



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Departmental Report August 2020 - July 2021

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INTRODUCTION

During the Academic Year 2020/2021 (AY2020/2021), the Department of History and Archaeology (DoHA) consolidated the growth in student enrolment that began the previous year with the launch of the BA History & Journalism. While the academic year began with numerous uncertainties, the Department was able to quickly adjust to the decision by the Campus Senior Management to deliver most programmes and courses remotely. The experience of the latter part of the previous academic year proved to be crucial in the successful delivery of all our courses remotely and it is expected that we will continue engaging in some form of remote teaching and learning beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the woes created by the impact of the pandemic, student enrolment did not suffer significantly. In anticipation of a potential reduction in student enrolment, the Department decided to offer only the BA History, BA History & Archaeology, and BA History and Journalism to new entrants. The Department did not offer any of its postgraduate courses to new students and reduced by four the total of courses offered during semesters 1 and 2. At the start of the AY2020/2021, the Department welcomed new BA Geography students (14 students), following the decision to house the BA Geography programme, effective 1 August 2020. It is expected that the housing of this programme at DoHA will facilitate the

growth of the programme, while strengthening the Department's collaboration with the Department of Geography and Geology. This collaboration got off to a good start as the two departments participated in the orientation of the new BA Geography students.

Of the three BA programmes which had previously been offered, History & Journalism (40 students) clearly outperformed the History (8 students) and History & Archaeology (5 students) programmes. While the consolidation of the success of the BA History & Journalism is welcomed, the Department continues to seek ways to revive the appeal of the BA History. Regarding the BA History & Archaeology, the Department seeks to submit a new programme proposal at the beginning of the 2020/2021 academic year that will replace the existing archaeology programme. If successful, the Department will offer this programme in September 2021. Close on the horizon is the offering in September 2021 of the recently approved BA History & International Relations. This ambitious cross-faculty programme was developed in collaboration with the Department of Government and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and is the latest addition to the joint programmes that the Department began to develop in the 2018/2019 academic year. Riding on the success of our undergraduate curriculum review, the Department has worked on the revision its MA Heritage Studies during the past few months. The programme was submitted for review by the FHE subcommittee. If approved, the programme will be renamed MA Public History and Caribbean Heritage and will be offered with substantial revisions at the start of 2022. Understanding the importance of publicizing the new additions and changes to our academic offerings, the Department has dedicated significant time and effort to the promotion of our courses and programmes, as well as outreach activities for the benefit of secondary-school students across Jamaica and the wider English-speaking Caribbean. While the resources and expertise of the Department are limited, we have relied on our enthusiasm and intellectual ability to effectively reach out to potential students and other groups that have an influence on the higher-learning decisions of secondary students and their relationship with history.

The Department, however, wishes that the Campus Senior Management commit greater support to the promotional and marketing efforts of departments, particularly, when they devote so much time and effort to the development of attractive academic offerings. During the current academic year, DoHA's activities continued to be informed by its strategic plan

that seeks to accomplish three main goals: (1) to redefine itself as a twenty-first-century sustainable and efficient department; (2) to offer attractive and internationally competitive academic programmes; (3) to conduct research and outreach activities that show the relevance of history, archaeology and heritage to the construction of a viable future for the region. DoHA's strategic objectives are in line with The UWI Triple A Strategic Plan. Thus, by renovating our academic programmes and expanding our course delivery mode, we seek to provide greater Access to students across Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. In addition, the push to boost research and greater focus on soft skills seeks to improve Alignment with the needs of both the public and private sectors. Finally, by maximizing existing resources and making use of digital administrative tools, DoHA seeks to improve its Agility, so we can promptly identify challenges and provide effective and timely responses. The Department's next step towards its reconstruction and growth requires it to instil depth and talent to its academic roster in order to successfully meet the demands created by the development of new programmes and courses, as well as sharing our obligations in such a way that we can now dedicate more time and effort to our research agendas. DoHA understands that this is an area in which improvement is needed and that, ultimately, its prestige depends on the collective publication records of its academic staff

DoHA was not able to develop any income generation activity during AY2020/2021. The Department's efforts mainly focused on continuing the ambitious curriculum development process initiated three years ago. This effort has contributed to an increase the Department's student enrolment which, to date, remains the main source of income generation. While the Department has discussed several initiatives that could potentially generate additional income, the lack of human resources to address all the areas that would need attention by the Department remains the main challenge. DoHA, however, is seriously considering implementing a few initiatives that, in the short term, could generate income both for the Department and Campus without too much additional effort. The Department intends to develop a summer archaeology field school course, that should be part of the future BA Archaeology and should attract local archaeology majors and, more importantly, regional and international archaeology students. The objective is to develop this course during AY2021/2022 and run it as a pilot in June 2022. In addition, there also exists the possibility of developing an archaeology summer camp initiative that should be run by

DoHA students and generate income to assist students to pay for their tuition fees. Undoubtedly, the Archaeology Lab remains the Department's main asset from the perspective of income generation. However, an initial investment would be needed before the Lab can generate income and become self-sustainable.

1. Employee Engagement and Development

During the academic year, the Department had an academic roster of 8 faculty (two professors, five lecturers and one assistant lecturer) six of which have either tenure or regular contracts.

In October 2020, Dr Kathleen Monteith was promoted to the rank of Professor of History. In addition, Dr Renee Nelson was appointed lecturer. Given the ambitious curriculum development of the past three years, the Department needs to increase its academic roster to serve its growing student population and the new demands created by the requirements of the revised and new programmes. New additions to the Department's academic roster should facilitate a better balance between teaching and other departmental obligations, particularly research and innovation, which continues to be an area in which the Department is not performing satisfactorily. During AY2021/2022 Professor James Robertson will be on sabbatical to work on a book project titled the Western Design. Professor Robertson's sabbatical would create temporary vacancy that the Department will need to fill, as currently no one else is qualified to teach European history courses. Not offering European history courses does not seem a viable option, particularly, at a time when the Department is launching its BA History and International Relations programme.

2. Undergraduate Teaching, Learning and Student Development

During the 2020/2021 DoHA offered 34 UG courses, 15 in Semester 1 and 19 in Semester 2, and had a total of 689 students in all its UG courses. While the Campus Principal advised that courses with less than 15 students enrolled should not be run during this academic year, the Principal accepted the FHE Dean's request to lower this requirement to 10 in the case of the FHE. Nonetheless, the Department sought to meet the Campus target of 15 students and made wide use of social media, including WhatsApp, to share flyers and information about the Department's courses; particularly new courses and those that underperformed in previous years.

While this target was not achieved in all courses, only 5 out of 34 courses did not meet the FHE target of 10 students; 3 of these courses were archaeology courses that traditionally attract lower enrolment. No course had less than 5 students. Like in previous years, DoHA offered more courses in Semester 2 than in Semester 1, yet the total number of students in Semester 1 (353 students) was higher than in Semester 2 (336 students). The addition in Semester 2 of the new course on Japanese Culture and Media Discourse in Historical Perspectives was rather successful, attracting 14 students in its first offering.

The Department is still in the process of understanding what factors determine students' course enrolment and the best media to promote our courses. To that end, the Department held two focus group sessions in Semester 1 and has introduced the use of e-forms. The e-forms prepared by the admin section have been somewhat successful in terms of collecting student contact information and ascertaining how students find out about courses. However, more needs to be done to encourage students to fill out the brief e-forms so the Department can collect more accurate information. The academic staff should also play a more active role in normalising the use of e-forms in the future. During the latter part of the academic year, the Department will analyse the data collected through the e-forms and focus group sessions in order to determine the most effective ways to promote courses, particularly among non-majors. In addition, the Department had to cancel the 10-12 days of fieldwork on a Jamaican archaeological site, which is a requirement in the HIST2801 Methods and Practice in Archaeology, due to COVID-19 restrictions. This activity was replaced with a 6-week virtual field school made available to us for free through DigVentures (<https://digventures.com/>). This online module was organized across 6 weekly chapters dealing with topics necessary for archaeological fieldwork, including: (1) site location, (2) archaeological site formation and stratigraphy, (3) recording archaeological contexts, (4) drawing and photographing intrusive investigations, (5) analysing material culture and environmental finds, and (6) assessing research designs and caring for the archaeological archive. At the conclusion of the virtual field school, students were required to submit a report summarizing this experience. As far as UG curriculum development is concerned, the Department focused most of its efforts on the development of the new BA History & International Relations and three new level-III core courses (HIST3621 Atlantic World in Caribbean Perspective, HIST3711 Historical

Research Capstone I, and HIST3712 Historical Research Capstone II). The BA History & International Relations is an ambitious programme that includes history, international relations and foreign language courses. The programme should provide excellent education to majors. DoHA expects that its latest BA programme will, in time, attract an average of 30 new students per year, strengthening the Department's student enrolment growth that began in 2019/2020. DoHA, however, believes that curriculum development efforts should receive greater support from the Marketing, Recruitment and Communications Office, given that the Department lacks the expertise and resources for the effective marketing and promotion of programmes. In addition, DoHA completed the programme development and revision initiated in 2019/2020 with the development of three courses that are core requirements in the BA History and Journalism and revised BA History. The Department expects that HIST3711 Historical Research Capstone I and HIST3712 Historical Research Capstone II, recently approved AQAC, will significantly enhance the appeal of its programmes due to the practical nature of these courses, while bringing added value to the Department's majors. The approval of HIST3621 Atlantic Worlds in Caribbean Perspective is also a welcome addition and it is expected that this course would enhance students' readiness to undertake graduate studies. During AY2021/2022 DoHA will concentrate on the development of a cross-disciplinary archaeology programme in collaboration with the Department of Geography and Geology and the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work. The objective is to launch this programme in September 2022. In addition, the Department will continue encouraging its academic members to revise existing courses so they can maintain their relevance and contribute to the Department's renewed focus on skills and interdisciplinary offerings.

3. Postgraduate Teaching and Learning

In anticipation of a decline in student enrolment due to the COVID-19 pandemic and as a cost containment measure, DoHA decided not to offer any of its postgraduate programmes to new students. The Department, however, offered six graduate courses (four in Semester 1 and two in Semester 2) to facilitate the completion of programme requirements by part-time students who entered the MA Heritage Studies and MPhil History programmes in AY2019/2020. These courses did not attract a significant enrolment but benefitted from the enrolment of a few graduate students from other programmes. The Department will

seek to attract graduate students from other departments as this enhances the learning experience for DoHA students.

Much of the energy of the graduate studies section focused on the development of a proposal for the revision of the MA Heritage Studies programme. A subcommittee was created to develop a solid programme proposal, which was submitted to the FHE Graduate Subcommittee for first review in February 2021. This revised programme proposal includes substantial changes, such as name change, the addition of a research-based project alternative to the existing research paper, the reduction of total credit requirement from 39 to 36, the standardization of credit weight for all courses, the increase in the number of electives, and the addition of electives from both sister departments and other departments across the FHE and other faculties of the Mona Campus. The proposal is in the process of being reviewed and is expected to be submitted for Faculty Board approval at the start of the coming academic year. The objective is to make the programme available in early 2022. Once approved, it will be offered as a part-time programme every other year. The revision of the programme also includes the development and revision of new courses. Three new course proposals are currently in the process of being reviewed and approved. In addition, the Department expects to develop two more courses during Semester 1 of AY2021/2022. The Department anticipates that these revisions to its MA programme will make it more attractive, while facilitating the throughput of graduates and, thus, recover the appeal that the programme once had. These changes should be complemented, in the short term, by a revision of the MPhil/PhD programme in order to adjust to the current trends of history research programmes and better prepare local and regional historians. Marleen Bartley was awarded her PhD degree for her thesis on the "History of Distance Education in Jamaica, 1920-1992". In addition, in February 2021 Charmaine McKenzie defended her thesis on "Jamaican Foodways from Emancipation to World War II." The award of her degree is pending approval of her final corrections.

4. Administrative and Academic Adjustments in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Throughout AY2020/2022, DoHA implemented a work-from-home policy in order to minimize risk of infection among the administrative and technical staff, as well as to adjust to the domestic demands created by the pandemic. Under this policy, the office remained open for much of the academic year with, at least, one admin staff member working from office at a time. In response to the increase in cases in March, both the Government and Campus encouraged further enforcement of the work-from-home policy and the closure of offices to the public. Accordingly, from March to early May, both the department office and archaeology lab remained closed and the admin and technical staff worked from home only. On-site work was resumed in early May, though the Lab only opened three times a week. Since June, the Lab has opened daily, though student access remains limited to three students at a time. The Department's Office, like the rest of most departments and units remains closed to the general public until further notice.

While working from home posed significant challenges in the case of the lab technologist, this has been less so in the case of the Department's admin section. The decision to purchase a third laptop and two additional smart phones at the end of last academic year, in addition to the use of the Moodle platform (OurVLE) as a repository for ready access of DoHA's non-sensitive documents and resources, have facilitated the Department's admin operations. WhatsApp groups were created for the admin/technical section and the academic section to quickly share urgent information and updates. The admin staff continued providing assistance to students through the Department's WhatsApp numbers that have now become a normalised way of communication between students and the Department. Furthermore, the admin/technical staff continued holding biweekly meetings with the HOD via Zoom, which helped to keep everybody connected and abreast of everybody's desk. These regular meetings, which predated the start of the pandemic, were crucial in terms of planning and organizing the Department's operations. As in the latter half of last year's semester 2, the academic section of the department continued making intensive use of OurVLE for teaching and sharing learning resources with students. While this mode of delivery is far from ideal and some students continue having IT challenges, the Department was able to successfully deliver all its courses. Given that this mode of delivery will

continue in the coming academic year, the academic members of staff will meet ahead of the start the academic year to discuss strategies to improve the remote delivery of courses. In addition, during the upcoming academic year, greater effort should be made to hold regular meetings and exchange teaching strategies and research updates to compensate for isolation created by the pandemic.

5. **Innovation, Research and Publication**

As in the past two years, research is an area in which the Department needs to improve. The demands created by curriculum development, the transition to remote teaching and the need to teach up to three courses in each semester have negatively impacted DoHA's research and publication record. In addition to the recruitment of additional staff and the gradual reduction of teaching load from three to two courses per semester, the Department will need to implement creative solutions to facilitate and encourage publication. Furthermore, the Department will support, whenever possible, study leave for junior staff. On a positive note, the normalisation of virtual seminars and conferences has facilitated greater participation in local and international academic events by staff members.

Notwithstanding, Dr Zachary Beier was awarded the Principal's Research Day Award for Best Research Publication for the 2019/2020 academic year. Dr Beier received this award for his article publication "Dwelling Practices at the Cabrits Garrison Laborer Village, Dominica", in James Delle and Elizabeth Clay (eds.), *Archaeology of Domestic Landscapes of the Enslaved in the Caribbean* (Gainesville, FL: The University Press of Florida, 2019). Furthermore, Professor Monteith's book publication, *Plantation Coffee in Jamaica, 1790-1848* (Kingston: The UWI Press, 2019) was named finalist by the Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPY Awards) in the History: General category.

Publications:

- Okenve, Enrique N. "El ocaso de los ancestros: Expansión europea y transformación espiritual en Río Muni, 1884-1927." Aranzadi, Juan and Gonzalo Álvarez Chillida (eds.), *Guinea Ecuatorial (des)conocida: Lo que sabemos, ignoramos, inventamos y deformamos sobre su pasado y presente* (Madrid: Editorial UNED, 2020): 583-620.

- Robertson, James. "Chinese Traders and Chinese Trade in Jamaica", *Social and Economic Studies* 69, 1&2 (2021).
- Review, Rodina Reid, *The University of the West Indies Chapel Gifts: A View from the Past, A Vision for the Future* (Kingston, 2016), in *Jamaica Journal* 138:1-2 (April 2021), 99-100.

Virtual Seminar Presentations:

- Beier, Zachary (co-author). "'A Lively Little Town': Historical Archaeology and Global Heritage at the Gibraltar Camp, The University of the West Indies Mona, Jamaica", *Internment Camps: The (Enforced) Placement and "Custody" of Refugees in the Past and the Present*, Annual Conference of the Austrian Association for Exile Research, 4 December 2020.
- Monteith, Kathleen. "Free Mixed Race Women of African and British Ancestry in Early Nineteenth Century Plantation Jamaica: A Case Study of Frances King, 1767-1838", *Race and Slavery in the Atlantic World to 1900 Workshop*, Gilder Lehrman Center, Department of History at Yale University (USA), 20 October 2020.
- Nelson, Renee. "A Migration Craze?" *British West Indian Attitudes Towards Migration, 1948 – 1962*, 2021 ACH Annual Meeting, 7 June 2021.
- Okenve, Enrique. "La sociedad fang y el rico repertorio político centro-africano antes de la colonización europea" (Fang Society and Central Africa's rich political repertoire before European colonization), *Guinea Ecuatorial: La petjada colonial (Equatorial Guinea: Colonial Footprints)*, Faculty of Geography and History, University of Barcelona (Spain), 23 November 2020.
- "Estábamos allí para mandar: Cultura, raza y dominación en Guinea" (We were there to rule: Culture, Race and Domination in Equatorial Guinea), *Dissenting History: Rebellious Decolonial Memories*, El Born Cultural Centre, Barcelona (Spain), 28 November 2020.
- Oshikiri, Taka. "Being Fūryū in Modernising Japan: Tea and Aesthetic Sensibility in the Late Meiji Period, ca. 1880-1900", *DoHA Cross-Campus Seminar Series*, 20 November 2020.

- “Chanoyu and being “fūryū” in Modernising Japan”, Translation Workshop on Japanese Historical Materials: Texts from the Meiji Period, The University of Tokyo (Japan), 9 January 2021.
- Robertson, James. “This inauspicious Enterprize upon Hispaniola”: The Western Design’s Assault on Santo Domingo”, DoHA Staff/Graduate Cross-Campus Seminar Series, 23 April 2021
- ---- “A pivot point for the Protectorate? Responding to the Hispaniola debacle and the capture of Jamaica”, British and Imperial Workshop hosted by the History Department at The University of Chicago (USA), 26 April 2021.
- Watts, Karl. “Lessons from the Spanish Flu Pandemic in Jamaica”, History Fest, Department of History, UWI-St Augustine, 24 March 2021.

Virtual Panel Discussions:

- Beier, Zachary. “The Myth of Extinction: Indigenous Peoples and Their Survival Strategies”, Regional Secondary School’s Virtual Lecture Series, The Centre for Reparation Research in collaboration with the St. Lucia National Reparations Committee, 29 October 2020.
- Okenve, Enrique. “Historia de Guinea: Un estado de la cuestión” (History of Equatorial Guinea: The State of the Question), Guinea Ecuatorial: La petjada colonial (Equatorial Guinea: Colonial Footprints), Faculty of Geography and History, University of Barcelona (Spain), 24 November 2020.
- “African History as Jamaican History”, Decolonizing Jamaican History Series, The Jamaican Historical Society, 28 January 2021.

Organization/Chairing of Virtual Presentations

- Beier, Zachary. “Collision: Jamaican and European Worlds”, Archaeological Society of Jamaica Webinar Series – Part I, 16 October 2020.

- "Sugar and Society: The Historical Archaeology of Jamaican Plantations".
- "Digging in Jamaica: What it really means to be a Jamaican Archaeologist", Archaeological Society of Jamaica Webinar Series – Part III, 26 2021.
- "Our Inheritance: DNA and the Caribbean Story", Archaeological Society of Jamaica Webinar Series – Part IV, 26 March 2021.
- Okenve, Enrique. "Digging in Jamaica: What it really means to be a Jamaican Archaeologist", Archaeological Society of Jamaica Webinar Series – Part III, 26 2021.

Virtual Guest Lectures

- Beier, Zachary. "Plantation Archaeology in Jamaica: Resistance, resilience and transformation in the Modern World", Plantation Slavery course, Beniba Centre for Slavery Studies, School of Humanities at the University of Glasgow (UK), 12 March 2021.

6. International Collaboration and Partnership

Research Project: The Department received a research proposal from the Department of Genetics at the Harvard Medical School seeking our permission and collaboration to join an ambitious research project to study ancient DNA (aDNA) from Jamaican pre-Columbian human skeletal collections. The study should include pre-Columbian human remains from the DoHA's Archaeology Lab collections as well as Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT), Institute of Jamaica (IOJ) and private collections to shed light on the little-known history of early human settlement in Jamaica. At present, there has been no scientific study of the aDNA of the earliest indigenous inhabitants of Jamaica and this study will fill a notable gap in our understanding of the significant human history of Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. It is expected that the project will be locally coordinated by Dr Zachary Beier and it will provide training opportunities for local practitioners as well as outreach activities for local students and the wider public.

2022 ACH Annual Meeting

The Department accepted the invitation from the Association of Caribbean Historians (ACH) to host the 52nd annual conference in 2022. The Department has begun planning this academic event that will coincide with the commemoration of Jamaica's 60th anniversary of independence. The ACH Annual Meeting is a significant event in the academic calendar, attracting some 150 participants, including historians, graduate students and researchers from across the Caribbean, North America and western Europe. This international conference, held over five days, will feature multiple panels and papers in English, French and Spanish. The Department intends to host a hybrid conference that will accommodate a limited number of in-person participants, as well as virtual presenters and attendees. The 2022 ACH Annual Conference will provide an opportunity to boost the relevance of historical research, knowledge and reflection to the ongoing project of Caribbean independence and self-reliance, while creating an opportunity to welcome back regional and international conference participants to Kingston and The UWI Mona Campus, as the country commemorates 60 years of independence and continues its efforts to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department last hosted the ACH Annual Conference in 2007.

5. Outreach Activities

Elsa Goveia Memorial Lecture: On March 23, the Department successfully hosted its 36th Annual Elsa Goveia Memorial Lecture. This year, the lecture was delivered by Professor Douglas Armstrong who presented on the topic of "Enslavement, Resistance and Expressions of Freedoms for Africans in the Caribbean: Lessons from Archaeology". Professor Armstrong's presentation sparked an interesting discussion on the ways archaeology can help us to see the experiences of enslaved Africans in the Caribbean from a different perspective and how their survival strategies were deeply rooted in the rich and diverse historical experiences of African peoples. This year's lecture was delivered virtually through Zoom and the Department's YouTube channel, significantly widening the reach of past events. The lecture also served to announce the Department's current development of a BA Archaeology proposal that will result in an interdisciplinary archaeology programme capable of providing the best education and training that the UWI can offer for Caribbean archaeologists from September 2022. The Department wishes to thank the UWI Mona Campus and the UWI Regional Headquarters for their continued financial support of an event that marks the regional and international contributions of Professor Elsa Goveia and the Department of History and Archaeology.

Launch of JCH Special Issue: The Department of History and Archaeology along with its sister departments at Cave Hill and St Augustine held a virtual presentation of the Journal of Caribbean History Vol 54:2 “Festschrift to Emeritus Professor Carl Campbell” on Friday, January 29, 2021. The event honoured Emeritus Professor Campbell for his dedication and contribution to the Journal, and to Caribbean history, the Departments of History, and the UWI in general. Participants at the event included Vice Chancellor Professor Hilary Beckles, Emeriti Professors Bridget Brereton (St Augustine), Woodville Marshall (Cave Hill), and Barry Higman (Mona), in addition to Professor Kathleen Monteith, editor of the Journal of Caribbean History. The event was chaired by Dr Enrique Okenve, Head of the History and Archaeology Department at Mona.

CAPE History Lectures: On March 18, the department successfully delivered three virtual Unit 1 CAPE History lectures along with a workshop on learning and doing history with documents. The lectures were delivered by Drs Renee Nelson and Karl Watts and Professor James Robertson, while the workshop was conducted by Dr Dian McCallum from the School of Education. In addition to the live sessions, students across the Caribbean will be able to watch these sessions on the Department of History and Archaeology’s YouTube Channel. On March 25 the Department also delivered the second part of our CAPE History Lecture series, focusing on Unit 2 topics. Unit 2 lectures were delivered by Drs Candia Mitchel and Dave Gosse from the Institute of Caribbean Studies as well as Dr Enrique Okenve. In addition, Dr McCallum imparted part two of the “Learning and Doing History with Documents” workshop, which focused on “Unpacking the Documents and Answering the Questions”. With the virtual delivery of the CAPE History Lecture series, the Department reaffirms its commitment to continue its long tradition of outreach and service to Jamaica and the wider Caribbean region and, in particular, to secondary school students who can benefit from being exposed to topics on which limited learning material is available to them.

CSEC History Lectures: As part of its commitment to improve high-school students’ perception of history and improving the teaching of history at the secondary-school level, the Department of History and Archaeology has established steady collaboration with the History Teachers’ Association of Jamaica. As part of this collaboration, the Department and the History Teachers’ Association organized the launch of this year’s CSEC History Lectures. The launch of the event was held on 1 April and, in addition to a lecture delivered by Dr Renee Nelson, it included several promotional activities by Drs Enrique Okenve, Karl Watts and Zachary Beier, as well as other fun and entertainment activities. The second session of the CSEC lectures was held on April 8 and included the delivery of three lectures on topics of the CSEC curriculum by Ms Jeanette Corniffe, Mr Michael Leon and Dr Enrique Okenve. The two sessions were delivered via Zoom and live streamed via YouTube. This is the second year that the Department has delivered virtual lectures to CSEC students and hopes to build upon this outreach activity to better position history and related disciplines in the minds of young students, who might choose to do one of the Department’s multiple programmes or, at the very least, some of its courses.

Launch of New BA History and International Relations: On May 28, the Department of History and Archaeology, in collaboration with the Department of Government and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, hosted the virtual launch of its recently developed BA History and International Relations. The objective of the event was to raise public awareness of this new programme, boost student registration, highlight the relevance and complementarity of the disciplines, as well as discuss career, academic and scholarship opportunities. The event, titled "It's a Big Deal!": Virtual Launch of the BA History and International Relations Programme, targeted high-school students, teachers, career advisors, guidance counsellors and parents, as well as employers. In addition, the event featured a presentation by Dr Christopher Graham, a graduate from the Department who recently obtained his PhD in International Relations from the University of Massachusetts (USA).

