



DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE LINGUISTICS AND PHILOSOPHY

Departmental Report August 2020 - July 2021

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INTRODUCTION

The 2020/21 Academic Year was one in which the Department sought to further its Operational Plan (adapted from the 2017-2022 UWI Strategic Plan) in the areas of **ACCESS, ALIGNMENT & AGILITY**.

ACCESS

- Online Mode of Course Delivery
- Teaching and Learning & Student Development
- Publications
- Outreach and Engagement/Activism & Public Advocacy

ALIGNMENT

- Presentations of Academic Papers
- Public Service

AGILITY

- Financial Health/Income Generation

ACCESS

TEACHING AND LEARNING; STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Significant Challenges were encountered for Semesters 1 and 2 2020/2021, regarding access to BBC for course delivery as adjunct Staff, particularly within the English Language Section, was not appointed in a timely way. This led to frustration on the part of both students and staff, and in many instances, a late start to teaching. Fortunately, these issues were eventually alleviated, for the most part, with the support of the Campus Administration, and teaching effectively undertaken online, leading to the successful delivery of courses for both Semesters 1 and 2 2020/2021. Notwithstanding the aforementioned challenges, staff members were able to engage in a variety of activities that were beneficial to student development, and which also reflected progress in spheres such as publications outreach/advocacy, and ongoing research.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

- The ICCR Public Lecture on India (Virtual) was delivered by Professor, Anthony Savari Raj. "Ecosophy: An Indian Cosmivision for Earth's New Era". March 19, 2021.
- A Translating/Interpreting Panel discussion was hosted by Ms. Sandra Hamilton on March 22, 2021 via Zoom.

Panelists were:

Mrs. Marjorie Robotham, Freelance Interpreter

Ms. Annette Insanally, Coordinator of the Chair in
Caribbean Studies

Mrs. Denesha Bailey-Cole, Programme Officer,
UWI/Universities Caribbean

Ms. Kate Davies, Interpreter/Trainer/Consultant.

Mrs. Martha Corbett-Baugh, Freelance Interpreter

Dr. Marie-José N'Zengou-Tayo, Freelance Interpreter

- A Workshop was co presented by Professor Silvia Kouwenberg and Yewande Lewis-Fokum in the Hemispheric University Consortium's 2021, Student Dialogues, on "The value of multilingualism and Vernacular Languages" on April 8. Participating students came from Universities in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Peru, and the UWI's Campus territories.
- The second online Linguistics Day and CAPE Communication Studies Workshop was held on May 6 and 7. Members of the Section shared on different aspects of Linguistics. The Workshop was facilitated by Okeyno Morgan and Shyrel Ann Dean.
- The Philosophy Section hosted a virtual Cross Campus Postgraduate Seminar on May 28, 2021 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Seven students from the Philosophy Section at Mona and one student from the Cave Hill Campus gave presentations based on their research topics.
- Dr. Kadian Walters is in the process of completing the preparation of a proposal for a "Linguistics Lounge" group for Graduate students and Junior academics across the campuses. This will facilitate students' development of working relationships with each other and create a support system for the psychosocial challenges encountered while pursuing an academic career. Initial activities will be virtual then transition to face to face. The initiative will be further discussed and finalized at the coming Linguistics Cross Campus Meeting in June.

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte's symposium essay (2021): "Re/Engaging Street to Address Multiplicity in Composition Classrooms" in *Literacy in Composition Studies*, Vol. 8, (2) 136-145: Special Issue dedicated to the life and work of Brian V. Street.

Professor Lawrence O. Bamikole's book chapter (2021): "Determinism and Human Agency in Shola Allyson -Obaniyi's Gbe Je Fori and Akosile" in Adeshina Afolayan (ed) *Identities, Histories and Values in Postcolonial Nigeria*, 115-130, USA: Rowman& Littlefield (Publishers).

Dr. Caroline Dyche & Jesse Antwi-Cooper's, journal article (2020): "Evaluating Academic Literacies Course Types": Journal of Academic Writing, 10(1), 12-18.

Dr. Trecel Messam's book chapter (2021): "Language Attrition in Papiamentu-Jamaican Creole Contact: Revelations of the Determiner Phrase" in "When Creole and Spanish Collide: Language and Cultural Contact in the Caribbean": Caribbean Series, Glenda Leung and Miki Loschky (eds) .

Dr. Carmeneta Jones' journal article (2021): "The Use of Poetry and Sagacious Sayings to Initiate Active Engagement in a University Critical Reading and Writing Course": Caribbean Journal of Education's Special Issue, Poetry Beyond Borders, Vol 43.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT/ACTIVISM & PUBLIC ADVOCACY

Gandhi Day was celebrated on October 2 and a prerecording of the event was aired on UWI TV to a wide audience.

A virtual Public Lecture was also delivered on Gandhi Day by ICCR Chair of Indology, Professor Anthony Savari Raj. The Lecture was entitled, "The message of Yesterday's India to Today's Cross-Cultural World". The Lecture was aired on UWI TV to a wide audience. The Jamaican Language Unit ran two additional workshops geared at teaching the Cassidy-JLU Writing System. The second of the two was undertaken at the request of Ms. Elizabeth Montoya-Stemann with her Drama students at the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts.

On Tuesday, 27th October, Dr. Farquharson participated in a panel discussion captioned "Chattings: A Conversation on Jamaican Patois" put on by National Museum West in celebration of Heritage Month 2020 under the theme "Celebrating a Heritage of Resilience and Pride". Also on the panel were Prof. Carolyn Cooper, Mr. Owen 'Blakka' Ellis, and Mr. Russhaine 'Dutty Berry' Berry. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Patrick Predergast. The event was live-streamed via the YouTube channel of National Museums Jamaica and can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTxRF2OE5-w>

The 6th Cassidy-Le Page Distinguished Lecture was delivered virtually on October 30 at 6:00 p.m. (EST). The Lecture was presented by Dr. Karla Washington, Associate Professor at the University of Connecticut under the title, "Dis and That 'bout Jamiekan Children's Speech an Langwij: Distinguishing Difrens and Disaada".

On Monday, February 15th the JLU staged the first in a series of virtual workshops for teaching the Cassidy-JLU Writing System to the public, at 8:00 pm. Ninety-two (96) persons registered for the workshop and approximately sixty-six (66) were in attendance. Approximately 57 % of the participants completed the post-workshop feedback form and the overwhelming majority gave positive evaluations.

On Sunday, February 21, 2021 the Jamaican Language Unit/Unit for Caribbean Language Research held two virtual sessions in celebration of International Mother Language Day. Both sessions were held via Zoom and streamed live via the Braadkyaas Jamaican YouTube channel: The first session entitled, "Patwa tu di Worl!" was moderated by Ms. Aisha Harris-Parker, Language and Cross Culture Coordinator at Peace Corps Jamaica. The panel comprised Mr. Eric Rosenfeld who has compiled a thesaurus of the Jamaican language, Ms. June Simmonds, representing Wycliffe Caribbean, Raul 'Raul Blaze' Davis (polyglot and comedian), and Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson, Coordinator of the JLU. The event had roughly 40 persons watching the live-stream, and gained 232 views on YouTube.

The second session entitled, "Fighting for Survival: Amerindian Languages of the Caribbean" was moderated by Dr. Daidrah Telfer, lecturer at UTech, Jamaica and former student of DLLP. The panel comprised Dr. Jo-Anne S. Ferreira (UWI, St. Augustine), Dr. Enita Barrett (Qatar University), who is a Garifuna speaker and activist, Skeitha Thomas (Guyana) who is a Lokono speaker and activist, Kasike Kalaan Nibonrix Kaiman (Jamaica) who is the chief of the Jamaica Hummingbird Taino Tribe. The event was attended by approximately 110 persons on Zoom and roughly 21 on YouTube.

On February 23, 2021 Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson was interviewed by a group of students from the Wolmer's Boys School on "The Role and Status of English as an International Language". The interview forms part of their attempts to collect information for their CAPE Communication Studies SBA.

On March 17, 2021, Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson was interviewed for the podcast "Strictly Facts: A Guide to Caribbean History and Culture", hosted by Alexandria Miller, a doctoral student at Brown University. The interview centred on the history and status of Caribbean Creole languages.

On May 4, 2021 Dr. Carmeneta Jones presented "Read Aloud" session for a group of Immaculate Conception Preparatory School students on, Read Across Jamaica Day,

ALIGNMENT

PRESENTATION OF ACADEMIC PAPERS (VIRTUAL)

Dr. Joseph Farquharson: "Discordant Sounds: Language Ideologies in Jamaica in the Languages of the Americas' course", Princeton University, November 30, 2020.

Okeyno Morgan & Dr. Kadian Walters: "Tan a Yu Yaad: An Analysis of Indirect Linguistic Discrimination in Jamaica's Health Communication Practices" at the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics Winter Meeting January 9, 2021.

Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte: "Academic Writing in the Caribbean: Searching for a Caribbean Identity", 15th Anatol Rodgers Memorial Lecture (ARML), University of The Bahamas, February 4, 2021.

Professor Silvia Kouwenberg, "Disentangling Second Language Acquisition and Creole Genesis", France-based seminar series 'Grammaires Créoles: Structures formelles du langage', March 15 2021.

Dr. Sandra McCalla. "Ethical Issues in Coaching", Coaches workshop, Faculty of Sport, UWI, Mona, in association with the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago. March 24, 2021.

Dr. Kadian Walters: "The Most Honourable BroGad: A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Public's Construction of Jamaica's Prime Minister as a Hero, Villain and Sex Symbol on Social Media", the Stylistics, Critical Discourse Analysis, and Language Use in the Caribbean, University of Trinidad and Tobago, April 2&3 2021.

Professor Silvia Kouwenberg & Dr Yewande Lewis-Fokum: "The Value of Multilingualism and Vernacular Languages", Hemispheric University Consortium's 2021 Student Dialogues, April 8, 2021.

Dr. Kadian Walters: "Language Comprehension, Linguistic Discrimination and Language Prejudice in the Jamaican Government's Health Communication", Cross-Disciplinary Conference on Engaging Humanities in Health, University of Pittsburgh, April 9, 2021.

Dr. Rotimi Omosulu: "In Defense of an African Biocentric Presentism", African Environmental Ethics Association Conference, May 14, 2021.

AWARDS

Professor John Ayotunde (Tunde) Isola Bewaji was awarded the honour and title of Professor Emeritus in May 2021, in recognition of his immeasurable contribution to scholarship, his commitment to global African communities, and his unfailing advocacy on behalf of the University of the West Indies (at the Regional and local Mona Campus levels) and on behalf of African and African Diaspora philosophy, decolonial curriculum development and leadership philosophy in global Africa.

Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte and her co-editors received two awards for their book, *Creole Composition: Academic Writing and Rhetoric in the Anglophone Caribbean*: (1) the 36th Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize from the Modern Language Association of America in January 2021 and (2) the 2021 Outstanding Book Award in the Edited Collection category from the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) in May 2021.

Mr. Andre Bernard, the sole Representative from the Faculty of Humanities and Education in the UWI Mona Library 3MT Competition, won the People's Choice Award for his presentation on "The Linguistic Construction of Masculinity in Jamaica". The competition challenged PhD students to present their thesis in three minutes to a non-specialist audience. The finals of the inaugural UWI 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) competition were held on May 20, 2021.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte

- External Member on The University of The Bahamas English Studies Faculty Search Committee: Rhetoric and Composition, April to May 2021
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Teachers Service Commission, The Ministry of Education, Youth & Information.
- Vice President of the Council, and Chairman of the Executive Committee, Girl Guides Association of Jamaica
- Mentor for the Manchester High School Global Alumni Mentoring Program

AGILITY

INCOME GENERATION

The three income generating entities within the Department are as follows:

- The International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
- The English Language Proficiency Test Unit (ELPTU); and
- The Writing Centre (WC)

We are pleased that the suspension of testing for both IELTS and the ELPT, for the past six months has been lifted, and TESTING has re started. This will mean the continuation of a steady stream of income for the Campus. The Income Generation Information, for the aforementioned Entities and the Writing Centre are presented below:

IELTS (International English Language Testing Service):

The most recent Statement for IELTS reports that as at July 31, 2020 there was a balance of \$45,019,1940 in the Account of the above entity.

ELPTU (English Language Proficiency Test Unit):

The most recent Statement for ELPT reports that as at April 30, 2021 there was a balance of \$7,914,468.7 in the Account of the above Unit.

WC (Writing Centre):

The most recent Statement for the WC reports that as at November 2020 there was a balance of \$5,403,234.26 in the Account of the above Centre.

FINAL WORD

I thank the DLLP Staff {Academic and Administrative} for their commitment, patience, perseverance and support, as we continue to confront challenges, due to a great extent to the continued COVID-19 pandemic.