

UTech, Jamaica Receives Renewed Licence for Medical Marijuana Research



Dr. the Hon. Andrew Wheatley (right) Minister of Science, Energy and Technology presents the renewed medical marijuana research licence to Prof. Colin Gyles, Acting President, University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech, Jamaica) during the 2nd Medical Marijuana Integration Day hosted by the College of Health Sciences on Friday, May 13, 2016 at the UTech, Jamaica Papine campus.

The University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech, Jamaica) reached another significant milestone in its thrust as a national partner in developing a sustainable marijuana industry, with the receipt of a renewed medical marijuana research licence from the Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Dr. the Hon. Andrew Wheatley, MP. The Minister presented the renewed licence to the University's Acting President, Prof. Colin Gyles during the 2nd Medical Marijuana Integration Day hosted by the College of Health Sciences on Friday, May 13, 2016 at the UTech, Jamaica Papine campus. UTech, Jamaica received its first medical marijuana research licence on May 13, 2015 from then Minister Hon. Phillip Paulwell during the University's inaugural Marijuana Integration Day.

The 2nd Marijuana Integration Day dubbed "Cannabis Reclaimed II" celebrated the gains and the impact made by the University in the area of marijuana research and community partnership. The day's proceedings attracted a large gathering of academics, private and public sector partners and interest groups, students and members of the Rastafarian and Maroon communities and included research presentations, exhibits and demonstrations, product display booths and a plant clinic for testing of cannabis sativa samples.

In his address to the capacity gathering, Minister Wheatley referenced the case of a two-year old boy overseas who has Dravet

Syndrome, a rare form of epilepsy which forces him to constantly wear a helmet owing to incidences of up to 20 seizures a day. He noted that the seizures have significantly been reduced since the child began medical marijuana treatment a year ago. Minister Wheatley noted that these are the encouraging stories that "motivate us as a Government to find solutions for the people of Jamaica and the wider international community," adding that this "gives credence to the work of medical scientists and researchers." He commended UTech, Jamaica for the research work being undertaken in this regard and for its role as a "reservoir of knowledge" needed to revolutionise the industry.

Lucrative Nutraceuticals Industry

In the area of nutraceuticals, the Minister also pointed to the enormous economic potential for Jamaica which he noted has over 80 of the 160 existing medicinal plants with scientifically validated medical benefits. "In other words, we have here in Jamaica, 50% of the plants in the world that have been declared to have medicinal properties," he reinforced, adding that "the total estimated value of nutraceuticals exported from Jamaica in 2014 was over US\$12 M. Minister Wheatley told the gathering that his Government is "taking the necessary steps to implementing the necessary legislations and policies so that this industry can soar." Among the measures being taken, he noted, are steps to enhance the role of the Cannabis Licensing Authority

(CLA) including consultancy to recommend discrete components of the regulations; creation of licensing regimes to include five license types and 11 categories, and security and enforcement monitoring mechanisms.

Acting President, Prof. Colin Gyles in his welcome, noting the historic significance of the day said that UTech, Jamaica as the only national university takes its mandate seriously to "align our pursuit of knowledge, research and scholarship with national development goals." He noted that a University-wide multidisciplinary research group led by Dr. Ellen Campbell-Grizzle, Dean, College of Health Sciences has continued to make steady progress in research on medical marijuana. He highlighted that among the significant progress made was a 25 year lease with the Government Chemist Department to provide additional laboratory space for the University's researchers who are focusing on the development of pharmaceutical products, as well as the establishment of a specialized laboratory and high-tech indoor and outdoor greenhouse marijuana growing facility on the UTech, Jamaica Papine campus. Prof. Gyles emphasized that the University's main interest will continue to be the medical and scientific aspects of marijuana research, rather than the recreational and sacramental use.

The Acting President also noted that in keeping with the UTech, Jamaica community-based approach to development, the University has led extensive engagement with community-based farmers, individual growers and the pharmaceutical community. "We want to ensure that all communities that we engage in the research process will be empowered to sustain the gains made by the involvement of their citizens," he said.

Dr. Ellen Campbell-Grizzle, in her overview, provided an update on the community-based approach to development of medical marijuana research at the University. The Dean told the gathering that in considering the national agenda on the development of a lucrative marijuana industry, consideration was given to the University's strengths and the gaps to be filled in offering solutions, even within the context of resource constraints. "We decided to use an integrated pathway, which incorporates the knowledge of academia and the wisdom of community," she noted, adding that "in working with the communities we ensure that whatever they are producing is of the best quality and their potential for giving us standardized products is likely to be achieved." Dr. Campbell-Grizzle also disclosed that the University was successful in its bid to receive a US \$500,000 grant award from Seeding Labs, USA which has been used to purchase some of the equipment to expand its marijuana plant testing.

Productive Partnerships

Ganja Labs USA — a subsidiary of Ganja Inc. has been a key partner and investor in the University's thrust in the scientific research, use of technology and best practices in the cultivation of medicinal marijuana under controlled and secure conditions. The collaboration has involved the development of a multi-million dollar joint venture for the establishment of a specialized laboratory and high tech greenhouse growing facility at UTech, Jamaica's Papine campus, for research and experimentation. Chairman, Ganja Labs, Mr. Balram Vaswani in providing an update on the progress being made at the marijuana growing facility, emphasized the need for partnership among stakeholders if Jamaica is to reap the benefits of a well regulated marijuana industry. He urged the new board of the Cannabis Licensing Authority to move quickly to formalize the regulations governing the industry.

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UTech, Ja. Receives Renewed Medical Marijuana Licence

The sentiments were echoed by his special guest, Mr. Roy “Gramps” Morgan, reggae singer, who cautioned that the international window of opportunity was fast closing for Jamaica to reap the maximum benefits of a marijuana industry, given the fast pace of legislation in Canada, parts of the USA and elsewhere, to legalize marijuana. He urged the farmers present to ensure that the proper steps are taken so that their operations are legal.

Legal Perspective of Cannabis

Attorney-at-Law and Dean of the Faculty of Law, UTech, Ja, Mr. Alfred McPherson in providing a legal perspective on the history of marijuana legislation and the amendments to the Dangerous Drugs Act which was passed into Law just over a year ago in April 2015, pointed out that there is still widespread misconceptions as to the real meaning and ambit of the amended legislation. Calling on the Government to act with urgency in sustained public education, he cautioned that “without an aggressive and assertive approach to untangling and effectively addressing the many grey areas that still remain unanswered in terms of public education and clarity, the positive impact of the amended legislation could be lost amidst chaos and confusion which would make the country no better off in real terms than it was prior to the passage of the legislation.” The Dean noted that there is still confusion with respect to the limits imposed by the legislation as it relates to five plants per household, the possession of two ounces or under, and the allowances for sacrament users by the adherents to the Rastafarian faith.

Mr. McPherson expressed the view that Jamaica is poised as a formidable competitor on the world markets for medical derivatives and other products from ganja, and emphasized the need for effective policies and companion regulations that will serve to guide processes that will translate into tangible benefits for the entire country.

Other presenters on the programme were Dr. Andrew Lamm, Director/Head, Centre for Science -based Research, Entrepreneurship and Continuing Education, UTech, Jamaica who provided an update on the prospects afforded by HPLC analysis of cannabis samples being undertaken at the Natural Products Research Lab at UTech, Jamaica; while Dr. Denise Daley, Pharmacognosist/Programme Director, College of Health Sciences, UTech, Jamaica examined prospects for the use of cannabis sativa in the nutraceutical and cosmoceutical industry.

Human rights activist and Managing Director, Widpon Aquaponic Farm, Mrs. Yvonne McCalla Sobers gave an update on her foray into growing medical cannabis in an aquaponics system and pointed to the merits of the ecologically friendly system. UTech, Jamaica research partner Dr. Donald Land, Professor of Chemistry, Forensic Science and Biotechnology, University of California, USA and Chief Scientist, Steep Hill Labs Inc. whose company donated the first QunataCann2TM instant cannabis analysis machine to UTech, Jamaica, in a presentation on “Growing Medical Cannabis: You Can’t Tell a Book by its Cover” spoke to the crucial need for scientific analysis of the plant to differentiate between strains of cannabis which determine their influence on medical and psychological effects.

Noted psychiatrist, Prof. Wendel Abel provided the gathering with detailed evidence and research on the “pitfalls” and “promises” of medical marijuana. Noting that he was excited about the prospects of medical marijuana as an anti-psychotic and its increasing role in the treatment of mental health disorders and a wide range of therapeutic benefits in the management of diseases such as epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and neuropathic pain, Prof. Abel emphasized the need to protect minors from access to marijuana, including the sale and access of edibles and other derivate products which can be harmful, resulting in cognitive impairment and other adverse conditions. He also urged partnership in ensuring an understanding of the specific needs of the medical market, so that farming practices can be attentantly structured and regulated.

MoU Signed with Trelawny Town-Flagstaff Maroon Council



Prof. Colin Gyles (centre), Acting President, UTech, Jamaica and Chief Michael Grizzle of the Trelawny Town-Flagstaff Maroon Council affix their signatures to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions to facilitate collaboration on research and testing of herbal plants and product development. Witnessing the signing is Dr. the



Prof. Colin Gyles (at podium), Acting President, UTech, Jamaica addressing the gathering during the 2nd Medical Marijuana Integration Day. Seated in the front row from left are, Dr. the Hon. Andrew Wheatley, MP, Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Dr. Ellen Campbell Grizzle, Dean, COHS and Prof. the Hon. Errol Morrison, OJ, Director General, National Commission on Science and Technology and former President.

Exhibition



Exhibition mounted by the Trelawny Town-Flagstaff Maroons on their ganja-based products.



OIL (OrangeHill Industries Limited) displayed high-grade oils and products derived from marijuana.

Staff Honoured at 46th Annual Awards Ceremony



Prof. Colin Gyles (at podium) addresses members of faculty and staff and specially invited guests at the University of Technology, Jamaica 46th annual University Awards ceremony held on Friday, May 27, 2016 at the Alfred Sangster auditorium, Papine campus

Members of faculty, administrative, technical and ancillary staff were honoured for long and dedicated service and commitment to the development of the University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech, Jamaica) at the 46th annual University Awards ceremony held on Friday, May 27, 2016 at the Alfred Sangster auditorium, Papine campus. Awards were presented for long service, for excellence in research, community service, customer service and innovation. The ceremony organised by the Division of Human Resources and Administration was held under the theme, “Reflecting on the Past, Charting a Dynamic Future.”

Prof. Colin Gyles, Acting President in his welcome, congratulated members of faculty and staff and expressed appreciation “for excellence in the performance of your duties; excellence in going over and beyond the call of duty and for long, faithful and dedicated service to this our beloved institution,” adding that excellent service has not gone unnoticed. “The administration recognizes and acknowledges the efforts of members of the UTech, Jamaica family who have been contributing to the building of this remarkable institution which notwithstanding the challenges, continues to grow from strength,” the Acting President said. Prof. Gyles further expressed commendation on the University’s continued record of improvements in academic offerings, strides being made in research initiatives and progress in community service, arts and cultural programmes and notably also in sport. Prof. Gyles also took the opportunity to remind the gathering of UTech, Jamaica’s Core Values of **Respect, Accountability, Integrity, Service, Excellence, Innovation and Team Spirit.**

Guest speaker, **Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid, CD,** Minister of Education, Youth and Information in his remarks, explained the rationale for the recent merging of the

youth ministry with education and information. Senator Reid pointed out the “configuration of portfolios presents an opportunity to exert concerted effort to change our national conversation in terms of our values, attitudes and behavior – starting at the early childhood level up to tertiary and adult education.”

He told the gathering that with portfolio responsibility for persons aged zero to age 29, his ministry would be revamping a national values and attitudes campaign. He called on UTech, Jamaica to take a lead role in the national conversation for promoting positive values and attitudes. “You are well suited to do this not only because of your roots in the Jamaican society as a home-grown institution; but also because of your success in producing world champions in athletics; your sporting ambassadors, Asafa Powell, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, Elaine Thompson to name a few,” adding that they provide a strong basis on which to develop a values and attitude programme to influence the campus and the wider community.

Lamenting that STATIN data indicate that the 1.3 million labour force has 900,000 unskilled persons, the Minister urged “UTech, Jamaica as the national university to play a leading role in preparing the country’s manpower to seize opportunities in the ICT, hospitality, logistics, transport, BPO and other

emerging growth sectors.”

Senator Reid lauded UTech, Jamaica for “achievements in the areas of research and development,” citing such ground breaking initiatives as research on the use of solar hydrogen gas for cooking, the University’s receipt of a renewed licence to conduct medical marijuana research and the recent graduation of the first cohort of the Doctor of Medical Dentistry (DMD) degree. The Minister further applauded the University for “settling down to carry out the important mission of providing education for national development, “adding that his ministry is “committed to addressing outstanding issues” related to some aspects of the University’s operations.



Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid, CD, (left) Minister of Education, Youth and Information is welcomed on his arrival at the awards ceremony by Mr Richard Powell (right), Pro-Chancellor and Prof. Colin Gyles, President (Acting).

Awards were presented for long service in the categories of 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 40 years. The President’s Award for Excellence was presented in the categories of administrative, technical and ancillary excellence, and for excellence in research, innovation and community service. The University’s most prestigious award – The Distinguished Service award was presented to **Mrs. Vanetta Skeete**, Senior Lecturer, College of Business and Management. The special recognition award was presented to the Grace Kennedy Foundation in recognition of its support since the Academic Year 2004/5 in providing financial contribution to support tuition and other related expenses for students in need. Approximately ninety (90) students have benefitted from funding providing by the Grace Kennedy Foundation.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE



Prof. Colin Gyles, Acting President presents Mrs. Vanetta Skeete, Senior Lecturer, Course Coordinator and Associate Head of the School of Business Administration in the College of Business and Management with her citation for the Distinguished Service Award. The citation lauded Mrs. Skeete for “dedication and tenacity” and “exceptional leadership” in the School.

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



Prof. Fitzroy Henry, (right) Professor of Public Health Nutrition, College of Health Sciences accepts his citation for the President’s Award for Excellence in Research from Prof. Colin Gyles, Acting President. The citation lauded Prof. Henry for his consistently strong advocacy for public health and nutrition, championing the cause of healthy food choices and the role of nutrition in the prevention of diabetes and other chronic lifestyle diseases.

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS



COMMUNITY SERVICE: Prof. Gyles presents Miss Deslyn Neunie, Lecturer in the College of Oral Health Sciences with the President's Award for Excellence in Community Service. The award is given annually for major contribution to the development of the wider community and leadership in the University's community service initiative and programmes.



EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER SERVICE: Loud applause from his colleagues and a standing ovation recorded the presentation of the President's Award for Excellence in Customer Service to Mr. Kevin Halstead, (right) Accounting Assistant in the Division of Finance and Business Services presented by Prof. Colin Gyles. Mr. Halstead was selected for his consistency and compassion in processing of staff loans and for giving service beyond expectation.



TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE: Prof. Gyles (left) presents Mr. Deanroy Edwards, Technician, (Electrical) Faculty of Engineering and Computing with the President's Award for Technical Excellence in carrying out his duties. Mr. Edwards was honoured for the impact of his contribution in trouble shooting and providing innovations to solve technical issues in the School of Engineering.



ADMINISTRATIVE EXCELLENCE: Miss Danille Stewart, Administrative Support in the College of Business and Management is all smiles as she receives the President's Award for Administrative Excellence from Prof. Colin Gyles. Miss Stewart was recognized for consistently exhibiting dependability and exceptional service.



EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION: Mr. David Drysdale (right) University Librarian and members of staff of the Calvin McKain Library are a picture of happiness as they are presented with the President's Award for Innovation from Acting President, Prof. Colin Gyles. The Library received the accolade for developing and introducing a number of innovations in the delivery of their services to the University community. These include a virtual reference service, the CML Link UP, electronic access to past examination papers, e-printing and photography service, among other innovations.



ANCILLARY EXCELLENCE: Prof. Colin Gyles (left) presented the President's Award for Ancillary Excellence to two members of the Facilities Management team. At left he congratulates Mr. Terrence Bucknor, Groundsman and at right, Mr. Kevin Miller, Carpenter both for excellence in the execution of their duties. Mr. Bucknor was lauded for his consistent exceptional customer service to both internal and external customers and his detailed and meticulous performance of his work which serves as a benchmark for his team members. Mr. Miller was also lauded for outstanding customer service and for his consistently high standards in carrying out his duties as a repair carpenter in the Facilities Management Department.



LONG SERVICE AWARDS

FORTY (40) YEARS



Pro-Chancellor, Mr. Richard Powell (left) presents Mr. Jefferson Davis, Laboratory Technologist, Faculty of The Built Environment with his award for 40 years of service to the University.

THIRTY (30) YEARS



Pro-Chancellor, Mr. Richard Powell presents the award for 30 years of service to the University to a beaming Mrs. Sheerin Eyre, Senior Lecturer, College of Health Sciences.

TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS



Dr. Elaine Wallace (left), University Registrar presents awards for twenty-five (25) years of service to from left, Miss Paulette Brown, Project Officer, Planning and Operations Division and Mr. Horace Mignott, Library Support, Calvin McKain Library.

TWENTY (20) YEARS



Dr. Horace Williams (left), Senior Director (Acting), Human Resources & Administration presents awards for twenty (20) years of service to Miss Karlene Black, Vice Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Computing. At right, Dr. Haldane Johnson, Acting Deputy President presents the twenty years award to Mrs. Karen Rhule, Faculty Administrator, Faculty of Law.

FIFTEEN (15) YEARS



Mr. David Drysdale (left), University Librarian, Calvin McKain Library presents awards for 15 years of service to Mr. Ousegun Ismail, Head, School of Mathematics and Statistics, Faculty of Science and Sport. Dr. Jeanette Bartley-Bryan (left) Associate Vice President, Continuing Education, Open and Distance Learning presents the long service award for 15 years of service to Mrs. Dennise Haldane, Director, Procurement.

Ten (10) YEARS



Dr. Janet Campbell-Shahly (left) Vice Dean, College of Health Sciences presents a beaming Mr. Damian Nesbeth, Lecturer, Faculty of Science and Sport and an equally happy Mrs. Dian McDaniel, Multimedia Technician, College of Health Sciences with their awards in recognition of their ten years of service to the University.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD



Dr. the Hon. Alfred Sangster, OJ, Former President, UTech, Jamaica presents a beaming Mrs. Caroline Mahfood, Executive Director, Grace Kennedy Foundation with the Special Recognition Award in acknowledgement of her company's funding support for tuition and other related expenses for UTech, Jamaica students.

UTech, Jamaica Mobile App Launched



Mrs. Michelle Beckford (at podium), Corporate Communications Manager announcing the launch of the new UTech, Jamaica Mobile App during the University Awards Ceremony held on Friday, May 26, 2016 at the Alfred Sangster auditorium. Prof. Colin Gyles (left), Acting President and Dr. Haldane Johnson, Acting Deputy President appear to be eagerly downloading the new app on their mobile phones.



The Corporate Communications Unit, Advancement Division in collaboration with the Sapna group through the Office of Technology, Data Applications and Development (OTDAD), in the School of Computing and Information Technology (SCIT) has developed the UTech, Jamaica Mobile app, using cutting-edge technology to enhance communication with the University's stakeholders. The app was launched during the 46th annual University Awards ceremony held on Friday, May 27, 2016 at the Alfred Sangster auditorium, UTech, Jamaica Papine campus.

Mrs. Michelle Beckford, Corporate Communications Manager explained that, "the mobile application was developed in response to the need to use available technology and innovation to make it easier for our students,

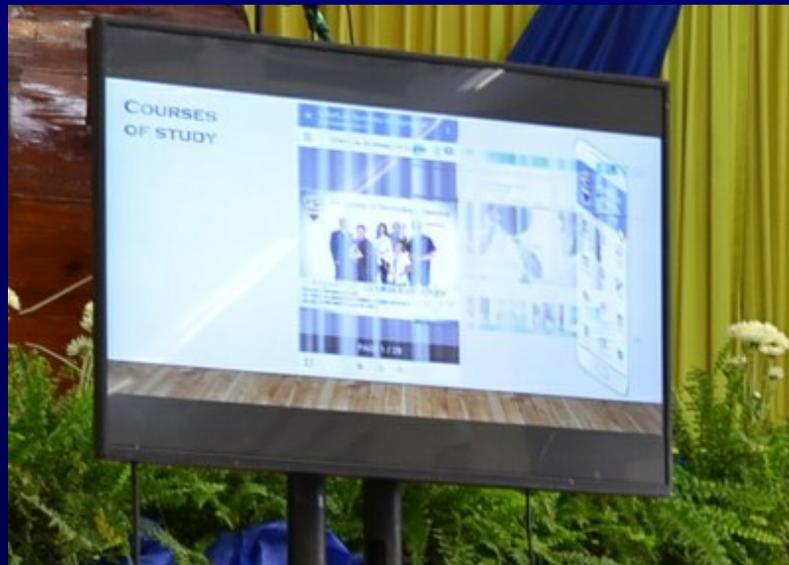
prospective students and other external stakeholders to access content on the go from their SMART mobile devices." Mrs. Beckford further shared that the UTech, Jamaica Mobile app which is now available from the Google Play Store, consists of a suite of sub-apps which provides users with access to content on the University's website, including Courses of Study, the Student Handbook, Moodle, News, Events, Alumni information, the Students' Portal, Campus Map, etc.



Mrs. Charmaine DeLisser

Mrs. Charmaine DeLisser, Senior Academic Director, OTDAD, SCIT in introducing the new UTech, Jamaica Mobile app shared that it is among several apps designed and built by the UTech Sapna group which consists of a cadre of SCIT students guided by competent staff in the School. UTech Sapna recently launched the UTech Maps mobile app which provides users with directions for locations on the UTech, Jamaica Papine campus.

The UTech Maps app is among the suite of apps on the UTech, Jamaica Mobile App.



A multimedia demonstration highlighting features of the new UTech, Jamaica mobile app during the University Awards ceremony.

BCAT Students Host 2nd 'Streaming Imagination' Exhibition

Roshena Carty, final year Bachelor of Communication Arts and Technology (BCAT), student, Faculty of Education and Liberal Studies (FELS) explains her "Land of My Birth" project – a photo exposé which tells stories about Jamaica's cultural heritage, practices and lifestyles. Her project formed part of the showcase of excellent student work at the 2nd annual student exhibition, 'Streaming Imagination Reloaded!' hosted at UTech, Jamaica's Papine campus from May 27 – 28, 2016.



Final year students of the Bachelor of Communication Arts and Technology (BCAT) course of study, Faculty of Education and Liberal Studies (FELS), UTech, Ja. successfully staged their 2nd annual exhibition under the theme, Streaming Imagination Reloaded! from May 26 – 27, 2016 at the FELS building, UTech, Ja. Papine campus.

The exhibition which showcased media projects by third and fourth year BCAT students, comprised digital displays of promotional videos, documentaries, short films, photography and scrap books which showed the students' development over the academic years. Selected projects by year 1 and 2 BCAT students were also on display.

In her welcome Mrs. Sheena Johnson-Brown, Programme Director, BCAT gave high commendation to the final year students for their hard work and achievements throughout the academic year. She noted that the annual exhibition serves to highlight the innovative work by students in media and communication technologies and expressed the hope that they will continue to pursue them as they prepare to make their mark as practitioners in the field.

Guest speaker, Mrs. Shelly-Ann Harris, owner and Chief Executive Officer of Breadknife Productions and former Manager for Public Relations, Special Projects and Community Outreach in the Office of the Prime Minister, in her

address shared seven key points that students should take into consideration as they enter the world of work in order to achieve success. Mrs. Harris who has worked in the media industry for over 20 years implored the budding media practitioners to always make good and ethical choices noting that, "the choices that you make every day, whether big or small are the paddles to steer your boat to the destination of your dreams."

Referencing her role in coordinating communication and media out of the Office of the Prime Minister for the historic visit of United States President Barack Obama to Jamaica in April 2015, she emphasised that all her career experiences and always choosing the path of excellence came to bear, as these had prepared her for that

role.

Mrs. Harris continued her recommendations by emphasizing the importance of students taking the time to develop the skills of their craft. "Do things properly and build your career...your degree is only the beginning," she said. She warned them to "choose a career of substance over hype," adding that, "social media has turned everyone into the star of their own show" but their work should be bolstered with real knowledge and experience. "Learn, grow, continue to evolve," she added. Mrs. Harris also highlighted the importance of building a reputation of excellence, pointing out that it will open doors of opportunities for them. She also advised the students that choosing to be dependable, trustworthy and embracing a positive attitude and posture will guarantee them success in their professional journey. In closing, she also advised the young media practitioners to choose lifelong partners carefully, noting that, "a lifelong partner should share your values and dreams in support of a successful future career." Choosing the wrong partner, she emphasized, "can kill that dream."



Mrs. Sheena Johnson-Brown



BCAT final year student, Omella Taylor (right) presents Mrs. Shelly-Ann Harris, CEO, Breadknife Productions with a gift following her inspiring guest speaker address at the opening ceremony for the exhibition during the vote of thanks and remarks by Miss Alicia Williams (at podium), Lecturer/Studio Coordinator and Production Manager, FELS. Omella also read an excerpt from her recently published book of poetry titled, "This Is Not For You" which has received an ISBN (International Standard Book Number).

New Students' Union Executive Council 2016-17

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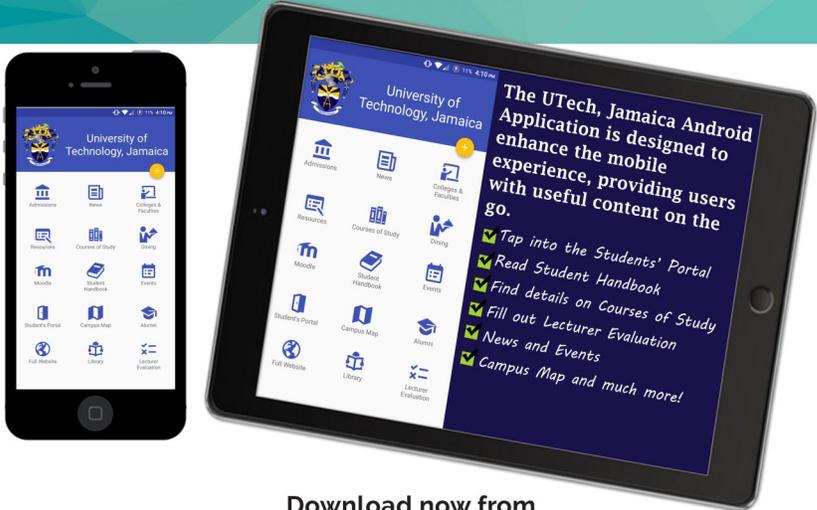
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The UTech, Jamaica Android Application is designed to enhance the mobile experience, providing users with useful content on the go.

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- ✓ Read Student Handbook
- ✓ Find details on Courses of Study
- ✓ Fill out Lecturer Evaluation
- ✓ News and Events
- ✓ Campus Map and much more!

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