



DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS AND PHILOSOPHY

Dr Ingrid McLaren, BA., MA., PhD, (UWI) – Head of Department

OVERVIEW: WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The 2018/2019 Academic year was one in which the Department sought to further its Operational Plan (adapted from the 2017–2022 UWI Strategic Plan) in the following areas:

- Teaching and Learning & Student Development
- Outreach and Engagement /Activism & Public Advocacy
- A Creative, Caring, Motivated and Professional Team
- Research Innovation & Publication
- Financial Health/ Income Generation

TEACHING AND LEARNING: STUDENT DEVELOPMENT & LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The enhancement of Student Development and the Learning Environment for both undergraduate and graduate students was achieved in a variety of ways. These included, but were not limited to, the exposure and immersion of students in a variety of fora aimed at enlivening and increasing the relevance of their studies; and the enhancement of Graduate students' research skills via targeted sessions as well as opportunities to engage with new environments.

It will be noted that there is an overlap in some instances between Teaching and Learning/Student Development and Outreach and Engagement/Activism Public Advocacy.

It will also be noted that the above two areas were areas in which the Department was most heavily invested.

For instance, in Mid November 2018, students in the Language Planning Linguistics course surveyed over 1000 informants in various areas of Kingston and St. Andrew on

Language attitudes to members of the Deaf Community. This provided not only a learning experience but also offered the opportunity of sharing their findings with relevant stakeholders inclusive of Minister Floyd Morris and teachers etc. at an Applied Linguistics Symposium entitled: **“We are People too: Linguistic Discrimination in Jamaica’s Deaf Community”** held on March 26, 2019. Further details of this Symposium may be seen under the ‘Outreach and Engagement’ Section of this Department.

Additionally, the Linguistics LOUD club’s 3rd annual Linguistics Undergraduate Research Conference held on April 18, 2019 under the theme **“Linguistics for Life”** served both **Outreach and Engagement** purposes as well as **Student Learning and Development**. Lecturers were asked to select and prepare students from first to third year, to make presentations based on their research findings. The conference was designed to:

1. Develop the confidence level and presentation skills of our undergraduates
2. Expose them to conference settings and procedures
3. Ignite interest in pursuing graduate studies in Linguistics
4. Engage the general public with the research of the section
5. Engage in liaising between our graduate and undergraduate students.

Students are usually rated by graduate students who select male and female presenters. This year’s judges were Okeyno Morgan and Genya Johnson.

There were ten presentations with approximately 30 attendees.

On Thursday, May 21, 2019, 21 students enrolled in the course “The Profession of Interpreting” (LING 3909), visited the Jamaica Conference Centre (JCC), downtown Kingston.

This is an exercise that students in this course engage in annually. It brings alive the situations discussed in class and prepares them for the mock conference which forms part of their assessment (albeit in consecutive, not simultaneous, mode and usually in a conference room at UWI, Mona).

Graduate Students

A Cross Campus Abstract Writing Workshop for Graduate Students in preparation for the Mervyn Alleyne Commemorative Conference (MAC) held in June 2019, was successfully held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 in the FHE, Mona, Faculty Conference Centre. Facilitators were Dr. Karen Carpenter and Professor Hubert Devonish.

For the second year in a row graduates have had the opportunity of engaging in this

ten -week research coaching initiative. The main aim of this programme is to enhance output as well as to accelerate completion.

Two graduate students, Sashann Dixon (MPhil) and Annife Campbell (PhD), are currently on a four-month exchange programme at the University of Freiburg, Germany. We are confident that this opportunity will enable them to accelerate their progress on their respective theses.

English Language Section (ELS) Response to the February 2018 Quality Assurance Review

The areas which garnered the most focus from reviewers are also the areas on which the English Language Section is focused on making changes. These are:

- Curriculum
- Teaching Learning and Research
- Assessment and Learning Outcomes.

Based on the above areas the ELS has expressed its commitment to:

- Engage in the review and revision of its courses – FOUN 1014 in particular which is currently offered to Science and Technology and Medical Sciences Students
- Enhance its engagement with technology to better respond to the needs of students and enhance alignment with their interests.
- Review via research the effectiveness of FOUN 1019, currently offered to students who have been unsuccessful in the English Language Proficiency Test
- Provide more student friendly rubrics
- Review purpose and weighting of ELPT
- Support aggressive marketing measures for reaching weaker students (to include what is available via the Writing Centre and OURVLE); and introduce online/face-to-face workshops on the mechanics of language for floundering students
- Adopt Writing Programme Administrator Policy which involves “Evaluating the intellectual work of Writing Programme Administrators”
- Lobby Administration for Promotion to be tied to Writing Programme Administration Work.

A meeting is currently being arranged with the Principal et al. to further discuss the way forward concerning these matters.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT/PUBLIC ADVOCACY

The inclusion of Outreach and Engagement activities as part of the DLLP'S Operational Plan is geared towards exposing members of the Campus Community and the general public to the work of the Department. We hope that awareness of what we do in the various Sections will lead to an increased appreciation of what we have to offer, and will result in increased buy-in into our Programmes by the public and prospects, particularly in relation to Linguistics and Philosophy. There is also the anticipation that these activities will garner support from business entities via internships, involvement in mentoring students and sponsorship. It was therefore gratifying that the Academic year 2018/2019 saw a wide variety of activities from all three sections that included Outreach on and off campus.

The Department hosted International Day of Non-Violence – Mahatma Ghandi Day on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 under the Theme: “Live your life as Light” in Neville Hall Lecture Theatre (N1). Philosophy students treated the audience to a series of brief performances that included key aspects of Ghandi's leading role in India's freedom movement, and non-violent protest. In attendance were Indian High Commissioner, Sevala Naik, members of the Indian Cultural Society, staff from the Department/Philosophy Section and members of the Campus Community.

The Sounds of Advocacy, Language and Liberation Conference, to commemorate International Creole Day and also to honour Professor Hubert Devonish, Distinguished retiree of the Department, was held on October 25 and 26, 2018. There were thirty (30) presenters with over 100 attendees, thirty-seven (37) of whom were registered conference participants. Participants represented a wide range of international universities that included University of the West Indies – Mona, Cave Hill (St. Augustine via Zoom); New York University; University of Cincinnati; Stanford University; Colgate University. **A proposal coming out of the Conference is the Publication of two volumes on Language Rights, Language Policy and Linguistic Discrimination** which will be edited by Drs Nicole Scott and Sandra Evans and another, more general one, which will be edited by Drs Clive Forrester, Nickesha Dawkins and Kadian Walters.

Publication Officer is Dr Joseph Farquharson.

The Department also supported the Jamaica Language Unit's staging of the **4th Cassidy –Le Page Distinguished Lecture** which was presented by renowned Linguistics Professor John McWorter, currently Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. The Lecture, entitled, “**Should the debates about the origins of Creole languages matter?**” took place on November 9 in the Multi-Functional Room, Main Library, and was well supported by members of the Faculty and the Campus community.

Linguistics Day was staged on Thursday November 22, 2018. Students from Ascot High, Holy Childhood, and Jose Marti were invited. The Day involved the presentation of workshops in areas such as Communication Studies, and Sign Language, and there was also the staging of a variety of Linguistics – related activities geared at arousing students’ interest and exposing them to this area of study.

UWI/UNESCO Philosophy Day was held November 15 at the Undercroft, under the theme: “**No Abuse, No Harm: Each Child is the Future**”. Among the list of honoured guests were the Honourable Minister Floyd Green, State Minister in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Mr. Everton Hannam, Secretary General, Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO, and Superintendent Charmine Shand, Head of the Centre of Investigations of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (CISOCA) who gave the Main Address on issues relating to rape, abuse, reporting of such matters, etc. The event was well attended, in particular, by approximately 150 high school students from a number of schools, mainly outside of the Corporate Area.

Additionally, and in keeping with the English Language Section’s commitment to engage in outreach activities across the campus, **Haidee Heron**, Coordinator, Writing Centre, presented on the topic ‘**Writing Well**’ to approximately 30–40 students in the Faculty of Social Sciences on November 8. The presentation focussed on all aspects of the writing process from exploratory reading to final draft and marrying students “online life” with academic writing.

Dr Michele Kennedy, JLU Coordinator, participated in a discussion on *Teaching in Patwa* on ‘All Angles’ hosted by Deon Jackson-Miller on Television Jamaica (TVJ) on Wednesday November 14.

The **Jamaican Language Unit (JLU)** participated in the Wycliffe Caribbean Bible Translators Conference held at the Knutsford Court Hotel January 8th-10th. The aim of the Conference was to launch the translation of the Old Testament, an initiative of Wycliffe Caribbean. **Dr Kennedy** also facilitated a workshop entitled ‘Language matters: Language choice in Creole-speaking communities’ leading discussions on the blocks which may exist, from the point of view of language, to Jamaicans owning the process.

The **JLU** is one of the 4 partners in the initiative, and mounted a display with 3 facets – a storyboard tracing the history of Creole languages, a brochure and posters profiling the languages of the Caribbean and standing display boards outlining the stages involved in the translation of the New Testament, completed in 2012. As a result of the publicity which the Conference enjoyed, **Dr Kennedy and Mr John Roomes**, CEO of Wycliffe Caribbean, were invited to discuss aspects of the translation of the Old Testament on Smile Orange on TVJ on January 14th.

Dr Michele Kennedy, in her JLU role of language consultant to the Wycliffe Caribbean project to translate the Old Testament into Jamaican Creole, was interviewed

on January 22 over the phone in a 20 minute programme on Love 101 along with Mr John Roomes CEO of Wycliffe.

On January 24, 2019, **Dr. Caroline Dyche** co-facilitated the inaugural workshop by the Caribbean Association for Tertiary-Level Academic Literacies Practitioners (CATALP). The workshop was entitled 'Approaches to the Development of Tertiary-level Literacies in the Caribbean: Reflection & Strategies', and took place at the University of Technology, Jamaica from 10 am–1 pm.

On January 24, 2019 **Dr Michele Kennedy**, with support from **Mrs Susanna Campbell-Blagrove** promoted the MA in the English Language offered by the JLU, by presenting the programme to a group of CATALP members at their conference at University of Technology, Jamaica.

Dr Carmeneta Jones conducted a workshop on "*Building a caring School Part 5: Ethics and the teacher*" with teachers at the St. Paul's Infant School on March 1, 2019.

The Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, presented six successful Critical Thinking and Fun with Language Workshops to 94 high school students, as a part of its contribution to The UWI, Mona, University Research Day 2019. Presenters were **Haidee Heron**, **Professor Tunde Bewaji**, and **Dr Carmeneta Jones**, who also planned and coordinated activities. The teachers who accompanied the students expressed their sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Department for the timely and invaluable initiative.

The Professional Development of Primary School Teachers Model Delivery began in the week of February 11. The project is a language awareness based initiative by **Dr Michele Kennedy**, **Prof Silvia Kouwenberg** (DLLP) and **Dr Yewande Lewis-Fokum** of the School of Education. It involves the training and observation of teachers from Grades 1–4 from 5 schools as follows: 1 in Kingston, 1 in Portmore, 1 in Angels and 2 in St James. Trainers, who had themselves been trained by the organizing team are provided with a manual outlining content and methodologies, slides and all teaching materials required. The training will last for 7 weeks. The project is funded by a New Initiatives Grant and endorsed by the Ministry of Education.

Sashann Dixon and **Kadeyne Marshall** led an interactive session in N1 entitled *Raitina Jamiekan* ("Write in Jamaican") to 6th formers primarily from Excelsior. The Cassidy-JLU writing system was presented using a slideshow, and students were given the opportunity to practise. The final exercise was the reading of passages projected on PowerPoint slides. There was follow up on this activity, when the JLU celebrated International Mother Tongue Day by facilitating a workshop offered to the academic community on the Cassidy-JLU writing system.

On Friday March 1st, the Jamaican Language Unit (JLU) in association with the Department of Language, Linguistics & Philosophy marked the **International Year of**

Indigenous Languages by hosting a forum under the theme ‘Rediscovering Arawakan’. Dr Ivor Conolley presented on “Taino culture and language: Exploring the images of the Patoo Hole cave”. Dr Fred Kennedy presented on “Taino: Indigenous language and culture”, and Mrs Daidrah Telfer on “The anatomy of language documentation: The case of Lokono (Arawak) Guyana”.

The Department’s Third Annual Symposium “**We are People too: Linguistic Discrimination in Jamaica’s Deaf Community**” was held on March 26 and was hosted by Dr Kadian Walters, Linguistics Section Coordinator. Discussants included Senator Dr Floyd Morris, Dr Keren Cumberbatch, and Professor Emeritus, Hubert Devonish. As mentioned previously, students in the Language Planning course shared their findings in this forum from their survey on discrimination regarding members of the deaf community.

Dr Joseph T. Farquharson was a panelist on Nationwide 90 FM discussing the decriminalisation of swearwords in Jamaican dancehall [circa 25 minutes].

A CREATIVE, CARING, MOTIVATED AND PROFESSIONAL TEAM

The above area was evidenced via the accomplishments and commitment of our staff members who were promoted, recognised for long service to the Department, academic excellence and excellence in Teaching. Details are as follows:

Indefinite Employment (Instructors)

- Annife Campbell
- Norty Antoine
- Paulette Bell-Kerr
- Julian Hylton-Chambers

Excellence in Teaching

UWI/Guardian Life Premium Teaching Awards were presented to **Dr. Carmeneta Jones, Ms. Jasmin Lawrence and Mrs. Lileth O’Connor-Brown** who were recognized for having scored 4.5 and above on the 5 point scale for Student Evaluation of Teaching. The Ceremony took place on November 8, 2018 at the Mona Visitor’s Lodge.

Awards for Long Service to the UWI

- Caroline Dyche (30 years)
- Yvette Mundy Whyte (30 years)

- Ama Ababio (15 yrs)
- Carmenta Jones (15 yrs)
- Ava Mundell (15 yrs)

Academic Excellence

Promotions

Dr Lawrence Bamikole was promoted to the rank of Professor.

Dr Joseph Farquharson was promoted to Senior Lecturer.

Awards/Recognition of Excellence

Professor Hubert Devonish was conferred with the title of Professor Emeritus

Dr Michele Kennedy received the Principal's Award for Best Research Publication in the Faculty of Humanities and Education for her book *What do Jamaican Children Speak? A Language Resource*. The presentation ceremony took place on February 8 at the Mona Visitor's Lodge.

Professor John Ayotunde (Tunde) Isola Bewaji was also the recipient of the Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research Accomplishments in June 2018. The Award Ceremony was held at the Mona Visitor's Lodge on October 29, 2018.

Michele Kennedy's book "*What do Jamaican Children Speak? A Language Resource*" was featured at the UWI, Mona's Library "Celebration of Books" Exhibition on October 8, 2018.

Professor John Ayotunde (Tunde) Isola Bewaji was appointed Senior Research Associate, University of Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa, effective January 1, 2019.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Refereed Publications

Cumberbatch, K. "Teaching Sign Language for Healthcare within a Languages for Specific Purposes Framework". *Journal of Languages for Specific Purposes* 6 (2019, March): 31–40.

McLaren, I. "Science Students' Responses to an Oral Communication Skills Development Initiative: Attitude and Motivation". *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education* 31, 1 (2019, Jan): 73–85.

Book Chapters

Beckford, T. “The Implications of Text Messaging for Students’ Writing”. In *English Language Teaching in a Post-Method Paradigm*. Edited by Paulette Feraria: I.G.I Global, 2019 June, xxii, 28 pgs.

Journals (Edited)

Dyche C. (ed.). “Institutionalizing Best Practices for Higher Education in the Caribbean”. *UWI Quality Education Forum*, 2018. xxii.

McLaren, I , Ramsay, P. (eds). “The Humanities and Education in Focus”. *UWI Quality Education Forum [Special]* 2019. xxiii.

Conference Presentations

- **Dr Michele Kennedy:** “*Variation in the speech of Jamaicans, and its consequences for the L2 acquisition of English*”, 22nd Biennial Conference of the Society for Caribbean Linguistics, Costa Rica, August, 5–12.
- **Dr Caroline Dyche:** “*The ‘Academic Literacies’ legitimacy struggle: Advocacy insights from a UWI ‘scutworker’*” at “Sounds of Advocacy, Language & Liberation” Conference in honour of Professor Hubert Devonish, UWI, Mona, October, 25, 2018.
- **Dr Vivette Milson-Whyte:** “*Performing Academic Literacies: Brian Street’s Legacy in/on Academic Writing in the Caribbean*”, 70th Annual Convention of the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, March 13–16, 2019 (10 slides; 6 pp).
- **Professor Lawrence Bamikole:** “*Beauty: The Ethics and Technology of Identity Alteration*”. Cave Hill, UWI Philosophy Symposium, Cave Hill, Barbados, April 24–26, 2019.(22 pp).
- **Khimaja Connell:** “*Mimicking Humanity: Sentience and Artificial Intelligence*”, Cave Hill, UWI Philosophy Symposium, Cave Hill, Barbados, April 24–26, 2019 (12 pp).
- **Professor Lawrence O. Bamikole:** “*Bob Marley and Frantz Fanon: Two Perspectives on Liberation*”: *Shifting the Geography of Reason XVI: Resistance, Reparation, Renewal*”. Caribbean Philosophical Association, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, USA, June 6 and 8, 2019.(19 pp).
- **Dr Joseph T. Farquharson** “*Reconstructing Akan day-names: Supporting evidence from the Caribbean.*” Paper presented at the Mervyn Alleyne Commemorative Conference, held at The University of the West Indies, Mona campus, June 7–8, 2019.

- **Dr Sandra McCalla:** “*An Ethical Analysis of Performance Enhancement Drugs in Sports.*” Paper presented at the Canadian American Conference for Academic Disciplines, Ryerson University, Toronto Canada, June 9–15, 2019.
- **Dr Joseph T. Farquharson** “*Continuity in word-formation: The case of the Jamaican nominal suffix -i.*” .Paper presented at the Summer Conference of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, held at the University of Lisbon, June 17–19, 2019.
- **Dr Ingrid McLaren:** “ *Transdisciplinarity in Action: Creating an Integrated Curriculum Via the Infusion of Oral Communication Skills into the Chemistry Curriculum*”. Canadian International Conference on Education (CICE-2019), University of Toronto Mississauga, Canada June 24–27 (12 slides (8 pp)).
- **Professor Lawrence Bamikole:** “*Rastafari Conception of God and the Afro-Caribbean Existential Realities*”, 9th Toyin Falaola Annual International Conference on *Africa and The African Diaspora* (TOFAC 19), Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo, Nigeria, July 1–3, 2019. (20 pp).
- **Dr Joseph T. Farquharson** “*Glossaries in a creole context.*” Paper presented at the 6th International Symposium on History of English Lexicography and Lexicology, held in Gargnano, Italy, July 26–29, 2019.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Equipment

The Department continues its attempts to enhance the learning environment via the acquisition of projectors, laptops etc.

Writing Centre

Upgrading of the Writing Centre continues with the refurbishing, and acquisition, where necessary, of new furniture. The Centre was also given a much needed face lift with the painting of its interior in a more suitable colour. Efforts are currently being made to mount one of the projectors, mentioned above, in the main teaching area of the Centre.

Website

The Department is close to completion of the reconfiguring, enhancement and expansion of its website. An important aspect of the improved website will be interactive spaces where students will be able to engage in autonomous learning activities. If things go as planned we expect to have reconfigured functioning website before the end of the current Semester.

NON-ACADEMIC SECTIONS /SELF-FINANCING /INCOME GENERATING**Writing Centre**

The Writing Centre continues to offer individual coaching and writing workshops, but these activities tend to be sporadic and for this reason, plans are being put in place to revamp the current system to expand services and attain a level of consistency in what is being offered to enable an increased /consistent generation of income.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

The IELTS Centre, housed in the Writing Centre, continues to be a major income earner as it continues to fulfil its key mandate of delivering English Language tests to applicants seeking visas for study or residence in the UK and other Commonwealth countries. Tests are offered at the Mona and Western Jamaica Campuses.

The UKVI Test, administered by the IELTS Centre, continues to be held quarterly although it is the view of the Coordinator that it should be abandoned as so few persons are interested in taking it.

The Centre is constantly being encouraged by the British Council to expand its offerings to meet the overwhelming demand here in Jamaica. This expansion will become possible with the addition of two floors to the current Writing Centre. The Centre will therefore be able to better meet expectations as, with more space, they will be able to offer the Test to more applicants, on a more frequent basis. The proposed start date for the expansion is May 2020.

English Language Proficiency Test Unit (ELPTU)

The English Language Proficiency Test Unit continues its role of testing the proficiency of incoming students who have not met the requirements for being admitted directly into the Foundation English Language courses.

The Unit is able to meet all financial requirements associated with the Test. These include an Academic Coordinator, markers, examiners etc. and a prospective Administrator, which we are hoping will be in place in the coming academic year.

The Jamaica Language Unit (JLU)

The main income earner for the Jamaican Language Unit (JLU) is the MA in the English Language.

Although the Unit had in its earlier years, filled its mandate initially as a self-financing unit, there has been a downturn in this area due to a number of factors.

Efforts are however being made to identify and take advantage of income earning opportunities, one of which is assuming the role of language consultant to the Wycliffe Caribbean project to translate the Old Testament into Jamaican Creole, scheduled to start in January 2020.