

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

THE JAMAICA COLLEGE ROBOTICS TEAM

THROUGHOUT THE newsstands of our island home, the Jamaica College (JC) robotics team has been making headlines for all the right reasons. Showcasing the Jamaican spirit of excellence in the field of technology and innovation, the team continues to perform well internationally and is poised to shape the field of robotics as they do so.

Past member and programmes manager of the team as well as an associate of the National Robotics Team, Gavin Samuels, told **The Gleaner** that the robotics programme at JC has actually been brewing for 10 years.

"It (robotics) was introduced to the school in 2009 by the New York Chapter of the old boys association," he said. "Since then, persons have travelled to New York to championship events and to get an opportunity to go to world championships."

The back-and-forth travelling happened for nine years until the efforts of the team began yielding rewards.

"The team has amassed a lot of awards, including the Motivate award, tooted for tremendous outreach work," said Samuels. "There was also the Connect award, which is for how they manage to inspire students around them and give their support to robotics in Jamaica. The Inspire award is the big award, which is given to a team that shows mastery in all of the components that are judged."



Members of the Jamaica College Robotics Team visit tTech. At left is Gillian Murray, marketing and human resource manager, centre is Edward 'Teddy' Alexander and at far right is Gavin Samuels, tTech team member and former captain of the JC Robotics team.

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TTECH AND ROBOTICS

AMAJOR investor in JC's robotics team is Samuels' employer, tTech Limited, the leading managed IT services provider in Jamaica, which is a Jamaican company

that provides world-class IT services. Founded by JC Old Boy Edward 'Teddy' Alexander, the son of Carlton Alexander, tTech has been sponsoring the team for



five years and is proud of its association with Samuels to also support the national robotics team and the sport of robotics in Jamaica.

"It's a natural sponsorship for us as one of the pillars of our corporate social responsibility is youth development," said Gillian Murray, marketing and

HR manager at tTech.

Samuels wants more Jamaican youngsters to consider the opportunity of being exposed to more careers in the field of technology through robotics. "I always say, it's not a team building a robot. It's a robot building a team," he said.



Making development happen...

URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

JAMAICA'S PRINCIPAL public sector organisation responsible for the planning and designing of urban environments, the Urban Development Corporation (UDC), once again demonstrated why its conceptualiser, the Hon. Edward Seaga, once noted that, "The UDC did not let me down." The Corporation stood out among over 100,000 organisations worldwide, becoming one of 175 countries that copped the 2018 Esri Special Achievement in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Award.

The UDC, through the utilisation of Esri has leveraged the system to facilitate the timely generation of monthly project performance reports, real-time monitoring of project metrics from a single dashboard, project data analysis, and to enable easy updates to the project portfolio.

Esri, which is an international supplier of geographic information system software, Web GIS and geodatabase management applications headquartered

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in California, extended commendation through its President Jack Dangermond noting that it was indeed a distinct honour to confer on the UDC the award on the basis of its outstanding and innovative work in GIS technology.

Source: udcja.com

PROFESSOR DALE WEBBER

PROFESSOR DALE Webber, respected marine scientist, administrator, and educator, is the holder of the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander for outstanding contribution to environmental conservation.

Barrington Lewis, chief executive officer of the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica, has told **The Gleaner**, Webber has served

the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica, The University of West Indies and all the other entities he has worked with, with distinction and is truly deserving.

Lewis' sentiments were echoed by those of Professor Michael Taylor, dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, a physicist and himself a celebrated scientist.

"Professor Webber is a stalwart

in the environment field and has been leading the charge for many years," he noted.

"His work on the coastal ecology on the polluted Kingston Harbour, for example, was ground-breaking. His work, which dealt with the water quality, really set the stage for how we should treat this natural resource and what needs to be done for its preservation," Taylor said.

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