



DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS AND PHILOSOPHY

Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte, M.Phil.; Ph.D. – Head of Department

The 35 full time and 19 adjunct academic staff, nine (9) full time and one (1) part time administrative staff, one (1) full time support staff and several short term members of the three (3) academic sections, two (2) centres and two (2) units and main office of the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy (DLLP) engaged in 2022–23 with a focus on income generation as we attempted to operationalize the institution’s 2022–27 Strategic Plan which emphasized a “revenue revolution”. We foregrounded engagement in initiatives to generate income or reduce expenditure where income generation was not possible while rationalising our courses and programmes on instruction from the Vacancies Monitoring Committee (VMC), marketing our offerings and attempting to increase research, publications and conference presentations as well as outreach activities.

Simultaneously, academic staff resumed teaching face-to-face, as directed by upper administrators, and made efforts to facilitate students who were unable to resume physically. The Department received permission for one-tenth (a total of 18 and 14 at the start of Semesters 1 and 2 respectively) of the Academic Literacies (FOUN) classes to be offered online weekly. Portions of other courses (always less than 50% of each) could be offered online and academics and students who were face-to-face were encouraged to assist students with travelling/access logistics issues to join classes remotely. Measures to assist such students included blended approaches and patching in mates via WhatsApp but both staff and students (in-person and remote) recognised that such measures were not sustainable.

Most marked in the first semester of the year was the feeling that more preparation could have been done to identify spaces for teaching and have the appropriate equipment and cooling systems in place as some staff and students found themselves literally dripping wet in classrooms. Before a month was out, staff were trying to keep their footing between the challenges and the Head of Department’s charge for them to make the year more than an ordinary one, know their role and pursue their goals in full awareness of institutional limitations. While the Department’s

participation in income generation was ultimately limited, members were quite successful with regard to Access, Alignment and traditional aspects of Agility.

ACCESS

We made significant strides in our marketing and outreach efforts to increase the visibility of the Department in the public sphere and to attract new undergraduate students. We promoted our course offerings on social media platforms by creating new animated images and videos to increase engagement, started an E-newsletter circulated via Mona Messaging, participated in World Quality Week with a video featuring past students of our courses, and had past and current students and staff call current and potential students. Various staff members participated in recruitment visits to high schools and we also increased our efforts in establishing collaborations and partnerships during the reporting period. These initiatives were aimed at raising awareness about academic writing, linguistics and philosophy; fostering student engagement; and positioning the DLLP as a hub for intellectual development geared at making a positive societal impact.

Our 2022–23 offerings

We continued to ensure delivery of the following undergraduate courses and programmes:

- a B.A. and Minor in Philosophy;
- five (5) Linguistics B.A. programmes (Linguistics; Language, Communication and Society; Linguistics and Language Education; Languages and Linguistics; and Caribbean Sign Language Interpreting), a Minor in Linguistics, and a Minor in Caribbean Sign Language Interpreting;
- the Academic Literacies courses 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 and Speech; and
- electives in language, linguistics, philosophy.

At the graduate level, we continued to offer:

- Advanced Academic English Language Skills to students in the faculties of Social Sciences, Medical Sciences, Science and Technology, and Humanities and Education;
- the M.A. English Language;
- the M.A. in Africa and African Diaspora Studies;
- the M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Philosophy; and
- the Postgraduate Diploma, M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Linguistics.

Beyond our three (3) academic sections of language, linguistics and philosophy, we continued work in two (2) units and two (2) centres as follows:

1. determining incoming students' reading and writing competence in English through English Language proficiency testing (the ELPT).
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 continued to facilitate students' development, engaged in personal and professional development activities and contributed to institutional growth.

TEACHING/LEARNING AND (UNDERGRADUATE) STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

The Department offered 35 undergraduate and 17 postgraduate courses in Semester 1, 40 undergraduate and 20 postgraduate in Semester 2, and 11 undergraduate courses (with enrolment of 290 students) in Summer School of 2022–23 (See Table 1). For the academic year, six (6) new students registered for the BA in Philosophy while 71 students registered for Linguistics programmes, and there were over 160 streams of academic literacies courses weekly in Semester 1 and over 120 courses weekly in Semester 2. Additionally, the new courses PHIL3120: Biomedical Ethics (Semester 1) and PHIL3110: Environmental Ethics (Semester 2) exceeded their quota in the first week of registration. However, our courses were not without concerns as staff and students faced operational challenges over which they had no control. These ranged from inadequate classroom space (especially for laboratory sessions in FOUN1019) and unsatisfactory classroom conditions to challenges associated with registration.

Owing to delayed approval of posts for teaching by the VMC, some Linguistics and Philosophy courses were not available early on the Student Administration System (SAS) when students wanted to select them for study in Semester 1. When those courses were eventually available on SAS for registration, some suffered unprecedented low registration. There were also general delays by the Registry Information Systems (RIS) in uploading the Department's Course Offering and amendments to courses. These delays impeded the smooth registration of students

Table 1: Number of Courses the DLLP offered in Semesters 1 and 2 and Summer School, 2022–23

Section	Undergraduate			Postgraduate	
	Semester 1 courses	Semester 2 courses	Summer School courses (& enrolment)	Semester 1 courses	Semester 2 courses
Language					
*Academic Literacies	4 (~162 streams)	4 (~127 streams)	5 (193)	N/A	N/A
*Language	2	3	2 (42)	1	1
Linguistics	14	17	2 (29)	11	14
Philosophy	15	16	2 (26)	5	5
Total	35	40	11 (290)	17	20

and consumed a large amount of Coordinators' time in attempting to address the situation. Thankfully, despite these challenges, students benefitted from the teaching/learning opportunities afforded them.

Pass/Fail Results – Undergraduate Courses

When 2022–23 results for each semester are disaggregated and undergraduate students who registered but did not attend classes are eliminated from the total count in courses, pass rates range from high 70s (except in an instance of 63%) to 100% as indicated in Table 2.

Table 2: Disaggregated Results for the DLLP for 2022–23

Section	Sem. 1, 2022–23	Sem. 2, 2022–23	Summer Schl, 2022–23
Academic Literacies (FOUN) courses	over 86% to over 95%	over 79% to 100%	over 83% to 98%
English Language Writing and Speech (LANG) courses	over 98% to 100%	over 79% to 100%	over 92% to 100%
Linguistics courses	over 85% to 100%	over 63% to 100%	100%
Philosophy courses	over 79% to 100%	over 78% to 100%	100%

Staff-Student Liaison Meetings/Student Evaluations

Students provided largely positive feedback on teaching in most courses during Staff-Student Liaison meetings in both semesters. Their few complaints concerned lecture slides that were not posted to OurVLE in very few courses and structure/pace/workload/uncooperative group members in a few others. Staff in those meetings expressed that a) they enjoyed classes and would address students' comments/suggestions and b) some students did not attend classes/consultation sessions, did

not read or watch recordings or did not engage sufficiently with course materials to benefit from them. Student evaluations of teaching were unavailable for Semester 1; however, the average rating given for Semester 2 was 4 out of 5 for the Department.

The Department also received positive feedback on the following activities that were hosted for both undergraduate and graduate students' development:

1. LOUD Linguistics Club empowerment sessions, including sessions on mental wellness.
2. Guest Presentations in courses: Students benefitted from advisory and motivational interactive sessions with special invited guests with specific relevant expertise in the subject matter, as well as with students who had formerly pursued the courses or who were pursuing the courses.
 - a. LING3909: Panel Discussion on the Practice of Interpreting – organised by the lecturer, Ms. Sandra Hamilton, and held in March 2023 for students to meet and learn from practicing interpreters and translators from various countries and language backgrounds.
 - b. FOUN1016: i) Blair Santos – “The FOUN1016 Experience in Retrospect: Motivation for New Students” (October 2022); ii) Jamilia Morgan – “My Experience Writing the Collaborative Essay” (October 2022); and iii) Sheri-Gaye Johnson – “Planning and Delivering the Collaborative Presentation” (November 2022)
 - c. FOUN1014: Abishua Johnson – “Ways in which FOUN1014 was beneficial to personal and professional development as a student; applicability to other courses” (Jan. 2023)
 - d. LANG3001: i) Professor Tanya Haye, Lecturer, Communications Department, Faculty of Language, Literature & Performing Arts, Douglas College, British Columbia (Nov. 2022); ii) Mrs. Annette Robotham, President, College of Insurance & Professional Studies (CIPS) Communicators Toastmasters Club, Kingston (Nov. 2022); and iii) Dr. Robynne Chutkan – Host of PBS Special ‘Gutbliss’, TED talk presenter “Why the Microbiome is the Future of Medicine” and Washington DC-based Gastroenterologist (Apr. 2023).
3. The Linguistics Section’s annual Undergraduate Research Conference, held on April 20, 2023 under the theme “60 Years of the King’s English: The Jamaican Speech Community and Beyond”: Undergraduate students presented on selected topics from Linguistics courses they had taken and research they had done as part of their course requirements. The event was successfully organized by students of the Postgraduate Linguistics Workshop course LING6611: *Workshop Series on Professionalism in Linguistics*.
4. Philosophy Public Lecture entitled “African Philosophy and Cultural History of Ideas,” delivered online by Professor Edwin Etieyibo (University of Witwatersrand in South Africa & Adjunct Professor at University of Alberta, Canada) to over 84 participants on April 5, 2023.

Other initiatives undertaken to enhance student development included:

- Academic writing and critical thinking skills workshops and coaching sessions in the Writing Centre (TWC) to provide support for all undergraduate and graduate students.
- Change in the English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) policy: Students who attained a CSEC English Language Grade 3 or below or Levels IV and V in CAPE Communication Studies should be directed to register for “Critical Reading and Writing in the Disciplines” (FOUN1019) upon entry to The UWI, Mona; however, these students should still be given the option of sitting the ELPT. This change was approved for implementation in 2023–24.

Student Awards

During the Faculty’s Annual Student Awards Ceremony held in-person in the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre (N1) and streamed via UWI MonaMedia on November 10, 2022, the following students were recognised for demonstrating academic excellence in their programmes/courses within the Department for the previous academic year (2021–22):

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

FOUN1002: Language: Argument	Jade Normalae Simmonds
FOUN1013: Critical Reading and Writing in the Social Sciences	Rashika Sushanna Samuels
FOUN1014: Critical Reading and Writing in Science & Technology & Medical Sciences	Jahvaine Junior Currie
FOUN1016: Critical Reading and Expository Writing in the Humanities and Education	Jamilla Danielle Morgan
FOUN1019: Critical Reading and Writing in the Disciplines	Tavory Alex Simpson
LANG2001: Language and Ethics	Delisa Nathania McLean
LANG2003: Critical Analysis of Communicative Events	Jeneilia Jenecia Roberts
LANG3001: The Art of Public Speaking	Abigail Faith Whittingham
LANG3003: Technical Writing	Adam Justin Ross Minott
LANG3101: Workplace Communication: Principles and Practices	Sasha-Gaye Toni-Michelle Clarke

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

Linguistics, Level I	Thoneisa Parisa Jarrett
Formal Linguistics, Level II	Asmahani-Aza Erin McLean Cooke
Non-Formal Linguistics, Level II	Tanya Tameka Joseph
Formal Linguistics, Level III	Reana Davis
Non-Formal Linguistics, Level III	Reana Davis
John Reinecke Memorial Prize: (Top Pure Linguistics student for 2021/2022)	Reana Davis

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

Philosophy, Level I	Andrew Blake
Philosophy, Level II	John Vianney Turyasingura
Philosophy, Level III	Mark Donovan Spence

Departmental Prize – *For most outstanding academic performance in programmes:*

Language, Communication and Society	Jody-Kay Myles
Linguistics and Language Education	Zoya Henry and Celeste Comrie

GRADUATE STUDENT MATTERS**Programmes/Registration**

Over 50 students were registered in the Department’s graduate programmes at the start of 2022–23. A few deferred study/withdrew/took leave of absence while others completed their programmes during the year. Table 3 provides information regarding students who completed and continued their programmes in 2022–23.

Table 3: Registration of graduate students who completed/continued DLLP programmes in 2022–23

Degree	English Language	Linguistics	Philosophy	Africa and African Diaspora Studies
Postgraduate Diploma		2 completed		
Master of Arts	21 (P/T)	3 continuing (2 P/T, 1 F/T)	1 completed, 2 continuing	3 continuing
Master of Philosophy		8 continuing (5 P/T, 3 F/T)	6 continuing (1 F/T, 5 P/T)	
Doctor of Philosophy		1 completed, 4 continuing (2 P/T, 2 F/T)		

Mentorship (beyond the initiatives noted earlier) and student engagement

1. Professor Lawrence Bamikole gave presentations to graduate students of the Faculty of Humanities and Education as follows:
 - “Connecting Philosophy with Research Productions” on September 30, 2022.
 - “Strategies for Engaging in Scholarly Texts” on March 3, 2023.
2. The Philosophy Section implemented various measures to try to assist the three (3) students who were registered in the Africa and African Diaspora Stud-

ies Programme offered jointly by The University of the West Indies and the University of Lagos in Nigeria (UWI-UNILAG).

3. Five (5) students presented in a Philosophy Section Graduate Seminar on October 12, 2022.
4. Honorary Research Fellows (engaged for 2022–2024) offered various forms of mentoring support to graduate students and junior staff, including delivering presentations in the Department's events.
5. Ms. Annie Kitchin, a student in the M.A. Linguistics, attended the International School in Linguistic Fieldwork held in Paris, France, September 5–9, 2022.
6. Mr. Rudolph Ellis presented “Decoloniality: Much Ado About Nothing” at Canada-Caribbean Institute Symposium, held under the Theme *Decoloniality: Past, Present and Future Directions*, at The UWI, Cave-Hill Campus, February 23-25, 2023. (28 slides).
7. Mrs. Tanyia Joy Wilkins Miller presented “Sociolinguistic influence on Phonological Development in Jamaican Children” at the Winter Meeting of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, held virtually, January 13, 2023 (19 slides) and “*Phonological Development in Jamaican Children: Navigating a Linguistically Complex Environment*” at the Summer Meeting of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Languages, held at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands, June 26–29, 2023. (24 slides).
8. The Department's Postgraduate Research Seminar was held virtually on June 28, 2023 for graduate students to present on their research and receive feedback from academic staff besides their supervisors.

Scholarships and Departmental/Other Awards

- Ms. Shanique Taylor received a UWI Postgraduate Scholarship and Ms. Sashann Dixon had hers renewed for the 2022–23 academic year.
- Ms. Juliet Jackson (Linguistics), Ms. Britny Palmer (Linguistics), Ms. Donikue Campbell (Linguistics), Ms. Elaine Fenelus (Linguistics), Mr. Oluwadamilola Ajayi (Philosophy) and Ms. Jillian Watson (Linguistics – Sponsored by Chemistry) received Departmental Awards for the 2022–23 academic year.
- The Department was pleased that an alumna of Linguistics, Professor Shelome Gooden (University of Pittsburgh) delivered the Faculty's Distinguished Lecture “Beyond Scholarship in the Humanities and Social Sciences: Lessons from Linguistics” on April 26, 2023.

Postgraduate Degrees Awarded

Mr. Andy Spence and Ms. Renae Peynado were awarded the M.A. in Linguistics; Ms. Amanda Gooden and Mr. Kemar Wright were awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Linguistics; and 13 students were awarded the M.A. in English Language, four (4) of them with Distinction.

MPhil Upgrade Seminars

The Philosophy Section successfully guided two of its graduate students through their MPhil Upgrade Seminar as follows:

- Ms. Janice Smith. Topic: “Orality, Rationality and Epistemic Justification in Caribbean Philosophy.” February 14, 2023.
- Mr. Rudolph Ellis. Topic: “Towards a Reconciliation of Post-Colonial Self in the Discourses of Poeticism and Historicism in Caribbean Philosophical Thought.” April 21, 2023.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The Department continued to advocate for staff in terms of timely approval of posts, issuing of contracts, access to the e-system, payment for services rendered, and promotion/career progression. In the main, we were successful. Approval was granted for a regular lecturer in the English Language Section, so advertising, interviewing and selection followed for the appointment to be made for 2023–2024. Multiple adjunct and temporary full time posts were also approved across the Department. However, approval was not granted when a regular full time lecturer post in Philosophy was requested. Additionally, approval of posts was delayed at the start of the second semester when colleagues encountered emergencies and additional staff members were required. Due to the relatively low 2022–23 student intake, projections made for student numbers, especially in the Academic Literacies courses, had to be lowered after the first few weeks of each semester. This change resulted in a reduction in the hours assigned to adjunct staff and a redeployment of full-time staff in several courses. Several Instructors were required to straddle courses, necessitating quick adjustment to course material, but most executed teaching with grace.

We also continued to encourage leave-taking so that staff can find spaces to rest and advance research in more ways than they are usually able to do while fulfilling teaching and other duties. In that regard, Dr. Caroline Dyche (Lecturer) returned from Sabbatical Leave and Mrs. Julian Hylton-Chambers (Instructor) proceeded on Sabbatical leave. Dr. Sandra McCalla went on No Pay Leave and was replaced temporarily by Mr. Simeon Mohansingh for 2022–23.

In terms of progression, Instructors Mrs. Kelleen Sewell-Ayton and Ms. Dadre White were offered renewal of contract on indefinite employment, retroactive to August 1, 2022, and Mr. George McCaulsky, Ms. Tereka Brown and Ms. Loverne George were offered regular 2-year Instructor contracts, also beginning August 1. During a lunch meeting on June 14, 2023, we bid farewell to Professor Lawrence Bamikole who was scheduled to retire at the end of the academic year.

Psycho-Social Support

One staff member was granted a reduced workload for 2022–23 while two members were granted leave of absence for Semester 2 – for medical reasons. Their duties were reassigned to existing staff and/or covered by new staff who graciously offered support beyond teaching.

Besides department meetings held to keep staff abreast of developments and the objectives for the year/semester, each academic section had meetings before or early in each semester to establish guidelines for teaching and offer suggestions for professional development. The English Language Section, in particular, held successful professional development plenary sessions for staff at the beginning of each semester (August 18, 2022 and January 11, 2023).

PUBLICATIONS

Members of the academic staff continued to find spaces to research, write and publish materials while carrying heavy teaching loads or during leave periods that the Department encourages. Faculty members recorded the following publications in 2022–23:

Books & Monographs

- Hollington, Andrea, **Joseph T. Farquharson**, and Byron M. Jones (eds.). *Contact Languages and Music*. Kingston: University of the West Indies Press, 2022.

Book Chapters

- **Bamikole, Lawrence** and John Ayotunde Isola Bewaji. “Moral Responsibility in Traditional Yoruba Society.” *Philosophical Reflections on Some Concerns and Values in African Societies*, edited by F. Ochieng’-Odhiambo. United Kingdom: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2023, pp. 61–97.
- Devarakonda, Balaganapathi. “Dissent and Democracy in Early Buddhism.” *Great Transition in India: Issues and Debates*, edited by Chanwahn Kim and Misu Kim. Singapore: World Scientific Publishing and Institute of Indian Studies, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1142/13307>
- **Farquharson, Joseph T.** and Bettina Migge. “Sociolinguistics in the Caribbean.” *The Routledge Handbook of Sociolinguistics around the World* (2nd ed.), edited by Martin J. Ball, Rajend Mesthrie, and Chiara Meluzzi. London: Routledge, 2023, 12 pp.
- **Farquharson, Joseph T.**, Andrea Hollington, and Byron M. Jones. Introduction. *Contact Languages and Music*, edited by Andrea Hollington, Joseph T. Farquharson, and Byron M. Jones. Kingston: University of the West Indies Press, 2022, pp. 1–13.

- **Messam, Trecel** and Michele Kennedy. “Jamaican Creole Tense and Aspect in Contact – Insights from Acquisition and Loss.” *Social and Structural Aspects of Language Contact and Change*, edited by Bettina Migge and Shelome Gooden. Berlin: Language Science Press, pp. 287–324. DOI:10.5281/zenodo.6979325.
- Oenbring, Raymond and **Vivette Milson-Whyte**. “When the Writing Program Farm is a Former Plantation: Transnational Writing Program Administration in the Anglophone Caribbean.” *Teaching and Studying Transnational Composition*, edited by Christiane Donahue and Bruce Horner. New York: Modern Language Association of America (MLA), 2022, pp. 227–242.

Refereed Journal Articles

- **Devarakonda, Balaganapathi** and Nidhi Jarwal. “Youth Participation in Democratic Politics: Impediments and Prospects.” *Journal of South Asian Studies* 27.4 (2022): 49–70. DOI: 10.21587/jsas.2022.27.4.003
- Gautam, Raul D. and **Balaganapathi Devarakonda**. “Towards a bioinformational understanding of AI.” *Artificial Intelligence & Society* 37 (2022):1–23. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-022-01529-5>
- Devarakonda, Balaganapathi. “Conversations on Psychological Counselling and Philosophical Counselling: Examining the Convergences and Divergences Between Philosophical and Psychological Counselling.” Special issue on Philosophical Counselling: Concepts, Methods and Debates in *Philosophical Practice: Journal of the American Philosophical Practitioners Association*, 18.1 (2023): 3072–3084.
- **Milson-Whyte, Vivette** and **Annife Campbell**. “Neo-liberal Influences and Academic Writing Support Systems in Higher Education.” *The UWI Quality Education Forum*, 26 (2022): 119–145.
- Omosulu, Rotimi. “Western and African Perspectives on Value.” *NAJOP: Nasarawa Journal of Philosophy*, 7.2 (2022): 1–19.

Non-refereed Publications

- Devarakonda, Balaganapathi. “Expanding Frontiers of Knowledge” *Vantage: Journal of Thematic Analysis*, 4.1 (2023): 1–4.
- Devarakonda, Balaganapathi. “K. Satchidananda Murty.” *The Panorama of Indian Philosophers and Thinkers: Encyclopedic collection*, edited by S. R. Bhatt and Neerka Arun Gupta. Bhopal: Sachi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies, 2023, pp. 393–403.
- **Devarakonda, Balaganapathi** and Vikas Baniwal. Editorial Introduction. Special issue on *Philosophical Counselling: Concepts, Methods and Debates in Philosophical Practice: Journal of the American Philosophical Practitioners Association*, 18.1 (2023): 3024–3026.

- **Devarakonda, Balaganapathi** and Vikas Baniwal. Editorial Introduction. *HASER Revista Internacional de Filosofia Aplicada*, 14 (2023): 13–17.
- **Lawrence, Jasmin** and **George McCaulsky**. “Reimagining Academic Writing Experiences in a Pandemic: Tutors of Science Majors Reflect on the Transition to Remote Teaching.” *Journal of English Teaching* (JET publication of the National Association of Teachers of English in Jamaica), 46 (2022): 4–10.

ALIGNMENT

Staff members seized the opportunity for professional development presented by conferences, panel discussions, symposiums, talks, webinars and workshops that continued to be held virtually or were increasing face-to-face. Some of these sessions addressed the popular subject of “Academic Integrity and Artificial Intelligence (AI).” These staff members, some of whom accessed their Study and Travel Grant to pay registration fees for virtual sessions, included Mrs. Jesse Antwi-Cooper, Professor Lawrence Bamikole, Ms. Khimaja Connell, Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda, Dr. Caroline Dyche, Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson, Dr. Carmeneta Jones, Ms. Jasmin Lawrence, Ms. Dejon Lingo, Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte, Ms. Sandra Minott, Mrs. Lileth O’Connor-Brown, Dr. Rotimi Omosulu and Mrs. Tanya Joy Wilkins Miller. Some sessions were hosted by the Caribbean Association of Tertiary-Level Academic Literacies Practitioners (CATALP); The Chronicle of Higher Education; Conference of the Modern Language Association of America (MLA); the Convention of the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC); European Association of Teachers of Academic Writers (EATAW) Conference; National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE, USA); National Conference of the Association of Professional Philosophers of Nigeria (APPON); UWI/UNESCO; the various UWI campuses; and various Universities in Germany and in India. Some of those colleagues and others also participated in the 2nd Annual FHE Research Symposium and Launch of the FHE Research Index on June 2, 2023.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Some academic staff members and graduate students were also able to advance research that they had started before or during the pandemic and shared their research findings in seminars/webinars, workshops and conferences. The following are some of their presentations given at major seminars/conferences:

- **Mr. Annife Campbell**: “Does Past Writing Determine Future Writing? Predicting Marks on Undergraduate Students’ Essays Using a Predictive Probability Approach.” Paper presented at the sixth triennial Writing Research Across Borders (WRAB VI) conference held at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway, February 18–22, 2023. 27 slides.

- **Ms. Khimaja Connell:** “Radicalism Creolisation: Beyond Slavery and Colonialism.” Paper presented virtually at the International Colloquium on Global African studies in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America organised by Pan-African Strategic & Policy Research Group (PANAFSTRAG) and Academy of African Indigenous Religions, Theology and Arts (AAIRTA) and PJ Patterson Institute for Africa Caribbean Advocacy on February 15, 2023. 34 slides.
- **Ms. Khimaja Connell:** “Claiming Oceanic Territory: Ethical Considerations.” Paper presented to the National Bioethics Committee of Jamaica (NBCJ), JNC-UNESCO, Kingston, Jamaica, March 30, 2023. 36 slides.
- **Ms. Khimaja Connell:** “Defying Canons: Amy Jacques Garvey and Edna Manley as Caribbean Women Philosophers.” Paper presented in the Online Conference on Non-Canonical Women in the Histories of Philosophy organised by Koselleck Project Histories of Philosophy in a Global Perspective, Universität Hildesheim, Germany on March 16, 2023 and in a webinar hosted by Carney Latin American Solidarity Archive (CLASA), University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, USA, April 18, 2023. 24pp.
- **Ms. Khimaja Connell:** “Considering the Russia-Ukraine War Through the Lens of Creolisation: Being and Becoming More Than We Are.” Paper Presented at Salzburg Philosophical Society, Salzburg, Austria, June 28, 2023. 20pp.
- **Dr. Keren Cumberbatch:** “A First Look at Contact Signing in CARICOM.” Paper presented at the 7th Symposium on the History of English Lexicography and Lexicology, held online and hosted jointly by the Jamaican Language Unit (JLU) at The University of the West Indies, Mona, and the Richard and Jeannette Allsopp Centre for Caribbean Lexicography at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, June 7–8, 2023. 19 slides.
- **Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda:** “Philosophical exploration into the journey of Hanuman in Sundarakanda.” Presentation in a session organized online by the Centre for Theology at Shoolini University, Solan, India, August 29, 2022. 9 slides.
- **Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda:** “How to complete a task? Lessons from the journey of Hanuman in Sundarakanda.” Lecture in a session organized online by the Centre for Professional Development in Higher Education at the University of Delhi, Delhi, India, August 24, 2022. 10 slides.
- **Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda:** “Exploring the Focus of Human Action: A space that conflates Meditative Inquiry and Philosophical Counselling.” Paper presented in the International Conference on *Engaging with Meditative Inquiry in Teaching, Learning and Research*, organised online by the Faculty of Education, Mount Saint Vincent University, Canada, August 18, 2022. 6 slides.

- **Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda:** “Spirituality and Sustainable Life: A few Observations.” Paper presented in an online conference on Spiritual Consciousness-driven Art, Science & Engineering for Ultimate Sustainability of Life on Earth, organised by Dayalbagh Educational Institute (DEI), India; Arizona State University, USA; University of Kiel, Germany; University of Waterloo, Canada; University of Western Ontario, London, Canada; University of Birmingham, UK, January 1, 2023. 7 slides.
- **Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda:** “Philosophical Counselling.” Keynote address delivered at the inauguration of the Centre for Philosophical Counselling, Values and Well-being organised by Daulat Ram College, Delhi, India, February 27, 2023. 15 slides.
- **Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda:** “Future Prospects for Philosophical Counselling in India.” Online lecture in a seminar organized by the Philosophical Practitioners Association of India, New Delhi, March 24, 2023. 12 slides.
- **Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda:** “The Role of Philosophy in Addressing Health and Global Environmental Concerns.” Inaugural lecture in the Global Conversations Series hosted by the Open Campus in recognition of the 75th Anniversary of The UWI, June 29, 2023. 11 slides.
- **Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda:** “Being Equanimous: Learning from the Bhagavad Gita.” Lecture delivered in a programme organised online by the American Philosophy Practitioners Association, New York in collaboration with PPAI, India, July 16, 2023. 15 slides.
- **Dr. Caroline Dyche:** “The Issue of Language and Identity in Caribbean Tertiary-level Academic Literacies Instruction: A ‘Carpe Diem’ time for AL practitioners.” Paper presented at the Society for Caribbean Linguistics 50th Anniversary Conference, August 2, 2022. 13 slides.
- **Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson** and Dr. R. Anthony Lewis (Honorary Research Fellow): “Approaches to Terminology Expansion in a Caribbean Creole Language: The Case of Jamaican.” Paper presented at the Inaugural Colloquium of the Translators’ and Interpreters’ Association of Jamaica, under the theme “Translating and Interpreting (in) the Caribbean: Current Trends and Future Prospects,” September 30 2022. 14 slides.
- **Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson:** “Past Time Reference in Jamaican between Superstrate and Substrate.” Paper presented at the Winter Meeting of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, held virtually, January 12–13, 2023. 16 pp.
- **Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson:** “Contact Languages and the Sociolinguistics of Diaspora: Towards an Integrated Approach.” Paper presented in the Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany, January 18, 2023. 15 slides.

- **Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson:** “Questioning Language and Knowledge: The Challenge to Creole-speaking Communities.” Virtual talk for Bonington Gallery in the UK to mark Cedar Lewisohn’s solo exhibition called “Patois Banton,” April 5, 2023.
- **Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson:** “Language contact, word-formation, and the evolution of an urban register: The case of Toronto slang.” Virtual presentation in the Colóquio de investigación lingüística, Universidad de Sonora, Mexico, May 5, 2023. 13 slides.
- **Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson:** “From possessive noun phrase to interjection: Mapping a lexification network in an English-related Creole.” Paper presented at the 24th Biennial meeting of the Dictionary Society of North America, held in Boulder, Colorado, May 31–June 3, 2023. 10 slides.
- **Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson:** “Language contact and issues for the lexicography of English and English-related varieties.” Paper presented at the 7th International Symposium on the History of English Lexicography and Lexicology, held online and hosted jointly by the Jamaican Language Unit (JLU) at The University of the West Indies, Mona, and the Richard and Jeannette Allsopp Centre for Caribbean Lexicography at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, June 7–8, 2023. 11 slides.
- **Mr. George McCaulsky:** “Queering the Jamaican Language/Writing Classroom: Perspectives and Possibilities.” Paper presented at the 29th annual Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference held at the University of Idaho at Boise, Idaho, USA, March 10, 2023. 14 slides.
- **Dr. Trecel Messam:** “Effects of the Second Language on the First: An Examination of Stability in Attrition after 10 Years.” Paper presented at the Winter Meeting of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, held virtually, January 13, 2023. 32 slides.
- **Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte:** “Audacious/Persistent Hope: Intersections in Language Advocacy.” Paper presented in an online on-demand session of the Convention of the Conference on College Composition and Communication held in Chicago, Illinois, February 15–18, 2023. 19pp.
- **Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte and Mr. Annife Campbell:** “Writing’s Worth: A Critical Reflection from Academic Writing Scholars and Teachers associated with the Anglophone Caribbean.” Paper presented in hybrid* format at the sixth triennial Writing Research Across Borders (WRAB VI) Conference held at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway, February 18–22, 2023. *Dr. Milson-Whyte presented online while Mr. Campbell was in-person. 27 slides.
- **Ms. Sandra Minott:** “Of COVID-19 and BMA Genomes in Bilingual Sentence Strands: A Mathematical Iteration Towards Creole Robotics.” Poster presented

at the sixth triennial Writing Research Across Borders (WRAB VI) Conference held at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway, February 18–22, 2023 and at the 4th Biennial Mixed Methods Research Conference, held at The University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago, July 10–12, 2023.

- **Dr. Rotimi Omosulu:** “Omoluabi as an Objective Moral Value in Yoruba Thought System.” Paper presented virtually at the International Colloquium on Global African studies in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America, organised by Pan-African Strategic & Policy Research Group (PANAFSTRAG) and Academy of African Indigenous Religions, Theology and Arts (AAIRTA) and PJ Patterson Institute for Africa Caribbean Advocacy, February 15, 2023. 19 slides.
- **Dr. Rotimi Omosulu:** “Human-Nature Relationship: From Nonboundary to Boundary.” Paper presented at the Geo-Aesthetics 16th Annual Conference hosted by Towson University, USA, March 17–18, 2023. 17 slides.
- **Dr. Rotimi Omosulu:** “Beyond Ecotheology: Human Obligations to the Environment.” Paper delivered at a Public Lecture organised by St. Michael’s College, Kingston, Jamaica, March 30, 2023. 33 slides.
- **Dr. Kadian Walters:** “The Cinderella Linguistic Discrimination Syndrome: Institutional Bilingualism in Jamaica.” Paper presented at the Beryl Bailey Symposium on the Jamaican Language held at The University of the West Indies, Mona, April 14, 2023. 34 slides.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Outreach and Engagement/Activism and Public Advocacy

Colleagues engaged in outreach activities and advocacy initiatives within and beyond the institution. Within the institution, colleagues presented to students in other departments (Bamikole, Devarakonda, Dwyer Evans, Lawrence, Lingo, Omosulu, Powell-McArthur, Sewell-Ayton), presented in Orientation of New Staff (Milson-Whyte) and served on committees (such as Ethics, Quality Assurance, Valedictorian Selection, WIGUT) across the campus (Farquharson, Harry, Jones, Messam, Milson-Whyte, Minott, Omosulu, Wilkins Miller). Some colleagues reviewed materials, gave presentations and facilitated workshops in other institutions (Ababio, Cumberbatch, Dean, Dwyer Evans, Dyche, Farquharson, Heron, Jones, Messam, Milson-Whyte, Morgan, O’Connor-Brown, Sewell-Ayton, Walters); some gave public service via church organisations (Lingo, Minott, Morgan, Walters); some judged competitions (Farquharson, Morgan) while others discussed disciplinary and societal issues on radio/television programmes (Devarakonda, Farquharson, Omosulu).

Specific, notable, engagements included the following:

- Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda gave several lectures on philosophy, philosophy for everyday life, yoga, philosophical counselling, well-being, and religions and traditions, among other topics, in-person in various communities and organisations across Jamaica and online in multiple institutions in India and elsewhere.
- Members of the English Language Section (ELS) and the Linguistics Section reviewed and produced separate Review Reports on the CAPE Communication Studies Draft Syllabus effective for examinations from May–June 2025.
- The Linguistics Section hosted its annual Linguistics Day, organised by Mr. Okeyno Morgan, on February 23, 2023. Participants included over 80 students and their teachers from Jonathan Grant High School, Jose Marti Technical High School and Oberlin High School. Mrs. Kelleen Sewell-Ayton and Ms. Shyrel-Ann Dean of the English Language Section facilitated sessions on Modules 1 and 2 of the Communication Studies syllabus while Linguistics undergraduate students represented the Department in a panel discussion. The visiting students and teachers provided positive the feedback on the event and activities.
- Mr. Okeyno Morgan organised and presented a Communication Studies Masterclass to students of multiple high schools during May 2023.
- Dr. Rotimi Omosulu hosted on Zoom various sessions of the African Environmental Ethics Association (AEEA).

Initiatives of the Jamaican Language Unit (JLU), the chief outreach and advocacy arm of the Department, included the following:

- Launch of the JLU’s 20th anniversary combined with unveiling of a maquette of The Honourable Louise Bennett-Coverley (Ms. Lou), thanks to partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport (via JCDC, Kingston and St. Andrew) and with the Main Library, September 7, 2022
- The 8th Cassidy-Le Page Distinguished Lecture, with theme “Language, Music and Liberation,” delivered by Professor Ana Deumert (of University of Cape Town and Honorary Research Fellow Professor), Friday, November 25, 2022 and streamed via the Braadkyass Jamiekan YouTube site
- Workshop on the Cassidy-JLU Writing System for Voice and Speech students in the School of Drama at the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, facilitated by Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson, March 27, 2023
- Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson as one of the adjudicators for the Patwa Dibiet/Patois Debate hosted by the Language Teaching and Research Centre at the University of Technology, Jamaica, March 30, 2023
- Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson as part of a panel at the Speech, Language and Learning Intervention Research Symposium 2023 held virtually on March 31,

2023: The panel focused on the work of Dr. Karla Washington (of University of Toronto and Honorary Research Fellow in the JLU) and her team which studies language development in Jamaican children at the basic school level. The discussion centered on the benefits of interdisciplinary research and respectful collaboration with communities.

- The Beryl Bailey Symposium held under the theme “New Directions for the Jamaican Language” on Friday, April 14, 2023: The main presenters were Dr. Kadian Walters, Dr. André Coy, and Dr. R. Anthony Lewis (Honorary Research Fellow). Discussant was former coordinator of the JLU Professor Emeritus Hubert Devonish.
- Consultancy work with Wycliffe Caribbean regarding the translation of the Book of Genesis into Jamaican: This work involves expert checking of the translation for language as well as hosting several community testing sessions to get feedback from the intended users of the text.

Service on Committees/Boards

Members of the Department are also active on various national and international and/or professional boards/committees, including the Caribbean Examinations Council, Girl Guides Association of Jamaica, Jamaica Cultural Development Commission, Society for Caribbean Linguistics, Teachers Service Commission, UNESCO, and editorial boards of various journals. Table 4 captures some of these engagements.

Table 4: National/International/Professional Boards/Committees on which DLLP Members serve

Staff Member	Post/Role/s	Public/ (Inter)National/ Professional Body/ies
Mr. Norty Antoine	‘Question and Answer’ Trainer/ coach for the St. James Festival Queen Competition	Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC)
Ms. Khimaja Connell	Member	Jamaica National Bioethics Committee Jamaica Environment Trust
Dr. Keren Cumberbatch	Board Chair	Danny Williams School for the Deaf
	Director, Executive Board	Jamaica Association for the Deaf
Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda	Member, Academic Council (2022–25)	Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, India
	Member, Academic Council (2022–25)	Bhogilal Lehar Chand Institute of Indology, New Delhi, India
	Member, Advisory and Impact Board (ADIM, 2023–25)	VERITY – a project on trust in science funded by European Union’s Horizon Europe research & innovation program

Table 4 continues

Staff Member	Post/Role/s	Public/ (Inter)National/ Professional Body/ies
Dr. Caroline Dyche	Editorial Committee member	Advocates Network/No 9 Day Wonder Movement against Gender Violence, Kingston
	Christian Education and Formation Committee member	Community of Reconciliation, Kingston
	Executive Committee member	Caribbean Association of Tertiary-Level Academic Literacies Practitioners (CATALP)
Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson	Vice President Chief Editor of the book series Studies in Caribbean Languages	Society for Caribbean Linguistics
	Executive Board Member-at-Large	Dictionary Society of North America
	Membership Chair	Cornwall College Old Boys' Association – Kingston Chapter
	Convenor	CAPE Communication Studies Subject Panel
	Board Member	Helsinki Society for Historical Lexicography
Ms. Dejon Lingo	Board Member	Calvary Wesleyan Holiness Church and International Samaritan, Jamaica
Dr. Trecel Messam	Founder	They Can Foundation
	Member	UWI (Regional) Linguistics Academic Sub-Committee
Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte	Ordinary Member & Vice Chair Chair Chair	- Teachers Service Commission (TSC) - Evaluation of Qualifications Committee - Special Committee (for streamlining selection of leaders of institutions)
	Editorial Review Board Member Member, Editorial Review Board and Publications Review Board	WAC Clearing House Landmark Publications in Writing Studies series International Exchanges on the Study of Writing series
	Editorial Board member	Literacy in Composition Studies (LiCS) journal
	Vice President of the Council Chair of the Executive Committee	Girl Guides Association of Jamaica
	Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize Selection Committee Member (2022–24)	Modern Language Association of America
	Member Mentor	MHS Global Alumni Mentorship Programme
Dr. Rotimi Omosulu	Member	Alliance of Yoruba in Jamaica
	Editorial Member	Ede Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences
Mrs. Kelleen Sewell-Ayton	UWI representative	National Association of Teachers of English (NATE), Jamaica
Mrs. Tanyia Wilkins Miller	Member	UWI (Regional) Linguistics Academic Sub-Committee

Collaboration/Partnerships

The Department continued and renewed agreements and sought new partnerships with other universities, private sector entities, government ministries and non-governmental organisations to support its programmes and activities and create mutually beneficial collaborations. Some of our partnerships over 2022–23 are outlined below.

- To continue collaboration between the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) and The UWI, and through the efforts of Dean Silvia Kouwenberg and Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in August 2022.
- The Department of Chemistry continued to participate in the Writing/Speaking Across the Curriculum (WAC/SAC) initiative of the English Language Section (ELS). In this arrangement, the ELS identifies a graduate student who facilitates writing and speaking sessions for students in Chemistry and Chemistry sponsors the Departmental Award.
- The Department collaborated with the Indian High Commission and the Indian Cultural Society to host successfully the 2022 Gandhi Day celebration involving garlanding of the Gandhi Statue in the FHE Sculpture Park and a public lecture entitled “Gandhian Model of Self-Reliance for Post-Colonial Democracies: India and Jamaica” and delivered by Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda on October 2, 2022.
- We collaborated with Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO (JNC-UNESCO) to celebrate World Philosophy Day on November 17, 2022. JNC-UNESCO sponsored the event with a contribution of J\$80,000. Organized around the theme “The Question of Nature: Human Responsibility and the Environment,” UWI/UNESCO World Philosophy Day 2022 was declared open by Ms. Paula Isturiz Caverro, Programme Specialist for the Social and Human Sciences in the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean. Also participating in the event were Hon. Olivia Grange, CD, MP (Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport), represented by Mr. Everton Hannan (Secretary General, JNC-UNESCO) and Dr. Carey Wallace, Executive Director of the Tourism Enhancement Fund.
- Ms. Khimaja Connell, upon invitation, visited the Institute for Moral Theology at the Catholic Private University in Linz, Austria on June 27, 2023. A group at the institution that holds discussions about the Russia-Ukraine war would like to include a Caribbean perspective in the discussion and has invited her to submit a paper.
- Based on the outreach efforts of Ms. Khimaja Connell, the Montego Bay Marine Park Trust proposed an initiative to collaborate to host field trips at a discounted rate and donate a portion of the proceeds to the Department. July 2023.

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and The University of the West Indies (UWI) was renewed on March 29, 2023 for five years (2023–2028). This MoU affords the Philosophy Section/DLLP a Visiting Professor who occupies the ICCR-funded Chair in Indology and Gandhian studies.



His Excellency Mr. Masakui Rungsung (left), High Commissioner of India to Jamaica, and Professor Ian Boxill, The UWI, Mona's Deputy Principal, shake hands after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the continuation of the ICCR Chair of Indology and Gandhian Studies, established in 2012, in the Philosophy Section on the Mona Campus. Sharing in the moment from left are Dr. Carmel Roofe, Deputy Dean for Graduate Studies in the Faculty of Humanities and Education, Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte, Head of the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, and Mr. Carl Lawrence, Campus Legal Officer.

AGILITY

The Department participated in The UWI Mona Campus World Quality Week Celebration 2022, two Sections followed up on Quality Assurance Review (QAR) recommendations, some members received awards and grants/funding, and we had mixed results from our income-earning projects.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

World Quality Week Celebration 2022: During quality week in November 2022, a video of past students highlighting the positive impact of studying in the DLLP on overall student development and preparedness for professional endeavours was

submitted and featured. Following its QAR in October 2021 and presentation of its Action Plan to Faculty Board in May 2022 and to Academic Board in June 2022, the Philosophy Section presented its Follow Up Review to Faculty Board on May 26, 2023 and was scheduled for presentation to Academic Board in June 2023 but this was postponed. Following its QAR in February 2022, the Linguistics Section presented its Action Plan to Faculty Board in October 2022 and to Academic Board in January 2023.

AWARDS/GRANTS/FUNDING

Mrs. Shauna-Kaye Powell- McArthur, Adjunct Lecturer (Linguistics,) received special recognition for outstanding contribution to social good impact in the category “Good Health and Well-Being” (Sustainable Development Goal 3) from Project Management Initiative for her work as a Project Officer during its November 3, 2022 Social Good Recognition Ceremony.

Six staff members were recognised for the high quality of their teaching:

1. **Mrs. Ornette Blair** (adjunct FOUN1019 Instructor) and **Ms. Dejon Lingo** (full-time FOUN1019 Instructor) from the ELS and **Ms. Khimaja Connell**, **Mr. Okechukwu Ezenne** and **Dr. Rotimi Omosulu** from the Philosophy Section received 2022 UWI, Mona, Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) awards for Excellence in University Teaching (i.e. student evaluation ratings of 4.5 and above) on April 26, 2023.



Mr. Okechukwu Ezenne, Mrs. Ornette Blair, Ms. Dejon Lingo, Ms. Khimaja Connell and Dr. Rotimi Omosulu with their “UWI Distinguished Teaching Award (2022)”



Winner Ms. Shyrel-Ann Dean from the English Language Section

2. **Ms. Shyrel-Ann Dean** (from the ELS) was the winner of the Domino's Pizza 2023 Teachers' Day competition, May 10, 2023.
3. **Ms. Khimaja Connell** was featured in the January 2023 OeAD *Higher Education Erasmus+ Global Magazine*.
4. **Ms. Khimaja Connell** secured funding as follows:
 - the sum of J\$80,000 from Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO in support of World Philosophy Day 2022 Celebrations at The UWI, Mona.
 - a bursary in the sum of J\$25,000 from Jamaica Drums for Peace for a student with a declared major or minor in Philosophy – effective 2023–2024.
 - a Research and Publication grant in the amount of J\$300,000 to support the research and publication of a chapter entitled, “Gendering Caribbean Philosophy: Non-Canonical Caribbean Women Philosophers.” March 9, 2023.
- a grant of £4,860 to participate in the Erasmus+ Staff training mobility to the University of Salzburg. The goal of the exchange was to assist with developing a programme in intercultural philosophy, aimed at deepening the relationship between the Department of Philosophy at Salzburg and the Philosophy Section at The UWI at Mona, to facilitate future mobility of students and staff at both institutions. May 2, 2023.
5. In July 2023, **Dr. Joseph T. Farquharson** was informed that his March 2022 application to the CHASE fund had been favourably reviewed and he had been awarded JM\$4,517,560 for the first year of his two-year *Dictionary of the Jamaican Language* (DJL) project.
6. In July 2023, during the 75th Anniversary Principal's Research Awards, **Dr. Vivette Milson-Whyte** was retroactively awarded Best Research Publication (Book) for 2019/2020 in the Faculty of Humanities and Education for her co-edited book *Creole Composition: Academic Writing and Rhetoric in the Anglophone Caribbean* published August 2019 by Parlor Press. This book has garnered several international awards and has been identified as a valuable college text by different institutions.

INCOME GENERATION

Summer School

There was a reduction in the number of courses offered in Summer School 2023; however, the Department still realised a profit from the venture while assisting students, especially finalising students, for whom Summer School is critical.

Short Course

The English Language Section developed a 7-week conversational English course for offering to the international company Grid Engineering, based on the Mona Campus, beginning in May 2023. Given that the short conversational course, called “Multifaceted Jamaica”, was for a small group (costing J\$136,850.00), a very small profit was earned for sharing among campus entities.

English Language Proficiency Test Unit (ELPTU)

The ELPTU, with responsibility for placing students in Academic Literacies courses via a diagnosis of their English language reading and writing competencies, realised a slight increase in income over the miniscule earnings of the COVID years. The test fee was USD24, and there were four (4) sittings of the ELPT: August 5, September 2 and December 2, 2022, and April 21, 2023. A total of 920 candidates were tested at Mona and at the Western Jamaica Campus. Of this number, 455 candidates attained Level 1 and 465 candidates attained Level 2.

The Jamaican Language Unit/M.A. English Language

The M.A. in the English Language (M.A. EL) is a self-financing programme run by the Jamaican Language Unit (JLU). It was set up circa 2005 to fund the activities of the JLU and to fill a gap in the content knowledge of teachers of English at the secondary and tertiary levels. That gap has not yet been filled, which signals that there is still a need for the M.A. EL.

The programme has remained financially viable for most of its existence, except for a few instances when changes in campus policies/practices threatened the programme’s financial health. Over the past four (4) years, the programme has registered a year-end surplus every year – even in the year when the number of incoming students dipped from the usual 15–20 to nine (9) as a result of the financial uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The JLU responded to the campus’ financial challenges by cutting one of its Technical Assistants in March 2022 and by reducing the duties and salary of the remaining Technical Assistant by 25%. These actions severely impacted the ability of the unit

to carry out its core functions in 2022–23. Additionally, much of the time of the Head of Department and Coordinator of the JLU was spent in 2022–23 trying to convince the VMC and waiting for approvals for staff following meetings between the JLU Coordinator and the Campus Principal in June 2022 when it was agreed that no new students would be admitted in September 2023. Despite that decision, staff was still needed to “teach out the programme” to the students who would be continuing through 2023–2024.

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre (TWC) has responsibility for supporting students and other UWI constituencies via individual coaching and group workshops. It opened late in 2022–23 due to maintenance issues which affected normal operations. As a result, only 5 weeks of coaching were possible: a total of 26 hours per week (17 hours in-person and 9 hours online). Coaching was provided by three coaches, one being a departmental awardee. The number of students who registered for Writing Centre services was significantly lower than in previous years, conceivably a Post-COVID effect and the fact that the registration fee of J\$500 was reintroduced. With its income largely dependent on contributions from Summer School and rental of space to the IELTS Centre, TWC continues to realise a small surplus annually. However, support is needed as TWC lacks resources such as computers and a mounted projector, and inadequate space is a hindrance to further growth.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Centre

This Centre was established to meet the need for testing the English Language proficiency of individuals who wish to live/work/study in countries in which English is a language of communication and to be the Department’s main income-generating project. However, the Centre has experienced significant challenges since the COVID-19 pandemic. As increasing numbers of overseas institutions stopped requiring an IELTS score and with another IELTS provider in the Jamaican space charging a lower test fee, the Centre has been experiencing a reduction in candidates from highs of over 1200- over 1400 in 2019 to lows of just over 600 in 2022–23. It did not help that there were procedural and operational glitches and the Centre increased the Test Fee from J\$36,000 to J\$40,000 in January 2023 to counter an increase in British Council fee per test taker and to meet recurring expenses. The Centre managed to remain buoyant in 2022–23 thanks to the administrative team and dedicated examiners and invigilators who have been patient while the Centre has been unable to increase their payment rates.

CLOSING COMMENT

Thanks to all academic, administrative and support staff in the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy who weathered the challenges associated with the return to face-face operations in 2022–23 and contributed positively to the development of students, colleagues and the institution.