

UWI DISTANCE EDUCATION CENTRE (UWIDEC)

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WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT



During the period under review, UWIDEC's academic programming continued to focus on the shift to incorporate more use of on-line delivery and asynchronous technologies in the delivery of its programmes. The Blended Learning Project saw the conversion of an additional thirteen (13) courses offered in the BSc in Management Studies and the BSc in Educational Administration programmes. The on-line summer course, Introduction to Online Learning, was again offered to both incoming and existing students to help them to better transition to

the new delivery modalities.

Emphasis was placed on the capacity building of faculty and other staff members to develop competencies in the development, management and delivery of online content. Workshops and training sessions funded through the CUPIDE project (<http://www.cupide.org.jm>) were carried out. The collaboration with academic departments continued with increased momentum. To this end, the BSc in Literacy Studies offered by the Department of Educational Studies was launched.

Work also continued on the plant modernization project at Mona. A new state-of-the-art computer network was implemented enabling IP based services to seamlessly integrate with the campus. A wireless infrastructure was also deployed to increase access to online and network services where fixed wired computers are limited. The main teaching studio was upgraded to a state-of-the-art meeting room supporting full multimedia presentation capabilities with online access. Through collaboration with CARICOM (<http://www.caricom.org>) a videoconferencing focal point was established. This focal point now allows UWIDEC to hold

videoconferences with any other location in the world using IP based internet technologies. Tender was also awarded to contractors to deploy a new UWIDEC wide IP based network to support teaching and other administrative activities including IP based voice telephony across all UWIDEC locations locally and overseas.

In order to widen access to UWIDEC's offerings, discussions were entered into with local representatives in Spanish Town and Falmouth to establish community based learning centres that would access UWIDEC programmes through local centres. The centres are expected to be launched in the academic year 2007/2008. Preliminary work has also started on the UWIDEC centre in Mandeville.

Figures 1 and 2 show student enrollment trends throughout Jamaica.

Figure 1 Undergraduate Programmes

Jamaica: Site Name	BSc in Management Studies	BEd. in Education Administration	BSc in Accounting (Level I)	BSc in Economics (Level I)
Ocho Rios	350	18	6	1
Morant Bay	76	20	4	
Brown's Town	126	24	4	2
Sav-La-Mar	223	108	2	10
Denbigh	185	30	2	
Mandeville	274	44	6	2
Montego Bay	423	10		
Port Antonio	170	18		
Vere	31	4	2	
Mona	247	15	10	3

INCOME GENERATION

Figure 2 Income Generating Activities

Activity	Income	Expenditure
Summer School	3.1M JMD	2.3 M JMD
Rental of teleconferencing facility by other regional non UWI entities	780,000JMD	

PUBLIC SERVICE

Christine Marrett

- Member, Caribbean Association for Distance and Open Learning
- Public Relations Officer, Jamaican Association for Distance and Open Learning
- Member, Association of Caribbean Higher Education Administrators

Charmaine McKenzie

- Member of the Board, National Library of Jamaica
- Member, Jamaican Association for Distance and Open Learning
- Hon. Editor, Jamaican Historical Society *Bulletin*
- Editor, Grace, Kennedy Foundation Lectures since 2003

Vilma McClenan

- Member, Jamaican Council for Adult Education (JACAE)
- President, Jamaican Association for Open and Distance Learning (JADOL)
- Member, Caribbean Regional Council for Adult Education (CARCAE)
- Member, Executive Committee and Caribbean Representative on the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE)

Derrick Thompson

- Treasurer, Jamaican Association for Distance and Open Learning

