



Articles from Nov. 05 newsletter

President's message:

We serve best when we support each other

In reflecting on the year just completed, I've taken JADOL's stated mission into account. My assessment is that we have had both negative and positive outcomes.

A significant disappointment was the fact that our revised action plan, although discussed, has not been finalised. This means that some activities that were proposed have not yet commenced. For example, stepping up our membership drive and moving to establish chapters and the publication of articles have not been achieved, nor have we formulated concrete and workable plans for fundraising.

On the positive side, our membership increased by four. In terms of numbers this may seem few, but in terms of what they can contribute to the growth and sustainability of the Association they are invaluable to its survival as they are associated with institutions which are about to embrace open and distance learning. JADOL was represented at the launch of the Caribbean Association for Distance and Open Learning (CARADOL) and is involved in various Committees responsible for planning the Commonwealth of Learning's (COL) Fourth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF4). By the end of the year we will have published and circulated two newsletters to members and to some non-members. This is a means of keeping in touch with current members and "courting" new ones.

We successfully held two public lectures, which brought us into the public eye. The first was by Sir John Daniel, COL President, at which the first official announcement in Jamaica of the decision to hold PCF4 in the country in 2006; the second was by Ms. Louisa Horne, President, InnovAcademy Consulting, Canada. The poor attendance of members at this event was noticeable but the presence of several non-members was encouraging.

So, where do we go for the next year? I need to see us more engaged in activities that we articulate as being important for us as a professional body. I need also to be reassured of the commitment of our Executive to serve our members. As members, we need to recommit ourselves to ensuring the continued viability of our Association. If we make plans and time and again fail to implement them, what signal are we sending to the membership of our fledgling Association?

Remember, we serve best when we support each other. Blessings!

Vilma McClean

President

Annual JADOL workshop

Implementing E-learning is the focus of the 2005 JADOL annual workshop, to be held on Thursday, December 1 at the Terra Nova Hotel. Topics to be covered include: *Demystifying the*

on-line learning environment (OLE), Are you ready?, and Exploring OLE.

Drawing on the expertise of practitioners of distance education from the University of Technology, Jamaica (Dr. **Jeanette Bartley**), The University of the West Indies (Ms. **Charmaine McKenzie**, Mr. **Howard Smith** and Mr. Carl Beckford), and the Vocational Training and Development Institute (Dr. **Melody Williams**), the workshop will define what is meant by OLE and associated terminologies, give an overview of the status of OLE in Jamaica, and explore some of the reasons for incorporating on-line methods into teaching and learning delivery options. It will offer participants the opportunity to engage in an on-line “readiness test” and discussions on the implications of on-line delivery for learners, facilitators, and institutions, and the development of an action plan. There will also be a demonstration of how open source software is being used for distance education at UWI.

The cost of the workshop including coffee break and lunch for JADOL members in good standing is \$1,500, and for non-members \$2,000. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with proceedings scheduled to start at 9 a.m.

For further information, contact **Christine Marrett** at 927-2831 or send an email message to jadol@uwimona.edu.jm.♦