

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BAHAMIAN STUDIES

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The past two years have been a time of great loss and hardship for The Bahamas, as it has been for the rest of the world. In September 2019, The Bahamas was devastated by Hurricane Dorian, the costliest natural disaster in the history of The Bahamas. Furthermore, since March 2020, The Bahamas has been reeling from the effects of COVID-19, which has led to devastating effects on lives and livelihoods throughout the archipelago (as it has throughout the world).

In addition to these twin grave challenges, we have also experienced great losses in the University of The Bahamas community in the past few years. In this issue of the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies (IJBS)*, we are fortunate enough to have work reminding us of the lives of two of those we have recently lost: Elizabeth Williams and Anne Lawlor. I would like to dedicate this issue to their memory.

Dr. Elizabeth Williams was a respected member of UB's School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions. This issue of the journal includes an article composed by William Fielding and Virginia Ballance that presents research conducted by Dr. Williams.

The issue also includes an article by Jim Lawlor, Anne Lawlor's husband. The Lawlors have, for decades, been bedrocks of the research community in The Bahamas. Indeed, in addition to their work with the Bahamas Historical Society (including editing the *Journal of The Bahamas Historical Society*), they have also published important works such as *The Harbour Island Story*. Anne also served as the editor of the *College of The Bahamas Research Journal* in 2002. In addition to being leading researchers on The Bahamas, the Lawlors have also been dear personal friends of mine. In fact, Anne was my officemate for my first seven years at COB/UB. She provided important guidance to me in my first studies of Bahamian English and, more generally, helped me navigate working at COB/UB and life in The Bahamas. I profoundly miss her.

In spite of the many challenges of the past two years, I am pleased to report that this year's edition of *IJBS* is one of the largest we've ever had. I am also happy to report that the current issue of *IJBS* includes a special section focusing on the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian. I thank Dr. Saskia Fürst for her tireless work in editing these articles.

As always, I would like to thank the editorial team, including our highly skilled copyeditors and Virginia Ballance, for the many hours they spent on these articles. I also thank the editorial board, especially William Fielding and outgoing Dean of Graduate Studies and Research Dr. Vikneswaran Nair, for their hard work and their time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raymond Oenbring  
Managing Editor