

INSTITUTE FOR GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES – REGIONAL CO-ORDINATING UNIT

**Professor Verene Shepherd – Regional Coordinator &
University Director**

WORK OF THE UNIT

For the period under review the Regional Coordinating Unit of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, under its new Director, Prof. Verene Shepherd, 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 Shepherd was administratively supported by Mrs. Shakira Maxwell, as Administrative Officer, and Ms Orena



Hinds as Secretary (acting). Ms. Suzanne Charles, Junior Research Fellow continued to manage and coordinate all work in relation to the partnership between the Institute for Gender and Development Studies and CARIBSAVE as well as assisted with the wider research agenda of the Institute.

Dr. Dalea Bean continued to successfully manage her portfolio which included primary responsibility for the administration of the online Diploma Programme as well as teaching in the undergraduate programme run by the Mona Unit of the IGDS.

Ms. Taitu Heron continued her role as MSc Coordinator for the Gender and Development Studies Graduate Programme.

Dr. Dhanaraj Thakur, who joined the IGDS on February 1, 2011 as acting Junior Research Fellow (while Ms. Charles functioned as the focal point

person for Caribsave), assisted with the coordination of several research projects. He demitted office on July 31, 2011.

Teaching

During the 2010/2011 academic year the Unit implemented several changes to its teaching programmes.

Undergraduate

Teaching continued in the Diploma Programme, with a total of six students registered for the 2010/2011 academic year. The IGDS is in the process of discussing the future of this Programme and might replace it with an Online MSc Programme.

Graduate

Teaching also continued in the graduate programmes with fourteen offers being made to students for the 2010/2011 academic year. Four students from the Cluster Thirteen cohort also satisfied the requirements of the Programme and were awarded their degrees in the University's 2010 graduation exercises.

Based on recommendations made by the Board of Undergraduate Studies as well as the Vice Chancellor's request for Departments to engage in a curriculum review process, a revised graduate programme was implemented in the 2010/2011 academic year. The goals of the revised graduate programmes were multifaceted and sought 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 was offered at four levels – A Post Graduate Diploma, an MSc and MPhil and PhD degrees. The new component in the proposed graduate offerings was the Postgraduate Diploma which as in the case of St Augustine, articulated the existing and now revised MSc in Gender and Development Studies. The introduction of the Postgraduate Diploma on the Mona Campus has allowed for the possibility of the transfer of students from one campus to the other. 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 projects which have significant impact on policy-making throughout the Caribbean. During the year under review the Unit engaged in several research projects as follows:

CARIBSAVE: The Unit is one of the departments of the UWI 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, CARIBSAVE has provided funds for a Research Fellow for two years at the Institute. The primary responsibility of the Research Fellow is implementing some of the elements of research which the project seeks to investigate. Research has been conducted in Jamaica, Belize, the Bahamas, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Lucia as part of the Livelihoods, Gender, Poverty and Development component of the development of the Critical Risk Atlas. The project has also completed community interventions in seven countries with the remaining slated to be completed by the end of the 2011 calendar year.

UNWOMEN/UNIFEM: The Unit finalized a contract with UNIFEM (now UNWOMEN) in relation to an institutional partnership between the IGDS and the Université Quisqueya in Haiti. The partnership involves the

development and implementation of a certificate or diploma programme aimed at building gender analytical and planning skills for university students, civil society organisations and governmental personnel. The key outputs of this partnership will include the development of skills in academic programme formulation and the design of new curricula and pedagogical approaches in the field of gender and development. The project began in February 2011 and representatives of all units of the IGDS, led by Professor Shepherd travelled to Haiti in May 2011 to have the first planning meeting of the curriculum development team.

OXFAM PROJECT: The Unit joined a partnership with OXFAM on a project entitled “By the Sweat of Our Brows: Creating Gender Justice through Women’s Economic Leadership among Rural Jamaican Women”. The project aims to support the economic leadership of rural women farmers in Jamaica.

SEPHIS/IGDS PROJECT: The Unit is organising a conference on Gender and Climate Change to be held in November 2011. The conference is being funded by the South-South Exchange programme for Research on the History of Development (SEPHIS) and will include participants from several Latin American, Asian and Caribbean countries. The conference aims to discuss the gendered domains within the dialogues concerning climate change and natural disasters in the global south.

THE UNFPA TEXTBOOK REVIEW PROJECT: The Unit finalised a contract with UNFPA to conduct a Caribbean Textbook Review. The project will review the main texts used in schools to prepare students for the CAPE and CSEC Examinations in order to identify the major gaps with respect to gender issues. The review has suggested appropriate remedies to teachers and Teachers’ Organizations, CXC officials, parents and policy-makers in the region’s Ministries of Education. In addition, publishers and authors will benefit from the review. The pilot project will be a review of History texts only.

MOREHOUSE/IGDS MALES AT COLLEGE PROJECT: The IGDS is in the process of finalizing plans with Morehouse College in Atlanta on a Project that will seek to understand the gender ratios at universities in the USA, Africa and the Caribbean.

OUTREACH:

The Institute hosted several public events over the period August 2010-July 2011, viz:

Breakfast Fora

Inaugural Breakfast Forum

In collaboration with the Jamaica Chapter of the International Women's Forum the RCU hosted its inaugural breakfast forum on October 26, 2010 at the Knutsford Court Hotel. Professor Nanna S. Opoku-Agyemang was the special guest speaker and spoke on her life and work.

Gender and the Media

The second RCU breakfast forum was held on December 7 on the topic "Gender and the Media". Ms Jenny Campbell, President of the Press Association of Jamaica was the special guest speaker.

Gender and Human Rights

The Unit held its Third Breakfast Forum on March 15 at the Mona Visitor's Lodge and Conference Centre. The forum focussed on issues in relation to Gender and Human Rights and was broadcasted live on News Talk 93 FM. Ms. Taitu Heron delivered a presentation entitled, "What is the Value of Black Life?: Thoughts on a Framework for Gender and Human Rights in Jamaica." Other presenters were Dr. Carolyn Gomes and Lord Anthony Gifford.

Public Lectures/Fora

Public Lecture by the Vice-Chancellor, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

On October 25, 2010, the Institute in collaboration with the Office of the Principal hosted Professor Naana J. Opoku-Agyemang, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana and the first female to be appointed Vice Chancellor of a State University in Africa, at a public lecture at the Rex Nettleford Hall. Professor Opoku-Agyemang came to the island after having received an Honorary Degree at the graduation

ceremonies on the Cave Hill campus on October 23, 2010. Her lecture entitled, “Women and Leadership” was attended by persons including Senator the Hon. Dwight Nelson, Mr. C. William Iton, University Registrar, and Mr. Archibald Campbell, University Bursar.

National Chairperson of the African National Congress and former Secretary General of the ANC Women’s League

On November 29, 2010 the RCU in collaboration with the South African High Commission hosted Comrade Baleka Mbete, the National Chairperson of the African National Congress and former Secretary General of the ANC Women’s League. The event was successfully attended by both University and high school students as well as several lecturers and persons from the wider society.

Coral Gardens 1963: A Legal Analysis and Implications for the Jamaican Justice System

The RCU successfully hosted a public lecture entitled “Coral Gardens 1963: A Legal Analysis and Implications for the Jamaican Justice System” which was delivered by Mr Hugh Small Q.C. on April 21, 2011. Mr. Small’s lecture recounted aspects of the 1963 Coral Gardens incident and events leading up to it. He related how these events impacted subsequently on developments in the justice system. Also sharing on this occasion were members of the Rastafarian Community who survived the tragedy.

Voicing West Kingston

The IGDS in collaboration with the Jamaica Civil Society, Jamaicans for Justice, Sistren Theatre Collective, and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung with support from the European Union presented a public forum entitled “Voicing West Kingston: One Year Later” on May 31, 2011. The forum allowed for discussion of the historical and socio-political significance of what happened in Tivoli and the surrounding areas of West Kingston in May 2010.

Workshops/Seminars

The RCU in association with the Mona Association of Post-Graduate Students, (M.A.P.S) hosted three post graduate workshops during the period April 4-7, 2011. The topics presented included:

- Research Methods Using a Gendered Analysis,
- Gender Analysis in ICT: Doing Gender Online
- Using Sex in your Dissertation

Visit to the Vineyard Town Senior Citizens' Home

On July 22, 2011 the Unit extended its outreach activities to the Vineyard Town Golden Age Home, which houses elderly and disabled indigents, by providing donations as well as visiting the residents.

Academic Activity: Staff Members

In addition to carrying out their teaching and administrative responsibilities, members of staff found time to attend various academic fora at which they made presentations. A sample is highlighted below:

PAPERS PRESENTED

Dr. Dalea Bean

- ‘Doing their little bit’: Jamaican Women’s Non-military Work in World Wars I and II”, “Beyond the Battlefield: The Labour of Military Service in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Duke University, April 1-2, 2011.
- “Teaching men feminism by Distance Education: Perspectives, Challenges and the Way Forward.” The Future of Education Conference, Florence Italy, June 16-17, 2011.
- (With Andrew Spencer): “I like my job (sometimes): Differences in perceptions of male and female line level employees about their work in the hospitality industry in Jamaica”. IJAS Conference, Provence, France June 7-10, 2011.

Ms. Suzanne Charles

- Vulnerabilities and Adaptation: Gender and Climate Change: A Jamaican Case Study, The Ramphal Commission's Symposium on Migration and Development in Kingston, Jamaica. February 24, 2011.

Ms. Taitu Heron

- "Globalisation, Neoliberal Ethics and the Black Body" Conference on Caribbean Globalizations: Histories, Cultures and Genres, 1493 to the Present, Oriel College, University of Oxford, UK, September 27-29, 2010
- "Just who are those People: Gender in the 'West' and Reclaiming an African Spirituality", Perspectives on African Spirituality, UWI Mona, February 27, 2011
- "Governance, Ideology and Women's Citizenship: Lessons from the Abortion Debate in Jamaica, 1970-2010", Caribbean Studies Association Conference, May 30 – June 4, 2011, 12pp.
- (with Sistren Theatre Collective) "His Story, Her Story, Our Stories: the Impact of the West Kingston Incursion on Everyday life in West Kingston. May 31, 2011, Wyndham, Kingston.

Mrs. Shakira Maxwell

- All I'm Asking for is a Little Respect: "Case Study Experiences of Administrators in a University Institutional Environment", Association of Caribbean Higher Education Administrators Conference July 7-9, 2011 UWI, Cave Hill Campus.
- (with Jennifer Wynter-Palmer and Arlene Supersad) "United We Stand, Divided We Fall: An Exploratory Study of the Nature of the Relationship Between Academics and Administrators in a Higher Education Institution" Association of Caribbean Higher Education Administrators Conference July 7-9, 2011 UWI, Cave Hill Campus.

Professor Verene Shepherd

- “We’ve Been Trodding on the Winepress Much Too Long”: Women and Resistance in the Caribbean.” Academic Conference of the 3rd Arts Festival, Dakar, Senegal, December 2010.
- “The University of the West Indies and its Slavery Past” , Emory University Conference on Slavery and the University, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, February 3-6, 2011.
- “From Accompong to the Zong: The A-Z of Jamaican Heritage”, Moneaque Teacher’s College, February 17, 2011.
- “We’ve Been Trodding on the Wine Press Much Too Long”: Women and Activism in the Post-Colonial Caribbean.” The Edna Manley Memorial Lecture, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, March 3, 2011.
- “Women of African Descent in the Commonwealth Caribbean.” CERD one-day seminar in honour of the International Year for People of African Descent, Geneva, Switzerland, March 7, 2011.
- “Monuments, Memorialization and Decolonization.” Conference on “Equity, Justice, Development”, Cartagena, Colombia, March 19-24, 2011.
- “Obstacles to the Creation of Afrocentric Societies in the Commonwealth Caribbean”. Tenth Session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, Geneva, Switzerland, March 28 – April 1, 2011.
- “No More Body Bags”: Interrupting Jamaica’s Terror History, Public Forum, “Voicing West Kingston”, May 31, 2011, Wyndham, Kingston.
- “Teach the Children the Truth: Challenging Gender-Based Myths in History Education in Jamaica”, JTA Research Workshop on “Every Learner”, July 14, 2011.
- “Best of your pasts for your future”, Jose’ Marti Past Students’ Association Reunion Launch, July 30, 2011.

- “The International Year for People of African Descent and Emancipation 2011”, Spanish Town Vigil, July 31, 2011.

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

- * **Verene Shepherd, (ed)**, Engendering Caribbean History: Cross-Cultural Perspectives. Kingston: Ian Randle Publishers, 2011

Refereed Articles & Book Chapters:

- * **Dalea Bean**, ‘For our King, For our Country, For Ourselves’: Jamaican Women’s Narratives of Participation in World War II. Verene Shepherd, ed., Engendering Caribbean History: Cross-Cultural Perspectives pp. 766-777. Kingston: Ian Randle Publishers, 2011. pp. 766-777.
- * **Dalea Bean**, ‘Born to Serve: The Political Life of Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller’. Cynthia Barrow-Giles ed., Women in Caribbean Politics. Kingston: Ian Randle Publishers, 2011. .pp 162-172.
- * **Shakira Maxwell**, “Breaking the Barriers: A Brief Examination of Olivia ‘Babsy’ Grange” by Cynthis Barrow-Giles (ed) in “Women in Caribbean Politic”, Barbados: Ian Randle Publishers, 2011. pp 120-127.
- * **Verene Shepherd**, “Marcus Garvey and the Education of People of African Descent in A Post- Colonial Society”, 76 King Street, Vol. 2 - *The Journal of Liberty Hall: The Legacy of Marcus Garvey*.

Non-Referred Articles

- * **Susan Charles**, Gender differentials in Caribbean education systems. In Commonwealth Education Partnerships (with Barbara Bailey) 2010/11. London: The Commonwealth Secretariat. (December 2010).

- * **Verene Shepherd**, “Unorthodox Lecturer”, BIM: Arts for the 21st Century, Volume 4 No.1 November 2010-March 2011,

INCOME GENERATION

The ICODS raised the following sums during the Academic Year 2010/2011.

FROM SEPHIS

USD\$28,200 to host A Conference on “Gender, Climate Change and Natural Disasters in the Global South: Development Threats in the 21st Century.”

FROM OXFAM

USD\$12,000 to conduct a project entitled “By the Sweat of Our Brows: Creating Gender Justice through Women’s Economic Leadership among Rural Jamaican Women.”

FROM UNFPA

USD\$10,000 to conduct a review of the main texts used in schools to prepare students for the CAPE and CSEC History Examinations in order to identify the major gaps with respect to gender issues.

FROM UNWOMEN/UNIFEM:

US\$50,000.00 to establish a module on gender at Universite Quisqueya in Haiti.

The RCU also received JAD\$3M from **Caribsave** to continue year 2 of the joint project.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Taitu Heron

- Board Member, Volunteer Workshop Facilitator, Women’s Media Watch Jamaica
- Member, Regional Coordinator, Development Alternatives of Women for a New era (DAWN) Caribbean Chapter.
- Member, Research & Data Management Committee, Early Childhood Commission
- Member, b l a c k s p a c e Collective
- Member, Violence Prevention Alliance

Shakira Maxwell

- Member, Gender Policy Committee, Ministry of Education.
- Research Associate, Centre for Leadership and Governance, UWI, Mona.
- Member, Development Alternatives with Women For a New Era (DAWN) Caribbean. Kingston,

Verene Shepherd

- Steering Committee Member, South-South Exchange Programme for Research on the History of Development
- Board Member, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)
- Member, United Nation’s Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGPAD)
- Member, Advisory Board, Registrar General’s Department
- Member, Jamaica Chapter, International Women’s Forum
- Currently serving on the Editorial Committee/Advisory Boards of the following academic journals: *the Arts Journal*, *Jamaica Journal*, *Slavery and Abolition*, *Small Axe*, *Social and Economic Studies*, *Atlantic Studies*, *Journal of Caribbean History*, *International Journal of African Renaissance Studies*
- Host, “Talking History”, Nationwide 90 FM