

# THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BAHAMIAN STUDIES

## EDITORIAL Volume 21, 2015

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The *International Journal of Bahamian Studies* is the only journal publishing peer-reviewed research exclusively in the field of Bahamian studies. Articles are drawn from a wide variety of disciplines and are submitted by authors from around the world. This year however most articles draw upon the humanities and social sciences, with a smattering of science and medicine, and while many of the authors are from the College of The Bahamas, some are “from away”.

Bahamians love discussing politics and history. This volume features five articles that will satisfy history and political buffs. The debate about Bahamian citizenship and the proposed citizenship referendum is the topic of Stephen Aranha’s paper. Allan Meyers has written a fascinating article on the slave insurrection on Cat Island in 1831, shedding light on this little-known incident in Bahamian history. And, Maria Lee’s article suggests that the proposed national museum of The Bahamas can play a role in shaping a new Bahamian identity. Two papers focus on two quintessentially Bahamian topics: potcakes and bush medicine. COB faculty William Fielding and Marcia Mundle along with researchers from University of California examine the DNA of dozens of Bahamian potcakes to determine whether they are true-true Bahamians and Edith Gibson from the College’s Northern Campus Library in Freeport has reviewed the literature on Bahamian bush medicine.

Three papers come from the social sciences: Law professor Bernadette Bain analyzes the tort of nervous shock and its applicability in a sad case of a Bahamian baby’s death. Yvonne Hunter-Johnson, former COB faculty, now at University of Illinois, examines whether members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force regard the Force as a “learning organization”. And, a study of interpersonal violence in the lives of college students by William Fielding, Christina Risley-Curtiss and Travis Cronin, compares the experiences of young people in the Bahamas and the United States.

The two papers in the Short Communications section will help promote research in Bahamian studies as they highlight special collections at the College of The Bahamas: the Lynden Pindling Room and the COB Institutional Archives. In future the journal will continue to feature short articles describing special collections, libraries, databases, and on-line resources of interest to scholars and students of Bahamian studies –all too often rich collections are hidden in plain sight!

Work on the annual volume is a team effort. Foremost, the authors and peer reviewers, for without them, there would be no journal. As always, I am grateful for the magnificent work of Marjorie Downie, who as copyeditor, ensures that the articles are a pleasure to read. I owe heartfelt thanks also to members of the Editorial Board for their guidance and advice.

*Virginia Ballance*  
*Managing Editor*

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