The University of the West Indies (UWI) Open Campus will hold its annual Graduation Ceremony at the Spice Basket Cultural Centre in Grenada on **Saturday, October 12, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.** It is the fifth official ceremony held by the UWI Open Campus since its official launch in 2008 as the fourth campus of The UWI. The first UWI Open Campus Graduation Ceremony was held in Saint Lucia in 2009. In 2010, Grenada had the distinction of being the second Open Campus Country to host the UWI Graduation, followed by Antigua & Barbuda in 2011 and St. Kitts and Nevis in 2012. This year, Grenada has the added distinction of being the first Open Campus Country Site to host the UWI Open Campus’s Graduation for the second time.
On October 12, 2013, the Open Campus of The University of the West Indies (UWI) will recognise the accomplishments of graduates for the 2012-2013 academic year at an official ceremony in the country of Grenada at the Spice Basket Cultural Centre. The Academic Procession at the Graduation begins at 9:40 a.m. and the official programme will begin at 10:00 a.m. Families and friends of the graduands are invited to attend the event or watch it live via the Web on the Open Campus’s website at www.open.uwi.edu.

This year, there are approximately 700 graduands from the UWI Open Campus across the Caribbean region, and 160 of those will be attending the official Graduation Ceremony.

The commencement speaker will be Miss Joan Armatrading, a St. Kitts native, who is noted for being one of the most talented and eclectic musicians to emerge from England. Joining Ms. Armatrading as an Honorary Graduate of the UWI Open Campus this year is Mr. Robert Mathavious, who has been described as a driving force in the financial services sector of the British Virgin Islands for many years.

This year’s UWI Open Campus Valedictorian is Ms. Nikishia Greenidge, a 33-year-old Trinidadian national, who is a paraplegic. She was chosen to be the 2013 graduand to speak on behalf of her fellow graduands at the UWI Open Campus Graduation Ceremony in Grenada. As an educator, Ms. Greenidge feels that her role is to be an inspiration to her charges, friends, family, colleagues and community. She feels it important to positively affect those she encounters by radiating positivity, strength and determination.

OMAWALLI McMillan

Omawalli McMillan became the first President of the Students’ Association at Open Campus Grenada, which was the first Open Campus site to establish a working student body in 2009. In so doing, he became the first President of the Students’ Association of the Open Campus. Having transferred to the Cave Hill Campus in 2009, he also became the first Open Campus UWISTAT Ambassador in 2010. As President of the Students’ Association, he participated in meetings of the University Finance and General Purposes Committee in Cave Hill and Council meetings at St. Augustine and Grenada. As a UWISTAT Ambassador, he visited Trinidad and Tobago and laid the framework for the UWISTAT constitution.

DONNA Hazel Swapp

In 2012, Donna Hazel Swapp, who graduated with First Class honours, was awarded a scholarship by the Organisation of American States to pursue postgraduate studies at Western University, Ontario, Canada was awarded the W.A. Bishop Townshend Gold Medal. The medal is awarded to two Master of Education students each academic year who graduate with the highest academic standing of their academic cohort. Her Academic Supervisor described her as “eager, motivated, and highly engaged student.” She graduated in Spring 2012 with the highest academic standing of 40 graduating Master’s students. The title of Donna’s Master’s thesis is “Exploring the Current Nature of a School Principal’s Work.” Donna, along with her co-recipient was formally presented with the Gold Medal at a ceremony at Western University on December 6, 2012. They also met with members of the Townshend family at a luncheon held at the Windemere Manor. At present, Donna is pursuing studies with a view to graduate with a Ph.D. The University of the West Indies congratulates Donna Hazel Swapp on her outstanding achievement, and wishes her the best for continued success.

A website about the UWI Open Campus Graduation Ceremony in Grenada is available at http://www.open.uwi.edu/graduation. It includes information about the event, such as a graduation guide, transportation, venue, photography, regalia, and special accommodation rates.
The UWI Open Campus
Grenada at Marryshow House
Hosts Second UWI Graduation

- UWI Open Campus Grenada successfully worked with the UWI Open Campus Registry to host the UWI Graduation Ceremony in Grenada in 2010 & 2013.
- The site also originated the tradition of a Student Lime the day before the Graduation to welcome visiting graduands from other Caribbean countries, as well as to celebrate with graduating students from Grenada. The visiting Graduates are treated to traditional Grenadian dishes as well as cultural performances by the Veni Vwai Performing Company, a prominent member of the Marryshow House Family. This event was so successful and well-received in 2010 that the UWI Open Campus Principal requested similar events be hosted in countries hosting the UWI Graduation Ceremony for the Open Campus.
- UWI Open Campus Grenada produced the first batch of Grenadians pursuing Master’s programmes online in 2012.

**Collaboration Between Corporate Grenada and the UWI Open Campus**

- Pride of place goes to the relationship with Republic Bank (Grenada) Limited, which continued the sponsorship of undergraduates registered with Open Campus Grenada which began in 2007. In 2013, Republic Bank (Grenada) increased its allocation to Open Campus Grenada by 100 per cent, from EC$20,000.00 to EC$40,000.00. With the sponsorship for 2012-2013, the Bank had sponsored students in the amount of EC$118,370.00. On behalf of The University of the West Indies, Open Campus Grenada wishes to express its gratitude to the firm of Jonas Browne and Hubbard.
- LIME Grenada always lends support to the UWI Open Campus by sponsoring the communication abilities of the region-wide administration team for the UWI Open Campus Graduation, as well as the live-streaming on the Web of the Graduation Ceremony.
- The firm of Jonas Browne and Hubbard continues to lend support to students who have shown aptitude for studies and are in financial need. Originally started in 2008, the firm has donated EC$6,000.00 annually to students who have shown a Grade Point Average of 2.5 and over. To date, Jonas Browne and Hubbard has donated some EC$42,000.00 to deserving students. Originally, two students were the recipients of EC$3000.00 each in credits for the payment of tuition fees; in recent years, three students are in receipt of EC$2,000.00 each. On behalf of The University of the West Indies Open Campus Grenada wishes to express its gratitude to the firm of Jonas Browne and Hubbard for this investment in the future of Grenada. The following are the 2013 awardees:

- **Cheressa Rennie**
- **Jessel Williams**
- **Joycelyn DeGale**

**UWI Open Campus Graduates Achievements**

- **Karen Brizan**, a Grenadian UWI Open Campus graduate attained the highest Grade Point Average in 2010.
- **Deanne Francis-Thomas**, another outstanding Grenadian graduate, was selected as the 2011 Valedictorian to represent her fellow graduates at the UWI Open Campus Graduation Ceremony held in Antigua and Barbuda. Deanne also achieved an almost perfect Grade Point Average of 4.0 and graduated with First Class Honours.
- **Deanne Francis-Thomas’s achievement crowned a remarkable year for Grenada in 2011, when 18 students graduated with First Class Honours from a total of 83 graduates.**
- **In 2010, Simone Johnson** received the Canadian Foundation UWI Bursary from the UWI.
- **In 2012, Cherylyn Rush**, another Grenadian First-Class Honours student, was short-listed as the 2012 UWI Open Campus Valedictorian.
- **In 2013, Richardson Holder**, another First Class Honours graduand from Grenada, was short-listed as 2013 Valedictorian for the UWI Open Campus. Richardson also received a Canadian Foundation UWI Bursary from the UWI in 2012.
- **Also in 2013, Judy-Ann Auld** received a Canadian Foundation UWI Bursary from the UWI.
- **Two other UWI Open Campus graduates from Grenada, Tessa Barry and Deanne Francis-Thomas, have been awarded scholarships for graduate study by the Organisation of American States (OAS) for the academic year 2013-2014.**
- **Another Grenadian student, Sonja Kerine La Geer,** was awarded a Open Scholarship by The University of the West Indies. This was not the first time that a Grenadian was in receipt of such an award. In the past, recipients usually travelled to one of the campuses at Mona, St. Augustine and Cave Hill to pursue their studies at undergraduate level. On this occasion, however, the recipient decided to pursue her undergraduate studies as a registered student at the Open Campus Grenada.

**Collaboration Between The Government of Grenada and The UWI Open Campus**

- On July 20, 2012, the Government of Grenada officially handed over the land grant to The University of the West Indies. The Government had announced its intention to donate the land at the Graduation held in Grenada in 2010. Three years later, in a simple ceremony at the Government Complex at the Botanical Gardens, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris, accepted the land grant of nearly 89 acres of land at Hope, St. Andrew. This gift will further serve the people of Grenada with the construction of a new Campus of The University of the West Indies in Grenada.
- **The ceremony was the culmination of more than six years of negotiations between two governments and the Open Campus Grenada from February 2006 to July 2012. As part of the agreement between the Government of Grenada and The University of the West Indies, the University was required to provide a three-phase, general time-table for the development of the largest site of the UWI Open Campus to date.**
The Guiding Principles of The UWI Open Campus

The Open Campus of the University of the West Indies is based on the idea that the high-quality university education, research and services available at our institution should be open and available to all people who wish to reach their full potential inside and outside of the Caribbean region. The Open Campus adopts quality teaching and learning experiences, innovative pedagogic design, relevant research and community partnerships to deliver face-to-face, blended and online learning.

AN INSTITUTION WITH A RICH HISTORY

In 1943 the Vice Chancellors of United Kingdom Universities convened a special commission to “consider the principles which should guide the promotion of higher education, learning and research... in the colonies.” The recommendations of that commission saw a Royal Charter formally establishing what was then the University College of the West Indies in 1948. The University of the West Indies which today boasts of being one of only two regional higher education institutions in the world began with one campus (Mona, Jamaica) at the historic Gibraltar World War II Camp acquired at a cost of £12,800.

In 1960 The UWI’s second campus at St. Augustine was born out of a merger between the University College and the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture (IATA) in the island of Trinidad. The two campus College remained affiliated with the University of London until 1962 when it became The University of the West Indies, an institution in its own right with the privilege of granting its own degrees.

What is today known as The Cave Hill Campus of The University of the West Indies started in 1963 as the College of Arts & Sciences in temporary quarters at the Bridgetown Harbour. On October 16, 1967 the College of Arts and Science at Barbados opened the academic year at the new university buildings at Cave Hill, on a 45 acre site provided by the Government of Barbados. With the establishment of the Faculty of Law in 1970, the name of the Caribbean College was changed to the Cave Hill Campus of The University of the West Indies.

The UWI’s fourth and newest Campus, the Open Campus was formally launched in June 2008 in Antigua and Barbuda. The Open Campus is an amalgamation of the previous Office of the Board for Non-Campus Countries & Distance Education (BNNCDE), the School of Continuing Studies (SCS), the UWI Distance Education Centre (UWIDEC), and the Tertiary Level Institutions Unit (TLIU) all of which are direct descendants of the Department of Extra-Mural Studies. The UWI Open Campus offers multi-mode teaching and learning services through virtual and physical site locations across the Caribbean region. There are currently 42 site locations of the Open Campus in the region, serving 16 countries in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Today, UWI is the largest and longest standing higher education provider in the English-speaking Caribbean. UWI offers undergraduate and postgraduate certificate, diploma and degree options in engineering, humanities & education, law, medical sciences, pure & applied sciences, science and agriculture, and social sciences. As an icon of Caribbean integration and culture, UWI remains committed to enhancing every aspect of Caribbean development and improving the well-being of the people of the Caribbean.

Read more at: www.uwi.edu or www.open.uwi.edu

About The UWI – 4 Campuses 16 Nations

CARIBBEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

These 18 UWI Alumni have served as Caribbean Heads of Government:

The Rt. Hon. Freundel Stuart: Current Prime Minister of Barbados
The Hon. David Thompson: Former Prime Minister of Barbados
The Rt. Hon. Owen Arthur: Former Prime Minister of Barbados
The Rt. Hon. Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford: Former Prime Minister of Barbados
Dr. The Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow: Prime Minister of Belize
The Hon. Dr. Orlando Smith: Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands
The Hon. Dr. Tillman Thomas: Former Prime Minister of Grenada
Dr. The Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell: Prime Minister of Grenada
The Hon. Andrew Holness: Former Prime Minister of Jamaica
The Hon. Bruce Golding: Former Prime Minister of Jamaica
The Most Hon. Percival J. Patterson: Former Prime Minister of Jamaica
The Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas: Prime Minister of St. Kitts & Nevis
Dr. the Rt. Hon. Sir Kennedy A. Simmonds: Former Prime Minister of St. Kitts & Nevis
Dr. the Hon. Kenny Anthony: Prime Minister of St. Lucia
The Hon. Joseph Walcott Parry: Premier of Nevis
The Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar: Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago
The Hon. Patrick Manning: Former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago
Dr. the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves: Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines