

Journal marks 50 years of DipEd programme

THE University of the West Indies (The UWI), St Augustine, is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the postgraduate diploma in education (PG DipEd) programme at the School of Education (SoE), Faculty of Humanities and Education.

In recognition of this milestone, a commemorative journal—titled “Fifty Years of Shaping Minds and Building Futures: 50th Anniversary Commemorative Journal of The UWI St Augustine School of Education, Postgraduate Diploma in Education”—was launched at a specially planned symposium, which marked the culmination of the annual celebration.

The diamond jubilee year of the programme was celebrated during the 2023-2024 academic year, and the journal is the product of collaboration among past and present faculty and staff, alumni and other stakeholders.



DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR: Dr Rawatee Maharaj-Sharma shares remarks to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the postgraduate diploma in education programme, at the School of Education auditorium.

In the journal, Dr Rawatee Maharaj-Sharma, director of the School of Education, highlighted that “early and recent graduates

of the PG DipEd are today the policy makers and planners of our education system; the ones to whom the sacred responsibility for educating our nation is entrusted” (p7).

Dr Rinnelle Lee-Piggott and Ms Sharon Phillip, the current coordinators of the PG DipEd programme, built on that description by saying the PG DipEd possesses “a solid theoretical and evidence-informed base in the educational foundation disciplines, curriculum, assessment and pedagogy...” (p38).

Administrators from The UWI provided congratulatory messages in the journal, including Pro Vice-Chancellor and campus principal Prof Rose-Marie Belle Antoine; dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education Prof Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw; and Dr Marcia Rainford, director of the SoE, Mona campus.

The lead article in the journal was written by Dr Susan Herbert, senior lecturer at the SoE, STA, entitled, “Fifty years of shaping minds and building futures the postgraduate diploma in education programme: contextual background and beginnings”.

In the article, she provides historical information on its early beginnings in the areas of staffing and structure. She foregrounds the programme by describing the educational climate that existed with the expansion of secondary school opportunities.

According to Herbert, “the need for teacher professional development within TT, recognised since 1968 but unrealised at the time due to lack of financial resources, became even more urgent and the Minister of Education requested that the Diploma in Education (DipEd) be delivered in Trinidad by the UWI St Augustine” (p.17).

She mapped changes in the programme over time, and concluded the 1973 framework provided a template for the current design.

The commemorative journal for the PG DipEd programme offers a rich and detailed account of its 50-year history.

Key features of the journal include a timeline of leadership, milestones, class lists, photo gallery, legacy documentation, contributions of movers and shakers and current offerings: information on the current offerings of the programme.

The limited-edition journal is now available at The UWI Bookstore in St Augustine.