

DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURES IN ENGLISH

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Paris III, Doctorat de 3^e Cycle Paris XII –
Head of Department



WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department continued to offer a range of courses in Literature at both the graduate and undergraduate levels; in addition, the following new course was taught for the first time in 2006-07: LITS 2111 (E21K): Contemporary Genres: Crime and Science Fiction.

Several colleagues were able to integrate audiovisual material into their teaching, not only in the course E10F “Introduction to Film” (offered since 2005-06), although one obvious challenge faced by the Faculty in this area is the provision of adequate teaching space, appropriately equipped with the relevant technology. Other innovative teaching approaches worthy of mention include: the annual course trip to Woodside, St. Mary (home of Erna Brodber) in November 2006, by students of E21G (African /Diaspora Women’s Narrative), taught by Carolyn Cooper; and the public reading of their work by students of E26D (Creative Writing: Prose Fiction) who benefited from the opportunity, before submitting their final portfolio, to read from and hear criticism of their writing (April 19). The Department was fortunate to be able to engage writers of the stature of Dr. Erna Brodber and Professor Emeritus Mervyn Morris as lecturers in the two Creative Writing courses, E26D and E26C. In the former course, the student with the best piece of work in prose writing benefited from the inaugural “Brodber-Pollard Prize”, a yearly prize offered through the generosity of UWI alumnus, Dr. Tony McFarlane. Norval Edwards continued to contribute to the B.Ed online Distance program by teaching the courses E25C and E25D. The Department notes with satisfaction (though not

with complacency!) the generally high rate of student approval reflected both in the Student Assessment forms and in its regular Staff /Student consultative meetings.

On a less pleasant note, members of staff frequently discussed, in the course of departmental meetings, the growing problem of plagiarism, and decided to take an extremely “hard-line” approach to this offense, which has been facilitated by the abundance of on-line sources on some of the literary texts studied. As a result, it was decided, at a meeting early in 2007, that the Department would circulate to all Literature majors, at the beginning of 2007-08, a statement on plagiarism prepared for the purpose by John Lennard. Discussions at the level of Faculty Board in the past year have also highlighted the challenges posed by this widespread infraction.

At the graduate level, students benefited from stimulating discussions in the context of the regular Staff/Postgraduate Seminars (efficiently organized by Michael Bucknor), which included presentations by several MA and MPhil candidates, as well as by visiting lecturers such as Dr. Honor Ford-Smith (of York University) and most recently Dr. Tanya Shields of the University of North Carolina. Two PhD students successfully defended their dissertations in the course of the academic year 2006-07: Joan Miller-Powell, supervised by Norval Edwards, defended her thesis on “ ‘Hybrid Inventiveness’: Caryl Phillips’ Poetics of Displacement” on August 15, 2006. On March 23, 2007, Mary Hanna defended her thesis on “Choosing Blackness? An Examination of the Writing of Jean Rhys, Michelle Cliff, and Pauline Melville” (supervised by David Williams). One other student (Harold McDermott, supervised by Norval Edwards) has submitted his Ph.D dissertation, and is expected to defend it shortly (the Viva actually took place on October 18, 2007). Despite these positive outcomes, the Department is somewhat concerned about the heavy burden represented by postgraduate supervision and teaching: frequently, one colleague may be responsible for several postgraduate students while teaching at both graduate and undergraduate levels, an overload which may slow the rate of “throughput” in terms of graduate degrees. Such concerns will have to be addressed anew when the proposed MA in Caribbean Literary and Cultural Studies is implemented, hopefully in 2008-09.

With a view to streamlining the delivery of postgraduate programmes and optimizing departmental procedures, Norval Edwards was

appointed Departmental Coordinator for Postgraduate Studies; special mention should be made of the tireless efforts of this colleague, who has contributed significantly to the postgraduate program for several years.

This academic year saw the implementation of the UWI/Malmo University Exchange, a welcome linkage established by an agreement under which one member of staff from Mona (Professor Carolyn Cooper) spent three weeks teaching at Malmo in September 2006, while a Swedish counterpart (Dr. Berndt Clavier) visited Mona for three weeks in November 2006, lecturing to students in the course E23A (Key Issues in Literary Criticism I). Response to Professor Cooper's lectures was extremely positive; at the end of his stay, which was also very successful, Dr. Clavier suggested that it might be useful for colleagues from the two universities to collaborate in co-authoring as well as co-teaching courses to be taught at their respective Universities, a proposal which the Department is considering. Perhaps the more challenging aspect of the exchange with Malmo was the exchange of students: two English majors completed semester two, 2006-07, in Sweden (where they achieved outstanding results), while two students from Malmo spent an equally fruitful semester at Mona. The hosting of the students from Malmo presented potential difficulties, in part because of concerns about security, and also because of differences in teaching methods (for example, most of their courses at Malmo did not include final examinations), which required careful monitoring of their academic progress by colleagues; in general, however, the visit of the Swedish students went very well. It is hoped that the exchange will continue at least for the next four years, for which funding has been secured by our colleagues at Malmo.

Research Awards

Dr. Curdella Forbes received the Faculty Prize for "Outstanding Research Publication" for her book From Nation to Diaspora: Samuel Selvon, George Lamming and the Cultural Performance of Gender, at the Principal's Awards Ceremony, in January 2007.

OUTREACH

The Department's outreach activities in 2006-07 were varied, and included the following:

- Launch of I Been There, Sort Of, by Mervyn Morris, December 2006.

- Hosting (in association with the Jamaica National Bicentenary Committee) of a “Reading” in the Undercroft by acclaimed Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe, January 2007.
- Hosting (in association with the Canadian High Commission and the Jamaica National Bicentenary Committee) of lecture by Afro-Canadian scholar and writer Professor George Elliot Clarke, February 2007.
- Launch (in association with WIACLALS) of Fear of Stones and other stories (short-listed for the Regional Commonwealth Writers’ Prize) by Andrew Kei Miller, March 2007.
- Organization of Inaugural Edward Baugh Distinguished Lecture (and launch of Derek Walcott, by Edward Baugh), April 2007.
- Launch of The Rainmaker’s Mistake (in association with WIACLALS and the Philip Sherlock Centre), by Erna Brodber, May 2007.

The Department was also associated with the launch of Afua Cooper’s The Hanging of Angélique and Copper Woman (organized by the Institute of Caribbean Studies) in August 2006.

Various colleagues maintained relations with other educational institutions, giving guest lectures etc. These included the following: Norval Edwards visited Northern Caribbean University in December 2006, at the invitation of the University Council of Jamaica, to assess their English program, while Mawuena Logan also attended the December meetings in his capacity as External Examiner for that institution. Carolyn Cooper moderated a panel at a symposium on Censorship organized by the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts (April 2007). In May 2007, David Williams was Chief Judge and Michael Bucknor a Judge for the Una Marson Award, the National Literary Competition organized by the National Book Development Council of Jamaica. Several colleagues continued to contribute to the regional CXC examination system.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Dr Michael Bucknor

- “Performance Poetics: Traumatized Masculinities in Eastern Caribbean/Canadian Writing.” 9th Annual Eastern Caribbean Culture Conference, “Islands In-Between,” November 2006, the Methodist Church Hall, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. (13 pp)
- “Horizons of Desire: Imagining Alternative Worlds in Caribbean Speculative Fiction.” 26th Annual West Indian Literature Conference, March 2007, College of the Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas.

Professor Carolyn Cooper

- “Dancehall Philosophy: Erotic Movement Shifting the Geography of Reason,” Keynote Lecture, Annual Conference, Caribbean Philosophical Association, University of the West Indies, Mona, July 2007

Dr Norval Edwards

- “Mapping Displacements: Caribbean Women Writers, Diaspora and the Cartographic Imagination”. 26th Annual West Indian Literature Conference, College of the Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas, March 2007.

Dr Curdella Forbes

- ‘Fracturing Subjectivities: International Space and the Discourse of Individualism in the Fiction of Colin Channer and Jamaica Kincaid.’ Triennial Conference of the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, August 2007. (10pp.)
- ‘Fracturing Subjectivities: International Space and the Discourse of Individualism in Colin Channer’s Waiting in Vain and Jamaica Kincaid’s Mr Potter.’ Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, May 2007. Read by Kezia Page. (9 pp.)

Dr Mawuena Logan

- “Negritude-Postcolonial Interface in Cheikh Hamidou Kane’s Ambiguous Adventure”. Senghor Colloquium, “Negritude: Legacy and Present Relevance,” University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, October 2006.

Dr Anthea Morrison

- “ ‘Making Life’: Displacement (and its antidote) in the work of Lorna Goodison”. 26th Annual West Indian Literature Conference, College of the Bahamas, March 8-10, 2007 (13 pp).

PUBLICATIONS

Ms Lisa Brown

- * “Review of Suspended Sentences: Fictions of Atonement”, *Journal of West Indian Literature*, 15.1&2: November 2006, 213-317.

Dr Victor Chang

- * Co-editor of *Festchrift*, special edition of *Journal of West Indian Literature*, 15.1&2, November 2006, in honour of Professor Edward Baugh.

Professor Carolyn Cooper

Refereed Book Chapters:

- * “I Shot the Sheriff: Gun Talk in Jamaican Popular Music.” Charles Springwood, ed. *Open Fire: Understanding Global Gun Cultures*. Oxford & New York: Berg, 2007, 153-164. Excerpted from the chapter “‘Lyrical Gun’: Metaphor and Role Play in Jamaican Dancehall Culture” in *Sound Clash*.
- * “‘Come to Jamaica and Feel Alright!’: Marketing Reggae As Heritage Tourism.” Chandana Jayawardena, ed. *Caribbean Tourism: More Than Sun, Sand and Sea*. Kingston: Ian Randle Publishers, 2007, 222-233.

Peer-reviewed Journal Article

- * “At the Crossroads – Looking for Meaning in Jamaican Dancehall Culture: A Reply.” *Small Axe* No. 21 (October 2006) 193-204.

Dr Norval Edwards

Refereed Journal Article

- * "Edward Baugh: The Critic as Mediator", *Journal of West Indian Literature*, 15.1-2 (November 2006), pp. 33-54.

Book Chapter

- * Introduction to Annie Paul, ed. Caribbean Culture: Sounding on Kamau Brathwaite. The UWI Press, 2007.

Dr Curdella Forbes

Refereed Journal Articles

- * 'Redeeming the Word: Religious Experience as Liberation in Erna Brodber's Fiction.' *Postcolonial Text* 3.1, 2007. 19pp.
- * 'X Press Publications: Pop Culture, "Pop Lit" and Caribbean Literary Criticism: An Essay of Provocation.' *Anthurium* 4:1. (Spring 2006, 19 pp.)
- * 'Fractured Epiphanies: Memory, Mourning and Loss in Edward Baugh's *It Was the Singing*'. *Journal of West Indian Literature* 15.1&2, November 2006: 74-91.

Professor John Lennard

Books (E-books)

- * Of Modern Dragons and other essays on Genre Fiction (Tirril: Humanities-Ebooks LLP, 2007). Steven Poole, *The Guardian* (7.7.07). Reviewed: pp. 1-268.
- * Shakespeare: Hamlet (Tirril: Humanities-Ebooks LLP, 2007), pp. 1-87.
- * Reginald Hill: On Beulah Height (Tirril: Humanities-Ebooks LLP, 2007), pp. 1-88.
- * Walter Mosley: Devil in a Blue Dress (Tirril: Humanities-Ebooks LLP-2007), pp. 1-73.
- * Octavia E. Butler" Xengenesis/Lilith's Brood: Dawn, Adulthood Rites, Imago (Tirril: Humanities-Ebooks LLP, 2007, pp. 1-100.
- * Ian McDonald: Chaga/Evolution's Shore (Tirril: Humanities-Ebooks LLP, 2007), pp. 1-84.

- * Tamora Pierce: The Immortals: Wild Magic, Wolf-Speaker, The Emperor Mage, The Realms of the Gods (Tirril: Humanities-Ebooks LLP, 2007), pp.1-122.

Articles

- * “Staging ‘the Holocaust’ in England”, in Mary Luckhurst, ed., *Blackwell’s Companion to Modern British and Irish Drama*, Oxford & New York: Blackwell, 2006, 316-28.
- * “On War: Charles Wood’s Military Conscience” (with Dawn Fowler), in Mary Luckhurst, ed., *Blackwell’s Companion to Modern British and Irish Drama*, Oxford & New York: Blackwell, 2006, 314-57.

Dr Mawuena Logan

- * “Spirit and Body: African Spirituality in Paule Marshall’s Praisesong for the Widow.” *The Xavier Review* 27:1, May 2007: 11-20.
- * “Peter Pan: Then and Now.” Rev. of J.M. Barrie’s *Peter Pan*, In and Out of Time: A Children’s Classic at 100, Donna R. White and C. Anita Tarr, eds., *H-Net Book Review*, April 2007.
- * “Global Perspectives on the United States: Togo.” *Encyclopedia of Global Perspectives*. New York: Berkshire Publishing, Jan. 2007: 635-638.

Dr Gregory Stephens

- * “‘Second Emancipation’: The Transfiguration of Garvey’s ‘Racial Empire’ in Rastafarian Thought,” *Reevaluating the Pan-Africanism of W.E.B. Dubois and Marcus Garvey: Escapist Fantasy or Relevant Reality*, ed. James Conyers, Edwin Mellen, 2006, 40-82.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr Michael Bucknor

- Chief Examiner, CAPE Literatures in English, CXC
- Editor, *Postcolonial Text*
- Editor, *Journal of West Indian Literature (JWIL)*

- Member, Editorial Board, Pathways
- Chair, West Indian Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (WIACLALS).
- Adjudicator, National Book Awards, Jamaica.

Dr Victor L. Chang

- Secretary, WIACLALS.
- Editor, Pathways.
- Co-editor, Journal of West Indian Literature (JWIL).

Professor Carolyn Cooper

- Board Member, Universal Access Fund Company Limited, Jamaica
- Member, Board of Directors, Jamaica Promotions Ltd. (JAMPRO)
- Member, Board of Directors, Development Partners and Management International Limited, Kingston

Dr Norval Edwards

- Associate Editor, Small Axe: A Journal of Criticism, 1996-
- Member, University Council of Jamaica's Accreditation Team, December 2006

Dr Curdella Forbes

- Assistant Chief Examiner, English B, CXC
- Chief Examiner, CXC

Dr Mawuena Logan

- External Examiner, Northern Caribbean University

Mr David Williams

- Chief Judge, National Book Development Council Awards
- Judge, Poetry and Short Story Competition, JCDC Literary Festival

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

Undergraduate

Number Registered

Year I	571
Year II	664
Year III	375
TOTAL:	1,610

First Class Honours: Kulsoom Ahmad
Dania Dwyer
Jodi-Ann Masters

Postgraduate

Registered

PhD	6
MPhil	11
MA	21

Award of Degrees

PhD	Mary Hanna Joan Miller-Powell
MA	Rhonda Harrison