

SRC's Hawthorne Watson Receives Award for Academic Excellence and Service to Science, Technology and Innovation



The MICO University College with stellar achievements over many decades, thought it fit to honour the outstanding performance of its distinguished sons and daughters, during its August 2011 Homecoming Celebrations. It is indeed befitting for one of its graduates, Hawthorne Watson, Manager of the Scientific Research Council's (SRC), Information Services Division, to be duly recognized for his contributions to Science, Technology and Innovation.

Mr. Watson who has served both the private and public sectors, graduated from the Mico Teachers' College (now Mico University College) with majors in Chemistry, Biology and Physical Education. He taught biology at Wolmers' Boys School for one year before entering the University of the West Indies on a Government Bursary.

Mr. Watson was the first man to graduate from UWI with a First Class Honours in a chemistry double major (Pure & Applied). Having received an American Foundation Scholarship, he pursued a MSc. In Chemistry and was the first person worldwide, among many competitors, some with sophisticated equipment, to isolate, characterise and establish the structure of Cannabitriol, the first compound in Cannabis (Ganja) to be identified with three hydroxyl groups.

On leaving UWI he lectured (Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and Principal Lecturer) at CAST (now UTech). During his tenure at CAST, he

- Co-founded the Chemical Technology Diploma Programme
- Coordinated Students Research Projects in Pharmacy & Chemical Technology
- Represented the institution on the Technical Training Committee of SIRI

During his tenure also he was awarded an OAS Fellowship which took him to Bowdoin College in USA where he pursued a Diploma in the **Management and Analysis of Wastewater, graduating with High Honours.**

Leaving CAST after approximately 10 years, he entered the industrial arena where he held positions of Production Manager, Plant Manager, Operations Manager and Group Technical Manager, before coming on board at SRC.

Among other things at SRC he:

- Designed and pioneered the Science & Technology Education Unit

- Introduced the Summer Attachment Programme for teachers and cemented the Science & Technology Summer Camp
- Founded the Inventors/Innovators Association
- Introduced the concept of Technology Packages
- Writes and the Annual Report
- Research & Drafted the Intellectual Property Rights Policy for SRC - now being formalized.
- Holds the position of Chairman of the Scientific & Technical Information Network (STIN)
- Is a member of the Advisory Council on the National Information System (ACNIS)
- Acted as Executive Director

Representing (Government)

- Jamaica's representative, United Nations Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) XIII Session, Geneva 2009: Presentation on the Status of Science, Technology & Innovation in Jamaica
- Keynote Speaker, Plenary Address and Resource Personnel at the Eighteen-Nation, International Conference on S&T, Pretoria, South Africa 2001 "Promoting Public Understanding of Science, Technology and Engineering" and "Popularization of S&T in Jamaica"

Representing (SRC)

- SRC representative making presentation - "The Contribution of SRC to the Socio-Economic Development of Jamaica" - (Trinidad, 1997).
- "The Use of IT to enhance the Delivery of Service to Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises" St Lucia, 2001
- Member of the Regional team operating out of NIHERST (T&T) provided resource material and help to produce
 - The Caribbean Icons in S&T
 - Natural Wonders of the Caribbean both sponsored by OAS

Mr. Watson has participated in various other S&T Forums including Innovations (England 2002), IPR (Chile 2005) and a host of other courses including those offered by SRC, except wastewater.

He has sat on several S&T committees and until recently was Chairman of the Management Advisory Committee at HEART.

Hobbies: Dominoes, Reading, auto mechanics

The SRC family congratulates Mr Watson on his receipt of this distinguished award of excellence.