

INNOVATE FOR UCC ALUMNI

March 2026 Volume 1: Issue 2



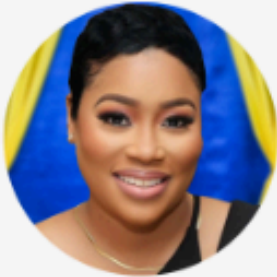
INNOVATE At A Glance

The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) is pleased to present INNOVATE: The Alumni Newsletter. Designed to reconnect our alumni and inspire our current students, this publication highlights the people, projects, and opportunities shaping the UCC 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.

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MEET THE UCCAA EXECUTIVE BODY



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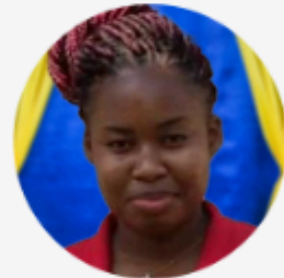
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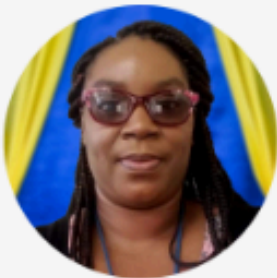
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TO JOIN**



MESSAGES FROM UCCAA LEADERS



Professor Colin Gyles
President, University of the
Commonwealth Caribbean

On behalf of the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean, I am delighted to welcome you to the second edition of our alumni newsletter. This publication represents UCC's dedication to strengthen the lifelong connection between the University and the graduates who carry its values, knowledge, and spirit into the world. Our alumni are among our greatest ambassadors, and this newsletter is a space to celebrate your achievements, share updates from campus, and foster continued engagement across generations and geographies. I invite you to stay connected, stay involved, and continue shaping the proud and evolving legacy of UCC.

The College of Graduate Studies and Research 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



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 UCC Alumni Association remains firmly committed to supporting its members throughout their personal and professional journeys while fostering a strong, lifelong network. Through strategic engagement, continuous learning opportunities, and robust partnerships with industry, the Association seeks to equip alumni with the insights, connections, and leadership capabilities necessary 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.



Lashawn Mills, JP
President, UCCAA

YOU ARE INVITED: FIRST GENERAL MEETING OF THE YEAR



The UCCAA will be hosting a general meeting on Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00pm via Zoom. The structured meeting will also feature a guest speaker, Ms Stanecia Davis, Legal Officer at Companies Office of Jamaica.

This meeting will be held under the theme "Building Strong Foundations: Compliance, Corporate Governance and Sustainable Business Growth in Jamaica".

Be sure to look out for the Zoom details.

Date : March 31, 2026

Time : 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

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

**BECOME A
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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Our alumni have been doing exceptional things in their respective careers: tipping the scales, defying odds, breaking barriers and building reputable names in their fields. Take a look at our featured alumni for this edition of the INNOVATE.



Mrs Sharon Findlay-Smickle JP is a UCC alumna from the graduating cohort of 2012. Having obtained her BSc Human Resources Management, she has since acquired more than 15 dedicated years to her field. As an HR Manager, Mrs Smickle has helped to train over 5000 professionals, attained the Toastmasters Triple Crown and is a proud holder of a Master in Education.

How did UCC prepare you for career and personal growth?

"UCC's approach blended theory with hands-on practice, creating a strong foundation for real-world success. The more lasting impact came from our final assessment - a practicum that challenged us to apply what we have learned. With guidance from our facilitators, we delivered precise, professional results that built my confidence and skills for the future."

Ruth Lawrence is a 2024 graduate of UCC, where she earned her Executive Master of Business Administration degree. She currently serves as Managing Director of Powher Moves Jamaica, a business consultancy firm dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs and organizations in strengthening their operations and strategic growth.

What achievement, since graduating, are you most proud of?

"While I was on the latter end of my degree, I actually resigned my 9-5 job. What I must say is that pursuing my MBA really helped me to jump into entrepreneurship. It was a huge leap, but I believe that I was emboldened with the confidence to do so because of what I learnt while I was studying, and equally just understanding that I had what it took to make things happen."



SCAN ME



MAXIMIZE YOUR CAREER POTENTIAL!

MASTER'S & DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

- Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)
- Doctor of Professional Practice (DPP)
- Commonwealth Executive Master of Business Administration (CEMBA)
- Commonwealth Executive Master of Public Administration (CEMPA)
- UCC Master of Science in Cyber Security & Data Privacy Protection
- UCC Master of Business Administration

And Postgraduate Certificates & Professional Certificates
with specialisations in:

- Accounting
- Disaster Management
- Entrepreneurship
- Finance
- General Management
- Healthcare Management
- Human Resource Management
- Marketing



ASK ABOUT
AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS
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*Conditions apply



The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean is institutionally accredited by both the regional & international accreditation bodies, the UCJ & ASIC (UK) respectively.



UNIVERSITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN
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College of Graduate Studies and Research

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ON SITE!

Check out recent events at UCC



UCC x Sigma Run



UCC stood front and centre at the 2026 Sagikor Sigma Run. More than 120 UCC representatives - both staff and students - supported the cause to 'Run For The West'.

The Release School Tour

On Thursday, February 19, UCC welcomed The Release, a media and entertainment group, as part of its national school tour. This tour brought together representatives from government and the private sector for a dynamic on-campus experience. Highlights from this engagement will be featured in an upcoming broadcast on Television Jamaica (TVJ) and Real Jamaican TV (RETV).

- **Wednesday, March 18 – 8:00 PM on RETV**
- **Thursday, March 19 – Rebroadcast at 11:00 PM on TVJ**



Scholarship Recognition Ceremony



Recruitment Manager, Donna Hunter presents a token to scholarship recipient.

The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean's philanthropic arm, the UCC Foundation (UCCF), on Wednesday, March 4, hosted its Scholarship Recognition Ceremony at the UCC Worthington Campus, the first event of its kind since 2020.

A total of 38 students were recognised, with an additional 14 from the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) who are enrolled in degree programmes. More than 60 UCC students are recipients of scholarships for the 2025/2026 academic year.

Sean Thelwell Memorial Scholarship Launch

During the Scholarship Recognition Ceremony, the UCC Foundation announced the launch of the Sean Thelwell Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Thelwell was the Senior Director of Logistics and Administration and led an exemplary life, both professionally and personally.

The Sean Thelwell Memorial Scholarship has been established in his honour to support students pursuing studies in the following areas:
Logistics and Supply Chain Management – ASc (COAS)
Logistics and Operations Management – BSc
Production and Operations Management – BSc

These disciplines reflect fields in which Mr. Thelwell demonstrated both passion and promise. The scholarship stands as a living tribute, extending his impact beyond his years and investing in future leaders who share his drive, vision, and commitment to excellence.



Professor Dennis J. Gayle, Acting Board Chairman of UCC and Board Chairman of UCC Foundation.

Annual Distinguished Lecture



Dr M. Audrey Stewart-Hinchcliffe CD JP, Chairman of the Manpower & Maintenance Services Limited presents Professor Colin Gyles, President of UCC, with a copy of her book 'The Will To Overcome'.

In addition to the scholarship presentations and launch, the programme concluded with the Foundation's annual Distinguished Lecture, delivered by Dr. M. Audrey Stewart-Hinchcliffe CD JP, Executive Chairman of Manpower & Maintenance Services Limited. Held under the theme 'Redefining Leadership Towards a Paradigm Shift for Economic Development'. Dr. Hinchcliffe encouraged leaders across sectors to rethink traditional approaches to progress in an increasingly dynamic global environment.



The family of Sean Thelwell joined by Mr Andre Wallace, Senior Director of Operations, Facilities and Security (left) and Deputy President Bernadette Warner (fourth from left).

Student Awards 2026



Thursday, March 5, commemorated the highly anticipated Student Awards, spearheaded by the Department of Student Services (DSS). This awards ceremony was held to honour students whose exceptional academic performance distinguished them as recipients of academic awards.





UCC
UNIVERSITY OF THE
COMMONWEALTH
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EDUCATION
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- Financial Securities Management
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- Accounting
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- Project Management
- Occupational Health & Safety
- Effective Public Speaking & Presentation Skills
- Business Communication
- Legal Concepts for Commerce
- Customer Relationship Management
- Warehouse & Inventory Management
- Company Law
- Entrepreneurship
- Tourism & Hospitality Management

SCAN ME



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• **On Campus** • **Off - Campus** • **Online**

*Conditions apply

Main Campus

17 Worthington Ave.
Kingston 5

uccjamaica



Other Campuses

Mandeville
May Pen
Montego Bay
Ocho Rios

UCC introduces year-long synchronous and asynchronous intakes

The University has now officially launched its asynchronous delivery model, which commenced on March 1, 2026 and includes six intakes and six cycles per year across five programmes. This approach gives students a more adaptable path to completing their studies, with the opportunity to take two courses per cycle and progress through their degree programmes at a faster pace while still benefiting from structured cycle breaks, scheduled proctored examinations, and first-year orientation support.

Students also have the option to transition to the synchronous online modality if needed, reinforcing the University's commitment to student success. This marks a significant step forward in academic delivery, with key benefits including faster completion of degree programmes and added flexibility.

Currently, this applies to the following programmes:

[BSc Business Administration](#)

[BSc Business Administration/ Accounting](#)

[BSc Business Administration/ Financial Management](#)

[BSc Marketing](#)

[BSc Information Technology](#)





STAY CONNECTED WITH UCCAA ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@UCC_ALUMNI_ASSOCIATION

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WORKING ON A NEW PROJECT?
SHARE IT FOR A FEATURE IN THE
INNOVATE!**

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