

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BAHAMIAN STUDIES

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As we celebrate the release of this, the 25th volume of University of The Bahamas' academic journal, it is only appropriate that we look back on the history of this important, and now longstanding, venture, the only the peer-reviewed academic forum in the world focused on the study of The Bahamas and its people. What became the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies (IJBS)* was first published by the College of The Bahamas (COB) in 1980 as *College Forum*. That issue included an article from then COB faculty member John Holm, a linguist who later went on to become one of the most famous scholars of Creole languages around the globe. Although not published every year, *College Forum* continued its traditions of scholarly engagement through the 1980s and 1990s. Beginning in 2001, the journal rebranded itself as the *College of The Bahamas Research Journal*. Since the journal moved to a purely online format in 2008, it has consistently published every year. Acknowledging the fact that the institution would be rebranding itself and nodding to this new institution's greater international outlook, in 2010 the journal yet again changed its name— this time to the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies*.

In an unintentional nod to the history of the journal, this year's edition of *IJBS* includes articles written by three previous editors (that is, Pandora Johnson, Marie Sairsingh, and Virginia Ballance). We are also pleased to present in this edition of the journal two pieces co-authored by the journal's most prolific author over its publication history, William Fielding. *IJBS* also welcomes a new author to this year, Dr. Kristen Welsh Unwala of Chemistry, Environmental, and Life Sciences.

The effect *IJBS* has had during its publication history—in particular after its move to a purely online journal—is symbolised nicely by the impact of an article published in its inaugural online issue (written by Fielding, Ballance, Johnson, and others): the 2008 article “The Stigma of Being Haitian in the Bahamas.” That article has been downloaded more than 15,000 times and has been cited at least 18 times in international academic fora. Furthermore, in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, the article was quoted in international newspapers such as the UK's *Guardian* and the south Florida's *Sun Sentinel*.

Indeed, in the post-Hurricane Dorian environment (as well as the hurricanes of misinformation that characterize our contemporary political environment), we are constantly reminded of the importance of verifiable, rigorous empirical study and data. That is to say, we continually reminded of the purpose of the journal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raymond Oenbring

Managing Editor