

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BAHAMIAN STUDIES

EDITORIAL Volume 22, 2016

This will be the last volume of the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies* published under the auspices of The College of The Bahamas. In November 2016, the institution will henceforth be known as the University of The Bahamas. All in all, under its variant names, the IJBS produced 25 volumes as a product of the College.

This year's volume features two original articles on education topics: Raymond Oenbring and his colleagues studied student perceptions of first-year English courses and Confucius Institute scholar Youhua Zhou studied the application of the task-based language teaching methodology in introductory Mandarin language classes. A short communication by Elsie Bain also addresses education. Her paper reports on a survey of continuing education needs of Bahamian library personnel.

Issues in Bahamian law and politics are the focus of three articles: Bernadette Bain analyzed the 2014 Disabilities legislation, Stephen Aranha discussed the 2002 Constitutional referendum and Ian Bethell-Bennett reflected on the results of the 2016 Gender Equality Referendum.

In her retirement, former COB President Keva Bethel began to write a comprehensive history of higher education in The Bahamas with a focus on The College. After her death, among her papers her children found an outline and beginnings of a draft of her manuscript. We felt it worth publishing – and asked Linda Davis to add her comments and fill in some gaps. The two papers are published in a special history of COB section of the journal.

This volume features a new section called Research Project Reports. The inaugural article chronicles the outcomes and a bibliography of academic papers produced by a research team from the Ministries of Health and Education called Focus on Youth which had the objective to reduce the incidence of HIV and AIDS among youth.

The volume includes two reviews: Royann Dean reviewed the monograph *Archipelago Tourism* and Diana Golden reviewed *Tour de Force*, the third CD by The College's unique trio C Force.

Contributing authors and peer reviewers are the heart and soul of the annual journal. Authors submit manuscripts and peer reviewers read and critique the papers. The publication process is not fast nor is it easy: on behalf of the Editorial Board, I thank our authors and reviewers for their patience and hard work. I am forever grateful to Marjorie Downie, our copyeditor, whose work ensures that the articles are a pleasure to read. And last but not least, I would like to thank the Editorial Board for their guidance and advice.

Virginia Ballance
Managing Editor

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