

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BAHAMIAN STUDIES

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First off, I would like to thank Virginia Ballance, Managing Editor of the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies (IJBS)* from 2007-2017 for her leadership of the journal over the past several years. In this, my first year as Managing Editor, she has provided me with extensive help getting my bearings as editor. As I have told her several times, one of my main goals as Managing Editor is to make sure that *IJBS* continues the tradition of excellence that she has cultivated.

The title *International Journal of Bahamian Studies* is indeed an appropriate name for our journal, as it suggests that the journal is both uniquely Bahamian in its concerns, but it also seeks to build connections between the Bahamian research community and scholars around the globe. However, in the years since the journal was rebranded under its current name the title '*International Journal*' has, unfortunately, been adopted by numerous for-profit 'predatory' or 'junk' journals that submit the articles they feature to minimal to no peer review. However, *IJBS* remains committed to its traditions of peer review by internationally recognized experts.

Articles in previous issues of *IJBS* have been cited in academic journals around the world. Furthermore, a number of the articles in previous issues have been downloaded more than 10,000 times. The authors that have published in *IJBS* over the years include noted scholars such as Dr. Stephanie Hackert, Full Professor and Chair of English Linguistics at the University of Munich, one of Europe's leading universities. (Dr. Hackert also visited Nassau this October as UB's first International Visiting Scholar.)

As in previous years, this year's edition reflects the broad interests of UB faculty and staff. As has been common in previous years, particularly well represented among this year's authors are the faculty of my home academic unit, English Studies. Of particular interest among this year's articles is a piece by Dr. Philip Smith describing his experience, together with Dr. Craig Smith, Chair of English Studies (no relation), developing the first Shakespeare behind Bars programme for inmates of the Department of Correctional Services at Fox Hill. While *IJBS* will undoubtedly continue feature UB faculty prominently in the years to come, I will continue to encourage researchers around the world who study The Bahamas to consider submitting their work to *IJBS* for publication.

In addition to Ms. Ballance, I wish to thank all of the authors, reviewers, and copyeditors for their continued support of the journal. As the University of The Bahamas moves its research agenda forward, *IJBS* will continue to feature the best of scholarship about The Bahamas.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raymond Oenbring