DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Michael Witter, BSc II, MSc, PhD WII – Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

Overview of Academic Year

The Department of Economics had a fairly successful academic year in 2005/06 as indicated by the achievement of some of its objectives, and progress towards achieving most of the others.

The factors which accounted for the achievements were:

- The improved access to information from Student Records, Office of Graduate Studies and Research, the Bursary, Human Resources Department, Admissions and Examinations Section;
- The improved responsiveness, efficiency, and organization of the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences;
- A division of responsibilities for the management and administration of the Department’s affairs that has become more effective over time;
- An efficient administrative office that is committed to continuous improvement of its efficiency and its customer service; and
- A discernible increase in the level of cooperation of individual staff members with Departmental strategies and policies. These, in turn, reflect the strategies and policies of the Faculty and the Campus.

The principal constraints were:

- There are insufficient senior members of staff in leadership roles. The Department has no professor and two of the five senior lecturers were on leave.
- The motivation of the permanent staff is low on account of the poor emoluments they receive. The Department has repeatedly
made the case that it is disadvantaged in the competition to attract new staff in the international market for economists.

- There is insufficient classroom space, and uncertain tenure for some of the rooms assigned to economics courses.

The highlights of the academic year were:

**Staff**

The Department succeeded in hiring two new lecturers and one senior secretary. The lecturers are:

- **Dr. Lloyd Amaghionyeodiwe**, a Nigerian graduate of the University of Ibadan, and formerly a lecturer at Olabisi Onabanjo University in Nigeria;

- **Dr. Karl Petrick**, an American graduate of Leeds University Business School, and formerly a lecturer at Leeds Metropolitan University in the UK; and

- the senior secretary is **Ms. Evadne Cowell**, a recent graduate from University of Technology.

**Instruction**

All second year courses were formatted for online instruction on the OurVLE platform.

Further work to upgrade the first year courses which were already in the OurVLE format was also completed.

The use of multimedia techniques of instruction was expanded both in the number of courses and the sophistication of the applications.

Evening streams for two of the most important second year courses, Intermediate Microeconomics I (EC20A) and Intermediate Macroeconomics (EC21A) were introduced to facilitate part-time students.

**Examinations**

The Department has maintained its record of submitting all examination marksheets on time and the staff has been commended accordingly.

**Curriculum Review**
Both the undergraduate and the graduate curricula have been undergoing thorough review. This phase of the reviews should be completed during the current academic year. The reviews were recommended by the Quality Assurance Review team of 2005.

**Graduate Programme**

The graduate programme has continued to distinguish itself and has earned an international reputation for quality as indicated by:

- the increasing numbers of MSc graduates who are receiving financial support for doctoral work in North American and European Universities;
- the strengthening of relationships between the Department and Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Public Policy, State University of New York, Penn State University, University of Colorado and the University of Manchester;
- a visit by Emeritus Professor John Riew of Penn State University to recruit doctoral students; and
- an annual invitation to graduate students to present papers at the South Western Economics Association Conference.

**Quality Assurance**

The implementation of the recommendations of the Quality Assurance Review of 2005 began with the establishment of a Departmental Committee and the preparation of an Action Plan for implementing the recommendations. The Action Plan was submitted to OBUS.

**Research**

The Chart below indicates an increasing trend in the output of refereed publications by general areas. This is consistent with the goal of increasing research output per permanent staff member. In recent years, the Department has had great difficulty competing successfully in the market for economists. Fortunately, there have been many competent MSc graduates who have opted for temporary appointments while they prepare themselves for doctoral study abroad. The Department has had no success in attracting these persons back after they have completed their doctoral studies.
Reports

The Department prepared and submitted monthly reports to the Faculty Board, a management report to the Principal on June 30 and, several reports to the Deputy Principal on student assessments.

Institutional Research

The Department has initiated:

- a review of the academic performance of students between 1990 and 2004 in all its courses; (A preliminary report has been prepared for all first year courses, and most second year courses)
- a process of tracking and analysing the student assessments of courses and lecturers;
- a process of tracking and collating the published and non-published research of its permanent staff. A preliminary report for the years 1999-2005 has been drafted.
- the writing of the Department’s history, and
- a review of the supplies purchased by the office for the use of the academic and administrative staff of the Department with a view to guiding purchases in 2006-7.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Abdulkadri, Abdullahi Dr

| Chart 1: |

**Alleyne, Dillon Dr**


**Dixon, Kelly-Ann Ms**


**Figueroa, Mark Dr**


• “Insights from the 1938 (All Jamaica) Economic and Industrial Conference”, to 5th ‘Caribbean Reasonings’ Conference: Centre for Caribbean Thought, UWI, Mona, June 8-10, 2006, pp. 29.


Folawewo, Abiodun Dr


• (with Abdulkadri, Abdullahi O.) “Debt Crisis in Developing Countries”, Black History Day Workshop, Association of Nigerians in Jamaica, February 2006, 28 pages.

Freckleton, Marie Dr

• “Prospects for Diversification of CARICOM Exports” United States Department of State Conference on the Caribbean, October 6-7 2005, Washington D.C.

Ghartey, Edward Dr

• “Monetary Policy on Ghana’s Term Structure of Interest Rates: Effects and Implications.” The Eighth International Conference of The International Society for Inter-communication of New Ideas (ISINI), Wageningen, The Netherlands, August, 24-27, 2005.


Kirton, Claremont Mr


Tennant, David Dr


Witter, Michael Dr

• “Trade Liberalization: the experience of Jamaica”. UNCTAD Workshop on Trade Liberalization, Terra Nova, Kingston, October 24, 2005:


• “Organizational Change – case study of the Department of Economics, UWI, Mona” Annual General Meeting of the Jamaica Cooperative Credit Union League, Ocho Rios, Jamaica, May 2006

• “Trade Liberalization and Import Surges in Jamaica: case studies of Dairy, Poultry and Onions”, Presentation to FAO workshop on Trade Liberalization and Agriculture in St. Vincent, June 13-15, 2006:

PUBLICATIONS

Chapter in a Book

Witter, Michael Dr


Refereed Journal Articles

Abdulkadri, Abdullahi Dr


Alleyne, Dillon Dr

* Can Unit-Root Testing Improve Forecasting Accuracy of Tourist Arrivals? Tourism Economics, 12 (1) 2006: 45-64.

Ghartey, Edward Dr


Figueroa, Mark Dr


Tennant, David Dr

**Peer Reviewed Publications**

**Uchida, Toshihiro Dr**


**Technical Reports**

**Abdulkadri, Abdullahi Dr**


**Alleyne, Dillon Dr**


**Kirton, Claremont Mr**


**Witter, Michael Dr**

* “Economic Implications of the transformation of the Jamaican sugar industry into a sugar cane based industry”, Planning Institute of Jamaica, March 2006

PUBLIC SERVICE

Abdulkadri, Abdullahi Dr
- Editorial Board Member, Journal of Arts, Science and Technology
- Judge, Graduate Students Paper Competition, South-western Economics Association
- External Examinar, Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica

Figueroa, Mark Dr
- Member, Board of Directors: Jamaica Environmental Trust

Ghartey, Edward Dr
- Associate Editor, Frontiers in Finance and Economics
- Editorial Board Member, Opus One Journal of Undergraduate Studies
- Advisory Board Member, North American Economic and Finance Association
- Member, Bye-Laws Reform Committee, African Finance and Economics Association
- Member, Bye-Laws Reform Committee, International Society for Intercommunication of New Ideas (ISINI).

King, Damien Dr
- Member, Economic Policy Committee, Private Sector Organization of Jamaica.

Kirton, Claremont Mr
- Board Member, Jamaica Deposit Insurance Corporation (JIDC)
- Board Member, George Beckford Foundation
- Member, Jamaica Stock Exchange Essay Competition Committee

Tennant, David Dr
- Member, Board of Commissioners, Financial Services Commission
Witter, Michael Dr

- Chairman, Board of RADA
- Member, Board of Directors, the Agricultural Support Services Fund
- Member, Monitoring Committee for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of Jamaica and the Unions, representing Public Sector workers
- Member, Steering Committee for Regulatory Impact Assessment
- Member, Civil Society Advisory Committee

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS


Class of Degree Obtained

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Registrations by Programme and Status

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Prizes Awarded:

Alleyne, Dillon Dr


Figueroa, Mark Dr

Research Day Award UWI, Mona 2006 for Best Article: Social Sciences