

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Paulette A. Ramsay, BA, MA, PhD *UWI* – Head of Department

The Department welcomed the new academic year with the refurbishing of the main office. Everyone expressed appreciation for the change and also opined that it serves as a source of motivation at the start of the year.



New operational objectives set by the new Head of Department (HOD) were:

- Curriculum Review and Strengthening
- Collaboration with International Partners
- Increasing the numbers in the languages
- Income Generation
- Repositioning/Expanding Foreign Languages across The UWI.

CURRICULUM REVIEW

Broad Philosophy

This review is driven by the broad principle or general belief that the programme of studies in any discipline should be revised on a regular basis (every three to five years) to ensure that students attain its desired goals. In the study of Foreign Languages and Literatures, the review, - a systematic deliberation/reflection on and modification of the courses is a necessary part of the process of providing the appropriate content for each course, and equally important for employing the most up-to-date teaching

strategies and methods of assessment to help students achieve communicative competence in the languages and attain the objectives desired in other courses.

Moreover, a well deliberated, systematic review will help to ensure that we achieve the U.W.I.'s strategic plan for preparing students who are able to meet the demands of the 21st century, as informed citizens of different multi-cultural societies and the world. Each language area has been working to strengthen the curriculum in different ways to improve delivery.

Major reviews include:

MA in Translation – all aspects of the programme were revised by a Committee of persons in the UWI, namely Miss Annette Insanally, Mrs. Barnett Passard, Professor C. Williams and Dr. P. Ramsay, and individuals who work in the field of translation. The revised programme is now being submitted to Graduate Studies.

Preliminary Courses – The evaluation system has been revised.

Strategies for Expanding Foreign Language Learning:

The proposal put forward is that students should be allowed to select a Foreign Language course as an alternative Foundation Course, with the exception of those students who are required to take a course in a foreign language (i.e. Students in the BA programme, or BSc International Relations).

Students who are not required to take foreign languages as a part of their programme of study will be allowed to substitute one of the non-language Foundation Courses they are required to take (i.e. FD11A; FD12A, or FD13A) with a foreign language course at the level appropriate to their qualifications in that language. This proposal has been supported by the Faculties as well as by The Board of Undergraduate Studies.

TEACHING MATTERS

- (i) **French Section** – Teaching in the French Section was affected by a shortage of teaching personnel. Dr. N’zengou-Tayo was on sabbatical, plus increased numbers in French presented a challenge for time-tabling and delivery.
- (ii) **Chinese Credit Courses** – These courses were put on hold in the first Semester as the Chinese Instructors did not arrive on time in the first Semester. Ms. Shen arrived in January and commenced teaching in the second Semester.
- (iii) A new Minor in Portuguese and Latin American Studies was developed and is being vetted.

PUBLIC LECTURES

In keeping with the thrust to improve the visibility of the Department, two Public Lecturers were held:

- (i) **“Everybody Can Cross it’: Border Crossings and the Study of Foreign Languages”** presented by Professor Antonio Tillis, Chair for the Department of African and African American Studies, Dartmouth College, USA. The lecture was held on September 23, 2011 at the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre, N1.
- (ii) **“Teaching Slavery and African Diaspora in Brazil: New Trends”** presented by Professor Mariza de Carvalho Soares Associate Professor Department of History Brazil Africa Nucleus Studies Federal University of Fluminense. The lecture was held on Friday, November 25, 2011, 11 a.m. at the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre, N1. The lecture was done in collaboration with the Brazilian Embassy and the Department of History.

Both lectures, especially the first, were very well received and supported by Faculty and several High Schools.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENT

- (i) Dr. Maite Villoria won the Principal's award for her article entitled: "Colombia's Drug Trafficking Subculture: Its Literary Representation in La Virgen de los Sicarios and Rosario Tijeras."
- (ii) Dr. Francoise Cevaer gained tenure and Dr. Paulette Ramsay crossed the Merit Bar at the Senior Lecturer's Level.
- (iii) Dr. Ramsay published her second anthology of poems entitled October Afternoon by Hansib Publishers.

STAFF AND POSTGRADUATE SEMINAR

The department hosted a series of Staff and Postgraduate seminars during the second semester. The following presentations were done during the period March 15 – April 26:

- (i) **Presenter:** Professor Keith Ellis
Seminar Topic: Caribbean Solidarity: A Longstanding and Growing Tradition.
- (ii) **Presenter:** Dr. Hugues Peters/Visiting Scholar & Past French Lecturer
Seminar Topic: "Research on the Acquisition of French as a Foreign Language by Jamaican Learners of French: Analysis of Non-finite Complementation in a corpus of Jamaican Learners of French".
- (iii) **Presenter:** Dr. Maite Villoria, Lecturer (Spanish)
Seminar Topic: "Colombia's Drug Trafficking Subculture: Its Literary Representation in La Virgen de los Sicarios and Rosario Tijeras"
- (iv) **Presenter:** Mr. Warrick Lattibeaudiere
PhD Candidate, Dept. of Modern Languages and Literatures

Seminar Topic: “The loas and humans: Chameleonizing Identity in Myra Montero’s *Del rojo de su sombra*.”

(v) **Presenter:** Ms. Rashell Powell

MPhil Student, Dept. of Modern Languages and Literatures

Seminar Topic: “Gyno- Exclusivism: Negotiating spaces of alterity as presented in ‘*Juletane*,’ *Femmes Echouées*’ & ‘*Le Quimboiseur L’avait dit*.’”

(vi) The final seminar was held on Thursday, April 26, 2012 and was done by

Ms. Carrie Walker, Fulbright Scholar.

Seminar Topic: “Literary Perspectives on Citizenship in Paulette Ramsay’s *Aunt Jen*”

MODERN LANGUAGES’ DAY – Modern Languages Day and Food Fair was held on March 29, 2012

Theme: “Many Languages- One Message: Let’s Cross It!”

Food Fair (Faculty of Humanities Courtyard): 12 noon – 3 p.m.

Film, Music and Interaction – 12-2 p.m

Concert: 2:00- 4:00 p.m

The day came to an end with an official handing over of educational resources to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures by the Embassy of Spain in the Multifunctional room at 6pm.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

(i) **New Lab by JICA** – The New Lab was signed over this year.

(ii) **Dokkyo University**

(iii) **Film with Japanese Embassy** - The Embassy of Japan in association with the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures presented the film “**QUARTET.**” The film coincided with the anniversary of “The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami” on Friday, March 30, 2012, at The Neville Hall Lecture Theatre (N1)

CAPE Outreach Workshop – Saturday, March 31, 2012

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and the Academic Support Unit (ASU) jointly hosted a Foreign Language Workshop for the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) Spanish and French on Saturday, March 31, 2012 from 10 am to 4pm. The objective of the workshop was to equip students with some practical tools and techniques in written and oral communication and in critical analyses of various literature texts; this aimed at making them more prepared for CAPE.

There was also an interactive session for teacher-chaperones on, “Tips in Pedagogy for Teachers of Spanish and French syllabi.”

CAPE Workshop Evaluation

Table 10: I profited significantly from the workshop

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strong disagree	1	2.9	2.9
	undecided	6	17.1	20.0
	agree	15	42.9	62.9
	Strong agree	13	37.1	100.0
	Total	35	100.0	
Missing	99.00	1		
Total		36		

The table above shows that 42.9% of students surveyed agreed that they profited significantly from the workshop compared to 2.9% who strongly disagreed. The remaining 37% strongly agreed that they profited from the workshop while 17% remained undecided.

The survey also showed that the majority of students were satisfied with the overall workshop organization and the subject matters presented. Most of the students agreed that they would recommend the workshop to future students and also that the workshop responded to their needs as CAPE students. Both Spanish and French students agreed that the workshop helped to develop their comprehension, writing and critical analysis skills in each foreign language presented. Conclusively, an overwhelming majority of students rated the workshop a success and would recommend other students to attend.

AMBASSADORIAL VISITS

The French Ambassador, His Excellency Marc-Oliver Gendry, and the Brazilian Ambassador, His Excellency Da Costa e Silva Neto visited the Department's office to discuss the various programmes related to their Embassy. The new French Ambassador, Her Excellency Ginette De Matha, also visited on May 30, 2012. Several visits were made by representatives of JICA, to discuss the Japanese Volunteer Programme and the new language lab being donated by JICA.

INCOME GENERATION

(i) Language Lab Spanish and French Lunch Hour Courses

The Spanish and French Lunch hour Courses began on January 30, 2012 and lasted for ten (10) weeks. Twenty- eight students participated in the course.

(ii) Resumption of Interpretation & Translation Services

Interpretation and Translation services have been resumed and increasingly more interest is being shown in the service to provide a modest income.

(iii) Summer School – a small summer school for children was held with various activities.

LANGUAGE CLUB REPORTS

Japanese Club Report (2011-2012)

The Japanese club meets every Thursday. Students reported on what they researched on Japanese Culture, History and Geography, Cooking and Pop culture. All members had to do their presentation at least once in the year. The club operates based on the dues that the club members pay and from funds made from food sales. JICA Day was celebrated in November 2011 and Japanese dance and music were showcased. The Japanese club showcased Japanese dance and a demonstration of how to assemble traditional clothing at Modern Languages Day held in March. Japan Day held on April 5, 2012 showcased Japanese dance, music, origami, food sale, calligraphy, T-shirt printing and a demonstration of Yukata, a traditional Japanese clothing.

Financial Report

Total Figure for the Year 2011-2012

(Modern Languages Day + Dues for the year + Japan Day NET)	\$25,873.69
Dues:	\$17,223.45
Money Collected on Japan day 2012 (gross profit) +	\$27,950.00
Cost to put on Japan Day 2012	\$20,045.77
Net Profit of Japan Day 2012	\$ 7,904.24
Modern Languages Day 2012	\$ 740.00

French Club Report (2011-2012)

The French Club commenced meetings on September 22, 2011 under the name Club Français de UWI, now changed to La Societé Francophile in order to promote a more rounded club and not just France.

The major fundraising events for the Christmas semester were a pastry sale on October 20, 2011. This made a profit of six thousand seven hundred

and ninety dollars (\$6790). The other fundraiser was selling tickets for a Basil Dawkins play in October which made only five thousand dollars (\$5000) due to a lack of preparation and little support from club members.

The club currently has a balance of four thousand five hundred and sixty two dollars (\$4562).

Spanish Club Report (2011-2012)

- Inter-clubbing with Rotaract Club
- Participated in our annual Modern Languages Day
- Participated in the celebration of the Faculty's *Humanities Day*
- Supported the Latin American film week: (hired a bus to take students to the event)
- Visited the Mexican Embassy on *El Día de los Muertos*
- Presented cultural items at *UWI Research Day*
- Movie Special for the film "El Carro" with popcorn provided.
- Executive Social
- Latin Dance Classes (*every Thursday from 4:30 -6:00*)
- Club's detailed presentation on Colombia and Cuba
- Specially invited to the Bolivar Art Gallery to view the artwork of *German Grisales*
- Participated in the Programme Prevention 21+ UWI-Embassy of Colombia (interpreting, cultural and liaison) November 2011 and March 2012
- Participated in the activities organized for the Costa Rican students at UWI (interpreting, cultural and liaison)

Financial Status of the Club:

Club's Current Bank Balance: **\$58,656.28**

Brazilian Club Report (2011/2012)

During 2011/2012 academic year, the club contributed to the organization of two main activities: Semester I: a Brazilian music performance on campus supported by the Embassy of Brazil. Semester II: Modern Languages Day. Club members advertised these activities and gave assistance before and during the events. Some members also contributed with their talents by performing at the afternoon show on Modern Languages Day.

Finances:

Before Modern Languages Day (MLD) the club had J\$2,355.00, collected at weekly meetings. The club used \$1,653.13 to buy some of the ingredients necessary for the Brazilian dishes to be sold on MLD. The money collected during MLD, by selling Brazilian food was J\$3,300.00. The balance after this activity was: J\$4,001.87. On May 18, 2012, the club spent the total amount on a farewell party for the Club Advisor Ms. Patricia dos Reis.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Dr. Marie-Jose Nzengou-Tayo

- “Total Simulation and the Teaching of French for International Conferences at The UWI, Mona.” First International Conference on Language for Special Purpose, organized by the Departments of Foreign Languages and Literatures in collaboration with the Department of English Language, Birmingham, Alabama, April 13-14, 2012.
- “The North American Experience of Migration in the works of selected Haitian Writers.” 37th Annual Conference of the Caribbean Studies Association, Gosier, Guadeloupe, May 27 – June 01, 2012

Paulette A. Ramsay

- “When Trees Speak with the Tongues of Women: Eco-feminist Representations in Afro- Mexican Oral Narratives.” Taiyuan University of Technology, Taiyuan China, International Centre.
- Guest Lecture on **Aunt Jen** for the Department of Literatures in English at The UWI. Mona Campus.

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Marie-Jose Nzengou-Tayo

Chapter of Book

- * “Perjuicios acerca de la independencia haitiana : *Viento negro, Bosque del caimán* de Carlos Esteban Deive.” In Ineke Phaf-Rheinberger (ed.) Historias enredadas: Representaciones asimétricas con vista al Atlántico. Berlin: Edición tranvía - Verlag Walter Frey, 2011, pp. 52-65.

Articles

- * “The Haitian Short-Story: An Overview.” *Journal of Caribbean Literatures*. V. Pollard (Guest Editor). Vol. 6, No. 3, Spring 2010, pp. 37-52.

Testimonial

- * “Malè pa gen klaksonn: A personal Account of a foretold yet unavoidable disaster.” *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism*. “*Parol Fanm sou 12 janvye*”. G. A. Ulysse (Ed.), Smith College, pp. 98-105.

Book Reviews

- * Review of Red and Black in Haiti: Radicalism, Conflict and Political Change, 1934-1957 by Matthew J. Smith. Bibliography. Index. Illustrations. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2009. xi + 278 pages. *CQ. Caribbean Quarterly*. Vol. 58, No. 1, 115-119.

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- * October Afternoon (2012), Hansib Publishers. England, UK
- * Guest Editor, Editorial, “The University Graduate as Global Citizen,” *Quality Education Forum*, The UWI, 2012. Volume Number 18, pp. vii-xii
- * Ramsay, Paulette A. Towards a New Vista: Shirley Campbell’s Representation of Her Afro-Centric Caribbean Cultural Heritage. *CLA Journal* 55.1 (Sept. 2011): 1-17.

Professor Claudette Williams

- * The Cuban Short Story in the Twenty-First Century: Postmodern Perspectives.” *Journal of Caribbean Literatures* Vol.6, No.3, pp. 95-108.
- * “Imag(in)ing Africa in the Cuban Antislavery Narrative” in Conrad James ed. Writing the Afro-Hispanic: Essays on Africa and Africans in the Spanish Caribbean. Adonis & Abbey, UK 2012, pp. 13-29.

Book Review

- * Juanamaría Cordones-Cook. *Soltando amarras y memorias: Mundo y poesía de Nancy Morejón*. Santiago, Chile: Editorial Cuarto Propio, 2009. 244pp. *Afro-Hispanic Review* Vol. 30, No. 2, (Fall) 2011, pp. 221-223.

Review Essay

Ms. Nadine Barnett

- * Beverley Bryan’s Between two Grammars: Research and Practice for Language Learning and Teaching in a Creole-speaking Environment. Ian Randle Publishers 194 pages, *Caribbean Journal of Education*, Vol. 32 No. 2 September 2011

Mr. Warrick Lattibeaudiere

- * Sonjah Stanley Niaah's Dancehall: From Slave Ship to Ghetto, Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2010. *The UWI Quality Education Forum* Vol. 18, January 2012

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr. Marie-Jose Nzengou-Tayo

- Co-Chair of the on-site committee for the 23rd annual conference of the Haitian Studies Association.
- Member, Vice-Chancellor Task Force on Haiti.

Professor Claudette Williams

- Director, Institute of Caribbean Studies
- Member, Standing Committee on Ordinances & Regulations
- UWI representative, Board of Governors, Edna Manley College for the Visual and Performing Arts.

Paulette A. Ramsay

- Caribbean Examinations Council (CAPE)
- Review Editor, *Caribbean Journal of Education*
- Advisor, The UWI Chess Society.

Departmental Retreat

The Departmental Retreat took place on Tuesday, May 22, 2012 from 9 am to 5pm at the Courleigh Hotel. All full-time members of staff were present at the retreat. **Theme:** “Global Education through the Teaching and Learning of Foreign Languages.”

Visit to Colombia

A joint visit was made on May 13-19 to Colombia with representatives from the Department of Modern Languages, Latin American Centre for the Caribbean and International Student Office. Thirteen private Universities were visited.

Objectives of the Visit:

- Research Collaboration
- Student Exchange
- Faculty Visits
- Study Abroad

Number of Students in the Department for 2011- 2012:

Area	Level	Semester I	Semester II	Total
	Preliminary	277	114	391
	Language	148	180	328
Spanish	Literature	73	67	140
	Tourism	24	23	47
Grand Total				906
French	Preliminary	94	88	182
	Language	72	67	139
	Literature	12	20	32
	Tourism	–	18	18
Grand Total				371
Japanese	Language	93	76	169
Chinese	Language	–	22	22