

INSTITUTE OF GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES – REGIONAL COORDINATING UNIT

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Departmental Highlights

During the period under review, the Unit welcomed the decision of October 10, 2008 by the University Finance and General Purposes Committee (UF&GPC) to approve the re-designation of the *Centre for Gender and Development Studies* to an Institute of the University of the West Indies.

The decision came in response to lobbying efforts pursuant to a UWI policy position paper prepared by PVC Wayne Hunte, with regards to the establishment, operation and governance of Units, Centres and Institutes at the University of the West Indies, in which it was evident that the Centre – through its schedule of teaching, research and outreach – had historically operated as an Institute. The re-designation was formally announced on February 27, 2009 with the Centre being renamed as *The Institute of Gender and Development Studies*.



The Unit also celebrated the decision by the UF&GPC, at its meeting on January 25th, 2008 to approve the recommendation of the Mona Academic Board, that the title of *Professor Emerita* be conferred on Professor Elsa Ann Leo-Rhynie, who was appointed the first Professor of Gender and Development Studies of the University in 1992; and who had, during her twenty-five years of distinguished service to the University community, served as the first Regional Coordinator of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies; from 1992 to 1996.

In honour of her achievements and contributions to the Institute, the *Elsa Leo-Rhynie Symposium* was convened to coincide with the Institute's 15th Anniversary celebrations. The Symposium, which was

held from November 9-11, 2008, enjoyed participation from local, regional and international gender studies specialists, with panels addressing issues of gender and higher education, gender and Caribbean society and gender across the disciplines at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Round table discussions which reflected on the development of the Institute over the past 15 years as well as examined the future directions of the institution completed the conference's proceedings.

Regrettably, the Institute also mourned the passing of Women and Gender Studies pioneer and stalwart, Dr. The Hon. Lucille Maude Mathurin Mair who was the first Regional Coordinator for the Project of Cooperation in Teaching, Research and Outreach in Women and Development Studies from 1986-1989 which contributed, in no small measure, to the establishment of the Gender and Development Studies programmes offered today through the IGDS across all three campuses. The RCU was honoured to receive, from her family, a collection of her papers, which – it is hoped – will be accessible to both undergraduate and graduate students, academic staff and scholars across the region and will go a far way in preserving her legacy of scholarship.

The Institute, in collaboration with the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) and DAWN (Jamaica), hosted a public forum on the reformation of the abortion law currently being examined in the Jamaica Parliament.

Staffing

During the period under review, Professor Bailey continued leadership of the Unit and Mrs. Maxwell and Mrs. Pearson continued to provide administrative oversight for the Unit.

In October 2008 the Institute lost the services of Dr. Yasmeen Yusuf-Khalil, who joined the Institute in 2002 with primary responsibility to coordinate the Diploma in Gender Studies Programme, when she was appointed as Head of Department for Undergraduate Programmes, Academic Programming and Delivery Division at the UWI, Open Campus.

Dr. Dalea Bean, a recent Ph.D. graduate in the department of History and Archaeology, assumed duties of coordination of the Diploma Programme in November 2008 and was appointed to the post of Assistant Lecturer effective August 01, 2009.

Miss Suzanne M. Charles, who had been serving in the Temporary Post of Junior Research Fellow, was appointed to the post effective February 01, 2009.

Regrettably, owing to budgetary constraints, the Unit lost the services of two Research Assistants: Miss Christine McKen, at the end of February 2009, and Mrs. Grace Christie, at the end of July 2009.

Teaching

Despite resource challenges, the teaching agenda of the Unit continued over the period under review, with students being admitted to the Diploma as well as to the taught Masters and MPhil / PhD programmes.

Undergraduate

Teaching continued in the Diploma Programme, with a total of 13 students registered for the 2008/2009 academic year, a slight decrease from the previous year. It bears noting that challenges have presented themselves with the movement of the administration of the Diploma Programme to the Open Campus, not the least of which has been the registration process. Discussions are now being held with the Open Campus to address these issues, which have long term implications for the sustainability of the Programme.

Graduate

In line with the recommendations made during the Quality Review Process of 2006/7, as well as to harmonise all graduate offerings of the Institute, a curriculum review meeting was convened on February 18 and 26, 2009, with the intention of restructuring the Programme through the re-development of several of the current core courses in the MSc. Programme. It is expected that these changes will be effected in the new 2010/2011 academic year.

Despite sustained interest in programmatic offerings, resource constraints; particularly with regards to supervision capacity; continue to prove challenging. This is especially worrisome, given the importance of research interests of the Institute's post-graduate students to national and regional development. Areas of interest have included: occupational sex segregation in Caribbean labour markets, crime and sexual violence among females in Jamaica, the feminization of HIV and AIDS and the gender dimensions of social protection in Jamaica.

Research

The interdisciplinary nature of the research activities of the Unit continues to undergird the Centre's teaching and outreach programmes, and assists in the development of the research capacity of the Unit's graduate students, who continue to be involved in various aspects of the research initiatives of the Unit.

During the period under review, final reports for the *Gender Differentials at the Secondary and Tertiary Levels of the Education System in the Anglophone Caribbean* were submitted to the Caribbean Development Bank, which provided funding for the research. Plans are now underway to convene a Regional Stakeholders' Meeting and Policy Forum to disseminate the research findings, at the regional level.

Work continues on the *Gender Imbalance in Tertiary Education Project*, commissioned by the Office of the Principal to examine the underlying factors for the current gender disparity at the Mona Campus of the UWI, as well as to examine reasons for which persons to whom offers are made to pursue programmes at the Mona campus chose not to accept such offers. On July 09, 2009, Professor Bailey and Miss Charles from the IGDS as well as Drs. Mark Figueroa and Herbert Gayle, who are currently engaged in other aspects of the research initiative met with Principal Shirley to discuss the possibility of hosting a Principal's Forum in association with the World Bank and Ministry of Education to disseminate the findings of the research, and their implications for educational policy and national development.

As part of a 10 country pilot exercise of implementing joint programming on violence against women through The UN Task Force on Violence against Women, the Unit was contracted by the Jamaica Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), to complete a *Country Assessment on Violence against Women in Jamaica*, which documented, inter alia, the status of the prevalence and nature of violence against women in Jamaica as well as the policy and legal framework in place to address issues of violence against women. The findings of the research, prepared by graduate students of the Institute, were presented at the Consultation on Gender Based Violence in Jamaica, hosted by the UNFPA on June 17 & 18, 2009, by Mr. Keino Senior (a graduate student of the IGDS) and Miss Suzanne M. Charles, who assumed responsibility for day to day coordination of the research. Subsequent to this Professor Bailey was invited by UNFPA to participate in the Caribbean Subregional conference to assess the

implementation of action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 15 years after its adoption and to address the gender aspect in development in light of the ICPD Plan of Action and the Port of Spain Declaration.

In order to fulfill the requirements of the *UNICEF Child Research Award* received by Professor Bailey in 2008, a proposal entitled *Gender in Early Childhood Education: The Jamaican Case*, was submitted by Professor Bailey, with assistance from Miss Charles. Data Collection for the study, which examines the ways in which the home and family environment influences cognitive and social development and the adoption of gender identity in preschool education (3-5+ years), is scheduled to begin in October, 2009.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Dalea Bean

- “Vote for (some) women now”: Political franchise in the aftermath of war, 34th Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Kingston, Jamaica, June 1-5, 2009

Suzanne M. Charles

- “Out of the mouth of Babes”: Student Perspectives of Gender justice in Caribbean classrooms, 34th Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Kingston, Jamaica, June 1-5, 2009

Shakira Maxwell

- “Some of the Worst Characters in the City!”: The Gendered Nature of Crimes which Violated the Public Order in early Jamaica, 34th Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Kingston, Jamaica, June 1-5, 2009
- Gender-Based Violence and the UWI Community, Seminar on Gender Based Violence hosted by REACT and The Bureau of Women’s Affairs, Mona Campus, April 8, 2009.

Professor Bailey

- Needed! A Paradigm Shift in Addressing Boys' Underachievement in Education. Regional Caribbean Conference on Keeping Boys Out of Risk. Montego Bay, Jamaica. May 5-7, 2009.
- Gender Issues in Tertiary Education. Jamaica Teachers' Association Annual Conference. Ocho Rios, Jamaica. April 15, 2009.
- Caribbean Education Systems Then & Now: Different Wrapping, Same Package. 50th Anniversary Conference of the hosting of the Biennial Commonwealth Education Conferences. University of Oxford. March 31 to April 1, 2009.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and the Mid Term Review of the Commonwealth Plan of Action 2010, 4th Meeting of the Gender Plan of Action Monitoring Group and at the Consultation of Commonwealth National Machineries, New York. February 28 and March 1, 2009.
- Male Under participation at UWI: Free Choice or Inherent Bias? 15th Anniversary Celebration of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies and Elsa Leo-Rhynie Conference. November 10-11, 2008. UWI, Mona.
- Promoting Child Rights through Research: Researching Adolescent Concerns, Challenges and Insights. Child Research Conference. Kingston, Jamaica. October 2008.
- Explaining Gender Differences in School Performance throughout the Caribbean. Regional Policy Dialogue on Education, Literacy & Numeracy in the Caribbean. Bridgetown, Barbados. December 2008.
- Four Country Survey Report on Gender Differentials in the Caribbean. Caribbean Union of Teacher's Teachers' Educational Conference 2008. Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre, Barbados. December, 2008.
- Issues Affecting the Underachievement of Boys. Principals' Retreat for Primary and All-Age Schools. Ministry of Education Region 3. Runaway Bay, St. Ann. August 2008.

- Explaining Gender Differences in School Performance throughout the Caribbean. Literacy and Numeracy in the Caribbean. December 2-3, 2008. Bridgetown, Barbados. (pp 81-99).

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

Barbara Bailey:

- * Gender and Political-Economy in Caribbean Education Systems: An Agenda for Inclusion. In: (ed.) Parry, R.J. Commonwealth Education Partnerships 2009
- * Feminisation of Poverty Across Cultures: The Church's Response – Alleviative or Empancipatory? In: (ed. Paris, Peter) Poverty and Religion: Pan-African Perspectives. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press.

Dalea Bean

- * “A Dangerous Class of Woman?”: Prostitution and the Perceived Threat to Military Efficiency in Jamaica During the World Wars. Jamaica Historical Review, Vol. XXIV, 2009.

Monograph

Barbara Bailey:

- * 2000-2001 Population and Housing Census of the Commonwealth Caribbean. *Economic Activity, Education and Training*. CARICOM Secretariat.

Other Publications

Barbara Bailey

- * Gender in National Development Planning. In: *Gender in National Development*. JA People. A Magazine of the Social Policy Planning & Research Division, Planning Institute of Jamaica. Vol.10 No. 2:3-6. (with Taitu Heron)

Technical Reports

Barbara Bailey & Suzanne M. Charles

- * Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005-2015. Mid-Term Review. Indicator Template. Commonwealth Secretariat. (38pp)

Dalea Bean.

- * Jamaican Women in Politics Calendar, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean

Shakira Maxwell.

- * National Mathematics Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Project. Report for the Education Transformation Team, Ministry of Education. 2009. (pp. 92) (with Lloyd Waller, and Gavin Daley)
- * Jamaica Female Condom Pilot Initiative. Report for UNFPA, Kingston, Jamaica. 2008. (pp. 19)
- * A Landscape Assessment of Jamaican Micro Small and Medium-Size Enterprises (MSMEs). Report for the Target Growth Competitive Committee, Jamaica Trade and Investment. 2008. (pp.80) (with Lloyd Waller, Michelle Commosioug, Gavin Daley, Nicole Satchell, and Peter Jones)

Outreach

The RCU continues to enjoy long established working relationships with local, regional and international development agencies, with an agenda of promoting gender and development, providing advisory services, influencing policy directions and assisting with capacity building in these institutions. Through these networks, the knowledge base on gender inequality and inequity and how this impacts development has been expanded and the visibility and influence of the University has been enhanced.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Professor Barbara Bailey

- Chairman, Board of Management of St. Andrew High School
- Government of Jamaica’s representative, CEDAW Committee.
- Chair, Gender Task Force, 2030 National Development Plan. Planning Institute of Jamaica.
- Member, Education Thematic Working Group, Ministry of Education and Youth and Culture and PIOJ.
- Member, Education Working Group. JASPEV Social Policy Goals Project. Office of the Prime Minister.
- Chair, Nursing Appeal Tribunal, Ministry of Health, Kingston, Jamaica.
- Member, Steering Committee, Women’s Research and Outreach Centre.

Shakira Maxwell

- Member, Development Alternatives With Women For a New Era (DAWN) Caribbean.
- Member, Working Group on Women’s Reproductive Health and Rights. DAWN.
- Executive Member & Committee Chairperson, Research and Outreach, Jamaica Women’s Political Caucus.