



WAND Notes

Newsletter of the Women and Development Unit,
University of the West Indies

Nos. 3 & 4, Dec 1999

A
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR COLLEAGUES & FRIENDS
FROM THE TUTOR/COORDINATOR AND STAFF
OF WAND.

WAND supports persons with disabilities

WAND has recently been focussing some of its work on the disabled in Barbados. In this regard eight women and two men with varying disabilities were involved in a three-month training course in Computer Studies at the Academy of Learning. They did subjects including Introduction to Computers, Windows 98 and Understanding and Using the Internet.

Four women with disabilities were trained in floral arrangement by an instructor who also has a disability and is involved in the floral arrangement business. A young man who uses a wheelchair was trained in radio studio operation and production techniques at WAND's production studio.

Tutor/Coordinator Dr Judith Soares says the training is being provided with a view to helping people with disabilities to integrate into the development process and lessen their marginalisation in society.

Documentation Centre upgraded

Work on upgrading WAND's Documentation Centre is progressing well. To date 1,344 titles have been reclassified, indexed and entered into the information centre's electronic database. The entire collection has been weeded. All members of staff of WAND have received training in database retrieval techniques, while the staff member directly responsible for maintenance of the collection is being given additional training in the new classification system to facilitate reshelving of documents.

In anticipation of the complete reorganisation exercise, some members of the public have already begun sourcing the library for information. This trend is expected to increase significantly once the accessibility of the collection is once more advertised for public use. In anticipation of the expected volume of traffic, a reading room has been set up, which is separate from the main library collection.



Documentalist Ingrid Iton, preparing the database of more than 1,000 titles available in the WAND Documentation Centre.

Unit joins World March of Women 2000 Planning Committee

WAND became a member of the National Planning Committee for the World March of Women 2000, on the invitation of the Barbados National Organisation of Women, which is chairing the committee. The World March is an event planned to ensure that the gains made by women worldwide are not eroded in the Third Millennium. In October 2000, women from around the world will gather at the UN headquarters in New York and at other locations of major agencies of the United Nations' system to present a List of Demands. The demands envision a New World Order, a more people oriented world economic system and a radical change in male/female relationships, no matter what the culture.

Working with UNDP/IICA on poverty alleviation

The unit is working with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture to monitor and evaluate the UNDP-funded Sustainable Livelihoods in the Eastern Caribbean project. It involved creating employment for 30 men and women in Dominica, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, through income generating projects to address the issue of poverty among women.

Congrats Deborah on reaching 20 years with WAND

Congratulations to Deborah Moseley on marking 20 years service to WAND and the university. Debbie, the office assistant, came to WAND in 1979 during the formative years and is the longest serving member of staff.

"I came as a maid and after some time I was promoted to office assistant and I have found the years very productive," said Debbie. She said she had enjoyed participating in the various workshops and activities of WAND and described her visit to China for the



Beijing Conference as "an eye opener."

Her wish for WAND is that it continues to strive for the full equality of women, provide them with skills and involve the youth in particular in the development process so they can take their place in society.

Full turnout at Community Partners workshop in Halifax

WAND's community consultant, Christobel Ashton, represented the unit at a Community Partners' workshop in Halifax, Canada, which was attended by all partners.

The workshop discussed the progress of projects under the partnership. The Canadian, Asian and Caribbean partners are combining academic work with community development processes in designing curriculum, methods and teaching material for use in women's studies programmes in the universities involved.

Flashback



Discussing media policy at the 4th Regional Conference on Gender and Communication Policy, organised by WACC and Women's Media Watch Jamaica, in Kingstn, November 1998.

Tutor/Coordinator presents paper on women and crime

The unit was represented at a number of important conferences in the last quarter. At the "Vital Voices of the Caribbean: Implementing the Beijing Platform for Action" conference in Trinidad and Tobago, September 29 – October 2, the Tutor/Coordinator presented a paper on women and crime with specific reference to Caribbean women in drug trafficking.

WAND was also represented at the Michael Manley Symposium hosted by the Trade Union Education Institute of the UWI, Mona and the Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions, October 13 and 14.

Judith led a workshop on "Mobilizing Stakeholders for State Reform and Policy Change: Civil Society" at the conference "Restructuring the State: Managing Tensions Between Economic Reform and Social Equity", hosted by the Caribbean Development Bank and the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration, October 7 and 8.

Condolence to Dr Bradley Niles

Condolences to Dr Bradley Niles the tutor of the Barbados arm of the School of Continuing Studies, on the passing of his niece, Karolyn Daniel, who was also employed in the SCS office. She died on October 11, the day on which she was to resume duties as stenographer/clerk after vacation leave.

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SUPPORTING PROGRAMMES FOR CARIBBEAN TRANSFORMATION