



Articles from Nov. 05 newsletter 3

## Two new doctors in the JADOL house

JADOL executive members, **Constance Hibbert** and **Grace Martin Hall**, were recently conferred with the doctor of education degree (Ed.D.) in Instructional Technology and Distance Education (ITDE) by the Nova Southeastern University (NSU). Offered in collaboration with Mico College, the programme covered distance education, instructional media, technology, design, and training and was delivered through a mix of distance teaching (mainly on-line) and face to face instruction.



*Dr. Constance Hibbert*

Dr. Hibbert's thesis was entitled, *Recommendations for reducing barriers to the use of computer technology to teach English in a selected number of Jamaican schools*. It identified barriers that prevented teachers from using computer technology to deliver instruction and advanced recommendations to reduce or remove those barriers.

The study "was conducted against the background that the Grade 11 cohort of the Jamaican population continued to perform below expectations in the CSEC examinations and the need to examine the factors contributing to poor student performance" (Abstract). It was found that limited access and training were major barriers to teachers using computer technology to teach. She recommended that "pre-service teachers be trained to use computer technology to teach and that teacher educators and in-service teachers be given ongoing professional development in the use of technology, and that budgetary provisions be made to address the issues of access" (Abstract).



*Dr. Grace Martin-Hall*

Dr. Martin-Hall's dissertation was entitled, *Distance education and study skills: The adult Jamaican learner*. It sought "to identify the study skills that are considered most important for Jamaican adult learners at the tertiary level to be successful distance learners and to provide recommendations which could assist institutions and potential learners in improving their skills..."

"The study was conducted against the background that Jamaica, as a part of its educational reform has identified distance education as one of its strategies to widen access to tertiary education... [Through an examination of] the unique characteristics, requirements, and study skills of learners as needed for success and retention in distance-education programs...seven study skills [were identified as contributing] to students' success and retention in distance-education programs: reading, writing, listening, computer technology, motivation, self-directedness, and time management.

"The study examined the study skills of adult learners at the tertiary level as well as the perceptions of the students, teachers, and administrators regarding the importance of the selected study skills..."

"Overall, the data indicated that the majority of the students, teachers, and administrators who participated in the study believed that the selected study skills were either essential or important. The results of the study also clearly indicated that teachers also recognized the need for proficiency and ability in the selected study skills as they thought these skills to be of vital importance" (Abstract).

*To all our members who have successfully completed academic programmes, especially through distance learning, JADOL extends hearty congratulations. ♦*