

NEWSLETTER | THE UWI OFFICE OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS

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# UWI GLOBAL



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## PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

*Dr. Luz Longworth, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Global Affairs & Principal, The UWI Open Campus*

As we enter the penultimate year of the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, the Office of Global Affairs (OGA) joins with all of our colleagues in The University of the West Indies (The UWI) in saluting the accomplishments of our fine institution over the past year. The phenomenal rise in our rankings by the Times Higher Education agency in every category cannot be taken for granted. The hard work of all our academic, administrative and support staff is highly appreciated and The UWI must certainly take a moment to celebrate this accomplishment. In this regard, I wish to put on the record our thanks to Ambassador Dr. Richard Bernal, the founding Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs, for his role in ensuring that The UWI's global profile was acknowledged and enhanced. The UWI's international recognition has grown over the past four years under the leadership of our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles and this has been integral to propelling us to the top echelon of elite universities.

As we transition the leadership of the Office of Global Affairs, particularly in this time of great uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, I wish to thank Ambassador Bernal for his leadership and for setting the foundation for the OGA to be the conduit, facilitator and lead for our global strategy. The concept of "internationalization" is rapidly being transformed in the "covidized" environment. The traditional approach of staff and student physical exchanges as the common denominator of an international strategy is being re-examined. The UWI has rapidly moved to the establishment of nine joint Centres and Institutes across the world, surpassing our strategic goal of five Centres, one on each continent. In this new and challenging environment, we are strategically poised to harness the power of yet another strategic initiative - the UWI Global Online - which will reshape the tactic of internationalization while remaining true to the overarching goal.

Through the work of the Office of Online Learning, the Latin American–Caribbean Centre and our collaboration with the Office of Global Partnerships and Sustainable Futures, the OGA will play an increasing

role in bringing together our Campuses as we design a One UWI strategy for internationalization using all of our significant pool of excellent human resources and social capital and seeking the necessary funding. Despite the exigencies of the current fiscal crisis, we take heart that The UWI has strong international linkages, and with our reputation being at its highest, we are in fact a very desirable partner for many of the world's most outstanding academic institutions. Two of our newest International Institutes - The Canada-Caribbean Institute and the CARIFORUM-EU Centre, are in the formative stages of crafting an agenda which will frame conversations and, more importantly, actions around key issues of Caribbean development and trade with two of the region's most important partners. This is a signal honour for our University and allows us to have more than just a voice but an active role in fulfilling our vision of "Re-vitalizing Caribbean Development".

As the academic year unfolds, the OGA will be reaching out even more widely to our colleagues on all Campuses to support and enhance your efforts at increasing our international student and staff numbers in line with our strategic plan targets. The team in the OGA will be at your disposal as we move from MOUs to "MO DOs", as Ambassador Bernal constantly reminded us. Let us review and activate our international relationships and ensure that on every Campus, in every Faculty and in every Department, we have vibrant and ongoing international research partners, students, dual degrees and deep collaboration.

As the PVC now in charge of overseeing the OGA, I look forward to discussing these initiatives with the Campuses in the coming months and pledge the support of this office in ensuring an even more successful year of global recognition for our University.

### Our Mission

*To lead The UWI's global strategic initiative by building robust partnerships, fostering opportunities for collaboration and resource mobilization, and strengthening internal coordination.*

# OWEN ARTHUR: Visionary Politician and Development Economist

*Tribute by Ambassador Dr. Richard L. Bernal, Professor of Practice, The UWI*

The Rt. Hon. Owen Seymour Arthur, PC  
Former Prime Minister of Barbados  
October 17, 1949 to July 27, 2020



*Former Prime Minister Owen Arthur (left)  
and Ambassador Dr. Richard L. Bernal*

As leader of the Barbados Labour Party he was the longest serving Prime Minister of Barbados from September 6, 1994 to January 20, 1999; from 20 January 20, 1999 to May 21, 2003; and from May 21, 2003 to January 15, 2008. He was also at one time the Leader of the Opposition. All told he was a member of the House of Assembly from 1983 to 2018.

Born on October 17, 1949 he was educated as an economist at the University of the West Indies (The UWI), earning a BSc. and an MSc. He started his career in the late 1970s at the National Planning Agency in Jamaica (now PIOJ), working with Omar Davies and Norman Girvan. He also worked at the Bauxite Institute before returning to Barbados and joining the Ministry of Finance and Planning in 1981. His exposure to politics began in Jamaica with the People's National Party. He married a Jamaican and has always referred to the formative experiences in Jamaica where he felt as comfortable as in his homeland.

I met Owen Arthur in October 1979 when, as a lecturer in the Department of Economics at the Mona Campus of The UWI, I began teaching a course entitled Caribbean Economic Problems. The attendance was so large that I could not do all the tutorials. Owen was one of three tutors who assisted me. He was an outstanding teacher with students clamoring to be in his tutorials. We were colleagues at the National Planning Agency where I was an advisor. We remained friends and colleagues ever since.

While Prime Minister, he was simultaneously Minister of Finance and his management of the economy of Barbados at a very challenging time was one of the high points of his time in office. He introduced a number of innovative economic reforms

and reduced unemployment from more than 20 percent in 1994 to 7 percent in 2000. His incisive intellect and mastery of detail put civil servants and Ministers in trepidation. His acuity on mind made him impatient with colleagues including fellow CARICOM Prime Ministers.

It was this quality of mind that made him a brilliant development economist and articulate, persuasive advocate in the international arena. He felt strongly that the development options of small developing economies such as those in the Caribbean were more than any other genre of economy affected by the economic actions of developed countries to squeeze them out of niche opportunities in the global economy. His was a strident voice on small island developing states, overcoming the challenges of small economies, unfair, punitive actions of developed countries on international tax regimes and de-risking correspondent banking.

Arthur was an ardent regionalist and to the extent to which the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) has made any progress is due to his tireless efforts when he was the CARICOM Prime Minister responsible for the CSME. He made important contributions to the negotiations of the EU-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement, one in particular without which the negotiations would not have been completed when they were.

He remained the same bright, affable and relaxed person in spite of his rise to Prime Minister and international figure. Typical of this was a visit to my home in Washington DC when I was Jamaica's ambassador to the USA. He called one Saturday afternoon and said, "I am coming to visit you and I will be at your house in about less than an hour." He arrived dressed casually and sans secret service and officials. With our wives off sight-seeing and with appropriate libation we spent a memorable afternoon.

After his retirement from active politics he was made a Professor of Practice in Economics of Development at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus and most recently former Prime Minister Arthur was Chairman of the Commonwealth Observer Mission to Guyana for the disputed general election in March 2020. His sudden and untimely death on July 27, 2020 leaves unfinished several tasks he was spearheading for the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley, and others as Chairman of the Board of the regional airline, LIAT.

I spoke with him the week before his untimely death. As usual it was a simulating engagement. I reminded him that he was due to send me the foreword he promised to write for my forthcoming book "Corporate Versus National Interest in U.S. trade Policy. Chiquita and Caribbean Bananas". I hope that he had finished writing his memoirs. If not, we have his legacy of his example and the rich treasure trove of his writings, speeches and his meticulously collected papers.

# MEET THE NEW OGA TEAM MEMBERS



## WELCOME

*Dr. Luz Longsworth*  
*Pro-Vice-Chancellor*

As part of the University's current COVID-19 cost-cutting and cost-containment strategy, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr. Luz Longsworth assumed responsibility for the oversight of the University's global affairs in addition to her role Principal of the Open Campus. The decision took effect from July 1, 2020 when she succeeded Pro-Vice-Chancellor Global Affairs, Ambassador Dr. Richard Bernal, on his retirement.

The UWI's Office of Global Affairs was established in 2016 as part of a more focused strategic effort to raise the University's international standing, strengthen and expand alliances with international universities, research institutions and other organizations. This robust globalization agenda, framed within its Triple A Strategy (Strategic Plan 2017-2022), has since resulted in the establishment of nine global centres with universities in North America, Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe.

The world's most influential university ranking agency Times Higher Education (THE), recognized this increased global visibility when it ranked The UWI among the best universities in the world for 2019 and 2020, and the best in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2018 and 2019. In each ranking, The UWI scored especially high in THE's 'international outlook' performance assessment criteria.

Within the remit of her expanded portfolio, Dr. Longsworth will build upon the foundation laid by Ambassador Dr. Bernal and coordinate all international projects and programmes, driving The UWI's global initiatives. Among these include the design and launch of the new UWI Global Online brand which seeks to deliver The UWI's programmes and courses to an international online market.

Dr. Longsworth, who has served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The UWI Open Campus since 2017, also chairs the UWI Press Board, and the Colleges of The UWI and the UWI Five Islands Campus Implementation Committees. Additionally, she co-leads the SUNY-UWI Center for Leadership and Sustainable Development which The UWI jointly operates with the State University of New York.

Mrs. Lisa Hamilton-Braithwaite formally joined the Office of Global Affairs on August 1, 2020 as a Programme Officer. She first came to the office in 2019 as a volunteer, providing administrative as well as project and research support for then Pro-Vice-Chancellor Ambassador Dr. Richard L. Bernal.

## WELCOME

*Mrs. Lisa Hamilton-Braithwaite*  
*Programme Officer*



## WELCOME

*Mrs. Nickeisha Grant*  
*Senior Secretary*

Mrs. Nickeisha Grant, has been with The UWI since 2006 providing support for numerous programmes and events. She was redeployed to the Office of Global Affairs (OGA) as the Senior Secretary, tasked with assisting the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Global Affairs as well as managing the day-to-day operations of the office.

# SPANISH CLASSES FOR UWI STAFF TO RESUME ONLINE

*Ambassador Gillian Bristol  
Director, Latin American-  
Caribbean Centre*



Plans are underway at the Latin American-Caribbean Centre (LACC) to once again offer free Spanish language classes to staff of The UWI at the Regional Headquarters and Mona Campus. LACC Director Ambassador Gillian Bristol, held discussions with the Embassy of Chile in Kingston, the International Agency for Cooperation and Development of Chile (AGCI) and the Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaiso (PUCV) on 29th July to plan for the resumption of the programme in the last quarter of 2020.

Recalling the success of the first two courses (2018 and 2019), Ambassador Francisco Bernales expressed the Chilean Government's satisfaction with the outcomes so far and the participants' keen interest in additional classes. He reiterated his Government's commitment to this programme as one of the cooperation deliverables for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Jamaica in particular, managed by AGCID. Joining the discussion from AGCID were Mr. Pablo Garcia Aguirre, Head of the Division for Training and Scholarships, and Mr. Sebastian Acevedo, Coordinator of Horizontal Cooperation Scholarships.

As in years past, the programme will be taught by the PUCV and is being re-crafted for online delivery due to the challenges posed by the current COVID-19 pandemic which has restricted international travel. PUCV Director for International Relations, Mr. Marcos Avilez, who had attended the graduation ceremony for the 2019 cohort in Kingston, also conveyed the continuing support of his University for this programme. He was accompanied by Ms. Monica Ramos, General Coordinator of International Relations. The programme start date is to be announced in September.

Ambassador Bristol noted that the increased competency in the Spanish language afforded to UWI staff by this programme fits with the broader objectives of the Office of Global Affairs and The UWI global brand, and that it could also eventually be incorporated into the suite of opportunities for UWI students throughout the region once the foreign language requirement is implemented. Under that policy currently being developed, LACC has the important charge of creating partnerships like this one with the government of Chile that could offer UWI students additional resources for improving their foreign language proficiency. To this end, continuing informal consultations with several universities throughout Latin America and the Caribbean have led to encouraging responses to date.

## ON OTHER ROADS THEY FARE



*Adieu*

**Amb. Dr. Richard L. Bernal**  
**PVC Global Affairs**

The Office of Global Affairs extends sincere thanks to founding Pro-Vice-Chancellor Ambassador Dr. Richard Bernal for his incredible stewardship in guiding the work of the office to the elevation of The UWI's global profile. We wish him every good thing for the future.



*Adieu*

**Dr. Christine Marrett**  
**Senior Programme Officer**

After 38 years of service to the University, the Office of Global Affairs bids farewell to Dr. Christine Marrett and extends heartfelt thanks for her many years of dedicated service. We wish her the best in all her future endeavours.

## 38 YEARS AT THE UWI: A Brief Look Back

*Dr. Christine Marrett,  
Senior Programme Officer, OGA (Retired)*

“Do you know what a word processor is?” The year was 1982. The question was asked of me by Professor Gerald C. Lalor, then a Pro-Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies (The UWI) based on the Mona Campus. I was being interviewed by a panel led by Professor Lalor for the post of coordinator for a mobile clinic project under the auspices of an organization on which board Professor Lalor served. Having recently seen an ad for a word processor, I confidently answered “it’s like a type writer with memory”. I could not fathom the relationship of the question to the job for which I had applied. “By the way, I’m interviewing you for another job”, came the explanation from Professor Lalor. That job was project officer for the UWI Distance Teaching Experiment (UWIDITE), a post which I assumed on July 1, 1982 – the start of a 38 year journey working at The UWI - a journey which ends with my retirement on September 30, 2020.

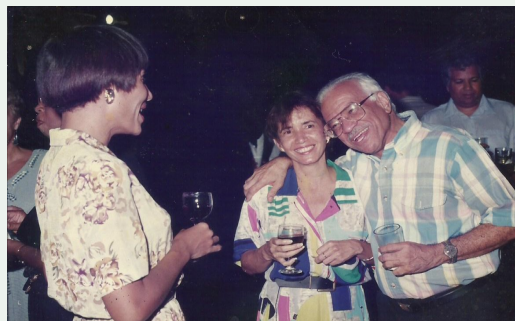


*Christine Marrett showing former Guyanese President, Dr. Cheddi Jagan how to use the UWIDITE telewriter.*

On that journey I have been privileged to work and interact with some of the best minds of the Caribbean and the world, chief among them Professor Lalor, a visionary whose knowledge, foresight, negotiation and administrative skills established distance education at The UWI – including online education, which now has been thrust into the forefront of delivery of education at all levels by the COVID-19 pandemic. Together with colleagues from UWIDITE, the Electronics Unit, academic departments and administrative units on the campuses and Resident Tutors across the Caribbean, we worked to develop distance education, from the experiment to its establishment in The UWI as the UWI Distance Teaching Enterprise (1986), then the UWI Distance Education Centre (1996).

In 1989 I was the first Fellow of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) to visit British Columbia (BC) under the COL/BC Fellowships Programme. For our work in distance education, my colleague, Ms. Vilma McClenan (who joined the UWIDITE team in 1983) and I were co-recipients of the Gleaner Honour Award for Education and Public Service in 2007.

In 2008, the Open Campus was established through an amalgamation of the School of Continuing Studies, the UWI Distance Education Centre, and the Tertiary Level Institutions Unit. The latter’s role in deepening collaboration with the



*It was not all work at UWIDITE. Christine Marrett (centre) shares a light moment with mentor, Professor Gerald Lalor*

tertiary level institutions within the region was to be carried on by the arm of the Open Campus known as the Office of External Relations, Inter- and Intra-Institutional Collaboration (ERIIC). I was assigned responsibility for the Jamaica-based office of ERIIC that year, moving out of distance education.

With the establishment of the Central Office for Regional and International Affairs (CORIA) within the Vice-Chancellery in 2012, the Office of ERIIC was dissolved and I assumed the post of Senior Programme Officer under the guidance of CORIA’s Executive Director, Dr. David Rampersad. CORIA was charged with coordinating and strengthening The UWI’s regional and international engagement. To give more prominence to The UWI’s international thrust, CORIA evolved into the Office of Global Affairs in 2016 under the leadership of Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Ambassador Dr. Richard Bernal, with whom I worked as Senior Programme Officer until June 30, 2020 when he demitted office and I proceeded on pre-retirement leave.

Beneath this brief chronology is a host of enriching experiences that working in The UWI has afforded me – interacting formally and informally with colleagues and acquaintances within Jamaica, across the Caribbean and internationally.

My wish is for The UWI’s light to continue to rise and shine and grow in intensity as it contributes to development nationally, regionally and internationally through its teaching, research and service.



*Dr. Christine Marrett (second right) during the staging of the Canada-Caribbean Research Symposium, February 2020. Also pictured (L-R) Laurie Peters, Canadian High Commissioner to Jamaica; Dr. Gervan Fearon, President and Vice-Chancellor, Brock University; Prof. Sir Hillary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor, The UWI; Hon. Kamina Johnson-Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica; Ambassador Dr. Richard Bernal, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs, The UWI; Dr. Camille Rutherford, Vice-Provost, Strategic Partnerships and International, Brock University.*

# THE WORK OF THE CANADA-CARIBBEAN INSTITUTE CONTINUES

*Mrs. Lisa Hamilton-Brathwaite,  
Programme Officer, OGA*

On April 30, 2020, under the auspices of the Canada-Caribbean Institute (CCI - <https://brocku.ca/canada-caribbean-institute/>), The University of the West Indies and Brock University, hosted a virtual forum on Seasonal Farm Workers in Canada during the COVID-19 Pandemic. It was moderated by The UWI's then Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Affairs, Ambassador Dr. Richard Bernal, and drew participation from approximately 100 persons representing the diplomatic and consular corps, universities, advocacy organizations, the media, and other interested parties.



During the course of the nearly 2.5 hour long session, participants benefited from perspectives presented by researchers both from the Caribbean and Canada. A recording of the session is available at the following links:

Part 1: <https://uwitv.org/pfrm/canada-caribbean-institute-forum-on-seasonal-farm-workers-in-canada-during-the-covid19-pandemic-pt-1>

Part 2: <https://uwitv.org/pfrm/canada-caribbean-institute-forum-on-seasonal-farm-workers-in-canada-during-the-covid19-pandemic-pt-2>

Canada's Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme (SAWP), began with Jamaica in 1966 and subsequently expanded to other Commonwealth Caribbean states. The SAWP workers are thought of as providing an essential service in Canada's food system and the programme itself has proved beneficial at diverse levels (economy, state, employers/farmers and for the farm workers). Despite this, several problems remain endemic to the programme and were laid bare during the pandemic. With many farm workers still traveling to Canada during the height of the pandemic, there

emerged the need to begin a conversation about the particular systematic vulnerabilities that put at risk the health and safety of SAWP workers and that plague the advancement of the SAWP programme.

Among the problems highlighted during the forum were:

1. Fear of reprisal on the part of the seasonal farm workers should they raise any issues.
2. Seasonal farm workers excluded from key labour/social protections and rights.
3. Geographic and social isolation of the seasonal farm workers.
4. Seasonal farm workers subjected to discrimination in the wider communities.
5. While there are stated regulations (for example, employers have obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act [OHS] and its regulations to protect seasonal farm workers from hazards in the workplace, including infectious diseases, and the Employment Standards Act [ESA]), and there is prescribed supervision, there is a deficit in enforcement.
6. Need for improved public education for farm workers that takes into consideration their educational, social, and economic background. This should include orientation, communication and support from the governments of the sending countries both prior to departure and while the farm workers are overseas.

The presentations highlighted areas in which the CCI could offer training and sensitization to SAWP workers and encourage action and research to guide policy recommendations for the governments concerned to enhance the relationship and deal with issues for the Caribbean and in Canada.

Even as the formalization of the legal framework for the functioning of the CCI is underway, researchers from The UWI and Brock University have capitalized on the momentum from the virtual forum and the Canada-Caribbean Research Symposium (CCRS) <https://uwi.edu/ccrs/> which was held in February 2020, to establish informal working groups. These groups have started discussion on specific collaborations between faculty members in the areas of Literature, Sport and Migration and Food System. The success of the CCRS has also resulted in the publication of the inaugural issue of the CCI Journal <https://journals.library.brocku.ca/index.php/cancarib>.





## BOOSTING UWI'S GLOBAL RECOGNITION AS A CLIMATE-SMART LEADER AND AN SDG-ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

*Dr Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Director*

*Office of Global Partnerships and Sustainable Futures*

The Office of Global Partnerships and Sustainable Futures (GPSF) in the Vice Chancellery, headed by Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy, works in close collaboration with the Office of Global Affairs and participates in leadership team meetings to strengthen synergies for effective donor engagement and leveraging of opportunities for collaboration with multilateral development agencies and other partners on the 2030 sustainable development agenda.

Formerly the Office of Development, the Office of GPSF works across the regional UWI system and with a range of partners to strengthen UWI's positioning as a globally-recognized leader on climate and sustainability issues.

In 2019, the International Association of Universities selected The UWI as the lead university for SDG-13 in its Global Cluster on Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development. The Office of GPSF then established and spearheaded the co-ordination of the Global University Consortium (GUC) on SDG-13 and the execution of a dynamic work programme, including a Symposium on *Research and Innovation for Climate Action* at the High Level Political Forum at the UN Headquarters in July 2019 and a *SUNY-UWI Symposium on Global Partnerships for Climate Action* at the SUNY Global Center in New York for the UN's Global Climate Summit in September 2019. In March 2020, The UWI Institute for Sustainable Development, in collaboration with another GUC member, Universidad de los Andes, organized a Climate Action Research Symposium at the UWI Mona Campus. In August 2020, another GUC member, the University of Bergen, launched in the presence of the Prime Minister of Norway, an exciting

*One Ocean Expedition* initiative for 2021, in which The UWI, together with Harvard University, University of Texas at Austin and Scripps Institution of Oceanography, among other partners, will participate in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The Office of GPSF also recently co-hosted a webinar with the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) on *Exploring Research Opportunities with the UKRI Global Challenges Research Fund* to promote opportunities for funding and research collaborations within the Fund's resilience portfolio.

The integration of a youth perspective on sustainable development issues is reinforced through the Office's technical coordination of the work of the Youth Development Programme. In July, 2020, the Office of GPSF and YDP participated in the Global Youth Network Summit on Climate and Health and organized a panel on "COVID-19 and the Environment, What's next?", featuring student voices, including our UWI STAT, who shared perspectives on the fight against climate change in the COVID-19 context.

The Office of Global Partnerships and Sustainable Futures is indeed proud of The UWI's listing in *THE's Impact Rankings 2020*, the only global performance table that assesses universities on their research, outreach and stewardship of the SDGs. Of the 768 universities from 85 countries on the table, The UWI ranked among the top 200 for its work on SDG3: Good Health and Wellbeing; SDG5: Gender Equality and SDG13: Climate Action.

To learn more about the GPSF visit: <https://uwi.edu/gpsf/>

# THE UWI TO ESTABLISH A PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN EUROPE

*Mrs. Lisa Hamilton-Brathwaite  
Programme Officer, OGA*

In a virtual ceremony on July 14, 2020, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies (The UWI) and Professor Renaud Dehousse, President of the European University Institute (EUI), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a joint centre. The first of its kind for the EUI in this region of the world, the move ensures that The UWI will have a physical presence in Europe in keeping with the goal expressed in the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan to establish a physical presence on all the continents. It also marks a step towards both deepening ties between the two regions and helping The UWI protect the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in the European Union (EU).

A natural extension of the long-standing relationship between Europe and the Caribbean, Vice-Chancellor Beckles was clear that, "It is a relationship that has to be sustained within the context of its positive contributions, mutually to Europe and to the Caribbean and of course to the wider world. So, it is perfectly normal therefore, that universities ought to be coming together within this context to sustain the benefits and to provide a vision for the future of this relationship."

Far from just a collaborative agreement between the two universities, Professor Dehousse viewed the initiative as a diplomatic effort linking our two regions. According to him, "the partnership is a kind of bridgehead in the Broader Caribbean and Latin



*Professor Sir Hilary Beckles  
Vice-Chancellor, The University of the West Indies*

American world and represents an opening towards a region of the world in which we are still developing contacts." He added that "Europe's problems today are no longer confined to what is going on within its borders, and it is absolutely indispensable for us to open up towards other regions of the world, as well as to other kinds of actors."

A board-based agreement, it includes the establishment of "the CARIFORUM-EU Centre" based in Florence, Italy, aimed at promoting inter-regional and intra-regional development and encouraging discourse on how transnational and global issues impact the Caribbean Region and Europe. Through the initiative the partners will promote visiting professorships, visiting fellowships, and the mobility of administrative staff in both institutions. They will establish a programme for the international mobility of Master's students, and organize researcher exchanges at the doctoral and post-doctoral levels, joint executive education training and summer schools, joint workshops, collaborative projects and encourage the exchange of publications.

Ultimately, it is anticipated that the partnership will help to foster collaboration in areas of study and research common to both institutions, with a view to focusing on sustainable development, multilateral trade, gender equality, security, environment and climate change, migration, energy, regional integration processes and transnational governance.

*To view a video of the signing, visit:*

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/038xb952jap362s/The%20UWI%20EUI%20MOU%20signing.mp4?dl=0>



*EUI representatives: Professor Renaud Dehousse, President (centre); Elena Ascitti, External Relations Officer (left) and Prof. Bernard Hoekman, Dean of External Relations (right)*



*Mrs. Pauline Francis-Cobley,  
Director, Office of Online  
Learning*

## OFFICE OF ONLINE LEARNING LEADING THE UWI'S GLOBAL EXPANSION OF PROGRAMMES



*Dr. Lora Pilgrim, Curriculum  
Development Specialist,  
Office of Online Learning*

One of the key strategic objectives of the Office of Online Learning (OOL) is to facilitate the expansion of The UWI's online offerings to regional and global markets. To this end, the OOL has orchestrated a number of university-wide initiatives aimed at creating an enabling environment that positions The UWI to compete effectively in the global online arena. These initiatives include, the establishment of the UWI Online Faculty Development Committee which is tasked with developing collaborative training initiatives to build capacity in online expertise across the university; the development of a state-of-the-art web portal that serves as the single access point for The UWI's global online offerings; contributing to the development of the *UWI Global Online Policy* and the revision of the online quality assurance policy.



In addition, the OOL has been engaged in a number of activities aimed at exploring global partnerships and potential markets for The UWI's online offerings. With assistance from the Office of Planning, the OOL conducted market research in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa to assess the feasibility of a number of online programmes and courses in those markets. The OOL recently presented its findings and recommendations to key stakeholders with respect to the delivery of courses and programmes to Sub-Saharan Africa.

On March 12, 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Caribbean region, the OOL convened a meeting of stakeholders from across the University

(senior administrators, faculty, instructional designers, ICT team, eLearning specialists, marketing and communications team) to develop a coordinated plan of action for the transition to remote teaching. The action plan outlined strategies to help campuses improve institutional readiness for the move to remote teaching and learning. The main areas of focus were faculty training, technology preparedness and communication. The OOL coordinated the transition exercise through several follow-up cross-campus stakeholder meetings where progress reports were presented by the various teams, issues ventilated and solutions proposed.

In addition, the OOL developed the *UWI Teaching and Learning Remotely* website (<https://www.uwi.edu/remote/>) that serves as a central repository that provides resources for faculty and students to assist with the transition to online teaching and learning. The OOL received very positive feedback on the website from both internal and external stakeholders.

The OOL also played an instrumental role in the examination process by proposing alternative assessment strategies to replace traditional face-to-face proctored examinations. The OOL served on a committee that researched and proposed examination alternatives for consideration by UWI's Executive Management in a document entitled "*UWI Options for Consideration in the Final Assessment of Courses.*"

The university-wide evaluation of remote teaching and learning during COVID-19 was another outcome of the cross-campus action plan. The OOL, in collaboration with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Board for Undergraduate Studies developed two evaluation instruments – one for faculty and one for students that assessed the respective experiences in teaching, learning and assessment.

The OOL continues to work with internal and external stakeholders to achieve The UWI's strategic goals.

# DELIVERING ON THE EDX ASSIGNMENT:

## An Experience in Agility



*Mr. Ian Forrest  
Programme Officer, OGA*

In early May 2020 with The UWI on lockdown, in the height of the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Office of Global Affairs (OGA) began deliberations with our counterparts at online education provider, edX. On the table was an offer to provide us with 5,000 course codes – FREE, to be used by our students and staff.

The offer, while thought to be a good one, did not capture our imagination as much as the prospect of being partners on the edX platform. As such, in the initial meeting, led by Ambassador Dr. Richard Bernal – the then Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs – we (officers from the OGA and the Office of Online Learning) floated our desire to explore this possibility with the edX representative. Immediately following that meeting, we were put in touch with a more senior officer from edX who seemed to share our enthusiasm for this possibility of partnership.

As he made clear, edX is quite discerning about whom it partners with. There were essentially four metrics that determined an organization's suitability to join the edX platform, pointedly:

1. The institution's ranking in the top 200 of the Shanghai rankings; or
2. The institution's ranking as the #1 or in the top four institutions in its country;
3. The content the institution brings to the table;
4. The revenue to come from the arrangement.

Having done their due diligence on The UWI, it was thought that certainly on points 2 and 3, as the top ranked university in the Caribbean, with the depth and breadth we brought to the table, the content we could deliver, made us an attractive partner prospect.

However, to say sticker shock was a hump to overcome is easily an understatement. To join the edX platform is not a cheap proposition. There is a one-time membership fee of between US\$500,000 to US\$1 million. Just hearing that prompted us to think of the financial state of the University and the appetite there would be for committing the institution to such an undertaking, despite the reassurances of the edX executive that there could be flexibility on the amount The UWI would pay and the terms on which it would pay. His emphasis was on the capacity and willingness of the University to supply world relevant content that could be offered on its platform. Essentially his pitch was: the world is eager for content. In what had at that point been two or so months since the pandemic began in the Caribbean, edX,

he said, had added four million learners to the platform. There was a demand for online learning and the content to satisfy the learning desires of this audience.

Our focus to put a proposal together to be presented for the consideration of UWI Senior Management almost had us losing sight of the time sensitive 5,000 Course Code Offer.

There had been the feeling that there would have been some flexibility on the deadline date. To test that hypothesis, we met in late June with our initial counterpart from edX and realized that the deadline of June 30, 2020 was indeed a hard and fast date.

At that point with just about 10 days to go, the decision could have easily been - this cannot not be done! At that point there were many things to be determined, many moving parts to be set in train and ultimately the determination to be made of who was going to be responsible for getting it all done. However, to leave what amounted to at least US\$250,000 of value on the table was not a proposition to be easily digested.

It could easily be said a case of youthful exuberance took hold of us at the Office of Global Affairs. In a matter of days, the agreement with edX to receive the codes was signed by the University Registrar, and a plan was crafted to distribute them. The respective Campus Principals were consulted and asked to submit lists of students and staff to benefit from the offer. Doubts abounded on every side as to whether this could be done. And not without good reason.

The first offer of a course code was made on the morning of Friday, June 26, 2020. One down, 4,999 to go. With a plan but no clear idea of how close we would come to distributing all the codes, the willingness of Campus leadership all across The UWI to participate in the effort is to be celebrated.

With St. Augustine's list coming through in the afternoon of the very last day of the offer, it was nothing short of an act of faith that:

1. Their over 1,200 codes could be distributed smoothly (the distribution being done in batches of 50);
2. the offer would be viewed and accepted; and
3. the codes would be activated by midnight. Yet, we had, with hours to spare, managed to offer close to 4,500 codes, approximately 90% of our allotment.

Sadly, midnight in the meaning of edX meant midnight UTC (Universal Coordinated Time). UTC, a time zone with which many of us are unfamiliar, is some four hours ahead of Eastern Caribbean Time and five hours ahead of Jamaica. Many people were therefore unable to take advantage of the offer.

Notwithstanding this, some 570 codes were activated, with an approximate value of some US\$72,000 being accessed. To date of writing, some 104 learners had completed their courses. Our deepest appreciation and most sincere congratulations to them all.

# THE UWI ASSISTS REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES TO MOVE TO ONLINE LEARNING

*Ambassador Gillian Bristol  
Director, Latin American-Caribbean Centre*

The Latin American-Caribbean Centre (LACC) continued its representation of The UWI in the higher education coalition, the Union of Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean (UDUAL), at a series of meetings of the Executive Committee and at webinars focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ambassador Gillian Bristol, LACC Director, stood in for Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, who serves as the Alternate Vice-President for the Caribbean Region within UDUAL.

UDUAL members, frustrated by a general lack of competence in online teaching among their teaching staff, welcomed Director Bristol's offer to explore the possibility that The UWI's expertise could be shared through the Open Campus. A meeting to discuss this proposal held between Open Campus Principal and Pro-Vice-



Chancellor, Global Affairs, Dr. Luz Longworth, and UDUAL Secretary General, Dr. Roberto Escalante Semerena, on July 9, 2020, led to an agreement that a presentation would be made at the next meeting of the Executive Committee. Dr. Escalante viewed this offer as an excellent opportunity for regional cooperation and expressed his appreciation for the support from The UWI in this very difficult time.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Longworth presented the Teaching and Learning with Emerging Technologies (TLET) programme to the University Heads and Senior Secretariat members on September 3, 2020.

## DIRECTOR OF THE LATIN AMERICAN-CARIBBEAN CENTRE JOINS UNDP-LAC ADVISORY BOARD

*Ambassador Gillian Bristol  
Director, Latin American-Caribbean Centre*

In July 2020, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, UWI Vice-Chancellor and member of the UNDP Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Advisory Board, was joined by Ambassador Gillian Bristol, Director of The UWI's Latin American-Caribbean Centre (LACC), at the Board's second meeting, under the chairmanship of the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director for LAC, Dr. Luis F. Lopez-Calva. The two-day virtual session discussed the UNDP's Regional Human Development Report 2020 and progress in assisting countries to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board members were invited to comment on the draft outline of the Report presented by Marcela Melendez subtitled, "Inequality as a trap for development in Latin America and the Caribbean". The Report focused on the correlation between high inequality and low-growth and proposed that in order "to increase human development and, at the same time, accelerate growth, the region needed to address the reasons behind the persistence of inequality."



Ambassador Bristol contributed to the discussions the "Crime and Violence" chapter of the Regional Human Development Report. The Report is due to be published before the end of 2020.

# THE UWI PARTICIPATES IN HEMISPHERIC DISCUSSION ON ONLINE TEACHING

*Ambassador Gillian Bristol*  
 Director, Latin American-Caribbean Centre

The expertise of The UWI in online teaching and learning was on display at the May 2020 webinar series “Preparing for the change: Best practices in the transition to online” organised by the Hemispheric University Consortium (HUC).

Dr. Luz Longworth, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The UWI Open Campus, which has over 10 years of experience in remote education of students across the Caribbean, shared The UWI’s strategy for adapting to the physical distancing restrictions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Longworth explained that in March and April The UWI was able to respond fairly quickly to the new challenges posed by the pandemic by building on the proven experience and platforms used by the Open Campus which allowed educators throughout The UWI to be trained in methodologies and technologies for converting and delivering programmes in a virtual online setting. Referring to the current issues and challenges faced, Dr. Longworth spoke to the priority given to Training, Equity, Student Success and Technology (T.E.S.T.) in adapting appropriately and rapidly to a more relevant and necessary system.

In 2017, The UWI established the Office of Online Learning (OOL) for the strategic implementation of a coordinated approach to online learning to facilitate expansion of The UWI’s programmes to global markets. The OOL Director, Mrs. Pauline Francis-Cobley, participated in the webinar session focused on “Best practices in the transition to online learning” and highlighted key actions taken by The UWI in three short weeks to accommodate the sudden surge in demand for online education due to the pandemic.

Ambassador Gillian Bristol, Director of the Latin American-Caribbean Centre which coordinates The UWI’s engagement in the Consortium, sought the inclusion of The UWI’s unique perspective and knowledge in this hemispheric discussion. She noted that the contributions to the HUC webinars by these top managers of The UWI’s virtual education platforms and policies demonstrated agility in adjusting to demands of an unprecedented global



crisis while guaranteeing continued quality education to its nearly 50,000 students and providing skills training to about 1,000 staff.

The Consortium, launched in 2018 as an initiative of the President of the University of Miami (UM), Dr. Julio Frenk, boasts membership of 14 of the highest-ranked universities in the Americas, from Canada in the north to Argentina in the south. The second meeting of Heads in October 2019 was hosted at The UWI Regional Headquarters by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, signalling commitment to advancing a robust UWI Global agenda.

In the panel on “Experiences in the delivery of online education”, Dr. Longworth was joined by colleagues from the prestigious Technological Institute of Monterrey (Mexico) and York University (Canada). Mrs. Francis-Cobley shared the stage with an expert from the University of the Andes (Colombia) - a notable partner of The UWI in the bilateral Strategic Alliance for Hemispheric Development, established in April 2019 to promote knowledge and contribute to governance policies through joint research and education. The sessions were moderated by the then HUC Secretary General, Dr. Lourdes Dieck-Assad, Vice-President of the UM Office for Hemispheric and Global Affairs.

*For more information:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iB7F2wApnO8&t=1s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEVmyEo20mU>

# OGA SUPPORTS SALISES' INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION THRUST

*Ambassador Gillian Bristol  
Director, Latin American-Caribbean Centre*

Representing the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs, Ambassador Gillian Bristol, Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Centre (LACC), participated in an Advisory Board meeting of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) at which the Institute's focus on expanding its international engagement in light of the COVID-19 pandemic was discussed.

In his presentation on Strategic Planning for now and post-COVID-19 (2017-2022), SALISES Director at the Cave Hill Campus, Dr. Don Marshall, stressed the importance of pursuing a robust and enduring internationalization agenda structured around outreach, integrating an international focus in their work and "dual purposing" existing resources and expertise was also considered vital by Dr. Marshall.

In offering the support of the Office of Global Affairs for this initiative, Ambassador Bristol noted that it fit within the Office's strategic coordination role to develop a harmonized approach throughout The UWI in advancing the UWI Global brand.

The meeting also received the SALISES Regional Report presented by Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee, University Director/Director SALISES Mona Campus, updates from each Campus unit Director on their responses to the COVID-19 crisis, and a progress report on planning for the SALISES Annual Conference slated for August 2020 presented by Dr. Hamid Ghany, Director, SALISES St. Augustine Campus.

In his closing remarks congratulating SALISES on their outstanding performance, Professor Gift reflected the Board members' view that SALISES has done excellent work and made significant accomplishments despite the pandemic.

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## OGA's DATABASE OF AGREEMENTS

The Office of Global Affairs (OGA) maintains a searchable database of campus and university-wide agreements. Administrative Assistant in the OGA's Barbados Office, Ms. Sharon Estwick, is primarily responsible for categorizing and uploading the agreements. Internal stakeholders are asked to provide PDF copies of signed agreements to the OGA. It is anticipated that in the near future, through a framework developed by the office of the University Chief Information Officer (UCIO), the wider UWI community will be granted access to the database.

Until the system is fully operational, requests for information related to The UWI's agreements (e.g. institutions, countries) can be submitted to the OGA through our email address: [pvcglobal@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:pvcglobal@uwimona.edu.jm).



*Ms. Sharon Estwick*

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### Help prevent the spread of COVID-19



**Wash your hands  
regularly**



**Wear mask**



**Keep a safe distance  
of at least 2 metres**



**Stay at home if  
you are ill**



**Visit our Website at: <https://uwi.edu/oga/>**

## **Contact Us**

### **Head Office:**

Office of Global Affairs (OGA)  
Regional Headquarters Building  
The University of the West Indies  
Mona, Jamaica

**Telephone:** (876) 977-6105

**Fax:** (876) 927-0253

**Email:** [pvcglobal@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:pvcglobal@uwimona.edu.jm)

### **Barbados Office:**

Office of Global Affairs (OGA)  
The University of the West Indies  
Cave Hill Campus, Barbados

**Telephone:** (246) 417-4509

