

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES



Professor Paulette A. Ramsay, PhD *UWI*
Head of Department

INTRODUCTION

The Department continued to function/operate in keeping with the broad strategic goals established for 2011–2017 along with other additions (iv and v).

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES / GOALS 2016–2017

- (i) Curriculum Strengthening and Review
- (ii) Collaboration with International Partners / Internationalisation of Department
- (iii) Expanding research output and increasing number of graduate students
- (iv) Greater emphasis also placed on: Outreach to the Community
- (v) Research and Publication: Encourage junior staff to publish and conduct research

COMMENCEMENT WORKSHOP (2016–2017)

On August 19th 2016, the Department conducted a one-day workshop to address important matters designed to attain these goals.

Among the matters discussed were:

- (i) Regulation 19 – designed to improve attendance
- (ii) Examination matters – failure rates, etc.
- (iii) Mentoring of Undergraduates
- (iv) Outreach Programmes
- (v) Study Abroad / Exchange Programmes
- (vi) The Status of Graduate Programmes in the Department
- (vii) Teaching on Fridays
- (viii) Academic Advising of Undergraduates and Graduates
- (ix) Research and Publishing and Open Access Journals
- (x) Problems with the co-ordination of courses

STAFFING MATTERS

Semester I

- Dr. Jeffrey Gonzalez joined the Spanish section in June 2016. His expected duties included the teaching of Spanish to Undergraduates and the Coordination of the M.A. in Translation, as well as teaching in this programme.
- Mrs Rona Barnett-Passard unexpectedly requested no-pay leave.
- Two Chinese Volunteers arrived to teach at the Confucius Institute.

Semester II

- Dr. Gonzalez tendered his resignation effective December 31, 2016.
- Mr. Robinson Alvarado arrived in January as the new ICETEX Volunteer, through the bilateral agreement with the Government of Colombia. His arrival was delayed due to Work Permit issues.

CHALLENGES

- Mrs. Rona Barnett-Passard did not return for the commencement of the new academic year and this created serious challenges for the French Section, since Dr Cévaër was not replaced while on Sabbatical. She (Mrs. Barnett-Passard) requested no-pay leave and several part-time persons were identified to fill the teaching slots created by her absence.
- In Semester II, special arrangements were quickly made to cover the challenges created by Dr. Gonzalez' resignation.
- The Graduate Programme Courses in Literature was affected by the Department of Literatures in English's temporary suspension of their taught courses. Even though we were appropriately advised by the HOD, Dr. Michael Bucknor, it still created some difficulty. The problem was solved by initiating, for the very first time, a cross-departmental collaboration with St. Augustine's Department of Modern Languages and Literatures via Zoom. St. Augustine was extremely collegial and supportive and the students enjoyed the course on the Testimonial Novel. Hopefully we will be able to repeat this collaboration, even as we resume that arrangement with the Department of Literatures in English.
- Failure to repair the AC Units in the Language Laboratory severely affected the teaching of language courses. The lab was hot and uncomfortable, the repairs began late and to date, some matters have not been given attention.

QAR – ASSESSMENT AND REPORT

- The Department has finished all actions and activities in response to the QAR Review of the Asian Languages related to:
 - Curriculum – Minors completed for Chinese and Japanese
 - Staffing matters – One (1) new Instructor employed
 - Study Abroad – On-going promotion of Study Abroad
- The QAR Report for Romance Languages will be finalised at Academic Board this June.

NUMBERS IN THE DEPARTMENT

PRELIMINARY SPANISH COURSES			
Course Codes	Number of Students enrolled		
	Semester I	Semester II	TOTAL
SPAN0101/Beginner's	178 + 25 WJC* (7 groups)	79 (3 groups)	282
SPAN1000/Intermediate	80 (4 groups)	77 + 8 WJC* (4 groups)	165

* WJC = UWI Mona Western Jamaica Campus

TOTAL PRELIMINARY SPANISH COURSES → 282 + 165 = 447

HOSPITALITY SPANISH COURSES			
Course Codes	Number of Students enrolled		
	Semester I	Semester II	TOTAL
SPAN 2008	26	–	26
SPAN 2108	–	29	29

TOTAL HOSPITALITY SPANISH COURSES → 26 + 29 = 55

SPANISH LEVELS I, II AND III	
Level I Language = 130	Level I Literature = 41
Level II Language = 42	Level II Literature = 10
Level III Language = 61	Level III Literature = 29
TOTAL = 233	TOTAL = 80

SPANISH COURSES → GRAND TOTAL = 447 + 55 + 233 + 80 = 815

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

PRELIMINARY FRENCH COURSES			
Course Codes	Number of Students enrolled		
	Semester I	Semester II	TOTAL
FREN0001/Basic			95
FREN0101/Beginner's			117
FREN1000/Intermediate			100

TOTAL PRELIMINARY FRENCH COURSES → 95 + 117 + 100 = 312

FRENCH LEVELS I, II AND III	
Level I Language = 55	Level I Literature = 26
Level II Language = 28	Level II Literature = 17
Level III Language = 32	Level III Literature = 7
TOTAL = 115	TOTAL = 50

FRENCH COURSES → GRAND TOTAL = 312 + 115 + 50 = 477

The numbers indicate that literature consistently has lower numbers than language. Several strategies are being devised to improve the numbers in literature. Similarly, there is need for more students, especially in French to move into Levels I, II and II from the Intermediate Courses.

PRELIMINARY PORTUGUESE PROGRAMMES		
Course Codes	Number of Students enrolled	TOTAL
PORTO 0101/Beginner's	45	45

JAPANESE LEVELS I, II AND III	
Level I Language = 109	
Level II Language = 55	Level II Japanese History Course = 16
Level III Language = 29	
TOTAL = 193	TOTAL = 16

CHINESE LEVELS I, II AND III	
Level I Language = 105 + 18 (WJC) = 123	
Level II Language = 42	Level II Chinese Culture Course = 19
Level III Language = 22	
TOTAL = 187	TOTAL = 19

GRAND TOTAL → ALL LANGUAGE COURSES = 1,720

The numbers indicate that literature consistently has lower numbers than language courses, even though these numbers continue to improve. Several strategies are being devised to continue improving the numbers in literature.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Spanish Language Immersion Trip to Cuba

A group of students and two members of Academic staff will be participating in a Spanish Language Immersion/Cultural Programme from June 2–June 16, 2017, as part of an exchange between the University of Guantanamo, Cuba and the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures.

Graduate Research Seminars

In response to requests from a number of Graduate Students, the Department with the assistance of Research Assistant, Miss Dejon Lingo, arranged a number of special seminars for our Graduate Students. These were aimed at responding to some of the questions that some students still have regarding their theses. These seminars were facilitated by a number of lecturers – Dr. Marie-José N'zengou-Tayo and Dr. Nina Bruni. Students expressed positive comments about the Seminars. Topics discussed included:

- (i) “The Literature Review” – Thursday, March 9 from 5–7 p.m. – Postgraduate Learning Commons (PGLC) Seminar Room, Main Library. Facilitators – Dr. Marie-José N’zengou-Tayo and Dr. Nina Bruni.
- (ii) “Information Literacy” including Database Searching, Plagiarism and Endnote – Wednesday, March 22 from 5:00–7:00 p.m. – Postgraduate Learning Commons (PGLC) Computer Lab, Main Library. Facilitator – Mrs. Frances Salmon.

Distinguished Lecture

On April 12, 2017, the Department established a Distinguished Lecture series in honour of two past members of the Departments of French and Spanish respectively. The special Guest Speaker was Dr. Elizabeth Wilson who spoke very engagingly on the topic: “Literature and Activism, Literature as Activism: Case Studies from Caribbean Women’s Writing in French.” The event was well attended by persons from inside and outside of the campus and also included the participation of Undergraduate students from the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

Book Launch – *Dewdrop* by Dr. Courtney Hogarth

On the 23rd of March 2017 at 6:30 p.m., the Department launched the debut book *Dewdrop* of Dr. Courtney Hogarth in the Multifunctional Room, Main Library. Guest Speaker, Dr. Velma Pollard launched the book and Professor Paulette Ramsay chaired the event that was well attended and commended by those in attendance.

Japan Foundation Visit

The Department received and facilitated representatives of the Japan Foundation who conducted workshops on difficult grammatical areas with students in January in the Language laboratory in late January. Their contribution is highly appreciated.

Book Launch – Professor Paulette Ramsay’s book: *Afro-Mexican Constructions of Diaspora, Gender, Identity and Nation* (UWI, 2016)

The Department of Modern Languages & Literatures launched Professor Paulette Ramsay’s book: *Afro-Mexican Constructions of Diaspora, Gender, Identity and Nation*, in collaboration with the Embassy of Mexico and the UWI Press, on Friday, October 14th, 2016. The launch was well-attended and well-received by those in attendance.

Symposium on Afro-Mexico (October 2016)

The Department of Modern Languages & Literatures in collaboration with the Embassy of Mexico hosted a Symposium on Afro-Mexico on October 14th, 2016 in N1. Father Glyn-Jemmott-Nelson, Dr. María Elisa Velázquez Gutiérrez, President, International Scientific Committee of the Slave Route Project, UNESCO and Mr. Pedro Sergio Peñalosa Perez, President of México Negro were specially invited guest speakers for the Symposium.

Afro-Mexican Photographic Exhibition (Month of October 2016)

The Department mounted a Photographic Exhibition on Afro-Mexico from October 14th–October 30th in the Main Library and N1 respectively. The Photographic Exhibition was officially launched by the Mexican Ambassador, H.E. Martha Cecilia Jaber on October 14 and the Exhibition ran until the end of October.

SPECIAL VISITS

Visit of Team from University of Guantanamo, Cuba

Dr. Eliezer Brooks visited the Department for two weeks in September 2016. Dr. Brooks spoke to students and investigated the possibility of collaboration with the Department.

Following the signing of an MOU for students and faculty exchange with the International Students’ Office (ISO), Dr. Eliezer Brooks, Dr.

Gilberto Ramirez and Dr. Alberto Biggerstaff, Lecturers from the University of Guantanamo, Cuba, were invited by the International Students' Office to visit the UWI in February for two weeks, through a Special Collaboration between the International Students' Office and the Office of Students' Services regarding the development of a student mobility programme and other joint projects. They participated in Spanish Conversation classes and visited with different persons in the Sports Section, ISO and the Department of MLL.

**Representative from the Organisation of American States (OAS)
Visit to the UWI**

Professor Paulette Ramsay met with the OAS Region Representative, Mrs. Jeanelle van Glaanen Weygel, on Thursday, May 4 at 11:00 am to discuss future collaborations with the Department.

Visit with Counsellor from Embassy of Japan

Visit of Mr. Shinichi Yamanaka from the Embassy of Japan to discuss the Japanese Language Programme on Thursday, May 4 at 2:00 pm.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Modern Languages and Literatures Day – Thursday, March 23, 2017

This was supported by more than thirty-five (35) High Schools and four (4) Prep and Primary schools. Three hundred and fifty students (350) were in attendance at the event. Members of the Diplomatic Corps provided the usual support with representatives from the Embassy of the Dominican Republic and the Embassy of Japan participating by delivery of words. Activities included: CXC practice sessions, Salsa demonstrations, Prep School Children's Corner, French/Spanish/Chinese Online Games, Chinese Calligraphy demonstrations, Spanish Sing Along and a Mega Concert that showcased the foreign language talents of our UWI students across the five languages (Chinese, French, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish) being offered in the Department.

The event was very successful. The Department also received financial support in the amount of JMD\$700,000 from the Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education (CHASE) Fund to offset costs for the event.

Final Year Sensitization – Tuesday, November 15, 2016

This has been established in the last 6 years through the instrumentality of Dr. Lindy Jones. This year's programme was entitled "Final Year Sensitization: My Next Move". Topics presented to students included Graduate Studies and You, Graduate Scholarships – Study Abroad Programmes, Job Opportunities, Foreign Service and the Graduate Student Experience. Presentations were done by persons from different areas of the University such as Ms. Hermine Tyrell from the International Students' Office.

Staff / Student Liaison Meeting

This is usually done towards the end of the semester. There was one for each semester.

1. Students praised Lecturers' / Instructors' delivery across most courses. They also spoke favourably of some Lecturers' / Instructors' availability and helpfulness.
2. Students across the Department expressed dissatisfaction with a number of matters:
 - i. Some headphones in the labs that do not function.
 - ii. Classes that begin at 8 o'clock present difficulties for the students who live off-campus.
 - iii. Students in some Spanish Language Courses complained about the heavy workload in their courses and the frequency of testing.

All of these matters will be addressed in our July 2017 retreat.

CAPE Foreign Languages Workshop – Saturday, April 8, 2017

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures held its annual

CAPE Workshop on 8th April 2017. Fifty-six Sixth-form students from eleven schools across the island participated. The Department is seriously using this as a dual-purpose project – important outreach/drive for recruiting new students.

Staff/Post-Graduate Seminar Series

Friday, November 11, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

Chinese Director of the Confucius Institute: Dr. Yu Wansuo – “Topic-marking Words and Discourse Interpretation in the Teaching of Reading Comprehension.”

Friday, November 25, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

M.Phil. Spanish student: Mr. Aldean Ellis – “Resistance or Revolution: A Critical Analysis of Marronage in Selected Poems by the Afro-Cuban Poet, Jesús Cos Causse.”

Thursday, February 2, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.

M.Phil. French student: Ms. Dejon Lingo – “Listening: The Cinderella Skill”

Friday, February 17, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.

Head of Department: Professor Paulette Ramsay – “Verbal Mutiny: Cultural Identity, Memory, Formation and Resistance in *Ramillete pacífico* by the Afro-Columbian Angela Castro Garcés.”

Thursday, March 2, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.

M.Phil. Spanish student: Mr. Darrelstan Ferguson – “Of Resistance and Transgression in the Dramatic Works of Gerardo Fullea León.”

Mexican Film Series

The Department’s collaboration with the Mexican Embassy continued with the resumption of the Mexican Film Series which ran from February 27–March 7, 2017 in the Multifunctional Room, Main Library.

Monday, February 27, 2017 – **En el ombligo del cielo**

Tuesday, February 28, 2017 – **Burros**

Thursday, March 2, 2017 – **Café**

Monday, March 6, 2017 – **Ramona**

Tuesday, March 7, 2017 – **El Comienzo del tiempo**

The Department thanks the Mexican Embassy for its commitment to the cultural series.

Alliance Française Film Series

The Department's collaboration with the Embassy of France and the Alliance Française resumed with a Film Festival in March.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dr. Paulette Ramsay, Senior Lecturer and Head in the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures, Faculty of Humanities & Education, was promoted to the rank of Professor in March 2017 for her academic accomplishments and contribution to her field.
- Ms. Trudy-Paule Khan (M.A. Translation Studies student) was granted a remote internship with the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development (UNRILEC), based in Peru. The internship (translation from Spanish into English) will run from May 1–October 30, 2017. This is the first time a UWI student will be pursuing a translation internship with this organisation.

SPECIAL COLLABORATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Professor Paulette Ramsay

- was invited to participate in the first Conference on islands and their literatures entitled, “The Tower at the End of the World” held by The Nordic House in the Faroe Islands, May 11–15. She was one of twelve scholars invited from island regions of the world to present on

island literature. She presented on a Cuban poet and compared aspects of his writing to that of Caribbean Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott.

- was invited to present a lecture on Afro-Mexico and her groundbreaking book: *Afro-Mexican Constructions of Diaspora, Gender, Identity and Nation* at the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in North Carolina. April 19–21, 2017.
- was invited to speak on Afro-Mexico and her recently-published book: *Afro-Mexican Constructions of Diaspora, Gender, Identity and Nation* at the Translators' and Interpreters' Association (TIA) of Jamaica Quarterly Meeting on Friday, March 31.
- represented the Department at the Annual *Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie* (AUF) – Association of French Departments in the Caribbean Conference in Santo Domingo from March 19–22.
- was invited to be a panellist at the Seminar to Commemorate Fifty Years of Mexico — Jamaica Diplomatic Relations in October 2016 at the Regional Headquarters, UWI Mona Campus. She presented a paper on “Afro-Mexico in the Context of the Caribbean”.
- The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures in collaboration with the UWI Bookshop, hosted a Book Signing at the UWI Bookshop on April 6, 2017 for Professor Paulette Ramsay's latest anthology of poems entitled: *Star Apple Blue and Avocado Green* (2016) with Ian Randle Publishers.

The 5th MoU Conference: “UN Language Professionals Today and Tomorrow” took place on April 20–21, 2017 at the United Nations Headquarters, NY. The Department was represented by Ms. Sandra Hamilton.

The Fifth MoU Conference brought together UN language professionals and universities, members of the MoU network as well as invited observers, including the University of the West Indies. Conference participants were also given presentations of the tools used by UN language professionals, including hands-on demonstrations in small

groups. The Secretariat is to provide UWI with information on how to become a member of the network and other possibilities for partnership.

On January 19, 2017, our students received a presentation from a team of language professionals from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Office in New York on the content of and application process for Language Competitive Examinations (LCE) for Language Professionals of the United Nations, ahead of an LCE that was scheduled for April 2017. ECLAC made initial contact with UWI through Ms. Sally Shaw, Chief, English Unit, Publications and Web Services Division at ECLAC who led the presentation, accompanied by other colleagues including Amirh Venner (alumna of UWI, Mona) of ECLAC and Janine Lissandre (alumna of UWI, St. Augustine) of UN headquarters. There were about 20 attendees at UWI, Mona, one of whom actually sat the exam in April.

INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION SERVICES

The Department offers interpretation and translation services to the public at a fee. Some of our clients include:

- Agrocælum Ltd.
- The Development Bank of Jamaica
- AG CHEM Plant Ltd.
- Island Routes Caribbean Adventure Tours
- British Council
- PAHO
- Registrar General's Department

Services include interpreting and translating at conferences and other official functions as well as birth certificates, transcripts, scientific and other documents.

PUBLICATIONS

Professor Paulette Ramsay

Books

- *Star Apple Blue and Avocado Green: Poems by Paulette A. Ramsay*. Ian Randle Publishers, 2016.
- *Afro-Mexican Constructions of Diaspora, Gender, Identity and Nation*. UWI Press, 2016.

Articles and Reviews

- “Routes and Roots: Solomon’s Grandpa did go to Ecuador: Representations of Jamaican Migration to Ecuador in Luz Argentina Chiriboga’s *La nariz del Diablo*.” *PALARA (Publication of the Afro-Latin American Research Association)*. 20 (Fall 2016): 74–89. Print.
- Review: *Oshun’s Daughters: The Search for Womanhood in the Americas*. Vanessa K. Valdés. *Caribbean Journal of Education*. 38:1 (2016). 130–133. Print.
- Commissioned Book Chapter: Volume IX of the *General History of Africa*. “African Communities in Mexico”. Ed. Hilary Beckles. UNESCO Project.

Dr Nina Bruni

- Critical Appendix: “De la duda a la liberación: Apócrifo de Judas Izcarote”. Apéndice crítico a la novela “Apócrifo de Judas Izcarote” (Ensayos). San Juan, Puerto Rico/Santo Domingo, República Dominicana: Isla Negra Editores, 2017. 9–14.
- Foreword to the novel: *Apócrifo de Judas Izcarote* by Jit Manuel Castillo de la Cruz. 2a ed. San Juan, Puerto Rico: Editorial Isla Negra, 2017. 7–9.
- “Integración y cultura en América Latina y el Caribe: perspectivas desde el Caribe anglófono.” *Historia comparada de las Américas: perspectivas de la integración cultural*. Coord. Liliana Weinberg.

Centro de Investigaciones sobre América Latina y el Caribe, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; Comité de Historia Cultural y Comisión de Historia del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia (IPGH México), México, 2016. 461–484.

Dr. Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo

- Review of Celucien L. Joseph and Nixon S. Cléophat. *Vodou in Haitian Memory: The Idea and Representation of Vodou in Haitian Imagination*. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2016. 228 pages.
- Bibliography. Index. *Journal of Caribbean History*. Vol. 50, No. 2. Special Issue Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the 1865 Morant Bay Rebellion, Jamaica. Kingston: Department of History. The UWI Press, 2016, pp. 225–228.

Dr. Courtney Hogarth

- Publication – *Dewdrop*. Arawak Publications, Kingston Jamaica (2016)

Conferences

- The Asian Conference on Arts and Humanities, Kobe, Japan, March – April, 2017. Paper: ‘Kofi Kayiga – The Construction of an Identity’. Organized by the International Academic Forum.
- Inaugural Meeting of Caribbean Confucius Institutes, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, The University of the West Indies. Paper: Summary of Achievements of the Confucius Institute, Mona. (May 2017)
- Panel Chair: “Integrating Chinese Learning and vocational training, boosting local social and economic development.” (Invited)

Dr. Yu Wansuo

- Research article: “Negative Effects of the Chinese Cultural Aphasia on the Cultivation of English Majors’ Intercultural Communicative Competence and their Contributing Factors and Solutions”. *Journal of North University of China*, (Social Science Edition) Vol. 32 No. 4, 2016, pp: 93–96.

Dr. Teresa Villoria Nolla

Conferences

- Villoria Nolla, Maite, "Working toward Autonomy in Second Language Acquisition: Shifting Roles, Learning to Learn, and Learning by Doing at UWI," MLA Convention: Boundaries of Cultures, Philadelphia, January 4–7 2017.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Professor Paulette Ramsay

- CAPE Modern Languages Examining Committee – Spanish
- Member of JAMCOPY Committee Board

Dr. Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo

- Member of the Selection Panel. Interviews of Candidates for the French Assistantship Programme. Shortwood Teacher's College. January, 2017.
- External Examiner for French Literature course for Shortwood Teachers' College.
- Examiner for DELF/DALF Oral and Written examinations at the Alliance Française de la Jamaïque.
- Judge. Vocabulary Competition organized by the Jamaica Association of French Teachers (JAFT), St. Andrew High School, June 2, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo

- Online Training. TEF Examiner. Chambre de Commerce de Paris – Alliance Française. (October 2016–May 2017)
- Online Training. PROZ Translator. Webinars
- Contribution to Consultancy Fund (2015–2016): JMD 48,406.31

AWARDS AND HONOURS

The Department received a Certificate of Commendation from the Government of Japan for its role in promoting Japanese culture and language. The presentation was made by the Ambassador, His Excellency Masanori Nakano, at a special function on July 16, 2017.

Professor Paulette A. Ramsay

- Principal's Research Award for Best Book – *Afro-Mexican Constructions of Diaspora, Gender, Identity and Nation*. January 2017.
- Distinguished Alumni Award 2017, Rusea's High School (alma mater).

GRADUATE STUDENTS

In total, there are eight (8) M.Phil. students, eleven (11) M.A. students and two (2) students enrolled in the Ph.D. programme.

EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION

The Department has acquired the following for the period 2012–2016:

- a Language Learning system including a new PC and audio and recording equipment in the Nippon Room at the Language Lab (JICA Donation)
- two laptops
- two projectors
- a binding machine
- a new projector screen in the Nippon Room (JICA Donation)
- a shredder.