

RESEARCH EDGE BULLETIN

The e-bulletin of the Office of Graduate Studies and Research

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ABOUT RESEARCH EDGE

Research Edge, conceptualized in 1999, is a forum dedicated to the discussion of current and novel research conducted by COB (now UB) faculty then, and now UB faculty, students and community professionals. Research Edge is based on an idea that recognizes the inherent value of research in the education process.

Research Edge provides a dynamic environment for the scholarly exchange of ideas and encourages within, the University community, a lively and interdisciplinary shared culture supporting research, learning and innovative achievement. It provides unique opportunities for researchers to communicate

and discuss their findings and to receive feedback, comments or suggestions with regard to new and/or different approaches to their work. The forum is open to members of the UB and the wider community. All of the past presentations since 2017 have been turned into a working paper series (Research Edge Working Paper Series). See <http://www.ub.edu.bs/research/research-edge/> for the archived publications.

As of 2019, we are proud to introduce the monthly Research Edge e-bulletin which aims to disseminate research-related findings, innovations, news and solutions to the community at large.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings from the Office of Graduate Studies and Research.

It is with pleasure that we present to you Volume 1, Issue 1 of the Research Edge e-Bulletin, a bulletin reporting research initiatives at University of The Bahamas. The bulletin aims to disseminate research-related findings, innovations, news and solutions to the community at large – both internally and externally. The bulletin will be managed by the Communication and Creative Arts (CCA) majors and faculty, and facilitated by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research. The bulletin is important to document all the research activities and research profiles of the faculty and the university.

In addition, the bulletin is also aimed to enhance the skill set of the CCA majors to be more relevant by exposing them to the art of research reporting to the general public and using research for change management. The bulletin will act as a platform to profile the research findings from the faculty and students more effectively to the industry and the government. The bulletin will also profile the higher degree

by research (HDR) graduate programme by promoting the research capability of the University. By profiling and marketing the strength of the faculty, the graduate programme will be able to attract potential students.

Hence, we would like to invite you to submit your articles, research output or any scholarly news to be featured in this monthly bulletin.

Happy reading... cheers.



Dr Vikneswaran Nair
Dean, Graduate Studies & Research
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Opening of the GTR Campbell SIS Research Complex

The George Thomas Richardson Campbell (GTR) Small Island Sustainability Research Complex (SISRC) was officially opened by the Minister of the Environment, Hon. Romauld Ferreira and Ms. Naomi Campbell, daughter of the late George Campbell, on 25 October 2018 at the Oakes Field Campus, University of The Bahamas. [Click here](#) for full story and preview [video](#). The opening was well publicised in the local dailies – [Eyewitness New](#), [GOB website](#), [Magnetic Media](#), [Eleuthera News](#) and [Bahamas Local](#).

The research complex comprises three classrooms and a geographic information systems (GIS) teaching lab; 6 research labs, including 1 aseptic tissue culture lab (a sterile lab); 11 staff and research offices, and office spaces for visiting researchers, graduate students and laboratory technicians. The 6 research laboratories will focus on Plant Tissue and Bio-technology; Geospatial Visualization and Informatics; Food and Natural Products Innovation; Plant, Soil, and Water Sciences; Applied Laser and Optical Science Research; and Chemical and Environmental Analysis. In addition, the SISRC will also be supported by the various faculties and research institutes at UB to bridge the three-pillars of sustainability – the economy, social and environment.

Ms. Naomi Campbell added that, “Sustainability is the word going forward that will lead us into the future. The new generation of students that will graduate from this university will leave their imprint for following generations. We are initiating a process that is spawning itself across the world right

now and throughout universities and it is a wonderful thing to be part of”.

A series of presentations and demos was carried out on the 25, 26 and 29 October to showcase the sustainability work that is currently being carried out in the country in the field of agriculture, poultry, food, renewable energy, etc. SISRC will be able to help with several environmental concerns in The Bahamas and the Caribbean including mitigation of the adverse effects of environmental and developmental damage; conservation and preservation of biodiversity; restoration of ecosystems; increased self-sufficiency and innovation; geospatial visualization and analysis to determine the most sustainable and optimal utilization of our natural resources; improved comprehensive development planning; improved environmental stewardship; research that can be of use

to the government in the formulation of public policy; and research on the many aspects of plants and crops, as well as the quality use of bush medicines and other natural products.

SISRC welcomes all potential collaborators to support its three pillars – academic, research and outreach – in its five-year strategic plan (2019-2023) with a mission to, “Educate, enable and inspire the people of The Bahamas in being committed and sensitive towards sustainability by creating awareness

to enable them to make a positive change in society through sustainability practices and provide a platform for strengthening innovation and resilience”.



Embracing Graduate Studies at University of The Bahamas

Over the past decade, in partnership with accredited universities and colleges, we have facilitated several graduate degree programmes including a MA in Health Administration (Western Connecticut State University), MEd in School Counseling (Kent State University), MA in Teaching & Learning with Technology (Ashford University), MLIS in Library & Information Sciences (University of South Florida), MEd in Special Education (Kent State University), MEd in Educational Administration (Kent State University); and a MSc in Early Childhood & Elementary Teaching (Wheelock College). In 2010, we introduced our own MBA followed by the MSc in Reading with Inclusive Education in 2011.

We received our charter and assumed full-fledged university status on 10th November 2016, as a result of which our academic structure focuses on encouraging collaborations within and across disciplines resulting in new and innovative graduate programmes. Thus, all of our graduate programmes are being restructured to align with this goal. Our new master's and research-oriented doctoral programmes will afford students substantial mastery of the subject matter, theory, literature and methodology of a significant field of study and will include the sequential development of research skills leading to the attainment of independent research capacity. Our graduate students will undertake original research that contributes to new knowledge and, although our master's programmes may not require students to engage in original research at the same level as our doctoral programmes, students in our master's degree programmes will be required to conduct a culminating research or creative project/work as part of their programme requirements. In this way, we will continue to build the institution's research capacity and add to the body of knowledge.

Our professional or practice-oriented programmes at the master's or doctoral levels will prepare students for professional practice involving the development of new applications of knowledge within a field of study. This will be accomplished by affording students a broad conceptual mastery of the field of professional practice through an understanding of its subject matter, literature, theory and relevant research methodology. These programmes will provide the sequential development of professional skills that will result in competent practitioners.

Some of the new programmes in the pipeline include Master of Business Administration (specialising in Accounting; Entrepreneurship and Innovation; Financial Decision Making; Leadership; and Sustainable Management); Master of Economics (MEcon); Master of Science (MSc) in Reading with Inclusive Education; Master of Education (MEd) Teacher Leadership (Cognate-Supervision); Master of Education (MEd) Speech Language Pathology; Master of Laws (LLM) in Arbitration Law; Wealth Management Law; Maritime/Transportation Law and Mediation Law; Master of Nursing in Community Health Nursing; Care Nursing; Nursing Education; and Midwifery; Higher-degree by research: Master of Science (MSc) and Doctoral (PhD) (Research Specialisation) in Applied Sciences and Social Sciences; Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) and Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Arbitration Law; Wealth Management Law; Maritime/Transportation Law and Mediation Law; Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Community Health Nursing; Care Nursing; Nursing Education; and Midwifery.

This is an exciting time for the institution as we move forward embracing the vision and promoting the values of 'learning, leadership and service.'

Source extracted from [University of The Bahamas' 2018\2019 catalog](#)



CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BAHAMIAN STUDIES

The International Journal of Bahamian Studies is a scholarly peer reviewed open access research journal published by University of The Bahamas. The journal publishes research papers and other scholarly materials which are relevant to the Bahamas and broader Caribbean region.

Each volume is a mix of articles, based on scientific and sustained analytic inquiry, book or media reviews of scholarly interest, and advocacy papers. The journal publishes original research on The Bahamas or with significant Bahamian content as well as research of regional or comparative interest. Contributions may be from any field of knowledge, but must communicate effectively with readers who are not specialists in that field.

Deadline: Manuscripts may be submitted at any time throughout the year. The final date for submission for Volume 25 is 1st May, 2019. The publication is released during International Open Access Week held annually during the third week of October.

For further information, please visit the Journal's website (<http://journals.sfu.ca/cob/index.php/files>) or contact the Managing Editor, Dr. Raymond Oenbring, raymond.oenbring@ub.edu.bs

UB RESEARCH & WRITING SUPPORT GROUP

Friday, 1st. March, 2019

Franklyn R. Wilson Graduate Centre Meeting Room / 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Writing is lonely work. Why not join the Research and Writing Group, to meet with others to discuss your research, share challenges you have with writing, learn how to create a habit of writing regularly – either daily or on a schedule and see results.

Sessions will include individual coaching and research assistance as well as provide a quiet space where you can write.

The objective is to mentor and coach you through the writing and revising process with hopes that by the end of the semester you have an article ready to submit to a journal. Having a coach or mentor and a cohort will help keep you focused on your goal. You will also learn tips about academic publishing and the peer review process.

Meetings will be held immediately after Research Edge and Research Workshop every month beginning January 2019. Other sessions will be held March 15th, March 22nd and April 5th.

Dr. Ty Adams appointed to board of WSCA



The World Complexity Science Academy (WSCA) is a research-based “think- and do-tank” headquartered in Bologna, Italy. As an Academy, WSCA has approximately 150 members, with an Executive Board of 15 members. Dr. Ty Adams was selected to be an Executive

Board member due to his experience in running major communication study associations, like the American Communication Association (Adams served as President of ACA from 2005-2006). As well, Dr. Adams has been elected as the Founding Editor of the new multimedia online journal The World Complexity Science Academy Journal, and is currently selecting his Editorial Review Board from “elite” scholars in political science, economics, communication and journalism, psychology, and systems theory throughout

the world. The WCSAJournal will focus on “intelligence studies” across the Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, writ large. The journal will appear as an online publication, with printing on demand features; additionally, the Journal will be indexed by the Library of Congress and have an ISSN, although the Journal will be meant to be read completely online, due to the multimedia features.

As to the publication: Dr. Ty Adams of University of The Bahamas has successfully published a study named “The Technological Convergence Innovation” in a Top 10 sociology journal – The International Review of Sociology. He partnered with Dr. Ellen Taricani of Penn State and Dr. Andrea Pitasi of D’Annunzio University in Italy for the research-based release, and the team has been working on the study for the last 2 years. The International Review of Sociology is now a Taylor & Francis publication, based in Rome, and happens to be the world’s oldest journal dedicated exclusively to sociology.



Organizing and Writing Research Papers

The Office of Graduate Studies and Research will be hosting its next writing workshop on March 15th, 2019 from 12pm to 1pm. The workshop will be facilitated by Dr. Vikneswaran Nair and Virginia Ballance at The Franklyn R Wilson’s Royal Bank of Canada Auditorium. The main aim of this workshop is to provide an overview of the fundamentals of organizing and writing quality academic research papers. The workshop is designed for faculty/staff who do not have much experience in writing academic research papers, specifically journal articles, book chapters, conference papers, and the like. A broad overview of the various topics will be presented and discussed during the sessions. After the sessions, participants can continue to engage with the facilitators remotely to strengthen their understanding of the topics that are discussed. This workshop is a part of a series of workshops that was hosted by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research at University of The Bahamas. The series’ last workshop will take place March 8th.

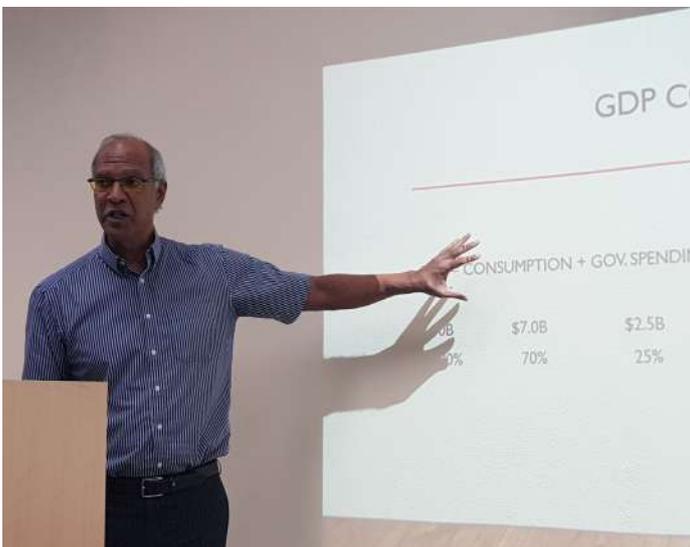


Research Edge Presentation - January 2019



The Research Edge forum on 28 January 2019 was presented by Dr. Johnathan A. Rodgers, on his topic, “A New Format For Reporting Economic Data For The Bahamas”. As presented by Dr. Rodgers, economic data is most frequently used by economic stakeholders like policy makers, businessmen, investors and other stakeholders. These data are used to assess current economic conditions and trends, and the potential for the same to impact their various areas of interest. Unfortunately, in The Bahamas there is a relative scarcity of comprehensive, relevant and digestible economic data readily available for stakeholders.

Currently, there are only two local sources of economic data - The Central Bank of The Bahamas’ Quarterly Report and the Department of Statistics’ website. There is also an Annual International Monetary Fund (IMF) Report and sporadic reports from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and contracted groups like Oxford Economics. Although all these reports contain useful information, they are often deficient in terms of formatting, relevancy of information and adequate benchmarking. Furthermore, there is a fair measure of cognitive bias and rose colored interpretation of the reported data. Hence, his presentation offered a different format for presenting economic data that will allow viewers to easily find collated data relevant to their area of interest. In some cases, benchmarks will be provided to help better identify troubled sectors of the economy.



Lastly, his presentation also included some additional data that is not usually included in the typical reports, as well as, some new data related to the economic impact of governance and policy on the economy.



UNIVERSITY RESEARCH GRANTS SCHEME GUIDELINES

Eligibility for Grants

Only University of The Bahamas fulltime faculty are eligible to apply for grants offered through the University Research Grants Scheme (URGS). Faculty who are students in academic programmes are ineligible. Faculty members in temporary positions (adjunct) are not eligible. In the case of faculty on contract, their term of employment must exceed the duration of the research project. Proposals that also involve University of The Bahamas students and employees are eligible. Grants are expected to support projects of one year's duration or less. Book projects are not eligible for this grant. **DEADLINE have been extended to March 29, 2019.**

For more details see: [Grant Guidelines – Spring 2019](#)
[Call for Institutional Grant Proposals - 2019](#)

OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH MISSION

“Graduate Studies and Research is a key component that will enhance the prestige and reputation of University of The Bahamas as a world class institution. The Office of Graduate Studies and Research will inculcate a culture of creativity and innovation, leading to the creation and dissemination of new knowledge through transdisciplinary research, consultancy, effective partnerships and hybrid graduate programmes. We will advocate excellence in all areas of scholarship with all stakeholders and make transformative discoveries that will impact the nation and the world.”

Keep up with activities of the Office of Graduate Studies & Research [here](#) and scholarly works at University of The Bahamas [here](#)

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NOTE TO ALL FACULTY

Kindly send information about your publications and highlight published research work for publication in this e-bulletin.

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