

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

**Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo, CAPES (*Haiti*), BA, MA (*Besançon*),
PhD (*Lille III*), D.E.A (*Antilles-Guyane*) – Head of Department**



WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

This year was again a transition year with the appointment of a new head of Department, Dr. Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo. The Department had to face major challenges in term of staffing for the Spanish section and increasing numbers in the Hospitality and Basic courses. Dr. Claudette Williams went on a Research Fellowship leave. Dr. Julio Ariza Gonzalez, a long-standing member of the Department, retired at the end of September but continued to assist on a part-time basis until the end of the academic year. Mr. Manuel Romo, Colombian Foreign Assistant resigned effective the end of December, and returned to Colombia.

Three new members of staff joined the Department in January.

- Maria Tereza Villoria-Nolla, a lecturer in Spanish replacing Mrs. Mireille Ariza who retired last year.
- Mrs. Ying Zhang, the Chinese instructor appointed by the Chinese Government within the Co-operation agreement signed by the Chinese and Jamaican Governments.
- Prof. Antonio Augusto Souza Mello, the new Portuguese instructor appointed by the Brazil Government.
- Mrs Zhang and Prof. Mello were in Jamaica to promote the learning of Chinese Mandarin and Brazilian Portuguese respectively. The Chinese course had to be cancelled due to the unforeseen illness of the instructor who had to be repatriated.

The Department held a retreat on Saturday, April 22, 2006 to review the year and set its objectives for the new academic year. The Mission statement of the Department was revised and endorsed by all present. The issue of how to address the gap between CSEC and CAPE foreign language students was raised at the meeting. On June 15, 2006, the Department hosted the Inter-Campus conference in Hispanic and Francophone Studies. Colleagues from St. Augustine and Cave Hill attended the conference and presented papers. The one-day symposium ended with a round-table discussion about Foreign Language Policy and the role of the Foreign Language Sections in informing policy. It was decided to form a working group to further analyze the matter. Ms. Nadine Barnett attended an Item Writing Workshop for CXC/CAPE Spanish held at the Mona campus. Between July 16 and July 23, 2006, Mrs. Preston attended consultative meetings in Montreal with colleagues from the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières with a view to the establishment of an on-line Masters in Translation Programme to be shared with the University of the West Indies.

Students' activities included the annual field trip of the F30A.- Business French Student's to Guadeloupe which took place from January 9-12. It was a success. Students were able to interact with Guadeloupean students as well as have a taste of working in a French-speaking environment. They received extensive media coverage (2 articles in France-Antilles). Students were accompanied by Mr. Gilles Lubeth. In March a group of eight students accompanied by their instructors traveled to Barbados to participate to the Inter-campus Theatre Festival. The Spanish Club organized a successful *Noche Latina*, with the support of their Spanish instructors, Mrs Nunes and Mrs Hernandez-Quiros. The Costa-Rican poet, Shirley Campbell participated in the evening by reading one of her poems to the audience. This year, more students benefited from the assistantship posts offered by the French Government, which have doubled. Students are given the opportunity of spending a year or a term in France. Eleven graduating Spanish students went to Colombia on assistantship posts through ICEMEX to teach English. A small group of UWI students left for Japan to participate in the JET programme.

Outreach

Staff from the French Section was actively involved in activities helping to consolidate and promote the teaching of French. **Dr. Françoise Cévaer** facilitated a revision seminar on French essay writing for the CAPE/A-Level students at the Alliance Française de la Jamaïque, on April 19, 2006. **Mr. Gilles Lubeth** did a presentation on Guadeloupe and Guadeloupean

youth and culture for CAPE/A-Level Students at St. Hugh's High School, on November 24, 2005 for students from St. Hugh's, Kingston College, Wolmer's H.S. and St. Andrew H. S. He also assisted with the preparation of CAPE students for their French oral presentation on February 17, 2006, at St. Andrew H.S and on April 18, 2006, at the Alliance Française de la Jamaïque. He participated as a judge for the vocabulary competition organized by the Jamaica Association of French Teachers and acted as the MC at the staging of a French play for high school students at Shortwood Teachers' College. **Dr. Nzengou-Tayo** presented and conducted a training seminar for French teachers on use of Internet in French Foreign Language Teaching for the French Grade 7 –9 Curriculum at Shortwood Teachers' College. The workshop was sponsored by the French Embassy and organized by the Jamaica Association of French Teachers in collaboration with the Alliance Française and the Ministry of Education. She arranged the viewing of *Rue Cases-nègres* for A-Level students of St. Andrew High School (December 8, 2005) and Ardenne High School (February 16, 2006). She also did an introductory lecture to Aimé Césaire's *La tragédie du roi Christophe* for CAPE students from St. Andrew High School. She conducted a revision seminar for the CAPE / A-Level Students by presenting on *La rue Cases-nègres* on April 18, 2006 and on *L'Étranger* on April 20, 2006. **Mrs. Doreen Preston** attended two CXC Meetings in Barbados in her capacity as Assistant Chief Examiner for French CAPE Examination (October 2005 and April 24-28, 2006). She also organized a Workshop for the CAPE French and Spanish Teachers (June 15-17, 2006) hosted by the Faculty of Humanities & Education

Dr. Nzengou-Tayo was a guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Kinston in August (reported in *The Observer* of August 8, 2005). As the current President of the Haitian Studies Association, she participated in the annual conference of the Association at the University of Massachusetts in Boston in October 2005, chairing the Board Meeting and the Annual Business Meeting of the Association. In March, she chaired the Spring Board Meeting and participated in a retreat of the Executive. She participated in the Caribbean Virtual Masters Workshop organized by LACC and sponsored by UNESCO. (November 28-December 2, 2006). On March 30 and April 3, she gave two lectures at the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology in the Course on Caribbean Thought and Culture. On April 20, she was invited as a resource person for the students' presentations.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Dr. Françoise Cévaër** “Mythes et stéréotypes, vecteurs de la constriction identitaire dans *L’impasse* de Daniel Biyaoula.” Departmental Seminar. October 20, 2005
- **Mr. Lindy Jones.** “From *Mutismos* to *Richard trajo su flauta*: The Ideological Foundations of Morejón’s Poetry,” Fifth International Conference on Rite and Representation, Havana, February 9-12.
- **Mr. Gilles Lubeth.** “Enseignement supérieur et défi d’une Caraïbe éclatée.” Departmental Seminar, February 9, 2006.
- **Dr. Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo.** “Lessons from the Haitian Experience: Mayra Montero’s *Tu la Oscuridad*” 31st annual conference of the Caribbean Studies Association, Trinidad, May 28 – June 2, 2006,
- -----“Computer Assisted Language Learning at the UWI, Jamaica: Using Technology to Face Strategic Challenges.” Inter-Campus Foreign Language Symposium, June 15, 2006, Mona Campus.
- **Ms. Maria Tereza Villoria-Nolla.** “Desplazamiento y desterritorialización: voces marginales en la narrativa contemporánea colombiana.” L.A.S.A Conference, Puerto Rico, March 15-18, 2006.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed

Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo.

- * Review of Universities Responses to HIV/AIDS: The Case of the University of Quisqueya and the Université d’Etat d’Haïti. Paris, UNESCO, 2005. (51 p.) On-line publication available at: http://hivaidsclearinghouse.unesco.org/ev_en.php?ID=5782_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC
- * Computer Assisted Language Learning at the U.W.I., Jamaica: Using Technology to Face Strategic Challenges. *Caribbean Journal of Education*. Vol. 27, No 2. June 2006

- * Guest editor (in collaboration with Dr. Hugues Péters), *Caribbean Journal of Education*. Special Issue: Foreign Language Teaching and Learning in the Caribbean. Vol. 27, No. 2. June 2006.
- * Entry on Edwidge Danticat for *Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History*. 2nd edition. “The Black Experience in the Americas.” Ed. in Chief, Colin Palmer. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA/Thomson Gale, 2006. Vol. 2, pp 579-80.

Michelle Stewart.

- * “The Games People Play: Utilising PowerPoint Games in Foreign Language Delivery” *Caribbean Journal of Education*. Special Issue: Foreign Language Teaching and Learning in the Caribbean. Vol. 27, No. 2. September 2005. June 2006. pp. 163-186

Income Generation

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|--|---------------------|
| Sale of Manuals | 369,669.75 |
| Donation received from the W. Mailer and B. Jones Travel Fund. | 100,273.71 |
| Donation received from the Latin American Women’s Club | 31,000.00 |
| Consultation | 31,781.70 |
| Courses offered in the Language Laboratory | 98,100.00 |
| Summer Courses (F31R, S111, S11B, S211, S25B, S311, S35B) | 561,003.00 |
| Total \$ | 1,191,828.16 |

PUBLIC SERVICE

Françoise Cévaer.

- Member, Jamaica Association of French Teachers.

Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo.

- President, Haitian Studies Association.
- Assistant Treasurer, the Jamaica Association of French Teachers.

- Secretary, Japan Karate Association of Jamaica.
- Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Haitian Studies*, *MaComère*,

Mrs. Doreen Preston.

- Assistant Chief Examiner, French CAPE, CXC.

Categories of Students

Undergraduate:

Registration:

Preliminary Courses

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|------------|-----|
| French | 146 |
| Japanese | 64 |
| Portuguese | 6 |
| Spanish | 516 |

Hospitality & Tourism Management

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| French | 96 |
| Spanish | 373 |

BA Programme

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| French | 216 |
| Spanish | 700 |

Graduating Students

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| French | 4 |
| Spanish | 30 |

First Class Honours

Teresa Amoy Bernal-Benjamin (Spanish Major)
 Melecia Camillia Brown (Spanish Major)
 Stefane Daley (French Major, Spanish Minor)
 Lisa Downie (French Major, Spanish Major)
 Ruby Rose Demetrius (Spanish Major)
 Shala Melanie Alert (Spanish Major)
 Adele Aleath England (Spanish Major)
 Delesha Eleen Wilkie (Spanish Major)

Postgraduate

Registration:

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|------------------------------|---|---|
| MPhil French | | 2 |
| MPhil Spanish | 2 | |
| MPhil Comparative Literature | | 2 |
| PhD Spanish | | 2 |

Degree awarded:

Marlene Collins, PhD Spanish
Jason Allen, MPhil, French

Prizes Awarded:

French:

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|---|---------------------------|
| Level I William Mailer Prize | Jo-Lane Anderson-Figueroa |
| Level II Prix Jambec | Stefane Daley |
| Level III Prix Gertrud Buscher | Sheena Jarrett |
| Level III French Embassy Prize for overall achievement over the three years: | Tasmin Gordon |
| William Mailer Scholarship | Diane Brown |
| Bridget Jones Memorial Award | Warrick Lattibeaudiere |

Spanish

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| Gabriel Coultard Prize | Shala Whyte |
| Paul Davis Prize | Tricia Brooks |