SECTION 1
MESSAGES
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Each year the University looks forward to greeting new students who are entering these hallowed halls for the first time. They bring with them a sense of anticipation of great things to come, exciting new ideas, much youthful enthusiasm, and a wonderful rush of energy that we hope will take them through not only their first year, but through their entire tenure with us.

It is my pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to each of you into the UWI family. This step marks a new phase in your lives and while we are here to guide you through the few years ahead, much of the responsibility will be with you in terms of how your academic careers will evolve. There will be challenges ahead as you settle into your new surroundings and classes, but we have a dedicated staff and faculty who will be there to provide you with advice, guidance and counselling. Work hard at your academic studies, but do take advantage of all the co-curricular activities that are also available to you. The University has many sporting facilities and we are also well known on the world debating scene. In the area of culture, there are many groups on each campus - dance societies, drama clubs and choirs – to help you to develop your artistic talents.

We are preparing you for the world of work and that preparation is as much about academics as it is about your physical and emotional development. Form good friendships and value them. Social networking extends beyond your years at university. You will meet friends who will remain so for a lifetime. Some of you may even find your life partners while studying here! Take good care of your health and always be mindful and caring of others around you.

Welcome!

E. Nigel Harris, Vice Chancellor.
I am delighted to extend a warm welcome all new undergraduate students to the UWI, Mona Campus. You have made a great choice in selecting this institution. As you participate in the many academic and non-academic experiences designed for your wholistic development, I am confident that you will agree with our many satisfied clients that there is no better place to pursue your tertiary education. Let me share some of the undisputed reasons we are number one in the region.

Your UWI degree is the standard of excellence in tertiary education in the region. We achieved that status by meeting global performance standards in research and undergraduate teaching. As a consequence we have become the preferred choice for the brightest and best Caribbean students. For several years the UWI has attracted almost all the awardees of the prestigious Jamaica Scholarships and highest achievers in the CXC examinations. Last year, all the Jamaica Scholars chose the UWI.

We are committed to being dynamic and responsive to national and regional needs. We will therefore continue to operate as a single regional university in continuous dialogue with all our stakeholders. The result has been that the UWI has been able to propel economic, social, political and cultural development of the region. An important contribution to being responsive to the needs of our region, is our preparation and offering of new courses, to meet the changing needs of our community and the global market place.

The UWI unquestionably is the primary source for research and advice in dealing with the complex issues facing our region. Our staff are engaged in internationally competitive research on issues that challenge our region and beyond. Last year three UWI staff members shared the prestigious Nobel
Peace Prize on climate change with the former Vice President of the USA, Al Gore. With our highly trained staff serving the region on three physical campuses in: Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago we have a capacity, second to none in the region, to supply expert technical, professional and advisory services to governments and the private sector.

Our graduates are career-ready, grounded in their disciplines, articulate and possess superior problem-solving and critical thinking skills making them desirable candidates for leadership positions in public and private enterprise. A total of thirteen graduates of the UWI are or have been prime ministers of the region and several others are or have been heads of state and presidents of large corporations. Besides all the programmes offered here at Mona for your development, we provide exchange opportunities to other campuses and universities to fast track your becoming a socially conscious, well-rounded and globally attuned graduate.

As if those reasons are not compelling enough, we provide a wide array of co-curricular activities to impart social skills, build community awareness, develop character and to introduce well needed fun and play into your Mona experience. We specially designed the co-curricular programme to give each of you a satisfying and complete student experience. Take advantage of it.

I hope to see you participating in some of these activities as you enjoy the UWI and nurture stronger bonds with the region, your country, the university and your new-found friends some of whom have come here, across the region and beyond. Have a wonderful time here at Mona.

Professor Gordon Shirley
Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal
I am particularly pleased to welcome all new students to the four campuses of our regional University as well as to say welcome back to all returning students, many of whom will be entering their final year at this noble Institution. Our University has grown exponentially and all the Campuses have been undergone quite a transformation; nevertheless, it is our hope that you will navigate what at first glance may appear to be a maze, quite effortlessly. In order to ensure that your experiences are hassle free as far as humanly possible, we are making every effort to provide the supportive mechanisms that would assist in making your University experience a memorable and enjoyable one.

The Mona Campus has been experimenting with a programme called the First Year Experience designed to minimize any obstacles confronting the new student. We hope that, that best practice can be incorporated in the first year programme at the sister Campuses. Significant efforts are also being made to improve the facilities that cater to the needs of all our students, in both curricula and co-curricula activities. Most of the Campuses provide wireless connectivity so that students can access the internet anytime anywhere. We have been making efforts to improve our Student Administration and Examinations Systems so that registration is easier and can be completed from the convenience of your home. The Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies (OBUS) has also been spearheading an extensive programme on curriculum reform geared to ensure that you will become a graduate “who has a regional frame of
reference and exemplifies the following attributes: (i) a critical and creative thinker, (ii) a problem solver, (iii) an effective communicator, (iv) knowledgeable and informed, (v) competent, (vi) a leader (vii) a team player, (viii) IT skilled and information literate, (ix) socially and culturally responsive, (x) ethical, (xi) innovative and entrepreneurial, (xii) a lifelong, self-motivated Learner.”

I am sure that you will find that your time spent at the University of the West Indies will be filled with opportunities to grow as a whole human being and cultivate lifelong mutually beneficial relationships. Embrace the challenges that will confront you with confidence and strive to maintain balance in all you do during your course of study.

C. William Iton
Director of Administration/
University Registrar
It is my pleasure to welcome all new students to the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, one of the most beautiful campuses in the world, nestled in a valley surrounded by the Long Mountain and the foothills of the Blue Mountain range. I extend heartiest congratulations to you on gaining admission.

For most of you, university life will be a brand new experience. As you settle into the demands of academic life, I hope that you will be able to make good use of the many opportunities that will be provided to you to broaden not only your knowledge, but also to enhance your personal and intellectual development.

At the UWI, we strive to provide higher education within a dynamic atmosphere. New courses and programmes designed to satisfy your own needs, as well as national and regional imperatives are continuously added to our existing offerings, and you will be challenged by faculty members of the highest caliber to unearth your full potential.

This Student Handbook was designed especially for you and provides vital information on the range of services, facilities and support that are available at Mona. Be sure to take full advantage of all that we have to offer. The Handbook also introduces you to the Rules and Regulations which govern your status as a student of the University and it is important that you make every effort to familiarize yourself with its contents.

The Office of the Campus Registrar is always open to you and our staff in the Registry are always only too willing to be of service to you. I hope that the year ahead, and the years to come will be productive, fulfilling and enjoyable and that you
will find your time at the Mona Campus a truly rewarding on in every respect.

*Camille Bell-Hutchinson, PhD*

*Campus Registrar*
It is with a sense of excitement and commitment that I welcome each of you to the premier institution in the Caribbean, knowing that in some ways I am going to be afforded the opportunity to facilitate you in achieving your goal of realizing your dream career. As a student centered institution, our aim is to create the opportunities for you to achieve excellence in your academic and co-curricular activities, thus allowing you to unlock your potentials as rounded individuals, armed with the competencies that the working world is expecting of a UWI, Mona graduate. However, you have a major role to play in the process as you take responsibility for your learning, your personal security, your experience of a rich salad bowl of Caribbean and international culture that the Campus provides and for the impact you may have on the learning and development of your peers. I want you to know that the Campus records and rewards excellence in scholarly practices and in co-curricular activities in areas of leadership, service and culture. Aim to be among those who will be recognized.

You have joined the Campus at an exciting time when the entire University is celebrating its 60th anniversary. It is my hope that we will be able to incorporate your fresh ideas and so allow you to be a part of this historic year in the life of the institution. The days ahead of you are going to be some of the best days in your life – enjoy them.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with you at a personal level.

Thelora Reynolds, PhD
Director of Student Services and Development
Welcome to the UWI— the Premiere Tertiary Educational Institution in the region and “your place to shine”.

I had no idea these words would have applied to me in the way they did. However four year later as your Guild President, I am indeed a testimony to the inherent potential that lies within these noble walls.

In truth the University took an ordinary individual and transformed him into a leader, who is passionate about and dedicated to student advocacy and regional transformation. A major part of my development however must be attributed to my involvement in various University activities. I was excited at the prospect of being here and I took to clubs and societies like birds to flying. The enthusiasm paid off, because four month later I was chosen by the Debating Society to represent the University in Malaysia. The experience changed my life and gave me a new sense of confidence that has led to my positions on the Guild and the opportunity to represent the University at various engagements across the Caribbean.

As students, the opportunity to access such learning opportunities is available and should be readily utilized.

In addition to molding leaders, the UWI also furnishes its students with the requisite social skills; programmes such as the First Year Experience and Quality leadership are highly prescribed programmes as they provide students with life skills. As a recipient of these experiences my presentation and oral skills have improved tremendously. My ability to command an audience and articulate my views have also developed.

Another important arm of the UWI is the Guild of Students, which provides managerial and other intangible skills that will be crucial in the world of work. From experience, the aspect of team work, time management and people management are just
few of the skills garnered during my tenure on the council. I challenge you therefore to play an active role in the Guild of Students from the beginning. Also utilize the services offered through this arm: students can access financial assistance as well as gain exposure to a range of sporting activities free of cost!

As entrants marking the 60th Anniversary of the UWI, you are already special, but the Guild of Students wants to specially congratulate you. We anticipate your arrival and expect that your experience here will surpass the above testimony.

Roger Bent  
President, Guild of Students