

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Anthea Morrison, BA *UWI*, PhD *Paris* – Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT



This academic year was a year of transition for the Department. Dr. Claudette Williams resigned from her position as Head with effect from September 2004, after nearly a decade of leadership of her discipline. Dr. Anthea Morrison was appointed as acting head. At the end of the first semester, the Department said farewell with regret, to Dr. Hugues Peters, who resigned to take up another teaching position in Australia. Although it is understood that Dr. Peters will not be replaced in the short run, it is hoped that an increase in registration in the years ahead will make it possible to fill this post, since shrinking staff numbers in the discipline of French make it increasingly difficult to fulfill the section's basic needs in terms of teaching and research. Later in the year, the extremely competent Senior Secretary, Mrs. Karleen Morgan, resigned with effect from April 11 in order to relocate to England. At the end of the academic year, Mrs. Mireille Milfort-Ariza retired after anchoring the Spanish Language section for nearly thirty-eight years.

On a happier note, the Department continues to benefit from invaluable cooperation with foreign governments/institutions with regard to the provision of assistance with teaching:

Miss Virginie Busetto, French Teaching Assistant, joined the UWI in September, followed in late October by Mr. Manuel Romo, Colombian Teaching Assistant. Under the auspices of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, two Japanese Instructors have taught this year, and it should be noted that there is continuing enthusiasm for this linguistic option. Students have benefited significantly from this cooperation: at present nine former students are in Colombia under the Teaching Assistantship Program, and eight are similarly posted in France; several students went to Japan under the JET Programme.

In November, Dr. Peters, Mrs. Preston and Dr. N'Zengou-Tayo participated in a special session at Kingston College (involving several other schools) intended to inform students doing CAPE in French of prospects for study at the UWI. This initiative is seen as particularly important at a time when it has been considered necessary to suspend the Major in French (a double major and a minor continue to be offered).

The Department represented the UWI at the "Touch of France" Exhibition/Trade Fair, held at the Hilton Hotel from March 19-22; the stand attracted favorable attention. The Acting Head, Dr. Morrison, was one of the panelists at a "Forum on Education" on March 21.

A student of the Department, majoring in French and Education, traveled to Guadeloupe in November 2004, on a trip partly sponsored by the French Embassy, in order to attend a course on pedagogy. Students of French (directed by Mrs. Jean Small) won three prizes at the "Tallawah" Drama Festival for *Haiti Leve Kanpe!*, a presentation in honour of Haiti. The group was selected to participate in an International Theatre Festival in Canada in September 2005 but was unable to travel due to insufficient funding.

In May 2005, the Department hosted, for the second time, the annual Intercampus Modern Languages Theatre Festival, and welcomed to Mona some twenty-two students and four colleagues

from Cave Hill and St. Augustine. The festival was a great success and fostered interaction between students from the three campuses. The presentations were well attended by students from high schools (including one rural school) as well as from Shortwood Teachers' College. Students from the Japanese Club participated for the first time by presenting a cultural item in Japanese at the end-of-festival social gathering. Earlier this year, they had given a much-appreciated performance at a reception marking the 25th anniversary of the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

From June 23 –July 21, the annual Colombian Exchange Programme took place. A group of ten Mona Students, accompanied by a staff member, Fredy Patiño, attended the University of Atlantico in Barranquilla while a similar number of Colombian students pursued a course in English at the Mona Campus. The group was smaller this year but students enjoyed the experience despite the concerns caused by Hurricane Dennis.

In the forthcoming year, focus will be on recruiting new Spanish staff with a view to enhancing the research profile of the Department. Course development for on-line delivery will be also another area for action.

It is gratifying to note that teaching evaluation of staff revealed a mean average of 4.4 for lecturers and 4.1 for courses on a scale of 5. At present, the Department consists of six full-time members of staff, one foreign instructor, and two foreign assistants. As a result, it relies heavily on adjunct staff, which is a cause of concern. The Department's research output for the year, comprises five refereed publications.

Income Generation and Grants

Courses offered in the language laboratory are usually the main source of extra-income for the Department. However, this year, we were unable to generate a surplus because of low registrations.

Sales of manuals continue to help generate income but not to a significant extent since there is little or no margin of profit on sales.

A contribution was made to the Department Consultancy Fund for Court Interpreting services carried out for the Ministry of Justice and for research carried out for the UNESCO.

The Department notes with gratitude a financial contribution from the French Embassy and from the Trustees of the Bridget Jones and William Mailer Funds. These grants were used to finance the cost of sending students to Guadeloupe and to provide financial assistance to students in need.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- . • **Mr. Jason Allen**, "Parody and the Grotesque in Daniel Boukman's Drama".
Departmental seminar presentation. (34 pages)
- . • **Ms. Caroline Cousins**, "Postcolonial Hybridity in Salman Rushdie's Shame and Zadie Smith's White Teeth." Departmental seminar presentation. (35 pages) June.
- . • "From *Mutisimos* to *Paisaje Célebre*: The Evolution of a Revolutionary Poet." (May 2005)
- . • **Mr. Lindy Jones**, "From *Mutisimos* to *Richard trajó su flauta*: The Ideological Foundations of Morejón's Poetry" Conference, Department of Hispanic Studies and the Department of West African Studies at University of Birmingham, (June 3, 2005).

Dr. Marie-José N'Zengou-Tayo

- . • “La vérité sort-elle de la bouche des enfants? La voix narrative dans *les enfants des héros* de Lionel Trouillot.” 16th Annual Conference of the Haitian Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico. School of Graduate Studies. October 2004.
- . • “Les écrivaines haïtiennes et la Révolution de Saint-Domingue” International Conference on Haiti, Berlin, Ibero-American Institute. November 2004.
- . • “Caribbean Literature in French: An Overview of Issues and Trends.” Conference of the Encyclopedia of African Diaspora. Florida International University and Florida Memorial University. Miami. May 2005.
- . • “Translating the Haitian Migrant workers’ experience in the Dominican Republic: Mayra Montero’s *Del Rojo de su sombra*.” Caribbean Studies 30th Annual Conference. Santo Domingo. May – June 2005.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed

- * **Marie-José N’Zengou-Tayo.** “The End of the Committed Intellectual in Contemporary Haitian Novels: the Case of Lionel Trouillot (*Les fous de Saint-Antoine* and *Rue des Pas Perdus*).” In Kathleen Balutansky and Marie-Agnès Sourieau. *Écrire en pays assiégé – Haïti – Writing Under Siege*. Part II. Chap 6. Amsterdam/New York, NY Rodopi. (Francopolyphonies 1), 2004, pp. 323 -343.
- * ———. “Bay kou blye, Pote mak sonje: Le Massacre de 1937 dans les romans haïtiens.” Christian Lerat (ed.). *Le Monde Caraïbe: Défis et Dynamiques: Visions identitaires, diasporas, configurations culturelles*. Tome 1. Actes du Colloque “Caraïbe Plurielle,” 3-6 juin 2003. Bordeaux: Presses Universitaires de Bordeaux – Maison des Sciences de l’Homme d’Aquitaine, 2005, pp. 393 -403.
- * ———. “The Tree that does not hide the forest: Raoul Peck’s Aesthetical and Political Approach to Cinema.” In *Caribbean Quarterly*. Vol. 50, No. 4, December 2004, pp. 63 -71.
- .* **Françoise Cévaër and Hugues Péters.** “Stratégie de politique éducative pour une meilleure intégration régionale: Évaluation du nouvel examen de français des pays anglophones de la Caraïbe, le CAPE.” *Le Monde Caraïbe: Défis et Dynamiques. Géopolitique, intégration régionale, enjeux économiques*. Tome 2. Actes du Colloque “Caraïbe Plurielle,” 3-6 juin 2003. Bordeaux: Presses Universitaires de Bordeaux -Maison des Sciences de l’Homme d’Aquitaine, 2005, pp. 227 -239
- .* **Doreen Preston.** “Adaptation or Translation?: Walcott’s *The Joker of Seville* for a Caribbean Audience” in *Palimpsestes*.

16. Paris, Presses de la Sorbonne Nouvelle, (Spring 2004), 45 -58.

Non-refereed

- * **Marie-José N’Zengou-Tayo.** “Review of Lionel Trouillot’s *Street of the Lost Footsteps*. Translated by Linda Coverdale. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2003. 115 pages.” *Caribbean Quarterly*. Vol. 50, No. 4, pp. 80 -82.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Françoise Cévaër.

- Member, Jamaica Association of French Teachers (JAFIT).

Marie-José N’Zengou-Tayo:

- .- President, The Haitian Studies Association
- .- Treasurer, The Jamaica Association of French Teachers (JAFT).
- .- Secretary, The Japan Karate Association of Jamaica. (JKAJ).
- .- Peer Reviewer for *MaComère, Journal of Haitian Studies, ISER, Caribbean Journal of Education.*
- .- Reviewer, Caribbean Examinations Council, CAPE and CSEC Syllabii (French)

Hugues Péters

- .- Reviewer, Caribbean Examinations Council CAPE and CSEC Syllabii (French)
- .- Member, Jamaica Association of French Teachers (JAFT)

Doreen Preston

- .- Assistant Chief Examiner, CAPE, Units I and II in French
- .- Reviewer, Caribbean Examinations Council CAPE and CSEC Syllabii (French)
- .- Member, Jamaica Association of French Teachers (JAFT).

Claudette Williams

- .- Reviewer, *Caribbean Quarterly.*
- .- Reviewer, Caribbean Examinations Council CAPE and CSEC Syllabii (Spanish).

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

Undergraduate:

Registration:

Preliminary Courses		
French		133
Japanese		88
Spanish		483
Hospitality & Tourism Management		
French		46
Spanish		262
BA Programme		
French	310	
Spanish	869	
Graduating Students		
French	15	
Spanish	35	
First Class Honours		

Sasha Bell (Spanish)

Tasmin Gordon (French and Spanish)

Warrick Lattibeaudière (French and Spanish)

Postgraduate: Registration:

MPhil French 2
MPhil Spanish 4
PhD Spanish 1

Degree awarded: MPhil **Wendy-Ann Grant** (French) **Prizes Awarded:**

French: Level I William Mailer Prize: Stefane Daley **Level II Prix Jambec:** Tasmin Gordon

Warrick Lattibeaudière (Ex-aequo). **Level III Prix Gertrud**

Buscher: Soyini Ashby **Level III French Embassy Prize for overall achievement**

over the three years: Amirh Venner. **William Mailer**

Scholarship: Tasmin Gordon. **Bridget Jones Memorial Award:** Warrick

Lattibeaudière. **Spanish Gabriel Coulthard Prize:** Sasha Bell **Paul Davis**

Prize: Michelle Gibson