



Newsletter

for The Caribbean Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies

VOLUME 1

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Mission

The mission of CAACS is to bring together and disseminate the intellectual wealth of Curriculum Studies workers, educators and philosophers of the Caribbean through the agencies of universities, colleges and interested organizations throughout the Caribbean region and the diaspora.

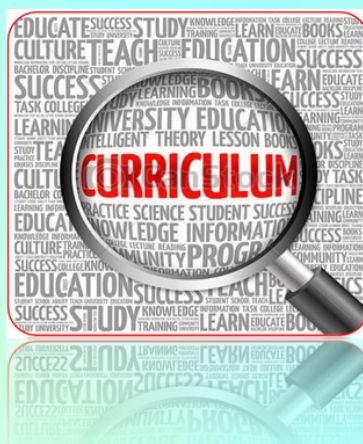
Co- Founders

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What is the Caribbean Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies?

The Caribbean Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies (CAACS) is an association of scholars, educators, philosophers, curriculum workers and graduate students that provide a forum for scholarly discourse and the promotion



and publication of Caribbean curriculum works. These will include Caribbean epistemologies and cultural-contextual understandings of curriculum and curriculum products within the global context of the internationalization of curriculum studies.

CAACS Forging Ahead

Forming a Caribbean Curriculum Studies association has been the dream for Dr Andrea Baldwin and Dr Carmel Roofe for many years. When the two reconnected in 2017 ideas collided and life was given to a dream. The Caribbean

Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies (CAACS) was formed, albeit quiescent until June 12, 2019; CAACS was officially launched with its inaugural meeting. During this meeting, the executive body was selected from among a group of curriculum graduate students. The executive was selected following a no count vote; persons volunteered or were nominated based on their strengths and talents.

Cofounders' Messages

During the academic year 2016-17 as I led the Curriculum and Instruction programme at the School of Education, UWI Mona, I was inspired by my graduate students to "act" regarding curriculum advocacy. This resulted from several conversations with graduate students about their dissatisfaction as curriculum specialists with how curriculum is conceptualized within the Jamaican context; limit-

ing curriculum to documents received from the central ministry. The discourse at that time centred on graduate students' views about the lack of awareness amongst education stakeholders about the power that resides in a deeper understanding of curriculum. During that same academic year (April 2017), I presented for the first time at the American Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies (AAACS) Confer-

ence in Texas, USA. At the conference, I reconnected with Dr. Andrea Baldwin, a Jamaican residing in the USA and who I met briefly some years earlier. She shared her desire for wanting to harness the rich curriculum heritage that resides in Jamaica. Instantly, her ideas resonated with me, and meeting dates were established for consolidating our ideas. This gave birth to the Caribbean Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies.



Dr. Carmel Roofe,
Senior Lecturer Curriculum
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Andrea M. Baldwin, MBA, Ph. D
Chair, Taskforce on Ethics,
Spirituality and the Curriculum,
AAACS Chair & Professor,
Business Department
Washington Adventist
University, MD, USA.

The idea for the establishment of a Caribbean Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies (CAACS) was born as I presented one of my first research papers at Berkeley University in Oakland, California at the American Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies (AAACS). I was a Ph.D candidate at the time and was presenting as a

member of a cohort from Andrews University. I asked myself "What would prevent us from having a somewhat similar organization in the Caribbean?" I thought of my Caribbean people and the tremendous work we do in Curriculum Studies, Curriculum Development, Instruction and Pedagogy but most of which go unpublished and unheard of except for our

students as beneficiaries. I thought that it would be of tremendous worth to share such intellectual capital amongst us and, with other curriculum theorists, scholars, professors and graduate students. It is therefore with tremendous delight that Dr. Roofe and I are able to cofound this organization. A dream that is coming through!

Welcome!

The academic year 2018/19 saw the establishment of the Caribbean Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies (CAACS) with a dedicated group of graduate students who are curriculum specialists; this launch of CAACS is so fitting and divinely timed. It is our vision and collective desire that CAACS will serve as an engine and magnet to attract talents and stimulate thought and action re-

garding Caribbean curriculum studies; mobilizing individuals to research, present and disseminate their knowledge and skills.

CAACS is envisioned as a space and place where graduate students, practitioners and scholars will share, trade, debate and distill ideas and 'know how'. This is a foundation and legacy we hope to leave for many generations to come. We encourage you to be-

come a member whether you are residing in or outside the Caribbean.

Welcome to CAACS!

**Dr. Andrea Baldwin and
Dr. Carmel Roofe,
Cofounders, CAACS**

Meet The Executive Body

Member

- Dr Andrea Baldwin
- Dr Carmel Roofe
- Mrs Shalene Chung- Thomas
- Mrs Lovette Bailey
- Ms Deandrea Scott
- Ms Krystal Williams
- Ms Sophia Rodney
- Ms Tian Bennett
- Mrs Toween Campbell- Wilson

Office

- Cofounder
- Cofounder
- Secretary
- PRO and Marketing
- Publications Officer
- Copy Editor
- Membership Care
- Treasurer/ Fundraising
- Technology Officer

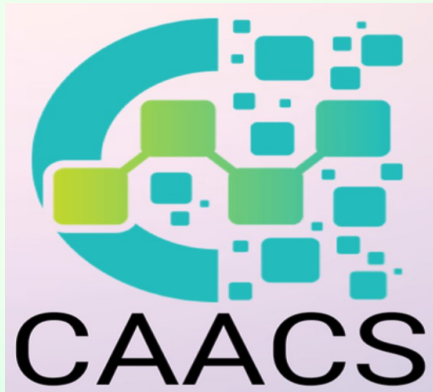
Jamaica Represents at Conference

Three promising graduate Curriculum and Instruction students from the University of the West Indies, Mona campus, under the tutelage of the esteemed Dr Carmel Roofe, share with us their experiences as presenters at the American Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies (AAACS) conference held in Toronto Canada in April 2019. Worthy of note is that these curriculum advocates later became executive members of the Caribbean Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies (CAACS). They are Mrs. Shalene Chung Thomas, Secretary, Mrs. Lovette Bailey, PRO & Marketing and Ms. Tian Bennett, Treasurer/ fundraising. They answered the call for papers under the theme "Resituating Accountability in Curriculum Studies" with a paper entitled *Accountability as a mode of colonization: Threats to teachers' autonomy and students' creativity*.



From left: Mrs. Bailey, Ms. Bennett, and Mrs. Thomas Chung at AAACS

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Caribbean Association for the
Advancement of Curriculum
Studies

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CAACS' AIM

The Caribbean Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies (CAACS) through its mandate aims to indigenize curriculum conversations thus shifting the discourse from that which is American and British based to that which focuses on the Caribbean region.

To achieve its aim the CAACS seeks to engage curriculum scholars and enthusiasts through meetings, seminars, panel discussions, symposium and conferences and by so doing galvanize support and ideas regarding Caribbean curriculum thought.

The first such public engagement will be the first biennial conference slated for March 12, 2020 for which the Call for papers is now out, under the theme "**Caribbean Curriculum Making: Reflecting on the Past, Shaping the Future**".



Jamaica Represents at Conference *cont'd*

They shared their experiences, which they all agreed were rewarding and enriching both professionally and personally. Mrs. Bailey recounts "As a curriculum student, it provided an opportunity to gain greater knowledge and expertise in the field of Curriculum Studies. The conference was a great platform to network with peers and experts within the field, to encounter new ideas and thinking about curricula, to position one's self in the global conversation about curriculum and have fun doing so." The team of ladies worked collaboratively and tirelessly on their paper for presentation. Mrs. Chung purports, "The resultant paper gave us the opportunity to discuss and evaluate our current pedagogy and school systems from which the idea that accountability as employed in many of our local schools deprives teachers of their autonomy in teaching and learning

in their classrooms and which by extension stifles creativity among our students." Ms. Bennett adds to the discussion that "the opportunity to present at the AAACS was an empowering and enriching journey, a journey that began with uncertainty and ended with confidence and empowerment. Upon returning to Jamaica and my place of work, I felt more confident to speak on matters regarding the curriculum and its practice and also to advocate for curriculum to be resituated in the hands of teachers".

The ladies also shared their trepidations and excitement during processes like applying for and receiving their Canadian visas and Fellowship from the University of the West Indies. They shared also their experiences in traversing the streets and subways of Toronto, and of networking and socializing with individuals in the field of curriculum from South Africa, USA, India,

and the Philippines among other countries. The scholarly conversations they engaged in brought to the fore that the problems in education are similar across the globe. However, what is needed in our local context is social justice through scholarly and research-based work in curriculum in Jamaica; a void the Caribbean Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies (CAACS) endeavours to fill.



From left: Dr. Roofe, Ms. Bennett, Mrs Bailey and Mrs. Thomas Chung