

**College of Humanities, Behavioural & Social Sciences**

(O) *Attitudes of Jamaican Adventist Religious Leaders and Laypersons towards Persons Living with HIV and AIDS: Pathways to Enhancing the Impact of Professionals*

**Orlean Brown -Earle**

This study examined the attitudes of Jamaican religious leaders and community laypersons towards persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Convenience sampling procedure was used to select one-hundred and eighty four (184) participants from nine parishes across Jamaica. Participants' responses on the Meharry Questionnaire: The Measurement of Attitudes Towards AIDS-Related Issues ( $\alpha = 0.6$ ) were used to provide data for the study. A survey design using descriptive statistics and the independent samples *t*-test was used to determine and compare the attitudes of religious leaders and community laypersons. The results of the study indicate that a significant majority of Seventh-day Adventist religious leaders (80.9%) and community laypersons (75.8%) have very liberal or favourable attitudes towards AIDS-related issues. No significant difference was found between the mean attitudes of Seventh-day Adventist religious leaders and community laypersons towards AIDS-related issues. [ $t(127) = -0.98, p = 0.329$ ]. These results suggest that public education campaigns may have served to increase/influence the liberal attitudes indicated by the research participants. Findings may also have been influenced by the educational level of the sample. These results underscore and provide evidence that Seventh-day Adventist religious leaders in Jamaica are aware of and sensitive to the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS. Discussed in particular are pathways to strengthen the skills of the participants to help PLWHA. Suggestions for future research are provided.

(P) *The Relationship between Discipline and Academic Achievement of Students: The Albion Experience*

**Paulene Gayle-Betten, Lorenzo L. Badalo, Nordia Bogle, Brigitte Vassell**

Underperformance in schools has been a major cause for concern in Jamaica; most noticeably is the level of discipline exhibited by students and its relationship to academic achievement. The present study explores the relationship between discipline and academic achievement of students from a primary school in Manchester. Fifty-two (52) students participated in the study. Data were collected using the "Students' Self-Assessment (SSA) of Behaviour Index" and "The Classroom Teachers' Assessment of Students' (ClTaS) Behaviour Checklist". Students' academic achievement was assessed using their grade average. Correlation analysis indicated that there was a statistically significant relationship between academic achievement and discipline;  $r = -.493, p < 0.05$ . Bivariate analyses indicated that there was a significant difference between male and female as it relates to their discipline level (Males:  $M = 92.65, SD = 22.46$ - Females:  $M = 79.62, SD = 11.75$ ;  $t(50) = 2.74, p = 0.008$ ), but there was no statistically significant difference as it relates to their academic achievement (Males:  $M = 50.15, SD = 24.28$ -Females:  $M = 54.15, SD = 22.70$ ;  $t(50) = 0.60, p = 0.76$ ). Implications and recommendation

for practice and policy such as the continuation of complementary studies (Restorative Justice Community Development Project) and the need for the determination of significant relational variance ( $R^2=0.243$ ) are discussed.

(P) *Restorative Justice in Albion School: Toward Community Development*  
**Paulene Gayle-Betten and Grace A. Kelly**

This research project embarks on a whole school approach to include the use of Restorative Justice (RJ) practices in the selected school mentioned above. It utilizes both qualitative and quantitative approaches in investigating the impact of RJ practices in creating behaviour change among students, parents, teachers and community members associated with the Albion Primary School in Manchester, Jamaica. The long-term goal is to establish the use of RJ language and practices by students, teachers, parents and community members and to employ RJ practice skills to help settle disputes and heal hurts among themselves. So far, students, teachers, parents and community members have participated in planned RJ practice sensitization sessions. Additional training had also been conducted with principal, teachers and ancillary staff. Currently, training is being conducted for RJ peer mediators involving twenty four (24) students from grades one to six. The project is in its second year and will be extended to the training of parents and other community members in the use of RJ skills. The results so far can be borne out in testimonials from the Principal and some of the teachers. Teachers are reporting better classroom control and children are beginning to take responsibility for their action. The Principal has reported a reduction in the number of physical fights that usually take place on a daily basis. The commitment to the use of RJ practices in the school community can be borne out by the buttons being worn by all teachers, students, ancillary staff and some parents with the slogan: **“I Can Change/There is Hope”**. The project is on-going and has implications for being the model for implementing RJ practices in other schools in the parish.

(P) *Relationship Satisfaction: Marriage versus Common-Law Relationships in the Jamaican*

*Context*

**Deannette Edwards**

It has been noted by researchers that common-law relations are replacing marriage with a less stable arrangement and fostering attitudes detrimental to marital quality (Smock 2000). The purpose of the research is to examine the relationship satisfaction of married couples compared with common-law relationships in couples ranging from ages 18-60 years in Central Jamaica. The sample consisted of sixty individuals (thirty couples from Manchester, Clarendon and St. Elizabeth. Data was collected by face to face interviews, telephone interviews, and via the internet. The triangulation mixed method design was used to examine three hypotheses and five qualitative questions. The quantitative aspect used the Cross sectional survey design and the qualitative aspect used the Narrative design by developed themes and categories. The first

hypothesis examined the difference of relationship satisfaction between married and common-law couples. The t-test revealed there was no difference  $t(58).267, p > .05$ . The Spearman rank order was used to analyze the relationship between socioeconomic status and relationship type; which revealed a positive weak yet non significant relationship ( $r_2 = .137, p = .297$ ). A Point biserial was used to analyze the relationship between socioeconomic status and relationship satisfaction which revealed a significant weak positive relationship ( $r_{pb} = 0.26, p = 0.042$ ). The qualitative aspect was analyzed using the stories of the participants developed into codes and themes. The mixed method research revealed that generally there are no significant differences in both relationship types. This is in contrast to research done elsewhere. Recommendations are focused on general education through different agencies to improve family values and the marriage relationship to make it more attractive to others.

(P) *Teachers' and Parents' Expectations of Students' Academic Achievement in Selected High Schools in Jamaica*

**Jody Lee**

Many youth leave secondary school without adequate qualifications or the certification to suitably move into the workplace or on to further studies. Research has indicated that several factors, including expectations, may play a significant role in the achievement of students. The purpose of this concurrent mixed methods study was to comprehensively investigate the role of teachers' and parents' expectations in students' academic achievement. Students' motivation and self-efficacy were also examined because they contribute to students' performance and are often formed through social interaction. The sample consisted of 96 students from 12 high schools in East and Central Jamaica and 5 parents and 3 teachers from these areas. The Parents and Teachers Expectations Questionnaire (PATE), a twenty-three item Likert scale ( $\alpha = .63 - .73$ ) was used in the quantitative component. The data were analyzed using point bi-serial correlation and independent samples *t*-test. Individual interviews of parents and teachers examined the factors involved in creating expectancy effects. The quantitative results indicated that there was no significant relationship between achievement and parents' and teachers' expectations. However, a significant difference was noted in the academic competence of traditional and non-traditional high school students for whom expectations often vary. The parents' and teachers' responses indicate that although their expectations were important to students' achievement, other factors including income and peer influence also played a role. The study highlights the need for deliberate interventions that target specific parent and teacher behaviours. There is need for a revision of the PATE and further research on the relationship between expectations and students academic achievement.

(P)

*Public Relations: Write in the Right Way*  
**Elaine Oxamendi-Vicet and Rhoma Tomlinson**

During the economic recession and the oncoming post recession era of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, public relations has become the single most important discipline in communication studies; as a well written public relations programme provides useful tools to manage negative publicity and can engender corporate goodwill through positive public relations programming. In the Caribbean, several foreign public relations texts are assigned as required reading for students of public relations as curriculum is crafted to prepare the student to transition to being a practitioner. Amidst the literary repertoire based on an analysis of fifteen texts there is a noted absence of the Caribbean perspective. This absence could place the Caribbean public relations practitioner when handling events or cases that are culture specific, at a professional disadvantage. To adequately address this void, research has been undertaken to include the corporate experience of those who engage public relations practitioners, focus groups, interviews and book analyses. The results from the research will provide a practical problem/solution approach and offer the Caribbean student a cultural reference in which they are more comfortable while maintaining international application; making the transition to practitioner easier. The text will celebrate the success of public relations as a profession of choice and provide an understanding of and the means to effecting the business of public relations during the recession and post recession era and in so doing, make a positive contribution to the socio-economic development within the region.