Faculty Spotlight:
Gillian Royes, PhD
Associate Professor of Journalism

Born in Jamaica on the shores of Kingston Harbour, Dr. Royes left the island to attend Colorado College in Colorado Springs – the beginning of her life journey. She experienced California in the mid-sixties, Europe in the late sixties, Brazil in the early seventies, the heyday of youth empowerment. After marching in Madison, Wisconsin (while earning a Masters in Journalism), protesting against the bombing of Cambodia, she worked as an editor at the Institute of the Black World, a Pan-Africanist think-tank in Atlanta. This was followed by marriage, a doctorate from Emory University, and a teaching position at Clark College.

The Caribbean Sea still ran through her veins, however, and it pulled her back to Jamaica to work as a communications consultant and entrepreneur in craft distribution. She authored two nonfiction works entitled Business Is Good (1997) and Sexcess: The New Gender Rules at Work (2003). Most recently, Dr. Royes travelled to Minneapolis to be one of three external advisors on Walden University’s plan to expand their undergraduate Communication Program.

Dr. Gillian Royes is the creator of the Shad series, detective novels that take place on the North Coast of Jamaica. The first in the series, The Goat Woman of Largo Bay, appeared in 2011; the second, The Man Who Turned Both Cheeks, in 2012 and The Sea Grape Tree, in 2014. Her latest novel in the Shad Series, The Rhythm of the August Rain, was released on July 28, 2015.