

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BAHAMIAN STUDIES

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This year marks the sixth consecutive year of publication of an online, open access research journal by The College of The Bahamas (COB). The *International Journal of Bahamian Studies* continues to publish academic journal articles in the multidisciplinary niche with a focus on research about The Bahamas or the Caribbean with significant reference to issues relevant to The Bahamas. As in the past, the volume includes articles from a variety of disciplines in the social sciences: history, ethnography, education, marketing and criminal justice, and as in other years, our authors are from all around the world.

A short communication by former COB Cataloguing Librarian Tom Lundstrom describes the newly-opened exhibition of the Arthur Hailey Collection in the Special Collections Room of the Harry C. Moore Library. In the article he describes some of the more interesting books and some of the treasures he uncovered as he organized the collection. It is hoped that by making this unique collection of books better known will bring researchers interested in Arthur Hailey's work to The Bahamas or to help stimulate interest in the best-selling author's oeuvre.

The article by Yvonne Hunter-Thompson addresses the issue of transfer of training within the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF). Oftentimes the training one receives in the course of one's work does not seem applicable or relevant in the work environment, for a variety of reasons, as elucidated by Dr. Hunter-Thompson. Interviews with law enforcement officers revealed that the RBPF needs to make training initiatives part of the organizational culture, so that when officers receive training, they would appreciate its value and apply it on the job, with the full support of their managers and supervisors.

Dr. John Mazzeo's research on the incidence and cultural understanding of *tansyon* – high blood pressure or hypertension or hot blood – in the Haitian community in The Bahamas reveals that it is a significant health concern of members of this marginalized group. Many Haitian migrants in The Bahamas live under very stressful conditions: poverty, poor accommodations, threats of deportation, and lack of access to healthcare, which has an impact on their health. The health of refugees and immigrants is a public health concern worldwide and one which must be studied with compassion.

The chance discovery of an unknown printed book catalogue of the public library in Nassau published in 1862 motivated the editor of this journal, Virginia Ballance, to delve into the history of the public library. By analyzing the library's collection, she considered the influence the types of books and journals available to the reading public might have had in the post-emancipation years. The printed book catalogue she found in an online rare book dealer's inventory is the only copy existent worldwide. She was able to successfully track down information about the original owner of the catalogue using a variety of genealogical websites and tools.

Fielding and Newman's paper on the use of commercially-produced dog food in the Caribbean reveals that few animal welfare groups in the English-speaking Caribbean make recommendations about nutrition to prospective dog owners. They contend that more could be done to sensitize dog owners and guardians about animal health and nutrition, especially today as many Caribbean families are eating more fast food and do not cook traditional food at home, thus depriving dogs of table scraps as a source of food.

Included in this volume is an analytical literature review by Rebecca Wallace and Karen Wylie on the topic of restorative justice in prisons with a special focus on initiatives undertaken in The Bahamas and the Caribbean. Such reviews provide the reader with a thorough and in depth analysis to the literature on a topic. Restorative justice is a process used in many cultures and situations. It places the victim of a crime and the offender together, with a mediator or facilitator, to discuss the crime. It gives the victim an opportunity to speak about how the crime impacted their life and for the offender to explain him- or herself, with the ultimate objective of having the offender make restitution of some kind. Restorative justice programmes in prisons, including The Bahamian prison system, assist with prisoner rehabilitation. Wallace and Wylie are no strangers to The College of The Bahamas as they have presented papers at the 2011 Violence Symposium and assist with the College's law programme's mooted competition.

The final paper in this year's volume is a transcript of the plenary address given by Bahamian cultural activist and author Patricia Glington-Meicholas at The College of The Bahamas's Independence conference, the *Bahamas at 40* held in early June 2013. Mrs. Glington-Meicholas's address deserves to be read closely by all to understand what it means to be "Bahamian" in this young nation and how important it is that all residents of this beautiful bountiful country, regardless of their race, creed, national origin, sex or religious affiliation, must participate in building a sense of community.

Next year we hope to dedicate Volume 20 of the Journal to the history, accomplishments and achievements of The College of The Bahamas as it celebrates its first 40 years and as it transitions from "College" to "University". We hope to include profiles of past principals, presidents and council chairs, histories of schools and departments, and trace significant events in the life of the College. A short article about the journal and its evolution from print to online will be included.

One role which the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies* and the College's Library might play in the new University of The Bahamas is to support early career researchers in developing their research and publishing skills. As the role of the library changes from being a mere storehouse of books and journals to becoming an active participant in the research endeavours of an institution, it can support scholarly communication not only through publishing initiatives (such as this journal) but also through nurturing and supporting faculty research and researchers.

As always, as Managing Editor of the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies*, I am grateful to the authors who have submitted their work to the journal and to the peer reviewers who read and critiqued the manuscripts. The peer review process ensures that the papers published in this journal are of a high standard. The journal is ably supported by the Members of the Editorial Board, William Fielding, Director of Planning, and Marjorie Downie, Copyeditor. Special thanks are owed to the College Librarian, Dr. Berthamae Walker and to the Vice-President, Academic Affairs, Dr. Earla Carey-Baines for their continued support of the journal and my work as Managing Editor.

Thanks are also owed to the Office of Communication for their support and assistance throughout the year. And to the team at Simon Fraser University who host the journal and ensure it is available 24/7.

Virginia Ballance
Managing Editor