

**INSTITUTE FOR GENDER AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
REGIONAL COORDINATING UNIT**

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DipEd, PhD UWI – Head of Unit**

WORK OF THE INSTITUTE

For the period under review the Regional Coordinating Unit of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies continued to fulfil its mandate of Teaching, Research and Outreach within the University community as well as to the wider local, regional and international communities. Professor Barbara Bailey maintained overall academic and administrative leadership of the Unit, and continued to supervise and guide the



interdisciplinary teaching, research and outreach agendas. She was administratively supported by Mrs. Shakira Maxwell, as Administrative Officer, and Mrs. Florence Pearson as Secretary. Ms. Suzanne Charles, Junior Research Fellow continued to manage and coordinate all outstanding work in relation to the project, *Gender Differentials at the Secondary and Tertiary levels of the Education Systems of the Anglophone Caribbean* and provided technical and research assistance with other research projects in the Unit.

Dr. Dalea Bean - who joined the Unit in October 2008 - was appointed to the post of Assistant Lecturer effective August 2009, with primary responsibility for the management of the online Diploma Programme.

Following the advertisement of the post of Lecturer, the unit welcomed Ms. Taitu Heron on November 09, 2009. Ms. Heron was previously the Manager for the Social Development and Gender Unit at the Planning Institute of Jamaica. She is now primarily responsible for the coordinating

of the MSc programme in Gender and Development and also contributes to the teaching of courses in the graduate programme.

In preparation for her demission of office at the end of July 2010, Professor Bailey provided the necessary assistance to the Office of Administration in relation to the selection of her replacement. Following the responses to the advertisement of the position, a selection was done and Professor Verene Shepherd was selected and is slated to take up office on August 1, 2010.

Teaching

During the 2009/2010 academic year the RCU began to initiate several changes to its teaching programmes.

Undergraduate

Teaching continued in the Diploma Programme, with a total of 8 students registered for the 2009/2010 academic year. Challenges however continued to present themselves since the movement of the administration of the Diploma Programme to the Open Campus, many of these relating to the registration process. As reported last year, the Unit has been in communication with the Open Campus to establish a Memorandum of Understanding which would seek to regulate and govern the roles and functions of the IGDS and OC in relation to the Programme. The MOU would cover issues including ownership of the programme and students, revenue sharing and terms to govern the termination of the programme. Initial talks began in November 2009 and it is anticipated that the MOU will be completed and signed by December 2010.

Despite the challenges being experienced however, it is noteworthy that eight students from Cluster Six satisfied all the requirements and were awarded their Diplomas in November 2009.

Graduate

Teaching also continued in the graduate programmes with five offers being made to students for the 2009/2010 academic year. Three students

from the Cluster Twelve cohort also satisfied the requirements of the Programme and were awarded their degrees in the University's 2009 exercises.

From November 02 – December 06, 2009 Ms. Ramano Biholar, from the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM) of the Law Faculty of Utrecht University in the Netherlands was attached to the RCU as a visiting scholar. Ms. Biholar's research (under the supervision of Professor Cess Flinterman [Utrecht Faculty of Law and a member of the CEDAW Committee] and Professor Rikki Holtmaat [Leiden Faculty of Law]) explored the issue of the implementation of State obligations under Article 5 of the CEDAW Convention in Jamaica.

Based on recommendations made by the Board of Undergraduate Studies review exercise, as well as the Vice Chancellor's request for Departments to engage in a curriculum review process, a revised graduate programme was submitted in May 2010 to the Mona Campus Committee for Graduate Studies and Research for implementation in the upcoming 2010/2011 academic year. The goals of the revised graduate programmes are multi-faced and seek to improve the quality of gender-based analysis in development processes in the public, private and NGOs sectors by equipping the core of graduates with these competencies.

The revised programme is to be offered at four levels – A Post Graduate Diploma, an MSc and MPhil and PhD degrees. The new component in the proposed graduate offerings will be the Postgraduate Diploma which as in the case of St Augustine, will articulate with the existing and now revised MSc in Gender and Development Studies. It is anticipated that the introduction of the Postgraduate Diploma on the Mona Campus should allow for the possibility of the transfer of students from one campus to the other. Another significant addition is the inclusion of an internship programme as an alternative requirement to the research project associated with the MSc programme. It is also being projected that in the near future the core qualifying courses in the MPhil/PhD programme will be made available to students online, thus expanding the reach of the programme across the region.

Research

The Regional Coordinating Unit also continued to participate in regional research which impacts on policy making throughout the Caribbean. During the year under review, one of the key examples of this was the conclusion of *The Gender Differentials at the Secondary and Tertiary Levels of the Educational System in the Anglophone Caribbean Project*. This research initiative culminated in a two-day regional workshop on April 26 & 27, 2010 hosted jointly by the Caribbean Development Bank and the Regional Coordinating Unit. Convened at the Accra Beach Hotel in Christchurch, Barbados, the meeting was attended by over seventy education professionals and policy makers, representing fourteen CARICOM countries. A wide cross-section of regional and international agencies were also represented, including UNICEF, UNIFEM, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The workshop ended with recommendations towards the creation of a Draft Education Policy, which considered the micro as well as the broader structural issues which contribute to gender imbalances in the education systems of CARICOM states. It is anticipated that upon completion, the policy will be presented for regional adoption to the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) of the CARICOM Secretariat, thereby fulfilling the original mandate of the research.

The Unit is also presently one of the departments on the UWI campus engaged in a project with the University of Oxford and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre entitled *The CARIBSAVE Partnership: Protecting and enhancing the livelihoods, environments and economies of the Caribbean Basin*. The project seeks to address the impacts and challenges surrounding climate change, tourism, the environment, economic development and community livelihood across the Caribbean Basin, using an integrated and holistic approach. Other partners in the project include, The University of Waterloo, The World Wildlife Fund, the Caribbean Tourism Organization, the International Institute of Environment and Development, the Caribbean Natural Research Institute, Conservation International and Rainforest Alliance.

As part of its mandate to continue to build strong working relationships in research with other Universities, the board of CARIBSAVE have indicated a willingness to fund a research fellow for two years at the Institute who would be responsible to implement some of the elements of research which the project seeks to investigate. The Unit is at present engaged in discussions to finalize this collaboration.

In collaboration with the CARIBSAVE Partnership, the Institute also hosted the first meeting of a Working Group on Livelihoods, Gender, Poverty and Development (LGPD) at the Mona Visitors Lodge and Conference Centre, on the UWI Mona Campus.

The meeting was designed to bring members of the working group together, as well as apprise the Group of its mandate, which includes:

- Refining the Research Protocol of the CARIBSAVE Partnership for gathering, collating and analysing information on the impacts of climate change on communities in the 15 countries identified as part of the study.
- Monitoring the implementation of the research.
- Providing technical assistance in the analysis of findings.

Another significant research project in which the Institute was involved during the year under review was the *Jamaica PRIDE* (Promoting Rural Integrated Development and Enterprise: Participatory Business Model for Organic Agro-Tourism) project which formed part of the international programme of the Applied Research Group in Sustainable Agriculture and Food, located at Coventry University. The project was funded by a grant from the EU Banana Support Programme and sought to address the problem of declining income from banana production in rural communities of Jamaica and to alleviate the burdens of increased economic hardship, particularly for women, in an attempt to create sustainable livelihoods.

The main beneficiary of the Jamaica PRIDE Project, was the Mango Valley Visionaries Friendly Society (MVVFS), a registered Rural Community Cooperative located in St Mary one of the poorest parishes in Jamaica. Four additional beneficiaries, in surrounding communities, were

also assessed. Results from the Assessment indicated that the PRIDE Project enjoyed success with regard to the generation of community income and an increase in sustainable livelihoods for rural communities, particularly for women in these communities, many of whom were responsible for the main activities within their respective communities. The findings from this project are to be further discussed within the realms of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Further to the Institute offering technical assistance in the completion of an Indicator Template for the Mid Term Review (MTR) of the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005-2015 (PoA), Professor Bailey and Miss Charles attended the Global Report Writers Workshops, from January 08 - 11, 2010 in Accra, Ghana and from April 07 – 11, 2010 held at the Commonwealth Secretariat, London. The workshops were geared towards the preparation of the final report of the Mid-Term Review, presented at the 9th Commonwealth Women’s Affairs Ministers Meeting (9WAMM), held in Barbados from June 7 to 9 2010.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Barbara Bailey** “Reproductive Health, Rights and Gender in the Caribbean: Gender and the ICPD”, Caribbean Subregional conference to assess the implementation of action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 15 years after its adoption. St. John’s, Antigua. August 20-21, 2009.
- **Barbara Bailey** and **Suzanne Charles** “Caribbean Boys’ Education: Problems. Prognosis and Possibilities at the Boy Problem” Conference hosted by the Netherlands Antilles National Commission for UNESCO, Willemstad Curacao, November 27, 2009.
- **Barbara Bailey** “Gender Differentials in Caribbean Education Systems: Understanding the Issues”. Accra Beach Hotel, Christ Church, Barbados. April 26-27, 2010.
- **Barbara Bailey**. Report of Mid-term Review of the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2000-2015.

9th Meeting of Commonwealth Ministers in charge of Women's Affairs (9WAMM), June 7 and 9, 2010. Bridgetown, Barbados (with Dr. Afia Zakyia).

- **Barbara Bailey** “Economic Autonomy and Gender Equality: Challenges for Public Policy in the Caribbean” What Kind of State? What Kind of Equality? 11th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Brasilia, Brazil. July 13-16, 2010.
- **Dalea Bean** “This is an Empire War!” Contextualizing issues of Britishness, gender and Jamaican loyalty during World Wars I and II. Identity and the ‘Other British Isles’ University of Huddersfield, UK, June 23-25, 2010.
- **Dalea Bean** “For our King, For our Country, For Ourselves’: Jamaican Women’s Narratives of Participation in World War II. Society for Caribbean Studies Conference, University of Southampton, UK, July 7-9, 2010.
- **Shakira Maxwell** “Events Management and Planning” Rex Nettleford Hall’s Second Year Experience: Leaders in Training programme on Tuesday, March 9, 2010.
- **Shakira Maxwell** “Fighting a Losing Battle?” Defending Women’s Reproductive Rights in Jamaica” 35th Annual Conference of the Caribbean Studies Association, Spice Town, Barbados, May 24-28, 2010.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Article

- * **Barbara Bailey** “Feminisation of Poverty Across PAN-African Societies: The Church’s Response – Alleviative or Emancipatory?” in Religion and Poverty: Pan African Perspectives. ed. By Peter Paris. Durham, North Carolina. Duke University Press. 2009, 39-68.

Non-Referred Articles

- * **Barbara Bailey** and **Taitu Heron**. Gender in National Development Planning. *Gender in National Development*. Vol.10 No. 2:3-6.
- * **Barbara Bailey** “Gender and political-economy in Caribbean Education Systems: An Agenda for inclusion,” *Commonwealth Education Partnerships 2009/10*, 102-105.

Non-Referred Journal Articles

- * **Taitu Heron**, Lana Finikin and Danielle Toppin “Sistren in Parliament: Addressing Abortion and Women’s Rights Through Popular Theatre” *MaComère, Journal of the Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars*, 5, (December 2009): 45-60.

Technical Reports

- * **Barbara Bailey**. Draft Final Report: Mid-Term Review of the implementation of the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2000-2015. Prepared by Professor Barbara Bailey and Dr. Afia Zakiya in consultation with the Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, London. 208 pages
- * **Shakira Maxwell** and Carol Narcisse UNIFEM Country Strategy for Jamaica 2010 to 2013, May 2010, pp. 1-33

Income Generation

Caribbean Development Bank

Gender Differentials at the Secondary and Tertiary Levels of the Educational System in the Anglophone Caribbean **(US\$200,000)**
(April 2003 – April 2010)

Coventry University

Jamaica PRIDE Project **(US\$3,500)**

PUBLIC SERVICE

Barbara Bailey

- Chairman, Board of Management, St. Andrew High School
- Member, Advisory Board, CARIBSAVE Climate Change and Risk Management Project
- Jamaica's Representative, Committee for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Taitu Heron

- Member/Regional Coordinator, Development Alternatives of Women for a New Era (DAWN) Caribbean Chapter.
- Member, Violence Prevention Alliance
- Member, Research & Data Management Committee, Early Childhood Commission

Shakira Maxwell

- Member, Development Alternatives of Women for a New era (DAWN) Caribbean Chapter.
- Member, Gender Policy Committee, Ministry of Education