

## INSTITUTE FOR GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, REGIONAL COORDINATING UNIT



Professor Opal Palmer Adisa  
University Director

### OVERVIEW

The activities of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, Regional Coordinating Office (IGDS-RCO) for the 2017/2018 academic year (AY) were guided by the IGDS' Mission and Vision. The Mission is "To produce and disseminate knowledge to transform gender relations in the Caribbean, in support of The UWI's mission to enhance regional and international development." The Vision seeks to ensure that "All UWI graduates are committed to social justice and the promotion of gender-responsive human relations and development." Over the past year, the RCO using the theme RACE – Research, Activism, Community Engagement and Education sought to produce and deliver interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary programmes in keeping with The University of the

West Indies' (UWI's) Triple A strategic goals of Access, Alignment and Agility and characterized by excellence in: teaching and learning, guided by feminist theories and Gender & Development perspectives, principles and practices; research and publications from a gender perspective that investigate societal issues and challenges; public service, outreach and activism that transform gender relations and promote social justice; and building partnerships and mobilizing resources to facilitate its work.

During the AY, the RCO focused on ensuring that the Office continued to play a central role in shaping the strategic direction and themes of the Institute and by extension The UWI. One of the major highlights of the 2017/2018 academic year was the RCO's role in the historic launch of The UWI Gender Policy on May 22, 2018. The launch of the Policy signals The UWI's commitment to Gender Justice and mainstreaming gender across the campuses. The RCO also hosted a Welcome Reception to officially open the offices (located on the Mona Campus) for the Most Honourable Portia Simpson Miller, ON, Honorary Distinguished Fellow who is attached to the RCO.

This report highlights the work of the RCO, as well as, Papers and Publications, Income Generation and Student Achievement.

## **WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT**

### **Teaching and Learning**

During the AY 2017/2018, the RCO continued to deliver the following Degrees in Gender & Development Studies: a Post Graduate Diploma; an M.Sc. (with Research paper or a three-month internship and report); and MPhil and PhD Degrees. Eight graduate courses were taught by Drs. Dalea Bean and Natasha Mortley and adjunct staff Dr. Keino Senior, Ms. Joan French and Ms. Judith Wedderburn, with support from Professor Opal Palmer Adisa. Thirty-four students were registered in the combined Graduate Programme for the AY, and the RCO presented five students (four MSc and 1 PhD with high commendation) at the graduation ceremony held on November 4, 2017. The RCO continued to support its students through various graduate and research seminars.

For the year under review, Dr. Dalea Bean led the process of having the Graduate Programme reviewed and successfully approved. The approved changes will take effect during the 2018/2019 academic year.

### **Research**

The RCO continued to participate in research to inform policy, both nationally and throughout the Caribbean. The major research projects undertaken during the AY are highlighted below:

- **Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO (JNC-UNESCO) Project:** Contemporary Caribbean Masculinities: A Pilot Study of Males, Community and Crime in Jamaica: This project was completed in December 2017, with the submission of the final report. The RCO hosted a Dissemination Seminar/Workshop on November 15, 2017, during which preliminary findings were shared with stakeholders. The study was funded by the JNC-UNESCO through the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport. The research involved an exploration of expressions of Jamaica manhood and masculinities and how they relate to crime in various communities in Jamaica. This pilot study is the first part of the wider IGDS Contemporary Caribbean Masculinities Project and it was spearheaded by Dr. Natasha Mortley.
- **Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) – Institutional Strengthening in Gender Mainstreaming Project:** This project was completed in May 2018 and was funded by JSIF. It was designed to enhance the abilities of all JSIF stakeholders to mainstream gender into the design, implementation and evaluation of all development initiatives. The research was also intended to allow for improved gender awareness at the community level and to enable communities to be better able to accurately state and describe impacts of developmental gaps in social sectors from a gendered perspective.
- **70 plus Outstanding UWI Women project** is a regional project undertaken as part of the UWI's 70th anniversary celebrations. The project is geared at highlighting the significant contribution of 70 plus women who graduated from the various campuses of the UWI

since its inception. The project is expected to yield a photo/journalistic display of the women and the publication of a coffee table book. The project is being led by Professor Opal Palmer Adisa.

- **Cultural Guardians Project (CGP)** is on-going and focuses on interviewing outstanding Jamaican icons with a view to documenting their contribution to the development of, and preservation of Jamaican culture. To date, interviews have been conducted with Professor Edward Baugh, Dr. Amina Blackwood-Meeks, and Ms. Marjorie Whyllie.

## **OUTREACH**

The RCO was involved in a range of important outreach activities, including public lectures, seminars and workshops, convened both nationally and regionally. The highlights included:

- **Tambourine Army Workshop:** conducted by Professor Opal Palmer Adisa with members of the Tambourine Army from October 7–8, 2017. The workshop was titled Using Poetry as a Method of Healing.
- **International Men’s Day:** The RCO held a symposium titled Men against Violence on November 22, 2017 in commemoration of IMD. Presenters were Dr. Jahlani Niaah, Director of Rastafari Studies Centre, UWI, Dr. Keino Senior, Dean of the School of Arts and Management at the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts; Mr. Ian Forrest, Programme Officer, Office of Global Affairs and Mr. Oku Onuora, dub poet and performer. There was also a performance by Mr. Desmond Dennis.
- **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence:** the RCO commemorated the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (GBV) with a series of activities that included the distribution of 1000 buttons to staff at the Regional Headquarters and persons on and off the main campus on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (IDEVAW); the erection of an altar at the Regional Headquarters, in honour of women and girls who were victims of violence; advertisements in The Jamaica Observer on

November 24 and The Gleaner on November 25 and December 7, 2018 highlighting the impact of Gender-Based Violence (GBV); and participation in devotions at the Mona High School and Champion College on November 29, 2017 and December 4, 2018 respectively.

- **Love’s Promise, book launch:** the book, written by Professor Opal Palmer Adisa is a collection of short stories about women facing various forms of abuse and mental health issues, was launched on February 15, 2018 at the Regional Headquarters.
- **International Women’s Day (IWD):** was commemorated with a series of activities, including, a Brown Bag on March 8, 2018 under the theme Pressing for Progress in Policy. The panellists were Dr. Annecka Marshall, Lecturer, IGDS, Mona Unit (MU); and Ms. Carol Watson Williams, PhD student. The event was moderated by Dr. Natasha Mortley, and included poetry readings by Dr. Velma Pollard, and Ms Ann Margaret Lim; and a Photographic Display at the Regional Headquarters which showcased the views of various individuals on the theme for IWD 2018, Press for Progress.
- **Visit to Montserrat:** Professor Opal Palmer Adisa visited Montserrat from March 11–14, 2018 as guest of Sisters Gathering for Progress (SGP). In Montserrat, she was keynote speaker at the IWD celebrations. Her presentation was titled “Rebel Women in the Caribbean”. She also read from her short story collection and talked about gender issues at the Montserrat Library, with high school attendance; and she lectured at the Open Campus in the Early Childhood Education course, on the topic, “The Importance of Gender Sensitivity and Awareness with Younger Children”.
- **Women’s History Month, IGDS, RCO/WeChange collaboration:** The RCO collaborated with WeChange to host #Her Legacy, an evening of reflection on March 21, 2018 at the Regional Headquarters.
- **Workshops:** the RCO team conducted several workshops including, Writing for Performance and the implications of Gender Representations, held at the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts on March 20, 2018; and a parenting workshop for inner city parents

on Domestic Violence, held on April 13, 2018 in collaboration with The UWI Open Campus. Both workshops were led by Professor Adisa.

- **“Our Boonoonnoonoos Children, A Visual Poetic Tribute”**: was a visual poetic display which was mounted in collaboration with the UWI’s Museum at the Regional Headquarters, from May 1, 2018 to May 31, 2018 in commemoration of Child’s Month.

## **PAPERS PRESENTED**

- **Professor. Opal Palmer Adisa.** “Tear it off! The Naked Truth about Domestic Violence”. The University of the West Indies Open Campus, Kingston Jamaica. 28 September, 2017. (27 slides)
- **Professor Opal Palmer Adisa.** “The Work is not neutered: The Vaginal and Penile Gaze in Art” – Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, 9th Gender and Development Lecture, March 8, 2018. (35 slides)
- **Professor Opal Palmer Adisa.** “Rebel Women in the Caribbean”. International Women’s Day Celebration, Montserrat. (20 slides)
- **Professor Opal Palmer Adisa.** Mary Seacole Annual Lecture. March 11, 2018 (20 slides)
- **Dr. Dalea Bean.** “Walking the difficult road of nationalism: Amy Bailey’s World War II philosophy” Berkshire Women’s Conference. Hofstra University. May 31–June 2, 2017 (8 slides)
- **Dr. Dalea Bean.** “Envisioning Feminist Futures – Contemporary Caribbean Feminism. Princeton University, May 5–6, 2018. (20 slides)
- **Dr Dalea Bean and Dr. Natasha Mortley.** “Privilege or Alienation? Male experiences of feminist epistemology and gender studies within the IGDS”. Caribbean Studies Association, Havana Cuba, June 4–9, 2018 (10 slides).
- **Dr. Natasha Mortley.** “Caribbean Women’s Migration and Reparatory Justice”. SALISES Conference on Sustainable Futures for the

Caribbean, Holiday Inn Montego Bay, April 25–27, 2018. (24 slides)

- **Dr. Natasha Mortley.** “Love, power migration: The multiple roles of Caribbean women within the Diaspora.” African- Caribbean Women’s Mobility and self-fashioning in Post Diaspora Contexts. South Bank University and University of the West Indies. Kingston Jamaica. 15 September, 2017. (16 slides)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books and Refereed Journal articles**

- **Professor Opal Palmer Adisa.** “Yveline – I love sewing”. *Tout Moun Caribbean Journal of Cultural Studies*. 4 (1) 2018: 3–4
- **Dr. Dalea Bean.** *Jamaican Women and the World Wars: On the Front Lines of Change*. Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2017
- **Dr. Dalea Bean.** “Bodies in Conflict: Policing Sexual Liaisons in Jamaica during World War II”. *World War II and the Caribbean*. Ed. By Debbie Eccles and Karen McCollin. Kingston: UWI Press. 2017
- **Dr. Dalea Bean.** “This war is going to teach us many lessons: Amy Bailey’s instructions to Jamaica during World War II”. *Caribbean Quarterly* 63 (4) (2017)
- **Natasha Mortley.** “More than dollars and cents: Leveraging the multiple roles of Caribbean migrant women within the Diaspora for sustainable development”. *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies: A Journal of Caribbean Perspectives on Gender and Feminisms* (2018)
- **Natasha Mortley.** “Sports, development and the impact of the Gibson Relays” in *The Gibson relays: History and impact on Jamaica’s sports, culture and social development* by Verene Shepherd. Kingston: Ian Randle Publishers. (2017): 135–153.

### **Non-refereed and Technical report**

- **O Palmer Adisa.** “Eye Haiti – LeRoy Clarke’s opus for the Caribbean – an Interview with Opal Palmer”. *Interviewing the Caribbean: Winter* 3, 1(2017): 92–121

- **O Palmer Adisa & Taitu Heron.** Jamaica Social Investment Fund, Institutional Strengthening in Gender Mainstreaming: A Training Workshop for Trainers and Practitioners – Workshop Report. IGDS-RCO. May 2018. 24 pages
- **O Palmer Adisa.** “M. NourbeSe Philip: “Write my body back into the erased poetic text – an interview with Opal Palmer Adisa”. *Interviewing the Caribbean: Winter 3, 1* (2017): 24–29
- **O Palmer Adisa & Alexander, C.** “Zee Edgell: Reading and Travelling An Interview with Opal Palmer Adisa & Camille Alexander”. *Interviewing the Caribbean: Winter 3, 1* (2017): 122–129
- **S Charles-Watson.** “Bold move! An immigrant’s response”. *Interviewing the Caribbean: Winter 3, 1* (2017): 136–139
- **S Charles-Watson.** “Jamaica Social Investment Fund, Institutional Strengthening in Gender Mainstreaming: Mainstreaming Gender – A Baseline Report of selected Agencies and communities in Jamaica” IGDS-RCO. May 2018. 109 pages
- **S Charles-Watson.** “Jamaica Social Investment Fund, Institutional Strengthening in Gender Mainstreaming: Gender Score Card and Assessment Tool”. IGDS-RCO. May 2018. 26 pages
- **S Charles-Watson.** “Jamaica Social Investment Fund, Institutional Strengthening in Gender Mainstreaming: Gender and Gender Mainstreaming – A Training Manual for Trainers and Practitioners”. IGDS –RCO. May 2018. 134 pages
- **S Charles-Watson.** Jamaica Social Investment Fund, Institutional Strengthening in Gender Mainstreaming: Understanding Gender – A Community Sensitization Guide. May 2018. 64 pages IGDS – RCO. May 2018
- **N. Mortley.** JNC-UNESCO Project: “Contemporary Caribbean Masculinities: A Pilot Study of Males, Community and Crime in Jamaica.” IGDS –RCO. December 2017. (79 pages)
- **B. Liverpool-Williams.** “Nzimbu Brown: The artist behind the banana craft”. *Interviewing the Caribbean: Winter 3, 1.* (2017): 144–149

## **INCOME GENERATION**

For the period under review, the RCO, continued to make fundraising for Project Research and Student Development a critical part of its mandate. The Office generated JMD 1,601,894.06 from the MSc self-financing programme. The administration of the following projects continued during the year under review:

- I. Jamaica Social Development Investment Fund (JSIF) project – USD45,000.00
- II. Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO (JNC-UNESCO) project – USD18,000.00

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

### **Professor Opal Palmer Adisa**

- Editor, *Interviewing the Caribbean*. Published two issues under the theme *Caribbean Life and Olympian Feats, Part 1*, (159 pages), December 2017 and *Tribute to Derek Walcott, Part 1* (145 pages), March, 2018
- Member of the Board of the Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars (ACWWS)
- Judge for Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards, New York.
- Judge for Sexual Assault Awareness Month Poetry contest, Women’s Coalition of St. Croix, US Virgin Islands

### **Dr. Dalea Bean**

- Member of the Kiwanis Club of Young Professionals, Kingston
- First Year Experience Academic Advisor 2013/2014
- Peer Reviewer, *Caribbean Quarterly*
- Research Volunteer, 51% Coalition

### **Dr. Natasha Mortley**

- Member: Research and Planning Sub Committee – United Way Jamaica.

- Member: The African-Caribbean Women’s Mobility and Self-fashioning in Post-diaspora Contexts Network.
- Member: Migration and Development Cluster, SALISES UWI, Mona Campus
- Gender Representative: (with responsibility for gender mainstreaming of disaster risk management regional framework) – Technical Committee for “Enhancing Knowledge and Application of Comprehensive Disaster Management (EKACDM) Initiative.” UWI, Mona Jamaica.
- Expert Advisor to the OECS Secretariat on the Programme of Research for Engaging the Diaspora for Development in the OECS
- Member: Observatory on African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Migration.
- Member: Commonwealth Scholars Alumni Association, St. Lucia and Jamaica chapters.

#### **Suzanne Watson-Charles**

- Member, Research Sub-Committee for the National Women’s Health Survey of Jamaica STATIN/IDB/PIOJ/UNWomen.

#### **STUDENTS**

The RCO continues to reward its outstanding graduate students through the annual Lorraine Emmanuel Awards. The recipients were Mrs. Merlyn Hyde-Riley (MSc with distinction) and Dr. Jacqueline Hall (PhD, high commendation).

#### **CONCLUSION**

The RCO continues to work assiduously to fulfil its mandate in keeping with the Vice-Chancellor’s Triple A Strategy. The highlights of this report speaks to the Institute’s commitment to excellence in teaching, outreach, research and public policy as it serves its various stakeholders on advancing matters related to gender and development.