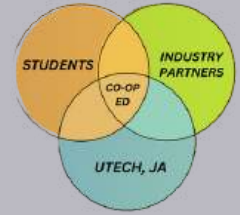




CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION AT UTECH, JA. NEWSLETTER



March 2025

Vol.14 Issue 1

TOP NEWS

5th Annual Co-operative Education Awards Ceremony and Professional Development Seminar held Nov 2024

The Co-op Ed Awards Ceremony was held to celebrate excellence among our Co-op Ed stakeholders from the previous academic year.

Employment and Co-operative Education (Internship) Fair Mar 2025

Through a collaborative effort between the Co-op Ed and the Career and Placement Units, The 2025 Employment and Co-op Ed (Internship) Fair comes off on March 14, 21 and 28.

Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL) Open House Nov 2024

The Co-op Ed Unit participated in the OTL Open House under the theme "Positioning OTL in the UTech, Ja. RESET Agenda".

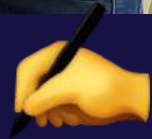
DID YOU KNOW? 🤔

Students who participate in Co-op Ed gain more practical experience than those who rely solely on classroom learning!

[Stay ahead—get involved in Co-op Ed today!](#)



FROM THE DESK OF THE CO-OP ED COORDINATOR



“ As an institution we are cognisant of the rapidly evolving workspace marked by equally rapid technological advancements, emerging work models and the need for a forward thinking workforce. Thus, our focus has been in bringing innovation to our Co-op Ed modules that align with industry trends and needs. Our ongoing activities include research for benchmarking against global best practices, evaluating and making curricula adjustments as needed and engaging our industry partners on varying levels and in a more structured way for purposes of augmenting our students readiness for the 21st century workspace. We invite all stakeholders to dialogue with us as we continue our mission of producing work-ready leaders. ”

La-Cresha Gordon-Brydson

5TH ANNUAL CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION AWARDS CEREMONY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

Gen-Z and the Evolving Workspace: Demonstrating Leadership and Innovation



Mrs. Venice Irving
Keynote Speaker

Mrs. Venice Irving, CEO of Happy Teachers, is a trailblazer in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) education with over 20 years of experience across primary, high school, and post-secondary levels. A Chevening Scholar, award-winning entrepreneur, and passionate mentor, she has revolutionised teacher training through high-quality workshops and mentorship programmes. Her Happy Teachers' Mentorship Programme earned the prestigious 2024 Simon Greenall Award, and she has been recognized globally for her contributions to education and entrepreneurship. With a strong presence in media, finance, and education, she continues to empower teachers and shape the future of learning in the AI era.

In speaking on the theme Gen-Z and the Evolving Workspace: Demonstrating Leadership and Innovation, Mrs. Irving highlighted the unique strengths of Gen Zs, emphasizing their tech-savviness, entrepreneurial mindset, and passion for purpose-driven work. Organisations, she noted, must adapt leadership strategies to harness this generation's potential effectively. Her presentation outlined six key strategies for future leaders, including empowering digital fluency, aligning workplace values, fostering flexibility and well-being, encouraging collaboration and inclusivity, harnessing innovation, and championing diversity. Mrs. Irving's call to action was clear—embrace change, innovate fearlessly, and lead with purpose! As Gen Zs take the reins, the workplace must evolve to become more inclusive, agile, and mission-driven.

MEET OUR STUDENT AWARDEES

A total of 11 students were recognized for their outstanding performance and exemplary work ethic during their Co-op Ed placement in the 2023-24 academic year.



Student Awardees, joined by Professor Shermaine Barrett, Acting Deputy President & Provost(6th from left), and Mrs. La-Cresha Gordon-Brydson, University Co-op Ed Coordinator (4th from right).



Ms. Morgan Ruddy

Now, a graduate from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. She pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Arts and Technology with a specialization in Advertising and Marketing. Her Co-op Ed placement was completed at Dunlop Corbin Communication Ltd.

A fourth year student from the Joan Duncan School of Entrepreneurship, Ethics and Leadership, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship. His Co-op Ed placement was completed at Hands of Gold Ja.

Mr. Timothy Scott



Ms. Roshantia Bramwell

A now fourth year student from the School of Natural and Applied Sciences pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Applied Sciences, with a major in Forensic Chemistry. She was placed at the Jamaica Constabulary Force.



Mr. Horane Vernal

A graduate of the School of Engineering, Vernal pursued a Bachelors of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and Computing. His Co-op Ed placement was completed at Jamaica Public Service (JPS).



MEET OUR STUDENT AWARDESS

Ms. Britney Ford

A graduate of the School of Computing and Information Technology, Ford pursued a Bachelor's of Science in Information Technology with a specialization in Information Systems. She was placed at Travel Estate Agency.



Mr. Tarique Harris

Harris is a graduate of the School of Business Administration where he pursued a Bachelor of Science in Administrative Management. His Co-op Ed placement was completed at RJR Television Jamaica.



Ms. Jody-Ann Moodie

A graduate from the Caribbean School of Sport Sciences, Moodie pursued a Bachelor of Science in Sports Science with a specialization in Sports Management. Her Co-op Ed placement was completed at Excelsior Community College.



Mr. Akeily Ferguson

A fourth year student from the Joan Duncan School of Entrepreneurship, Ethics and Leadership, Ferguson is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship. He was placed at Hands of Gold Ja.



Ms. Tehillah Morris

Morris is a finalising student from the School of Technical and Vocational Education. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Education in Technical and Vocational Education and Training with a specialization in Food Service Production and Management. Her Co-op Ed placement was at Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel.



Mr. Raheen Dodd

A fourth year student from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Food Service Management with a specialization in Culinary Arts and Management. He was placed at the University of Technology, Jamaica.



Ms. Boginene Jones

Jones is a graduate of the School of Natural and Applied Sciences. She pursued a Bachelor of Science in Applied Sciences, with a major in Forensic Chemistry. Co-op Ed placement was completed at the Jamaica Constabulary Force Area 4 Scene of Crime Office.





EVENT *Gallery*

A token of appreciation was presented to Mrs. Venice Irving, Guest Speaker, by Ms. Kayedian Wellington

MEET OUR *Industry Partners*



A special moment was captured as nine of our esteemed Industry Partner Awardees gathered for a group photo alongside University President, Dr. Kevin Brown. From left to right: Ms. Shereece Rowe (Factories Corporation of Jamaica); Ms. Danielle Black (CVM TV); Mrs. Trudy Jones-Campbell (KPMG); Ms. Annette Jones (Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust); Dr. Kevin Brown; Mr. Christopher Marshall (Sports Development Foundation); Dr. Theresa Rodriguez Moodie (Jamaica Environment Trust); Mr. Victor Clemetson (Doorstep Ja.); Ms. Mangu Carnegie (Tera Nova All-Suite Hotel); and Ms. Bridgett Russell (National Environment and Planning Agency).

Our Student Ambassadors



Our outstanding Student Ambassadors were honored for their exemplary service during the event. Awards were presented by Professor Sharmaine Barrett, Deputy President, recognising their dedication and contributions. Pictured (Left to Right): Samantha Bradley, Soraya Gabbidon, and Kemayia Wills.

MEET OUR OUTGOING CO-ORDINATORS



Professor Sean Thorpe (R) presenting award to Mrs. Arlene McKenzie-Cawley.

The Co-operative Education Unit recognised the outstanding contributions of several past coordinators who have played a pivotal role in shaping work-integrated learning at UTech, Jamaica. During the event, Professor Sean Thorpe, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computing (FENC), presented awards to Mrs. Arlene McKenzie-Cawley, former Coordinator of the School of Engineering (SOE), in recognition of her dedicated service. Also honored were Mr. Stanford Graham, past Coordinator of the School of Computing and Information Technology (SCIT), and Mrs. Patricia Roberts-Brown, past Coordinator of the School of Business Administration (SOBA), for their invaluable contributions to academic excellence and student development.

Proud Sponsors



The 5th Annual Co-operative Education Awards Ceremony and Professional Development Seminar was made possible with the generous support of our incredible sponsors/industry partners. Heartfelt appreciation to KPMG, National Housing Trust, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Yummy Bakery, Port Authority of Jamaica, Moon Palace Foundation, and EduCom (now Infiniti) Co-operative Credit Union for their commitment to student success and workforce development.

EMPLOYMENT AND CO-OP ED (INTERNSHIP) FAIR 2025

University of Technology, Jamaica

Presents

EMPLOYMENT & CO-OP ED (INTERNSHIP) FAIR 2025

A Rebranded Collaborative Venture Between the

Co-operative Education & Career and Placement Units

🕒 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

📅 March 14 Papine Campus

📅 March 21 Western Campus

📅 March 28 Virtual (Internship Only)



TARGET AUDIENCE

- Students needing to complete their work attachment this academic year.
- Graduates and soon-to-be graduates seeking long-term job placement.



For information on job placement:

✉️ careerandplacement@utech.edu.jm

☎️ 876-970-5030

For information on internship placement:

✉️ ced@utech.edu.jm

☎️ 876-832-2381



Exciting opportunities await at this year's Employment and Co-operative Education Internship Fair 2025! This highly anticipated event is a collaborative initiative between UTech, Jamaica's Co-operative Education Unit and the Career and Placement Unit, designed to connect students and graduates with top industry partners.

Whether you're an intern, recent graduate, or soon-to-be graduate, this is your chance to network with potential employers, explore career opportunities, and secure internships or job placements. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to take the next step in your professional journey!

The Employment & Co-operative Education Internship Fair 2025 will be held on March 14 at the Papine Campus, March 28 at the Western Campus, and will also feature a Virtual Internship Fair on March 28 exclusively for internship placements.)

OTL OPEN HOUSE

The Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL) recently hosted an exciting Open House under the theme “Positioning OTL in the UTech, Ja. RESET Agenda.” Held on November 28, 2024, in Lecture Theatre-50, Shared Facilities Building, the event provided an interactive platform to increase awareness of OTL’s pivotal role at UTech, Jamaica. Attendees had the opportunity to explore the work of OTL’s three key sub-units—the Co-operative Education Unit, Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Unit, and Curriculum Unit—each of which plays a crucial role in enhancing teaching, learning, and student success. Through engaging displays and discussions, the Open House highlighted OTL’s commitment to RESET (Research, Expanded access, Student centeredness, promoting Entrepreneurial and Technology focus).

OPENING CEREMONY

The Opening Ceremony set the stage for an engaging and insightful OTL Open House, featuring welcome remarks from Dr. Hope Mayne, Associate Vice President of Teaching and Learning (Acting), and Professor Shermaine Barrett, Deputy President & Provost (Acting). Both speakers highlighted the OTL’s vital role in advancing the university’s RESET Agenda, emphasizing innovation, academic excellence, and student success. They also shared key insights into their vision for the future, reinforcing OTL’s commitment to enhancing teaching and learning at UTech, Jamaica.



Dr. Hope Mayne, Acting Associate Vice President, Office of Teaching and Learning



CURRICULUM

Curriculum Specialist, Ms. Aldith Lowe discussed building a foundation for lifelong learning, explaining that the curriculum unit supports academic staff with syllabi, course structures, diet templates, award templates, and independent study applications.

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT

Mrs. Sandy Lawrence, Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Coordinator, spoke on the role of PLA in expanding access to tertiary education.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

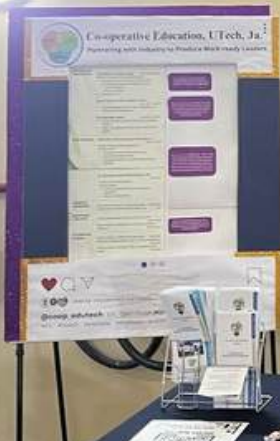
The University's Co-operative Education programme is intended to bridge academic learning with real-world experience through internships, work-integrated learning, and professional development. By partnering with industry leaders, the unit enhances career readiness, ensuring students gain hands-on skills and near seamless transitions into the workforce.

The Co-op Ed presentation at the OTL Open house, focused on enhancing student-centeredness within the programme for improved outcomes.



The presentation emphasised the importance of continuous industry research, curriculum flexibility, and mentorship to better equip students for the workforce.

Key takeaways included refining the placement process, strengthening industry partnerships, and aligning student projects with real-world demands. The presentation also highlighted the need for structured monitoring and evaluation to keep the programme dynamic and impactful. The session concluded with a strong call to action: future-proofing Co-operative Education through innovation and proactive leadership, ensuring that UTech, Jamaica continues to produce highly competent, work-ready leaders.

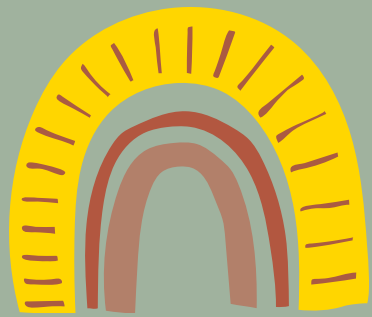


**MORE FROM
OPEN HOUSE**

Gallery

The event was a dynamic showcase of OTL's impact at UTech, Jamaica, featuring interactive displays and engaging discussions. Attendees explored the work of Co-op Ed, PLA Assessment, and Curriculum Unit, gaining a deeper understanding of how OTL enhances teaching and learning.



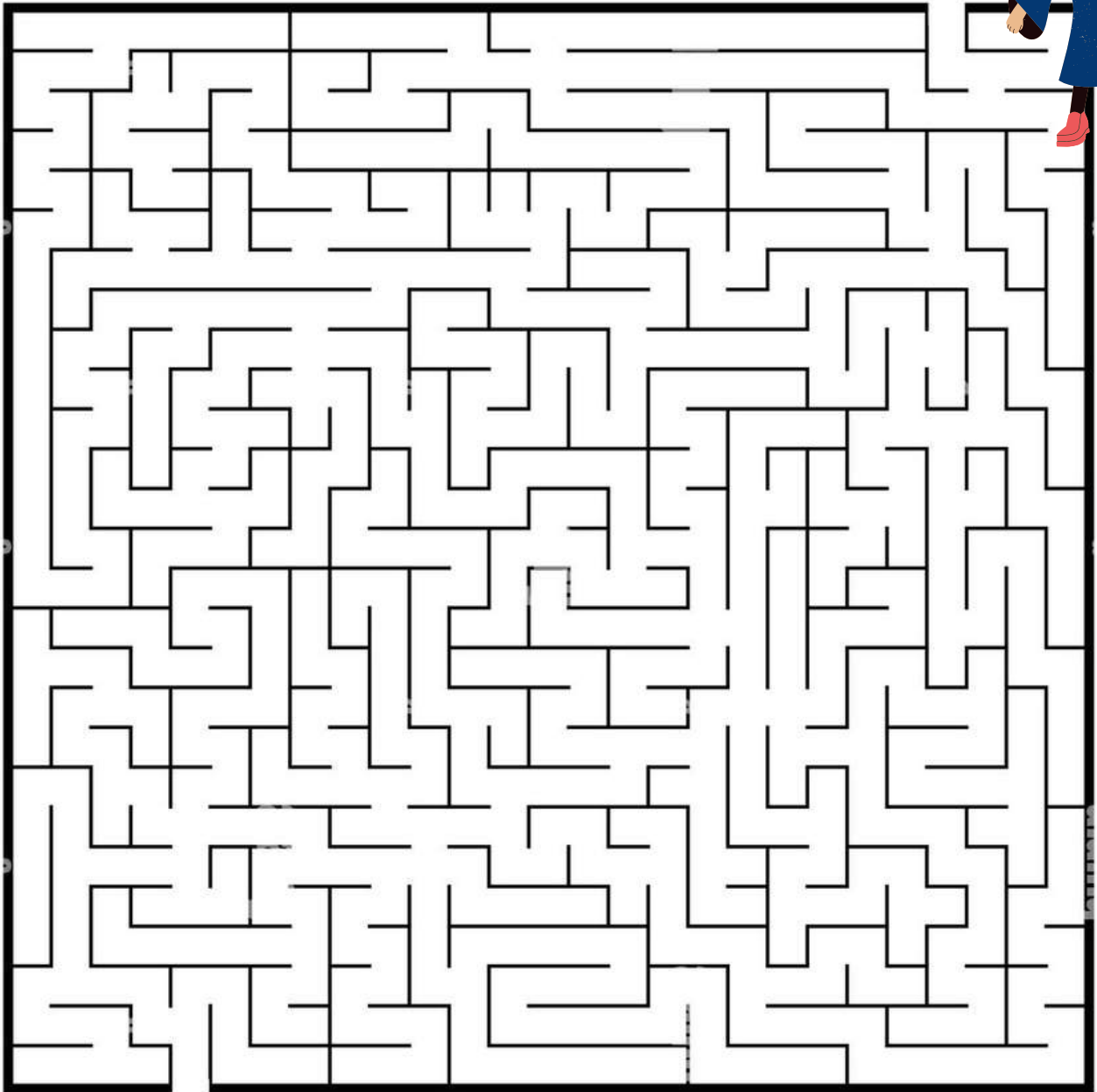


FUN ZONE



MAZE PUZZLE

GUIDE THE GRADUATE TO WORK



MEET THE EDITOR



KAYEDIAN WELLINGTON

Student Editor

Second-Year Student from Faculty of Science and Sport

Pursuing a B.Sc. in Actuarial Science

My academic journey has been quite dynamic and has shaped my diverse interests and goals. The journey began with a year of pursuing a B.Sc. in Applied Science, then later I transferred to Actuarial Science due to its marketability and alignment with my sub-passion for mathematics. This decision has been rewarding, as it combines analytical skills with numbers and problem-solving. Although my ultimate goal is to become a Forensic Pathologist, I see actuarial Science as a crucial stepping stone in my professional journey. This field provides a robust entry point into the workforce and a strong foundation for future careers. My experience with the Cooperative Education Unit has further reinforced my appreciation for professional development and hands-on learning. Through my involvement, I have witnessed firsthand the value of industry exposure and the impact of structured work-integrated learning. This opportunity has not only expanded my skill set but also deepened my understanding of workplace dynamics, bridging the gap between academics and real-world application. I am excited to continue contributing to this initiative, ensuring that students like myself maximize the benefits of Co-op Ed in shaping their career paths.



Co-operative Education Unit

Office of Teaching and Learning

University of Technology, Jamaica
237 Old Hope Road
Kingston 6

 Telephone: 876-927-1680 Ext. 3546/2820

 Email: Coopedutech@gmail.com

 Visit our Webpage: <https://www.utech.edu.jm/academics/cooped>

Stay Connected

Facebook 
@co-opedutech

Instagram 
@coop_edutech

Twitter(X) 
@UtechCooped

LinkedIn 
@Co-op Ed Utech