



**UCC**  
**TODAY!**

# END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER

University of the Commonwealth Caribbean

Volume 1

June - December 2025

## 'WHEN THE MARATHON CONTINUES'

UCC Launches First Doctoral Degrees with MLSS Endorsement – Featured in JIS



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- UCC Achievements
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- ...and much more!

Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Parnell Charles Jr. (centre) makes his presentation at the May 28, 2025 launch of the UCC doctoral programmes.

The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) officially launched its highly anticipated Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) and Doctor of Professional Practice (DPP) programmes, solidifying its role as Jamaica's premier innovation-driven university and strengthening its contribution to national and regional development.

The launch event, held at UCC's Main Campus in Kingston on Wednesday, May 28, was graced by the Honourable Parnell Charles Jr., MP, JP, Minister of Labour and Social Security, who delivered the keynote address and strongly endorsed the initiative.

"We have to continue to foster innovation, to empower our people." Minister Charles further emphasized that the new doctoral offerings will play a pivotal role in shaping Jamaica's labour market and economy by retaining top-tier talent, driving innovation, and boosting productivity across sectors.

UCC's President, Professor Colin Gyles, CD, highlighted the significance of the launch, noting that it comes on the heels of UCC's re-accreditation by the UK-based Accreditation Service for International Colleges and Universities (ASIC) and its recognition as a University by the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ) and the Jamaica Tertiary Education Commission (JTEC).

Designed for mid- to senior-level professionals, the DBA and DPP programmes offer flexible, part-time structures ranging from three to seven years. They include structured support workshops, supervisory mentorship, and independent research aimed at producing transformational, real-world outcomes across industries.

With five physical campuses across Jamaica and a robust online learning platform, UCC continues to set the benchmark for accessible, future-ready education. Read more [HERE](#).

## Patrice Herah Honoured with Heartfelt Birthday Celebration



Patrice Herah, UCC Cafeteria Supervisor, was all smiles and tears of joy at her surprise birthday party. The atmosphere at UCC Worthington Campus was filled with joy and admiration on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, as Patrice Herah, the beloved Cafeteria Supervisor, was treated to a surprise birthday celebration she won't forget.

Planned by the spirited Cafeteria and Campus Store Team, the celebration was nothing short of royal. Patrice, under the impression she was heading to a routine meeting, was instead met at the gate by none other than Neville "Stulu," who greeted her with a bouquet of flowers and chocolates. With a regal touch, she was escorted under an umbrella, crowned, and sashed like true UCC royalty.

## Our Students Shine in Preliminary Job Interview Sessions with TotalEnergies

On Wednesday, June 4, 2025, TotalEnergies Marketing Jamaica Limited conducted preliminary job interview sessions with select UCC students pursuing Accounting and related fields — offering them a valuable opportunity to take a confident step toward their professional futures.



Students engaged in one-on-one interviews with TotalEnergies representatives, gaining firsthand experience in corporate hiring expectations and interview etiquette. The initiative allowed students to not only showcase their qualifications but also strengthen their confidence and professionalism in a real interview setting.

This initiative reflects UCC's strong commitment to student advancement, actively creating avenues for career readiness and workforce integration. The collaboration with TotalEnergies also reinforces the university's growing network of industry partners dedicated to supporting emerging talent.



### The UCC Alumni Association & Lettin' Loose Launch Menstrual Cupboard to Support Student Wellness

The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) Alumni Association, in collaboration with Lettin' Loose, successfully launched its first menstrual cupboard at UCC's Main Campus, 17 Worthington Avenue.

The initiative, held on Friday, June 6, was warmly received by students and staff alike and marked a significant step toward addressing menstrual equity on campus. Designed as a discreet, accessible space, the menstrual cupboard offers free essential products — including pads, tampons, and menstrual cups for students in need.

At the launch event, alumni representatives, student leaders, and Lettin' Loose advocates emphasized the importance of creating a welcoming, stigma-free environment where no student has to miss out on their education due to a lack of menstrual supplies.

The UCC community applauds the Alumni Association and Lettin' Loose for championing this vital cause and looks forward to seeing the positive impact this initiative will have on campus life.



### UCCF's Heartfelt Outreach to Strathmore Children's Home



Led by Paul Brown, President of UCCF, the initiative was rooted in Hebrews 13:16 — “And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” What started as a small idea faced its share of setbacks, but through faith, perseverance, and teamwork, the vision came to life.

Upon arrival at Strathmore, the team was welcomed with open arms by staff and children alike. From heartfelt devotionals led by Keara Hamilton, Tashina Clarke, and Tecia Ainsworth, to combing hair, sharing snacks, and simply offering presence and love — the day was filled with meaningful connections.

One of the standout moments was learning about Miss Marcia Tucker, the home's Managing Director, who has served faithfully for 23 years. A mother of two and a mother to many, her story deeply moved the group and reaffirmed their mission.

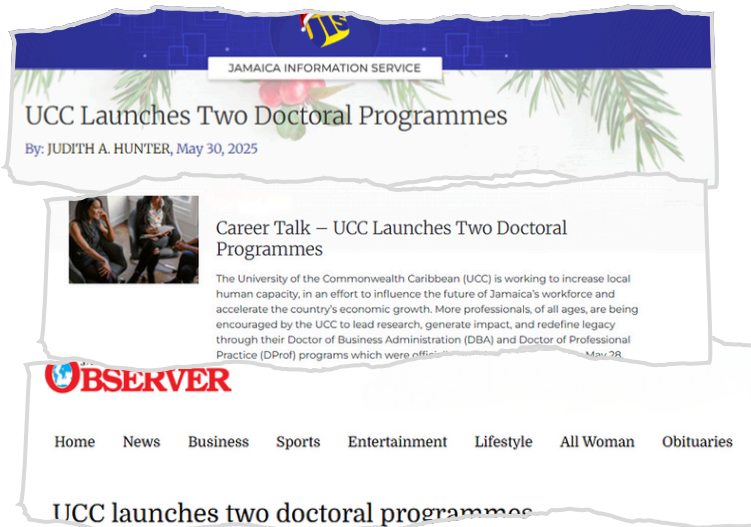
The visit was more than just a charitable gesture — it was a ministry of love, hope, and faith in action.

Please click the links below for all press releases mentioned in this newsletter

[UCC Launches First Doctoral Degrees with MLSS Endorsement](#)  
[UCC Launches Two Doctoral Programmes](#)  
[UCC AA x Lettin' Loose Campaign](#)  
[UCC Confers Honourary Doctorates on Phillips, Clarke and Hinchcliffe](#)  
[Ten prison inmates graduate from UCC with degrees](#)  
[UCC now asynchronous on Acadeum](#)  
[Research Conference - captioned photo](#)  
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[Research Conference - captioned photo](#)

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### Doctoral Programmes Make National Impact



UCC proudly made national news headlines following the official launch of its first two doctoral programmes — the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) and the Doctor of Professional Practice (DPP).

These historic offerings mark a bold step forward in advanced education and leadership development for Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. Additional coverage was shown by Loop News:

 Loop News – Programme Highlight  
 Loop News

“University of the Commonwealth Caribbean launches first doctoral degrees”

This wave of national recognition reflects UCC's growing influence in shaping the future of higher education. We are proud to lead with vision, purpose, and impact — and this is only the beginning.

### Student Spotlight: Khalia Phillips Receives Recognition for Shining at UCJ's 20th Annual Quality Assurance in Education Week

Khalia Phillips was selected to be part of a prestigious panel discussion during the UCJ Symposium, representing UCC among other student leaders across Jamaica. Not only did she perform exceptionally, but her contributions earned her a well-deserved token of appreciation from the UCJ.

### Prof. Gyles Meets with ISG CEO



Professor Colin Gyles, CD, President of the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC), met with Alex Ihama, President and CEO of the International School of Greatness. Mr Ihama visited the UCC Main campus to engage the university in discussions of advancing ongoing collaboration between both institutions.

Reflecting on the experience, Khalia shared: “I cannot stop smiling. I knew that based on the email they sent that I would receive a token, but not one of such magnitude. I wasn't expecting this; and it makes me feel like I have done a really good job of representing myself and my university — and that's making me all smiles for the rest of the day.”



From left: Professor Gyles, UCC President, Khalia Phillips, award recipient and Peter Ndajah, Dean for the School of Mathematics, Science and Technology.



# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY '25



The 2025 Commencement ceremony stood as a powerful testament to the transformative capacity of education and the enduring belief that potential is not defined by circumstance. Among the graduating class of more than 800 were ten Jamaicans currently serving sentences in local correctional facilities, individuals who completed associate and bachelor's degrees in business administration through the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Their presence at this ceremony elevated the occasion beyond academic celebration, underscoring UCC's commitment to inclusive education, rehabilitation, and national development. Their achievement affirmed that learning, when paired with opportunity and discipline, can serve as a catalyst for renewal and purpose.

In a moment that resonated deeply with all in attendance, the summa cum laude graduate who responded on behalf of the cohort captured the spirit of the day, declaring, "We didn't just earn degrees, we regained our dignity." Those words encapsulated the essence of the overall graduation ceremony—one defined not only by certificates conferred, but also by lives reshaped, confidence restored, and futures reimaged. As graduates crossed the stage from diverse backgrounds and journeys, this ceremony reinforced the enduring message that education empowers, redeems, and equips individuals to contribute meaningfully to society, regardless of where their journey began.



## **UCC Confers Honorary Doctorates on Dr. Peter Phillips, Dr. Nigel Clarke, and Audrey Stewart-Hinchcliffe for Transformational Contributions to National Development**

The 2025 Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, July 20, at 11:00 a.m. at the National Arena saw the conferment of three nation builders.

Dr. The Honourable Peter Phillips, OJ, MP, former Minister of Finance and Planning, received the Honorary Doctor of Economics (D.Econ) in recognition of his central role in Jamaica's fiscal transformation. As Finance Minister (2012–2016), he led a landmark International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement that restored global confidence and helped stabilise the economy. His legacy included debt reduction, inclusive policy-making, and more than three decades of public service. A respected lecturer and author, Dr. Phillips shaped national dialogue on governance and development. "He is a visionary and a respected voice in Caribbean public policy," said UCC President Professor Colin Gyles. "His leadership and commitment to equity reflect the core values of UCC and the lasting impact of nation-building."

Dr. Nigel Clarke, Deputy Managing Director at the IMF and former Minister of Finance and the Public Service, received the Honorary Doctor of Finance (DFin) for his leadership in transforming Jamaica's economy. A Rhodes Scholar and Oxford-trained economist, Dr. Clarke spearheaded key reforms including central bank independence, the creation of an independent fiscal commission, tax policy overhaul, and strengthened public sector governance. "Dr. Clarke's impressive track record at both national and international levels exemplifies the transformative power of purpose-driven public service," Gyles said, adding: "We are proud to honour him for shaping a resilient economic framework that continues to inspire the region and the world."



From left: Dr Peter Phillips, Dr Nigel Clarke and Dr Audrey Stewart-Hinchcliffe

Mrs. Audrey Stewart-Hinchcliffe, CD, JP, Founder and Chairman of Caribbean Health Management Consultants Ltd. and the Manpower & Maintenance Services Limited Group, received the Honorary Doctorate in Business and Entrepreneurship (D.B.E. Hon.). A pioneer in healthcare and business, she served as CARICOM's first Health Development Officer, shaping policy across 17 member states and advancing regional health development. An accomplished author and passionate advocate for job creation and skills training, her work helped build stronger communities and contributed significantly to nation-building in Jamaica. Her lasting impact spanned the health, education, and business sectors. "We were honoured to recognise Mrs. Stewart-Hinchcliffe, a trailblazer whose leadership and innovation exemplify the values UCC stands for," said Gyles.

Past UCC honourees included Professor Errol Morrison, Bruce Bowen, Dr. Henry Lowe, Richard Byles, Gary Hendrickson, US Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, Dorothy Pine-McLarty, Leighton McKnight, Godfrey Dyer, Professor Sandra Reid, Governor Wes Moore, Dr. Tricia Bailey, Sir Richard Branson, Minister Edmund Bartlett, Adam Stewart, and Dr. Patricia V. Smith. Their distinguished achievements reflected UCC's commitment to recognising excellence and leadership across diverse fields, inspiring future generations.



## **UCC Empowers Scoops Unlimited Staff with Practical Inventory Management Training**



Staff members from Scoops Unlimited Limited actively participated in the Inventory Management Workshop. The June 19 staging of the Inventory Management Workshop was a success at the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean's (UCC) Kingston campus, with a full cohort of twenty-three (23) staff members from Scoops Unlimited Limited actively participating in day one of this dynamic, two-day training experience.

Organized by UCC's Corporate Education Department, the workshop aimed at strengthening the company's internal operations by providing staff with hands-on, practical strategies in inventory management. From minimizing losses to improving warehouse systems, the session was carefully designed to deliver results-driven learning. The training incorporated interactive, real-world scenarios and group activities to ensure attendees leave with actionable tools and confidence to implement change. The second and final day of the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean's (UCC) Inventory Management Workshop for Scoops Unlimited Limited wrapped up successfully on June 25, marking the completion of a highly impactful two-day training series.

## **UCC Recognized for Continued Commitment to Gender Equality Through GAP**

Director, Policy and Research (Acting), Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA), Ms. Tashana Clemmings, makes a presentation to Dr. Leleith Tomlinson, Dean, College of Occupational and Applied Studies, in recognition of the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean's ongoing participation in the Gender Ambassadors Programme (GAP).

The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) was recently recognized by the Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA) for its continued involvement in the Gender Ambassadors Programme (GAP) — a national initiative promoting gender equity and awareness across Jamaica's education system.

During the official presentation, Ms. Tashana Clemmings, Acting Director of Policy and Research at the BGA, presented a token of appreciation to Dr. Leleith Tomlinson, Dean of UCC's College of Occupational and Applied Studies. The moment acknowledged UCC's active role in advancing the goals of the GAP and its dedication to fostering a more inclusive academic environment.



Established in 2019, the GAP is a collaborative effort between the BGA (under the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport) and the Ministry of Education, aimed at mainstreaming gender education at both the secondary and tertiary levels. The programme equips students with the knowledge to address issues such as gender-based violence, discrimination, child rights, and equality in leadership and decision-making.

As the initiative continues to grow, UCC remains proud to be part of this meaningful national movement for change.

## **Professor Anthony Clayton Makes Presentation at the UCC Manager's Forum**

The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) was honoured to meet Professor Emeritus Anthony Clayton, CD, via a virtual presentation at the Managers' Forum on Friday, June 27, 2025, where he explored the topic of "The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Jamaica." The event marked a meaningful milestone ahead of his formal installation as UCC's incoming Pro-Chancellor at the 2025 Commencement Ceremony in July.

Professor Clayton, a globally respected policy strategist and sustainable development advocate, engaged UCC's leadership team with thought-provoking insights and shared his vision for academic impact, innovation, and ethical governance. His presence underscored UCC's growing stature as a regional leader in higher education and forward-thinking institutional leadership.



**Professor Anthony Clayton,  
UCC Pro-Chancellor**

## **Celebrating Mr. Miller!**

The Canteen and Operations teams at UCC's Worthington Campus made sure to show some birthday love to one of the most dependable and well-loved members of the team — Mr. Miller, our amazing driver!

With his warm personality, tireless dedication, and ever-present smile, Mr. Miller has touched the lives of many on campus and was later honoured in the December Staff Awards for serving 25 years at UCC.



**Professor Gyles presents the award for 25 years of service to Mr Miller at the annual Staff Recognition and Awards Ceremony on December 19th.**



**Mr Miller at his surprise birthday gathering in June.**



# “THE GREAT GATSBY”

## RE/MAX Elite Realty Awards Ceremony



Ahead of the anniversary dinner, RE/MAX Elite Realty hosted its Annual Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, May 1, 2025, at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, impeccably executed under The Great Gatsby theme. The ceremony provided a distinguished forum to recognise and celebrate the milestone achievements of both staff and agents, shining a spotlight on top producers, outstanding sales performance, and exemplary service. It also acknowledged individuals whose consistency, leadership, and commitment to excellence played a pivotal role in advancing the company's growth, strengthening its brand, and upholding the high standards that defined the 2024 business year.



## “THE BIG 10”

### RE/MAX Elite Realty Montego Bay Celebrates 10 Years of Real Estate Excellence



RE/MAX Elite Realty's Montego Bay office celebrated 10 years of outstanding service in Jamaica's second city, marking a decade of growth, resilience, and industry leadership in the country's evolving real estate market. The anniversary dinner, held at the Montego Bay office on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, solidified their dominance in the industry and a deacon of excellence.

Since opening in 2015, the RE/MAX Elite Realty Montego Bay office has become a trusted name for both luxury and commercial real estate, catering to a wide range of clients—from returning residents to overseas investors. While the broader market sees increased interest in mid-range properties priced between J\$30 million and J\$70 million, Montego Bay continues to attract high-value buyers looking for premium assets such as custom villas and high-visibility commercial developments.



## UCC Western Campus took the Sangster Run by Storm

The UCC Montego Bay Campus proudly participated in the MJB Charity Run/Walk, also known as the Team Sangster Charity Run/Walk, held on Sunday, September 7, 2025, at the iconic Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay. This unique event, which transformed the bustling airport runway into a track for runners and walkers, attracted participants from across the island who came together in the spirit of community, wellness, and giving back.

Students from the UCC Montego Bay Campus joined the event with enthusiasm, proudly representing the university while contributing to a cause that resonates with its values. Their involvement highlighted not only UCC's dedication to student success inside and outside the classroom but also its active role in supporting wider societal needs.



## Our Today features UCC's accomplishment of being on Acadeum



On Saturday, September 13, Our Today shared a significant milestone for the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC), as the institution officially joined the ranks of Caribbean tertiary institutions offering asynchronous online courses.

These courses provide students with greater flexibility by allowing them to learn at their own pace, access pre-recorded lectures and resources, and complete assignments on a schedule that suits them, without the need to log in at the same time as instructors or peers. This model is especially valuable for individuals managing demanding or unpredictable schedules.

This achievement has been made possible through UCC's partnership with Acadeum Course Share, a collaborative platform that enables institutions to expand access to credit-bearing online courses across trusted partner universities. By joining as a teaching institution, UCC strengthens its commitment to innovation in education and broadening opportunities for learners across the region.



## **PSOJ Strengthens Partnership with UCC Through Strategic Site Visit**



As part of its ongoing engagement with members, the PSOJ conducted a site visit at UCC to better understand the operations, progress, challenges, and innovations of the university. On Thursday, September 18, executives from their organization were accommodated at the UCC main campus.

According to the PSOJ, these visits provide valuable insights that strengthen their ability to represent and advocate effectively on behalf of member institutions across various sectors.

Professor Colin Gyles hosted the visit, extending an invitation to members of the UCC community to meet with the PSOJ team during this session. The group engaged in a powerful conversation about establishing deeper channels through educational advancement and ultimately strengthening the partnership.

In keeping with this tradition of courtesy visits, the PSOJ team was granted the opportunity to tour UCC's facilities and explore further avenues for business.

## **SLB Joins UCC for Financial Awareness Session**

On Friday, September 19, the Students' Loan Bureau (SLB) visited the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) Main Campus in Kingston to engage with students and provide valuable information on financing their education. The visit formed part of the SLB's ongoing outreach efforts, aimed at increasing awareness of its services, clarifying the

loan application process, and highlighting opportunities available to students pursuing higher education.



## **UCC Athletes Dominate Guardian Group Blue Run**



The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC), through its Department of Student Services, proudly participated in the annual Guardian Group Blue Run 5K on Sunday, September 21. The event, which promotes health, wellness, and community involvement, also served as a platform to raise awareness for important health causes, including prostate cancer.

Ten (10) dedicated UCC students registered to run in support of prostate cancer awareness and to assist the Urology Department at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Hospital.



## **UCC Athletes Dominate Guardian Group Blue Run ... cont'd**

By participating, the students not only championed a crucial health cause but also demonstrated UCC's commitment to civic engagement, social responsibility, and student involvement in community initiatives.

Representing the university with energy and enthusiasm, the UCC Tracks Team volunteered as the official runners for the marathon, showcasing teamwork, discipline, and school spirit. Their participation highlighted the university's ongoing efforts to encourage a healthy lifestyle among students while fostering a culture of volunteerism and support for charitable causes.

Through this participation, UCC demonstrated a positive impact in the wider community.



## **The Annual Research Conference opens with a Grand Student Expo**

On Tuesday, September 23rd, the Graduate Studies & Research department hosted a thrilling student Expo, setting the stage for the much-anticipated research conference taking place Wednesday through Thursday.

The Expo offered a dynamic platform for students to present their innovative projects, providing attendees with a firsthand look at the creativity, dedication, and scholarly excellence emerging from UCC.

Designed to highlight the hard work of undergraduate students, the event brought together participants from all UCC campuses for an inspiring display of collaboration, networking, and intellectual curiosity. The Expo fostered a renewed sense of pride among both students and staff, as attendees engaged in meaningful discussions, exchanged ideas, and explored potential partnerships.

The poster presentations featured outstanding work from students in Marketing, Information Technology, and the College of Occupational and Applied Studies (COAS), reflecting the diverse academic disciplines and interdisciplinary approaches nurtured at UCC. With its vibrant atmosphere and interactive setup, the Expo not only celebrated student achievement but also reinforced UCC's commitment to fostering research, innovation, and community engagement across the university.



# ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

## Featured in The Gleaner and Our Today

The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) opened its 9th Annual Research Conference at its main campus in Kingston on Wednesday, September 24, with a compelling keynote address from the university Chancellor Professor John MacIntyre.

Held under the theme 'Living and Working with Artificial Intelligence', Professor MacIntyre called on educators and institutions to embrace artificial intelligence (AI) as a transformative tool in teaching, learning, and research. The Chancellor, in his presentation, urged the academic community to shift from a mindset of policing AI to one of purposeful integration, equipping students with the skills to use the technology effectively in the real world.

On Day 2 of the Research Conference, Pro-Chancellor Professor Emeritus Anthony Clayton explored the global transformations driven by population growth, urbanization and climate change. In his presentation, Professor Clayton emphasized changes in the global demography, with societies growing older, more urban, and more technologically dependent.

A major focus of his presentation was on health care as a case study. Life expectancy, which has remained stagnant for centuries, has seen exponential growth in the last 200 years due to advances in sanitation, nutrition, and medicine. However, in recent years, the global health landscape has been dominated by non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular illness, cancer, diabetes, and respiratory conditions, which account for 74% of mortality rates.

Ultimately, the session emphasized that as the world grows older, richer, and more urban, harnessing AI responsibly in healthcare will be central to addressing future challenges. Both days one and two were featured in The Gleaner, with subsequent publications in the online magazine, Our Today.

## UCC Hosts Annual Work and Travel Expo

The Department of Student Services (DSS) on Wednesday, October 8 hosted the highly-anticipated Work and Travel Expo at our main campus in Kingston.

Approximately 16 agencies registered to showcase their student travel programmes, explain their application processes and to share programme requirements. The DSS Team (David Tulloch, DSS Director and Oneil Dowe, DSS Student Success Supervisor), including Professor Warner guided the students with valuable insights on selecting suitable programmes, preparing successful applications, and maximizing opportunities for personal and financial growth abroad.

This remarkable exposition attracted 255 students attended in person and 260 joined via Zoom, totaling a whopping 515 participants! Held from 10:00am to 2:00pm, the full room buzzed with engagement as students interacted with agency representatives, gaining first-hand knowledge about the work and travel programme.





## Research Conference Pictorial Review





# ‘DO YOUR BEST TO PROTECT THE BREAST’

## Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign

The Marketing Department implemented a comprehensive month-long programme of activities and engagements in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, aimed at educating, informing, and encouraging proactive health practices within the university community. Throughout the month, the department shared weekly educational content focused on practical and preventative measures, including guidance on how to perform breast self-examinations, understanding common risk factors, dispelling prevailing myths and misconceptions surrounding breast cancer, and promoting the importance of maintaining a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

These efforts were complemented by targeted social media initiatives, including the creation and dissemination of engaging video content designed to increase awareness, spark conversation, and extend the campaign's reach beyond the campus. Additionally, an on-campus pop-up activation provided an interactive platform for direct engagement, allowing students, faculty, and staff to access information, ask questions, and demonstrate solidarity with the cause. Collectively, these initiatives reinforced the department's commitment to health advocacy, awareness-building, and community engagement.





# A YEAR OF ACCOLADES

## **UCC Board Director Dr Marlene Street-Forrest Conferred with the Order of Jamaica**

The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) proudly congratulates Dr. Marlene Street Forrest, distinguished member of the UCC Board of Directors, on being vested with the Order of Jamaica (OJ) during the 2025 Ceremony of Investiture and Presentation of National Honours and Awards, held at King's House on Heroes Day, Monday, October 20, 2025.

Dr. Street Forrest, the sole female recipient of the Order of Jamaica this year, was recognized for her exceptional leadership and contribution to Jamaica's financial sector, particularly in advancing the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE). The Order of Jamaica, the fourth-highest honour in the national honours system, is bestowed upon Jamaican citizens of outstanding distinction and carries the motto "For a covenant of the people."

This national award follows her national recognition in 2016, when she was awarded the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander for her outstanding service and achievements.

Dr. Street Forrest is also a proud recipient of the UCC Honourary Doctorate Award, presented to individuals who have performed exceptionally in their respective fields. This award was conferred upon her in 2020.

UCC celebrates Dr. Street Forrest's continued legacy of excellence and leadership, which stands as a true inspiration to our university community and to Jamaica at large.



## **Congratulations Prof. Sheilah Paul on UCC Recognition of Full Professorship**

The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean is pleased to announce the Board's recognition of Sheilah Marion Paul, PhD as a Full Professor. Professor Paul joined UCC in January 2023 having earned the distinguished rank of Professor with Tenure in 2017 from the largest urban public university system in the United States – the City University of New York (CUNY), with an indelible record of service for over 20 years.

Professor Sheilah Marion Paul is a higher education leader, scholar, and practitioner whose work in special education, teacher preparation, assessment, and student success pipelines in urban and underserved communities is well-known and highly regarded in higher education globally. She developed and implemented the College's First-Year Program, and was steward of key student centered initiatives across the Medgar Evers College and CUNY community.

At UCC, Professor Paul has led the charge on the restructuring of the Academic Affairs Division; guided the inclusive development of an institutional Research Ethics Board to promote university-wide ethical research practices; increased the faculty and staff professional development sessions, in addition to a plethora of successful transformations.

## **A YEAR OF ACCOLADES ...cont'd**



### **Appointment of Mr David Tulloch as Acting Director of the Department of Student Services**

The University announced the appointment of Mr. David Tulloch as Acting Director of the Department of Student Support, Career Development and Alumni Services, effective October 1, 2025. In this role, Mr Tulloch provides leadership for student services and customer support, focusing on helping students with career planning, professional growth, and employment opportunities that match their academic goals.

Mr Tulloch also oversees programmes that promote student leadership, personal development, sports, culture, welfare, counseling, and volunteerism, especially for our growing online and hybrid student community.

### **UCC Receives ASIC Award for Innovative Use of Technology**

The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) proudly celebrates another outstanding achievement! Following our successful re-accreditation and recognition as a Premier Institution by the Accreditation Service for International Schools, Colleges & Universities (ASIC) earlier this year, UCC has now been honoured with the prestigious ASIC Award for Innovative Use of Technology in Education.

This international recognition, announced at the annual ASIC Conference in Vietnam, underscores UCC's continued commitment to leveraging technology to enhance teaching, learning, and institutional effectiveness. This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to the dedication, creativity, and hard work of our

entire UCC community - faculty, staff, and students alike.

Your collective efforts continue to elevate our university's global standing and reinforce our vision of delivering world-class education through innovation and excellence.

### **UCC Student Neveah Allen Takes the Miss Jamaica World Beach Beauty Title - Featured in The Observer**

UCC's very own, Neveah Allen, was crowned the 2025 Miss Jamaica World Beach Beauty on Sunday, October 12. The Beach Beauty competition is one of the fast-track events in the annual Miss Jamaica World beauty pageant.

Neveah secured an automatic top ten placement in the grand finals of the pageant.

She caught up with the Observer Online shortly after being crowned, expressing surprise at her win. "I couldn't be any prouder of myself, having secured an automatic spot in the top ten. Making the top ten is a big feat. I joined this competition because it has always been a dream of mine to be among the competitors. I also wanted to shed some light on my advocacy, which is the sustainability of animal conservation," said Allen, who finished in third place at the Miss Jamaica World Eastern Region pageant.





## UCCF Hurricane Melissa Relief Mission

Press releases featured in The Observer and Our Today



In response to the islandwide disaster, the UCC Foundation (UCCF) coordinated a series of donations to our rural campuses, following the passage of Hurricane Melissa in November. The University established a strategic stream of communication for students and staff, designed to provide support to community members most affected by Hurricane Melissa. The first set of donations were made to the Montego Bay campus on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. The relief packages contained bottled water, non-perishable food items, toiletries, sanitary products, and articles of clothing.



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**The well-being of  
our students is  
always our top  
priority.**

**- Professor Colin Gyles, UCC President**



## UCCF Hurricane Melissa Relief Mission

...cont'd



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**These packages were carefully prepared to address their most urgent needs so that students could maintain a sense of stability.**

- Genefa Hibbert, then UCCF Executive Director

Through a phased approach, UCCF donated additional relief supplies to the Mandeville campus on Friday, November 7, followed by the May Pen and Ocho Rios campuses on Wednesday, November 19 and Tuesday, November 25, respectively. The University donated a tidy sum of JMD \$1,000,000 to the UCC Foundation to offset contributions.

UCCF has made significant contributions to the lives of members of the university community residing in the parishes that were adversely affected by Hurricane Melissa. While our main campus remained largely unaffected, there were network disruptions which resulted in internal and external challenges in communication; however Our Today was duly engaged to properly inform the UCC community. The UCC main campus continues to provide substantial support for all students and staff across all campuses.







## **UCC Founder and Group Executive Chairman Dr Winston Adams featured in the Jamaica Observer**

On Sunday, November 9, the UCC Founder and Executive Chairman published a powerful and timely editorial in the Jamaica Observer, offering thoughtful insight into the nation's path forward in the wake of Hurricane Melissa. In his article, he reflected on the widespread impact of the storm and the resilience of the Jamaican people, emphasizing that recovery must go beyond simply repairing what was damaged. Instead, he urged the country to reimagine its future with stronger systems, smarter infrastructure, and a renewed commitment to preparedness.

His message highlighted the importance of learning from the challenges exposed by the hurricane and using them as a catalyst to strengthen communities, protect vulnerable populations, and modernize national frameworks.

By charting a course rooted in resilience and collective responsibility, he underscored the opportunity for Jamaica not only to recover but to emerge stronger, more unified, and better equipped to face future adversities. His editorial serves as both an inspiring reflection and a blueprint for national progress in the post-hurricane era.

## **Business Lecturer Dr. Odetha Davis Shares News Editorial with The Observer**

Dr. Odetha Davis, Business Lecturer here at UCC, also contributed a compelling editorial to the Jamaica Observer examining the deeper impact of Hurricane Melissa.

In her article, Dr. Davis draws national attention to the often overlooked "hidden casualties" of the storm, the thousands of Jamaicans in the tourism sector whose livelihoods were disrupted when hotels and related businesses were forced to close. She stresses that beyond the physical damage to properties, the real crisis lies in the economic and emotional strain placed on housekeepers, bartenders, craft vendors, tour operators, taxi drivers, and other workers who suddenly find themselves without income or security.

Her perspective not only broadens the national conversation around post-hurricane recovery but also showcases UCC's thought leadership during a critical moment for Jamaica's rebuilding efforts.

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## **UCCF Leaves Lasting Impact on Good Samaritan Inn with Beautification Project**

On Sunday, November 9, the UCCF hosted a meaningful Beautification and Donation Project at the Good Samaritan Inn, bringing together volunteers to uplift the space and support those who rely on its services. Team members engaged in a range of improvement activities, refreshing the environment and ensuring the facilities were more welcoming and comfortable for guests in need.

In addition to the beautification work, the group also donated essential items to the Inn, reflecting UCCF's ongoing commitment to compassion, service, and community support. The initiative not only strengthened UCCF's outreach efforts but also demonstrated the powerful impact that collective action can have on vulnerable communities.

As part of UCC's ongoing commitment to service and community engagement, members of staff recently volunteered at the Good Samaritan Inn, supporting its mission to provide care and assistance to vulnerable citizens. Staff representatives from various departments contributed through meal service and direct engagement with residents, making a meaningful impact beyond the campus.

The initiative, coordinated on a rotational basis every second Tuesday of each month, encourages broad participation and collaboration across departments. Participants described the experience as both rewarding and humbling, reinforcing UCC's culture of compassion, teamwork, and social responsibility.

## Great Moments in Sports

On Monday, December 1, the inter-departmental football competition came to an electrifying close with a highly anticipated final showdown between the Operations and Exams Departments. From the first whistle, the atmosphere was charged with excitement as supporters gathered to cheer on their teams.

The Operations team delivered a commanding performance, securing a decisive 6-0 victory and claiming the championship title. Their teamwork, strategy, and unwavering determination were evident throughout the match. Well-deserved congratulations to all members of the team and the wider department!

The inter-departmental netball competition brought a surge of enthusiasm across the campus, with teams demonstrating remarkable energy, discipline, and determination. Each match showcased the competitive spirit and unity that define this annual event, making it a highlight of our sporting calendar.

The tournament came to an exuberant ending with COAS coming out on top as the defending champions against SFS.





## Staff Recognition and Awards Ceremony

The curtains were drawn on the year 2025 with an inspiring Staff Recognition & Awards Ceremony that celebrated excellence, dedication, and service across the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean. The event brought together members of the Board, senior management, faculty, and staff in a meaningful showcase of appreciation, recognising individuals whose commitment and professionalism continue to advance the University's mission. Through a carefully curated programme featuring musical performances from Saxophonist Raheem Vassell, engaging activities from the Master of Ceremonies Mrs Latoya Minott-Smikle, and moments of reflection, the ceremony underscored the importance of acknowledging the people who contribute to the success of the institution.

Central to the celebration was the recognition of long-serving employees, with awards presented to staff members marking 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of service, alongside individual honours such as Innovator of the Year (Mr Owen Linton), Excellent Support Staff (Mr Lamech Hunter), GEM (Mr Winston Kennedy), and Unsung Hero (Ms Rona Cunningham). These accolades highlighted not only years of loyalty, but also outstanding contributions, innovation, teamwork, and quiet excellence.

Collectively, the awards reflected UCC's enduring commitment to fostering a culture of recognition, gratitude, and high performance, as the University closed the year by honouring those who continue to make a lasting impact.

## The Year Ahead: 2026!

As the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean looks ahead to 2026, we do so with renewed purpose, momentum, and confidence in our shared vision. Building on the achievements, partnerships, and milestones of the past year, the University is poised to advance its strategic priorities in academic excellence, innovation, research, student success, and national development.

The year ahead will see continued investment in programme expansion, digital transformation, community engagement, and institutional strengthening, as UCC remains committed to preparing graduates who are globally competitive, ethically grounded, and future-ready. Guided by strong leadership and a resilient university community, 2026 promises to be a year of progress, opportunity, and impact for UCC and all its stakeholders.

Please click the links below for all press releases mentioned in this newsletter

[UCC Launches First Doctoral Degrees with MLSS Endorsement](#)

[UCC Launches Two Doctoral Programmes](#)

[UCC AA x Lettin' Loose Campaign](#)

[UCC Confers Honourary Doctorates on Phillips, Clarke, and Hinchcliffe](#)

[Ten Prison Inmates Graduate from UCC with Degrees](#)

[UCC Now Asynchronous on Acadeum](#)

[Research Conference - Captioned Photo](#)

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[UCC Chancellor Urges Educators to Embrace AI in Education](#)

[Neveah Allen Cops Miss Jamaica World Beach Beauty title](#)

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## Staff Awards Pictorial Review







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