

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS AND PHILOSOPHY



Dr Lawrence Ojo Bamikole, BA., MA., PhD, *O.A.U, Ile-Ife.*
Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

A new Head of Department, in the person of Dr. Lawrence Bamikole, Senior Lecturer in Philosophy assumed office on 1st of August, 2014 with the avowed vision to unify and integrate the different Sections, Units and Centres that constitute the Department. In this connection, an events committee was established and entrusted with the task of overseeing events that encompassed all the different organs that make up the Department. This committee contributed to the successful execution of the Departmental plans and activities during the 2014/ 2015 academic year.

The Department participated fully in the University Research Days held February 9–11, 2015. Research was presented by Dr. Michele Kennedy with Mrs Trecel Messam-Johnson, Ms Kadian Walters and Dr. Lawrence Bamikole with Ms Sandra McCalla. The Philosophy Section held a

Panel Discussion on “Freedom and the Democratic State”. Dr. Caroline Dyche organised two critical thinking UWI Research Day 2015 workshops delivered by Dr. Carmeneta Jones, and attended by students from Calabar High School and the American International School of Kingston. The Linguistics Section held Mini Lectures on Language and Linguistics and Cape Workshops on Communication Studies.

In an effort to showcase the research conducted by both post graduate students and staff members, the Department hosted its Postgraduate Research Day and Staff Research Day on May 14, 2015 and June 25, 2015, respectively. The papers presented at the Staff Research Day will be published in a special edition of the *Caribbean Journal of Education*.

The new undergraduate Grading Scheme which was introduced during the 2014/2015 academic year was successfully implemented by the Department. The new taught Masters programme in Philosophy with a new credit regime of 38 credits was introduced during the 2014/2015 academic year. During the 2014/2015 academic year, various new courses were approved for teaching in the Linguistics and Philosophy Programmes. Especially of importance, is the approval of the M.Sc. Speech-Language Pathology Programme, which is a joint offering between the Department and the Faculty of Medical Sciences. Interviews were conducted to appoint the Director and another full time staff to kick start the Programme in the 2015/2016 academic year. Two courses in Caribbean Philosophy have also been approved in response to the Quality Assurance Review in Philosophy that took place in 2012. The Caribbean Sign Language programme was also approved with the appointment of Dr. Keren Cumberbatch as Lecturer on a full time regular position.

With the mandate of showcasing the course offerings of the Department, a television advertisement was commissioned which aired on Television Jamaica (TVJ) on March 31, 2015 during the Schools’ Challenge Quiz 2015 Finals. The advertisement featured prominent Jamaicans who studied Language, Linguistics and Philosophy at the University. Additionally, members of the Department continued to visit high schools to promote the programmes offered by the Department. Dr Caroline Dyche represented the Department on the Faculty of Humanities and

Education Marketing and Outreach Committee for the 2014/2015 academic year.

The Department held its Staff Retreat under the theme “Re-connecting and Re-visioning: Overcoming the Challenges Together” on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. The Retreat enabled the Department to think strategically about the future and to develop the necessary plans to achieve the objectives set within the 2014–2017 Departmental Operational Plan. Members of the Department were assigned to spearhead the different perspectives within the Operational Plan.

The English Language Section held a Cross Campus Meeting on January 12–14, 2015 at the Regional Headquarters, UWI Mona to discuss the English Language Foundation Courses with counterparts across the four campuses: Mona, Cave Hill, St Augustine and Open Campus. An important aspect of these meetings was to gain information relating to content and delivery of these courses, and where possible, to attain equity and consistency in objectives and assessment. Recommendations were made and submitted to OBUS for examination and discussion.

The continuity and sustainability of the Communication Across The Curriculum (CAC) initiative in the Sciences, which was introduced into the then Pure and Applied Sciences in 2007, as WAC (Writing Across The Curriculum), has been assured with the institution of a Departmental Award from the Faculty of Science and Technology to a Language and Linguistics Post graduate student. The Graduate student will continue the delivery of writing and speaking modules to select courses in Chemistry and Life Sciences and will also assist with the gathering and analysis of data related to this programme. This new development has been featured in the May 2015 issue of *Mona News Magazine*.

As a member of the Communication Across the Curriculum Working Group, Dr. Caroline Dyche edited the first online version of the Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies (OBUS) peer-reviewed journal *Quality Education Forum*, published December 2014. The theme for the journal was 'Student Populations & Increased Educational Provision: Analyses & Responses'.

The Linguistics Section underwent a Quality Assurance Review from Monday, March 9, 2015 to Friday, March 13, 2015. The Quality Assurance Review was completed with input from members of the Section, a cross section of students and graduates and the Head of the Department. A report was received from the Quality Assurance Unit and the Linguistics Section along with the Department are deliberating on the recommendations.

Within the Linguistics Section, Professor Silvia Kouwenberg and Dr. Michele Kennedy co-led the development and implementation of the UWI-Ministry of Education Language Project for Primary School Teachers Initiative, to be piloted in the Christmas Term of 2015–2016. Approval was given in March 2015 and meetings were held with teachers at some schools. Dr Yewande Lewis-Fokum and Mrs Joan Hernandez of the School of Education are partners in the project.

The Section of Philosophy, in collaboration with The Department of Literatures in English and CARIMAC, hosted the Second Africa World Documentary Film Festival from October 2–5, 2014 at the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre, UWI, Mona Campus. The AWDFFF is an annual festival that is held at venues around the world in partnership with the E. Desmond Lee Professorship in African/African-American Studies, International Studies and Programs at the University of Missouri, Saint Louis.

The Philosophy Section held the annual Ghandi Day Celebrations on October 2, 2014 at the Faculty of Humanities and Education under the theme “Passing on the Peace”. A synopsis of the life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was done by Dr. Lawrence Bamikole. The Section of Philosophy with the help of the Department held a very successful UNESCO World Philosophy Day on November 21, 2014. The Inaugural Philosophy Professorial Lecture by Professor John Bewaji was held on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre (N1). The title of the lecture was “Liberation Humanities for Africa and the Diaspora”.

The English Language Proficiency Test Unit (ELPTU) conducted seven

(7) test sittings during the 2014/ 2015 academic year. Overall, there was an increase in the number of candidates who sat the test when compared to last year's numbers (1212 vs 1484). The number of tests offered will be reduced to three (December, April and August) in the upcoming 2015/2016 academic year as a result of low enrolment due to the introduction of FOUN 1019.

The IELTS Centre at Mona continued to carry out its key mandate of delivering the English Language tests twice monthly. For the period under review, 22 tests were delivered with a total of 1249 candidates. Additional personnel were employed to the Centre in order to improve the smooth and efficient flow of its operations. An Assistant Coordinator was employed in January 2015 and a Secretary in February 2015. Several training workshops were conducted during this period and fourteen new invigilators were employed along with twelve new clerical markers. The British Council, having acquired the mandate to conduct two new English Language tests by the UK immigration authorities, requested the IELTS Centre to deliver the UKVI and LIFE SKILLS tests on a quarterly basis.

Due to the high demand for the IELTS test, submissions were made to the British Council as well as the Bursary for permission to expand the offerings of the IELTS Centre to the Western Jamaica Campus of the University. Approval was received from both authorities and plans are being effected for the establishment of an IELTS office at this location. A Coordinator and an Assistant will oversee the operations there.

The Jamaican Language Unit (JLU) carried out the Language Attitude Survey – 10 years later: Project for L331. The instrument used for the Language Attitude Survey which was conducted in 2005 was updated and administered by the students of the L331 Language Planning class in Kingston, Montego Bay, Trelawny and St. Mary. The data was analyzed and a report is in progress. A petition aspect was added to this research where interested participants were asked to sign petitions to Parliament to pass the bill in the Charter of Rights on Freedom from Discrimination on the grounds of language. The aim is to collect five thousand signatures.

Two (2) overseas researchers visited the Jamaican Language Unit; Angela Castro, Professor and Director of the Master's in English Didactics at Universidad del Tolima Colombia and Mr. Renauld Govain, a Lecturer from the State University of Haiti. Prof. Castro sought to create links with the MA in the English Language programme administered by the JLU. Mr. Govain sought to do research on the similarities between Jamaican Creole and Haitian Creole and to discuss the possibility for greater collaboration between the respective Universities.

The Office of Principal funded the Radio News Broadcast in the Jamaican Language Project (Braadkyaas Jamiekan) for a year. This project also created and maintained a glossary for the news items as well as the translation processes. An application is in development with the intent to raise funds for the continuation of the project.

The MA in English Language programme offered through the Jamaican Language Unit was revamped and rewritten. The new version is now being circulated to the relevant offices before being sent to the Campus Board for Graduate Studies for consideration with an aim to begin offering the new programme in 2016/2017 academic year.

The Writing Centre continued to offer individual coaching for 10 hours per week and writing workshops offered (10 persons per session) on various aspects of writing a research paper. The sessions were attended mainly by students pursuing English Language foundation courses. Room two at The Writing Centre was re-configured with four (4) new computers.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Lawrence Bamikole** "Towards Mental Liberation: Bob Marley and Liberation Discourse". Presented at the Caribbean Philosophical Association Conference, Shifting the Geography of Reason XII: Technologies of Liberation at the IBEROSTAR Paraiso Beach, Riviera Maya, Quintana Roo, Mexico, 18–21, June, 2015. 27pp.

- **Lawrence Bamikole** and Khimaja Connell, “Inner and Outer Beauty: The case of the Jamaican Woman”. Presented at the DLLP Graduate Research Day, May, 15, 2015, 10pp.
- **Lawrence Bamikole** “The Priority Argument and Development in Africa”. Presented at Annual African Conference: Development, Urban Space and Human Rights at the University of Texas at Austin, USA. 3–5 April, 2015. 30pp.
- Annife Campbell, Deidrea Dwyer Evans, Carmeneta Jones, Vivette Milson-Whyte, and Marilyn Ricketts. “Taking Risks to Help At-risk Students in Academic Writing in a University in Jamaica: Transnational Connections to the 2013 NCTE-sponsored Listening Tour”. Presented at the 66th annual Convention of the Conference on College Composition and Communication, Tampa, Florida, March 2015. 1 poster + 3pp.
- **Hubert Devonish**. Keynote address on “Jamiékan Langwij to di worl: Language in International Music and Sport”. The Edna Manley College Bilingual Conference. Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts October 2014.
- **Hubert Devonish** “New Model for Old: Funding UWI for the Long Haul” Best Practices in Higher Education Conference, Trinidad, June 2015.
- **Hubert Devonish** “Post-Independence History of the Jamaican Language”. Plenary session at the Society for Caribbean Linguistics Conference, June 2015.
- **Carmeneta Jones**. “Medical Science Students’ Perceptions of Poster Design and Presentation in a Higher Education Foundation Writing Course” at the Caribbean Tertiary Level Personnel Association Conference Trinidad, June 12, 2015.
- **Carmeneta Jones**. “Research-based Literacy Interventions for Boys” at the Jamaica Reading Association Conference, Kingston, November, 2014.
- **Silvia Kouwenberg**, “Null subjects in Papiamentu: Accounting for a

partial pro-drop language.” 20th Biennial Conference of the Society for Caribbean Linguistics (SCL). Holiday Inn Beach Resort, Aruba, 5–8 August 2014.

- **Silvia Kouwenberg**, John Victor Singler and Simon Mitchell. “The quality of the output is determined by the quality of the input: Methodological issues in new computational approaches to creole typology”. Joint Conference of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics and the Associação de Crioulos de Base Lexical Portuguesa e Espanhola. University of Graz, Austria, July 7–9 2015.
- **Silvia Kouwenberg**. “The strange absence of Amerindians in creole formation: the Berbice Dutch case.” Joint Conference of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics and the Associação de Crioulos de Base Lexical Portuguesa e Espanhola. University of Graz, Austria, July 7–9 2015.
- **Sandra McCalla** and **Renae McCalla**, “What can we know for certain? A Modern Explanation.” American Canadian Conference for Academic Disciplines, Harvard Medical School, May 26–30, 2015, 12pp

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Monographs

- **Professor John Bewaji** (2014) “Ethics, a branch of Philosophy” in Bewaji J. A. I., et al, eds. *Introduction to Logic and Philosophy*. Ede, Nigeria: GSP-RUN (ISBN 978-978-723-510-3); pp. 67–104.
- **Professor Hubert Devonish**, Dr Karen Carpenter & Dr. Paula Daley-Morris ‘School Rules: Language Education Policies and Practices in the Creole-Speaking Caribbean’ in Androula Yiakoumetti (Ed). *Multilingualism and Language in Education: Sociolinguistic and Pedagogical Perspectives from Commonwealth Countries*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2015 pp143–160 (June)
- **Professor Hubert Devonish** ‘The Creole-Speaking Caribbean: The Architecture of Language Variation’ in Dick Smakman, Patrick

Heinrich (Eds). *Globalising Sociolinguistics: Challenging and Expanding Theory*. Routledge, New York, 2015, pp 137–150 (June)

- **Professor Hubert Devonish and Ms Kadian Walters** ‘The Jamaican Language situation: a process, not a type’ in Dick Smakman, Patrick Heinrich (Eds). *Globalising Sociolinguistics: Challenging and Expanding Theory*. Routledge, New York, 2015, pp 223–232 (June)
- **Dr. Ingrid. McLaren** “Navigating the scientific landscape via a writing across the curriculum program: Outcomes, possibilities and challenges”. *New Developments in Science Education Research*. Ed., Nathan Yates. Nova Science Publishers: NY, New York. 2015, 171–189.
- **Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte**, *Academic Writing Instruction for Creole-Influenced Students*. Kingston: The University of the West Indies Press, 2015.

Refereed Journal Articles

- M. Chisholm and M. **Kennedy**. “Widening Participation in Higher Education: The Case of the UWI”. *UWI Quality Education Forum*. 20. (2014) 34–61.
- **S. Kouwenberg**. “Dutch Guiana: Demographics and living conditions and the emergence of Dutch creoles during the first one hundred years, 1580–1675”. *Journal of Language Contact* 8, 2015. 70–90.
- **S. McCalla**, N Shepherd, “Moral Ethical Analysis of Performance Enhancement Drugs in Sports”, *International Journal of Arts and Sciences* (2014); 371–381.
- **T. Francis and I. McLaren**. “Enhancing Communicative Competence: An Audience-Centred Approach to ‘Speaking Across the Curriculum’”. *UWI Quality Education Forum* 20, (2014): 83–110.

Technical Reports

K. Cumberbatch. *Situational Analysis of Deaf Education in Guyana*. Report commissioned by the Deaf Association of Guyana and endorsed by the Ministry of Education, Guyana. 2015.

INCOME GENERATION

The programme 'Writing in the Workplace' was created through the Writing Centre for National Housing Trust (NHT) staff at the level of Administrative Assistant and Secretary. A series of workshops, held over eight weeks, were delivered between September and November 2014 and were facilitated by some English Language Instructors. There were 30 registered participants from various NHT offices and departments in Kingston, Clarendon, St Catherine, and Manchester.

The IELTS Centre derived income from the tests offered during the period of which approximately one third was paid to the British Council as Centre fee. This was paid to them on a quarterly basis. The cost of the test was \$25,000.00 in 2014 but was increased to £175.00 or its Jamaican equivalent in January 2015.

Another source of income for the Department was the Summer School programme held June–July 2015. Courses offered included Foundation, Language, Linguistics and Philosophy.

PUBLIC SERVICE

- **Dr. Keren Cumberbatch** is currently a Board Member of the Danny Williams School for the Deaf. Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte serves as a Council Member, Girl Guides Association of Jamaica and was also Guest Speaker at the Awards Ceremony coinciding with the 100th Anniversary of the Girl Guides Association of Jamaica, Kingston on March 15, 2015.
- **Professor John Bewaji** holds the position of Chairman, Jamaica National Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (NBCJ). Professor Bewaji is also a Member of the Global Bioethics Organizing Committee, Global Bioethics Summit, Berlin, Germany, 2016. Additionally, Professor Bewaji is the Editor of the Caribbean Journal of Philosophy.
- **Dr. Michele Kennedy** was appointed in January 2015 to serve as a Member of the Board of Governors of St Michael's Theological

College and she is also a Member of the Board of Governors of The Catholic College of Mandeville. Dr. Kennedy is also a Member of the Selection Committee for the Percy and Alice Chang Education Foundation Scholarships for Tertiary Education.

- **Ms Sandra McCalla** gave a motivational Talk titled “The Absurdity of Life Without Integrity” to members of staff at the Office of the Contractor General on January 23, 2015.

STUDENTS

Prizes awarded

Foundation courses:

Best Student in FOUN 1012 – Serita-Gaye Levy

Best Student in FOUN 1013 – Matthew Blake

Best Student in FOUN1014 – Shorna Smith

Best Student in FOUN1015 – Tanesha Ashbourne

Best Student in FOUN 1019 – Chantal Dixon

Best Student in FOUN 1002 (Language Argument) – Precianne Miller

Linguistics

Best Level-I Student – Serita-Gaye Levy

Best Level-II Theory Student – Kayla Webb

Level-II Non-theory Student – Kayla Webb

Level-III Theory Student – Sashann Dixon

Level-III Non-Theory Student – Sashann Dixon

Philosophy

Best Level-I Student – Randy Davidson

The *John Reinecke Prize* for Best Pure Linguistics Graduating Major – Sashann Dixon