



WAND Notes

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

Nos. 3 & 4, Dec 2001

Success and prosperity to all our friends and colleagues in the new year from the staff of WAND

WAND supports media training for disabled persons in Barbados

WAND provided funds for the president of the Barbados National Organisation for the Disabled (BARNOD), Roslyn Hurley, to attend a workshop, "Making the Media Work for You", held in Trinidad and Tobago, June 11 – 15, 2001. The workshop, which was organised by the Disabled People's Organisation of the Caribbean, had the objectives of training people with disabilities to function efficiently as public relations officers in their respective organisations, encouraging an appreciation of the media and how it works, establishing networks and guidelines for cooperation with media houses, and developing public education programmes.

School of Continuing Studies gets new Montego Bay centre



Economic hardship pushes women into drugs trade, study finds

A four-month pilot research on the status of Caribbean women incarcerated in Jamaica's women's prison for trafficking in illegal drugs, has revealed some basic information:

- Of 189 prisoners, 180 were drug offenders (majority non-Jamaicans)
- Most women spoke of economic hardship as their reason for entering the drug trade
- In the case of Jamaican women, most were arrested at points of exit

- 95 per cent of the trafficking was in cocaine, four percent ganja (marijuana) and one percent ganja derivatives such as hash oil

The top five centres of highest demand indicated by the women were:

- The United Kingdom
- Miami (USA)
- New York (USA) – mainly Brooklyn
- Boston (USA)
- Philadelphia (USA)
- Caribbean countries ranked below the UK and USA

The restored Harrison House which is now home to the University of the West Indies School of Continuing Studies in Montego Bay, western Jamaica. See the full story of the opening overleaf.

10 being trained in computer studies

Ten more persons with disabilities were to enrol at the Academy of Learning in January to pursue training in Computer Studies – five for introduction courses and five for advanced courses. Advanced students were among the first batch sponsored by WAND under a WAND-BARNOD programme collaboration.

Grassroots women being trained to conduct community-based research

WAND is involved in a project to train and utilise grassroots community women to conduct primary community-based research on Women's Vulnerability and Resilience to Natural and Social Disasters. This pilot project, which is being implemented in St Lucia and the Dominican Republic, is

being done in collaboration with the International Hurricane Center/ Florida International University, Facultad Latinoamericana de General Sociales, Republica Dominicana and an independent scholar, Metropolitan State College, Denver USA.

Harrison House - Another light in the West

Congratulations to the School of Continuing Studies of the UWI and Velma Clarke, Resident Tutor on the opening of their new building, Harrison House, Montego Bay, Jamaica. The late 19th Century Georgian building was restored by the UWI, and has been designated a historic site protected by the Government of Jamaica. Harrison House, which was the residence of headmasters of the boys' high school, Cornwall College, brings fond memories to scores of Jamaican men, including UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor Rex Nettleford, as a place of scholarship, discipline and great fun.

Parent workshops scheduled for this year

Under its Parenting Project with Bay Primary School, St Michael, Barbados, WAND is to organise and implement three workshops:-

- "Children: Our Priority" - April 11, 2002
- "Men as Parents" - April 11, 2002
- "Parenting: The Naked Truth" - for parents, July 2002
- The parenting project is one way in which the UWI is being brought to the UWI and the community to UWI.

The life and love of the body is a noble thing against which the intellect and the spirit need not wage war.

- Michele Roberts
English writer

SUPPORTING PROGRAMMES FOR CARIBBEAN TRANSFORMATION

Farewell to long serving WAND staff

Farewell to accounting officer Mona Barrow and receptionist, Deborah Moseley. We wish to recognise their contribution to the growth and development of WAND over the years.

Debbie was with WAND since its inception and brought professionalism and efficiency to WAND's work.

We wish them success in their future endeavours.

Congrats Marvo

Congratulations to Marvo Roach, WAND's office assistant, who successfully completed Module One, "Introduction to Computers", at the WAND-sponsored course of study at the Academy of Learning, Bridgetown, Barbados.

Women's health - For Wellness

Order your copy now from WAND.

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