

Onward and Upward at UCCI

September 8, 2013

The Academic Year 2013-2014 is shaping up to be quite an exciting one for the University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI). With several new programmes and a calendar packed with events and activities, Cayman's premier provider of tertiary education is set to achieve some meaningful milestones this year.



UCCI students dare to aspire, achieve, advance

Mr. JA Roy Bodden, JP, UCCI President said, "As President, I continue to be buoyed with excitement and enthusiasm over the rich experience open to those who study at UCCI. Dedicated and professional instructors and support staff, small classes, cutting-edge technology, international acceptance and a collegial atmosphere all combine to provide UCCI students with learning opportunities on par with the best off-island experiences."

Since its inception as a Community College in 1975, the UCCI has made huge strides from being a part-time establishment to a full-fledged tertiary level institution offering a wide variety of programmes in the Associate, Bachelor's and Master's levels, as well as in Professional Education and Workforce Training.

PRE-COLLEGE AND UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Adding to its curricular offerings, the University College is introducing several programmes in the undergraduate level this year, including the **Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing, the Associate of Legal Studies and the Associate and Bachelor's Degree in Primary Education**. A 15-month intensive **Post-Graduate Certificate in Education** completes the pathway for those who want to become primary level teachers.

These new programmes seek to fill the demand for local talent and broaden choices for both high school leavers, adult learners and professionals looking to transition into new careers.

There is also renewed interest in other existing programmes. President Bodden said, "I am interested in following the further development of the **Engineering Technology** programme, the **astronomy courses** and let us not forget the great strides being made in **music and the performing arts**."

In addition, UCCI has revamped its **Pre-College programme** to better assist prospective students that do not have the necessary entry requirements for matriculation into the associate degree programmes. Through the support of the Pre-College Coordinator and the Student Services Department, students under this programme will receive academic counselling, career guidance and various workshops that will prepare them for success while experiencing life in a college environment.

GRADUATE STUDIES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The **Professional Development Centre (PDC)** at UCCI offers an extensive array of educational opportunities specifically designed to help businesses and organisations in the Cayman Islands meet today's multifaceted and international challenges.

As a result of a new focus on global competitiveness, the PDC is proud to announce that the College of Business Studies and Professional Development at the University College of the Cayman Islands is an Educational Member of **the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE)**, and has affirmed its commitment to excellence in business education. As such, this membership represents initial success in the process of international accreditation for UCCI's business studies and professional development programmes.

The PDC at UCCI is also launching two new degree programmes this semester in the internationally recognised **Commonwealth Executive Master of Business Administration (CEMBA)** and the **Commonwealth Executive Master of Public Administration (CEMPA)**. "Both of these graduate-level curricula feature materials designed and vetted by the Commonwealth of Learning to provide a uniform level of

excellence and a flexible educational experience with opportunities for self-paced study and multiple completion levels culminating in diploma and degree recognition,” said Dr. JD Mosley-Matchett, Director of Graduate Studies and Professional Development.

Dr. Mosley-Matchett added that the PDC is also offering a new programme for those seeking to hone their professional skills without the extensive time commitment of a full degree -- an **Executive Certificate in Global Leadership**. “Offered jointly with the **University of Texas at Arlington**, a leader in Asian business studies with its top-ranked Executive MBA, the Executive Certificate seminars will require a commitment of only two days each month over an eight-month period beginning in October,” she said. Seminar topics include “Accessing Capital Markets for Global Operations” and “Developing Strategies for Competitive Advantage.”

UCCI is also continuing to meet the unique needs of local businesses through custom-designed professional development. When the Cayman Islands Tourism Association (CITA) wanted to design an educational series for its members, UCCI was picked as the teaching partner with state-of-the-art training facilities and highly credentialed faculty members available for maximum effectiveness.

“Students served by the PDC at UCCI get more than classes -- they gain expertise. The PDC leverages UCCI’s strengths through a fully credentialed faculty, a dedication to flexible learning opportunities for working adults, collaboration with internationally superior educational partners, and a single-minded responsiveness to the needs of local businesses,” Dr. Mosley-Matchett said.

A CENTRE WHERE THOUGHT LEADERS MEET

Over the last few years, UCCI has established a reputation for being a centre where thought leaders meet to discuss some of the most pressing issues of our time.

UCCI strives to be on the cutting edge of technology by promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiatives through its very own observatory and **STEM Carib Conference**, both of which aim to establish the University College as an important STEM centre in the region. These also seek to expose young



STEM Carib Conference attracts notable names such as Astrophysicist Dr. Ed Guinan, who, along with two colleagues, discovered Neptune’s ring system in 1968.

people, educators and the general public to science and technology in a way that inspires curiosity and interest in learning.

This year's STEM Conference slated, for October 16-19, will feature a line-up of high-calibre speakers led by NASA Aerospace Engineer Camille Alleyne. The conference is one that students, teachers, parents and the general public should look forward to.

"We have designated specific conference activities that children, teens and adults will enjoy," said Dr. William Hrudehy, Director of the UCCI Observatory. "We have planned an astronomy evening and a family fun day filled with demonstrations and displays on magic, robotics, solar observations, a Ruben's tube and a van der Graff generator, to name a few. The winners of the Rotary Science Fair will also be showcasing their projects."

As an important socio-cultural landmark, the University College stays true to its commitment of making valuable contributions toward nation building. Through its series of regional conferences, UCCI has brought thinkers and influencers from various fields of expertise, discussing some of the most pressing issues of our time.

Scheduled March 19-21, the **UCCI Caribbean Conference 2014 on Ethics, Values and Morality** has already been gaining much popularity both locally and internationally. Several eminent speakers have already been confirmed, including Former World Bank Director and current Nigerian Minister for Finance Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Jamaican Contractor General Greg Christie, National Integrity Action Director Professor Trevor Munroe and Cayman's Auditor General Alastair Swarbrick.



Caribbean Icon Sir Shridath Ramphal (third from right) was the keynote speaker of the UCCI International Conference in 2010.

This conference aims to reflect on various aspects of values and ethics, as they relate not only to the function of Caribbean governments and political parties, but also to the role of every institution -- whether educational, religious, or social -- across the region.

As a lead up to the conference, UCCI will host the third and final session of its Distinguished Lecture Series on November 14, 2013, with **Mr. Jack Blum**, a leading US attorney specialising in money-laundering cases. Mr. Blum has worked for law firms in the areas of bank and securities compliance, congressional investigations and offshore tax evasion. He has served as an expert witness and consultant for various US government agencies and private clients.

AN INSTITUTION TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

As noted in its Mission Statement, UCCI is an institution of higher learning that contributes to the Caymanian society by advancing knowledge and developing creative graduates, and through its cultural, social, economic and environmental activities. "We will admit all students with the potential and passion to learn. We will challenge students intellectually and prepare them for life in the global market place".

Mr. Bodden said, "The University College belongs to the Caymanian public and as such, I encourage the community to support UCCI through visits, through supporting its events, through enrolling in courses and through a general display of interest and respect toward its students, faculty, Board and President."

For further information about our programmes and events please email events@ucci.edu.ky.
