

## DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES



Dr. Paulette Stewart, PhD *NCU, Jamaica*  
Head of Department

### WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

#### Teaching and Learning

#### *ARCM Programme*

#### Programme Overview

Work continued on the development of the Graduate Programme in Archives and Records Management during the period under review. This degree programme was designed to provide postgraduate training in the fields of archive administration and records management for the first time in the commonwealth Caribbean. It is anticipated that the full degree will be offered in the next academic year, 2016/2017.

### **Courses Approved**

The following courses were approved by the Faculty of Humanities and Education's Graduate Studies Committee and now form part of the 36 credit course offering in the ARCM Programme. These are as follows:

- ARCM6006: Memory & Recordkeeping in the Caribbean
- ARCM6007: Preserving & Managing Sound & Visual Media
- ARCM6008: Digital Curation

### **Courses Taught**

In Semester 1, the course Fundamentals of Archives & Records (ARCM 6001) was taught both face to face and online. There was an overwhelming response to the advertisements from the region – including Guyana and Suriname – from persons interested in pursuing the course as Specially Admitted Students. Of the over twenty (20) persons who expressed an interest in the programme, only seven (7) persons finally registered and joined six (6) other students who were already registered in the Department's existing Library and Information Studies programme. In Semester 2, the course Records Management in the Digital Age (ARCM 6003) was offered in both face to face and online modes. Eighteen (18) persons pursued this course. The programme has been promoted throughout the region by direct contact with archival and records management institutions and through the Caribbean Branch of the International Council on Archives (CARBICA). Pending the approval of this programme, greater advertising and marketing will take place to include the private, heritage and educational sectors.

### **New BA Programmes**

The DLIS decided to review the BA in Library and Information Studies based on:

- The recommendations made by the Quality Assurance Team in 2012 when the DLIS was reviewed;
- A need to broaden the professional specializations offered and improve the marketability of our graduates;

- The mandate to make the programme attractive to individuals interested in a career path in Information Studies, but who do not want to study the technical areas associated with librarianship;
- The Department's inability to offer Minors because the programme content is too narrowly focused on librarianship;
- The low student enrolment in individual courses;
- Feedback provided in departmental meetings with both part-time and full-time staff to consider suggestions regarding the restructuring of the programme;
- The feedback from the lecturers for each course; and
- The results of exit interviews conducted with final year students.

Based on the review the decision was taken to introduce a Bachelor of Arts in Information Studies, and to upgrade the current Bachelor of Arts in Library and Information Studies and rename it Bachelor of Arts in Librarianship.

### **Overview of Programme Description**

The B.A. Librarianship is designed to produce graduates who will work in or manage a school library, a public library or a special library in the modern information environment. This three-year programme equips students with theoretical and practical knowledge and skills that can be applied in the library in which they will be employed, including highly-specialized skills related to cataloguing of print and electronic resources, creation of metadata, and so on.

The B.A. Information Studies is designed to produce graduates who will work in information units such as museums, galleries, archives and documentation centres. The resources in these information units are mainly primary sources and artefacts, which are organized using different cataloguing systems from that of libraries. Preservation of these resources is of utmost importance and is also done differently from that of the print and electronic resources found in libraries.

### **The Transition Process**

New students entering the department in August 2016 will enroll in the new programmes. The current Year I students will transition to the new Bachelor of Arts in Librarianship in August 2016. Second and Third Year students who are now pursuing the Bachelor of Arts in Library and Information Studies will continue in this programme until they complete. Students can choose to transfer from the current programme to any of the new programmes, but equivalency between courses already completed in the old programme and the requirements of the new programme will need to be established on a case by case basis, and the student who chooses to transfer to the new programme may be required to take additional courses. Students currently registered in the Bachelor of Arts in Library and Information Studies will have until the end of the 2020–2021 academic year to complete the programme, after which all courses which are not a part of the new programme will be discontinued, as will the Bachelor of Arts in Library and Information Studies.

### **Graduate Studies and Research**

#### ***Blended Learning Initiatives: MALIS and MLIS Programmes***

The Department of Library and Information Studies (DLIS) began offering the Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) and the Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies (MALIS) in the blended learning mode in September 2015. The decision by the DLIS to offer the MALIS programme using a blended mode of delivery was informed by:

1. DLIS Strategic Objective to ‘enhance learning effectiveness’ which reflects the UWI, Mona Strategic Plan to provide “multiple and flexible paths for all constituencies to pursue tertiary education in their lifetime”;
2. UWI Strategic Plan to provide “high quality student experience as a platform for enhanced regional and international student success and long term commitment to the UWI”;

3. Global trends in Library and Information Science education for multi-modal delivery;
4. Increased global and national competition for students;
5. Decreasing student numbers and low student enrolment especially at the graduate level.

This blended approach was also considered because it would likely lead to an increase in the number of Caribbean students pursuing courses in the DLIS and so fulfil the mission of “providing leadership in managing the information needs of the Caribbean for the 21st century and beyond”. It is also possible that the programmes will reach a more diverse audience using this mode of delivery. In Semester I there were fifteen (15) online students and 20 in Semester 2. These students resided in:

**Overseas:** Antigua, Barbados, Bahamas, Belize, St. Maarten, St. Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago

**Jamaica:** Clarendon, Manchester, St. Ann, St. Catherine, St. James and St. Thomas

It also seemed that a spin off from the robust promotion for the online programmes resulted in additional face-to-face students as there were nineteen (19) new face-to-face students. This was an increase over the previous four years where the average intake for new graduate students was about ten (10). The total number of graduate students enrolled in both programmes was thirty-eight (38).

#### **Staff/Graduate Research Seminars 2015/2016**

The Department continued Staff/Graduate Research Seminars during the year with the following presentations.

#### **Jessica McCurdy-Crooks**

- An Evaluation of the Implementation of an Electronic Records Management System at a Quasi-Financial Institution, October 1, 2015.

### **Mark-Shane Scale**

- Representations of Consultants and Consulting in Librarianship: A Narrative Analysis of Four Blogging Platforms, October 8, 2015.

### **Bernadette Worrell**

- Where are they Now? Employment Patterns of DLIS Graduate 1990–2010: A Survey, October 16, 2015.

### **Mark-Shane Scale**

- The Information Needs and Practices of Jamaican Home School Educators: A Proposed Study, March 31, 2016.

### **Kishana Munroe**

- The Use of Open Source Integrated Library Systems (ILS): An Evaluative Case Study of two Academic Libraries, April 14, 2016.

### **Mark-Shane Scale**

- Exploring the Demand for a New BA Programme in Information Studies at the UWI: A Proposed Study, April 15, 2016.

### **DLIS New Initiative Research**

“Media and Information Literacy Levels at the Exit Stages of the Education System in Jamaican Schools”

The research project which has been ongoing since September 2013 is about 90% completed. The expected date of completion is October 31, 2016.

### **Research Forum**

On November 19, 2015 the Department hosted its third Research Forum entitled, “Showcasing Research in Library and Information Studies to Inform Pedagogy and Practice.” The Guest Speaker was Prof. Ian Boxill, Director, Centre for Tourism and Policy Research at the UWI. A total of 6 researchers made poster presentations on research they conducted.

### **Kenneth E. Ingram Memorial Lecture**

The 4th Kenneth Ingram Memorial Lecture was held in collaboration with the UWI Main Library, the UWI Archives and the National Library of Jamaica under the theme, “Archival Silences: A Call for Culturally Relevant and Pluralistic Archival Education, Research, and Practices.” The presenter was Dr. Kelvin White, Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Community College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oklahoma. This was held on Thursday, April 7, 2016 at the Multi-Functional Room, UWI, Main Library.

### **Summer Institute 2016**

Summer Institute 2016 entitled, “PowerPoint and Mobile Apps for Information Professionals,” was held June 21–22 in The UWI Main Library. The focus was on technologies for designing, producing and presenting information visually to meet the needs of the 21st century. The presenter was Mark-Shane Scale, Lecturer in the Department. Twenty five persons attended.

### **Hosting of IASL Conference**

DLIS hosted the International Association of School Librarianship Regional School Library Conference on July 12–15, 2016. The keynote speaker and workshop presenter was Dr. Ross Todd, Associate Professor, Department of Library & Information Science, School of Communication and Information, Rutgers University, USA.

### **UWI Research Days 2016**

UWI Research Days, February 17–19, 2016 focused on the theme “UWI Mona: Driving Development through Research and Innovation.” The Department’s participation was coordinated by the librarian, Ms. Paulette Bowen.

**Posters presented**

- Where are they now? Employment pattern of DLIS graduates 1990 –2010: a survey – Bernadette Worrell
- A framework of creativity assessment for storytelling – Dr. Yan Wu
- Semantic structure in user response – Dr. Yan Wu
- Tablet adoption and implementation in academic libraries: a qualitative analysis of librarians' discourse on blogging platforms – Mr. Mark-Shane Scale

**Workshop**

- Critical Analysis of Information Sources – Mr. Mark-Shane Scale

**Courtyard Exhibit**

- Exploring DLIS Research

**Lunch Hour Concert**

- Performance by students – Garifuna Festival in Belize

**OUTREACH AND PROMOTION**

Promotion of the Department through outreach activities continued throughout the year with Dr. Rosemarie Heath serving as coordinator for outreach and promotion. The following activities were undertaken by Dr. Heath.

**2015**

- Accompanied the UWI Marketing and Recruitment team to Wolmers Girls School and Montego Bay Community College to promote the Department's programmes
- Delivered a lecture to fourth and fifth form students on "The ABC's of Choosing a Fitting Career" Mona High School on Career Day, 2015
- Delivered a two-hour lecture on research methods, to lower sixth



form students at Campion College (upon request of the librarian). The lecture focused mainly on citing references using the APA and MLA manuals in an attempt to avoid plagiarism in research.

## **2016**

- Accompanied the UWI Marketing and Recruitment team to the Western Jamaica Campus of the UWI and delivered a two-hour lecture entitled, “Research and Writing: Maximizing SBA Scores, While Minimizing Frustration,” 6th form students from a mixture of high schools. This lecture was helpful in satisfying the requirements of the CAPE Caribbean Studies syllabus.
- Addressed a group of teachers and guidance counsellors regarding the programmes offered in the Department which would in turn assist them in influencing students to consider Library and Information Studies as a career choice.
- Addressed 3rd form students of Kingston College about the programmes of the Department
- Participated in a UWI promotional Expo at the Faculty of Medical Sciences. This Expo was geared towards informing potential UWI students and parents about the offerings of the UWI.

Further promotion of the Department’s programmes was also done by Dr. Paulette Stewart via Radio Mona 93 FM on January 28, 2016.

## **STAFF MATTERS**

### **Academic Staff**

- Dr. Paulette Stewart was appointed Head of Department commencing August 1, 2015.
- Mr. Mark-Shane Scale returned to the Department after 4 years of study at the University of Western Ontario, however, his dissertation is incomplete.
- The librarian’s position became vacant when Mr. Scale returned.

The post was advertised and interviews were held. Ms. Marissa McPherson was appointed librarian for the Department.

The following persons are no longer adjunct staff in the department since the beginning of the academic year: Mr. Matthew Blake, Dr. Beverley Pereira, Mr. Nicholas Graham, Mr. Carlton Samuels and Mr. John Aarons. New adjunct staff are Dr. Stanley Griffin, Ms. Antoinette Harriott and Mrs. Frances Salmon.

#### **Award for Excellence**

- Dr. Paulette Stewart won the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) Professional Award for Excellence on February 12, 2016 at the LIAJA Awards Ceremony held at the Mona Visitors' Lodge.

#### **PAPERS PRESENTED**

- **Baker-Gardner, Ruth.** "Give Them Wings: The Role of the Principal in Supporting New Teachers through Implementation of an Exemplary Induction Programme." Institute for Educational Administration and Leadership – Jamaica National Conference, Montego Bay Jamaica, August 20–21, 2015.
- **Stewart, Paulette.** "Going Against the Norm: Modernizing the Delivery of Library School Education to Increase Enrolment." Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Conference, Boston, USA. January 5–8, 2016.
- **Wu, Yan.** "The Role of Library in the Community about Children's Rights: A Content Analysis of Two National Newspapers." 10th Annual Caribbean Child Research Conference. Jamaica Conference Centre. November 4–6, 2015.
- **Wu, Yan.** "The Application of Two Different Types of Context in Teaching." The 7th International Conference on Information Technology in Education (CITE 2016), February 28 to March 1, 2016 in Beijing, China.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book Chapter

- **Dr. Ruth Baker-Gardner** “Teacher Induction in the Caribbean”. In *Handbook of Research on Professional Development for Quality Teaching and Learning*. Ed. By Teresa Petty, Amy Good, and Michael Putman. Hershey: PA. Information Science Reference, 2016. 517–545.
- **Dr. Paulette Stewart** “Synchronous and Asynchronous Tools Optimizing Online Learning in the English-Speaking Caribbean”. In *Creating Teacher Immediacy in Online Learning Environments*. Ed. By Steven D'Agustino. Hershey: PA: IGI Global, 2016. 138–165.

### Journals

- **R. Baker-Gardner**. “The Role of the Principal in New Teacher Induction”. *International Studies in Education Administration* 43.3 (2015): 39–57.
- **Y. Wu**. “Factors Impacting Students' Online Learning Experience in a Learner-centred Course”. *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning* (2016): 1–14. Web.
- **Y. Wu**. “The Application of Two Different Types of Context in the Teaching of and Undergraduate Course”. *Open Journal of Social Sciences* 04.02 (2016): 8–13.

## PUBLIC SERVICE

### Dr. Paulette Stewart

- Member, National Committee for the Appointment of Master Teachers, Ministry of Education
- National Judge, Jamaica Library Service National Reading Competition
- Director, International Association of School Librarianship (IASL), Latin America and the Caribbean

- Chair, Planning Committee for Regional Conference, International Association of School – Librarianship (IASL), Latin America and the Caribbean
- Member, National School Library Policy Development Committee

**Dr. Ruth Baker-Gardner**

- Member, National Public Library Advocacy Committee
- Member, National School Library Policy Development Committee
- Chair, Secretariat of International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) Regional Conference
- Chair, Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) Schools Section

**Dr. Rosemarie Heath**

- First Vice President/Chair, Awards Sub-Committee of the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA)
- Chair, Programme Committee, International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) Regional Conference

**Mr. Mark-Shane Scale**

- Guest Assistant Editor for the *Africology: The Journal of Pan African Studies* ([www.jpanafrican.org](http://www.jpanafrican.org)) for the issue on “Internet Access and Usage in the African World”

**STUDENT MATTERS**

**Practicum/Internship**

A total of seventeen students were placed at national, public, academic, special and school libraries in Jamaica and the USA. There were fifteen (15) undergraduate and two (2) graduate students.

## **Faculty/Departmental Awards**

### ***Additional Departmental Prizes***

There were three new additions to the Departmental prizes, which were presented to students at the Faculty Awards Ceremony on November 5, 2015. The new prizes were:

- Hazel Bennett Prize for Best Grade in a Year I Management Information Systems Course
- Fay Durrant Award for Best Grade in LIBS3901 – Access to Information in the Caribbean
- Stephney Ferguson Award for Best Grade in LIBS6901 – Trends and Issues in Library and Information Work

The following represents the prizes and awardees:

- Year I – DLIS Alumni Prize for Best Grade – Nadina Shorter
- Year II – Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) Prize for Best Grade – Nicoleen Saunders-Grant
- Dorothy Collings Prize for Best Grade (Year III – Graduating) – Shavonne Drysdale
- Dorothy Collings Prize for Best Grade (Postgraduate – Graduating) – Gemmel Drakes
- Gloria Baker Award for Best Grade in LIBS3006: Caribbean Schools & Public Libraries – Anneisa Brown-Lawrence
- Daphne Douglas Prize for Outstanding Professional Development – Demar Cornwall
- Most Outstanding Student in the B.Ed in School Librarianship Programme – Marilyn Munroe
- Hazel Bennett Prize for Best Grade in a Level I Management Course – Nadina Shorter
- Fay Durrant Award for Best Grade in LIBS3901 – Access to Information in the Caribbean – Krystelle Scott
- Stephney Ferguson Award for Best Grade in LIBS6901 – Trends & Issues in Library and Information work – Quemar Rhoden

In addition to the awarding of departmental prizes, recognition was given to Nadina Shorter, second year student; and Nicoleen Saunders-Grant, final year student, who were both listed on the Dean's Honour Roll for academic excellence. Nicoleen Saunders-Grant was also featured on the UWI Calendar for 2015/2016. Undergraduate students, Akime Reid and Moya Staple were also chosen from the Department for the CARICOM-paid summer internship programme which was undertaken in the summer 2016 at the CARICOM Secretariat Office of Trade Negotiation (OTN) on the UWI, Mona Campus.

#### **UWI Library and Information Student Society (UWILISS)**

The activities of the UWILISS began in Semester I with election of the new Executive team assisted by the society's faculty advisor, Dr. Sasekea Harris. The Executive went on to plan and execute three successful meetings surrounding the theme of Career Pride; as well as two fundraising events in the form of showing movies. The society was severely affected by poor attendance in Semester II and after three consecutive failed meetings they were discontinued. However, members from all three year groups volunteered to participate in a cultural piece to represent the department at the annual Lunch Hour Concert put on by the Humanities Faculty at Research Day 2016.

#### **DLIS Needy Students Fund**

A donation of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) was made to the Department of Library & Information Studies by the Retired Members of the Library & Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) as a contribution to the Needy Students Fund, which was started in 2012.

#### **INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

##### **UNESCO and NORDICOM**

The Department, UNESCO and Nordic Information Centre for Media

and Communication Research (NORDICOM) are still in the process of conducting a feasibility study to determine:

1. The need and relevance for an international Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Institute;
2. How professionals/universities can get involved in a MIL Institute;
3. What should be an optimal and sustainable structure for an international MIL Institute?
4. The format and type of courses to be delivered at the MIL institutions/organizations.

### **VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT**

The Department once again welcomed Dr. Kelvin White from the University of Oklahoma. Dr. White was the presenter for the Ken Ingram Memorial lecture. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of Dr. White serving in the Department as a Visiting Lecturer. In addition, the discussion included possible student exchange for students pursuing the Masters in Archives and Records Management Programme.