

# INNOVATE FOR UCC ALUMNI

December 2025 Volume 1



## INNOVATE At A Glance

The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) is pleased to present the launch of the Alumni Newsletter: INNOVATE. Designed to reconnect our undergraduate alumni and inspire current master's students, this publication highlights the people, projects, and opportunities shaping the UCC graduate experience. As we continue to strengthen academic excellence and industry relevance, we celebrate the achievements of our learners and graduates whose impact continues to elevate the UCC brand.

### IN THIS ISSUE

**The Power of Graduate Studies**

**Strategies for Graduate Success**

**Career Development Essentials**

**UCC's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Conference**

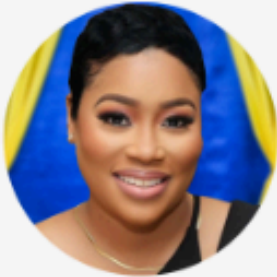
**Artificial Intelligence and Career Advancement**

**Community, Culture and Engagement**

**Alumni Achievement Spotlight**

*... and much more!*

# MEET THE UCCAA EXECUTIVE BODY



**PRESIDENT**  
Ms. Lashawn Mills



**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Mr. Richard Headley



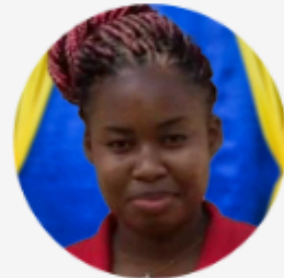
**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Ms. Natoya Hutchinson



**SECRETARY**  
Mr. Duvaughn Meade



**PRO/MOBAY REP.**  
Mr. Jonathan Johnson



**MAY PEN REP.**  
Ms. Sharna Green



**MANDEVILLE REP.**  
Mrs. Kimone Wallace Cox



**EX-OFFICIO EXECUTIVE**  
Ms. Nicola Martin



**ASST. PRO/KINGSTON REP**  
Ms. Tracy-Ann Hall



# MESSAGES FROM UCCAA LEADERS



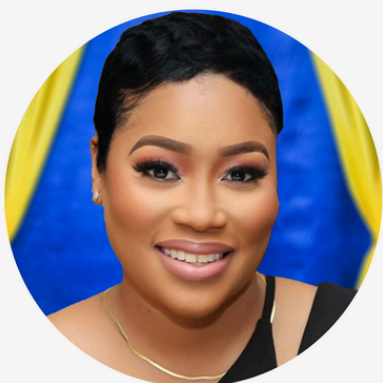
David Tulloch  
Acting Director, Department  
of Student Services

At the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean, we remain committed to advancing lives through practical, industry-aligned learning and globally relevant expertise. As we broaden our postgraduate portfolio and strengthen partnerships across key sectors, our focus is on equipping professionals with the strategic insight, leadership capability, and adaptive skills required to thrive in an evolving global landscape.

The Graduate Studies and Research School is committed to supporting students at every stage of their academic and professional journey. Our programmes are carefully developed to align with emerging industry trends, applied research priorities, and the leadership competencies required in today's competitive landscape. I invite our graduates, current students, and corporate collaborators to leverage our resources, contribute to our growing research community, and participate in shaping the next era of graduate education at UCC.



Andrea Sutherland  
Dean, College of  
Graduate Studies &  
Research



Lashawn Mills  
President, UCCAA

The UCC Alumni Association remains committed to supporting members throughout their personal and professional journeys. Through strategic engagement, continuous learning opportunities, and strong partnerships with industry, we aim to equip our alumni with the insights, networks, and leadership capabilities needed to remain competitive in today's dynamic environment. I encourage our alumni, postgraduate professionals, and corporate partners to actively engage with the Association, leverage its resources, and contribute to initiatives that strengthen our professional community and help shape the future impact of UCC graduates.

# SO YOU'VE COMPLETED YOUR BACHELOR'S DEGREE... *now what?*



## THE POWER OF GRADUATE EDUCATION

Graduate education equips learners to push boundaries, shape industries, and create meaningful societal impact. At UCC, our programmes are built to foster transformative thinking, interdisciplinary exploration, and professional advancement. Whether you are currently engaged in your master's journey or navigating your post-graduate career, the UCC network is a lifetime asset.

## STRATEGIES FOR GRADUATE SUCCESS

### Optimize Your Workflow

Use structured planning models such as time blocking, sprint scheduling, and weekly review systems.

### Sharpen Your Writing

Access writing centre consultations, peer reviews, and digital citation tools.

### Balance Roles

Conduct a weekly time audit to stay aligned with academic, personal, and professional commitments.



## CAREER DEVELOPMENT ESSENTIALS

**Refresh your LinkedIn profile** with updated qualifications, projects, and certifications.

**Build a digital portfolio**

**Complete industry-focused micro-courses**

**GRADUATION  
RINGS AVAILABLE  
FOR PURCHASE**

**AT THE CAMPUS  
STORE**





# UCC'S 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE



The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) opened its 9th Annual Research Conference at its main campus in Kingston on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 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.

Professor MacIntyre highlighted that AI has already begun to reshape the workplace with professionals across industries using it to streamline tasks, boost productivity, and unlock new opportunities. He emphasized that universities have a responsibility to ensure that students are not left behind in a fast-paced environment that requires continuous adaptation. "AI is not going to replace people, but people who use AI will replace people who don't," he remarked, underscoring the urgency for academic institutions to prepare students for this evolving reality.

Contrary to widespread fears about academic dishonesty, Professor MacIntyre shared research that showed that the misuse of AI in higher education is far lower than often portrayed.



According to international studies, only about 3% of students use AI to generate full assignments and pass them off as their own work. Most students, he noted, engage with AI in responsible and constructive ways, using it to support their learning and develop critical skills.

"When students graduate and enter the workforce, they will be expected to use AI as part of their daily roles. Rather than banning or restricting it, we should be requiring it, teaching students how to generate, critique, refine, and improve AI outputs. That is professional practice, and that's the standard we want to instill at UCC," MacIntyre explained.

Notwithstanding, the Chancellor acknowledged the risks associated with AI, including unreliable detection tools that produce false positives, fabricated outputs sometimes called 'hallucinations' and the misuse of deep fakes for fraud and misinformation.

He cautioned that focusing solely on detection and punishment places universities "in the wrong place, with the wrong mindset," and instead argued that embedding AI literacy into curricula and assessments will better prepare students to navigate risks while maximising benefits.

"We must teach students to use AI effectively, appropriately, and safely," he remarked. "Effectively, to get good results; appropriately, by applying their own judgment and not passing off AI work as their own; and safely, ensuring no harm to themselves or others".

With AI at the forefront of global change, Professor MacIntyre made clear that UCC intends to be the leader in preparing graduates who are readily equipped to thrive in an AI-driven world.



# UCC'S 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

## Pictorial Review





# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT



Leveraging emerging technology and AI-driven platforms is increasingly essential for postgraduate students seeking to strengthen their professional competitiveness. These tools support research, productivity, skill development, and industry alignment, enabling students to operate efficiently in a rapidly evolving digital environment.

## Here is a list of AI Tools that are industry - specific

### Business & Management

#### Tableau & Power BI –

Data analytics and dashboarding for market insights and strategic decision-making.

#### HubSpot CRM –

Customer relationship management and sales pipeline tracking.

**ChatGPT** for Business Strategy –

#### QuickBooks &

#### FreshBooks –

Accounting and financial management tools for small-business operations.

### Information Technology

#### GitHub & GitLab –

Version control and collaborative software development.

#### Stack Overflow for

**Teams** – Technical problem-solving supported by AI-assisted search.

#### AWS Educate & Microsoft Azure AI

**Studio** – Cloud computing labs for deploying real-world projects.

**Kaggle** – AI-powered datasets, coding challenges.

### Marketing & Communications

#### Hootsuite & Buffer –

Social media management and campaign analytics.

#### Adobe Express &

#### CapCut –

Rapid content creation supported by AI templates.

**SEMrush** – AI-powered SEO analytics and competitor research.

**Descript** – AI-driven audio and video editing for content production.



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COMMONWEALTH  
CARIBBEAN  
Fostering Leadership & Innovation



amber group  
Pioneering Innovation

## LAUNCHING JAMAICA'S NEW DIGITAL UNIVERSITY

The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) and the AMBER Group have partnered to launch the National Open University of Jamaica (NOUJ), a modern digital institution built for the future.

### THIS PARTNERSHIP DELIVERS:

- A bold step toward reimagining education in Jamaica.
- Greater access, affordability, and industry relevance.
- A fully digital platform designed for flexible, 21st-century learning.

### THE NOUJ WILL FEATURE:

- Innovative programmes
- Digital learning at every level
- Strong integration of technology, entrepreneurship, and employability.

THE OFFICIAL ROLL OUT IS COMING SOON!  
THE NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF JAMAICA  
POWERED BY UCC x AMBER



# COMMUNITY, CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT

## UCCAA x Lettin' Loose



The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) Alumni Association, in partnership with Lettin' Loose and Free Likkle Cupboard, officially launched the Menstrual Cupboard, now available at the UCC Main Campus. The launch took place on Friday, June 6, 2025, and represents a meaningful step in strengthening student support and overall well-being within the university community. This initiative was designed to support our female students during their menstrual cycle by providing discreet, free access to essential sanitary products.

We extend heartfelt thanks to Alumni Association President, Ms. Lashawn Mills, for her leadership in championing this initiative, and to our partners, Lettin' Loose and Free Likkle Cupboard, for their continued commitment to this important cause. Through this collaborative effort, we are fostering a more compassionate and supportive campus environment for all members of the UCC community.

## Christmas Cheer & Cancer Care

The UCC Alumni Association (UCCAA) is well known for its strong culture of volunteerism and community service, making the spirit of giving at Christmas a natural extension of its ongoing outreach efforts. In keeping with this tradition, on December 21, 2024, a group of dedicated UCC alumni coordinated a meaningful visit to the Hope Institute in St. Andrew with the aim of spreading joy, comfort, and festive cheer.

During the visit, alumni engaged warmly with both patients and staff through the singing of Christmas carols, creating a joyful and uplifting atmosphere throughout the facility. Cakes and sandwiches were shared, and heartfelt words of encouragement were offered to remind patients that hope remains, strength can be found even in challenging moments, and their journey is far from over. The initiative served not only to brighten the season but also to reaffirm the UCCAA's commitment to compassion, service, and making a positive impact within the wider community.





# ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT SPOTLIGHT

## UCC Alumna Ammoya Patrick Wins “Best Diplomat” at UN Simulation Conference



UCC alumna Ammoya Patrick has earned international recognition after being named the Most Outstanding Diplomat at the Best Diplomats United Nations Simulation Conference held on October 16, 2025, in the United States.

Representing Barbados, she distinguished herself among more than 70 delegates from 38 countries, impressing judges with her negotiation skills, strategic thinking, and command of global policy issues. The conference centred on the theme “Business for Peace: Entrepreneurship in Post-Conflict Recovery”, requiring participants to propose solutions aligned with key UN Sustainable Development Goals, including peacebuilding, economic growth, and reducing inequalities.

Patrick noted that representing Barbados—rather than her native Jamaica—deepened her appreciation for broader Caribbean and CARICOM perspectives in diplomacy. She expressed pride in the achievement and optimism about the new opportunities it may bring as she continues her journey in international affairs.

Her accomplishment stands as a testament to the caliber of UCC graduates making meaningful contributions on the global stage.

## ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT JOINING UCCAA?

Here's what's in it for you!



Access a strong network of UCC alumni across diverse industries



Engage in alumni events, professional development sessions, and networking forums that support personal and professional growth



Contribute to meaningful initiatives that enhance the student experience and support current and future UCC students



Give back through service, advocacy, and alumni-led programmes



Support the preservation and strengthening of the legacy, values, and continued impact of the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

1. General Meeting with NHT
2. Re-launch scholarship initiative
3. UCCAA Alumni memorabilia sale
4. Quarterly meeting with a special keynote speaker

*stay tuned!*



# GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Take your professional career to the next level with our post graduate degrees



Cyber Security & Data Privacy Protection

Executive Master of Business Administration (CEMBA)

Executive Master of Public Administration (CEMPA)

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

Master of Business Administration (MBA) - Accounting

Master of Business Administration (MBA) - Disaster Management

Master of Business Administration (MBA) - Entrepreneurship

Master of Business Administration (MBA) - Finance

Master of Business Administration (MBA) - General Management

Master of Business Administration (MBA) - Healthcare Management

Master of Business Administration (MBA) - Human Resource Management

Master of Business Administration (MBA) - Marketing

Professional Certificates & Diplomas

## Doctoral Degrees

Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)

Doctor of Professional Practice (DPP)







SCAN ME!



# UCC DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

**LEAD RESEARCH, DRIVE IMPACT**

The Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) and the Doctor of Professional Practice (DPP) are part time programmes, aimed at professionals who can make a substantive contribution to professional practice. The programmes allow the participants to develop their practice through a clear and focused study.



## How long is the DBA/DPP?

The programmes can be completed in 3 to 7 years, with most students finishing in 3 to 4 years.



## Cost

The total cost is US\$30,000 for the 3–7 year programme.

**FLEXIBLE PAYMENT  
PLANS ARE AVAILABLE**



## Why UCC?

UCC offers a diverse, supportive academic community with expert guidance throughout your doctoral journey. You'll benefit from a 360-degree learning experience designed for real-world impact.



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*Fostering Leadership & Innovation*

## College of Graduate Studies and Research

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INNOVATE!**

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