

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS AND PHILOSOPHY



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Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The work of the Department in 2015/2016 academic year was predicated upon the outcome of the Departmental Retreat held on May 19, 2015. On that occasion, some senior members of staff were selected to oversee each of the items of the Departmental Operational Plan for 2015–2017. It is gratifying to note that through the cooperation of these senior colleagues and the entire staff of the Department, the Department was able to meet some of its strategic objectives for the year 2015/2016. This is not to say that there were no challenges in the course of realising these objectives, it is hoped that in the coming academic year, the Department will continue to strive towards mitigating these challenges.

In the area of research, the University Research Days were held on February 17–19, 2016 and members of the Department participated fully by their contributions in different areas. Ms Tina Whyte presented

a poster on “English as a Foreign Language: Jamaican Children’s Response to English Sounds”. Professor Rakesh Mishra delivered a public lecture titled “Mahatma Gandhi: A Trans-Continental Crusader of Human Dignity” on Thursday February 18, 2016. Dr Caroline Dyche organised Public Speaking Workshops attended by students from Holland High and Port Antonio High Schools. The “Braadkyaas Jamiekan” App was launched and passersby were asked to try and read some of the news items then listened to the actual broadcasts. The television advertisement which was developed in March 2015 showcasing graduates of the Department was shown at specific intervals with displays of the various careers in linguistics. Ms Kadian Walters and Mrs Tasheney Francis-Holness coordinated these events.

In an effort to showcase the research conducted by post graduate students, the Department hosted its Postgraduate Research Day on May 19, 2016. In regards to the M.Sc. Speech-Language Pathology Programme, interviews were conducted to appoint the Director to kick start the Programme in the 2016/2017 academic year.

In the area of student development, Dr Michele Kennedy, Mrs Ama Ababio and Dr Sandra McCalla coordinated a stress management workshop for undergraduate students under the theme “The Silent GPA Killer: Stress” on Thursday March 17, 2016. Dr Lester Shields, Counsellor at the University Health Centre, delivered a presentation on the ways in which students can manage stress and improve their academic performance. Also, a staff-student liaison meeting for undergraduate students was held on March 31, 2016 to allow students to express their views regarding the delivery of their courses.

Within the English Language Section, Dr Vivette Milson-Whyte won the Principal’s Research Award for Best Research Publication (Book) in the Faculty of Humanities and Education for the 2014/2015 academic year for the work titled *Academic Writing Instruction for Creole-Influenced Students*. Dr Ingrid McLaren was appointed to serve as Associate Dean in charge of Outreach for the Faculty while Dr Caroline Dyche served as the Department’s representative on the Faculty’s Marketing and Outreach Committee for the academic year. Mrs Deidrea Dwyer-Evans, Mrs

Marilyn Hall-Ricketts and Mrs Lileth O'Connor-Brown attended the International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan from June 23–25, 2016.

The Linguistics Section underwent a Quality Assurance Review from Monday, March 9, 2015 to Friday, March 13, 2015. An Action Plan was developed which was presented to both Faculty and Academic Boards and received approval during semester II of the 2015/ 2016 academic year. The Section held a Cross Campus Meeting on April 18–19, 2016 at the Mona Campus with counterparts across the three campuses: Mona, Cave Hill and St Augustine.

Dr Michèle Kennedy and Professor Silvia Kouwenberg (both of DLLP) and Dr Yewande Lewis-Fokum (School of Education) jointly undertook the design and pilot delivery of the course, Professional Development of Primary School Teachers (PDPST), requested and fully supported by the Ministry of Education. The course equips primary school teachers with background knowledge on the language situation in Jamaica and its impact in the classroom, and provides them with teaching strategies and skills intended to address the challenges for English language teaching in that context.

The Ministry of Education supported the development and pilot delivery of the course to grades 3 and 4 teachers from eight participating schools in the Greater Kingston area. They also received support from the Mona Principal, who approved a partial teaching release for Dr Kennedy and Professor Kouwenberg, while the School of Education and the Department of Language, Linguistics & Philosophy provided support in the form of classrooms, loan of equipment and administrative services. The pilot delivery has led to the fine-tuning of the course and a report on the pilot was submitted to the Ministry of Education. It was expected that further discussions would be held with the Ministry regarding island-wide delivery of the course. Of note, Professor Kouwenberg was appointed Deputy Dean in charge of Undergraduate Matters and Quality Assurance for the Faculty of Humanities and Education for the 2015/2016 academic year.

Ms Kadian Walters along with the LING 3399 – Language Planning class coordinated and delivered an Applied Linguistics Symposium under the theme “Forensic Linguistics: The Role of Language in the Tivoli Enquiry” on March 8, 2016. The symposium showcased research work done by undergraduate students of the Section in relation to the West Kingston Commission of Enquiry.

The first ever Linguistics undergraduate conference to be organised by the Department was also coordinated by Ms Walters under the theme “Discovering the World through Linguistics”. The event, hosted by the LOUD Linguistics Club was held on April 14, 2016.

The Philosophy Section held the annual Gandhi Day Celebrations on October 2, 2015 at the Faculty of Humanities and Education under the theme “Non-violence: A Weapon for the Strong”. A synopsis of the life of Gandhi was done by Dr Lawrence Bamikole. The Section, in collaboration with The Department of Literatures in English and CARIMAC, hosted the Third Africa World Documentary Film Festival from November 5–8, 2015 at the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Humanities and Education. Additionally, the Section with the help of the Department held a very successful UNESCO World Philosophy Day on November 19, 2015. A panel discussion was held under the theme “Building Peace: Violence Prevention & Eradication”. The panellists included Mrs Maxine Henry-Wilson and Dr Herbert Gayle.

Within the Section, Dr Lawrence Bamikole and Ms Khimaja Connell’s proposed research project, titled “Outer and Inner Beauty: The Case of the Jamaican Woman” for the Principal’s New Initiative Grant was approved. Additionally, Professor John Bewaji received the Carnegie/CODESRIA Visiting Professorship to Department of Philosophy, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria in Summer 2016. Ms Sandra McCalla, Assistant Lecturer, successfully defended her PhD thesis and was awarded her degree with high commendation. She also received the award for most outstanding thesis for the 2014–2015 academic year.

The English Language Proficiency Test Unit (ELPTU) conducted three (3) test sittings during the 2015/2016 academic year. A total of 1183

candidates sat the test during the sittings in December 2015 and April and August 2016.

The IELTS Centre at Mona continued to deliver the English Language tests along with the UKVI and LIFE SKILLS test. The expansion to the Mona-Western Jamaica Campus has proven successful as the candidate intake has exceeded the target. The UKVI and LIFE SKILLS tests were held on March 5, June 16 and July 14. For the period under review, 25 IELTS tests were delivered with a total of 1,086 candidates.

A new Assistant Coordinator, Ms Eureka Simpson was appointed on June 1, 2016. All examiners at the Centre were slated for recertification between February and March 2016 and Mr Mark Budworth from Costa Rica undertook the recertification exercise. In addition, two lecturers from the Department; Mrs Tasheney Francis-Holness and Mrs Paulette Bell-Kerr and a past student, Ms Gayon Williams, were accepted and approved by the British Council to be trained as examiners. They were successfully trained during this period. Ms Williams functions out of the WJC location.

The administrative staff were privileged to attend administrative training/updates in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from May 15 to 18, 2016. One of the highlights included the presentation of a new registration system which would be implemented before the end of the calendar year.

The Centre was audited on July 15 & 16, 2016 and recommendations were currently being implemented. The Centre was visited in July by Josaine Alexander Chin, the new Caribbean Examination Manager as well as Alex Wood and Aaron Rogers from Central America. All pledged support for the Centre.

The Jamaican Language Unit (JLU) assisted the L331 class to collect research data on the language used during the West Kingston Commission of Inquiry. The JLU assisted with the data manipulation for the project. 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.

The 21st Biennial Conference for the Society for Caribbean Linguistics was scheduled for August 2nd to 5th, 2016. The Unit spearheaded the local organizing committee for the conference which met regularly to make and discuss plans for the conference.

The MA English Programme made approximately 40 offers to candidates for the 2015–2016 academic year. Twelve (12) students were expected to graduate in October 2016. The revised MA in the English language programme was approved by the Academic Board in September 2016. The new programme was ready for offering in January 2017.

The Broadcast Jamaican Project continued with the daily news and the weekly current affairs programme. There were plans to expand and diversify the programme offerings.

The Writing Centre continued to offer individual coaching for 10 hours per week and writing workshops on various aspects of writing a research paper. In semester II, 2015/ 2016, the Centre partnered with the Mona Library's Information Literacy Unit (MILU) in an initiative that saw over 34 students visiting the Centre (over a 6-week period) to consult with a librarian on matters related to documentation of sources. "Writer's Wednesdays" was a follow up to information literacy sessions attended by all students registered in Foundation writing courses. It was hoped that this initiative would become a calendar activity as well as a source of research for both the Centre and the MILU.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Lawrence Bamikole.** "Promise is a comfort to a fool: A Critique of the Jamaican Conception of Promise" Paper presented at the Caribbean Philosophical Association Conference, under the theme, "Shifting the Geography of Reason XIII: Theorising from Small States, held at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut between June 16–18, 2016.
- **John A. I. Bewaji** delivered the Final Plenary on "Africana Societies in Intellectual, Economic, Identity, Political and Governance Cross-

roads – Narratives of Struggles” at the Toyin Falola International Conference at Redeemers University, Ede, Nigeria, July 3–8, 2016.

- **John A. I. Bewaji.** “Institutionalizing National Bioethics Committees”, Market Place Presentation at the Global Summit of Bioethics on March 17, 2016, Berlin, Germany
- Andre Coy and **Keren Cumberbatch.** “On the use of technology for enabling communication with the deaf”, Oral presentation at UWI Mona Regional Disability Studies Conference 2016 held at Mona Visitors Lodge, March 16–17
- **Keren Cumberbatch.** “Communicating with the Deaf and Deaf Patient”, Am I Treating You the Right Way? Dealing with Special Needs Patients”, Oral Presentation at Jamaica Medical Doctors Association 6th Annual Ethics Conference held at Mona Visitors Lodge, Jamaica, February 7, 2016
- **Keren Cumberbatch** with Danielle Charles, Kimoy Francis, Kadian Gilpin, Dania Jones, Michellia Meredith, Sedaine Rubie, Roger Sawyers, Thea Stapleton, Apryll Williams. “The Perspectives of Clinical DDS Students on Treating Deaf Patients Attending UWI Mona Dental Polyclinic”, Poster presentation at the 52nd Annual Convention of Jamaica Dental Association held at The Pegasus Meridien, Jamaica, February 10–13, 2016
- **Kennedy, Michèle, Silvia Kouwenberg** and Yewande Lewis-Fokum. “Achieving Quality Education for All Children in Jamaica.” Paper presented at Promoting Child Rights Through Research: Annual Caribbean Child Research Conference. Jamaica Conference Centre, 4–6 November 2015. [Powerpoint Presentation]
- **Kennedy, Michèle, Silvia Kouwenberg,** Yewande Lewis-Fokum, Joan Hernandez. “Reviving the art of speaking English in Jamaica’s primary schools.” Paper presented at Growing the Arts: Rex Nettleford Arts Conference 2015. Edna Manley College for the Visual and Performing Arts, 15–17 October 2015. [Powerpoint Presentation]
- **Kennedy, Michèle,** Yewande Lewis-Fokum and **Silvia Kouwenberg.** “Linguistics and Education partnering in the professional development of teachers in Jamaica.” Paper presented (via Skype) at Linguistics

Research Day, UWI St Augustine, 24 March 2016. [Powerpoint Presentation]

- Lewis-Fokum, Yewande, **Michèle Kennedy** and **Silvia Kouwenberg**. “The Professional Development of Primary School Teachers Pilot in Jamaica.” Poster presented at Teachers for a Better World. Creating Conditions for Quality Education – Pedagogy, Policy and Professionalism: 60th World Assembly of the International Council on Education for Teaching. Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica, 18–21 July 2016. [Poster Presentation]
- **Kennedy, Michèle, Silvia Kouwenberg** and Yewande Lewis-Fokum. “PDPST – Professional Development of Primary School Teachers.” Paper presented in the Colloquium on Literacy and Language Education in a Creole Context: Policy and Practice. Society for Caribbean Linguistics 21st Biennial Conference, UWI Mona, 2–5 August 2016. [Powerpoint Presentation]
- **McCalla Sandra**. “What can we know for certain? A Contemporary Explanation.” Paper presented at the Caribbean Philosophical Association Conference, University of Connecticut, June 16–18, 2016.
- **McCalla Sandra**. “The relevance of Ethics in Higher Education Curriculum.” Paper presented at the International Journal of Arts and Sciences, University of Nevada, Las Vegas USA, March 21–25, 2016.
- **Vivette Milson-Whyte**. “Flipping International.” Paper Presented as part of the Transnational Composition Standing Group’s first Sponsored Panel under the theme “Transnational Composition: (Geo)Political Considerations for Writing Research, Publication, and Pedagogy” at the 67th annual Convention of the Conference on College Composition and Communication, Houston, Texas, April 2016. 10 slides + 6pp.

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Monographs

- **Professor John A. I. Bewaji**, (2016), *The Rule of Law and Governance in Indigenous Yoruba Society – A Study in African Philosophy of Law*. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books. 288 pages. ISBN: 978-1-4985-1837-6, Hardback; 978-1-4985-1838-3, eBook. <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498518376/The-Rule-of-Law-and-Governance-in-Indigenous-Yoruba-Society-A-Study-in-African-Philosophy-of-Law>

Refereed Journal Articles

- Silvia Kouwenberg. “Early morphology in Berbice Dutch and source language access in creolisation”. [Special issue on ‘Rethinking Creole Morphology’, ed. by Ana R. Luis.] *Word Structure* 8, 2 (2015): 138–159.
- **Silvia Kouwenberg** and Darlene LaCharité. “Arbitrariness and iconicity in total reduplication: Evidence from Caribbean Creoles”. *Studies in Language* 39,4 (2015): 859–879.
- **Ingrid McLaren** (2015). Laying the foundation, targeting the institutional: The trajectory of a WAC program in the sciences at a Jamaican University. *Educational Studies*, 4, 35–48.

Non-Refereed

- **Silvia Kouwenberg**. Nineteenth-century creolist work and its reflections on language and community [Review Article]. *Historiographia Linguistica* 43, 1 (2016): 209–222.
- **Vivette Milson-Whyte**. “Learning How to Write: New Approach Needed For Creole-Influenced Speakers.” *Mona Magazine* (May, 2016): 10–11.

Technical Reports

- **Keren Cumberbatch.** Report on Creation of Enhanced Curriculum: Phase 2 of Research on Language Learning and Teaching of Deaf Guyanese Students. Report commissioned by the Ministry of Education, Guyana through Deaf Association of Guyana. September 2015.
- **Keren Cumberbatch.** A Quality Plan for Deaf Education in Guyana – Report on Workshops in Phase 3 of Research on Language Learning and Teaching of Deaf Guyanese Students. Report commissioned by the Ministry of Education, Guyana through Deaf Association of Guyana. May 2016.

INCOME GENERATION

The income generating arms of the Department include: the Writing Centre, the IELTS Centre, the MA English Language programme, the ELPTU and Summer School. The Jamaican Language Unit (JLU) continued to provide printing services to the staff and students mainly in the Department. 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 quarterly.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr Vivette Milson-Whyte

- Member, Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) Committee on Globalization of Post-Secondary Writing Instruction and Research.
- Council Member and Executive Committee Member, Girl Guides Association of Jamaica
- Editorial Associate/Reviewer for multiple academic journals.
- Guest Presenter on “Some Traditional and ‘IGNORED’ Challenges Creole-Influenced Students face in learning Standard English and

Some Strategies to overcome these Challenges” to CAPE Communication Studies Students at the Excelsior Community College School of Liberal Arts’ Jamaican Creole Lecture 2016, March 16, 2016.

- Keynote Presenter on “The University of the West Indies (The UWI) and The Queen’s Student’s Educational Journey” to 5th and 6th Formers at The Queen’s School, Kingston, February 19, 2016.

Professor John A. I. Bewaji

- Chairman, National Bioethics Committee of Jamaica (NBCJ-UNESCO)
- Member of the Steering Committee of the Global Summit of Bioethics, March 16–18, 2016, Berlin, Germany.
- Editor, *Caribbean Journal of Philosophy* Vol. 2, No. 1

Dr Keren Cumberbatch

- Board Member, Danny Williams School for the Deaf.

STUDENTS

Prizes awarded:

Foundation courses:

Best Student in FOUN 1012 – Donique Weston

Best Student in FOUN 1013 – Pepeatha Hart

Best Student in FOUN 1002 (Language Argument) – Ruth-Anne White

Linguistics

Best Level-II Theory Student – Serita-Gaye Levy

Level-III Theory Student – Kayla Webb

Level-III Non-Theory Student – Kayla Webb

Philosophy

Best Level II Student – Randy Davidson

The *John Reinecke Prize* for Best Pure Linguistics Graduating Major – Kayla Webb