

DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURES IN ENGLISH



Dr. Michael Bucknor, BA *UWI*, MA *Univ. Western Ontario*,
PhD *Univ. Western Ontario*
Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

In the 2013/2014 academic year, the Department of Literatures in English continued to consolidate the strategic positioning of the department as a major player in stimulating creativity and critical thinking, as indicated in the 2012–2017 Strategic Plans. The highlight of this year was our energetic programme of book launches, readings, writing workshops, our Poetry Clash on Research Day and the National Recognition of two members of our department. The department also continued to shine its light on the international scene through such events as the international ACLALS conference organized by Dr. Bucknor in St. Lucia, the European Book Tour done by Prof. Cooper and the Scottish Writers visits by two of our Adjunct Staff: Tanya Shirley and

Amba Chevannes. The department will continue to work towards achieving its objectives in the upcoming academic year.

In support of the strategic plan to anchor the department and university as the premier institution for instruction in creative writing, Dr. Erna Brodber was appointed Writer-In-Residence for Academic Year 2013/2014. The department also welcomed Ms. Amina Blackwood-Meeks and Ms. Amba Chevannes as Adjunct Lecturers who allowed us to resurrect courses (Introduction to Orature and Writing for Screen and Stage) that had been dormant for years. The latter course, in particular, allowed us to expand both our film and creative writing offerings; while the former provided an opportunity to build back our oral literature stream, so that next academic year we can offer the second level course, Folk Tale and Proverb. Dr. Rachel Moseley-Wood completed three modules in the Certificate in University Teaching Programme, offered by the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

In the area of curriculum development one new course, LITS3806 - Popular Film and Ideology was introduced. This new film course as well as the courses in orature and creative writing that were reintroduced were taught in Semester II and were well received by the students based on the positive feedback given at the Departmental Consultative Committee meeting. The Department also offered three courses in the summer: LITS1003 and LITS3111 taught by Ms. Shala Alert, and LITS2301 taught by Dr. Michael Bucknor. We had not offered a summer programme for years and decided to explore ways in which a summer programme could enhance student through-put, provide an opportunity for a Study Abroad programme in Caribbean Studies for Howard University, for example, and offer more varied learning opportunities for part-time students. Additionally, the Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies, Quality Assurance Unit conducted a review of the department October 28–November 1, 2013. Dr. James Procter, University of Newcastle, was the Chair of the Review Team along with Ms. Hope Brooks, former lecturer and administrator at the Edna Manley College of the Performing Arts, and Prof. Funso Aiyejina, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education at the St. Augustine Campus. The Review

Report was received from the Senior Programme Officer, Dr. Anna Perkins, and staff members have been reviewing the report and will submit a follow-up progress report to the Deputy Principal's Office. This follow-up report will also be presented at Academic and Faculty Boards by the Head of Department.

GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

The programme continued with a modest cohort of students. The enrolment is expected to increase in the next few years with the introduction of the Blended Masters Programme in Literary and Educational Studies in partnership with the education graduate programme. There is a cohort of lecturers in the teacher's colleges who need to update their preparation in their content area and we are trying to make the MA programme more flexible to meet this demand. The department committee members have re-assessed the programme to make it more viable to this group of students which will involve using more technology in the delivery of these courses. Within the ambit of the course descriptions, graduate courses were also adjusted to accommodate the needs of these students. Two (2) students, Keilah Mills and Bjorn Brown, were selected for the 2013/2014 Departmental Awards. Mr. Brown provided support for Dr. Rachel Moseley-Wood, Associate Dean, Outreach and Marketing. Ms. Mills supported Ms. Lisa Brown, Events Coordinator for the department.

ACTIVITIES AND OUTREACH EVENTS

As part of its outreach initiative for 2013/2014, the department engaged in various activities with the leadership of the department's Events Coordinator, Ms. Lisa Brown. The activities included The Seventh Edward Baugh Distinguished Lecture which was held on Sunday, November 3, 2013 at the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre. Dr. James Procter, Reader at the University of Newcastle, delivered the lecture, "The Small Space: Rethinking Caribbean Short Fiction." The event was in association with the Quality Assurance Unit, Board of Undergraduate Studies. The

Department hosted the launch of St. Lucian writer Adrian Augier's latest poetry collection, *Navel String* on Sunday, September 22 at the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre (N1). Emeritus Professor Edward Baugh also launched his latest collection of poems, *Black Sand – A Collection of New and Selected Poems*, on Sunday December 1 at the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre (N1). Dr. Michael Bucknor delivered the launch talk. It was staged in collaboration with the West Indian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies. Dr. Erna Brodber conducted two 5-week Creative Writers' Workshops. The first was held on consecutive Tuesdays commencing on October 8, 2013. The second was held on consecutive Thursdays commencing on March 20, 2014 as part of March is Literatures in English Month. Public Readings were held for participants of the workshops. The events were held at The Multifunctional Room, Main Library on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 and the Pages Café on Thursday, May 1, 2014 respectively. Participants received certificates at the end of the workshops. Professor Emeritus Edward Baugh conducted a Three-Week Speech Writing Workshop which was held for three consecutive Saturdays from June 7–June 21. Participants received certificates at the end of the workshop.

Our very popular March is Literatures in English Month was an exciting series of the events, planned as part of our outreach initiative. The activities began with a Poetry Writers' Workshop conducted by St. Lucian poet and dramatist, Kendel Hippolyte, on Saturday, March 1. This event was co-sponsored by Artistic Expressions Limited. There were two (2) book launches as part of the month's activities. The Department in association with the Kingston Book Festival launched the latest novel, *As Flies to Whatless Boys*, of Trinidadian/American writer, Robert Antoni, on Saturday, March 1 at Bookland in New Kingston. Dr. Michael Bucknor gave the launch talk. The Department also launched Esther Figueroa's novel, *Limbo* on Sunday, April 6. Professor Carolyn Cooper delivered the launch talk. On Sunday, March 2, the Department partnered with the Kingston Book Festival to stage "Love Affair With Literature 3" featuring readings by Robert Antoni, Erna Brodber, Richard "Dingo" Dingwall, Kendel Hippolyte and Monica (Winsome) Minott at the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre (N1).

This year, “March is Movie Month at Mona” returned and featured, *The Making of the Monarch*, a film by James Knight which represented the extraordinary career of Antiguan Calypsonian King Short Shirt. This event was held on Friday, March 21 in N1. The series culminated with a film by Menelik Shabazz entitled, *The Story of Lover’s Rock* on Friday, March 28 in N1. This film was presented in collaboration with the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work.

STAFF/POSTGRADUATE SEMINAR SERIES

The Department’s Staff/Postgraduate Seminar Series featured the following presenters:

Jodi-Anne Redway, MPhil candidate, presented on the topic “Coming to America: The Evolution of the American Dream in Selected John Grisham Novels” on November 29. Dwight Pennycooke, MPhil student did a presentation entitled, “The Mother and the Patriot: Iterations of Hybrid Subjectivity in Tahmima Anam’s *A Golden Age*” on January 31. Carlton Lowrie, MPhil student did a presentation entitled, “Cultural Nationalism in the Poetry of Claude McKay” on February 14. Dr. Erna Brodber, Writer-in-Residence presented on March 14; her presentation was entitled, “Magic Realism and Me.” Aisha Spencer, PhD. candidate presented a paper entitled, “Ignored Life Archives’: Woman’s Work in the Nation’s Interior Spaces in Erna Brodber’s *The World is a High Hill*” on March 28. On April 25, Dr. Anthea Morrison, Deputy Dean and Senior Lecturer presented on the topic “Edwidge Danticat and Junot Diaz: Allies in Art and Activism?” Bjorn Brown, MPhil Candidate presented on the topic “Redefining Female Identity in Lorna Goodison’s ‘Mulatta Poems’” on Friday, May 9. The seminars culminated on Wednesday, May 22 with a presentation entitled, “On Scanning Louise Bennett Seriously” by Dr. Ben Etherington, Research Lecturer at the University of Western Sydney in Australia.

OUTREACH TO SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

In keeping with its mandate of supporting the teaching of literatures in

English at the high school level, the Department organized a few interactive sessions for the year. Olive Senior, internationally acclaimed Jamaican writer and poet, visited the WJC on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 and conducted an Interactive Session with high school teachers and students. Her poetry collection, *Gardening in the Tropics*, is currently on the CAPE Literatures in English Syllabus. **Dr. Bucknor** and **Dr. Moseley-Wood** also did presentations at the Open Day at Western Jamaica Campus. On March 3, St. Lucian poet and dramatist, Kendel Hippolyte conducted an “Interactive Session” with CAPE 6 Form students, held discussions with dramatists at the Jamaica School of Drama at the Edna Manley College for the Visual and Performing Arts and conducted a workshop entitled “Author’s Notes” for high school teachers of CAPE Literatures in English during his visit. The Department also held The CAPE Literatures in English Lecture/Discussion Series. The sessions were held on Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5. Presenters included Ms. Carolyn Allen, **Ms. Lisa Brown**, **Dr. Michael Bucknor**, **Dr. Norval Edwards**, Dr. Harold McDermott, Ms. Tanya Shirley and **Mr. David Williams**.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH:

Dr. Michael Bucknor served his final year as Chair of the Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS). He successfully staged the 16th Triennial ACLALS conference in St. Lucia, August 5 to 9. Highlights of the conference included a Round Table Plenary Conversation between Professor Emeritus Edward Baugh and Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott, the St. Lucian premiere of Walcott’s most recent play “O Starry, Starry Night” and a reading by Bocas Litfest award winning writers such as Earl Lovelace and Kendel Hippolyte. Through this conference, the Department of Literatures in English and the University of West Indies established links with universities throughout the world and will pursue collaborative research projects and exchange programmes for the future. In December, he brought greetings on behalf of the department on the occasion of the launch of a Literary Society at the College of Agriculture, Science and Technology. Visiting Academic,

Professor Alison Donnell and Jamaican writer, Dr. Velma Pollard also participated in the event. On Monday, January 13, 2014, he conducted two workshop sessions on “Making Judgements: Key To Good Performance on CAPE Literatures in English Examinations” for 6th Form students at Western Jamaica Campus Open Day. He also presented a tribute to Professor Emeritus Edward Baugh, who was the featured poet at the 25th Poetry Society of Jamaica’s Anniversary Celebrations on January 28, 2014. On February 24, 2014 he presented a talk entitled, “The Role of the HoD in the Quality Assurance Review: Challenges and Opportunities,” at the Quality Assurance Review Workshop held at the UWI Regional Headquarters. He also participated in a panel discussion entitled “Social Responsibility and Professionalism” at The Mico University College’s Research Day activities on April 9, 2014. In his presentation, he focused on “Cultural Preservation and Identity Crafting” as part of the social responsibility of the education sector.

Professor Carolyn Cooper did a European lecture tour in August and September to promote her edited book, *Global Reggae*. It was launched in Spain on August 20 at the Rototom Sunsplash Festival’s “Reggae University” forum that was inspired by the UWI International Reggae Studies Centre. The UK launch on September 10 was hosted in London by the Jamaica High Commission. She also gave an after-dinner speech at a conference on “Blackness in Britain” at Newman University, Birmingham on September 12 and the next day gave a public lecture in the city on “Global Reggae: Jamaican Culture Big an Broad.” On September 18, she gave another public lecture in London, “Chanting Down Sodom and Gomorrah: Heterophobia in Jamaica,” before going to Tallinn, Estonia to give one of the keynote lectures at the 19th congress of the European chapter of the Society for Intercultural Education, Training and Research (SIETAR Europa). She spoke on the topic, “Glocal Reggae: Jamaican Popular Music and the Politics of Cross-Cultural Communication.” She also did several media interviews: on Rototom Sunsplash TV; BBC radio (Midlands); BBC World Service and Vox Africa TV as part of the lecture tour. On October 14, she gave a public lecture entitled, “Sounds of Freedom,” at the Cavehill Campus, for the Jamaican Association for Students. She also gave a public lecture

and launched her edited collection of essays, *Global Reggae*, at Multitudes Art Gallery in Miami, Florida. Her lecture launched the programmes of the Miami Reggae Festival scheduled for November 23, 2013 at Peacock Park. On Friday, February 21 she delivered a “Global Reggae Talk” at the annual UWI Research Days Activities. The presentation focused on how the globalization of reggae music affirms the identity of Jamaican people. She also gave a lecture on “Glocal Reggae” at the Matias Romero Institute in Mexico City on March 4, 2014. In addition, she participated in a panel discussion entitled “The New Teacher: What’s New?” at The Mico University College’s Research Day activities on April 9.

Dr. Moseley-Wood conducted two workshop sessions on Film Studies for 6th form students and a presentation to Guidance Counsellors at the Western Jamaica Campus Open Day on Monday, January 13.

Ms. Amba Chevannes, Adjunct Lecturer in Creative Writing, was invited to Glasgow, Scotland where one of her plays, “*The Last Bloom*,” was featured in “A Play, A Pie, A Pint,” Scotland’s Theatre Revolution.

Adjunct Staff, **Ms. Tanya Shirley** was one of six poets chosen from the Commonwealth to participate in the Commonwealth Poets United Project hosted by the Scottish Poetry Library and other sponsors. She travelled to Scotland where she did a reading at the University of Glasgow, an interview with the BBC, and a podcast with the Scottish Poetry Library. She also conducted a workshop and did a reading at Scotland’s International Poetry Festival, St Anza 2014. Ms. Shirley also hosted a Scottish poet who visited Jamaica in June.

STUDENT MATTERS

The Department hosted its annual First Year Social on Thursday, October 2, at the Multifunctional Room, UWI Main Library. Students and lecturers enjoyed the interactive session. The Annual Faculty Awards Ceremony was held on Thursday, November 7. Students Bjorn Brown, Christine Collins, Ayesha Hart, Nardia Lipman, Kimberley McIntyre, Marlon Pownall, Alexis Samuels, Kimberley Small and Adam Webb were presented with awards. The Mervyn Morris Prize was also introduced

for the first time in honour of Mervyn Morris, a retired professor of the department. The Mervyn Morris Prize is for the student who achieved the highest mark in the second level course, Creative Writing: Poetry (LITS2603). Two students won the inaugural prize. The department continues to seek external donors to support future awards. Dr. Erna Brodber, Writer-in-Residence, coordinated the “Prose Fiction Readings” event at the annual UWI Research Days activities held on Thursday, February 20. Two outstanding students (Xavienne-Roma Richardson and Gary Morgan) from the Creative Writing: Prose Fiction course read their creative responses to an art work on campus. The title of the event was “Meditations on Ronald Moody’s Savacou.” Ms. Tanya Shirley, Adjunct staff, coordinated the “Poetry Clash Competition” at the annual UWI Research Day held on Thursday, February 20. Unpublished poets (UWI students) competed and the top three (3) winners received a cash award. Peta-Gaye Williams won the 1st prize; Debronique Ellis won the 2nd prize and Deidre Lewis, the 3rd prize. Because of the large crowd the competition attracted and the overwhelmingly positive feedback received, it will be featured as an on-going department event. On March 3, St. Lucian poet and dramatist, Kendel Hippolyte conducted an “Interactive Session” with the West Indian Poetry (LITS2503) class about his collection of poems, *Night Vision*. In an effort to provide guidance to our English Majors, the Department held its annual “Life After the Degree in Literatures in English” event on Thursday, March 6. The theme was, “Banking on the Literatures in English Degree.” Guest speakers Shirley Bartley-Byfield, Michelle Rose and Noelle Williams from The Bank of Nova Scotia, shared with students how their literature degree was valuable in banking. Two (2) Departmental Consultative Committee (DCC) meetings were held on Thursday, November 13, 2013 and Friday, March 27, 2014 respectively. These meetings allowed lecturers to meet with class representatives and receive reports from them regarding the courses taught with the aim to improve the department’s course delivery. The students were generally pleased with our teaching, but complained about the faulty electronic equipment available in the faculty. The failure of the equipment was particularly troublesome for the delivery of our film courses. Two (2) Readings were held across the

academic year for students of the Creative Writing: Prose Fiction (LITS2604) course taught by Dr. Erna Brodber. Students read their Final Pieces on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 and Tuesday April 22, 2014 respectively.

STAFF MATTERS

The Department welcomed **Dr. Erna Brodber** who was appointed as Writer-In-Residence for Academic Year 2013/2014. Other adjunct staff included **Tanya Shirley** who was employed on a one year contract, substituting for Dr. Mawuena Logan who was on sabbatical leave. **Ms. Carolyn Allen**, **Ms. Amina Blackwood-Meeks**, and **Ms. Amba Chevannes** were employed as part-time lecturers. The department congratulated **Prof. Carolyn Cooper** on being awarded the Order of Distinction, Commander Class, by the Government of Jamaica. The department was delighted with the announcement of the appointment of **Professor Emeritus Mervyn Morris** as Poet Laureate of Jamaica. Professor Morris has been a beloved teacher, generous mentor for writers, seminal critic on West Indian Literature and efficient administrator who has played a significant role in the “making of West Indian Literature.” As a fine poet whose technical facility is legendary, an enthusiastic anthologist of other poets, an enabling editor of such important figures as Louise Bennett, Mickey Smith and Mutabaruka and a balanced critic and reviewer of the creative output of the region’s writers, he is perfectly suited for his new role. Prof. Morris has demonstrated the value that institutions such as the Department of Literatures in English and, by extension, the University of the West Indies can bring to the nurturing of the creative imagination, so important in the development of a nation. The Department of Literatures in English at the University of the West Indies, Mona congratulated Professor Morris on this appointment. The Department noted the passing of a former member, Mrs. Gloria Lyn. She was employed at UWI for 20 years (January 1972–September 30, 1992). Her daughters have kindly consented to use contributions at her memorial service to start The Gloria Lyn Fund which will provide the Gloria Lyn Prize for West Indian Literature (for the best performance each year in

any West Indian Literature course). They also hope to provide a scholarship when the fund builds up and to create a community in support of creative expression and the celebration of the value of literature. They hope to launch the fund in November 2014 and to present the first Gloria Lyn Prize at the 2014 Faculty Awards Ceremony. We also note with regret the passing of former tutor and Ph.D. student, Dr. Mary Hannah. The family of Mary Hannah donated contributions made in her memory to the West Indies Collection of the UWI Main Library.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Dr. Michael Bucknor** attended the “Understanding Canada” workshop-conference at McMaster University between September 26–29, 2013 to present a paper on “Austin Clarke and Canada in the Development of West Indian Literature.” He also presented a paper entitled “‘Art Within Art Within Art’: Artistic Self-Consciousness, Multi-textuality and The Question of Ideological Commitment in Edward Baugh’s Poetry” at the 32nd West Indian Literature Conference held at the College of Bahamas, Nassau, October 10–12. Between March 20–23 Dr. Bucknor presented a paper entitled “Networking Capitals of Black Cultural Production (Bridgetown, London and Toronto): Revising Caribbean Literary History, Inserting Canada in Black Atlantic Studies” at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association on the theme, “Capitals,” New York University. On June 3 and June 9, 2014, he presented the paper “Performing Masculinities in Global Black Diasporas: Romantic Gender Revolutions and Jamaican Popular Culture” at the University of Leicester and Newcastle University. Also, at the University of Warwick, he presented a paper entitled, “London, Bridgetown and Toronto: Networking Capital of Black Cultural Production” on June 10.
- **Professor Carolyn Cooper** presented the paper, “‘Too Black, Too Strong’: Imagining Haiti in Caribbean Popular Culture,” in Haiti at the 25th annual conference of the Haitian Studies Association, November 7–9. Professor Cooper also made a presentation at the

Regional Conference on Intellectual Property and the Creative Industries on the topic “Creative Industries as a Factor for Economic Growth” on February 10, at the UWI Regional Headquarters. On March 19, she gave the keynote lecture, “ ‘Mek We Talk Bout de Bottom of de Sea’: Submerged Narratives in Caribbean Literature and Popular Culture,” at the 5th Graduate Student Conference, hosted by the English Department, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras.

- **Dr. Mawuena Logan** presented a paper titled: “Before the Earthquake: Narrating/Representing Haiti in Aimé Césaire’s *The Tragedy of King Christophe*” in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, at the 25th Annual Haitian Association Conference, November 7–9.
- **Dr. Anthea Morrison** represented the department at the 32nd Annual West Indian Literature Conference at the College of Bahamas, Nassau; October 10–12, 2013. The theme of the conference was “Multiple Textualities: Imagining the Caribbean Nation.” She also presented a paper entitled “Danticat and Diaz, ‘Immigrant Artists’ in Northern Cities” at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, New York University, March 20–23, 2014.
- **Dr. Rachel Moseley-Wood** presented a paper entitled “Jamaican Film Practice and the Fallacy of Nationalism” at the West Indian Literature Conference, held at the College of Bahamas, Nassau, October 10–12. She also presented a paper at the 39th Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference in Merida, Mexico, May 26–30, 2014. The paper was entitled “Alienated Spaces in Chris Browne’s *Third World Cop and Ghetto Life*”

PUBLICATIONS

- **Cooper, C.** Review of the book *Geographies of the Haitian Diaspora* in *Journal of Haitian Studies*, 19. 1 (Spring 2013): 290–293.
- **Bucknor, M.** “On Caribbean Masculinities” Special Issue on “Intellectual Formations: Locating a Caribbean Critical Tradition.” *Anthurium: A Caribbean Studies Journal* 10.2 (November 2013) Art 7: 1–4.

- **Moseley-Wood, R.** “Ambivalence in the Image: The Jamaica Film Unit and the Narrative of the Emerging Nation” in the *Jamaican Historical Review* 26 (2013): 47–66.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Ms. Lisa Brown

- Adjudicator, JCDC Creative Writing Competition 2013 – Short Story Category.

Dr. Michael Bucknor

- Editor, *Journal of West Indian Literature*
- Editorial Board Member, *Caribbean Quarterly*
- Member, Board of Readers, Issues in Critical Investigation, Vanderbilt University, USA.
- Senior Editorial Advisor, *Lucayos*, College of the Bahamas. (Regional Refereed Publication)
- Executive Member, Association for Commonwealth Literatures and Languages Studies (ACLALS)
- Member, University Council of Jamaica’s Evaluation Team for Bachelor of Arts English Programme in a tertiary institution.

Professor Carolyn Cooper

- Member, Board of Directors, Development Partners and Management International Limited, Kingston
- Regional Editor (Caribbean), *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, Routledge.
- Weekly column for *The Sunday Gleaner*.

Dr. Norval Edwards

- Review Editor, Northern Caribbean University’s peer-reviewed journal, *International Review of Humanities*

Department of Literatures in English

- Member, Advisory Board, Issues in Critical Investigation, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
- Member, National Library of Jamaica/Ministry of Tourism and Culture selection committee for Poet Laureate of Jamaica

Mawuena Logan

- Member, Ghanaian Association in Jamaica, Kingston Jamaica
- Member, Alliance Francaise de la Jamaïque, Kingston, Jamaica

Mr. David Williams

- Member, Executive Committee of the Jamaica Association for Mentally Retarded Persons.

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

Undergraduate

Majors	170
First Class Honours	3

Postgraduate

Registration:

PhD	2
MPhil	6
MA	12