



DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS & PHILOSOPHY

Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte · Head Of Department

Ph.D. (Univ. of Arizona)

OVERVIEW

On August 1, 2021, the Department thanked Dr Ingrid McLaren for four (4) years of service as Head and welcomed Dr Vivette Milson-Whyte for the last year of its 2017-2022 Operational Plan (adapted from the 2017-2022 UWI Strategic Plan) that prioritized Access, Alignment and Agility.

ACCESS

For 2021/22, we took a multi-pronged approach to disseminating information about what interested parties could access in our multidisciplinary department. Our strategies included short videos posted on course sites, new and modernized flyers regarding our courses, programmes and services and career paths open to students who access our offering that were circulated via Mona Messaging and used in preliminary boosting on social media. Our new website was also launched in April 2022 and will continue to be populated.

Our offerings

We continued to ensure delivery of a B.A. and Minor in Philosophy; five (5) Linguistics B.A. programmes (Linguistics, Language, Communication & Society, Linguistics & Language Education, Languages & Linguistics, Caribbean Sign Language Interpreting), Minor in Linguistics, and Minor in Caribbean Sign Language Interpreting; the Academic Literacies programme at

the Mona and Western Jamaica Campuses and in affiliated Tertiary Level institutions in Jamaica, St. Kitts and St. Vincent and the Grenadines and a Minor in English Language Writing & Speech; and electives in language, linguistics, philosophy. At the graduate level, we continued to offer Advanced Academic English; the M.A. English Language; the M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Philosophy; the Diploma in Public Service Interpreting and the Diploma in Caribbean Sign Language Interpreting; and the Diploma, M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Linguistics.

Beyond our three (3) academic sections of language, linguistics, philosophy, we continued work in two units and two centres as follows:

1.determining incoming students' reading and writing competence in English through English Language proficiency testing (the ELPT), with tests held in August and December 2021 and in April 2022.

2.testing the English Language proficiency of individuals who wish to live/work/study in countries in which English is a language of communication – through the British Council's International English Language Testing System (IELTS) via four (4) tests: IELTS paper-based test, computer-delivered IELTS tests (CD IELTS), CD IELTS tests for UK Visas and Immigration (CD UKVI) and the Life Skills test.

3.assisting students and other stakeholders with writing being done in courses and generally via the Writing Centre.

4.conducting research into Jamaican and other Caribbean languages, contributing to consciousness-raising of Caribbean peoples regarding language and lobbying for language rights via the Jamaican Language Unit (JLU).

At all levels, staff facilitated students' development, engaged in personal and professional development activities and contributed to institutional growth.

TEACHING/LEARNING & STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Given the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, our classes continued to be delivered remotely via BlackBoard Collaborate (BBC) and ZOOM. Audio, visual and connectivity challenges that students and staff experienced while using BBC in the two previous years continued in 2021-2022. Because of these experiences, we provided ZOOM links for most lecturers who were

not teaching the large Academic Literacies courses. This provision was critical for temporary and adjunct staff who experienced lack of access to the electronic systems several weeks into each semester although some arrangements for appointment of staff had been made before the start of teaching in each instance. Despite continuing to work in less than ideal educational circumstances, staff members were able to provide opportunities for students to succeed academically and engage in all-round development. When Semester 1 results are disaggregated and students who registered but did not attend classes are eliminated from the total count in courses, pass rates are as follows:

1. *over 78% to over 95% in the Academic Literacies (FOUN) courses*
2. *over 76% to 100% in the English Language Writing and Speech (LANG) courses*
3. *over 90% to 100% in Linguistics courses*
4. *over 80% to 100% in Philosophy Courses.*

Students provided largely positive feedback on teaching in most courses during Staff-Student Liaison meetings in both semesters, and the average rating given on student evaluations of teaching is over 4 out of 5 for the Department. Students also gave positive feedback on the following activities that were hosted/to which they were invited for their development:

1. *Extra classes, held on weekend evenings for 8 weeks, for students across all sign language courses facilitated by the sign language linguistics lecturers and sign language tutors.*
2. *LOUD Linguistics Club sessions to counsel, guide and empower students in areas such as acing courses in an online space, personal branding, the job market and student involvement and advocacy.*
3. *“The Practice of Interpreting in Today’s World” – A Panel Discussion – organised by LING3909 Lecturer, Ms Sandra Hamilton, and held on March 21, 2022. Students learned from the panel of interpreters and translators from Martinique, Spain and Jamaica and got valuable practice moderating the session and serving as interpreters in five (5) languages including Jamaican Sign Language.*

Other initiatives to enhance student development include:

1. *Development of two (2) new Philosophy courses – PHIL3110: Environmental Ethics and PHIL3120: Biomedical Ethics – to increase students’ access to Ethics-related courses, beginning in 2022-2023.*

2. Donation to the Main Library of the Mona Campus, on October 29, 2021, a collection of 17 rare philosophical texts in honour of world renowned philosopher Professor Charles Mills who had donated the books to the Philosophy Section in 2012 and who died on September 20, 2021.



From Left: Ms. Cheryl Kean, Head of Acquisitions, U.W.I, Mona Campus Main Library; Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte, Head of Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy; Dr. Rotimi Omosulu, Philosophy Section Coordinator; and Professor Lawrence Bamikole during the handing-over of books event in honour of Professor Charles Mills on October 29, 2021 in the Multifunctional Room of the Main Library.

1. Arrival in Jamaica of the 3rd Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Chair of Indian Studies in the Philosophy Section, Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda, on May 8, 2022 in keeping with a Memorandum of Understanding between the ICCR and The UWI.

2. Acquisition of grants of One Hundred and Three Thousand Dollars (J\$103,000) and Ninety-one (J\$91,000.00) respectively, by the English Language Section (ELS), for two LANG2001 students who were barred from their final examination at the end of Semester I because they had balances on their tuition fees.

3. *Workshops and Coaching sessions in the Writing Centre (TWC) to provide support for all undergraduate and graduate students so they could develop their academic writing and critical thinking skills. All sessions were conducted online in 2021-2022. The fee of J\$500.00 payable each semester by those who wish to use TWC was abandoned during the height of the pandemic.*

Student Awards

During the Faculty's Annual Student Awards Ceremony streamed on 11 November 2021, the following students were recognised for demonstrating academic excellence in their programmes/courses within the Department for the 2020/2021 academic year:

The Language Prize - *For most outstanding academic performance in:*

FOUN1002: Language: Argument	Alicia Fraser
FOUN1013: Critical Reading and Writing in the Social Sciences	Krystal Boothe
FOUN1014: Critical Reading and Writing in Science & Technology & Medical Sciences	Rashaun Stewart
FOUN1016: Critical Reading and Expository Writing in the Humanities and Education	Asmahani-Aza Cooke and Brianah Mckie
FOUN1019: Critical Reading and Writing in the Disciplines	Shatoya Miller
LANG2001: Language and Ethics	Ramona Cain
LANG3001: The Art of Public Speaking	Sarah Webster
LANG3003: Technical Writing	Christopher Stewart and Matthew Blake
LANG3101: Workplace Communication: Principles and Practices	Monet Flowers

The Linguistics Prize - *For most outstanding academic performance in:*

Linguistics, Level I	Tanya Joseph
Formal Linguistics, Level II	Reana Davis
Non-Formal Linguistics, Level II	Reana Davis
Formal Linguistics, Level III	Lyssaun Howell
Non-Formal Linguistics, Level III	Renae Brown

The Philosophy Prize - *For most outstanding academic performance in:*

Philosophy, Level I –	Lavandra Brown
Philosophy, Level II –	Festus Iwuagwu
Philosophy, Level III –	Jo-Dean Carpenter
<i>For the most outstanding graduating Philosophy student:</i>	Stephanie Fraser

GRADUATE STUDENT MATTERS

Programmes/Registration and Mentorship

1.The Philosophy Section established in-house admissions and postgraduate committees to assist with developing a systematic approach to a) accepting students into the research programme and b) developing a clear procedure for managing the completion of its graduate students. It also assumed leadership of the committee overseeing the African and African Diaspora Studies Programme offered jointly by The University of the West Indies and the University of Lagos in Nigeria (UWI-UNILAG Programme).

2.On the 8th and 16th of October 2021, the LING6707: Linguistic Research Methods class hosted international guests who presented virtually on different aspects of data collection.

3.A Linguistics Postgraduate Research Seminar was held on May 30, 2022.

4.Honorary Research Fellows were engaged to help provide support to graduate students and junior staff: For the Department were Professor Emeritus Hubert Devonish (April 1, 2022 - July 31, 2024) and Dr Michele Kennedy (March 21, 2022 - July 31, 2024); for the JLU for the period August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2024 were Professor Ana Deumert (University of Cape Town), Dr Karla Washington (University of Toronto), Dr Rocky Meade (Independent Researcher) and Dr R. Anthony Lewis (University of Technology, Jamaica).

Scholarships & Departmental/Other Awards

1.Ms Sashann Dixon and Ms Elaine Fenelus who had upgraded from M.Phil. to Ph.D. (Linguistics) in 2020-2021 had their UWI Postgraduate Scholarship renewed for the 2021-2022 academic year:

2.Ms Juliet Jackson (Linguistics), Ms Vanessa Polson (Linguistics), Ms Shanique Taylor (Linguistics) and Mr Oluwadamilola Ajayi (Philosophy) received Departmental Awards for the 2021-2022 academic year.

3.Two graduate students in Philosophy, Ms Khimaja Connell and Ms Gabriel Hall won Erasmus+ grants, each valued at 5,325 Euros, as part of the Erasmus+ Exchange Programme. Ms Khimaja Connell accepted the offer/grant and spent most of Semester II at the University of Salzburg in the Depart-

ment of Philosophy and Theology in Austria.

4.Ms Sashann Dixon and Mr Okeyno Morgan presented papers, entitled “Aspects of the Acquisition of 3 English /s/ Morphemes by Children from a Rural Community in Jamaica” and “Linguistic Discrimination in Jamaica’s Health Campaigns” respectively, at the Second Heterotopic Junction Graduate Conference on Language, Literature, and Culture, held virtually and hosted by the Hong Kong Baptist University on Saturday, April 30, 2022. Mr Morgan was given the award for the best paper and presentation at the conference.

Degrees/Defense

1.Ms Novelette McLean-Francis graduated with the PhD in Linguistics; Ms Kristina Davis and Mr Randy W. Davidson were awarded the Master of Arts in Philosophy; Mr Keneil Thomas was awarded the M.A. in Linguistics; Julian Hylton-Chambers was awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Linguistics; and 11 students were awarded the M.A. in English Language, seven (7) of them with Distinction.

2.Ms Audene Henry successfully defended her PhD thesis, entitled “The Language of the Moore Town Maroons: A Linguistic Reconstruction and Sociolinguistic Analysis of the Language Lifecycle in an Oral Ritual Culture,” at an oral examination held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. The examiners were Professor Ian Robertson and Dr Kenneth Bilby.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

The Department also lobbied for staff regarding approval of posts, issuing of contracts, access to the e-system and payment for services rendered. Efforts were also made to ensure that academic staff found ways to address challenges associated with the pandemic. Besides approval for multiple adjunct posts, one regular full-time lecturer in Philosophy and two temporary full time lecturers were hired. Ms Dianne Madden and Mrs Jessie Antwi-Cooper were offered renewal of contract on indefinite employment and Dr Carmeneta Jones was offered renewal of contract on indefinite tenure – all effective August 2022. Ms Tracy-Ann Beckford, Instructor in the ELS, was conferred the Doctor of Education programme (EdD) at the William Howard Taft University in the United States of America on September

23, 2021; Mrs Jesse Antwi-Cooper was awarded a Certificate in University Teaching and Learning from The UWI's Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) in October 2021; and Dr Sandra McCalla successfully completed a Master of Science Degree in Higher Education Administration from Barry University, Florida, USA in November 2021. Professor Lawrence Bamikole delivered his Inaugural Professorial Lecture "On Value Philosophy" on November 19, 2021.

Psycho-social support

1. Two staff members were granted leave of absence for the year and for the second semester respectively – for medical reasons. Other staff members ensured their duties were covered.

2. The ELS hosted inspiration sessions called "Our Virtual Hour." These had started in the previous academic year and gave colleagues opportunities to share on the experiences of remote delivery and offer suggestions and encouragement.

Honouring Recent Retirees

The Department held an Appreciation Luncheon on June 16, 2022 to honour five (5) colleagues who had recently retired: Professor Emeritus John Bewaji, Mrs Ornette Blair, Dr Michele Kennedy, Dr Ingrid McLaren and Mrs Marilyn Ricketts.

PUBLICATIONS

Given the heavy teaching load of academic staff, the Department encourages leave-taking for staff to rest and/or engage in research and writing that are often difficult to do during the teaching semester. To that end, Professor Lawrence Bamikole and Dr Vivette Milson-Whyte returned from Sabbatical Leave; following completion of Sabbatical Leave, Dr Keren Cumberbatch continued on Study Leave for Semester 1; Dr Caroline Dyche proceeded on Sabbatical leave and Dr Ingrid McLaren proceeded on various types of leave for the academic year.

Faculty members' research resulted in the following publications:

Books & Monographs

- Bewaji, John Ayotunde Isola and Rotimi Omosulu, eds. *Fragmented Identities of Nigeria: Sociopolitical and Economic Crises*.

Book Chapter

- Omosulu, Rotimi. "Demystifying Identity Crisis in Nigeria." *Fragmented Identities of Nigeria: Sociopolitical and Economic Crises*, edited by John Ayotunde Isola Bewaji and Rotimi Omosulu. Maryland: Lexington Books (Maryland), 2022, pp. 51-68.

Refereed Journal Articles

- Bamikole, Lawrence. "Bob Marley and Frantz Fanon: Two Perspectives on Liberation." *CLR James Journal*, 27.1 & 2 (Fall 2021): 273-289. <https://doi.org/10.5840/clrjames202212792>
- Ezenne, Okechukwu Anthony and Anthony Savari Raj. "Towards an Intercultural Language. *Journal of Foundational Research*, 28.2 (2021): 407-414.
- Jones, Carmeneta. "The Use of Poetry and Sagacious Sayings to Initiate Active Engagement in a University Critical Reading and Writing Course." *Caribbean Journal of Education, Special Issue Poetry Beyond Borders*, 43.1 (2021): 10-44. <https://www.mona.uwi.edu/soe/publications/use-poetry-and-sagacious-sayings-initiateactive-engagement-university-critical-reading-and-writing>.
- Jones, Carmeneta and Jasmin Lawrence. "Agency: Students Assuming Ownership of Their Learning in a Foundation Writing Course Designed for Science and Technology and Medical Sciences Majors." *Caribbean Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, 2.1 (2021): 237-271. <https://doi.org/10.37234/CJMMR>
- McCalla, Sandra. "Caribbean Philosophy and Metaphysical Strictures." *Caribbean Journal of Philosophy*, 12.2 (2020): 78-90.

Non-refereed Publications

- Milson-Whyte, Vivette. Speech. "Academic Writing in the Caribbean: Searching for an Identity" *International Journal of Bahamian Studies*, 27 (2021): 181-190. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15362/ijbs.v27i0.439>
- Milson-Whyte, Vivette, Raymond Oenbring, and Brianne Jaquette.

"Weh Wi Deh / Veh Vi Is / Where We Are: Teaching and Researching Academic Writing in the Caribbean." *Composition Studies*, 49.3 (Fall 2021): 160-164.

ALIGNMENT

Given the ongoing pandemic, staff members were encouraged to participate in the many available virtual sessions (conferences, panel discussions, symposiums, talks, webinars and workshops) that lent to professional development – and several members participated in such sessions. These staff members, some of whom accessed their Study and Travel Grant to pay registration fees, included Professor Lawrence Bamikole, Mrs Jessie Antwi-Cooper, Dr Caroline Dyche, Dr Joseph T. Farquharson, Dr Carmeneta Jones, Ms Jasmin Lawrence, Dr Vivette Milson-Whyte, Ms Sandra Minott, Mrs Lileth O'Connor-Brown and Dr Rotimi Omosulu. Some sessions were hosted by the Caribbean Association of Tertiary-Level Academic Literacies Practitioners (CATALP); Conference of the Modern Language Association (MLA) of America; the Convention of the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC); National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE, USA); Turnitin; UNESCO/UWI; University of Technology (UTech), Jamaica; University of Toronto in Canada and University of Tübingen in Germany. They and other colleagues also profited from Virtual Symposium: Celebrating Research in the Faculty of Humanities and Education in May 2022.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Some academic staff members and graduate students who were able to continue researching and writing during the pandemic also presented papers at major conferences/seminars, most held virtually, as follows:

- *Professor Lawrence Bamikole: "Philosophy, Transversal Thinking and COVID-19 Pandemic." Plenary Presentation at International Conference on Multidisciplinary Trends in Social Sciences and Humanities, MTISSH-CON 2022, Department of Arts, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Manipal University, Jaipur, India, March 2-4, 2022. (18pp.)*
- *Ms Khimaja Connell: "Creolisation Ontologised." Online lecture delivered at University of Innsbruck on invitation by Unit for Peace and Con-*

flict Studies, July 6, 2022. (28 pp.)

- Dr Keren Cumberbatch: "The Role of Outcomes Assessment in Increasing Publication Output for Student Affairs Practitioners." Plenary Speaker Presentation at the Annual Regional Caribbean Tertiary Level Personnel Association Conference, held virtually, June 26-29, 2022.
- Dr Keren Cumberbatch: "Caring for the Deaf Dental Patient using Direct Communication." Paper Presented at the Inaugural Webinar hosted by the International Association for Dental Research Caribbean Section, June 23, 2022.
- Dr Keren Cumberbatch: "Research and Publication – Tomorrow's Reality." Featured Speaker Presentation at Professional Development Webinar of the Caribbean Tertiary Level Personnel Association (Trinidad and Tobago Chapter), May 13, 2022.
- Dr Keren Cumberbatch, Thaon Jones and Camille Alexis-Garsee: "Improving Dental Treatment Outcomes through Direct Communication between Deaf Patients and Student Dentists: SQUIRE Explanation and Elaboration on a UMDP Deaf Dental Care Initiative." Paper presented at The UWI Centre for Disability Studies Conference with theme "Promoting Quality Healthcare for Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean," April 19-20, 2022.
- Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda: 'Yoga for Social Harmony.' Presented virtually at Janki Devi Memorial College, Delhi, India, June 21, 2022. (4 pp.)
- Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda: "Witness-self and Philosophical Counselling." Virtual presentation to the Philosophical Practitioners Association of Mexico (CECAPFI, Mexico), May 21, 2022. (5 pp.)
- Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda: "Vedic Wisdom and Environmental Harmony." Presented at the online International Conference on Hindu Dharma and the Emerging Global Challenges, organised by the Department of Hindu Studies at Benaras Hindu University, India and World Yoga Community, New York, May 27-29, 2022. (4 pp.)
- Dr Caroline Dyche: "Caribbean Academic Literacies courses: Our Identity/Directions." Presentation to UWI Cave Hill Academic Literacies Staff, May 5, 2022. (15 slides)
- Dr Joseph T. Farquharson: "Loan Translations in Creole Languages: Explorations in Lexical Typology and Language Contact." Paper presented at the Coloquio de Investigación Lingüística 2022-1 hosted by the Universidad de Sonora, Mexico, May 13, 2022. (11 pp.)
- Dr Joseph T. Farquharson: "Styling the 'Jamaican' Other: Diasporic Representations of the Heritage Language." Virtual presentation at the

International Symposium on Creole Languages in Diasporic Contexts: Language Biographies and Plurilingual Identities, the University of Bremen March 28-31, 2022.

- Mr George McCaulsky: *“Contemporary Pedagogical Perspectives on the Treatment of Gender and Sexuality: Considering the Past, Present and Future.”* Paper presented virtually at the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE) Conference 2021 held at The University of Alberta, Canada as part of the annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, May 29-June 3, 2022. (12 slides)
- Mr George McCaulsky and Andrew Campbell: *“Ripped from the Headlines: Examining LGBTQ Issues in Jamaican Print Media and its Impact on Education.”* Paper presented virtually at the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE) Conference 2021 held at The University of Alberta, Canada as part of the annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, May 29-June 3, 2022. (31 slides)
- Dr Ingrid McLaren: *“Integration of a Writing Module in a Chemistry Course: Students’ Perception of its Effectiveness.”* Paper presented virtually at the EUROKD International Conference on Education, Psychology and Behavioural Science, the University of Leipzig, Istanbul, Turkey, November 16, 2021.
- Dr Vivette Milson-Whyte: *“Transnational Affiliations of US-based Caribbean Students.”* Primary Presentation in Workshop entitled *“Creole Composition: Learning with/from Caribbean-Origin Students in US Composition Classrooms”* on March 9 at the annual Convention of the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) held virtually March 9-12, 2022. (20 pp. & 16 slides)
- Ms Sandra Minott: *“A Classification of Jamaican in the Written English of Selected Jamaican Grade Four Students: Implications for the Development of a Bilingual Test Scale.”* Paper presented at the Virtual Symposium: *Celebrating Research in the Faculty of Humanities and Education, The UWI, Mona, May 13, 2022.* (29 pp.)
- Dr Rotimi Omosulu: *“Why Counselling is an Indispensable Philosophical Trait.”* Paper presented virtually at the International Conference on Philosophical Counselling, the University of New Delhi, India, January 14-16, 2022. (9 pp)
- Dr Rotimi Omosulu: *“A Critical Examination of Awolowo’s Democratic Socialism.”* Paper presented at International Conference on African and African Diaspora Philosophy, Identity and Culture, Zimbabwe Open University, Zimbabwe, in Collaboration with PanAfrican Strategic and Policy Research Group International, The University of the West Indies,

Mona, and Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria, August 26-28, 2021. (17 pp)

- *Dr Kadian Walters: “Me Too vs. Too Lie: Analysis of Rape Culture on Social Media in Jamaica.” Paper presented at the Society for Pidgin and Creole Languages (SPCL) Virtual Winter Conference, January 14-15, 2022. (28 pp.)*

PUBLIC SERVICE

Outreach and Engagement/Activism & Public Advocacy Over the period, members engaged in various outreach activities and advocacy initiatives that brought attention to the work of individual areas, the department as a whole, and the institution.

- *Ms Khimaja Connell participated in the Association of General Practitioners of Jamaica Annual Ethics Webinar on Continuing Medical Education, held July 29, 2021. She also collaborated with the Montego Bay Marine Park Trust to digitally promote and deliver educational tours on the Ethics of Environmental Protection.*
- *Dr Caroline Dyche moderated virtual sessions organised by the Caribbean Association of Tertiary-level Academic Literacies Practitioners (CA-TALP): Round Table entitled “Day of the Imprisoned Writer” on November 15, 2021; Forum on International Writers’ Day on March 3, 2022 and Round Table on “Stories of Language & Identity: The Personal, Professional & Programmatic” on July 29, 2022.*
- *Dr Joseph T. Farquharson, in his capacity as Coordinator of the JLU, gave several presentations – including on Television Jamaica (TVJ) and CVM at Sunrise, at Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts and to Kiwanis Club of Friends Across Borders. He was also invited by the Programa de lingüística centroamericana (PROLINCA) of the Universidad Nacional Costa Rica as one of the speakers at the “Encuentro centroamericano y del Caribe sobre política lingüística y EIB which was held in Heredia, Costa Rica, November 30-December 1, 2021. His presentations focussed on language politics in the Caribbean and bilingual education in the English-official Caribbean respectively.*
- *Dr Carmeneta Jones gave several guest presentations/speeches and facilitated workshops on literacy development, writing and public speaking to/for community groups, primary school students and teachers, and personnel of the (then) Ministry of Education, Youth and Information.*

- *Dr Rotimi Omosulu served as Reviewer for APPON Philosophical Quarterly, a journal of the Association of Philosophy Professionals of Nigeria (APPON), and hosted/co-hosted various online Talks in his capacity as President of African Environmental Ethicist Association (AEEA).*
- *Gandhi Day 2021: On Saturday, October 2, 2021, the Philosophy Section celebrated Mahatma Gandhi Day in an event that involved Garlanding of the Gandhi statue located in the Inspiration Garden of the Faculty of Humanities and Education.*



From Left: Mr Satish Iyer, President of the Indian Cultural Society in Jamaica; Prof Lawrence Bamikole from the Philosophy Section; Head of the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, Dr Vivette Milson-Whyte; High Commissioner of India to Jamaica, His Excellency Mr Masakui Rungsum; Dr Rotimi Omosulu, Philosophy Section Coordinator and Dr Sandra McCalla from the Philosophy Section during our signature event, Gandhi Day Garlanding, October 2, 2021

Cassidy-LePage Lecture: The 7th Annual Cassidy-LePage lecture was held on October 29, 2021 – as a way to mark International Creole Day. Keynote speaker was Professor Shondel Nero, Professor in Language Education at New York University. The theme was “Slicing the onion: Reflections and Projections on Language Education Policy in Jamaica”. There were attendees from China, the USA, Ghana, Canada, Barbados and Jamaica. **World Philosophy Day:** UWI/UNESCO World Philosophy Day was marked by the Philosophy Section on November 18, 2021. Organised around the theme “The Human Condition in Times of Crisis: Mitigating the Challenges of Life During a Pandemic,” the event included a philosophical reflection on “Entrepreneurial Gandhi” by His Excellency Mr Masakui Rungsum, Indian High

Commissioner to Jamaica, main address by Honourable Olivia Grange, CD, MP, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport – read by Honourable Alando Terrelonge, State Minister in the Ministry and a Panel Discussion. The Jamaican Language Unit: Several initiatives were undertaken by the Jamaican Language Unit (JLU), the chief outreach and advocacy arm of the Department. These included:

1. *Braadkyaas Jamiekan Nyuuz Ron Dong*: Daily broadcast of the news in Jamaican starting on Monday, September 6, 2021 – in a programme called *Nyuuz Ron Dong* – on the JLU's YouTube channel, *Braadkyaas Jamiekan*
2. *Big Tingz a Gwaan*: Launch of the live version of JLU's current affairs programme, *Big Tingz a Gwaan*, on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. The show was hosted by Professor Carolyn Cooper and Ms Donikue Campbell, alumna of the M.A. English Language, and focused on the COVID-19 pandemic. *Big Tingz a Gwaan* is broadcast on the last Monday of each month.
3. *Taak Tu Mi*: “*Taak Tu Mi*” is a new podcast launched on the JLU's YouTube channel on February 10, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. with guest Tori-Ann King, a recent graduate of the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts. The programme is aired every second and fourth Thursday. The podcast is one of the outputs of a partnership between the JLU and the University of the Highlands and Islands in a Mediating Multilingualism project.
4. *Internship*: The JLU hosted several interns from several organisations/programmes for the 2021/22 academic year: 6 from the JAMVAT programme, 2 from CARIMAC, and 2 from the B.A. in the Communication Arts and Technology programme at the University of Technology, Jamaica.
5. *Promotion of the writing system*: The JLU continued its work of a) transliterating text from eye-dialect writing to the Cassidy-JLU (CJLU) Writing System and b) translating from and into the Jamaican language for various individuals and entities.
6. *The Jamaican Old Testament*: The JLU continued its partnership with Wycliffe Caribbean on the translation of the Old Testament into Jamaican.

Service on Committees/Boards

1. Ms Khimaja Connell: Jamaica National Bioethics Committee (under the Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO) and Jamaica Environment Trust
2. Dr Keren Cumberbatch: Board Chair, Danny Williams School for the Deaf and Director, Executive Board, Jamaica Association for the Deaf
3. Dr Caroline Dyche: Member, “No 9-Day Wonder” Women's Movement
4. Dr Joseph Farquharson: Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica's Ad Hoc

Committee on AI in the Jamaican Context; Convenor of the CAPE Communication Studies Subject Panel, Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC); and Helsinki Society for Historical Lexicography

5. Dr Vivette Milson-Whyte: Vice President on the Council, and the Chairman of the Executive Committee, of the Girl Guides Association of Jamaica; Member and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) and Chair of the Evaluation of Qualifications Committee (EQC); Member, Prize Selection Committee of the Modern Language Association (MLA) for 2022 to 2024.

6. Ms Sandra Minott: Mentor to teenage pregnant mothers sitting the 2022 Caribbean Examination at the Jamaican Women's Centre Foundation.

7. Dr Rotimi Omosulu: elected in December 2021 as the first President of African Environmental Ethics Association (AEEA) that has as focus Environmental Ethics, especially as it relates to African solution(s) to environmental crises confronting Africa in particular and the world at large.

AGILITY

The Department participated in The UWI Mona Campus World Quality Week Celebration 2021, two sections of the Department underwent Quality Assurance Review (QAR) and our main income generator remained buoyant while serving stakeholders amidst restrictions associated with the global health pandemic.

Quality Assurance

World Quality Week Celebration 2021: In an effort to showcase ways in which the Department supports standards and sustainability in the university, we contributed a video presentation to the online celebration that premiered on November 12, 2021.

Review of the Philosophy Section occurred between October 11 and 15, 2021. The review team was headed by Professor Leonard Harris (Purdue University) who also delivered a Public Lecture entitled "Necro-Being: An Actuarial Account of Racism" on October 14, 2021 as part of the QAR exercise. The Section/Department has started to address the Review Team's recommendations and prepared and presented an Action Plan regarding the focus of the programme, staffing and mentoring arrangements for graduate students among others. The Linguistics Section underwent its

Quality Assurance Review during the week of February 21-25, 2022 and received the Review Report in July 2022. On February 24, 2022, the Team Leader Professor Lars Hinrichs of the University of Texas at Austin delivered a public lecture entitled “Why We Need Diaspora Sociolinguistics: Challenges to Established Models of Language Contact” and streamed via the JLU’s YouTube Channel “Braadkyaas Jamiekan.”

INCOME GENERATION

1. English Language Proficiency Test Unit (ELPTU)

As in previous years during the pandemic, the Department realised a miniscule profit from funds collected for the English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) on account of restrictions on number of candidates in test sites and consequent additional payment for test sites and additional invigilators. With an increase in test fee to the equivalent of USD24 and with increasing numbers of candidates per site, it is hoped that the profit margin will increase in the next academic year.

2. The Jamaican Language Unit/M.A. English Language

We experienced significant delays in securing bursary and Vacancies Monitoring Committee (VMC) approval of posts for Summer Term 2021-2022 and Academic Year 2022-2023 for the M.A. English Language, the self-financing project of the Jamaican Language Unit.

3. The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre (TWC) continues to realise a surplus despite the fact that its income is largely dependent on contributions from Summer School and rental of space to the IELTS Centre. Support of TWC is needed as it lacks resources such as computers, and space is a hindrance to further growth.

4. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Centre

The IELTS Centre administered over 17 standard IELTS test sessions including one (1) Life Skills and three (3) UKVI test sessions. These tests were administered to over 560 candidates and yielded revenue of approximately 20 million Jamaican dollars. Notwithstanding, the centre was faced with several challenges, with the most significant being the diminished capacity for hosting candidates due to the physical capacity restrictions brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, as two other testing centres located in Kingston and Montego Bay opened close to both the Mona and

Western Jamaica campuses where the test is administered, the UWI Mona Centre had to actively pursue potential clients to satisfy its monthly capacity. Another constraint which is not new to the Centre is the need for a more suitable facility for administering the international test. It is hoped that the Business Development Office will help us to make the case for the need for upper administration to address this specific challenge while the staff members continue to develop novel strategies to maintain the Centre's competitive advantage amidst the ever-evolving internal and external challenges thrown at it.

Closing Comment

Thanks to all academic, administrative and support staff who, despite persistent social and economic challenges, continue to advance the aim of the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy to make our offerings accessible and beneficial to students and other stakeholders as we contribute to development of the Caribbean region's human and other resources.