

# INSTITUTE FOR GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES REGIONAL COORDINATING 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, continued its work in the areas of Teaching and Learning, Graduate Student Development, Research and Innovation and Outreach and Public Service. The University Director, Prof. Verene Shepherd, continued to lead the Team of Mrs. Shakira Maxwell (Administrative Officer), Ms Orena Hinds



(acting, secretary, July – December 2011), Ms. Andrea Allen (who joined the Unit in January 2012, lecturers Dr. Dalea Bean (who also manages the online Diploma Programme) and Ms. Taitu Heron (MSc Coordinator); as well as Junior Research Fellow Mrs. Suzanne Charles Watson (who returned from secondment to the CARIBSAVE project on August 1, 2011 and continues to manage and coordinate all major research projects).

While Mrs Charles Watson was anchoring the Caribsava Project, Mr. Adrian Gooden assumed duties as Acting Junior Research Fellow. During his tenure he assisted with the planning and implementation of several outreach activities for the Institute. Ms. Karen Small joined the Unit as Junior Research Fellow with responsibility for the CARIBSAVE project in the second year of the project (2012/13).

Mrs. Margaret Hunter, Office Attendant who is shared with the Mona Unit of the IGDS, continues to play a vital role in the IGDS assisting in the coordinating and execution of several of the Unit's outreach activities in addition to carrying out her core duties.

## **New Developments**

The IGDS will undergo a Quality Assurance Review during the 2012/2013 AY and preparations for this review began during the period under review.

After years of ongoing requests for space, the Regional Coordinating Unit was advised in April 2012 that space had been made available for the Unit in the new Regional Headquarters of the offices of the Vice Chancellery. It is anticipated that the Unit will be relocated before the end of the calendar year.

## **Regional Activities**

The annual Regional Planning and Strategy Committee meeting of the IGDS was held from June 11-12 at the Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. In addition to discussing operational, research and outreach activities in the Institute the meeting also made tentative plans for its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2013, discussed structural issues affecting the IGDS with PVC for Research, Prof. Wayne Hunte and finalized critical SCOR documents.

## **Teaching**

### **Undergraduate**

Eight new students were admitted into the Diploma programme with 4 students graduating in the 2011 exercises.

The RCU is now proposing to implement a post-graduate diploma programme by distance to replace the existing undergraduate diploma in Gender and Development studies currently being offered via the OC. While candidates who have done the UG Diploma have consistently lauded the delivery, content and tutors associated with the programme, it has been facing low registration numbers for the past few years, while many persons indicate interest in post graduate certification. The Unit is currently working with the OC to get a post-graduate diploma online by 2013/2014.

## **Graduate**

Dr. Lloyd Waller, Ms. Taitu Heron, Dr. Beverly Shirley, Prof. Verene Shepherd, Dr. Dalea Bean and Dr. Imani Tafari-Ama continued to anchor the teaching in the graduate programme.

The Unit welcomed new graduate students for the academic year 2011/2012 at its Graduate Student reception on September 2, 2011. Graduate teaching also continued throughout the period under review with four courses being taught in semester one and five in semester two. One elective had to be dropped due to low registration, and will instead be offered in the AY 2012/2013.

There were 29 registered students for the MSc programme, with 5 being full-time, and 2 students externally funded.

## **Interns**

The first set of interns under the revised graduate programme successfully completed their stints at the Dispute Resolution Foundation, Sistren Theatre Collective, the Child Development Agency, the Planning Institute of Jamaica and the National HIV/STI programme.

## **MSc Research Seminars**

Two graduate research seminars for MSc students were held in October 2011 and May 2012. The seminars provided an opportunity for students working on research papers to present and receive feedback from the IGDS and wider University community.

## **MPhil/PhD Seminars**

Two upgrade seminars for MPhil candidate in Gender and Development Studies were held. Keino Senior was successful but Yvonne Blagrove-Smith was not. She is expected to work with her supervisor to submit her thesis at the level of MPhil.

MPhil candidate Jacqueline Hall also made a presentation on her thesis topic – “Women in Political Representation: A Critical Analysis of Their

Contribution to the Substantive Representation of Women in Jamaica” on April 5, 2012.

Thirteen students, at different stages of completion, were supervised during the period with one submitting her thesis for examination.

## **RESEARCH**

The Regional Coordinating Unit continued to participate in regional research which impacts on policy making throughout the Caribbean. Among them are:

### **CARIBSAVE PROJECT**

The first draft of a gender analysis of national policies and plans related to fisheries, tourism, environmental management, marine protected areas, housing, disaster management, building codes and land use for the CARIBSAVE project was submitted by Mrs. Charles Watson during the year.

As the focal point person for the project, Ms. Small is now working on three projects for CARIBSAVE, namely:

- a. The Climate Change, Coastal Community Enterprises – Adaptation, Resilience and Knowledge (CCCCE-ARK) Project – A 30 month project funded by the IADB to be implemented in 2 communities in 4 Caribbean countries – Bahamas, Barbados, Belize and Jamaica;
- b. The 5 year Partnership for Canada-Caribbean Community Climate Change Adaptation (ParCa) project – a partnership with the University of Waterloo funded by the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to conduct community-based vulnerability assessments (Tobago & Jamaica);
- c. The C-Fish Initiative – a strategy to build resilience to climate change and improve the sustainability of livelihoods in coastal communities to be piloted in Jamaica & the Bahamas.

During the period under review the following were undertaken:

- A desk review of national policies and plans for Jamaica to evaluate for gender considerations, which included a literature review and recommendations for enhancement of policies to include gender considerations.
- Travel to Tobago (May 4-10, 2012), to investigate capacity building relating to livelihood activities in coastal communities, as part of the 5 year ParCa project.
- Community profiles for three (3) project sites (Port Antonio, Portland; Bluefields, Westmoreland (Jamaica); Hopkins Village, Belize; Andros Island, Bahamas) as part of CCCCE-ARK Project.
- Development of a database for Survey Instrument to instruct data entry clerks on how to fill in the database and coding – also as part of the CCCCE-ARK Project.

## **IADB**

The Unit was successful in its bid for a project entitled, “Adolescent Dislocation in Jamaica: Causes and Costs of Dislocation at the Secondary Level”. Funded by the IADB, the objectives of this research will be to employ a robust multivariate research framework and research design within which to comprehensively analyse the structural factors that affect access and achievement for males and females at the secondary level in Jamaica. The research will also be aimed at identifying the socio-economic cost to national development of school dislocation at the secondary level.

During the period the Unit submitted initial deliverables to the bank and received generally favourable feedback on both the Position Paper, which contextualises the entire project and the Survey Instruments, which will be used in the completion of data collection.

The project consists of a team headed by Professor Shepherd with Mrs. Charles Watson, Dr. D. Thakur (Department of Government) and Professor C. Kirton (Department of Economics). Final submissions are expected by mid December 2012, with dissemination of findings scheduled for January 2013.

## **OXFAM**

Work was also completed during the period under review on the joined partnership with OXFAM on the project entitled, "By the Sweat of Our Brows: Creating Gender Justice through Women's Economic Leadership among Rural Jamaican Women." Mrs. Charles Watson facilitated the final project meeting on September 29, 2011 which was designed to identify and address the barriers to women's leadership in agricultural markets. The meeting had Mrs. Linnette Vassell and Ms. Carole Rowe as the consultants and enjoyed support from:

- Jamaica Social Investment Fund
- Rural Agricultural Development Authority
- The Peoples' Cooperative Bank of Jamaica
- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
- The Bureau of Women's Affairs
- The National Insurance Scheme
- The Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers

## **SEPHIS**

Ms. Daniele Toppin assumed duties as Project Coordinator for the Technical Working Meeting of Experts on Gender and Climate Change funded by SEPHIS which took place from November 10-11, 2011. The meeting, which assembled a diverse group of climate change experts from across the South in an interactive workshop setting was attended by a multi-disciplinary group of participants coming from Guam, Suriname, Haiti, Grenada, Guyana, Barbados and Jamaica.

Officially opened by Professor Shepherd, the Workshop's keynote speaker was Dr. Paulette Bynoe, a Lecturer at the University of Guyana's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences and a Visiting Fellow to the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies, who set the context for the meeting with her presentation, which outlined the

connections between gender and climate change and offered a dynamic perspective on the relationship between hazards and natural disaster.

Meeting participants also engaged in a Learning Journey to Old Harbour Bay, which included a community meeting in which they were able to engage with members of the community to incorporate an experiential analysis of the gendered impacts of climate change. At the close of the meeting, participants were taken by a community representative throughout the area and learning opportunities were created by facilitating discussion between participants and various community members.

## **UNIFEM**

Work also continued on the institutional partnership between the IGDS and the Université Quisqueya in Haiti. The regional collaborative initiative was designed to:

- develop an appropriate training approach, to allow for the transfer of gender capacity between the IGDS and Université Quisqueya in the areas of academic programme formulation, curriculum content and pedagogical approaches in Gender and Development,
- contribute to the emergence of a new generation of gender advocates in Haiti and ensure that an increased number of women and men had a critical awareness of issues of gender and development, facility with completing gender analysis and gender mainstreaming.

In May 2011 representatives of all units of the IGDS, led by Professor Shepherd visited Haiti for the first planning meeting of the curriculum development team, at which they finalized the curriculum for the short courses being offered by the Université Quisqueya.

A three-day meeting over the period July 01 – 04, 2012 was then convened with members of the IGDS, UN Women Haiti and the Université Quisqueya to review and restructure the programme of training, in relation to:

- a. Learning objectives and curriculum content
- b. Teaching strategies
- c. Teaching and Resource programme staff
- d. Accessibility and student retention
- e. Accreditation and levels of certification

A regional IGDS team also visited Haiti over the period July 22 – 25, 2012 to audit the revised courses. The visit was further used to highlight the work of the various Units of the IGDS through interactive sessions with students of the Universite Quisqueya and to meet with key stakeholders in relation to issues of Gender and Development.

## **UNFPA**

The Unit continued its review of text books used by CXC/CSEC and CAPE History students, to examine the extent to which their content supports issues of gender and gender relations as raised by the various syllabi. During the period under review, the project funded by UNFPA was approached collaboratively, with involvement from the Caribbean Kunuku Collective based at the Department of History at the UWI, St. Augustine Campus; as well as colleagues at the Cave Hill Campus. It involved four researchers based at Mona and collated statistics across 31 books from reviewers also based in Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados.

The Final Project report was submitted to UNFPA and co-authored by Mrs. Charles Watson and Drs. Rita Pemberton and Janice Mayers of the Caribbean Kunuku Collective.

As part of the IGDS' commitment to disseminate knowledge to transform gender relations in the Caribbean, members of the Research team (Mrs. Charles Watson, Dr. Bean and Dr. Pemberton) participated in a discussion on Nationwide's "Talking History", hosted by Prof. Shepherd, on March 03, 2012 to discuss the results and implications of the study. Additionally, given the implications of the findings, a Regional Press Conference is now being planned with the UNFPA for October 2012.



## **OUTREACH:**

The Institute hosted several public events over the period August 2011 – July 2012. These included

### **Public Lectures/Fora**

#### **Public Lecture by the Vice-Chancellor, University of the West Indies,**

On November 3, 2011 in collaboration with the Faculty of Medical Sciences the IGDS hosted a public lecture by Sir George Alleyne, Chancellor of the University. The lecture entitled, “Health De-Gendered is Health Denied” marked the culmination of a series of lectures by the Chancellor on all three campuses hosted by the Units of the IGDS.

#### **Conversations on Independence: Through Women’s Eyes**

The RCU launched “Through Women’s Eyes: Conversations on Independence”, a series of conversations designed to create a space for the perspectives and experiences of women’s voices to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of political independence in the Commonwealth Caribbean. The Series is framed within the context of Vision 2030 of Jamaica and Vision 2020 of Trinidad and Tobago, and is part of the SALISES 50/50 Project, which provides a critical assessment of the fifty years of independence Caribbean nations from a retrospective and prospective viewpoint

The Series Launch, which was in collaboration with Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), UWI, Mona and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation of Jamaica (FES) was hosted on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at the Kuntsford Court Hotel and featured a panel discussion with Professor Verene Shepherd, Professor Brian Meeks, Director, SALISES, UWI, Mona, Professor Rosalea Hamilton of UTECH, Mrs. Judith Wedderburn of FES, Mr. Horace Levy of the Peace Management Initiative and Mrs. Linnette Vassell of the Women’s Resource and Outreach Centre.

The first Conversation was then held on February 29, 2012 at the Liberty Hall, in collaboration with the Mona Campus Unit (MCU), SALISES, FES, WROC and Liberty Hall-the legacy of Marcus Garvey under the theme Historical Perspectives and was entitled “Women and Citizenship in Jamaica”.

The second Conversation, which focused on issues of Youth inclusion and governance, took place on April 26, 2012 and was hosted by the Sam Sharpe Teachers’ College of Montego Bay held in collaboration with FES, the Western Mirror, and the MCU of the IGDS. The conversation, which featured Ms. Nadeen Spence from the University of the West Indies, was chaired by Mrs. Charles Watson with a discussion moderated by Mr. Miguel “Steppa” Williams of the National Centre for Youth Development and Mr. Orain Edwards, a Youth Advocate attached to the Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network. The event was Broadcast live by NewsTalk93FM.

### **Workshops/Seminars**

On December 8, 2011 the Unit presented a seminar by Dr. William Aiken, entitled, “Why do people of African descent in the Caribbean run so fast?: Explanations from Gender Analysis, History and Medicine?”. The seminar was attended by a cross section of personnel from the medical and sports fraternity and was aired on the Cable News and Sports channel.

The RCU organised two workshops for the Jamaica Fire Brigade Service on Gender Awareness in the workplace, on February 13 and February 27, 2012. Attendees included both administrative and service members of the Brigade. Both workshops were well received by all the participants with Ms. Taitu Heron and Mrs. Shakira Maxwell planning and facilitating the workshops on behalf of the Unit.

Professor Shepherd was asked by the Principal of the Mona Campus to co-chair (with Prof. Rupert Lewis) a planning committee to work with the South African High Commission to host events in Jamaica for the 100th anniversary of the African National Congress, twinned with Jamaica 50 and Garvey’s 125th . The launch of these activities took place on February 23 at the Mona Visitor’s Lodge and Conference Centre with the IGDS being a collaborator on the event.

On March 7, 2012 in celebration of International Women’s Day (observed on March 8), members of staff of the RCU and MU participated in an outreach activity to the Women’s Centre of Jamaica Foundation, where they donated books and other items. The Centre provides an opportunity for young teenage girls who become pregnant to continue their high school education and then return to the formal school setting after they have had their baby. Following an informal discussion with the girls, a special treat of pizza and drinks was also provided. The RCU also mounted a banner at the main gate of the Mona campus as a way of sensitizing the public about IWD.

In collaboration with The International Kreative Aktivism Network (IKAN), Jamaicans For Justice, The Office of the Children’s Registry (OCR), the Child Development Agency (CDA), the Jamaica Red Cross, Churches Co-operative Credit Union, The Leadership and Student Engagement Unit (UWI Mona) and Wynlee Distributors, the IGDS participated in the first annual Child’s Month creative forum entitled, “VERBALIZE to SENSITIZE: Heal Armadale, Heal the Future” on May 21 and May 22, 2012 at the Phillip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts. The forum provided an opportunity for persons to participate in discussion on child rights and issues of child abuse and included a private therapeutic session for the survivors of the fire that killed seven of 23 girls at the Armadale Correctional facility on May 22, 2009.

## **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**

- “Women of African Descent in the Commonwealth Caribbean: Past Struggles, Present Conditions and Future Aspirations”. First World Summit on Afro-descendants. La Ceiba, Honduras, August 18-21, 2011. (15pp)

- Workshop Co-facilitator: Mary Seacole Hall Violence Prevention workshop. Presentation: “No means NOthing? An introduction into the issue of violence against women” October 8, 2011. (6pp)
- (with) A. Spencer: “An application of the theory of Butler’s theory of Performativity to the study of creative industries: the case of entertainment coordinators in hotels.” UWI 2nd International Tourism Conference Tourism, Culture and the Creative Industries: Exploring the Linkages. Trinidad and Tobago, January 18-21, 2012 (12pp)
- “Give thanks and praises, we are still alive!” Jamaica at 50: Acknowledging the Past, Embracing the Future. Fifth Black History Month Lecture. Gardener’s View Baptist Church, Bull Bay, February 12, 2012. (7pp)
- “Looking back through gendered lenses: Answering historical questions on women and warfare” Panel Discussion on the work of the IGDS and the worth of gender analysis. Universite Quisqueya, July 24, 2012. (4pp)

### **Ms. Taitu Heron**

- “Just Who Were Those People: An Exploration of the Trauma of Slavery in the Americas with a Vision to Heal”, VI Semana Raizal, “Recalling our African inheritance/ Reivindicamos nuestra ancestría Africana”, Instituto Distrital de la Participación (IDPAC) and Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia, November 2-7, 2011. (27pp)
- Presenter, “Idle Rights or Service?” Gender Awareness Workshop for New Parliamentarians, FES and the People’s National Party of Jamaica, January 31, 2012. (7pp)
- ““Anti-Africanity’ and Afro-Caribbean Existence in Jamaica”, Conference on “Africa and the Atlantic World, 1450-1850”, June 22-24, 2012, Emerging Scholars Conference, the Centre of African Studies, University of Cambridge, UK. (23pp)
- Panellist, “Experiencing Africa”, Annual Reasoning, “Dispelling Myths about Africa”, b l a c k s p a c e, Woodside, St Mary. July 28 – August 2, 2012. (8pp)

## **Mrs. Shakira Maxwell**

- “Project Monitoring and Evaluation”. Workshop hosted by the Centre for Leadership and Governance, UWI, Mona, February 4, 2012. (10pp)
- “No More Crab in A Barrel: Building a Quality Team in a tertiary Level Environment” 12<sup>th</sup> Annual ACHEA Conference, NPAC, Trinidad and Tobago, July 11-14, 2012. (14pp)

## **Professor Verene Shepherd**

- “You Can’t Hide the Truth from the Youths: People of African Descent and their Contributions to Caribbean Society”, UNESCO Youth Conference in recognition of the International Day for the Remembrance of the Victims of the Slave Trade, Trinidad, August 22-24, 2011. (12pp)
- “Trading Places: Slavery, Indentureship and the Ranking Game in Colonial and Post-Colonial Jamaica”, University of Bangor, Wales, September 7-10, 2011. (21pp)
- “Victims of Racism: Recognition, Justice, Development” Roundtable, Durban+10 conference, United Nations in New York, September 22, 2011. (3pp)
- Agency, voice and monuments in the exploration of Jamaica’s heritage trail, African Diaspora Heritage Trail Conference, September 23-24, 2011, Halifax, Nova Scotia. (16pp)
- “Women, The Transatlantic Trade In Captured Africans & Enslavement: An Overview” Forum on “Women of African Descent”, United Nations, New York, October 19, 2011. (8pp)
- “Best of the Past for the Future:” Knowledge Production and Caribbean Liberator, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, October 24-25, 2011. (15pp)
- Panel presentation “Caribbean Voices: Post-Colonial Themes.” Miami Book Fair, South Florida, November 19-20, 2011. (11pp)
- History, heritage and entrepreneurship: Uniting the African Family for Development, University of Miami in recognition of the International Year for People of African Descent, Miami, Florida, November 22, 2011. (16pp)

- “Our Entrepreneurial Journey: Historical Reflections”. UTECH/ Scotia Bank Entrepreneurial Reflections Seminar Series, University of Technology, February 2, 2012. (19pp)
- “Black revolutionaries and their inspirational acts”. JAMALCO, Clarendon, February 9, 2012. (6pp)
- “People of African Descent: Education, Development & Human Rights”. Sub-Regional Seminar on “People of African Descent and their Right to Development”, Panama, February 15-18, (15pp)
- “We’ve Been Trodding on the Winepress Much too Long: Caribbean Women and the Struggles for Freedom”. Research seminar, “On Forced Migrations and Labour: Slaves and Slavery from an Atlantic World Perspective”, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, March 15-19, 2012, (22pp)
- “Pay Mi Bakra?: Jamaica and the Debate over Reparation for Slavery”, Neale Colloquium on “Emancipation, Slave-ownership and the Remaking of the British Imperial World”, Organised by the “Legacies of British Slave-ownership Project”, University College London, UK, March 29-31, 2012. (13pp)
- “Praise Songs for Women”, Keynote speaker, Mother’s Day Celebration at the 1st Baptist Church, May 13, 2012, (14pp)
- “The Current Situation of People of African Descent: Education, Development and Human Rights”, Trinidad, may 25, 2012, (11pp)
- “Monuments, Memorization and Black Identities” UNESCO Caribbean Training Course, Courtleigh Hotel, Jamaica, June 16, 2012, (29pp)
- Keynote speaker, book launch for Evelyn Smart, Jamaican Women on the Road to Parliament, Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, June 30, 2012, (5pp)
- “History, Heritage and Black Identity” Churches Credit Union, July 19, 2012. (12pp)
- “The Role of the Church in Slavery and Emancipation”, Elim Gospel Hall’s Emancipation Lecturer, July 22, 2012 (20pp)

- “Our journey to independence: Historical Reflections on Women’s Roles”, Through Women’s Eyes Lecture, July 29, 2012 (13pp)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Articles & Book Chapters:

- \* **Dalea Bean**, “Teaching men feminism in the Caribbean: Experiences from an online programme”. *International Women Online Journal of Distance Education 1*, vol. 2, 2012. 15-20.
- \* **Dalea Bean**, ““This is an Empire War!” Contextualizing issues of Britishness, Gender and Jamaican Loyalty during World War I and II”. *Islands and Britishness: A Global Perspective*. pp 120-133, UK: Cambridge Scholars, 2012
- \* **Shakira Maxwell**, “Searching for some Respect: Experiences of Administrators in a University Environment”, *RG2*, Issue 3, March 2012
- \* **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*, July 20, 2011.

## INCOME GENERATION

- IDB funded project entitled, “Adolescent Dislocation in Jamaica: Causes and Costs of Dislocation at the Secondary Level” – US\$90,000
- CARIBSAVE - second tranche of the two year funded – J\$3M
- MSc Self Financing Programme – J\$3M

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

### **Dalea Bean**

- Member, Research Volunteer, 51% Coalition

### **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, Blackspace Collective
- Member, Violence Prevention Alliance

### **Shakira Maxwell**

- Member, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) Caribbean Kingston
- Member, Jamaica Women’s Political Caucus

### **Verene Shepherd**

- Chair, United Nation’s Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGPAD)
- Member, Public Service Commission (PSC) Jamaica
- Member, Jamaica Chapter, International Women’s Forum
- Chair, National Commission on Reparation (Jamaica)
- Member, Editorial Committee/Advisory Boards

*the Arts Journal*

*Jamaica Journal*

*Slavery and Abolition*

*Small Axe*

*Social & Economic Studies*

*Atlantic Studies*

*Journal of Caribbean History*

*International Journal of African Renaissance Studies*