

INSTITUTE OF CARIBBEAN STUDIES

Professor Carolyn Cooper, BA *UWI*, MA, PhD *Toronto* – Director



WORK OF THE INSTITUTE

The 2005-2006 academic year was one of transition for the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) and the Reggae Studies Unit (RSU). Mr. Joseph Pereira, who had been Director of the Institute from September 1, 1995, demitted office on September 3, 2005 and Prof. Carolyn Cooper, Co-ordinator of the Reggae Studies Unit, succeeded him. In addition, on the initiative of the new Director, the institutional structure of the ICS was changed, as of November 2005, from a Special Project to a Department funded through the University Grants Committee. In August 2005, thanks to the vision of Dean Brown, the office was relocated from the rather cramped Room 73 to the more spacious Arts Conference Room, a major infrastructural development that has certainly enhanced both the work and the image of the Institute.

As part of its outreach agenda, the Institute submitted a proposal for the establishment of **The Michael Manley Centre for Global Dialogue**. The Centre, which has been approved in principle, is awaiting funding through the Mona Finance and General Purposes Committee to become operational.

The primary projects of the **Centre** in its initial stage of development include:

- **The Michael Manley Scholar-in-Residence programme**, analogous to the Fulbright Fellowship or the Rhodes Scholarship, that would attract to the Mona campus for a one-year residency an outstanding academic working in any of the fields associated with Mr. Manley's multifaceted career.
- **The Annual Michael Manley Lecture** to be delivered by the Visiting Scholar or any distinguished academic, politician, artist or public intellectual who embodies the Manley legacy.

- **An inter-disciplinary graduate colloquium**, “Global Dialogues on Post-Colonial Theory and Praxis,” that would include interrogation of Mr. Manley’s writings and life work.
- **An inter-disciplinary undergraduate course**, “The Michael Manley Legacy,” that would focus on the making of a post-colonial politician/intellectual.
- **A co-curricular programme** of cultural activities named in honour of Mr. Manley, for example an annual debate, a cricket match and a community service project.

Academic Staff

Within the ICS there are two full-time lecturers: Mr. Cecil Gutzmore who teaches FD11A – Caribbean Civilisation; and Dr. Sonjah Stanley Niaah who teaches undergraduate courses in Cultural Studies and co-ordinates the graduate course, AR 600 – Colloquium in Cultural Studies. There are also three part-time lecturers: Mr. Jalani Niaah, lecturer in Rastafari Studies; Ms Deborah Hickling who teaches AR25F – Caribbean Films and their Fictions; and Rev. Ashley Smith who teaches AR25X – African Religious Retentions in the Caribbean. An additional part-time lecturer, Mr. Arthur Newland, was employed this year to teach one of the courses in the Rastafari Studies Minor, AR35R – Rastafari in the Global Context.

Administrative Staff

The ICS Administrative Officer, Mr. Winston Campbell demitted office at the end of the 2004-2005 academic year to pursue further academic work at the University of Essex in the UK and Ms. Lorna Smith succeeded him. She is supported by two departmental awardees in the graduate programme in Cultural Studies: Mr. Miguel Williams is assigned to the RSU and Ms. Mitzie Reid to the ICS. One undergraduate student, Ms. Sheika Henry, is employed to handle the sales of texts for the foundation course FD11A.

Overall Teaching Achievement

Student evaluation of courses taught at the undergraduate level for Semesters I and II are as follows:

Semester I

Course Code	Lecturer	Lecturer Mean	Course Mean
FD11A (1)	Mr. Cecil Gutzmore	4.0	3.7
FD11A (2)	Mr. Cecil Gutzmore	3.7	3.5
FD11A (3)	Mr. Cecil Gutzmore	4.1	3.8
FD11A (4)	Mr. Cecil Gutzmore	4.0	3.5
AR20R	Mr. Jalani Niaah	4.4	3.9
AR25A	Dr. Sonjah Stanley Niaah	4.0	3.7
AR25R	Mr. Jalani Niaah	4.3	4.1

Semester II

Course Code	Lecturer	Lecturer Mean	Course Mean
FD11A(1)	Mr. Cecil Gutzmore	3.4	2.8
FD11A(2)	Mr. Cecil Gutzmore	3.5	2.9
FD11A(3)	Mr. Cecil Gutzmore	3.9	3.4
FD11A(4)	Mr. Cecil Gutzmore	3.5	2.9
FD11A(5)	Mr. Cecil Gutzmore	3.6	3.3
AR25F	Ms. Deborah Hickling	3.7	2.8
AR25X	Rev. Ashley Smith	3.9	3.7
AR35A	Dr. Sonjah Stanley Niaah	3.8	3.5
AR333	Mr. Jalani Niaah	4.1	4.0
AR35R	Mr. Arthur Newland	3.3	3.1

PAPERS PRESENTED

Professor Carolyn Cooper: (Please refer to the Department of Literatures in English 2005-2006 Departmental Report for Professor Cooper's presented papers, publications and public service.)

Mr. Cecil Gutzmore

- "Kin, Land and Ancestor: Africans and the Issue of Land, Past and Future Perspectives." Public lecture, University of Namibia, August 22, 2005

Dr. Sonjah Stanley Niaah

- "Black Performance Geographies from Slave Ship to Ghetto." The Annual Philip Sherlock Lecture, UWI, Mona, February 27, 2006

- “Dancehall, Limbo and the Sacred Performance Space,” Symposium, “Tambu Today – Jonkonnu Tomorrow,” Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, March 2, 2006.
- (with Jalani Niaah): “‘Reflection’ from the Margin: Jah Cure, Rastafari and the New Leadership through Stardom.” Conference in honour of Professor Barry Chevannes, January 19 - 21, 2006, UWI, Mona.
- “Dancehall and its Philosophy of Boundarylessness.” Caribbean Heritage Week Celebrations, Brown University, Rhode Island, March 6, 2006.
- “A Common Space: Dancehall, Kwaito and New World Performance.” 6th International Association of Cultural Studies Crossroads Conference, Istanbul, July 20 - 23, 2006.

Mr. Jalani Niaah

- “‘Chanting Down Babylon’: The Evolution of the Nyabinghi into the Twenty-First Century.” Symposium, “Tambu Today – Jonkonnu Tomorrow,” Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, March 2, 2006.
- “Rasta Teacher: Leadership, Pedagogy & the New Faculty of Interpretation,” PhD Cultural Studies viva, April 11, 2006, UWI, Mona.

Mr. Arthur Newland

- “Rastafari and the imperative of African Caribbean Family Unity,” Conference in honour of Professor Barry Chevannes, January 19-21, 2006, UWI, Mona.

Rev. Ashley Smith

- “The Church’s Answer to Corruption in National Affairs,” Pastors in Action Conference, October 2005, Kingston, Jamaica.
- “Appropriate Spirituality for the Caribbean.” Biennial meeting of the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Federation for Mental Health, October 2005, Barbados.
- “The Cultural Dimensions of Religion,” AR600 – Colloquium in Cultural Studies, March 24, 2006, UWI, Mona, and at a

Symposium on Muslim/Christian Dialogue, March 25, 2006, St. Michael's Seminary, Kingston.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed

Dr. Sonjah Stanley Niaah.

- * "Readings of 'Ritual' and Community in Dancehall Performance." *Wadabagei* 9:2, (April 2006): 47-73.
- * "Canvasses of [Jamaican] Representation: Comment on Deborah Thomas' 'Public Bodies...'" *The Journal of Latin American Anthropology*, 11: 1 (2006): 32-36
- * "Kingston's Dancehall Spaces." *Jamaica Journal*, 29: 3 (March 2006):14-21.
- * "Dis Slackness Ting: A Review of Dichotomizing Narratives in Jamaican Dancehall." Cultural Studies Initiative special issue, *Caribbean Quarterly*, 51: 3&4, (Sept-Dec. 2005): 55-76.

Mr. Jalani Niaah.

- * "Sensitive Scholarship: A Review of Rastafari Literatures." *Caribbean Quarterly* Vol. 51, 3&4, (Sept-Dec. 2005): 11-34.
- * "Absent Father(s), Garvey's Scattered Children and the Back to Africa Movement," *Negotiating Modernity, Africa's Ambivalent Experience*; ed. by Elisio Salvado Macamo: CODESRIA Africa in the New Millennium series, ZED Publishers 2005, pp. 19-43.

Non-refereed:

Dr. Sonjah Stanley-Niaah

- * "Dancehall: Celebrating 20 years in 2K5." *Buzz: Caribbean Lifestyle Magazine*, Vol. 2 #1, July - August 2005.

INCOME GENERATION

- The ICS continues to benefit from sale of the FD11A course readers: *Journeying After Arrival* volumes one and two. To date the Institute has earned over one million dollars (\$1,000,000+) from sale of these texts, AR600 course packs, and course packs and articles for the Rastafari Studies courses.

- Seventy-Five U.S. (US\$75.00) dollars were given to the Institute by the University of Minnesota as a contribution towards the book launch of Thomas Glave.
- A grant of One Hundred Thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) was received from the Bob Marley Foundation to assist with funeral expenses for the late ICS Research Fellow, Mr. Mortimo Planno in March 2006.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr. Sonjah Stanley Niaah

- Associate Editor, *Wadabagei*
- Advisor, Jamaican Music Museum development project committee, Institute of Jamaica

Mr. Cecil Gutzmore

- Member, African Caribbean Institute of Jamaica (ACIJ) Board appointed by the Minister of Youth and Culture

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

Undergraduate:

The interest in Cultural Studies and the number of students registered in courses grew significantly in the 2005-2006 Academic year. The Institute introduced a minor in Rastafari Studies comprising one existing course and four new ones:

- AR25R – The Culture of Rastafari (existing)
- AR20R – Introduction to Caribbean Folk Philosophy
- AR20X – Modern Ethiopianism, Theory and Practice
- AR35R – Rastafari in the Global Context
- AR333 – Reggae Aesthetics and the Dialogue of African Diasporan Resistance [year-long]

Two new courses were introduced in the minor in Cultural Studies:

- AR35A – Discourses in Cultural Studies

AR25S – Deconstructing the Culture of Sports (not taught because of low registration)

The Institute continues to grow as a research centre for UWI students and foreign affiliates.

Course registrations are as follows:

Course Code	Course Title	Semester	Registration
FD11A	Caribbean Civilisation	1	886
AR25A	Introduction to Caribbean Cultural Studies	1	50
AR25R	The Culture of Rastafari	1	45
AR20R	Introduction to Caribbean Folk Philosophy	1	16
FD11A	Caribbean Civilisation	2	1203
AR25F	Caribbean Films and Their Fictions	2	38
AR25X	African Religious Retentions in the Caribbean	2	53
AR35A	Discourses in Cultural Studies	2	14
AR35R	Rastafari in the Global Context	2	17
AR333	Reggae Aesthetics and African Diasporan Resistance	1 & 2	5
FD11A	Caribbean Civilisation	3	102
AR25R	The Culture of Rastafari	3	26

Postgraduate:

There were fifty-six (56) students registered in the graduate programme in Cultural Studies. Fifteen (15) new students enrolled in the 2005-2006 academic year, five (5) of whom entered the Ph.D. programme - two (2) full-time and three (3) part-time. Ten (10) entered the M.Phil. programme – four (4) full-time and six (6) part-time.

Mr. Jalani Niaah successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis and became the second Ph.D student to graduate from the Cultural Studies programme since its inception in 1998. Ms Vivienne Pitter, who submitted her M.Phil. dissertation in 2004, was successful in her examination and is the second M.Phil student to have graduated.

The total number of students registered in the graduate programme far exceeds the Institute's capacity to provide appropriate supervision of research. The Director proposed that acceptance of students into the

programme be suspended for a year in order to consolidate resources: Students currently enrolled would be guided to completion of their programme of study; and the graduate programme could be restructured, in anticipation of the introduction of the Diploma and MA programmes in Cultural Studies.

The Graduate Retreat was held on the weekend of November 18, 2005 at Bellevue House. Students presented seminar papers and discussed matters pertaining to the programme. A Graduate Social, held on February 17, 2006, provided another opportunity for students to discuss a wide range of issues such as supervision of research and the requirements for completing their programme. It was agreed that each student would meet with the Course Co-ordinator and the Director to address her/his particular concerns. These meetings took place in May.

Course Registrations

Course Code	Course Title	Semester	Registration
AR600	Graduate Colloquium in Cultural Studies	1 & 2	20

PAPERS PRESENTED

BY GRADUATE STUDENTS IN CULTURAL STUDIES

Mr. Peter Harding

- “Theological Reflections: Violence and the Christian Perspective,” The Whole Person Resources Centre (WPRC) Conference on Violence, November 12, 2005, Social Welfare Training Centre, UWI, Mona
- “Values and Norms Within Sub-Cultures: A Cultural Studies Perspective, The Jamaican Experience,” Conference in honour of Professor Barry Chevannes, January 19-21, 2006, UWI, Mona.
- “Where are the Jamaican Youth and What Are They Doing?” 156th General Assembly of the Jamaica Baptist Union Mission to Youth, February 22-26, 2006, Boulevard Baptist Church, Kingston

Miss Karen Levy

- “Male Domination in Jamaican Dancehall,” Association of Cultural Studies Conference, Istanbul, Turkey, July 20-23, 2006.

Miss Mitzie Reid

- “Inserting/Asserting the Folk Way as the Viable Alternative: the Submerged/Emerging Pathway in the Works of Kamau Brathwaite,” the 25th Annual Conference on West Indian Literature, March 2-4, 2006, UWI, St. Augustine.

THE REGGAE STUDIES UNIT

WORK OF THE UNIT

Given the added responsibilities of the current Co-ordinator of the Reggae Studies Unit, Professor Carolyn Cooper, as Director of the Institute of Caribbean Studies, there was an inevitable shift of emphasis. Nevertheless, Professor Cooper ensured that work in Reggae Studies was advanced. Mr. Miguel Williams, who received a departmental award in Cultural Studies, was assigned the task of developing an annotated bibliography of the RSU audiotaped lectures housed in the the Radio Education Unit, in collaboration with the Staff Tutor, Miss June Barbour.

Teaching

The level II course, E27D – Reggae Poetry, designed by Professor Cooper, was offered for the first time in the second semester of the 2005-2006 academic year by the Department of Literatures in English. Fifty-five (55) students registered for the course. Prof. Cooper was ably assisted by Ms Tanya Shirley who tutored in the course. Guest lectures were given by Dr. Nadi Edwards, Mr. Cecil Gutzmore and Mr. Jalani Niaah. The popularity of Reggae Poetry confirms the fact that there is a ready market for courses that speak to our students cultural reality. Though taught in the Department of Literatures in English, this course should clearly be cross-listed as one that can be applied to the Minor in Cultural Studies.

Work was also advanced on the undergraduate degree programme in Entertainment and Cultural Enterprise Management, spearheaded by Mr. Kam-Au Amen. This innovative programme will certainly enhance the profile of the Reggae Studies Unit as a leader in multi-disciplinary research and teaching.

INCOME GENERATION

The Reggae Studies Unit was awarded a grant of \$1,000,000.00 from the CHASE fund to assist in hosting a conference on “Global Reggae:

Branding Jamaican Popular Culture Internationally.” The conference, proposed for January 2007 as the third Conference on Caribbean Culture, had to be postponed because of inadequate funding.