

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS AND PHILOSOPHY

Hubert St. Laurent Devonish, BA *Guy*, DPhil *York (UK)*

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT



The department has three focal points of activity. The first involved the integration of teaching and research. The idea has been to engage undergraduate students in planned and structured data collection and analysis as part of the wider research agenda of the department. A second was the rapid development, by way of the system of departmental awards, of a cadre of full time graduate students, who would create the critical mass necessary for a significant increase in departmental research output. The third was the creation, through limited relief from teaching duties, of opportunities for members of academic staff engaged in postgraduate research to successfully complete their programmes and to do so in a timely fashion.

At the level of the administrative support staff of the department, the aim in the coming year is to automate routine administration. The intent here is to free up the staff to engage in higher level activities involving the management of the increasing number of projects and initiative being undertaken by the department. Another aim here is to release academic staff from administrative tasks, thus creating more time in which they can proceed with their research activities.

TEACHING SECTIONS

English Language

1) Course Enrolment/Success Rates

The following courses were offered by the Section (bracketed figures refer to the number of examination candidates &/or students completing coursework, and the level of passes):

- a) **FD10A** – English for Academic Purposes - Semester 1 (655), Pass Rate (80.2%); Semester 2 (869), Pass Rate (76.2%); and Semester 3 (290), Pass Rate (84.8%). (The above information pertains to the on-campus course, the online version delivered to BEd. Distance students, and course delivery both at the Management Institute for National Development (MIND) and at three community colleges - Brown's Town, Knox and Montego Bay.)
- b) **FD14A** – Writing in the Disciplines – Semester 1 (660), Pass Rate (61%); Semester 2 (551), Pass Rate (83 %); and Semester 3 (63), Pass Rate (78 %).
- c) **UC10A** – Language: Exposition – Semester 1 (440), Pass Rate (72%); Semester 3 (45), Pass Rate (80 %).
- d) **UC10B** – Language: Argument – Semester 1 (733), Pass Rate (81%); Semester 3 (58), Pass Rate (50%).
- e) **LG600** – Advanced Academic English Language Skills (for students pursuing the M.Sc. Degree in Human Resources Development). Semester 1 (24), Pass Rate (78%); Semester 2 (13), Pass Rate (85%). (The information for Semesters 1 & 2 pertains to the on-campus course and to that offered at the Brown's Town Community College).

2) Courses: Significant Developments

In light of the need over the years to place a large number of UC120 students in new classes in Semester 2 due to timetable clashes caused by the change of semester, the department reverted to using two one-semester courses 'Language: Exposition' (UC10A) and 'Language: Argument' (UC10B).

Large group lectures were incorporated into the FD14A course, and in Semester 2, the course evaluation was changed and students were no longer required to pass both the examination and the coursework component in order to pass the course.

A series of panel discussions 'Argument in the Workplace' featuring prominent journalists, lawyers, trade unionists and public relations practitioners was held during the week of April 3, 2006. These discussions, a part of the UC10B course, were open to the general university community.

3) The Writing Centre

The Centre offered three courses as part of its income-generating mandate: 'Writing for the World of Work', and 'Public Speaking'. The income generated from these courses was \$61,000.00. A Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) two-year pilot project tool to begin in September 2006) was developed in June in response to a request from the Faculty of Pure & Applied Sciences for staff to be trained to incorporate written English into teaching and learning in their disciplines. The eventual aim is to develop a WAC model that can be adapted to meet the specific instructional goals of the various academic programmes of the UWI Mona campus.

4) English Language Proficiency Test Unit

As an outreach activity, the Test Unit conducted a seminar for fourteen English Language secondary school teachers from across the island. The seminar focused on test rationale, format and content, and on student preparation.

Six sittings of the ELPT were held, in August, September and December 2005, and in February, March, and May 2006. The pass rates were as follows:

August	– 39% (319/819)	February	51% (873/1712)
September	– 68% (55/81)	March	54% (659/1229)
December	– 35% (145/414)	May	47% (135/286)

An analysis of the results showed that candidates who pursued the UC010 course had a higher pass rate than those who did not: 56% vs. 34% in August 2005, 45% vs. 30% in December 2005 and 64% vs. 47% in May 2006. In the May 2006 test, students who pursued the Brown's Town UC010 had a very low pass rate (17%).

ELPTU also taught UC010 'Fundamentals of English' to 122 students as part of the process of preparing them for the ELPT.

5) Most Pressing Challenges

- Increasing the accessibility of students to the UC010 course, which many do not pursue for lack of the financial wherewithal, and improving the effectiveness of the course.
- Offering a UC010 distance course, especially for students in tertiary level institutions that have franchise agreements with the UWI.

- Developing a properly funded programme for the use of the Writing Centre and to generally maximize the Centre's use/effectiveness.
- Engendering closer collaboration between the English Language Section and individual departments/faculties with regard to students' language across the curriculum needs.

Linguistics

In the 2005-6 Academic Year, the Linguistics Section had its external disciplinary Review coordinated by the Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies. The team, led by Professor John Rickford, Professor of Linguistics, Stanford University, states in the Review of Language and Linguistics Programmes, Mona Campus (2005, p. 4)

‘... the Quality Assurance team is deeply impressed by what the program at UWI Mona has achieved with limited resources. Its courses cover some of the most current theories and topics in the field, its students are using some of the most recent and authoritative texts and CD resources, and its faculty are generally doing well in teaching and research and the department has a wide range of programmatic initiatives ... that have excited and involved students, faculty and administrative staff. We have not seen this degree of across-the-board intellectual engagement (visible in the administrative staff as well) in other universities, and we know of no single linguistics program elsewhere in the Third World that is producing linguistics graduates at the undergraduate and graduate levels in the quantity and quality that UWI Mona is.’

There were, of course, concerns. One of these was that the large number of majors the department had managed to attract might become disillusioned when they arrived on the job market. Another involved staff perceptions about the quality of the intellectual experience that students were undergoing. A key objective in the latter part of the year was to begin to address all the issues raised by the Review and to implement, where appropriate and possible, its recommendations.

One important response, already begun in the 2005-6 Academic Year, will be to expand the field trip experiences typical of the compulsory advanced courses in the Linguistics major to the much larger group of Language Communication and Society majors. Another will involve the staging of workshops for undergraduate students. These will focus not only on key skills necessary for success at university, notably how to write an essay in

Linguistics, but on careers and the applications of the discipline in the world of work. A specific career seminar for students in the section will be planned for the 2006-7 Academic Year that will prepare them to market their academic discipline, Linguistics, to prospective employers.

Philosophy Section

During the 2005-2006 Academic Session, there were a number of positive developments with regard to the growth of the Philosophy Section at UWI, Mona. Among them are the usual attendance, participation and presentation of the staff members and graduate students at international conferences of International Society for African Philosophy and Studies (ISAPS) in the United Kingdom (Dr. Bewaji and Dr. Bamikole), Caribbean Philosophical Association (CPA) in Canada (Dr. Bewaji and Mr. Willis), and Philosophical Symposium of UWI, Cave Hill Campus (Dr. Bewaji and Dr. Bamikole). Also, Mr. Harvey Willis successfully made his MPhil/PhD Upgrade Seminar. Miss Roxanne Burton was a research visitor to Department of Philosophy, Temple University, USA for three months in Semester II, while Mr. Simeon Mohansingh was a research visitor to the University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands for three months in Semester II as part of their research programmes for the PhD degree. During the session, the internationally distinguished Professor Lewis R. Gordon was Visiting Professor to the Department, giving freely his expertise in teaching a course in our philosophy Graduate Programme. He has promised to do the same in the new session (2006-7). During the session, there was the launch of Dr. O. G. Harding's groundbreaking book, *Near Death Experience*. However, at the end of the Session, the Philosophy Section had to allow Ms. Burton to take up appointment as Lecturer in Philosophy at the UWI Cave Hill Campus. But we are happy to note that the University approved for the Section the appointment of Dr. Joseph Gaie for Sabbatical Visit for 2006-2007 Session.

SELF SUSTAINING / INCOME GENERATING UNITS

The Jamaican Language Unit

Funds Donated

I) Carreras Group Limited

In December 2005 JLU received \$1.75million from the Carreras Group Limited. The funds are being used to create a 100-page guide to the Jamaican Language as well as a 500-page glossary of basic Jamaican terminology. The “Writing Jamaican the Jamaican Way” handbook is a 100 page guide to the rules of writing in the standard Cassidy-JLU writing system for the Jamaican language. It provides a quick reference for rules of Spelling and a glossary of Jamaican as well as practical exercises in translation from Jamaican — English, English – Jamaican. Both publications will be widely accessible and will help all Jamaicans write the dialect in a consistent way. This is in keeping with the JLU’s mandate to develop and popularize a standard writing system for the Jamaican language as well as to ensure equal rights and freedom from discrimination to speakers of Jamaican.

(II) UNESCO Caribbean Office

The Caribbean office of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has made donations to the JLU for the setting up of a website for **Caribbean Endangered and Indigenous Languages**. A total of \$317, 016.00 has been donated to the project, \$98,758.00 of which has been used. The web site is now accessible at www.mona.uwi.edu/blp/jlu/ciel. The content is currently being edited, and modifications will be made as new data becomes available.

Income Generation

(I) MA English Language Programme

The MA English Language Programme administered by the JLU admitted its first cohort of students in September 2005, with a total of 12 students enrolling. The year closed with 11 students and an additional 4 doing qualifying courses in summer for entry with the second cohort in September 2006. A total of \$4,050,000.00 has been generated over the period 2005-06, before expenses. Ten (10) students are expected in the programme for the upcoming year 2006-07. Marketing of the programme for its third cohort in 2007/08 is presently being developed.

(II) Graduate Training Workshops

The JLU hosted a number of one- day and two- day research workshops for graduate students at all levels and from various disciplines during 2005-06. Seven workshops on various aspects of research methods, graduate study and academic writing for staff have been presented. In the summer a more intensive research clinic was held and was well supported. The total income generated this year was \$616,100.00 after expenses.

Diploma in Public Service Interpreting

The JLU has begun collaboration with the Institute of Linguists of the UK, the organisation charged with certifying interpreters for the courts and other official agencies within the UK. Arrangements are being made for the development of a Diploma in Public Service Interpreting in the Jamaican Language (PPSIJ). Such a qualification is directed at protecting the language rights of monolingual speakers of Jamaican, firstly in the United Kingdom, but eventually elsewhere, including Jamaica. The training of the first batch of examiners took place in Jamaica in March, 2006, with the visit of two trainers from the Institute of Linguists of the UK.

Legal Protection of Language Rights

We, through encouraging Ms. Celia Brown-Blake of the Dept. of Management Studies to apply for a 1-Year Mona Research Fellowship, managed to have the necessary legal and linguistic research completed to address the issue of Language Rights within the Jamaican Constitution. The most relevant of the pieces of work she prepared on this project was her 2005 paper entitled "The Right to Linguistic Non-discrimination and Creole Situations: The Case of Jamaica".

PAPERS PRESENTED

Dr. Lawrence Bamikole

- "Democracy in a Multicultural Society" 12th Annual Conference of International Society for African Philosophy and Studies (ISAPS): Human Rights: Africana and Multicultural Perspectives. The University of Leicester, Leicester, United Kingdom, 20-23 April, 2006. (23pp.)
- "Alfred North Whitehead's Metaphysics and its implications for Politics of Identity". Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, Staff/Graduate Seminar Series, March 9, 2006. (23pp.)
- "The Concepts of Right(s) in Western (Anglo- American) and African Philosophies: An Exercise in Comparative Ethics" Conversations II: Western and non-Western Philosophies. Cave Hill Symposium. UWI, Cave Hill, Barbados 2-3 March, 2006. (17pp.)

- “Rastafarianism as Philosophy and Praxis”. Conference in Honour of Professor Barry Chevannes. UWI, Mona, January 19-21, 2006. (24pp.)
- “From Entertainment to Revolutionary Theory: Bob Marley’s Music as tool for Social Change”. UNESCO/ PHILOSOPHY DAY. Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica Conference Hall, November 18, 2005. (4pp.)

Dr. John A. I. Bewaji

- “Property Rights, Knowledge, Research, Ethics and Risk” 2nd Annual UWI, Mona Campus Research Ethics Conference from May 19-20, 2006. pp. 23.
- “Human Rights – A Philosophical Analysis of Indigenous Yoruba, Contemporary Nigerian and Universal Ideas” 12th Annual International Society for African Philosophy and Studies (ISAPS) Conference, School of Law, University of Leicester, Leicester, UK, April 20-23, 2006. pp. 30.
- “Barry Chevannes, Myalism, Revivalism, Rastafari and Leadership”, Conference in Honour of Professor Barry Chevannes, UWI, Mona, Jamaica; January 19-21, 2006. pp. 24.
- “Discoursing Philosophy through Cultures – Challenges, Opportunities and Dangers”, Conversations II – Cave Hill Philosophy Symposium (CHIPS), UWI, Cave Hill, Barbados. March 2-3, 2006. pp. 18.
- “Narratives of Cultures - Toward a realistic understanding of the myths surrounding gender, religion and science”. The Caribbean Philosophical Association 2nd Annual Conference “Shifting the Geographies of Reasoning II” in Puerto Rico, June 1-5, 2005. pp. 29.

Professor Devonish, H.

- “Changing Language Attitudes in Jamaica”. Conference to celebrate the work of Professor Barry Chevannes, 19th to 21st January 2006.

Mrs. Vivienne Harding

- “Reexamining the ‘Mere Vehicles’ Argument: Lessons for the Field of Distance Education”. College Teaching & Learning Conference, Orlando, Florida, January 2-6, 2006. 11 pages.

Dr. Silvia Kouwenberg

- “An introduction to Patwa: Linguistic Aspects of Jamaican Dancehall Lyrics.” Centre for General Linguistics, Typology and Universals Research (ZAS), Berlin, 20 July 2006.
- “The substrate hypothesis and creole typology.” The Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Department of Linguistics, Leipzig, 11 July 2006.
- “Linguistic aspects of Jamaican dancehall lyrics.” University of Leipzig Culture Club, 6 July 2006.
- “On weak and strong subject pronouns in Papiamentu.” ACBLPE Annual Conference. Coimbra, Portugal, 28-30 June 2006.
- “The status of weak pronouns in Papiamentu.” Centre for General Linguistics, Typology and Universals Research (ZAS), Berlin, 2 June 2006.
- “African languages in early English Jamaica and the question of African influence in the formation of Jamaican language and culture.” Annual conference of the Jamaica Archeology Society. UWI (Mona), 20 April 2006.
- “Speaking Creole in today’s Caribbean: issues of status and use.” the Jane and Harry Willson Center for the Humanities and Arts, University of Georgia, 10 April 2006.
- “Comparative phonology of creole languages.” the UGA Linguistics Society Colloquium, 6 April 2006.
- Lecture series in the University of Georgia’s Linguistics Programme: “Fieldwork Methodology,” 4 April 2006; “Patois 101: Linguistic aspects of Jamaican dancehall lyrics,” 7 April 2006; “Language death: the case of Berbice Dutch,” 11 April 2006; “Second Language Acquisition and Creolization,” 12 April 2006; Linguistic history of the Caribbean, 12 April 2006.

Mrs. Ingrid McLaren

- “The Role of English Language Proficiency in Academic Achievement at UWI, MONA”. Conference on College Teaching and Learning, Orlando, Florida, Jan 2-5, 2006.

Mrs. Vivette Milson-Whyte

- “(K)notes in the Field: The Tenuous Relations between Rhetoric and Composition.” the Western States Rhetoric and Literacy Conference. San Francisco, California. October 22, 2005.
- “Sideshadowing Teacher or Peer Response to Writing: Giving Power to Students in the Revision Process.” Tuscon Teachers Applying Whole Language (TAWL) Conference. Tucson, Arizona. October 29, 2005.

Ms. Schontal Moore

- “Transforming from Face-to-face to the Virtual: The Impact of Web-Based Learning Technology on College Writing and Composition”. Conference on College Composition and Communication, Illinois, Chicago, March 24, 2006.
- “Using Interactive Web-based Multimedia and Contrastive Analysis to Teach Jamaican Creole and Standard Jamaican English”. Postgraduate Research Day, Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, Mona, May 10, 2006

Dr. Paulette Ramsay

- “From Text to Screen: The Cinematic Representation of Gerardo Fullea’s Placido.” College Language Association No. 64. The University of Birmingham, Alabama, April 4 – 8, 2006:
- “Rito y Ritual en la novella En la noche del viernes por luz Argentina Chiriboga.” Rito y Cultura, Centro de Cultura, Havana, Cuba, February 3 – 5, 2006:

PUBLICATIONS

Books & Monographs

P. Ramsay, A. Bankay, I. Kemchand, E. Watson-Grant

- * “¡Chevere! Spanish for Caribbean Secondary School.”
Edinburgh Gate: Pearson Educational, 2006.

Refereed Journal Articles

Lawrence Bamikole

- * “Globalization and Terrorism Discourse” *OBITU: Journal of Humanities*. 4, 1 (2005):159-177.

John A. I. Bewaji

- * “Forward” in Harding, Oswald. G. Near Death Experience (NDE – A Holographic Explanation). Kingston, Jamaica: LMH Publishing Limited. 2006. Pp. viii-xi.
- * “Philosophical Exploration of Leadership in Caribbean and Diaspora Politics”, Journal on African Philosophy. <http://www.africanphilosophy.com/issue2/bewaji.html>. 2005.
- * “Philosophy in History and History of Philosophy as Academic Politics” in Liubava Moreva (ed.) *UNESCO International Readings on Theory, History and Philosophy of Culture*. Number 18: Differentiation and Integration of World Views – Philosophical and Religious Experience. Moscow. 2005. Pp. 194-234.
- * “Ethics and Morality in Yoruba Culture” in Kwasi Wiredu (ed) Blackwell Companion to African Philosophy, New York: Basil Blackwell Press, 2005, pp. 396-403.

Dr. O. G. Harry

- * “The Illustration of the IPA in Jamaican Creole”, *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*: Volume 36, Number 1 (2006): 125-131.

Dr. Silvia Kouwenberg

- * “Creole formation and Second Language Acquisition: contentious issues.” *Revue de langues et linguistique* 31, 91110.

Dr. Paulette Ramsay

- * “The Liberatory Poetics of Shirley Campbell.” *Macromere* Vol. 7, January 2006: 136-149.

Mrs. Michele Stewart

- * “Creole language in Kingston. The emergence of basilectal varieties 1692-1865”. *Caribbean Quarterly* Vol. 51 Nos 3&4 (2005) 109-130.

Other peer reviewed publications

Hubert Devonish

- * ‘On the status of diphthongs in Jamaican: Mr Vegas pronounces’, in Hazel Simmons-McDonald & Ian Robertson (eds.) Extending the Boundaries of Caribbean Creole

Languages, Mona, Jamaica: University of the West Indies Press, 2006, pp. 72-95.

- * ‘The Anglophone Caribbean / Die Anglophone Karibik’, In: Ulrich Ammon, Norbert Dittmar, Klaus J. Mattheier & Peter Trudgill (eds.) Sociolinguistics / Soziolinguistik. An International Handbook of the Science of Language and Society. Berlin / New York: Walter de Gruyter, pp. 2083- 2096.

Dr. Kathryn Shields Brodber

- * “Is the Pain in Your Belly Bottom? Extending the Boundaries of Jamaican Creole to Non-Native Users” in Hazel Simmons-McDonald & Ian Robertson (eds.) Extending the Boundaries of Caribbean Creole Languages, Mona, Jamaica: UWI Press, 2006, pp. 188-210.

Non-refereed

Dr. Silvia Kouwenberg

- * “Of pirates and protection.” Column, *All Arms. The quarterly newsletter of the Jamaica Defence Force* 4 (2), pp.1,9.
- * (With Marta Dijkhoff & Paul Tjon Sie Fat. 2006). The Dutchspeaking Caribbean / Die niederländischsprachige Karibik. In: Ulrich Ammon, Norbert Dittmar, Klaus J. Mattheier & Peter Trudgill (eds.) Sociolinguistics / Soziolinguistik. An International Handbook of the Science of Language and Society. Berlin / New York: Walter de Gruyter, 21052114.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr. Lawrence Ojo Bamikole

- Member, International Society for African Philosophy and Studies.
- Member, Caribbean Philosophical Association.

Dr. John Ayotunde (Tunde) Isola Bewaji

- Member, UWI Cave Hill Philosophy Programme Review Team.

- Editor, Special Issue of Journal on African Philosophy, Journal of International Society of African Philosophy and Studies (ISAPS)
- Editorial Board Member, Caribbean Philosophical Association, USA.
- Staff Advisor, UWI Mona Undergraduate Debating Society.
- Chairman, Board of Studies, Jamaican Institute of Management.

Mrs. Vivienne Harding

- External Examiner, Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica – Communications
- Jamaica Attention Deficit Disorder Association

Dr. Otelemate Harry

- Member, Jamaican Fulbright/Humphrey Alumni Association

Dr. Silvia Kouwenberg

- Coordinator, JUMP [Junior Undiscovered Maths Prodigies]

Mrs. Vivette Milson-Whyte

- Peer Integrator, International Student Programs and Services. The University of Arizona. Tucson, Arizona. Fall Semester 2005.

Ms. Schontal Moore

- Assistant Examiner for CXC English A., Caribbean Examinations Council
- Judge for Annual Secondary and Tertiary Level Essay Competition, Michael Manley Foundation Ltd.

Dr. Paulette Ramsay:

- Moderator, Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica – Spanish
- Chief Examiner, Caribbean Examinations Council - Spanish

Dr. Kathryn Shields Brodber

- Convenor, CAPE Communications Studies, Caribbean Examinations Council
- Chairman, Board of Governors, The Queen’s Preparatory School
- Member, International Linguistic Association
- Member, Society for Caribbean Linguistics

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

Undergraduate

LINGUISTICS COURSES	Numbers Registered	Percentage Passes	Number Graduating
	Level 1 733	–	Not applicable
	Level 2 936	–	Not applicable
Nos of Graduating Majors	Level 3 348	–	53

Philosophy

Level 1	698	Not applicable
Level 2	597	Not applicable
Level 3	487	
No of Graduating Major	14	

First-Class Honours Awardees:

Language, Communication and Society Major: – HENRY, Carolyn Tracie

- Linguistics Major:** — CAMPBELL, Annife Lance
 DEMETRIUS, Ruby-Rose Elizabeth
- Philosophy Major:** — EDWARDS, Laura Marie

Postgraduate:

PROGRAMMES	LINGUISTICS		PHILOSOPHY	
	Registered	Completed	Registered	Completed
Master of Arts (MA) 1	0	6	0	
Master of Philosophy (MPhil)	11	0	5	0
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	8	1	3	0