

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BAHAMIAN STUDIES

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This year marks the fifth consecutive year of publication of a research journal by The College of The Bahamas. Conducting and publishing the results of research is the hallmark of a university and The College of The Bahamas is moving steadily toward that goal. The journal is one shard of evidence of the scholarly activity in the College and it is with great pride that we can announce that all articles in this year's volume were written by College faculty.

Original articles come from the social sciences, history, education, and law. In all cases, the papers had been presented at conferences before being peer reviewed and accepted for publication. Conference presentations are an ideal way for a researcher to garner input, ideas and criticism from their peers. The feedback can help improve the paper before it is submitted to a journal

Tracey Thompson's article, "The Contract," was presented at the Caribbean Historical Association meeting in 1993. Thompson extensively revised and updated it prior to submission, in part to contribute to the College's annual research theme on migration. It bears noting that when she first conducted research on The Contract, there were none of the digital and online resources we take for granted today. Finding and retrieving materials required painstaking scouring of print sources. Her work was pioneering as it involved collecting and transcribing stories or oral histories of Bahamians who migrated to the United States in search of work during the 1940s. A bibliography of resources about The Contract accompanies the revised paper and should assist researchers interested in locating research sources about The Contract. Many of these documents have been digitized and are available through the Digital Library of the Caribbean website.

"Sound and Fury: Newspaper Coverage of the Marital Rape Debate in New Providence" was presented at The College of The Bahamas *Violence Symposium* in November 2011. The authors, Lisa Benjamin and Cathleen LeGrand, combed local Bahamian newspapers to gauge public opinion about the proposal to remove the marital rape exemption from Bahamian law books. The debate polarized Bahamian society and their paper is a fascinating review of the various themes that emerged as the matter was discussed in the press.

Yvonne Hunter-Thompson and Wynne James's paper on determining the learning styles of Bahamian law enforcement officers was presented at the *International Pre-conference of the Commission for International Adult Education* in October 2011. Their paper illustrated how an institution might go about changing its learning culture from one that is teacher-centred to one that is student-centred.

A short paper by Nicolette Bethel, Jessica Minnis, and William Fielding about knowing one's ancestors highlights the need for Bahamians to take full advantage of new technology to record their family histories and genealogy.

The volume features Keithley Woolward's review of a textbook for learning Haitian Creole written by a former College of The Bahamas faculty member, Frenand Léger.

And, the volume concludes with a listing of doctoral dissertations produced between 2008 and 2012 by College of The Bahamas faculty or with significant Bahamian content. Preparing a list such as this is never complete as it is out of date as soon as it is published. We are grateful to Berthamae Walker for searching through countless online sources to compile this list.

We were delighted to learn that Christine Gangelhoff and Cathleen LeGrand won the 2012 Stanley Wilson Award for Excellence in Research for their *Caribbean Art Music Bibliography* published last year as issue 1 of Volume 17. This award is open to College faculty who have published research with a substantial Bahamian focus. The papers in their bibliography have been viewed and downloaded hundreds of times since publication. We understand that they are working on another instalment of the bibliography which will be published next year.

We learned earlier this year that the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies* is now included in the EBSCOhost Caribbean Source database. EBSCOhost databases are used in universities and colleges throughout the world; therefore, inclusion in this database will greatly ease access and availability of the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies* for students, professors and researchers everywhere.

Managing the production of an annual volume of research papers is not a solitary endeavour. Without authors and peer reviewers, there would not be an *International Journal of Bahamian Studies*; we thank the authors for submitting their work to the journal and the peer reviewers for reading and critiquing the manuscripts. As well, many other people work very hard to support the journal and make it a reality: the former interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Brendamae Cleare; members of the Editorial Board of the journal; William Fielding, Chair of the Research Advisory Board; and Marjorie Downie, Copy editor.

Virginia Ballance
Managing Editor