to be incurred, it immediately removed from the conversation, the question of affordability.

For as long as it existed however, there were many across The UWI network who had no knowledge of the mobility schemes. [Short-Term Exchange Programs](#) scholarship (SEP) were created by Global Affairs Canada to provide Caribbean citizens with the opportunity to study, conduct research or professional development in Canada. The programme, which makes more than 700 scholarships available to learners globally, comprises short-term scholarships at both the college, undergraduate and graduate levels. The programmes include:

- [Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program](#)
- [Canada-CARICOM Faculty Leadership Program](#)
- [Canada-CARICOM Skills Training for the Green Economy Scholarships](#)





*Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy,  
Pro Vice-Chancellor,  
Global Affairs,  
The UWI*



*Ms. Yasmin M. Chong,  
Trade Commissioner & Senior Business  
Development Officer High Commission  
of Canada in Jamaica*



*Mr. Ian Forrest,  
former Programme Officer,  
Office of Global Affairs,  
The UWI.*

Applications are submitted by the Canadian post-secondary institution to which the visit is intended on behalf of the individual applying. To facilitate student exchange, it is required that there be a partnership agreement in place between the two institutions. For exchange involving faculty and staff however, an existing partnership agreement is not required.

On February 24, 2022, with the support of the Canadian High Commission in Jamaica, the Office of Global Affairs, conducted two university-wide information sessions on the short term mobilities. The first of the two sessions targeted students and included Ms. Yasmin Chong, Trade Commissioner & Senior Business Development Officer from the High Commission who briefed students on the opportunity and fielded their many questions. That was immediately followed by another session focused on faculty and staff.

The sessions attracted much interest from The UWI community and more than 500 students as well as over 300 faculty and staff registered to attend the sessions. Colleagues from the International Offices across The UWI campuses not only participated but served as focal points by working with partner institutions to ensure the submission of all the necessary documentation. Despite the small window of time before the close of applications following the sessions, The OGA worked with our partners at Norquest College in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada to ensure submission of applications from faculty members from within the Faculty of Humanities and Education.

The OGA will continue to work with our internal and external partners to seize opportunities for all within our university community and we look forward to the opportunity being made available again in 2023-2024. ■



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**700+ short-term exchange scholarships in Canada for international students and faculty**

January 24, 2022 – Global Affairs Canada launches the 2022-2023 Short-Term Exchange Programs scholarship competitions. Over 700 scholarships are available for learners from around the world wishing to study, conduct research or undertake professional development in Canada.

The Short-Term Exchange Programs continue to have the shared goal of promoting partnerships, student mobility and research collaborations between Canadian and international post-secondary institutions.

Interested candidates should contact their home institution’s international office to learn about institutional partnerships and collaborations with Canadian institutions. Home institutions will then provide the eligible candidates’ documentation to their partner post-secondary institution in Canada.



## The OGA negotiates fully funded scholarship opportunities for UWI Students

By: Mrs. Lisa Hamilton-Braithwaite, Programme Officer, Office of Global Affairs, The UWI

Since its inception in 2016, the Office of Global Affairs (OGA) has been leading the university's efforts to create opportunities to allow for the global exposure of UWI students and staff. Those efforts are, in part, tied to the idea that internationalisation is a critical element in the global engagement strategies of excellent universities, creating opportunities for international teaching and research collaborations and helping to nurture university graduates who are internationally competitive global citizens. The Office's recent engagement with the McCall MacBain Foundation is another step in that direction. Initiated in honour of McGill University's bicentennial, the McCall MacBain scholarships are Canada's first comprehensive, leadership-driven scholarships for Master's and professional degree studies.

The programme, which started in September 2021 is preparing to welcome the first cohort of ten (10) Global Scholars to pursue studies at McGill University in September 2023. Through discussions with the McCall MacBain Foundation, the OGA negotiated a target number of five (5) nominations from eligible applicants selected from across the five UWI campuses who would then compete for the total 10 international scholarships available in this first year of global admissions.

Additionally, the OGA together with the Foundation, conducted an information Session on April 20, 2022, to apprise students of the opportunity. The session was attended by students from various fields of study including Law, Engineering, and Medicine Public Policy, among others from across the entire UWI network. The McCall MacBain scholarship covers all tuition and fees, in addition to \$2,000 CAD per month for living expenses, and a relocation grant.

Successful candidates would be selected based on their character, community engagement, leadership potential, entrepreneurial spirit, academic strength, and intellectual curiosity. Successful scholars would benefit from mentorship, a leadership development program and coaching. There is also the opportunity for outstanding candidates who distinguished themselves during the interview process but did not receive any of the full scholarship awards, to be eligible for a one-time CAN\$20,000 International Finalist Award for full-time enrolment in an eligible Master's or professional programme at McGill University.

The Campuses will accept applications from April 25<sup>th</sup> to May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Interested students were urged to contact their respective campus focal points. Focal Points are as follows:

### At the Mona Campus:

Contact: Mrs. Shana Hastings-Edwards  
Designation/Department: Manager, Office of Student Financing  
Email: [shana.hastings@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:shana.hastings@uwimona.edu.jm)

### At the St. Augustine Campus:

Contact - Dr. Deirdre Charles  
Designation: Director of the Division of Student Services  
Email: [deirdre.charles@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:deirdre.charles@sta.uwi.edu)

### At the Cave Hill Campus:

Contact - Office of the Deputy Principal  
Email: [deputyprincipal@cavehill.uwi.edu](mailto:deputyprincipal@cavehill.uwi.edu)

### At the Open Campus

Contact: Mrs. Alecia Walters-Archie  
Designation: Assistant Registrar, Student Support and Services  
Email: [alecia.walters-archie@open.uwi.edu](mailto:alecia.walters-archie@open.uwi.edu)

### At the Five Islands Campus

Contact: Ms. Akelia Brown  
Designation: Assistant Registrar  
Email: [akelia.browne@uwi.edu](mailto:akelia.browne@uwi.edu)

## SUNY-UWI Health Research Consortium Conference

**By: Ms. Ann-Marie Grant, Executive Director, American Foundation for The University of the West Indies (AFUWI) and Director, SUNY-UWI Center for Leadership and Sustainable Development**

The SUNY-UWI Health Research Consortium began in 2015 in collaboration with the SUNY-UWI Center for Leadership and Sustainable Development (CLSD). It was designed to advance public health in the Caribbean region through collaborative research and education initiatives among faculty and students at SUNY and The UWI, as well as other academic centers, industry, and government partners. The Consortium is now a dynamic, integrated matrix addressing health research challenges and planning innovative approaches that utilize shared management through senior leadership partnerships. Its development has been led by Professor John Lindo (The UWI Mona Campus) and Professor Gene Morse (University at Buffalo/SUNY Global Health Institute).

The consortium was instrumental in securing \$1.1 million in funding from the US National Institutes of Health to support a Global Infectious Diseases Research Training Program. The programme, which trains scientists from the Caribbean in viral infection research at SUNY institutions, was the initial step in building the Jamaica Center for Infectious Diseases Research at The UWI Mona Campus. With the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, initial emphasis was placed on access to and development of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics.

To date, the Consortium has had several engagements including virtual workshops in December 2019, April 2020, and December 2021. More recently, on March 25, 2022, The UWI and the State University of New York (SUNY) organized a Health Research



Consortium Conference. The virtual event was co-presented by the National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organization (NAJASO) and included close to 40 speakers. It attracted participation from approximately 100 attendees from across the globe, including universities from Nigeria, Dominican Republic, the Cayman Islands, and Zimbabwe. Additionally, there were participants from research centers like Abbott Laboratories, Avida Biotech, and Parion Sciences.

A strong proponent of the consortium's activities, Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, in his remarks at the conference, noted the impact of this kind of research on advancing the region's development agenda. Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs at The UWI, advocated for the inclusion of climate issues in the conference agenda, emphasising the nexus between Climate Change, Energy, Agriculture and Health issues and highlighting the importance of increased inter-disciplinary research collaborations. Her Excellency, Ambassador Audrey Marks, Jamaican Ambassador to the United States, in her remarks, lauded the work of the Consortium and noted the urgent need for more collaborative research as modeled by SUNY and The UWI, that will have a direct positive impact on both the nationals at home in the region as well as those persons who now make up the Diaspora community in the USA.

Against the backdrop of these accomplishments, the SUNY-UWI team is committed to continuing to deepen inter-institutional collaboration and to advancing public health in the region. ■





# Canada-Caribbean Institute Marks 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Manley Election

By Simon Black, Associate Professor, Labour Studies, Brock University

On March 31, the Canada-Caribbean Institute (CCI), within the UWI's network of ten global centres and institutes, hosted an online event, *Better Must Come: The Past and Promise of Progressive Politics*. The event marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the election of Michael Manley's Peoples National Party (PNP) to government in Jamaica in 1972. The Manley government's pioneering programme of progressive social and economic reforms sought to advance social justice in Jamaican society and remedy deeply rooted inequalities. On the international stage, Manley charted a new course for Jamaica through his advocacy of a New International Economic Order, his defense of sovereignty for ex-colonial countries, and his leading role among world states people in confronting racial oppression, especially in southern Africa.



*Prof. Cynthia Barrow Giles, Professor of Political Science, The UWI Cave Hill Campus.*

Moderated by Professor Cynthia Barrow-Giles (UWI Cave Hill), *Better Must Come* featured contributions from Dr. Michael Witter, former PNP Member of Parliament, Ambassador Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, Member of the Parliament of Canada Ms. Niki Ashton, and Dr. Simon Black (Brock University). After welcoming remarks from Chair of the CCI's Scholarships and Research Activities Committee,

Dr. Talia Esnard (UWI St. Augustine), speakers reflected on the legacy of Michael Manley and the democratic socialist experiment in Jamaica, while addressing the continuing promise of progressive politics in the Caribbean and Canada.



*Dr. Talia Esnard, Chair - Scholarships and Research Activities Committee, the CCI and Senior Lecturer and Head of Department, Department of Behavioural Sciences, The UWI St. Augustine Campus*



*Dr. Michael Witter, retired senior lecturer and senior research fellow from The UWI, Mona*

Dr. Witter highlighted the institutional and legislative legacy of the Manley government, including the National Housing Trust, the Family Court, the Status of Children Act, and a national minimum wage. Witter noted that Manley's critics "attach more blame for the

economic stagnation of the Jamaican economy to four years of reforms than to centuries of colonialism, the hostility of the global economy to attempts to change the terms of engagement, and now more than forty years of neoliberal economic policies.” For her part, Ambassador Assamba offered a series of powerful personal reflections on the Manley legacy, describing the impact of the National Youth Service and the democratization of education, among other policies, on her own life opportunities and the opportunities of her peers. Assamba also spoke to the Manley government’s efforts at constitutional reform, a timely intervention as republican sentiments and calls for reparations sweep Jamaican politics.



Ambassador Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, Former PNP Member of Parliament



The Hon. Ms. Niki Ashton, Member of the Parliament of Canada

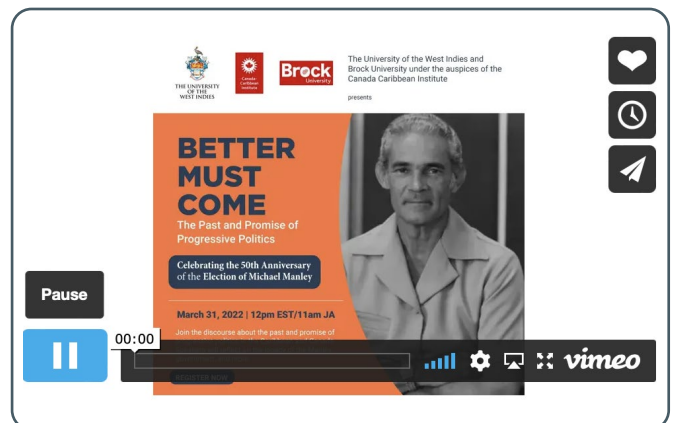
Nikki Ashton opened her remarks by speaking to Manley’s international reach and the many Jamaican Canadians, inspired by Manley’s democratic socialism, who have contributed to building Canada’s progressive

political party, the NDP. Ashton continued by describing the unequal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the failure of Canadian governments to protect some of the most vulnerable segments of the population, including migrant farm workers from the Caribbean. Quoting from Manley’s 1982 book, *Jamaica: Struggle in the Periphery*, Simon Black argued not only for the continuing relevance of Manley’s democratic socialist vision in the face of the failures of “Third Way social democracy” and of the rise of the populist right, but also Manley’s sober analysis of the contradictions and limits that any transformative political project must overcome.



Dr. Simon Black, Associate Professor, Labour Studies, Brock University

Overall, the event was well-attended, with an audience that included several luminaries of Jamaican politics and society; perhaps most notably, Beverly Manley. A recording of the event is available for viewing on the Canada Caribbean Institute’s website at <https://brocku.ca/canada-caribbean-institute/>. ■





DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

## UWI to implement its Digital Transformation Programme to power the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan

**By: Prof. Lloyd Waller, Professor of Digital Transformation Policy and Governance, Department of Government, The UWI Mona**

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, universities globally were generally aware of the fact that accelerating digital transformation of societies had been producing opportunities and threats for the administration of higher education globally and that, at some point, they would be required to respond to their changing environments in a purposeful and strategic manner. Unfortunately, when the pandemic began, the digital and digitalization strategies of many universities were either non-existent or in their infantile stage. These universities have generally found it very challenging to adapt to the impending expectations of critical stakeholders for alternative and adaptive institutional arrangements to ensure continuity. On the other hand, however, universities that had comprehensive digital transformation frameworks in place prior to the pandemic, were able to roll out their contingency plans; enabling them to transition seamlessly.

As we look to the future of higher education, the lessons learned from the pandemic have provided valuable insights about the required orientation and attributes of universities in the post-COVID era. Thus, with the anticipation that digital transformation will continue to accelerate and will also continue to shape the attitudes and demands of global markets, including



students, about how they expect to be served by universities coupled with the need of universities to be more adaptive, resilient and competitive, the University of the West Indies has taken the crucial decision to appoint a Digital Transformation Secretariat to develop and monitor the implementation of the university's comprehensive digital transformation framework called "UWI Digital Transformation Programme."





The UWI's Dx Programme seeks to transform the institution's value proposition by enabling a shared services operating environment which builds the capacity of The UWI to address the technological deficiencies and challenges that campuses have been struggling with for over 10 years. It will also enable the university to provide consistent and reliable services to all stakeholders and to achieve greater operational efficiencies and economies of scale. Operationally, it involves the upgrade of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems, training of staff and students, digitizing programmes and courses for online access, and enhancing cybersecurity capacity.

The success of the strategic plan will be measured by the extent to which it improves satisfaction among students, faculty and staff in The UWI's digital infrastructure; it promotes seamless access to the courses and programmes across all UWI campuses; it facilitates accurate, secure and trusted data transmission across the campuses resulting from the implementation of effective data governance; it improves operational efficiency; it helps to drastically reduce the failure rate of UWI digital systems; it reduces costs associated

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*As we look to the future of higher education, the lessons learned from the pandemic have provided valuable insights about the required orientation and attributes of universities in the post-COVID era.*

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with UWI business processes (HR, FINANCE, LIBRARY, etc); it promotes software integration across all campuses as well as the level of financial return on investment across all campuses.

Through this initiative, The UWI is positioning itself as a leader in the digital transformation space and a strategic partner for Caribbean entities currently undertaking or about to undertake their own digital transformation journey.■



# The Mona Campus to establish a French Digital Campus

By: Mrs. Lisa Hamilton-Braithwaite, Programme Officer, Office of Global Affairs, The UWI

In January 2007, The UWI became an associate member of the l'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF). Founded in Montreal, Quebec, Canada in 1961, the AUF was designed as a global network for French-speaking tertiary level academic and research institutions founded to support members in their promotion of French language and culture. Today, it is active in more than 100 countries across Europe, North and South America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

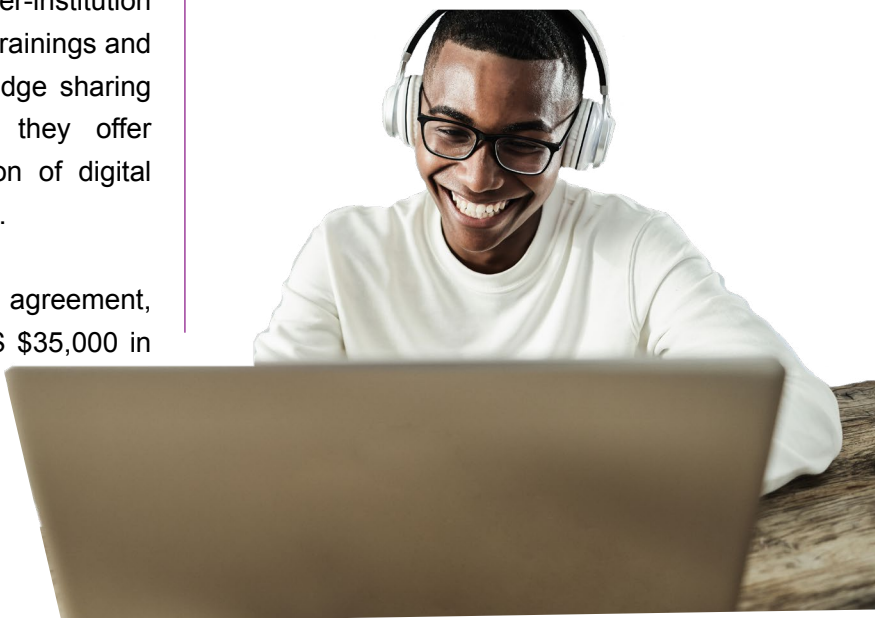
Over the past 30 years, the AUF has worked to establish a network of Campus Numérique Francophone (CNF) or French Digital Campuses in universities across the world. With the execution of a partnership agreement in December 2021, The UWI built on the achievements of past collaborative initiatives between our two institutions. Furthermore, it saw The UWI joining the growing list of world class universities part of the AUF's global network of CNFs. The Digital Campus will be located within the Department of Modern Languages at the UWI Mona Campus. Like other CNFs around the world, the UWI Mona Digital Campus would be set up as a space to enable the pedagogical activities of the institutions in which it is based as well as to foster inter-institution collaboration in the conduct of seminars, trainings and other projects for the purpose of knowledge sharing and resource mobilization. Moreover, they offer digital services, adapted to the evolution of digital technologies in foreign language teaching.

Through this newly-inked four-year agreement, The UWI has received approximately US \$35,000 in computer and IT equipment including an interactive digital board; computers; webcams; headphones; printer-scanner-photocopier and virtual reality headsets, to enhance the knowledge acquisition process.

Additionally, the AUF has awarded The UWI a grant of €23,500 to support the operation of the CNF during 2022.

As the world moves increasingly toward the use of technology, The UWI, like its counterparts in higher education, has had to adjust its approach to teaching and learning to create increased access to education for the communities we serve. This need to adapt was made even more urgent during the pandemic and accelerated The UWI's efforts at digital transformation. The university's partnership with the AUF bolsters its transformation in this regard. At the same time, it also supports The UWI's strategic intent to retool to meet the technological requirements of foreign language teaching and learning via digital technologies to staff and students.

There are a number of activities planned for the CNF. Among them is a Professional Orientation Workshop planned for May 26, 2022 which will be led by Dr. Ann Marie Williams, Student Services and Development Manager, Mona Campus. The event is aimed at educating Foreign Language Students on the range of career possibilities open to them after graduation. ■



# Completion of project funded by CDB to address inequality in online learning



**By: Tracey Edwards Greaves, Project Manager,  
Computing & Technology Services, The UWI, Open Campus**

In its efforts to address inequalities in remote teaching and learning, The UWI and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), signed a USD 200,000 project agreement on November 11, 2020. The project identified four main categories of students who have been impacted by the thrust of the face-to-face and brick-and-mortar classroom teaching to a now mostly online delivery, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The vulnerable students, whether because of gender-specific encumbrances, location disadvantages, physical disabilities or the challenges of poverty, have experienced student inequity in the classroom as a result. By using technology to implement solutions and build the capacity of the UWI to deliver online T&L across the region, these gaps were addressed.

The UWITV was tasked with providing new learning visual products via cable television and in-house capacity building presentations, aimed at helping educators give remote students the support they need to succeed.

Access to computers and the internet became even more essential tools for students to remain engaged during the 2020–21 academic year. The ICT and Registry Units of each campus, attempted to remove the barriers of their students through the provision of these tech tools as leveling blocks to help address the inequity. Laptops have been purchased and have been circulated to students via the campus libraries and ICT departments; and internet service bills have been reimbursed for no more than one semester.

Of course, these achievements did come with their challenges. Supply chain issues have been made much worse by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example,

a computer chip shortage had a knock-on effect across many industries, and it was felt heavily during the order of the laptops and the audio-visual equipment. This resulted in a reduced amount in the expected quota of the ICT and audio-visual equipment that could be purchased. Not only that, but back orders delayed the shipment timelines. The UWITV received the much-needed equipment towards the end of the academic year 2021-2022, and the laptops were distributed across sites in the Caribbean region at the beginning of academic year 2021-2022.

Additionally, during the 2020-21 academic year, the COVID pandemic created a series of subsequent lockdowns and restrictions, which varied in their timing and severity from country to country in the region, and impacted the timeline of project tasks. All of this resulted in actual project work requiring an extension of six (6) months to the project schedule.

Because the project deliverables relied heavily on the delivery of the ICT and audio-visual equipment, there was a crunch to complete the remaining tasks in time for March 31, 2022. Not all of the campuses were able to produce the final submissions necessary to reach all of their identified students. An extension was requested at the end of March 2022, to ensure that the project benefits were distributed across the entire Caribbean region rather than in one or two jurisdictions.

Thanks to the funding provided by the CDB, The UWI through the execution of this project, would have contributed to improving access to learning opportunities for UWI students and helped to ensure that no student was left behind. ■



## The UWI Hosts Canadian Minister for Panel Discussion

By: Mrs. Lisa Hamilton-Braithwaite, Programme Officer, Office of Global Affairs, The UWI

Canada and the Caribbean have a long history of friendship and economic relations. Over the many decades, the Canadian government and the entrepreneurial community both in Canada and the Caribbean have served as critical pillars in cultivating this relationship. Additionally, institutions of higher learning have been doing their part in terms of research, teaching and advocacy to further develop ties between the two regions.



*Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor, The UWI greets The Hon. Mary Ng, Canada's Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development on arrival at the Regional Headquarters of The UWI.*



*Prof. Dale Webber, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, The UWI Mona Campus (left) as he is introduced to The Hon. Mary Ng, Canada's Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development (right); Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor, The UWI (centre).*

In connection, on April 20, 2022, The UWI and The High Commission of Canada in Jamaica hosted Canada's Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, The Hon. Mary Ng, for a panel discussion on "Clean Sustainable Growth in the Caribbean". The Minister, who led a Trade Mission with Canadian exporters to the region, met with government officials and leaders in green sector industries, to explore sustainable business opportunities in clean technology and green infrastructure.

The session opened with welcome remarks from UWI Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles who noted the historical bonds of friendship between Canada

and the Caribbean and expressed excitement and optimism for the possibilities which lay in store for the two regions. The panel, which was moderated by Minister Ng herself, allowed Jamaican business and academic leaders to engage in conversation on the economic opportunities and challenges confronting Jamaica as it recovers from COVID-19 and clarified the additional role Canada could play in assisting Jamaica to continue its path of sustainable economic growth. At the same time, the discussion also provided the opportunity to highlight the innovative partnership between the Tourism Resilience & Crisis Management Centre (GTRCMC) and George Brown College in Canada.



*Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor, The UWI*

Panelists included Dr. Gervan Fearon, President, George Brown College; Mr. Richard Pandohie, Group Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Seprod Ltd. and Ms. Allison Peart, President, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica (ICAJ). In his remarks, Dr. Fearon spoke about how George Brown College has been making institutional links to address

resilience in tourism, including defining optimal tourism resilience. Mr. Pandohie who followed, shared with listeners ways in which Jamaica could convert its post-COVID recovery into an opportunity to build a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive future. He went to suggest the role the private sector could play in supporting those efforts. For her part, Ms. Peart explained both Jamaica’s financial administration and regulatory environment and identified what she considered the key factors for bolstering economic activity and growth. The session was followed by a brief question and answer segment which gave students an opportunity to interact with and ask questions of panelists. ■

To view the session: [https://www.facebook.com/UWITV/videos/523933835989030/?so\\_channel\\_tab&rv\\_all\\_videos\\_card](https://www.facebook.com/UWITV/videos/523933835989030/?so_channel_tab&rv_all_videos_card)



*Panelists L-R: The Hon. Mary Ng, Canada’s Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development; Dr. Gervan Fearon, President, George Brown College; Ms. Allison Peart, President, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica (ICAJ); Mr. Richard Pandohie, Group Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Seprod Ltd.*



*Section of the Audience including L-R: member of Minister Ng’s delegation, Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor, The UWI; and Prof. Dale Webber, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, The UWI Mona Campus.*



# Consolidating 57 years of friendship between Jamaica and the Dominican Republic: Collaboration and Innovation for the Future

By: Ambassador Gillian Bristol, Director, Latin American-Caribbean Centre (LACC) and Coordinator, UWI Global Centres & Institutes (GCIs)



The Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Jamaica, in commemoration of the 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of relations between Jamaica and the Dominican Republic, celebrated a series of webinars and virtual panels, with the objective of strengthening bilateral and commercial relations, awareness-building in the academic sector, as well as disseminating relevant information to the Dominican and Jamaican business and entrepreneurial sectors interested in doing business in both countries.

The series of virtual dialogues culminated with the Conference entitled “*Consolidating 57 years of friendship between Jamaica and the Dominican Republic: Collaboration and Innovation for the Future*”, in which the history of bilateral relations between the Dominican Republic and Jamaica was discussed.

The virtual event, held on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 was organized by the Dominican Embassy and hosted by the Latin American-Caribbean Centre (LACC) of The University of the West Indies, with live broadcast by UWI TV Global. High-level support for the Conference was

provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, the Embassy of Jamaica in the Dominican Republic, the Institute of Higher Education in Diplomatic and Consular Training (INESDYC).

The Conference featured remarks by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Jamaica, Honourable Senator Leslie Cambell; the Rector of the Institute of Higher Diplomatic and Consular Training Institute (INESDYC), H. E. Ambassador José Rafael Espailat; the Vice-Minister of Multilateral Foreign Policy, H. E. Ambassador Rubén Silié Valdez, and Caribbean historians, Mr. Danilo Clime and Ms. Luisa Navarro. Ambassador Gillian Bristol, LACC Director, delivered closing remarks.

An international audience participated live via UWI TV Global on [www.uwitv.org](http://www.uwitv.org) and [www.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

*Link to the recording of the Conference:*

[UWI TV - 57th Anniversary of Relations between Republic of Dominican Republic and Jamaica | Facebook](#) ■





Visit our Website at: <http://www.uwi.edu/oga>

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