

Indi McLymont-Lafayette – Media and Communications Specialist

Indi McLymont-Lafayette is a multi-award winning journalist with just over twelve years experience in the field of media and communications. Ms McLymont-Lafayette was a Jamaica Government Exhibition Scholar at the University of the West Indies, where she earned a BA degree in Media and Communications with honours. Her work at Panos Caribbean enables her to cover the areas of health, gender, child rights and the environment in the region. She writes as well as edits stories for Panos' regional series Panoscope.

As the Vice-chairperson of the National Environmental Education Committee, Ms McLymont-Lafayette is coordinating the project, Voices for Climate Change Education: A National Climate Change Communication Strategy. This project is a national communication and education strategy to educate the general population on climate change issues. It uses popular artists to reach a large sector of society that would not otherwise relate or respond to traditional media. The project has also worked with vulnerable sectors (energy, agriculture, insurance and tourism) to sensitise them on climate impacts. Based on her work with Voices, she was in January 2010, asked to sit on Jamaica's 2030 national development plan thematic working group on climate change and disaster risk reduction. This working group informs policy decisions.

Prior to Panos she was the coordinator/editor of the Jamaica Observer's Allwoman magazine. Over the years she has done extensive coverage of environmental, health and gender issues in local, regional and international forums. She has received nine national and regional awards for her work in those areas, including the Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) Merit Award for Excellence in Health Journalism in the Caribbean, the United Nations Population Fund 2003 Caribbean Media Awards – Platinum Award for coverage of Adolescent and Reproductive health issues, PAHO's CARICOM award for best story on HIV/AIDS (a joint effort with another reporter).

She has extensive experience in events and seminar planning and she has also done public relations and radio work. Recently she further enhanced her communications skills with a Masters in Counselling Psychology.

Resume

Indi Mclymont-Lafayette
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Kingston 10, Jamaica.
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Professional Experience

Freelance Communications Specialist

- Work with a variety of local, regional and international organisations to provide expertise on media, communicating for behavior change, public relations and advertising.

July 2008 – present

Regional Director, Community, Media and Environment
The Panos Institute Caribbean
9 Westminster Road
Kgn 10, Jamaica

Responsibilities

- Coordinate the development, implementation and evaluation of projects and activities under the Panos Caribbean Regional Programme on the Environment
- Prepare project and progress reports on the activities managed, as mandated by the grants and other collaborative agreements
- Assist in fundraising activities in order to maintain or increase income and diversify funding sources for the Regional Programme on the environment
- To assign stories, edit and supervise about 8 freelance reporters in Panos regional media network.
- To organize press conferences as well as cover stories for the organization
- To assist with media training and identify other training needs
- To coordinate the Island Beat in Print and Panoscope Radio series, which disseminates radio stories and articles to at least 18 territories in the Caribbean
- To implement a national and regional communication and awareness raising campaign on climate change in the Caribbean
- To raise awareness of climate change in vulnerable sectors (energy, tourism, agriculture, health and water)

July 11, 2005 – June 2008

Programme Officer

The Panos Institute Caribbean
9 Westminster Road, Kgn 10, Jamaica

Panos is a regional Non-governmental organization that works with the media on development issues such as environment, health, gender and child rights.

Responsibilities

- to develop and coordinate the programme activities in Jamaica and the region on environment and gender.
- To assign stories, edit and supervise about 5 freelance reporters
- To organize press conferences as well as cover stories for the organization
- To assist with media training and identify other training needs
- To coordinate the Island Beat in Print and Panoscope Radio series, which disseminates radio stories and articles to at least 18 territories in the Caribbean

July 2003 – July 8, 2005

Jamaica Observer
40-42 ½ Beechwood Ave
Kingston 5
Jamaica

- Coordinator of the all woman, a 16 page gender magazine published on a Monday in the Jamaica Observer, as well as the coordinator of the health pages published every Wednesday.
- Duties - commissioning stories, writing and editing pieces during the week for weekly publication as well as general reporting on gender and health issues.

September 1999 – July 2003

- General reporter on the Jamaica Observer's news desk. Duties involved reporting and writing news stories and features.
- Covered the beats of health, environment, religion and gender.
- Has also done reporting on lifestyle and entertainment issues.

September 1998 – September 1999

Part time proofreader and freelance writer at the Jamaica Observer.

Education

January 2007 – present

Pursuing diploma in Spanish and French (still to be completed)

Alliance Francaise (January 2007 – present)
12b Lilford Avenue, Kingston

Venezuelan Institute (July 2005 – present)
27 Windsor Avenue, Kingston

September 1999 – June 2006

Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology at the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology
14 West Ave, Kingston 10

1995 to 1999

Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication
University of the West Indies
Mona, Jamaica
Major in Print Media (Upper Second Class Honours)

Continuous Training

- One day workshop on 'Environmental reporting for the twenty-first century'- March 24, 2000, sponsored by the US Embassy, the Press Association of Jamaica and the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) in Kingston, Jamaica
- One day Journalism training on 'Photojournalism and Parliamentary Reporting' sponsored by the Press Association of Jamaica, September 2000 in Kingston, Jamaica
- Two day workshop on 'Computer Assisted Journalism' sponsored by the US Embassy, May 2001 in Kingston, Jamaica,
- Two day training on 'Mapping out the story – Geographical Information Systems for Journalism in the Caribbean' held in Trinidad, October 25-26, 2003, sponsored by the Caribbean Environmental Reporters Network
- Weeklong Training on 'Key topics in Reproductive Health' sponsored by the Population Reference Bureau in Washington DC, May 2004
- Weeklong training on 'Involving Men to improve Reproductive Health' sponsored by the Population Reference Bureau in New York, March 2005
- Six week refresher course in conversational Spanish (Level 1) at the Venezuela Institute (July – August 2005)
- Three month course in conversational Spanish (level 2)) at the Venezuela Institute (August – October 2006)
- Weeklong training on 'Youth and HIV' sponsored by the Population Reference Bureau in Toronto, Canada, August 2006.
6 weeks online certificate course on 'Introduction to Intellectual Property' with the World Intellectual Property Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland (February – March 2009)

Two day training on Fundraising Basics organized by the US Embassy (June 2010)

1988-1995

Clarendon College

Chapelton PO

Clarendon

GCE's A'Levels - English Literature - D, History - D and General Paper - A

CXC level - four subjects (English, History, Language, Principles of Business) at Grade 1, three subjects (Geography, Mathematics and Spanish) at Grade 2 and one (Agriculture) at Grade 3

Awards

CLARENDON COLLEGE

1995 - CL Stewart Award for academic and general excellence

University of the West Indies

- Jamaica Government Exhibition Scholarship (1995-1998)
- Grace Academic Bursary (1998)
- Preston Hall's award for outstanding student leadership (1997)

Local and Regional Awards

- United Nations Fund For Population and Development (UNFPA) Caribbean Media Awards - second place award for best news piece (2000)
- Press Association of Jamaica award for best environmental reporting (2001)
- Blue Cross Award for outstanding health reporting (2002)
- Pesticide Control Authority for Best Individual Contribution to the organisation (2002)
- Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) best local health feature (August 2003)
- Pan American Health Organization's Merit Award for Excellence in Health Journalism in the Caribbean (September 2003)
- United Nations Population Fund 2003 Caribbean Media Awards – Platinum Award for coverage of Adolescent and Reproductive health issues
- Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) best Print Feature at the national level (September 2005)
- Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO)CARICOM award for best story on HIV/AIDS (a joint effort with another reporter)(Sept 2005)

International Meetings covered

1. Beijing Plus ten International Women's Conference – New York, March 2005

2. United Nations Environment Programme, International, Technical and Scientific Committee meeting, Caracas, Venezuela, October 2005.
3. Global Aids Conference, Toronto, Canada – August 2006
4. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties, Nairobi, Kenya, December 2006.
5. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties, Bali, Indonesia, December 2007.
6. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties, Poznan, Poland. December 2008.
7. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties, Copenhagen, Denmark. December 2009
8. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties, Cancun, Mexico. December 2010
9. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties, Durban, South Africa. December 2011.

Volunteer Activities

- Vice Chair: National Environmental Education Committee
- Public Relations Representative of the Jamaica America Friendship Association (May 2010 – present)
- Founding member of the Mocho Community Development Association
- Part of the production team of the Jamaica Observer's Off the Press newsletter (1999 - 2005)
 - Assistant Secretary of the CARIMAC alumni (2004- 2007)
 - Member of the Preston Hall alumni (1999 to present)
 - Volunteer production assistant at Fame FM for the programmes, Sound of Seduction and Sunday Morning Solid Gold (1997-2000)
 - An active member of Fellowship Tabernacle Church: 1999 - present (Kingston)
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Skills

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- Computer literate
- Reading knowledge of Spanish
- Basic knowledge of French – DELF A1, DELF A2, DELF B1,

Referees

1. Ms. Rhian Holder
Jamaica Country Manager
Christian Aid
14 South Avenue
Kingston 6
Jamaica
Tel: (876) 906-0183 or (876) 429-2616
Email: rholder@christian-aid.org
2. Natalie Herzhoff
EC Development Education
Project Manager
Plan International
Finsgate, 5-7 Cranwood St
London
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natalie.herzhoff@plan-international.org