

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS AND PHILOSOPHY

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– Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

With responsibility for the English Language Foundation courses at UWI Mona, we are seen as the department which is to ensure that UWI graduates are able to express the knowledge of their disciplines appropriately, both orally and in written form. Recognizing that one or two stand-alone courses cannot achieve this goal, the department, through its English Language Section, developed a proposal for the enhancement of communicative competencies in the student population

across disciplinary programmes at UWI Mona. The central elements of the proposal include the return of the Mona English Language Proficiency Test to its original role as a placement test; differentiation of the English language foundation courses into distinct offerings on the basis of Faculty or discipline; and increased integration of Communication Across the Curriculum (C.A.C.) approaches in the design, delivery and assessment of disciplinary courses and the identification of courses which will benchmark communicative abilities. The proposal was discussed at, and received broad support from, all Faculty Boards at Mona and the Academic Boards of all four campuses. The Board for Undergraduate Studies approved the expansion of the English language foundation course offerings, of which pilots were designed for first delivery in 2012/2013. Through the Instructional Development Unit, members of the English Language Section carried out C.A.C. workshops; for the coming academic year, the Section will be offering further training and



expects to support the expansion of existing C.A.C. initiatives in the Faculties of Social Sciences and Science & Technology.

Another significant event was the Quality Assurance Review of the Philosophy programme, led by Professor Charles Mills, John Evans Professor of Moral and Intellectual Philosophy, North Western University, Michigan, USA, and including team members Professor Frederick Ochieng'-Odhiambo, Head, Department of History and Philosophy, UWI, Cave Hill (Internal Academic) and Rev. Clinton Chisholm, Lecturer, Caribbean Graduate School of Theology (Local Professional). The team's report and the department's response to its recommendations, were considered at the Sectional, Departmental and Faculty levels and at Academic Board.

The report concludes that the Philosophy programme is unsustainable on the current staff complement and recommends that at least two new permanent staff members be hired as soon as possible – something which, with the support of the Faculty Dean and the Campus Principal, we hope to be able to pursue in the 2012/13 academic year. Other recommendations which we have acted on or are preparing to do so, include the development of a course in Caribbean Philosophy, the development of new minors, the exploration of interdisciplinary collaboration with UTC and St.Michael's College, the development of a public/media presence, and the establishment of an undergraduate Philosophy Society, *i.a.*

The report was critical of the postgraduate programme and in particular of the lack of guidance given to postgraduate research students. This is cause for the department to look more broadly at improving its checks and balances on postgraduate supervision. Additionally, through the Jamaican Language Unit, the department continues to provide support to its postgraduate students, in the form of coaching sessions and training seminars.

The department will be delivering Caribbean Sign Language courses for students in the new Dentistry programme in the Faculty of Medical Sciences as of 2012/2013. To this end, a new course, LING2821 'Sign

Language for Medicine and Dentistry’ was developed. For the 2012/2013 academic year, the department intends to raise the visibility of and broaden the support for its Sign Language programme.

Other new courses which were successfully taken through the quality assurance processes in the faculty include LANG3003 ‘Technical Writing’ and PHIL3025 ‘Caribbean Philosophy.’

As usual, the department provided summer internships in the Jamaican Language Unit for students, aimed at helping students to develop skills in administration and research for the world of work.

Postgraduate degrees awarded

Six candidates were awarded the Master of Arts (M.A.) in English Language: Marva Clarke, Janice Julal (distinction), Caphanne March (distinction), Tishauna McMaster-Isaacs, Grace Oliphant and Ardene Nicole Reid-Virtue (distinction). The MA Linguistics was awarded to Lisa Barker. The MPhil Linguistics was awarded to Annife Campbell, Tasheny Francis, and Jodianne Scott. The PhD Linguistics was awarded to Marsha Forbes and Nicole Scott. Joseph Farquharson and Clive Forrester were also successful in their oral examinations for the PhD. The MA Philosophy was awarded to Rudolph Ellis and Ava-Loi Forbes.

It is worth mentioning that the courses in the MA English Language attract international students. During the 2011/2012 year, one exchange student from the University of Marburg participated in the programme.

Promotions, appointments, and achievements

Three members of staff were on leave for all or part of the year: Prof. Tunde Bewaji (Philosophy) and Dr. Otelemate Harry (Linguistics) received Sabbatical Leave, with Prof. Bewaji appointed Jay Newman Visiting Professor of Philosophy of Culture, 2011-2012, at Brooklyn College, CUNY, New York. Prof. Hubert Devonish was granted a National Endowment for the Humanities Visiting Fellowship at Colgate

University, Hamilton, NY, USA, for the period 29th August to 31st December 2011.

Annife Campbell, MPhil Linguistics graduate, was hired as Instructor in the English Language Section. The department welcomed as full-time temporary members of staff Dr Nicole Scott (Linguistics), Emmogene Alvaranga-Budhai (Linguistics), and David Friedell (Philosophy).

Dr. Ingrid McLaren was approved for crossing the Merit Bar in the Lecturer scale.

Keren Cumberbatch earned the PhD in Linguistics at UWI, St. Augustine.

Dr Kathryn Brodber was appointed Deputy Dean for Postgraduate Matters, while Dr Michèle Stewart continued as Associate Dean for Marketing and Outreach. Dr. Brodber retired at the end of the 2011/2012 academic year, after 33 years of service to UWI.

Dr Monica Taylor's application for a New Initiative Grant was approved for the project, "The Role of Writing in National Development: a survey of the use and impact of writing in the public and private sectors in Jamaica". The grant becomes effective in the 2012/2013 academic year.

Dr. Otemate Harry was awarded a Mona Campus Research and Publication Grant for the purchase of equipment and supplies for a project entitled, "A Study of Aspects of the Prosodic Phonology of Jamaican Creole."

Administrative Staff Matters

Three members of the department's administrative staff continued their Master's degree programmes: Karen Clarke, Shayzan McBeam and Yvette Mundy-Whyte. Shayzan McBeam, Senior Administrative Assistant, resigned from her position in the department, after six years of stellar service; Omar Anderson worked with the department during the summer period as her temporary replacement.

Marilyn Sheriff was hired as the Administrator of the new IELTS Examination Centre, which further employs about a dozen persons as part-time invigilators, clerical markers, and examiners.

The department continues its tradition of weekly Admin Meetings, which helps to channel relevant information and to streamline administrative processes in the department.

Public Events

In celebration of International Creole Day, the Jamaican Language Unit hosted a seminar on 28 October 2011, which included presentations and discussions on Jamaican Creole and other Creole languages of the region. The Unit also presented its audio-recorded translations of selected portions of the Charter of Rights into Jamaican Creole to the leader of government business A.J. Nicholson, Senator Dwight Nelson, the President of the Senate Oswald Harding, and the Secretary of Parliament Mrs Heather Cooke on International Creole Day.

In collaboration with the Quality Assurance Unit, the Department hosted a public lecture by Professor Charles Mills on “Racial Justice” on 24 November 2011 for an audience which included students of philosophy and a broad cross-section of members of the UWI community.

The Department held its annual Post-Graduate Research Day on May 10, 2012, where eight Philosophy and nine Linguistics postgraduate students presented on their work in a format which allows students to become acquainted with the procedures surrounding conference presentations, including the submission and vetting of abstracts, functioning as session chairs, etc.

The day also featured two invited speakers: Mr David Friedell, PhD Philosophy student from UCLA and temporary lecturer in Philosophy for 2011/2012, on “Abstract Objects,” and Dr Shondel Nero, Associate Professor of Teaching and Learning at New York University and visiting Fulbright Scholar, hosted jointly for the year by the School of Education and the department, on “The Importance of Caribbean Linguistic Research in the 21st Century.”

Off-site course offerings

The department performs an important role for the Tertiary Level Institutions with which the UWI maintains a relationship, through the moderation of the English Language Foundation course offerings at those institutions. During 2011/2012, the department facilitated the offering of FOUN1001 ‘English for Academic Purposes’ at Brown’s Town Community College, the Police Academy, Knox Community College, MIND, Excelsior Community College, Moneague College, and Shortwood Teachers’ College.

In addition, we facilitated the FOUN1001 offering at the Faculty of Social Science Weekend School, and at the Western Jamaica Campus, where we also continued to offer LANG3001 ‘The Art of Public Speaking’ and PHIL1003 ‘Introduction to Philosophy.’ For the 2012/2013 academic year, we expect to broaden our offerings at the Western Jamaica Campus.

Student Assessments of Teaching

Students assessed the overall teaching of the department as follows:

| Assessment | Semester I | Semester II | Summer 2011/12 |
|------------------------|------------|-------------|----------------|
| Lecturers’ Mean Score | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.4 |
| Mean Score for Courses | 3.7 | 3.6 | 4.2 |

Full-time staff members who were awarded scores of 4.5 or above on at least one assessment included, in the English Language Section, Ama Ababio, Alison Altidor-Brooks, Deidrea Dwyer, Caroline Dyche, Vivienne Harding, Haidee Heron, Dr Carmeneta Jones, Dr Vivette Milson-Whyte, Sandra Minott, Margaret Newman, Lileth O’Connor-Brown, Marilyn Ricketts; in the Linguistics Section, Dr Kathryn Brodber, Emmogene Budhai-Alvaranga, Dr Keren Cumberbatch, Prof Hubert Devonish, Prof Silvia Kouwenberg, and Dr Michèle Stewart; in the Philosophy Section, Dr Lawrence Bamikole, Sandra McCalla and Simeon Mohansingh.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Bamikole, L.O.** “David Hume’s Notion of Identity: Implications for Identity Construction and Affective Communal Living in Africana Societies”. Toyin Falola Annual Conference on Africa and the African Diaspora. Lagos, Nigeria, July 2-4, 2012. (14pp)
- **Bamikole, L.O.** and **S. McCalla.** “Philosophy of Tolerance and Tolerance as Philosophy: Using Philosophy for Societal Transformation in Africana Societies”. Brooklyn College Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Culture as site for Contest: Destroyed Past, Truncated Present, Dubious Future. CUNY Brooklyn College, New York, March 2-3, 2012. (20pp.)
- **Bamikole, L.O.** “Political Violence: Its Neglected Dimension.” 2011 Cave Hill Philosophy Symposium. University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, November 16-18, 2011. (15pp.)
- **Bamikole, L.O.** “Nkrumah and the Triple Heritage Thesis and Development in Africana Societies.” 2011 meeting of the Caribbean Philosophical Association. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA, September 28 – October 1, 2011. (25pp.)
- **Bewaji, J.A.I.** “Epistemicide, Epistemic Deficit, Leadership Mis-education and the Vicious Cycle of Africana Underdevelopment.” Plenary paper, 2011 meeting of the Caribbean Philosophical Association. Rutgers University, 28 September October 1, 2011. (30 pp.)
- **Bewaji, J.A.I.** “Destroyed Past, Truncated Present, Dubious Future – The Challenge of Black Identity in a Globalized World.” Distinguished Public Lecture, CUNY Brooklyn College, New York, November 2, 2011. (30 pp.)

- **Bewaji, J.A.I.** “Multiculturalism, Leadership and Development – prospects, challenges and opportunities for African societies.” CBAAC Conference, State University of Bahia (UNEB), Salvador-Bahia, Brazil, November 8-10, 2011. (30 pp.)
- **Bewaji, J.A.I.** “Culture as site for contest: tracing the stress factors in European cultural influence on the Caribbean society.” 2011 Cave Hill Philosophy Symposium. University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, November 16-18, 2011. (30 pp.)
- **Bewaji, J.A.I.** “Teaching of Philosophy at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus.” Caribbean Philosophical Association Conference, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, July 18-21, 2012. (20 pp.)
- **Cumberbatch, K.** “The Aftermath of Research on Sign Languages in Jamaica,” International Centre for Sign Languages and Deaf Studies, University of Central Lancashire, UK, July 4, 2012.
- **Dawkins, N.** “Art imitating life: Social issues that may account for linguistic style as it relates to male identity and dominance within dancehall music”, Society for Pidgin & Creole Linguistics Conference “Traces of Contact”, August 6-8, 2011, Accra, Ghana.
- **Harry, O.G. & L.M. Hyman.** “Construction Tonology: The Case of Kalabari”. University of California, Berkeley Linguistics Forum, February 27, 2012. (7 pp.)
- **Henry, A.** “Establishing the Kromanti - Akan link: Evidence from the occurrence of phonemic /ɾ/.” Society for Pidgin & Creole Linguistics Conference “Traces of Contact”, August 6-8, 2011, Accra, Ghana.
- **Kouwenberg, S.** “Coming to terms with the end of the substratist hypothesis as we know it: The Berbice Dutch case.” [Presented in absentia.] Reassembling the Fragments. Conference

in honour of Bridget Brereton, Barbara Lalla and Ian Robertson.
August 25-27, 2011, UWI, St. Augustine. (26 slides)

- **Long, P.** “Reconciling the modern democratic society with ‘developing states’ situation: The case of Jamaica.” 2011 Cave Hill Philosophy Symposium. University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, November 16-18, 2011. (12 pp).
- **McCalla, S.** “Is There a Prima-facie Obligation to obey the law?” 2011 Cave Hill Philosophy Symposium. University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, November 16-18, 2011.
- **McLaren, I.M.** “Can we cross it? With WAC we can: Developing a model for writing intervention across disciplinary borders.” 32nd Annual Conference of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, June 19-22, 2012.(13 pp).
- **Scott, N.** and S. Evans. “The African influence on TMA marking in Antillean French-lexicon Creoles.” Society for Pidgin & Creole Linguistics Conference ‘Traces of Contact’, August 6-8, 2011, Accra, Ghana.

PUBLICATIONS

Books & Monographs

- * **Kennedy, Michèle.** Quantification in Jamaican Creole. The syntax and semantics of *evri* (“every”) in interaction with indefinites [LINCOM Studies in Pidgin and Creole Languages 11]. Muenchen: Lincom, 2012.
- * **Taylor, Monica.** Connecting the dots. Anatomy of verbal interaction in Jamaican English language classrooms. Kingston: Arawak Publishers, 2011.

Chapters in Peer-Refereed Books

- * **Bamikole, Lawrence O.** “Rastafari as Philosophy and Praxis” Rastafari in the New Millennium: A Rastafari Reader. Ed. Michael Barnett. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2012: 125-141.
- * **Jones, Carmeneta, and Vivette Milson-Whyte.** “Metaphors of Writing and Intersections with Jamaican Male Identity.” International Advances in Writing Research: Cultures, Places, Measures. Ed. Charles Bazerman, et al. Fort Collins, Colorado: The WAC Clearing house and Parlor Press, 2012: 267-84.
- * **Kouwenberg, Silvia** and Pieter Muysken. On the typology of clauses in Papiamentu. Continuity, divergence and convergence in language, culture and society on the ABC-Islands. Eds. Faraclas, Nicholas et al. Curaçao: Fundashon pa Planifikashon di Idioma & University of the Netherlands Antilles, 2011: 13-23.
- * **Kouwenberg, Silvia** and John Victor Singler. Pidgins, Creoles and other contact varieties. The Cambridge Handbook of Sociolinguistics. Ed. Raj Mesthrie. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011: 283-300.
- * **Kouwenberg, Silvia.** The Ijo-derived lexicon of Berbice Dutch Creole: an a-typical case of African lexical influence. Black through white: African words and calques which survived slavery in Creoles and transplanted European languages. Ed. Angela Bartens and Philip Baker. London: Battlebridge, 2012. 135-153.
- * **Kouwenberg, Silvia.** “Pidginization and Creolization.” Routledge Encyclopedia of Second Language Acquisition. Ed. Peter Robinson. Oxford & New York: Routledge, 2012. 487-490.

Refereed Journal Articles

- * **Bamikole, Lawrence O.** “Nkrumah and the Triple Heritage Thesis and Development in Africana Societies”. *International Journal of Business, Humanities and Technology* 2.2, 2012: 68-76.
- * **Bamikole, Lawrence O,** and Roxanne Burton. “Liberating the Jamaican Woman: Globalization and Cross-cultural Relativism”. *Journal of Current Discourse and Research* 3, 2011: 69-90.
- * **Harry, Otelemate G.** “Kalabari Phonology and Orthography.” *Kiabara* Supplement 3, 2012: 151-169.
- * **Kouwenberg, Silvia** et al. Linguistics in the Caribbean: Empowerment through creole language awareness [Guest Column]. *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages* 26.2. 2011: 387-403.
- * **McLaren, Ingrid M.** “The use of quantitative and qualitative methods in the analysis of academic achievement among undergraduates in Jamaica”. *International Journal of Research and Method in Education* 35. 2,2012: 195-216.
- * **Milson-Whyte, Vivette.** “Economies, Identities, and Perceptions of Writing: Self-Portraits and Academic Writing Performance among Jamaican Students.” *Journal of Advanced Composition (JAC)* 32.3-4 (2012):565-90.
- * **Stewart, Michèle.** “The expression of number in Jamaican Creole.” *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages* 26.2, 2011: 363-386.

Other Peer-Reviewed Publications

- * **Kouwenberg, Silvia.** “Caribbean Creole Languages.” *Oxford Bibliographies* in “Atlantic History”. Ed. In Chief Trevor Burnard. New York: Oxford University Press, launch date May 2012. <<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com>>.

INCOME GENERATION

The department's application to the British Council to become the IELTS Examination Centre for Jamaica was successful; the Centre began operations the first of February 2012, and has held test sittings twice monthly. 'IELTS' is the International English Language Testing System, a Cambridge-set exam which rigorously tests English language proficiency in four modules: reading, writing, listening, speaking. The department expects to launch the Centre officially in 2012/2013, and to develop additional income-generating activities in relation to the IELTS test, such as pre-testing and preparatory teaching.

PUBLIC SERVICE/PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH

Dr Nicole Scott, whose specialization is in French-lexicon creole, taught a six-week course in Haitian Creole for ten members of the Jamaican Defence Force, with the assistance of a Haitian Creole native speaker.

Members of department sat on national and regional committees, including the National Bioethics Committee of Jamaica (Prof. Tunde Bewaji, Vice-Chairman), the Jamaica Fulbright-Humphrey Alumni Association (Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte, Deputy Chair, Membership Committee), Archdiocesan Education Board (Dr. Michèle Stewart, Member) and the Board of Governors of the Catholic College of Mandeville (Dr. Michèle Stewart, Member).

Members of department conducted many seminars and workshops for members of the public, including the following, *i.a.*:

- a full-day seminar on Critical Thinking in the Police Officers' Training, February 2012, by Sandra McCalla.
- literacy workshops for teachers, parents and children at Rollington Town Primary School, in the Mountain View community, and at Stella Maris Preparatory School, by Dr Carmeneta Jones.

- CAPE workshops organised by Dr Michèle Stewart in her role as Associate Dean for Marketing and Outreach, conducted by members of the Linguistics Section.
- public lectures on African culture at the Jamaica Public Library Service, Kingston, and at the Spanish Town Public Library, by Dr. Lawrence Bamikole

PRIZES AWARDED

Foundation Courses:

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|---|---|
| Best Student in FOUN1001/FD10A ... (English for Academic Purposes). | Kimberly Alexis VILLIERS |
| Best Student in FOUN1401/FD14A ... (Writing in the Disciplines) (Tie). | Herona Daye THOMPSON Tricia Tavia WINT |
| Best Student in FOUN1002/UC10B ... (Language: Argument). | Mellesia Violet HARMON |

Linguistics:

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|---|-------------------------|
| Best Level-I Linguistics Student ... | Rochelle Angella BRAHAM |
| Best Level-II Formal Linguistics Student ... | Elizabeth Anne LEVY |
| Best Level-II Non-Formal Linguistics Student ... | Rene Tiffanie CLARKE |
| Best Level-III Formal Linguistics Student ... | Honica Ornella BROWN |
| Best Level-III Non-Formal Linguistics Student ... | Honica Ornella BROWN |
| Best Graduating Linguistics Student ... (Language & Linguistics) | Tinashae Yolande HINES |

Philosophy:

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| Best Level-I Student ... | Kehinde Oluwaseun BAMIKOLE |
| Best Level-II Student ... | Renee Anashay DILLION |
| Best Graduating Philosophy Student ... | Chrisann Tiffany BOVELL |