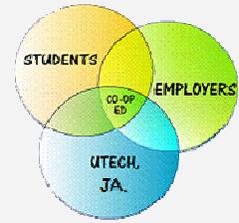




# University of Technology, Jamaica

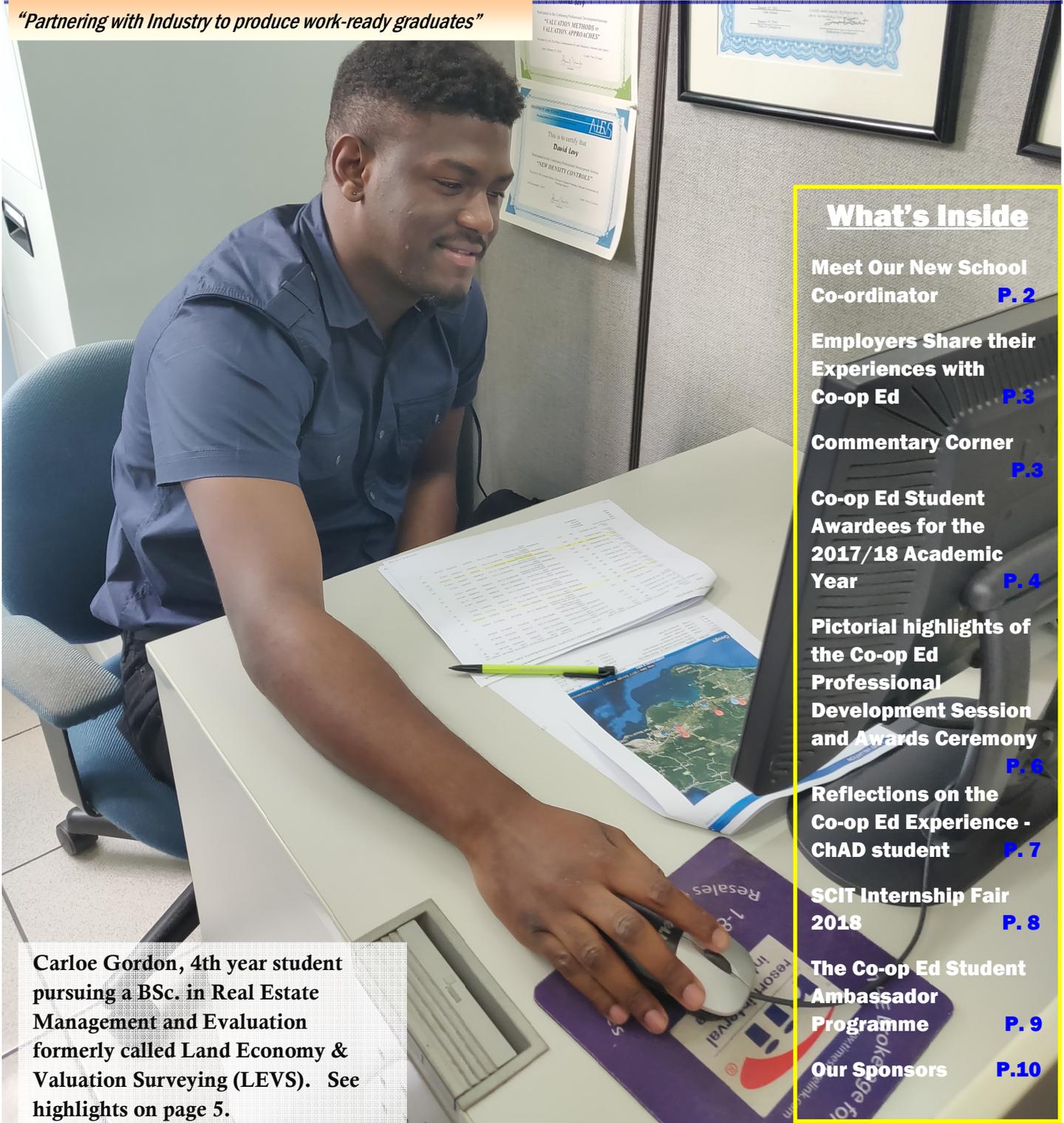
## Co-operative Education at UTech, Ja.



Volume 8 Issue 2

February 2019

*"Partnering with Industry to produce work-ready graduates"*



### What's Inside

Meet Our New School  
Co-ordinator **P. 2**

Employers Share their  
Experiences with  
Co-op Ed **P.3**

Commentary Corner **P.3**

Co-op Ed Student  
Awardees for the  
2017/18 Academic  
Year **P. 4**

Pictorial highlights of  
the Co-op Ed  
Professional  
Development Session  
and Awards Ceremony **P. 6**

Reflections on the  
Co-op Ed Experience -  
ChAD student **P. 7**

SCIT Internship Fair  
2018 **P. 8**

The Co-op Ed Student  
Ambassador  
Programme **P. 9**

Our Sponsors **P.10**

Carloe Gordon, 4th year student pursuing a BSc. in Real Estate Management and Evaluation formerly called Land Economy & Valuation Surveying (LEVS). See highlights on page 5.



## Meet Our New School Co-ordinator



**Mr. Jamar Thelwell**  
Co-op Ed Coordinator  
School of Humanities and  
Social Sciences (SHSS)

I regard myself as a Creative Technologist who teaches. I have worked in the media industry for many years and in many capacities, namely; music production under the guidance of Producer Paul Henton of Bootcamp Records, and as a Light and Sound professional with the Jamaica Cultural Commission.

I started at UTech, Ja. as a part time lecturer in 2014 and in 2016 I joined the staff full-time. I hold an Associate and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Audio Production from the Art Institute of Atlanta, a Master of Arts degree in Creative Technology from Middlesex University and I am currently completing a Post Graduate Diploma in Education at the University of the West Indies.

My responsibilities as Co-op Ed Coordinator in SHSS is to:

- ◆ dialogue with students to ascertain their career interests;
- ◆ approach and hold discussions with firms in the journalism and media industries and internal departments to ascertain their needs for personnel support;
- ◆ use available data and my personal knowledge of student performance, attitude and skills and of the media industry, to place students in entities assumed to be the best fit.

My vision for Co-op Ed within the SHSS, is to become a leader in Co-operative Education by demonstrating best practices in promoting career development, maintaining effective partnerships with employers and fostering a dynamic learning environment in which students are provided with opportunities to make a positive impact.

## Co-op Ed Facts

based on Research.

1. *A degree is no longer enough in today's job market.* Employers are looking for new recruits who can make an immediate impact on productivity.
2. New graduates/ recruits lack the soft skills that are necessary for personal and organisational growth. *The Co-op Ed programme* has been used globally, as a highly successful workforce preparedness tool that *allows students to hone both hard and soft skills.*
3. *Graduates* who have engaged in a Co-op Ed experience tend to *receive job offers more quickly* than those with no work experience.
4. *Most employers are likely to extend the placement experience of Co-op Ed students* who are **dependable, resourceful, ethical, self-directed, willing to work and learn and who are able to communicate effectively.**

Source: <https://career-coop.eku.edu/co-opinternships-facts>

## Employers Share their Experiences with the Co-op Ed Programme

### Page Turner Publishing House



Mrs. Ingrid Abrahams Larmond

I am the Director of Operations, at Page Turner Publishing House. This is our first year participating in the Co-op Ed Programme. We became involved

because of the fact that we would be assisting young individuals prepare for the work force.

It was truly amazing to receive the Co-op Ed Employer Award from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences in September 2018; we indeed feel as though our contribution was appreciated.

We will continue to participate in the programme. As the programme now stands, we would not recommend any changes.



Ms. Marvia Cole

### American Airlines

I am a Customer Service Supervisor at American Airlines. We have been working with the Co-operative Education programme for over 10 years. Our decision to partner with the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM) began

as we strove to expand knowledge and refine the skills within the industry. We thought that working with young people through this Programme would be a great way to achieve this.

One thing that needs some improvement is the selection process. For us, this is important; we need to receive applications in a more timely manner. We hope this improves moving forward. However, we are very appreciative of having received the Co-op Ed Employer Award for 2018 from SHTM and are proud of the partnership with UTech, Ja.

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#### EXPERIENCE

#### EXPERIMENT

#### EXPECTATION

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Experience, Experiment and Expectation are three concepts with which every student enrolled in a Co-op Ed programme should be familiar.

The experience that the Programme provides is geared towards preparing students to tackle the varied challenges and new learning that will occur as they leave "University life" and fully embrace the world of work.

The Co-op Ed Programme seeks to ensure that the knowledge acquired on each Co-op Ed experience is in keeping with the students' courses of study. This experience will pave the way for the experimental phase. For most students, experimentation will follow experience as they become more confident in the application of knowledge. This phase of guided experimentation is the bridge that connects theory to action and innovation. Students are eager to prove that they are valuable assets to the company. They will now begin to see personal development and that their expectations are not far fetched and can even be surpassed.

As a Co-op Ed student consider, as you enter the an organisation, how will you use your experience to experiment and to exceed your expectations!

### About the Author & Student Editor



**Terry-Ann Edwards**, is a fourth year student pursuing the B.A. in Communication Arts and Technology. She is elated to use this medium as practice for her discipline.

## The Co-op Ed Student Awardees for the 2017/18 Academic Year



I am a third year student pursuing a BSc. in Hotel and Resort Management. My career goal is to become a Hotel Front Desk Manager or an Entrepreneur. I had the privilege of doing my internship at VIP Attractions. I was given the task of creating arrival and departure reservations for guests who use the Club Mobay and Club Kingston airport lounge services. From my time spent at this organization, I have learnt how important good customer service and hospitality are to this sector, and how one bad experience can tarnish how our country is viewed on the global market. I have also observed first-hand that professionalism is vital to this sector and how much our visitors love our culture and our people. My time spent at this company exceeded my expectations. I was exposed to situations that were beyond what was taught to me in the classroom. I now have a greater appreciation for brand Jamaica's international impact.

**BRIANNE BRYAN**

I am a final year journalism student pursuing a BA in Communication Arts and Technology. It is truly fulfilling knowing that my diligence and professionalism towards work and contribution in various areas within the School and beyond have been noticed. Co-op Ed placement was primarily with two media entities, a magazine company and a digital marketing and content creating firm. My time within both organizations spanned across three months. My greatest benefit from both places of work would be the first hand experience of seeing the operations of two different conduits of media. I was able to practice my skills in the bestowd environments while doing so with the highest level of professionalism. Wholeheartedly, I am grateful for having been a part of the Co-op Ed experience. As it is often expressed, "experience teaches wisdom."



**CHENEA TAFFE**



As of July 2018, I have completed my BSc degree in Applied Statistics with a major in Environmental Statistics. I am currently working as a Statistician at the Statistical Institute of Jamaica. Upon obtaining my Masters degree I wish to pursue a career as a Biostatistician. I am a member of the Jamaica Statistical Society. I was placed at the Statistical Institute of Jamaica in the Censuses, Demographic and Social Statistics Division for 8 weeks which started in July 2017. One benefit I gained from this experience was recognizing that, learning all the statistical software and understanding the mathematics behind it is not enough. One has to be able to communicate. In most situations, the statistician is not presenting to an audience that understands the statistics; therefore communication is a key component in being a good statistician.

**ALICIA MONCRIEFFE**

I am a final year student realizing one of my greatest aspirations, that is, to obtain a BSc. in Computing. The training and knowledge gained from the Co-op Ed programme has shaped me to become a software engineer. Co-op Ed is an important way for students to gain valuable experience within their field of study. However, I had not given it much thought. My tutor, Dr. Pougatchev saw otherwise and made a recommendation for me to be placed at Ingenuity Technologies Limited. I obtained the position of Software Engineer Intern for the period May 21 to August 21, 2018. Being the first professional experience within the industry, my expectation was limited to skills gained throughout the degree. However, my expectation was exceeded as the Company introduced me to many new technologies. It gave me hands-on experience in my field, as I worked on projects for their customers. My skills were improved in the area of software engineer, database administrator, quality assurance testing, statistical analysis, and the business process management.



**NIKESHA WELLINGTON**



I am 20 years of age and I am currently a 4th year student in the Faculty of Science and Sports, pursuing a BSc. in Applied Sciences, majoring in Forensic Chemistry. Before starting UTech, Ja., I entered one of Jamaica's most popular local television show, Digicel Rising Stars, where I placed 3rd. My internship at the May Pen Police Station Scene of Crime Unit over the summer period of 2018, has tremendously enhanced my passion for the field. Due to my enthusiasm I, and my classmate who was also completing her internship, quickly adapted to the environment and garnered as much information and training as we could. The exposure however, helped us to fully grasp the concepts taught in class and also to properly carry out the different procedures we had learnt. I am so appreciative and grateful for the Co-op Ed programme for allowing me and many others the opportunity to gain relevant work experience.

**SARAI-LEE MOODIE**

**DANIQUE BROWN**

I recently completed my BBA. degree with a Major in Accounting and minor in Risk Management. My ultimate career goal is to become a Forensic Accountant. During my tenure at UTech, Ja. I co-founded the UTech, Ja. Rural Society which is a voluntary based club focused on giving back to persons living within rural areas. I participated in the Co-op Ed programme for two rotations; first in the Tax department and then in the Audit department at KPMG. While working at KPMG I was able to apply the knowledge that I gained at school but most importantly I was able to apply what I had learnt at KPMG in some of my classes. Being a part of the internship programme taught me the importance of proper time management and also the value of team work. Additionally, the programme gave me the opportunity to conduct a more informed self-analysis, enabling me to analyse my future within or outside of the accounting profession from a more aware point of view. Lastly, being on the programme aided me in securing a job with KPMG upon completing my degree.

Jessica Harriott studied in the Caribbean School of Sports Sciences in the Faculty of Science and Sport. She just completed her fourth and final year at the University of Technology, Jamaica where she pursued a BSc. in Sports Science, majoring in Athletic Training. This was in keeping with her current career path which is to become an Athletic Trainer for a sports team or school team. She was a part of the Student Athletic Training Association (SATA). Jessica was placed for practicum/Internship at Jamaica College for six (6) weeks. Expectations of place of attachment were few except to adapt to the new environment as best as possible and do her best in every way possible whilst keeping it professional. Personal benefits received from the Co-op Ed experience include enhanced knowledge, experience in field of study and an appreciation for the team of coaches, athletic trainers and massage therapists with which she worked.

**JESSICA HARRIOT****LEWIN MCKNIGHT**

Lewin McKnight is currently employed to the National Land Agency. He completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Surveying and Geographic Information Sciences in 2018. He aspires to become a very astute Commission Land Surveyor who will some day climb to the top of the profession, eventually becoming the Director of the Surveying and Mapping Division of Jamaica. He was a member of the Land Surveying Club and was attached to the Precision Surveying Services from June 2, 2017 to May 18, 2018. While on Internship, Mr. McKnight expected to be challenged by the realities and life of a Land Surveyor as well as to gain the necessary exposure to some of the important aspects of the profession. Needless to say his expectations were exceeded.

Allison Jones is a fourth year student who recently completed the BEd. in Food Service Production and Management (FSPM). Her aspiration is to obtain a Master's Degree in Education. As a working student, Allison found it most difficult to attend many school functions, however, she made every effort to attend those which she could and ensured her voice was heard. She was attached to Beaches Ocho Rios Resort and Golf Club in Boscobel St. Mary, during the period December 2017 to August 2018 for her Co-op Ed Experience. The attachment was found to be both invaluable and fulfilling as she is now more confident in delivering especially the practical component of her area of specialization to those whom she will impart knowledge. The experience has also allowed her to improve her technical skills as she is now familiar with and able to operate a wide range of industry equipment.

**ALLISON KELLIANN JONES**

*Continued from the Front Cover...*



Carloe Gordon pursued his Co-op Ed experience at Valrie Levy and Associates in Semester 1 of the 2018/19 Academic Year. When questioned about his experience, Gordon remarked, **“My aim while working was to try to get every bit of experience and understanding of the field; I asked questions when I was not clear as I knew the value of the opportunity... that it would contribute to my professional life in the future. Thankfully my aim was achieved.”** He further mentioned, **“I gained more hands-on experience like actually going out in the field and doing valuation of properties; things that are not done in the classroom.”**

# Pictorial Highlights from the Co-op Ed Professional Development Session & Awards Ceremony held on September 27, 2018.

## Employers Recognised



Ms. Maxine Meijerink (I) of American Airlines receiving Employer Plaque from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.  
Presented by Mrs. La-Cresha Gordon-Brydson, University's Co-op Ed Coordinator .



Mr. Jae Edwards (I) of Spry Training receiving Employer Plaque from the Caribbean School of Sport Sciences.  
Presented by Mrs. Denise Wisdom, lecturer.

## Guests Speakers



Mrs. G Ann Lindo  
General Manager, La Maison Property Services Ltd.



Mr. David Knight  
Manager, Personnel & Industrial Relations, NWA.

## Moderators



Mr. Nodley Wright  
Faculty Administrator, FOSS, UTech, Ja.



Mr. Maurice Lewin  
Chief HRO, UTech, Ja.

## Employers Recognised



Det. Insp. Christopher Anderson (I) of the JCF receiving Employer Plaque from the School of Natural and Applied Sciences.  
Presented by Mr. Herter Wilmot-Simpson, lecturer.



Ms. Audrey Jones (I) of the National Work Agency receiving Employer Plaque from the School of Engineering.  
Presented by Mr. Junior Bennett, lecturer.

Continued on page 7

## Reflections on the Co-op Ed Experience - ChAD student



**Omar Miller**  
4th year B.Sc. Child and Adolescent Development

The BSc. in Child and Adolescent Development programme utilizes a multi-disciplinary approach where different perspective, research and practice- based guiding principles are used to help in the development of typical and atypical children. The programme also integrates developmental, preventative and therapeutic requirements into the lives of youth, families

and communities.

I am currently in my final year and I engaged in my first practicum last summer. I was placed at the National Parenting Support Commission (NPSC). The experience was very enriching and enlightening. Normally the focus of our course of study is on children and adolescents, however the main focus of this experience at the NPSC is on parents. The thinking was that if parents were empowered and supported then they would be able to contribute to the holistic growth and development of their children. The vast amount of knowledge that I had acquired at the University of Technology, Jamaica aided tremendously in this experience. I learned to be flexible with the information and use it in various situations that eventually would serve in the best interest of the child, even though I was not in direct contact with children.

The experience was also an eye-opener as I was out in the field seeing real cases unfolding. I was also able to see how the lack of help in human capital and other deficiencies impacted negatively on the ability to tackle issues faced by our children, their families and communities. For sure the relevance of my course of study was recognised. The experience improved my interpersonal skills, work ethics and helped to redefine my aim and determination.

I would say that tremendous learning took place even though the placement was only for one month. I had to learn the Commission's processes in providing support to parents. The tasks included doing intakes, dealing with conflicts, going into volatile communities and conducting surveys, and in so doing, I learned about my very own capabilities and limitations. This experience has taught me how to be creative in our work and how to overlook barriers and limitations placed on us by the systems and by our very clients. It also taught me that I need to pay attention to the information that I am learning because eventually it will all make sense and making the application of these approaches easy and effective once I have a better understanding of principles.

The best part of the Practicum was the face to face contact with the clients; everyone has his/her own uniqueness, negative and positive characteristics. Therefore, I had to learn to adjust my approach and not take the "one cap fit all" approach. I had to be active and intentional in dealing with each person. This allowed me to be more open and creative so I was learning a lot about myself and other people.

### *Pictorial Highlights from the Co-op Ed Professional Development Seminar and Awards Ceremony* *cont'd from Page 6.*



## School of Computing and Information Technology (SCIT) Fair 2018:

Employers reveal why they continue to participate in the SCIT Internship Fair



**Norman Cheng, Director  
T-Tech,**

"We have Internship in our DNA and as the first Mind Service Providers company we didn't have a market of qualified personnel so this was the best way to get the persons we want. Therefore, we get interns, develop their skills and then keep them or let them go."



**DevOps Engineer, Particular  
Presence Technologies Ltd.**

"PPTL has a passion for new students and new talent. Each time we return to UTech Ja, we see growth in the students' abilities. Helping to nurture ambitions and fulfil dreams are what we enjoy doing."



**Ryan Lincoln  
Senior UX Engineer, Real Decoy**

"We initially started at the Technology Innovation Centre at UTech, Ja. and from then we realized that the students were smart and possessed the right attitude and experience relevant to Real Decoy. The CEO of the company is also a 'Technologist Evangelist' who want to share his beliefs with others in the industry."



**Marva Soares-Bucknor HR  
Manager, Massy Technologies**

"Massy Technologies have continued to attend the SCIT Fair mainly because of the quality of students we have received. Testament to that is Shane Barnes, a member of management that was hired through the SCIT Fair."



**Matthew Hanson, Application  
Developer, Vertis Technology**

"The general competence and work readiness of the students are the biggest reasons why we repeatedly visit the SCIT Fair. We are impressed by their willingness to venture off on their own to do projects we have not assigned."



**Patricia Headlam,  
HR Manager, NHT**

"The students we have gotten over the years are superb. They are fast learners and display good work ethics and we always consider them for full time employment if there is an opening within the company."

**About the Fair:** The SCIT Internship Fair was held on Thursday, November 16, 2018 at the Papine Campus' Alfred Sangster Auditorium. This is the third hosting. The Fair provides an opportunity for third and fourth year students from SCIT to interact with recruiters with the intent of securing an Internship placement. The Fair continues to grow and is held in November of each year.



## The Co-operative Education Student Ambassador Programme

The Co-op Ed Student Ambassador Programme is an initiative of the Co-op Ed Unit which commenced in the 2017-18 academic year. The aim of the programme is to each year train a cohort of students enrolled in various courses across the University to assist in bringing an awareness about the Co-op Ed programme and to assist in the execution of Co-op Ed student related activities .



**Kyle Copeland's** stint with the Co-op Ed Unit began due to his volunteerism whenever there is a function being held. Now a third year student in the Faculty of Education and Liberal Studies, he has continued to assist and is now one of the ambassador.



**Krystal Lawrence** became an ambassador because of the opportunities associated with the Unit. It provided an avenue to assist other students in realizing the benefits of the programme and to herself.



**Shanoy Moorhouse** is a final year student of the School of Business Administration pursuing a BSc. in Finance and Banking. She has worked with the Co-op Ed Unit under the Earn and Study programme in 2016 and has remained an ambassador since.



**Terry-Ann Edwards**, is a BACAT student who has worked with the Unit for 3 consecutive years. As a Communication Arts and Technology student, she was equipped with the necessary knowledge to function within the Co-op Ed Unit.



**Shadae Thompson** is a second year student from the College of Health Science, she is the newest ambassador of the Co-op Ed Unit and she was introduced to the Unit through her involvement with the Earn and Study Programme.



**Isaac Grahams** was initiated into the programme when he was called upon to assist with an event. He has then remained with the Unit and has been using his skills as a BACAT student to assist within the Unit.



**Jermaine Lyttle**, is a student of the School of Business Administration was introduced to Co-op Ed by a relative who thought the opportunities offered by the Unit would complement and develop his abilities.

### *About the Assistant Student Editor*



**Shadae Thompson**

I am a second year student from the College of Health Sciences pursuing a BSc. in Child and Adolescent Development. I was placed in the Co-op Ed Unit in September 2018 through the Earn and Study programme and working in the Co-op Ed Unit has been a wonderful experience. The experience thus far has gone far beyond my expectations. Some of the benefits of working in the Unit are that I am in an environment where I am constantly learning and developing good communication skills. This has motivated me to do well academically and has also increased my understanding of the work-place culture. Furthermore, the experience I gained has helped in my overall maturity and also helped me to develop lifelong learning skills that are essential to an individual's intellectual and physical success regardless of life's role.

# Our Sponsors



The Co-operative Education Unit extends a heartfelt thank you to the sponsors of the Annual University-wide Co-operative Education Professional Development Session and Awards Ceremony.



The Career and Job Placement Fair (Papine Campus) hosted by the Career and Placement Office will be held on Friday, March 15, 2019. The Western Campus will host its Job Placement Fair on Friday, April 5, 2019.

Employers are asked to utilize the link below to register their participation.  
<https://jobfair.utechsapna.com/>.

The Co-operative Education Summer Placement period commences May 20 and ends August 16, 2019. Students are available for the full 40 hour work week during this period. Employers are encouraged to make their placement requests early.

Student placement continues throughout the academic year. Students are placed based on an agreed flexible schedule. Requests for students may be sent to [ced@utech.edu.jm](mailto:ced@utech.edu.jm). Visit the website for more details on the programme. Refer to the link below:  
<http://www.utech.edu.jm/academics/cooped>