

# The College of The Bahamas Research Journal

Volume 15, 2009

---

The past academic year has been a busy one for *The College of The Bahamas Research Journal*. A year ago the journal was transformed from a limited print-run paper journal to an open access, on-line journal available freely on the Internet. As a result, usage statistics for the journal (views of abstracts and downloads of articles) have been impressive—several articles have been downloaded more than 1000 times each. *The College of The Bahamas Research Journal* and its predecessor, *College Forum* were added to the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) maintained by Lund University Libraries in Sweden, which in turn has put the journal into the virtual libraries of many universities, colleges and research institutes around the world.

The articles published in Volume 15 come from a variety of disciplines: psychology, linguistics, natural history, mechanical engineering, and education, however, all have a Bahamian or Caribbean focus. We were pleased to have submissions from scholars resident in The Bahamas as well as “from away”.

The paper by Stephanie Hackert and John Holm on the origins of the Southern Bahamian dialect had been selected for publication in a book which was never published. It was an honour to accept their article for publication as they are well known scholars. Dr. Holm contributed an article to Volume 1 of this journal while he was a lecturer at the newly-formed College of The Bahamas. A related paper in this volume, on the teaching of Haitian Creole at the College by Frenand Léger and Philip Armbrister, contains the interesting fact that more students study Haitian Creole at The College of The Bahamas than at any other university or college in the world.

In last year’s Editorial, we called for *The College of The Bahamas Research Journal* to play a greater role in the discussion of public policy issues. The paper by the late Susan Plumridge and William Fielding addresses domestic violence in the homes of college students. The essay by Keith Russell opens the discourse on race, race relations and sensibilities in The Bahamas.

We are pleased also that we were able to include articles on issues related to sustainable development now that the College offers undergraduate degree programmes in Small Island Sustainability. Dr. Mwasha’s article on the use of coir fibre (coconut husk) as a biodegradable building material makes this point. Joanne Sewlal’s survey of spiders on Antigua reminds us of some of the virtually unknown yet fragile ecosystems that exist on small islands and we hope will inspire young Bahamian biologists to take a closer look at their environment.

Volume 15 will be the last volume published under the title: *The College of The Bahamas Research Journal*. In 2010, the journal will change its name to *The International Journal of Bahamian Studies*. Over the years 80% of the articles published in the journal had a Bahamian focus and it was felt that The College of The Bahamas should be the home of a journal that publishes internationally on Bahamian studies—we will continue to publish in the “multidisciplinary” niche but henceforth all articles accepted for publication will have a Bahamian subject or include significant Bahamian content.

*Virginia Ballance, Managing Editor*

---