



THE UWI SCHOOL OF NURSING (UWISON), MONA

Dr. Steve Weaver, RN, Cert. of Nursing Ed., BScN, MPH, PhD – Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The academic year 2018/2019 provided many opportunities to strengthen the identity of the UWI School of Nursing, Mona (UWISON) as the leader in the Caribbean region in preparing nurses at the graduate and undergraduate levels who are highly sought after by employers locally and internationally. Thus UWISON continued to provide nursing education through two baccalaureate models, five (5) Master's in Nursing tracks and three (3) PhD tracks. Baccalaureate models comprised the pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) programme, offered face to face at the Mona and Western Jamaica campuses and five (5) franchise sites, and the post-RN BScN programme which is offered online. The UWI's Triple-A Strategy has largely informed the operational plan of UWISON.

UWISON has maintained its commitment to addressing Regional nursing shortages by increasing enrolment into nursing programmes. Hence, a priority initiative has focused on increasing access to baccalaureate nursing education across the Region through franchising of the BScN curriculum. One new franchise was successfully implemented in the 2018/2019 academic year at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College. Preliminary talks have begun with a view to expand the franchise offering to The Turks and Caicos Islands. It is anticipated that this will yield at least one additional site from which the BScN programme might be accessed within the 2019/20 academic year.

The UWI administration had been in dialogue with the Antigua State College with the intention of offering the BScN as a Franchise. Dr. Steve Weaver, Mrs. Joyette Aiken, Franchise Programme Coordinator and Miss Melissa Walker, BScN Programme Coordinator, visited Antigua during the period January 28–February 01, 2019 to finalize the franchise arrangements. This initiative was driven by the Vice-Chancellor through the Deputy Principal. However, subsequent to the College being designated the “fourth landed” campus, the idea of franchising of the programme has been exchanged for support from UWISON, Mona for the implementation of baccalaureate

nursing education at The Five Islands Campus. It is anticipated that in the short term, UWISON's BScN curriculum will be adopted. In addition, in an attempt to standardize undergraduate nursing education offered at the UWI Campus sites, it is also expected that all Schools of nursing will participate in the review of the curriculum which is to continue in the 2019/20 academic year.

One goal of UWISON to achieve alignment has been to improve the quality of its programmes as well as its graduates. Thus, extensive reviews of the MSN and BScN curricula continued throughout the 2018/19 academic year and will continue in 2019/20, with a new implementation target date now set at September 2021/22. The two-pronged purpose of the revision is to achieve compliance with the WHO's (2016) Revised Competencies for Nursing Education and Practice and to reflect the priority positions of the Nursing Council of Jamaica and the Regional Nursing Body. One challenge that has stymied this effort is the perennial shortage of academic staff and the corresponding heavy workload of existing staff who are charged with the responsibility for leading the curriculum review.

A measure of quality of delivery of the undergraduate and graduate nursing curricula is the Course Evaluation conducted each semester by the Office of the Principal. Following the exercise, five (5) members of the academic staff were recognized at the Guardian Life Premium Teaching Awards Ceremony in December 2018 having received an average rating of 4 or greater for their respective course evaluations. These members are Mrs. Pauline Anderson-Johnson, Mrs. Antoinette Barton-Gooden, Mrs. Dawn Munroe, Mrs. Mauvette Waite and Mrs. Donnette Wright-Myrie.

A second goal has been to increase impactful research output. One strategy implemented to achieve this goal is participation of academic staff and graduate students in the School's biweekly *Journal Club* which provides opportunities for peer review of research proposals, manuscripts in preparation and disseminate research findings. Professor Eulalia Kahwa, the research expert in the School, serves as the as the main facilitator and mentor.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- Allen, K. & Garriques-Lloyd, S. (2018). "Assessing the screening practices of community mental health nurses for metabolic side effects in patients with schizophrenia". Presented at the 9th Annual Health Research Conference of the Ministry of Health, November 22–23, 2018. No text included in the form of a paper.
- Kahwa, E. (2019). "Strengthening Health Care Systems through capacity building for research and policy development among nurses and midwives". Presented as an inaugural Professorial lecture on the occasion of the University's Research Day February 6, 2019, UWI Mona. No text included in the form of a paper.

- **Waite, M., Wright-Foster, K. & Chisholm-Ford, S.** (2018). "Nurse Managers Perception of their Responsibilities in handling crowding in the Emergency Department at a Type B hospital in Jamaica". Presented at the 9th Annual Health Research Conference of the Ministry of Health, November 22–23, 2018. No text included in the form of a paper.
- **Wright, G.; Waugh-Brown, V.** "The occurrence of chronic sorrow and coping strategies employed by adult oncology patients in western Jamaica". Presented at CARPHA 64th Annual Research Conference, June 21, 2019 in Trinidad and at the 29th Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference and Mary Jane Seivwright Day, May 31, 2019 at the School of Nursing, Mona. A one-page abstract was submitted.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- **Abdul-Kareem K., Lindo J.L.M., Stennett R.** (2019). "Medical-surgical nurses' documentation of client teaching and discharge planning at a Jamaican hospital". *International Nursing Review* 00, 1–8.
- **Gustave, Y., Wright-Myrie, D., & Kahwa, E.,** (2018). "Parental perception of children's weight status: a quantitative assessment of urban families with children 2–5 years". *Caribbean Journal of Nursing*, supp. 4(1), 21.
- **Wright-Myrie, D., Kahwa, E., & Reid, M.,** (2018). "Nutrition in Critical Illness: CCRN's perception of nurses' role in nutritional management of critically ill patients". *Caribbean Journal of Nursing*, supp. 4(1), 14.

NON-REFEREED ARTICLE

- **Waugh-Brown, V.** "Is Cornwall Regional Hospital Sick unto Death?" In, the *Jamaica Observer* (Thursday May 3, 2018).

Books & Monographs

- **Mullings J, Barton-Gooden A, Garriques-Lloyd S, Noble-Myrie V, Reid, S. and Paul, T.** Pathways to Sustainable Development Goal # 3: Integrating human rights, health equity and social justice into health policies and programmes in Jamaica. In *Advances in Sociology Research*. Volume 27, 2019 ISBN: 987-1-53615-802-1 (ebook). Nova Science Publishers. Hauppauge, New York, USA.
- **Lynch, M.** (2019). "Monuments of the mind" In *The voices behind mental illness: The mind is a terrible thing to waste* (Series 3). Ed. By Vanessa Abram. Purpose and Prosperity Publishing Company.

- **Wright-Myrie, D.** (2018). *Computations in nutrition: A guide for healthcare workers*. South Carolina: CreateSpace. <https://www.amazon.com/Computations-Nutrition-guide-healthcare-workers/dp/1718692544>

Technical Reports

- Merrick, N., **Munroe, D.**, **Rae, T.**, Euter-Tracey, N., Bunnaman, D., Maragh, O., Moore, H. & Blair, L. (2018). *An assessment of Midwives' views regarding regulatory requirements of home births for student midwives in Jamaica*. Prepared for the Nursing Council of Jamaica in January 2018.

INCOME GENERATION

Collaborations with international partners, including those within the Jamaican diaspora, have provided a means to diversify the income stream of the School. For the period under review, there was an approximate net gain of JMD \$3.5M from administrative fees and scholarships, as follows: -

The Jamaica Nurses Group of New York Inc. Dr. Claudette McFauhar, the President-Elect, awarded USD1000.00 each to two undergraduate nursing students who were completing the final year of the programme. Donations of \$500 USD each were also made to two third year students.

The UHWI Batch 61 Memorial Scholarship Fund awarded one student with US\$1,000.00.

Institute for the International Education of Students (IES): Two revolving scholarships in the sum of US\$10,000.00 was offered to two undergraduate students and a further revolving US\$680.00 was provided to two hundred (200) needy students for the year.

The MAICA Impact Scholarship amounting to CAD\$5000.00 awarded to two students from the Western Jamaican Campus.

Franchise programmes: Approximately \$1.5M in franchise fees was generated from the five (5) franchise programmes.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Aiken, Joyette

- Charter member /Treasurer – Omega Kappa Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International (Honor Society of Nursing) and Chairman of the Committee for the Review of the National Curriculum for Nursing Education, Nursing Council of Jamaica

Anderson-Johnson, Pauline

- President, Omega Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International; an Honour Society for the advancement of nursing scholarship.

Garriques-Lloyd, Sheryl

- Vice-President Omega Kappa Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International (Honor Society of Nursing)

Henry-Ferguson, Verona

- Chairman, the Nurse Educators Special Interest Group of the Nurses Association of Jamaica

Munroe, Dawn

- Director, the Jamaica Parent School (JAMPAS), Co-Chairman, the Nursing Council of Jamaica Research Committee

Pitter, Cynthia

- Vice President, Caribbean Regional Midwives' Association and Member of the Board of the Nursing Council of Jamaica

Waite, Mauvette

- Member, Emergency Nurses Association, Member – Caribbean Journal of Nursing Editorial and Committee and Member – CARICOM Network for Nursing and Midwifery Education

Waugh-Brown, Veronica

- Justice of the Peace for St. James

Wright-Myrie, Donnette

- Justice of the Peace; Advisor to the National Police Youth Club Council and Community Safety and Security Branch of the JCF.

STUDENTS

Several strategies were implemented to facilitate undergraduate students' progress through the nursing programme. These included innovations to minimize the financial burden of the programme such as scholarships, bursaries and meals, academic advisement, conducted at least once per semester, a student enrichment exercise aimed at motivating and empowering students preparing for employment, and international learning immersion.

Scholarships

Scholarships were awarded to students who achieved a grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 and above; provided verification of their financial need; whose essays adequately expressed their career goals and financial need; who were in good academic standing with the UWI; and who consistently demonstrated high standards of professionalism

Student Enrolment in the BScN Programme 2018/19 Academic Year

| Institution name | Country | Total No. students |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Excelsior Community College (Exed) | Jamaica | 248 |
| Browns Town Community College (BTCC) | Jamaica | 158 |
| Knox Community College (KCC) | Jamaica | 166 |
| Clarence Fitzroy Bryant Community College (CFBCC) | St. Kitts | 26 |
| St. Vincent & the Grenadines Community College (SVGCC) | St. Vincent & the Grenadines | 34 |
| The UWI School of Nursing Western Jamaica Campus (UWISON WJC) | Jamaica | 93 |
| The UWI School of Nursing, Mona (Mona Campus) | Jamaica | 563 |
| Total Number of Students Enrolled | | 1,288 |

and professional engagement. Scholarships were secured from professional nursing groups through their ongoing partnerships with UWISON.

- *The Jamaica Nurses Group of New York Inc.* Dr. Claudette McFauhar, the President-Elect, awarded USD1000.00 each to two undergraduate nursing students who were completing the final year of the programme. These students were: **Mikayle Francis** and **Francine Crosby**. Donations of \$500 USD each were also made to two third year students: **Kenice Frew** and **Althia Smart**. The awards were presented at the 3rd Annual Scholarship Award Ceremony on December 12, 2018 of the Jamaica Nurses Group of New York Inc. at UWISON.
- *The UHWI Batch 61 Memorial Scholarship Fund* awarded **Mickayle Francis** with US\$1,000.00.
- *Institute for the International Education of Students (IES)*: Two revolving scholarships in the sum of US\$10,000.00 was offered to two undergraduate students and a further revolving US\$680.00 was provided to two hundred (200) needy students for the year. The IES Full Tuition Scholarship winners were **Cherry-Ann Webley**, 4th Year Student and **Anna-Lese Gyles**, 2nd Year Student for US\$5,000.00 each.

UWISON'S STUDENTS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (MEALS)

The School's Assistance Programme resumed disbursement on September 24, 2018. Through this programme, students who have financial challenges receive three (3) lunch tickets valued at \$480.00 each week of the Semester.

Student Enrichment and Empowerment

The School hosted its 3rd Student Enrichment Seminar for finalizing students in the BScN Programme under the theme: "Becoming". Topics included: *Preparing for The World of Work: The HR Perspective; Becoming A Brand of Excellence; Debt Management and Retirement Planning.*

International Learning Immersion

Two students, one from Mona and one from Mona Western Jamaica campus visited the Kristianstad University for the 10 weeks of the Summer term. This visit exposed the students to international nursing practices specific to elder care.

Student Achievement

LASCO/ Nurses Association of Jamaica (NAJ) & UWI AWARDS: Miss Abigaile Jones from UWISON's Western Jamaica section emerged as the winner of the NAJ/ LASCO Nursing Student of the Year Competition.

Faculty of Medical Sciences Dean's List and Honour Roll: Thirty-eight (38) students from 1st, 2nd and 3rd years were added to the Dean's list having achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.6 and above. Two students were inducted into Honour Society; having achieved the highest GPA for their respective year groups. This number reflects an increase in the number of students achieving these awards.

Graduate Student Enrolment

There are 33 graduate students completing the Master of Science in Nursing (MScN) degree and seven (7) PhD students; three of whom have achieved Candidacy. Two (2) candidates are scheduled to be examined in Semester 1, 2019/20. A proposal is to be drafted to offer the MScN programme at the Mona Western Jamaica Campus, in an effort to improve access to graduate studies among nurses who are employed in St. James and surrounding parishes.