**Head of School Message to New and Returning Students**

On behalf of the entire School of Engineering (SOE) staff, I would like to welcome all our new and returning students to the 2016/2017 academic year. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on successfully completing your last academic year at UTech Ja. or whatever institutions you attended.

As is customary, the start of the new academic year is always filled with excitement and different challenges, some associated with registration and enrolment, others with fee payments. These if not carefully managed can lead to uncertainty, anxiety, and a level of frustration. The university has setup different units and programmes such as academic advisement, scholarship, welfare and counseling, and the first year experience programme, to name a few, to help you manage these tumultuous times and navigate a path towards successfully completing your degree. I implore you to take advantages of these services which are provided for you our valued students. For those of you who are having difficulties in meeting your financial obligations to the university, different payment options are in place to ease your burden; choose the one that suits your situation.

The University of Technology, Jamaica, aims to be the leader in creating well-rounded students from the first day they enter, to their graduation by adhering to its Core Values of Respect, Integrity, Excellence, Innovation, Team Spirit, Accountability, and Service.

Congratulations to out new students for choosing and getting accepted to the School of Engineering. It is true that hard work brings success. Let me remind you that entering university is not a destination but another step, and it may be the most difficult step in the journey towards your academic and professional success. The field of engineering is very dynamic and as such, over the next four years you will be introduced to new concepts, information and different ways of thinking. Lucky for you, you will be guided by a cadre of qualified and experienced staff who, through cutting edge research, continue to expand the boundaries of knowledge in engineering and have developed new and innovative methods of teaching and learning. We continue to maintain a good relationship with the Engineering Fraternity in Jamaica and the region so that our students can benefit through Industrial Work Experience, mentorship, internship and job placement opportunities as the need arises.

We in the School of Engineering have a good record of getting and maintaining the accreditation of our programmes. As a student I was always fascinated to learn new things and engineering gave me that opportunity. We are aware that engineering can be challenging so I encourage you to get involved in university life, join a club, be a member of a society, whatever you do try to have fun. In the SOE we host various clubs and societies such as the Jamaica Institution of Engineering - University of Technology, Jamaica (JIE/UTech) Student Chapter, the University of Technology, Jamaica Society of Mechanical Engineers (UTSME), the Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (IEEE), just to name a few. These societies which meet on a regular basis, plan and host activities that are geared towards enriching the student’s learning and introducing them to the responsibilities of the profession. These activities give students opportunities to compete against their peers to solving open ended engineering problems.

I think that a university education should be the right of all Jamaicans: but for now consider it a privilege to be among the few Jamaicans given the opportunity to study engineering at UTech, Jamaica. Therefore, try to understand that your decisions will not only affect your future but the future of your family and Jamaica. While we work hard to serve you and make your experience here a memorable one, only you know your specific needs. Therefore, you are welcome to visit my office to discuss strategies as to how we can assist in making your stay at UTech, Jamaica in the School of Engineering a memorable one.

I look forward to the opportunity to meeting and serving you individually.