



MONA ACADEMY OF SPORT

Dr. Sharmella Roopchand-Martin (DPT, MSc. Rehabilitation Sci., MSc. Biomedical Ethics) – **Head Mona Academy of Sport**

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The 2022/2023 academic year marked the return to full face-to-face delivery for our undergraduate programmes. The year was quite challenging due to the ongoing financial constraints.

The total number of students enrolled in the academy for 2022/2023 was 102 across two undergraduate and five graduate programmes. Our undergraduate courses were delivered to students from the St. Augustine and Open Campus Academies using the Cross Campus platform. Teaching began late each semester due to delays in adjunct staff receiving their contracts. Regardless of this, they found ways to ensure that all content was covered by the end of the semester. Internet connectivity affected delivery of some classes on the cross-campus platform, however recordings were shared with students who were affected. The graduate programs ran smoothly throughout the year and all summer practicums were successfully conducted onsite. A total of nine undergraduate and eight graduate students completed their programmes. Our PhD candidate Alison Facey won the three-minute thesis competition at the Mona campus in May 2023 and went on to secure a university win in June 2023.

Despite the ongoing freeze in sports scholarships, we were still able to field teams for several intercollegiate tournaments through engagement of the student body. The female football team won the Intercollegiate tournament and the male team placed fourth. Both volleyball teams won the tournament, netball placed 3rd and track and field finished 4th. Though the campus did not fund a basketball coach, the students organized a team, and they placed 3rd. Gears were provided by the Academy.

At a national level both our volleyball teams competed in national developmental meets with the females securing a win and the males placing third. The athletes who remained on sports scholarships continued to excel. Our footballer Chris Ann Chambers was selected for the national football team that competed at Central America and Caribbean (CAC) games. Netballers Amanda Pinkney and Abigail Sutherland were selected for several national teams including the Americas Fed-

eration of Netball Associations (AFNA) qualifier team in October 2022 and the World Fast Five in November 2022. Amanda also made the team for the England tour in September 2022 and Abigail was on the New Zealand tour November 2022. In July 2023 Abigail made the team slated to compete in the Netball World Cup. Erica Harris and Kenneth Roy-Clarke were selected for the National volleyball team that competed in the Olympic qualifiers in Trinidad in July 2022. Shemar Gordon and Christopher Reid were selected for the National team that competed in the Hockey 5s World Cup qualifier that was held in Jamaica in June 2023 and the Central America and Caribbean Games hockey tournament that was held in Dominican Republic in July 2023. Two other university athletes, Kevon Reid and Rasheed Johnston (students in the Academy of Sport) also competed in these tournaments. On the international scene Kai Chang won a gold medal in discus throw at Penn relays and Shamella Donaldson won a silver. Kai also secured a silver medal at World University games.

The Academy continued to maintain relationships with external sporting organisations thus increasing access and partnerships for revenue generation. The swimming pool at the Mona Bowl was re-opened under the management of the Tornadoes swim club and has been a hub of activity. The Academy engaged with the Jamaica Rugby Football Union (JRFU) to host the Rugby Americas North Regional Women's 15 and Men Under 19 tournaments at the Mona Bowl in July 2023. Several of the teams stayed at 138 Student Living. Live television coverage and livestream of the event by SportsMax led to the university being showcased to a global audience over five days. The event also allowed for students to engage in experiential learning as the practicum activities for three of the master's programmes were integrated into tournament activities. Educational workshops in first aid training and preparation of doctors and physiotherapists for field coverage of rugby were conducted in collaboration with the academy. Three staff members and three students were certified for on field management of rugby players and one staff received training as a first aid educator. In June 2023 the Academy in collaboration with the JRFU hosted the Cobham Rugby club from England for a Jamaican tour. This increased the visibility of the campus to rugby fans in England.

The academy partnered with AFNA in their hosting of educational activities associated with the Netball World Cup Qualifiers held in Jamaica in October 2022. This activity allowed for experiential student learning whilst showcasing the campus on national television. In November 2022 through our relationship with the Colombian Embassy we hosted a small group of athletes and coaches for a track and field camp. In February 2023, through our partnership with the French Embassy, we hosted members of the French Navy for a friendly football match at the Mona Bowl with our campus team. The Sports Medicine Clinic continued to work with the National Field Hockey program and contributed to the male team's success in qualifying

for the Hockey 5s World Cup at the qualification tournament held in Jamaica in June 2023. The clinic staff covered the Jamaica Scorpions on several tours and continued to work with Cricket West Indies. These activities all generated revenues for the clinic. Relationships have also been maintained with the Jamaica Archery Association and the National Powerlifting Association of Jamaica.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Due to significant staff shortages academic staff who normally engaged in research and publication had to divert their attention to increased administrative duties and teaching loads to ensure minimal impact to our students. This resulted in no peer reviewed publications for the first time in the academy's history. The Academy however, continued to encourage staff and students to write articles for publication in the two newspaper columns. Seven students contributed a total of nine articles and staff contributed a total of eight articles.

NON-REFEREED RESEARCH-BASED / SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS BY STAFF

- **Brown Calvert, Ruchelle.** Muscular imbalances – a risk factor for musculo-skeletal injuries. *Sports Pulse. Jamaica Gleaner.* September 4th 2022.
- **Facey, Aldeam.** No discrimination in World Athletics transgender ban. *Sports Pulse. Jamaica Gleaner.* April 16th 2023.
- **Facey, Aldeam.** Male to female transgender athletes in sport: The exclusion criteria. *Sport Matters. Trinidad Guardian.* April 17th 2023.
- **Grant, Tajay.** The problem of overwork Sports injuries, causes and prevention. *Sports Pulse. Jamaica Gleaner.* March 5th 2023.
- **Hosang, Cecile.** The pain of it. Why some athletes are always hurt. *Sports Matters. Trinidad Guardian.* January 22nd 2023.
- **Hosang, Cecile.** The ergonomics of playing surfaces. *Sports Matters. Trinidad Guardian.* April 2nd 2023.
- **Roopchand-Martin, S.** The story of Hockey. Creating winners through partnerships in sports. *Sports Pulse. Jamaica Gleaner.* July 2nd 2023.
- **Roopchand-Martin, S.** Use of sports tourism to develop local teams. *Sports Pulse. Jamaica Gleaner.* September 11th 2022.
- **Roopchand-Martin, S.** Sports Tourism as a vehicle for the development of team sports. *Sports Matters Column, Trinidad Guardian,* August 20, 2022.
- **Rose, Olivia.** Blessings of a mother. The inextricable link between athletic success and devoted moms. *Jamaica Gleaner.* May 14th 2023.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Roopchand Martin, S.** (virtual oral presentation) “Simultaneous Bilingual Education for Research Ethics: Challenges, Solutions, and Results”. Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE) 32nd Annual International Conference. Virtual. March 31st 2023.
- **Roopchand Martin, S.** (virtual oral presentation). “Research integrity: A model master’s level online course taught simultaneously in English and Spanish”. St. George’s University Research Day. Grenada. March 19th 2023.
- **Roopchand Martin, S.** (platform). “Using preparticipation evaluations to prepare individualized programmes and optimize performance in team sports”. INSEP International Conference Physical Dimension: Evaluation and Monitoring. Paris, France. December 1st 2022.
- **Facey, A.** (platform) Should Transgender and Intersex Athletes be Allowed to Compete with Cis-gendered Female Athletes? Caribbean Conference on Sport Sciences. Kingston, Jamaica. April 5th 2023.
- **Brown Calvert, R.** (platform). “Solutions to combat the challenges of climate change”. Acorn 25th Anniversary Climate Summit. Kingston, Jamaica. October 2022.

INCOME GENERATION

Rental of UWI Mona Athletic Stadium and Mona Bowl facilities	JA\$ 3,498,744.28
Academic Programmes	JA\$ 26,155,471.50
UWI Sports Medicine Clinic	JA\$ 8,809,154.85
Grants	€ 15,000.00 from the Association of French Universities

PUBLIC SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Dr. Aldeam Facey

- Doping Control Officer at the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission 2015 to present

Dr. Sharmella Roopchand-Martin

- Vice-chair Jamaica Rugby Football Union

Dr. Ruchelle Brown- Calvert

- Member of the Medical Committee – National Powerlifting Association of Jamaica

- Team doctor Cricket West Indies (CWI) U19 female tour of India, November 2022.
- Team doctor for CWI Women's U19 female team and senior women's team for World Cup held in South Africa January 2023 and February 2023.
- Medical coverage at Boys and Girls championships March/April 2023.

Tajay Grant

- Physiotherapist for the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Women's team for the inaugural Women's CPL and the sixty tournament August 2022.
- Physiotherapist for CWI women's versus Ireland tour held in Antigua September 2022.
- Part of the medical team for the Rugby America's North regional U19 and Women's 15 in Kingston. July 2023.

Ramon Hunter

- Chair of Medical Committee - National Powerlifting Association of Jamaica.
- Medical coverage for powerlifting tournaments held in March, May and June 2023.

Fiona Binns

- National Powerlifting Association of Jamaica – Athlete's Committee Chairperson
- Jamaica Intercollegiate Association – Volleyball Chairperson
- Jamaica Volleyball Association – Member of the General Secretary Committee

Olivia Rose

- Conducted two mental health workshops, January 2023 and May 2023, to UWI student leaders.
- Launched the first-ever charity initiative that caters to the menstrual cycle needs of girls and women in sports.
- Conducted four "I am enough" school tours across three schools in Jamaica to an audience ranging between 200 to 400. The aim of these tours was to build the confidence and self-esteem of students and boost their morale.

Alison Facey

- Conducted four health and wellness seminars targeting young girls, the elderly, and adults.
- July 2023 organized and hosted the Jamaica Youth Summit which is a forum for youth engagement with public and political matters.
- Colombian Camp at Mona Bowl November 2023
- French Navy visit for friendly football February 2023
- Rugby Americas North regional tournament Mona Bowl July 2023