THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

Academic Programmes

Undergraduate

In 2015/16 the Department continued to face significant challenges with a much reduced student enrolment in its academic programmes, resulting in a significant reduction in course offerings. The reduction however has been carried out conscientiously in order to retain as much as possible the diversity in the History programme and a recognition of the importance of courses in Asia and the Middle East given the topical issues related to current world affairs in those regions, and the deepening economic linkages between the region and Asia, particularly China. In view of the need to reduce course offerings, a revision of the African History programme, and the development of a new Level 3 course, the
United States in the Americas exploring the US involvement in Latin America, are even more crucial. The development of a Summer Archaeology Field School aimed specifically at overseas students, but not limited to them, also remains relevant.

**Postgraduate**

Nine students entered the Department’s graduate programmes: 2 in the MPhil programme, 1 in the MA History and 7 in the MA Heritage Studies programmes. Three students were awarded the MA in Heritage Studies (Recardo Valentine, Joan Grant Rodney and Emily Charlotte Maus), and one in MA in History (Tatinesha Forbes). One student, Karl Watts, successfully defended his PhD in History. Nicole Plummer is preparing for her viva, and Yvette Haughton is making corrections to her MPhil.

The annual Graduate Seminar Workshop held on 30 April and 7 May had eight students presenting on their research topics in Heritage Studies. This year for the first time, one of the sessions was cross campus inter-departmental with the Department of History at St. Augustine joining via PolyCom, with two of their MA History students presenting on their research papers.

**Academic Staff**

The Department was saddened by the sudden passing of Mrs Karen Thompson Spence, Technologist in the Archaeology laboratory in September 2015. Mrs Spence provided 23 years of dedicated service to the Archaeology programme. Following Mrs Spence’s passing, two graduate students were appointed temporary laboratory assistants in January 2016. The post was advertised and filled on June 1, 2016 by Mr Clive Grey.

**Awards**

Dr. Jonathan Dalby received the Principal’s award for Best Publication (Article) in the Faculty of Humanities and Education for his article; Dr.
Jenny Jemmott received the Principal’s award for Best Publication (Book) in the Faculty of Humanities and Education for *Ties That Bind. The Black Family in Post Slavery Jamaica, 1834–1882*, Kingston: The University of the West Indies Press, 2015; and Professor Matthew Smith was awarded the 2015 Haiti Illumination Project Book Prize by the Haitian Studies Association for his book, *Liberty, Fraternity, Exile. Haiti and Jamaica after Emancipation*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014.

**SEMINARS/ PUBLIC LECTURES/CONFERENCES**

- The Department hosted “‘Terror Spread’: The Morant Bay Rebellion in Jamaican History” Conference 22–24 October 2015, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the rebellion. The Opening Ceremony was held at the Regional Headquarters of the University of the West Indies, at which Dr. Swithin Wilmot delivered the Keynote Address, “The Road to Morant Bay.” Twenty papers were presented during the two-day conference held in the Council Room of the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. *The Journal of Caribbean History* Vol. 50: 1 (June 1, 2016) published four of the conference papers and the Keynote Address. Five more papers are scheduled for publication in another special issue, Vol 50: 2.

- The 32nd annual Elsa Goveia Memorial Lecture was held on 22 March 2016 at the Sir Philip Sherlock Centre for the Performing Arts. The guest lecturer was Lara Putnam, Professor of History at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania who delivered “Cities of Women: Gender Divides in Circum-Caribbean Migration, 1880–1930,” which was well received.

- Staff/Graduate Seminar Series hosted eleven presentations during the academic year with participation by three faculty and three graduate students of the Department. Five visitors to the Department made presentations and two seminars were cross campus inter-departmental with the Department of History, St. Augustine campus joining via PolyCom.

- Two Public Lectures were held in collaboration with the Department

The Annual Field School in Archaeology

This was conducted on the Mona campus in the area where the overseer’s house of the Mona sugar estate was located. Eight undergraduate students registered in the course HIST2801: Research Methods and Techniques in Archaeology along with two graduate students participated in the exercise which unearthed artefacts which included ceramics imported from Europe, bottle glass fragments, and clay tobacco pipes.

The Jamaica Parish Histories Project

The Jamaica National Building Society Foundation commissioned the Department to research and write updated parish histories of Jamaica which includes documenting the unique cultural heritage of the fourteen parishes. These are to be uploaded to a website managed by the JN Foundation. The project was launched by Mr Earl Jarrett, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the JN Building Society Foundation during the Opening Ceremony of the Morant Bay Rebellion conference on 22 October. Dr. Jenny Jemmott is the Lead researcher and writer on behalf of the Department.

The Social History Project

The Social History Project completed the Time Capsule Project: “A People’s History: The Jamaica 50 Time Capsules” which was commissioned by the Jamaica 50 Secretariat in the then Ministry of Youth and Culture in 2012 and funded by the CHASE Fund. The Time Capsules include two barrel shaped containers into which items of Jamaica’s heritage and lived history in the period 1962–2015 have been placed. The first barrel
covers the period 1962–2000 and the second covers the period 2000-2015/16. In addition to artefacts the Time Capsules also contain the voices and thoughts of Jamaicans about the past 53 years. The views of Jamaican youth were also captured in a collection of 53 letters by students aged 6–16 who documented their future selves and describe what they imagine Jamaica to be in 2062. A "Book of Record" detailing descriptions of all the items (approximately 700 in total), provide a description of the project’s history, an inventory of the items, photographs of each item, and a narrative of Jamaica’s history.

OUTREACH

- The Annual CAPE History Lecture Series: Six Lectures covering Units 1 and 2 of the CAPE History syllabus were delivered: (The Russian Revolution to 1924, Nazism in Germany up to 1945; Decolonization and Liberation; Independence and National Development up to 1900 – Brazil/Venezuela; A Comparative Analysis of Indigenous Societies in the Americas; The Cuban Revolution, 1959–1983; Final Dismantlement of the Slave Systems, 1807–1886). Some 250 students from 18 schools from rural parishes and the Kingston and St. Andrew metropolitan area attended.

- 2014 CAPE History Teachers’ Workshop: The Department, in association with the School of Education, held the third annual CAPE History Teachers’ Workshop on 5 December 2015 for High school teachers of CAPE History. The workshop was attended by 26 teachers from 20 schools within and outside the Corporate Area, and involved two sessions: Teaching for the Development of Historical Thinking and Using the Skills of the Historian. Each participant was presented with a Resource Package which included a Workshop Resource booklet and brochures outlining career avenues for graduates with a degree in History.
Re-interment Ceremony

The Department participated in the Re-internment Ceremony organised by the Mona Campus Heritage Committee and held on 7 February 2016 of the remains uncovered in January 2012 near the Basic Medical Science Complex. Rev. Trevor Edwards, UWI Mona Campus Chaplain, Rev. Bosworth Mullings of the UTCWI officiated and Bishop Donovan Morgan of Mount Carmel Revival Mission performed the rites for the re-interment. The University Singers, and Revival Drummers provided very appropriate and moving musical renditions. Students in the History and Archaeology Society along with members of the Department formed a procession as the remains were driven from the West Road Archaeology Lab to the site for re-interment at the West Road Park. Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of the Mona Campus, Professor Archibald McDonald read a message on behalf of the Campus, and Dr. Kathleen Monteith, Head of the Department delivered the Statement of Purpose which outlined the discovery, its significance and the steps that were taken to prevent any further disturbance of the gravesite. The Ceremony was chaired by Dr. Aleric Josephs, Chair of the Mona Campus Heritage Committee.

Promotional Activity

Ms Karreene Morris, a graduate student in the Department gave an interactive presentation on the importance of a degree in History for national development to High School students attending the CAPE History Lecture Series. Dr. Jenny Jemmott coordinated the Department’s participation in the Campus’ Research Days activities during which the Department’s course and programmes were promoted. The Department’s Website and Facebook continued to be periodically updated under the supervision of Dr. Julian Cresser, assisted by Mrs Rudy-Ann Dennis Copeland. For AY2015/16, eighteen activities were posted to the FaceBook account, and currently there are 591 likes as of May 11, 2016, compared with 475 likes in May 2015.
CONFERENCE/SEMINAR PAPERS

Zachary Beier


Jonathan Dalby


Jenny Jemmott


Aleric Josephs

Enrique Okenve


James Robertson

- “Maisons très-bien bâties’: opportunities for recovering a Jamaican townscape” and “Reconsidering the breaks in Jamaica’s urban past” at Workshop, Les territoires de la ville, de l’archipel des Antilles au plateau des Guyanes: espaces, sociétés et relations (XVIe-XXIe siècles)”, Université des Antilles, St. James Campus, Saint-Claude, Guadeloupe, 2 October, 2015. 22 pp. and 12 Ppt. slides.
- (With Veront Satchell, Elizabeth Pigou). Round Table Discussion

- “Strategic boundaries during the prolonged English campaign to hold Jamaica and their legacies On Edge: New Frontiers in Atlantic History”, Southampton University, UK, 1 July, 2016. 8pp.

Robert Sierakowski


Matthew Smith

- “All Are One: King, Civil Rights, and the Caribbean Experience”, Martin Luther King Jr Lecture, Department of African and African-American Studies/Peoples of Caribbean and West Indian Descent, University of Michigan, 25 February 2016. 20pp.


Taka Oshikiri


Swithin Wilmot


• “Emancipation and Rebellion: Jamaica 1838–1865”, Colloquium on the Morant Bay Rebellion, Harriet Tubman Institute, York University, Canada, 13 October 2015. 27 pp.

• “The Significance of Morant Bay”, Address at the Opening of the Institute of Jamaica’s Exhibition on Morant Bay, 31 October 2015. 15 pp.

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Books and Monographs

Matthew Smith


Articles and Book Chapters

Julian Cresser


Jenny Jemmott


Aleric Josephs

Kathleen Monteith


James Robertson


Robert Sierakowski


Matthew Smith


Swithin Wilmot

PUBLIC SERVICE

Julian Cresser
– Member, Board of directors, the Jamaica National Heritage Trust
– Member, Jamaica Cricket Association Player Development Committee
Zachary Beier
– Member, Executive of the Archaeological Society of Jamaica

Aleric Josephs
– Chief Examiner, CAPE History, Caribbean Examination Council
– Member, Programme Panel, the Department of Humanities (English and History), Northern Caribbean University, Jamaica, May 13, 2016
– Coordinator, Teachers with a Mission (TWAM, integrating faith, social work and pedagogy), Hope Fellowship Church, September 2015

Kathleen Monteith
– Editor, *Journal of Caribbean History*
– Member, National Library of Jamaica’s Collections Development/Information Systems and Services and Management Committee
– Member, Memory of the World Committee, UNESCO, Jamaica.
– Regional Advisor, OAS Cultural Heritage Workshop, 6–8 May 2015, Bridgetown, Barbados

James Robertson
– Member, Board of Directors, the Jamaica National Heritage Trust.
– Member, Advisory Board, Caribbean Heritage Network.
– President, Archaeological Society of Jamaica.
– Vice President, Jamaican Historical Society.
– Member, National Archives Committee.
– Member, Editorial Board of *Journal of Early American History*.

Matthew Smith
– Member, Museums Board, Institute of Jamaica.
– Chair, Content Sub-Committee, Museums Board, Institute of Jamaica.
– Member, Advisory Board, H-Haiti (H-Net).
Waibinte Wariboko
– Member, Editorial Board, Mbari: The International Journal of Igbo Studies.

Swithin Wilmot
– Member, Editorial Board, Journal of Caribbean History.
– Member, Museums Board, Institute of Jamaica.
– Trustee, Board of Management, Archbishop Samuel Carter Fellowship Fund

INFORMATION ON STUDENTS

Student Prizes Awarded

The Gladwyn Turbutt Prizes for:
European History: Jordan Craig
Archaeology: Kavian Kennedy
Atlantic World History: Desmond Saunders and William Holland
Historical Methodology: Clayticia Daniel
Asian History: Stephanie Parker
Heritage Studies: Desmond Saunders and Kirt Henry

The Neville Hall Prize (History of the Americas): Sasha Gaye Solomon
The Walter Rodney Prize (African History): Lipton Matthews
The Elsa Goveia Prize (West Indian History): Nathan Vickers