

# 6<sup>th</sup> WIGUT (Jamaica) Newsletter

VOLUME 6 | ISS 2 | JUNE 2020

## Health Care at UWI - COVID 19

by Dr. Blossom Anglin-Brown

2020 has presented us unprecedented challenges. We are six months into a pandemic that initially was ignored, discredited and camouflaged, unnecessarily worsening today's chaos.



### Tips: MENTAL WELLNESS

- 1 Keep a journal.**  
It's always a good idea to have an outlet for self-expression.
- 2 Find a confidence booster.**  
Identify and engage in an activity that makes you feel good about yourself.
- 3 Exercise.**  
Go ahead, work up a sweat and increase endorphins, the body's 'feel-good' chemicals.
- 4 Take a break from 'Social'.**  
Research has revealed that the obsessive use of social media can cause anxiety.
- 5 Forgive.**  
People who practise forgiveness, it has been said, report being more satisfied with their lives.
- 6 Smile.**  
Oh the magic of a smile. Lowers blood pressure. Improves mood. Reduces stress.

COVID 19 has unmasked who we truly are as a people. This unmasking is no different for The University of the West Indies and by extension the University Health Centre, which has been under-resourced for many years. The effects of COVID 19 now dictate:

1. That the best infectious disease protocols be enforced to protect staff and patients.
2. Frequent hand washing for all, and sanitizing of hands when soap and water are not easily accessible.
3. Social distancing at all times.
4. Wearing of masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff and users of this facility.

To ignore these four tenets of response will surely lead to sickness and maybe death. Therefore, the delivery of health care had to quickly change.

- Crowding in a small space waiting to access health care is now a thing of the past. Patients should try to communicate by telephone with health care personnel to make appointments and to request the refilling of prescriptions. This is a better option than walking in as once the physical capacity for waiting patients is reached, others will have to wait outside.

### In This Issue

Health Care at UWI - COVID-19

Welcome to New Members

New Members Lyme

WIGUT Special General Meeting goes Virtual ...

Postponement of Pension Forum 2020

UWI Blue Book and You!

New WIGUT(Ja) Loans Agreement

Know your Representatives

Your Pension & You

Support Your Union

Contribute to WIGUT Bursary Fund

Remembering...

WIGUT Special Bursaries

Memorabilia for Sale

- All users of the Health Centre must wear masks and stand or sit six feet from each other at all times. Sanitizing of hands and temperature checks form part of the entry protocol.
- We encourage patients to enter the facility without accompanying family members or friends. This will only be allowed if needed.
- Patients suspected of having COVID 19 will be seen in a separate area and referred to another facility if indicated.
- The cleaning of the facility is now being done throughout the day instead of twice daily.

An increase in mental health issues forms a major part of the challenges associated with COVID 19 infection. Mental health providers at the University Health Centre now deliver mental health counselling and intervention mainly by telephone and via virtual platforms. Face-to-face care in this area of health care has been reduced by 95%. All telephone numbers for the University Health Centre and all medical and counselling providers have been posted on the University's COVID 19 website.

#### UWI HEALTH CENTRE

Office tel. 970-0017

#### Medical Officers


876-521-3546 *Text/Whatsapp/Call*  
876-499-0296 / 876-443-4289 *Text/Call*

#### Psychiatrist


876-551-0118 *Text/Call*

#### UWIHELPS

876-294-0042 *Text/Whatsapp/Call (24 hours)*




### Physically Distant but Connected in Purpose




**We are happy to see you back on campus**

---


As we re-open our offices  
we want to assure you of the measures put in place to keep you safe




**Mandatory Masks**




**Hand Sanitization Stations**



**Physical Distancing**



**Employee Wellness  
- Temperature Checks**



**Frequent Sanitization of Office Spaces**

The staff of the University Health Centre encourages everyone to eat properly, exercise regularly and seek support for their mental health if indicated. Follow the guidelines put out by the University and the Ministry of Health and Wellness and stay well.

### Welcome to New Members

Ms. Kareen Bourne	Library
Dr. Simone J. French	Department of Surgery
Mr. Christopher Harty	Estate Management
Miss Anthonessa Henry	Modern Languages & Literatures
Dr. Eleanor Henry	Department of Government
Mr. Norman Heywood	Campus Security, Office of the Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal
Miss Yulande Lindsay	Library
Mrs. Marleise McBean-Graham	UWISON
Mrs. Renae McKenzie	Marketing, Recruitment and Communications
Mr. Clyde Miller	Office of Finance, UWI Open Campus
Dr. Alicia Palmer	UWI Mona Library
Mr. Marlon Ramcharan	Professional Services Unit
Ms. Simone Ramsay Knight	Management Audit
Mr. Camilo Trench	Life Sciences
Mrs. June Wheatley-Holness	OBUS

## **New Members Lyme**

The Membership Committee kicked off a series of events geared at welcoming new members to WIGUT (Jamaica), and to introduce the Executive Committee. This event took place on March 5, 2020, on the patio of the Open Learning Centre, the Open Campus. It commenced with opening remarks from Ms. Dayna Smith, followed by a welcome extended to all by Mr. Kirk Mullings, Chair, Membership Committee. He then invited General Secretary, Ms McKenzie, to bring greetings. She took the opportunity to extend an apology for absence on behalf of the President, Professor Paul Brown and the Senior Industrial Relations Officer, Mr. Carl Pilgrim. In attendance were 12 new members, and 13 members of the Executive along with Membership Committee members.

All attendees were asked to briefly introduce themselves, with a special request to the new members to indicate their area of interest/skill. They were given a short synopsis of the committees and encouraged to join any of these committees. Ms. Smith then posed questions to the new members in a brief quiz, and Misses Margarene Spence and Britta Hay were the lucky winners of a WIGUT branded cup, each. Refreshments were then served, amidst music and mingling of attendees.

## **WIGUT Special General Meeting Goes Virtual May 26, 2020**

Constitutionally the Annual General Meeting of WIGUT (Jamaica) shall be held no later than April 30th every year. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Disaster Risk Management Act stipulates that no more than 10 persons can convene in any place to safeguard persons from the risk of exposure to the virus. The Act specifically states that persons should be 6 feet apart, to be socially distant. As such the AGM which was being planned for April 29, was not held, as the number of membership expected to attend the AGM would normally exceed 200. A special General Meeting to discuss the next step in planning for the AGM was called for May 26, 2020, to take a decision on whether to postpone or cancel the AGM in the face of the uncertainty.

The Special General Meeting was held for the first time virtually using Zoom, with the President Professor Paul Brown and other Executive members in a virtual room, and

broadcasting through YouTube for the general membership to participate with questions and comments. The meeting was facilitated and coordinated by MITS. Approximately, 207 members were in attendance at this meeting and discussions were vibrant with questions ranging from how to effect changes to the Constitution to include meetings via online platforms, to choosing a suitable time frame for holding the AGM, as well as safety measures being discussed by the Government, social distancing protocols and responding to Management's call for contributions to the campus in the face of the financial crisis now facing the UWI amidst this pandemic. A highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Professor Hubert Devonish on funding the UWI amidst the pandemic. Members were asked to vote via an online poll on whether to postpone or cancel the AGM for this period given the current situation. The poll was administered by the MITS team and the results presented as a report. [Poll results WIGUT Constitution](#)

## **Postponement of Pension Forum 2020**

All social activities on the UWI Mona Campus were curtailed and those planned by WIGUT were also affected including the annual Pension Forum slated for April 2, 2020. The Pensions Committee will communicate plans for the future staging of this event.

## **UWI Blue Book and You!**

[ANNUAL LEAVE \(Section X1: Clauses 113-122\)](#)

All members are reminded of the following:

### **PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION FOR ANNUAL LEAVE**

- Members of staff must apply for leave to the Vice Chancellor/Campus Principal. Applications should be made through the Head of Department or the relevant Administrative or Academic Head as appropriate.

## New WIGUT (JA) Loans Agreement

Effective March 1, 2020

	Maximum amount/payable	Interest Rate
Car Loans	\$3,000,000 for 5 years	7%
Consumption Loans	\$600,000 for 3 years	5%
Mortgage Loans	\$1,000,000 for 15 years	9%

**NB: Relaxation on committee's approval for loans up to \$300,000**

Mortgage rates reduced from 12% to 9%. Applies only to mortgages in good standing

**Apply Now!** [Loan Application Form](#)

### Know your Representative



Mrs. Florence Francis  
Vice Chancellery,  
Project Officer  
Office of Administration

Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte  
Faculty of Humanities,  
Senior Lecturer & Language Section Coordinator  
Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy  
**Areas of Interest:** Rhetoric, Composition and the  
Teaching of English (RCTE)



### Your Pension & You

#### *Pension handbook*

[http://wigut.uwimona.edu.jm/sites/default/files/UWI\\_FSSU\\_Members%27\\_Handbook\\_September\\_2017\\_Revision.pdf](http://wigut.uwimona.edu.jm/sites/default/files/UWI_FSSU_Members%27_Handbook_September_2017_Revision.pdf)

#### *Check your balances on Hartlink*

<https://www.hartlinkonline.co.uk/uwi-fssu/hopl.chi/wui/homepgui.html>

### Support YOUR Union

Volunteer to serve on committees:

- Public Relations & Publications
- Membership
- Pensions
- Professional Development
- Faculty/Section Representative

Contact: [wigut@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:wigut@uwimona.edu.jm)

### Contribute to the WIGUT Bursary Fund

We extend this call for members to contribute to the scholarship and bursary fund that supports the needs of students. You may make a one-time commitment or you may choose to establish continuous support by filling out the [bursary fund salary deduction form](#) and submitting to the WIGUT Secretariat. These amounts will be deducted from your salary and deposited directly to the bursary fund.  
**Come... Help to support this worthy cause!**





## Remembering...



Mr. Kamau Chionesu



Prof. Tara Dasgupta, CD



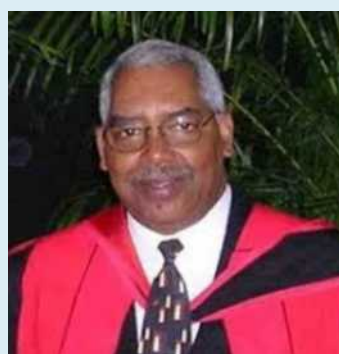
Mr. Freddie Green



Prof. Frederick Hickling, CD



Mr. Peter Gayle



Dr. Willard Pinnock

## WIGUT Special Bursaries



**YES** Are you registered in an undergraduate programme at the UWI?

Are you continuing into your second or third year of study?

Check out these  
**WIGUT**  
**SPECIAL BURSARIES**  
Apply now!!!

The following Special Bursaries are available for one year in the first instance:

### Faculty of Medical Sciences:

- A.B. Rao - *Medical Sciences*
- E.V. Ellington - *Medical (Pre-Clinical)*
- Syringa Marshall-Burnett - *Nursing*
- Milton Pinnock - *Community Health & Psychiatry*

### Faculty of Science & Technology:

- Bill Bartley - *Chemistry*
- Lloyd Coke - *Botany*
- Leighton Henry - *Mathematics and/or Computer Science*

### Faculty of Social Sciences:

- Carl Stone - *Government*
- Derek Gordon - *Sociology*
- George Beckford - *Economics*

### Faculty of Humanities & Education:

- Gloria Greene - *Library and Information Studies*
- Jaquie Roberts - *Library and Information Studies*
- Samuel Bandara - *History/Archaeology*
- Peter Whitely - *Science Education*

Apply through the Office of Student Financing who administers these bursaries on behalf of WIGUT (Jamaica).

Contact: Office of Student Financing,  
Tel: 876-702-4646 | Fax: 876-702-4647  
Email: [stufinc@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:stufinc@uwimona.edu.jm)

## Memorabilia for Sale



**Ceramic Mug  
with secure lids  
\$850**



**Umbrellas  
\$1,775**



**Polo - Shirts**  
Male and Female  
Sizes: Small, Medium,  
Large, 1XL, 2XL, 3XL  
**\$1,385**



Produced by  
The Public Relations & Publications Committee  
Send your feedback to  
[wigutjanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wigutjanewsletter@gmail.com)



**Contact:** Miss Frances Richards  
**Opening hours:** Monday to Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



**E-mail:** [wigut@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:wigut@uwimona.edu.jm)  
**Website:** <http://wigut.uwimona.edu.jm>



**Telephone:** (876) 970-4596; (876) 935-8307;  
(876) 927-1660; Ext. 2307



**Location:** Ground floor - New Arts Block  
Faculty of Humanities & Education