The University of the West Indies Office of the Vice Chancellor

The UWI Responsive to the needs of the Caribbean

T HIS has been a very busy year for Caribbean-relevant undergraduate and graduate programs that have been spent meeting and talking to stakeholders and putting in place people and programmes necessary to enhance the performance of the University of the West Indies. The University and the Caribbean countries in which it is anchored, are undergoing a period of immense regional and global change and so, our University must not only continue to educate, but must also play a key role in research that can drive creation of new products and services as well as help address our most challenging problems.

Our aim is to be:

1. First in providing high quality Caribbean-relevant undergraduate and graduate programs
2. First in knowledge development and development in the Caribbean and port of call for Caribbean governments, businesses and other organizations seeking strategic advice

To achieve these goals we must meet the needs of students from countries such as the UWI-12, Caribbean and port of call for Caribbean governments, businesses and other organizations seeking strategic advice.

Following discussions over the past year, with stakeholders representing students, faculty, the private sector regional and international organizations, we have defined four major imperatives for the UWI:

1. Strengthening the productivity of the University of the West Indies around a cohesive strategic plan that includes such areas as the restructuring of graduate programmes, the examination system and data management systems, and implementation of performance and accountability requirements for staff, departments and faculties.
2. Redoubling the contribution and presence of the university in the UWI-12 countries, based on a systematic identification of their human resource needs.
3. Expansion of programmes to address critical growth and development needs of the Caribbean.
4. Broadening the outreach of and financial base of the institution.

As the region moves towards greater integration, we must also as a university, address the increasing concentration of students on the campuses in countries where they are located.

Our “UWI Caribbean Integration Programme” is designed to promote movement of students between campuses, encouraging them to spend at least one semester on another campus or “UWI-12” community college with approved degree programmes.

With respect to providing consistent and strategic advice to governments, regional organizations and the private sector in the region, we are taking three broad initiatives:

1. Creation of a university wide consulting company to better mobilize expertise in our academic communities to address specific policy and strategic planning needs of governments, regional and national agencies, the private sector and other organizations.
2. Creation of university-wide centers that will address areas of vulnerability in the Caribbean and in collaboration with a Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction & Management and a Centre in Criminology & Social Justice.

We would also like to enhance

CARIBBEAN nationals and friends of the region were honoured at a gala on Thursday, February 2, 2006 when the American Foundation for the University of the West Indies (AFUWI), hosted its ninth annual gala “The Legacy Continues” in New York City’s historic and chic event venue, Cipriani.

HIS event, the patron of which was Dr. The Hon. Harry Belafonte OJ, The Hon. Sir Shridath Ramphal, CIN, former Chancellor and General Manager of Microsoft West Indies, the Hon. George Gobin, Barbados; the Hon. Sir Shridath Ramphal, former Chancellor, General Manager of Microsoft West Indies; Sir Sirshad Rampall, former Chancellor, University of the West Indies; the Hon. Lloyd Williams, President of the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce; Hon. Maurice Facey, O.J., J.P., President of Pan Jamaican Investment Trust Ltd.; Ambassador Peter King, Special Envoy of Jamaica and Professor Rav Nottefjeld, O.J., Vice Chancellor Emeritus, UWI.

They were honored as “individuals who have left their indelible mark on the Caribbean and the region, and who have been an inspiration to us and as a group, signify the progress made during the 20th century and representing some of the significant contributions made by the Caribbean Diaspora”. The event was chaired by US television personalities Maurice Duliba (CBS) and Brenda Blackman (WWOR9).

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The University of the West Indies is facing the challenges of transforming the university into a world class entity. Not least among them is the geographic divide between the three main campuses and UHWI, lack of resources and the high cost of travel and telecommunications and internet connectivity which challenge the possibilities for greater integration and collaboration between centers.

However, we are totally committed to putting in place the necessary programs that will ensure the University is better able to deliver high quality services, enhancing our presence in the Caribbean, beginning with the UWI-12 countries, and to utilize our communities additional ways to address disaster preparation and crime, and to broaden the financial base of the university.

This year’s guests, as in previous years, are: President of the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, Hon. Maurice Facey, O.J., J.P., President of Pan Jamaican Investment Trust Ltd.; Ambassador Peter King, Special Envoy of Jamaica and Professor Rav Nottefjeld, O.J., Vice Chancellor Emeritus, UWI.

Among those participating in the presentation ceremony were Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Whitington, Dr. Don Christian, Helen & Jennifer Christian, daughters of Pamela Rodgers-Johnson, Professor Roderick Prince, O.J., J.P., President of Pan Jamaican Investment Trust Ltd.; Ambassador Peter King, Special Envoy of Jamaica and Professor Rav Nottefjeld, O.J., Vice Chancellor Emeritus, UWI.

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The University of the West Indies Offices of the Vice Chancellor directs the affairs of the regional university across the following contributing territories.

For more information on the office or on this page, please contact Merisekin Keneke & Associates Email: merisekin@cwjamaica.com Telephone: (876) 960-3170

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