



CONTRIBUTED

In left photo, Alethia Sharp from the HEART Trust/NTA's Above Rocks Vocational Training Centre, is a picture of joy as she receives the 'Spirit of HEART' Trophy from Sandra Glasgow, chairman of the HEART Trust/NTA. In right photo, Kathleen Salmon of the HEART Trust/NTA's Boys' Town Vocational Training Centre, is elated as she receives the 'Spirit of HEART' Trophy from Robert Gregory, executive director of the HEART Trust/NTA. The trophies are presented to the top students at the centres. The occasion was a recent certification ceremony for HEART trainees held at the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston.

Malaria resurfaces in Jamaica

The Ministry of Health has alerted that it has identified four cases of malaria in Kingston and St. Catherine, and that it is now conducting a thorough and intensive investigation to establish whether these cases have been imported or contracted locally.

The measures being undertaken, the ministry said, include house-to-house surveys in the affected areas to identify cases; elimination of mosquito breeding sites and fogging with insecticide in specific areas.

The ministry said that it was taking these cases very seriously as Jamaica eradicated endemic malaria over 50 years ago, and has only experienced a number of imported cases through visitors from countries with malaria.

All persons with fever, and/or "on and off" fever are being advised to see their doctor or visit the nearest health centre in order to rule out possible malaria infection. Doctors and other health providers are also being alerted to rule out malaria in patients presented with fever.

Treatment centres

Minister of Health, Horace Dalley, said that he is assuring the public that all will be done to safeguard the health of the nation. He also called on communities to co-operate with the health workers as they carried out inspections and vector control activities in their area.

Minister Dalley has also instructed that a number of health centres be opened in Kingston and St. Catherine over this weekend to facilitate persons who experience malaria-like symptoms. The health centres that will be opened are:

- The Maxfield Park Health Centre; Hagley Park Health

Centre, and Comprehensive Health Centre in Kingston.

- The St. Jago Health Centre and the Sydenham Health Centre in St. Catherine.

Malaria is transmitted by the Anopheles mosquito. It is a problem worldwide especially in tropical countries. The symptoms of malaria include fever, flu-like symptom with chills, headaches, muscle ache and tiredness.

Haiti factor

Opposition Spokesman on Health, Dr. Ken Baugh, has expressed concern on the realisation that malaria infection has recurred in Jamaica the first time in 50 years.

He said that the issue was raised in Parliament consequent on the Haitian immigration, which caused the number of cases identified in Jamaica to jump to more than 140 three years ago followed by 88 the next year. This, he said, after coming from an average of 10 years or less over previous years.

The House was assured that meticulous care was being taken to prevent local spread and to treat the cases identified effectively. We were assured that no local transmission had taken place.

It is now suspected that individuals may have escaped attention and mingled with other communities thereby leading to local infections. It is also possible that travellers infected abroad could have brought home the disease.

Dr. Baugh also expressed the opinion that the Anopheles mosquito, which transmit the disease from person to person, must have regained its strength having been weakened by effective vector control meas-

Unsolved problem

• UWI Mathematics Department sinks further into quagmire

By DURRANT PATE
Senior Reporter

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science in the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences at the Mona campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI), is facing another management crisis.

The problem is further exacerbated by the piece-meal approach in which recommendations by various reviews of the department to deal with the problems are being implemented.

Some of these recommendations and the problems they seek to resolve date back to May 1989 when a skeleton assessment of the department by Garth A. Baker pointed to the severity of the situation and the urgent need for action.

Pretending

In a no holds-barred report, Baker complained bitterly about the state of the Mathematics Department, particularly the fact that it was being starved of quality staff.

"By maintaining such a poor mathematics section at the UWI for so long, the possibilities of exploring mathematics in the whole process of industrialisation and development in the country are almost non-existent," the report said.

A copy of the 20-page report, which was obtained by the Sunday Herald stated, "In spite of the obvious state of affairs, the university administration still pretends to have a mathematics department, the staff pretends to teach mathematics and the students are pretending to learn mathematics."

Continued problem

Several reviews of the department over the years have pointed to the continued crisis in management.

The latest review, completed in March 2006 by a team led by Professor Jonathan Borwein of Dalhousie University of Canada; Professor Bal Swaroop Bhatt of the

UWI St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad, and Allan Lewis, managing director of Prime Asset Management Services, found very little cause to celebrate.

In its report to the UWI Mona administration, the review team stated that very few of the recommendations from earlier reviews have been fully or even partially implemented.

The review team said that, "much of this can be attributed to the continuing lack of senior leadership and to the fact that the division is significantly understaffed."

In urging the Mona campus administration to begin to overhaul the departmental structures and to repair the many defects, the review team added, "this cannot wait for reinforcements to arrive."

dem staff, non-academic staff and students) and "insularity by the present academic staff, who view themselves as isolated specialists".

Pointing to shortcomings on the academic programmes, long articulated from the Baker review 17 years ago, the Borwein review team argued that the academic staff needed to enhance, augment and revitalise the undergraduate and the graduate programmes. Some of the reasons cited are the unreasonable workload by the academic staff and the fact that the support staff feels under-employed and under-utilised.

Graduate programme

It was observed that the graduate programme, in particular, was small and understaffed and result-

must make it clear to any new head that he or she will have easy access to their offices and will have their full backing in new ventures or if necessary, in the face of contention."

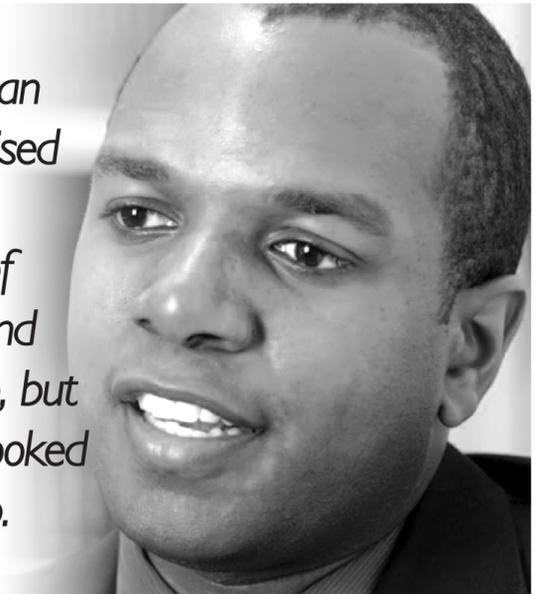
Even at the present moment the department is still without a head. In the interim, Dean of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science, Dr. Ronald Young, is filling that role.

Department head

The Sunday Herald also received information that Dr. Jonathan Farley, Professor of Mathematics at the department, who was promised the top job is being bypassed for someone else.

Correspondence obtained by the Sunday Herald showed that in October 2004, the then UWI Principal, Professor Kenneth Hall, promised Professor Farley that if he

Professor Jonathan Farley was promised head of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, but is now being overlooked for the top job.



A 2003 review, undertaken by Professor Wilma Bailey, Professor Ishenkumba Kahwa, Dr. Ralph Robinson and Dr. Donald Walwyn highlighted the very need for overhauling the structures in the department.

In that report, the review team observed that, "the department has almost ceased to function effectively and the mathematics section has frequently failed to carry out routine teaching and administrative responsibilities critical to curriculum development, delivery and assessment."

They also cited the "lack of effective action from the UWI Mona Leadership and Academy as the root cause of the erosion of civility, community spirit and professional culture."

Under-staffed

Many of these defects have not been addressed and have found themselves among the concerns raised the latest 2006 report.

Among the defects identified in the 2006 review is the glaring lack of communication between groups (senior administration, aca-

ed in several courses suspended. The future of the programme, the review team posited, is dependent on reorganisation.

The report recommended that the department would have to hire a critical mass of quality mathematicians, a point which was made by Baker. According to the 2006 review team, "past and present graduate students are victims of the relative dysfunction within the mathematics section."

This dysfunction, the report noted, exhibited itself in a number of former masters student, who each submitted a thesis and completed all other requirements in December 2004, not receiving their grades nor any other information about the quality of their work. As a result these students had no knowledge about their ability to graduate from their programme in Bio Statistics.

In the area of leadership, the review highlighted this as one of the most critical needs at this time, urging the administration to move expeditiously to attract a dynamic senior leader of the department.

In addition, "the administration

took up the offer as a Professor at the UWI Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, he would be asked the assume the position of head of the department.

The letter detailed the responsibilities of the head of the department and the benefits accruing to the position including the possibility of purchasing the university house, which would be assigned to him. While confirming that he was in fact promised the position of head and after two years is yet to be confirmed, Professor Farley declined to go into details on the matter.

However, sources in the department told the Sunday Herald that Professor Farley was advised early last month that he was being overlooked as head of the department.

Professor Farley, who was this year named by Seed Magazine as one of the 15 people who has shaped the global conversation about science in 2005, is said to be quite peeved about the UWI not honouring its promise to make him head of the

STOLEN

BARBICAN/LIGUANEA AREA

BLACK-COCKER SPANIEL



4 months old.
Answers by the name of "Rene" or "Renaldo"
Any information please contact
Josephine McGann
at 909-8912
or Bob Kerr at 817-7632

*REWARD FOR SAFE RETURN
NEEDS SHOTS!



