



# Open Letter

The e-newsletter of the Open Campus, UWI

Current News

Vol. 1 Issue 5  
May-June 2008

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## Open Campus Developments

### UWI on the Move with the Open Campus



by Dr. Lennox Bernard. Published in *Newsday*, Trinidad & Tobago, May 4, 2008.

A quiet revolution is taking place in higher education in the region. Very little is known locally about the UWI Open Campus which is poised to become the fourth campus of the University of the West Indies.

In April 2007 the Council of the University of the West Indies approved the development of an Open Campus of the University. The institution will embrace the School of Continuing Studies in Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belize, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines as well as SCS in Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

The SCS includes as well the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC), the Hugh Lawson Shearer Trade Union Education Institute (HLSTUEI), the Human Resources Development Unit (HRDU), the Social Welfare Training Centre (SWTC) and the Women and Development Unit (WAND). The UWI Distance Education Centres (UWIDEC) and the Tertiary Level Institutions Unit (TLIU) make up the remaining sectors.



The Bahamas



Marryshow House, Grenada



Montserrat



In all there are 42 SCS and UWIDEC sites and nine UWIDEC Sites. Already the institution has more than twenty thousand students within its fold and efforts are being made at launching the campus at the start of academic year 2008-2009.

University officials no doubt became acutely aware of the concerns raised by regional governments about UWI and the limited opportunities available for its people and their countries in education and research. There are others who have felt that there was the need for increased participation of students from a broader distribution of social groups and classes.

The Open Campus, with its mission to expand the scope, enhance the appeal and improve the efficiency of UWI's service to individuals, communities and countries which it serves, is poised to make the difference. The main target clientele of the Open Campus will be persons whose circumstances or location do not allow them to benefit from the formal structures of existing campuses as well as new collectives in other Caribbean states and in other countries.

There are many areas of study that will be offered through the Open Campus through face to face, blended (face to face) and online delivery facilities. These include pre-university education courses, certificate, diploma and undergraduate programmes and courses, post-graduate degree programmes, distance education courses, extension courses, technical and vocational courses and other lifelong learning activities (see Occasional Paper 1, the UWI Open Campus, January 2008).

Tribute must be paid to Emeritus Professor Lawrence Carrington, the chief architect of this development. The nature of this change will undoubtedly place tremendous pressure on traditional academic cultures and styles of administration. However, the UWI now in its sixtieth anniversary, has always met its challenges head-on.

Sir Dwight Venner the first chairman of the UWI Open Campus Council at its inaugural meeting in St Kitts, Nevis in March 2008 cautioned that the entire region is looking to the UWI to make the Open Campus work. It is for the good of the entire region. If we fail, then UWI as a whole has failed. We must not let it fail.

*Dr. Lennox Bernard is Head of the former UWI School of Continuing Studies, Trinidad and Tobago, now the Open Campus, Trinidad & Tobago.*

## The Open Campus Seeks E-Tutors



The UWI Open Campus has invited applications for online tutors for the courses listed below for Semester 1 of the academic year 2008-2009.

### Level I and Foundation Courses

Intro to Financial Accounting	Intro to Microeconomics
Mathematics for Social Sciences	Intro to Sociology
English for Academic Purposes	Caribbean Civilization
Science, Medicine & Technology in Society	

### Level II and III Courses

Inter. Financial Accounting 1	Caribbean Business Environment
Intro to Quantitative Methods	Managerial Economics
Business Law	Public Sector Management
Principles of Marketing	Human Resource Management
Production & Operations Management	
Management Information Systems I & II	

Working under the guidance of the course coordinator and using the materials developed for the course, e-tutors will facilitate online support for students by: moderating discussions; grading and providing feedback on activities and assignments; responding to individual and/or group concerns and queries; and fostering a healthy online environment.

Open Campus e-tutors for Level I courses must have at least a bachelor's degree in an appropriate discipline to the course(s). For Levels II and III courses, at least a master's degree in an appropriate discipline is required.

Applicants must also show evidence of teaching/training experience at the tertiary education level, in the public sector or in industry. In addition, applicants must have reliable access to a computer with reliable Internet connectivity; good working knowledge of the Internet and use of Microsoft Office products;.

Applicants should also display good written communication skills for interacting in the online environment, and sensitivity to the needs of students in diverse settings.

Successful candidates will be required to participate in an online professional development course in July/August, prior to course delivery.

Tutors will be paid a fixed fee on satisfactory completion of all assigned tasks. This fee also covers a contribution towards the cost of Internet usage for the course. All fees will be subject to tax.

The deadline for applicants for this round was on May 31, 2008. Successful applicants will be contacted by June 20, 2008.

## New Head at Belize Open Campus Site



Mrs. Jane Bennett

The Director of the Open Campus Country Sites (OCCS), Mrs. Luz Longworth, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Jane Bennett as Head of the Belize country site in Belize City. This appointment became effective May 1, 2008. Mrs. Bennett is a Belizean national, who has served as Acting Resident Tutor and Head of the Belize centre under the former School of Continuing Studies (SCS) since February 1, 2007. She brings to this new post at the University of the West Indies (UWI) an extensive background in programme management, budget management, human resource management, as well as in adult and continuing education and outreach activities.

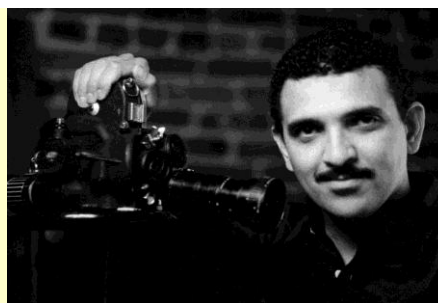
Mrs. Bennett also has extensive experience in human resource and organisation behavior management, having worked since 2005 as a part-time lecturer designing and evaluating course syllabi in this field. She has written manuals for private sector employees on company policies and procedures, as well as designed and implemented performance appraisal systems and other human resource management systems for select companies in Belize.

Her experience in this field has also been enhanced by her international experience in New York, including working for almost two decades with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Following that, she spent four years, beginning in 2001, as the office manager for the Private Equity Merger and Acquisitions (PEMA) Unit of Mercer Human Resource Consulting.

A proven advocate for the advancement of women through education, Mrs. Bennett is the founder, chairman and programme director of the Eglah's Training Centre (ETC) for Women, a non-profit agency currently headquartered in Belize City. She established the centre in 2001 in order to provide business development training, continuing education and life skills programmes for women in Belize.

Mrs. Bennett received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences in 2001 from Saint Peter's College, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, and a Master of Science in Adult Education and Human Resource Development in 2003 from Fordham University in New York.

Mrs. Bennett is also a member of many professional associations, including the Belize Board of Teacher Education, the Association of Tertiary Level Institutions of Belize (ATLIB), and the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) National Committee. Her publication experience includes reviewing books for publication in journals such as *Perspectives*, the *New York Journal of Adult Learning*, the New York Association of Continuing Community Education and Fordham University's Graduate School of Education.



## Open Campus and ICS Co-Host Lecture & Screening by Howard University Professor

The UWI Open Campus in collaboration with the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS), Faculty of Humanities and Education, Mona, hosted a screening and lecture by Steven Torriano Berry, Professor of Film and Television Production at Howard University. This event took place on Tuesday June 3, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre in the Faculty of Humanities and Education at the Mona Campus, UWI.

A highlight of the evening was the screening of excerpts from one of Professor Berry's most recent projects, the first-ever Belizean television dramatic series "**Noh Matta Wat!**" These excerpts framed his discussion about his experiences in developing a community-based approach to film and television production in the USA and Belize.

An Associate Professor who teaches courses in television, film production and script writing at Howard University, Professor Berry is an award-winning independent filmmaker who has created and has been the executive producer of several independent films and videos. Professor Berry is also a film producer, writer and director with several independent film credits to his name, including a full-length horror feature film, **The Embalmer** (1996). He is the co-author of **The 50 Most Influential Black Films: A Celebration of African American Talent, Determination & Creativity (2001,)** and **Historical Dictionary of African American Cinema (2007).**

## Open Campus Staffer Receives ACURIL President's Star Award 2008



The Open Campus is proud to announce that Miss Kisha Sawyers, the Librarian at the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) of our Consortium for Social Development and Research (CSDR), will be presented an award at the forthcoming ACURIL conference in Montego Bay. ACURIL is the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries.

Miss Sawyers received one of the President's star awards **For Excellence in Services for Special Communities for the Organisation and Retrieval of Information of the CCDC.**

The ACURILEAN awards 2008 were held in Jamaica on Friday, June 6, 2008. Our heartiest congratulations to Kisha and to the staff of the CCDC, CSDR, Open Campus, for this regional recognition of hard work and commitment.

## Open Campus People



**Dr. Julie Meeks-Gardner, Director,  
Consortium of Social Development and Research, Open  
Campus**

Dr. Meeks-Gardner was the Tutor/Coordinator of the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) since May 2004. She now serves as the current Director of the newly-formed Consortium for Social Development and Research (CSDR), the main research arm of the UWI's Open Campus, and as Head of the CCDC. Dr. Meeks-Gardner holds a PhD in Human Nutrition from the UWI.

Dr. Meeks-Gardner has conducted research on child nutrition, development and behaviour, including surveys of breastfeeding, investigations into weaning foods and the use of bush 'teas', and interventions to improve child development such as zinc supplementation and anthelmithic treatments. She has also carried out extensive studies on the development of aggressive behavior, the effects of violence on children, and children's involvement in gangs at school and in the community, including interventions to reduce aggressive behavior among children.

Dr. Meeks-Gardner is currently extending this research on children, aggression and violence across the Caribbean, even while pursuing her new responsibilities as Director of the CSDR. She serves on the editorial boards of two journals, and is engaged in reviewing for several international journals, as well as lecturing, supervising students, coordinating courses and working with non-academic institutions.

In addition to her University work, Dr. Meeks-Gardner is also a Board representative on several governmental and NGO institutions, including the Peace Management Initiative, the National Food and Nutrition Coordinating Committee (immediate past Chair), the Malnourished Children's Foundation, the Inter-sectoral Working Group on Children and Violence, and the Children's Issues Coalition.



**Dr. Bevis Peters, Director, ERIIC**

Dr. Peters is the Director of the UWI Open Campus's Division of External Relations and Intra/Inter-Institutional Collaboration (ERIIC). It was formerly the Tertiary Level Institutions Unit (TLIU), and is responsible for the development and implementation of the University's policies in relation to managing and strengthening the University's relations with its sister institutions across the region.

ERIIC also manages the processes related to institutional accreditation, programme articulation, course equivalencies and student transfer arrangements with regard to Associate Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates. It is also responsible for increasing student access to tertiary education in the Caribbean region, through planning, development and expansion of tertiary

institution infrastructure (physical and human), encouraging inter-institutional collaboration among public and private institutions, including affiliation arrangements, franchising and joint programme delivery.

Dr. Peters is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario where he gained a B.A. in Economics and English and the University of Alberta where he completed his M.A. in Community Development and a PhD in Educational Administration. His research interests and published works have centred on policy analysis, governance and management of higher education, the economic and political aspects of higher education, institutional change and collaboration in higher and tertiary education.

He has an on-going interest in Accreditation, Equivalency and Articulation (AEA) and has contributed to the Association of Caribbean Tertiary Institutions' Manual of Guidelines and Procedures for the Regional Mechanism for AEA and worked with CARICOM, as a member of the Committee responsible for the implementation of national accreditation bodies.



**Miss Simone Augier, Registrar, Open  
Campus**

Miss Augier is the Campus Registrar for the Open Campus with responsibilities for student services and the Corporate Secretariat. She holds a BA and a Diploma in International Relations from UWI and an MSc in Human Resources Management from the New School for Social Research in New York.

Prior to her appointment, Ms Augier served as Programme Officer in the Director's Office, School of Continuing Studies (SCS). Her main functions were coordinating and advancing the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes designed to strengthen and broaden the work of the School. In this position, Miss Augier was the academic planner of the 11 country conferences organized by the School of Continuing Studies and coordinated the CDB-funded project for the development of a Diploma in NGO Management. Miss Augier also anchored the introduction of associate degrees in four areas and planned and coordinated their delivery in 12 University centres across the region.

In service to the University Community, Ms Augier served as Working Group Chair and SCS Representative at the Restructuring the Outreach Sector Meeting in 2005; was a member of the Open Campus Planning Meeting in 2007, also the SCS Representative at the UWIHARP Strategic Planning Workshop. She served as Facilitator at the Fourth Campus Strategic Planning Workshop in 2006. In 2003 she was the elected representative on the Evaluation Committee for Staff of the Office of the Board for Non-Campus Countries & Distance Education.

Miss Augier is a doctoral candidate at UWI, Mona, and her research interests are in higher education management and organisational development. She is a member of the Human Resource Management Association of Jamaica and a member of the Parish Advisory Council and Lector Ministry, St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

## Your Feedback is Welcome

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