To: All Members of the UWI Community

The University of the West Indies, Mona, regrets to inform you that our former colleague, Dr. Keith McKenzie, passed away on Sunday, September 17, 2017.

Dr. McKenzie was among the first batch of Medical students of the then University College of the West Indies in 1948 and was also among Jamaica’s first paediatric cardiologists. In 1999, he was awarded for distinguished service to the Caribbean Cardiac Society at its 14th Annual Conference.

In light of this, the UWI flags will be flown at half-mast on Friday, September 22, 2017 and on the day of his funeral, Friday, September 29, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at the St. Andrew Parish Church in Half Way Tree.

The University extends condolences to the family and friends of Dr. McKenzie.

Anthia Muirhead
For Campus Registrar

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It is with great sadness that we mark the death of Dr. Keith McKenzie.

In his life, he touched so many others – children and adults alike. He was highly respected by his peers, and loved and admired by those who had the pleasure of knowing him. He will be sorely missed.

The Funeral Service for Dr. McKenzie will be held on Friday, September 29, 2017 at the St. Andrew Parish Church at 11:00 a.m.

Condolences to his family and close friends.
The medical and The University of the West Indies (UWI) fraternities will today pay final respects to Dr Keith McKenzie at a thanksgiving service for his life at St Andrew Parish Church in Half-Way-Tree starting at 11:00 am.

Dr. McKenzie, one of the pioneering core of 33 students who became the first-ever undergraduate class at the brand new University College of the West Indies, passed away on September 17.

A notice from his family said that flags will be flown at half-mast today at UWI, where he was an ardent Taylor Hall supporter.

Born on August 9, 1927 in Guy's Hill, St Ann, McKenzie attended Lucea Infant School from 1933 to 1934, Morris Knibb Preparatory in Kingston from 1934-1936, and then won a scholarship to Wolmer's Boys' School in 1936. That same year he won the Drax Scholarship to Jamaica College where he studied from 1937-1945 and passed the Cambridge Higher Schools Examination.

Upon leaving school he worked as a laboratory technician at Government Medical Laboratory in Kingston from 1946 to 1947, before joining the staff of Kingston Public and Port Antonio hospitals as an X-Ray technician from 1947 to 1948.

In 1948 he entered the then University College of the West Indies, graduated in October 1954 with his medical degree, and joined the staff of the KPH two months later as house officer.

In 1956 Dr. McKenzie married Norma Elaine King, an administrative medical technologist with whom he had one son, David, who is now a veterinarian and department head at Tuskegee University in Alabama.

The following year McKenzie was promoted to medical registrar at KPH, and a month later was transferred to serve in the same position at the University Hospital of the West Indies. One month later, in July 1959, he returned to KPH as medical registrar and served...
in that position for a year. In July 1960 Dr. McKenzie became the paediatric registrar and remained in that post until August 1961.

Since then he completed a postgraduate course in Child Health in London and a postgraduate medical course at the Royal Infirmary. In January 1963 he returned to KPH as paediatric registrar in a new 60-bed child unit before transferring to Children’s Hospital in the same position.

In July 1966, Dr McKenzie took up a one-year fellowship in paediatric cardiology in Toronto, Canada, before returning to his previous post at the Children’s Hospital for another year. His commitment to paediatric cardiology made him an important consultant when Jamaica’s first open-heart surgery was performed in 1969.

In 1973 he was the convener of a Ministry of Health committee which drafted proposals for a Paediatric Nurse Practitioner Programme for Jamaica.

A devout Anglican, Dr. McKenzie offered many years of voluntary service to a wide range of causes, most notably the Church of the Ascension Health Clinic. He was a director of the Heart Foundation of Jamaica, a member of the Medical Association of Jamaica, a member and past president of the Paediatric Association of Jamaica, and a member of the Friends of the Bustamante Hospital for Children.

In recognition of his excellence in clinical medicine and research, Dr. McKenzie received numerous national and international honours. He was voted a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1977, and was awarded the Order of Distinction (Commander Class) from the Government of Jamaica in 1985 for his services to medicine and child health.

In 2004 his devoted wife Norma passed away. On June 17, 2006, he married the Reverend Doctor Venice Guntley, then a lecturer at United Theological College of the West Indies at Mona and honorary assistant at the Church of the Ascension in Mona, Kingston.

In his later years, Dr. McKenzie practised from the Denwin Medical Centre in Kingston.