

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS AND PHILOSOPHY



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DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

The 2017/2018 Academic year was both challenging and eventful which, is understandable given the multidimensional configuration of the Department which comprises three distinct disciplinary Sections, the self-financing Jamaican Language Unit (JLU), English Language Proficiency Testing Unit (ELPTU) and the International English Language Systems (IELTS) – each with their issues – a major one being the continued relatively low student intake for Linguistics and Philosophy Programmes. Notwithstanding, appreciable strides were made in countering challenges faced by all Sections. Progress was also made in areas relating to our Operational Plan.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The enhancement of Student Development and the Learning Environment for both undergraduate and graduate students was achieved in a variety of ways. These included, but were not limited to, the exposure and immersion of students in a variety of fora aimed at enlivening and increasing the relevance of their studies; the development of new courses; and the enhancement of Graduate students' research skills via targeted sessions. In addition to this were the recommendations from the Quality Assurance Review (QAR) of the English Language Section which sought to examine the student learning environment and to ensure via recommendations that steps are taken to enhance this area.

As will be seen, the most notable strides were made in the area of Student Development, and to some extent, the Learning Environment.

Students in the Linguistics Section, in the area of Language Planning, partnered with the US Peace Corps to assist in training their American volunteers in the speaking and writing of Jamaican Creole. As a follow-up the group will be placed in rural Jamaica and volunteer in the areas of Education and the Environment. Moreover, these Language Planning students will be training the volunteers in several aspects of Jamaican Creole grammar as a part of their course work requirement.

The Linguistics Section also organized a session with Dr Karla Washington, Assistant Professor within the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Connecticut in which she and her PhD student shared findings on their Language Acquisition research involving Jamaican children. They also spoke about speech language pathology and how this occurs.

Students pursuing the Profession of Interpreting Course were taken by their tutor to the Jamaica Conference Centre to observe and receive hands-on experience regarding translating and interpreting procedures.

Students pursuing the course Philosophy of Art also had the opportunity to engage in experiential learning via a visit to the National Gallery.

Members of the Linguistics Section attended a Linguistics Cross Campus Meeting, held at Cave Hill Campus April 16-18, with a view to discussing ways of enhancing the current offerings of Linguistics courses and also to look at ways in which there could be more collaboration in the offering of courses.

The new Level 2 course, Sports Ethics, developed by the Philosophy Section responds to the interdisciplinary thrust of the Faculty in that it constitutes one of the offerings of the programme in the new Faculty of Sports. The course examines the conceptual framework for ethical decision-making, using sports and moral conflicts presented in sports as a prism through which to examine normative perspectives. This new course will be offered in Semester 2 of the 2018/2019 Academic Year.

The Language of Popular Music in the Anglophone Caribbean, a Level 2 course, was developed by the Linguistics Section and examines how the Creole and standard languages spoken in the Caribbean, as well as the language varieties intermediate between them, are used in commercially produced popular music lyrics across the decades from the 1950s into the 21st century. This course will also initiate its offering in the coming Academic Year.

Coaching sessions were held to enable and enhance the Research being undertaken by Linguistics and Philosophy Graduate Students. The group was joined by Members of the ICS (Institute for Cultural Studies). Sessions included discussions on different stages of the research process and research design as well as guidance on Abstract writing. Feedback was also given on presentations of proposals and other areas of research. Additionally, sessions on 'Collaboration on Research' were offered to Graduate students.

The Annual Graduate Student Research Day under the theme "Caribbean Language and Thought: Between Theory and Practice" was held, and Philosophy and Linguistics graduate students in MA, MPhil and PhD programmes made presentations related to their work. There was a total of 11 presentations from twenty-four students. This provided students with the opportunity to share their research and receive valuable feedback.

Steps are currently being taken to make the Graduate course 'Advanced Academic English Language Skills' offered by the English Language Section, a University-wide requirement for graduate students pursuing an MPhil or PhD Programme. The course is currently delivered to students in the Faculty of Science and Technology (Life Sciences and Chemistry), Medical Sciences (Bio Medical); Social Sciences (SALISES & Government); and Humanities and Education (Linguistics and Philosophy).

Much needed repairs were undertaken at the Writing Centre where a long standing leak on the roof which had led to the appearance of mould and rendered the building uninhabitable, was finally repaired at the beginning of Semester 2. Extractors were placed in the bathrooms and the air conditioning units serviced. New furniture have been ordered to replace those rendered unusable by mould and water stains. Computers in the Centre were also serviced and/or repaired.

In keeping with the 2017–2022 Strategic Plan concerning 'Accessibility', the Department is continuing previous efforts to revamp, enhance and expand its website. An important aspect of the improved website will be interactive spaces where students will be able to engage in autonomous learning activities. The Writing Centre is being viewed as a major hub for such activities where interactive exercises related to writing will be made available.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

The inclusion of Outreach and Engagement activities as part of the DLLP'S Operational Plan is geared towards exposing members of the Campus Community and the general public to the work of the Department. We hope that awareness of what we do in the various Sections will lead to an increased appreciation of what we have to offer, and will result in increased buy-in into our programmes by the public and prospects, particularly in relation to Linguistics and Philosophy. There is also the anticipation that these activities will garner support from business entities via internships, involvement in mentoring students,

and sponsorship. It was therefore gratifying that the Academic year 2017/2018 saw a wide variety of activities from all three Sections that included Outreach on and off campus.

The National Day on Writing, instituted by the National Council of the Teachers of English, some nine years ago to focus attention on the importance of literacy and celebrated annually on October 20 with a variety of activities online as well as offline, was hosted by the Writing Centre and enjoyed the presence of students from across the Campus. Activities included the “B-logging” in the notebooks provided as visitors shared their interesting and varied reasons for writing. Visitors were also able to read the following thematically related papers that were on display which included:

- Why I write *by* George Orwell
- Why I write *by* Joan Didion
- 100 reasons why I write *by* Grant Faulkner

The English Language Section delivered a presentation entitled “The Challenge of Academic Writing at The Graduate Level In Individual Discourse Communities and in General” to approximately 20 graduate students from the Faculties of Medical Sciences and Social Sciences. The presentation was arranged by MAPS and was well received, with students supporting the idea of follow-up, hands on workshops from faculty members with the knowledge and expertise both in their subject areas and in the area of the development of students’ critical academic literacies.

Another related presentation entitled “Addressing Weaknesses in Students’ Oral and Written Communication” was made by the English Language Section to the Faculty of Social Sciences Faculty Board Meeting earlier this year.

Philosophy Day, an annual event, was celebrated on November 16 under the theme “Youth, Tolerance, And Sustainable Development”. Special invited guests included Senator, The Honourable Pernel Charles Jr. – Minister of State, the Ministry of National Security, A. Gisselle Burbano, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Cluster for the Caribbean, and Keisha

Tomlinson, *Youth Advisory Committee, JNC-UNESCO*. Activities included a panel discussion on “Intolerance Rationality and Society”. UNESCO had committed to offering their support of the event via a donation of U\$ 1500.

Linguistics Days was also celebrated and involved the hosting of Ascot High School students. Activities included CAPE Communication studies Workshop, UWI Campus and Museum Tour, and Patwa vs. Ingglish Workshop. Since then, many of these students have expressed an interest in pursuing Linguistics.

The Read ALOUD outreach programme spearheaded by the Linguistics Club was moved from August Town and has now been situated at the Mona High school since Semester 2. This activity provides support for Literacy by assisting members of communities to enhance their reading skills.

Outreach visits were made by the Philosophy Section to schools within and outside of the Corporate area including Wolmers, Meadowbrook and Denbigh High Schools.

PROMOTING THE WELL-BEING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Identifying ways of sustaining employee well-being is of increasing importance, both within the context of work and beyond. The Department is therefore committed to encouraging and fostering activities that will enhance the physical, psychological and professional well-being of staff.

A ten-member Department-sponsored team, DLLP Joggers, participated in the UWI 5k run/walk on Sunday, November 12, 2017. Members from all Sections of the Department participated. This is the second time that the Department has participated in this run/walk, and we hope to make it an annual Departmental event going forward.

Two half-day Training Sessions [“Training in Helping Skills for UWI Staff”] were hosted by the University Counselling Service and attended by an Administrative member of the DLLP. The sessions were geared at

educating staff regarding the services offered by the Unit as well as teaching persons how to help students who may need assistance in managing life on campus. As points of contact for students on campus, attendees were being equipped to help the Counselling Service identify and assist these students. The sessions covered several topics over the two days with the focus being on:

- Understanding Students and their Mental Health Issues
- Communicating with our Students
- Helping the Troubled Student
- Referrals (who to refer and how to refer them)

Case scenarios were also undertaken to give a real world understanding of how situations may arise and how they should be addressed. Overall, the information gathered from these sessions is invaluable and all persons who come into contact with the students of the UWI should be exposed to such sessions.

SELF -FINANCING UNITS

The income generating arms of the Department include: the Writing Centre, IELTS (International English Language Testing Systems), the JLU (Jamaican Language Unit), the ELPTU (English Language Proficiency Test Unit).

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

Notwithstanding, the long term collaboration with the Main Library concerning presentation to ELS students regarding sessions on documentation, citation, and plagiarism has continued.

There also plans to enhance the financial standing of the Centre. These include the offering of Writing/Communication workshops to public and private entities

The IELTS Centre continues to carry out its key mandate of delivering International English Language tests to applicants seeking visas for study or residence in the UK and other Commonwealth countries. Tests are offered at the Mona and Western Jamaica Campuses, and more recently in Mandeville. Indeed the Centre has experienced significant growth since its early beginnings, moving from an average of 15 test takers per test to an average of 55, an increase of over 300 percent. Growth has also been evident in the number of Administrative staff members as well as venue staff who are required to ensure the timely and accurate planning and execution of tests and the related activities.

Approximately one third of the revenue from each test is paid to the British Council as their franchise fee. Furthermore, the request for IELTS is expected to continue into the distant future as long as the Caribbean work programmes continue.

The financial situation of the English Language Proficiency Test Unit (ELPTU) has changed somewhat since the last Report (2016/2017) as there is no longer a financial deficit. However, there has still been little change in the staffing as the issue of not having an Administrative Assistant assigned to the Unit continues: the ELPTU is currently manned by a Clerical Assistant who is also devoted to the customer service matters of the Department. Given the extent of her duties, an attempt is being made to upgrade her post.

An ELPTU Coordinator from the English Language Section has Academic oversight for the Unit and her duties include managing the test taking process, overseeing the marking of the scripts and finalizing of grades. Plans are in motion to undertake research on the performance in the Test of those who have attained Grade 3 in English Language at CSEC to verify whether they should automatically be required to do FOUN 1019 rather than take the Test.

The Unit offered tests in August and December 2017 and in April 2018. A pass rate of 48%, 42% and 45%, respectively was recorded for these three tests. The Coordinator has indicated that these grades constitute a marginal increase in the pass rate which was generally between

35%–40% previously. She believes that this is related to modifications of the test structure.

Discussions are currently taking place with the other Campuses with a view to achieving a higher degree of parity in relation to the structure and assessment of the ELPT.

The Jamaican Language Unit (JLU) was set up within the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, UWI, Mona, via a decision of the Mona Finance and General Purposes Committee, with effect from September 2002. Some 5 years later, an addition to the title, i.e. Unit for Caribbean Language Research, was approved by the same committee, the modification designed to capture the scope of the research activities of the Unit which had extended beyond Jamaica to wide areas of the Caribbean. The Unit continued to be known as the JLU except when performing a role in relation to non-Jamaican Caribbean areas of research.

Recently however there was a shift in the status quo brought about by a downturn in the financing of the Unit. This led to the following considerations by the Department:

- that the funding of the JLU become part of the regular Mona Campus budget
- that the functions of the Unit be reviewed and where necessary, streamlined to make the Unit more viable financially, and that the Unit itself, including all Accounts and Finances be managed by the Department.

In order to achieve the above a decision was taken to appoint a new Coordinator. The Coordinator, a Linguist with a Business background, has already assumed duties. We are still transitioning and Prof Devonish is assisting with the process.

RESEARCH/ACADEMIC – RELATED ACTIVITIES

PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Bamikole, Lawrence O.** 2018. “Determinism and Human Agency

in Shola Allyson Obaniyi's *Gbe Je Fori* and *Akosile*". The Toyin Falola @65 Conference: African Knowledges and Alternative Futures, University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria, January 29–31, 22 pp.

- **Dyche, Caroline.** 2018. "From Marginalization to Centredness: Advancing the Academic Literacies Development Agenda in Caribbean Higher Education Institutions". 3rd International Conference on Education and Humanities, University of Technology, Jamaica, May 24–25, [13 slides]
- **Farquharson, Joseph T.** 2018a. "Revisiting past-time reference in Jamaican". Paper presented at the 22nd Biennial Conference of the Society for Caribbean Linguistics, held in Costa Rica, 5–11 August. [18 pages]
- **Farquharson, Joseph T.** 2018b. "Staging translocal identities on social media". Paper presented at Caribbean Studies Research Day, held at the Albert-Ludwig Universität Freiburg, on July 12.
- **Farquharson, Joseph T.** 2018c. "Jamaicans in Canada: Popular music and trans-national linguistic flows". Paper presented at the Global South Studies Center, University of Cologne, 27 June. [45 pages]
- **Farquharson, Joseph T.** 2018d. "Reconstructing Akan day-names: Supporting evidence from the Caribbean". Paper presented at the Institute for African Studies and Egyptology, University of Cologne, June 27. [8 pages]
- **Farquharson, Joseph T.** 2018e. "Lexicography and the post-creole continuum in the English-official Caribbean". Paper presented at the Université Lyon 2 - Centre for Research in Terminology and Translation.
- **Farquharson, Joseph T.** 2018. "The evolution of orthographies for Jamaican Creole". Presentation done at Bayreuth University, June 11.
- **McLaren, Ingrid.** 2018. "Science Students' Response to an Oral Communication Skills Development Initiative: Attitude and

Motivation”. Paper presented at the Canada International Conference on Education (CICE) University of Toronto Mississauga, Canada, June 24–27 [10 pages].

- **Milson-Whyte, Vivette**, 2018. “Retrospect and Prospect of Linguaging by Caribbean Students in Composition Classrooms”. Paper presented at the 69th Annual Convention of the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), Kansas City, Missouri, March .[Powerpoint Presentation]
- **Milson-Whyte, Vivette**. 2018. “Ethical, Economic, Political, and Pedagogical Considerations in Writing Program Administration across National Contexts”. Transnational Composition Group. 69th Annual Convention of the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), Kansas City, Missouri, 16th March. [Invited Roundtable Presenter].
- **Kennedy, Michèle** 2018. *What do Jamaican Children Speak? A Language Resource*. **Author’s response** at UWI Press/ DLLP Book Launch, UWI, Mona, February2.
- **Kouwenberg, Silvia**. 2017. “Taal en contact in de geschiedenis van het Berbice Nederlands” [Language and contact in the history of Berbice Dutch.] Radboud University, 19 December 2017.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- **Lawrence O. Bamikole**. 2017. *Violence and Democratic Politics*, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria: Greenline Publishers.
- **Kennedy, Michele**. 2017. *What do Jamaican Children Speak? A Language Resource*. Kingston, Jamaica: UWI Press [248 pages]

Edited Books/Journals

- **Farquharson, Joseph T.** & Bettina Migge (eds.) 2017. *Pidgins and Creoles: Critical Concepts in linguistics*. 4 volumes. London: Routledge

- **Kouwenberg, Silvia** & John V. Singler. 2018. Creolization in context: historical and typological perspectives. *Annual Review of Linguistics* 4, 213–32.
- Littschwager, Marius, Wiebke Beushausen, Miriam Brandel, **Joseph T. Farquharson**, Annika McPherson, Julia Roth (eds.). 2018. *Practices of resistance in the Caribbean: Narratives, aesthetics and politics*. London: Routledge. [320 pages]

Chapters In Books

- Beushausen, Wiebke, Miriam Brandel, **Joseph T. Farquharson**, Marius Littschwager, Annika McPherson, Julia Roth (eds.). (2018). Narratives, Politics, and Aesthetics of Resistance Across the Caribbean and Its Diasporas. In *Practices of resistance in the Caribbean: Narratives, aesthetics and politics*. Wiebke Beushausen, Miriam Brandel, Joseph T. Farquharson, Marius Littschwager, Annika McPherson, Julia Roth (eds.) London: Routledge. [22 pages]
- **Farquharson, Joseph T.** & Bettina Migge. 2017a. Introduction: Pidgin and Creole genesis and typology. In Joseph T. Farquharson & Bettina Migge (eds.), *Pidgins and Creoles: Critical concepts in linguistics 1: Pidgin and Creole genesis and typology 1*, 1–29. London: Routledge.
- **Farquharson, Joseph T.** & Bettina Migge. 2017b. Introduction: Sociolinguistics and/of Pidgins and Creoles. In Joseph T. Farquharson & Bettina Migge (eds.), *Pidgins and Creoles: Critical concepts in linguistics 3: Sociolinguistics and/of Pidgins and Creoles*, 1–12. London: Routledge.
- **Farquharson, Joseph T.** & Bettina Migge. 2017c. Introduction: Pidgins and Creoles and applied linguistics. In Joseph T. Farquharson & Bettina Migge (eds.), *Pidgins and Creoles: Critical concepts in linguistics 4: Pidgins and Creoles and applied linguistics*, 1–11. London: Routledge.
- **Milson-Whyte, Vivette**. 2018. “Caribbean Creole-speaking Cultures, Language, and Identity”. *TESOL Encyclopedia of English Language*

Teaching, 1st ed, Vol. VI. Ed. John I. Lontas. (Vol. Ed.: Shondel Nero). Oxford, UK: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 3483-3489. DOI: 10.1002/9781118784235.celt0304

POSTER PRESENTATION

- **Farquharson, Joseph T.**, Hubert Devonish. 2018. Timeline of the Jamaican language. University Research Days 2018, University of the West Indies, Mona, 7–9 April.

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- **Bamikole, L.O.** (2017a). Agency and Afro-Caribbean existential discourse. *The CLR James Journal* 23(1–2), 1–27. Doi:10.5840/clrjames201712446.
- **Bamikole, L.O.** (2017b). The ethics of work in Shola Allyson Obaniyi's *Marose. Yoruba: Journal of the Yoruba Studies Association of Nigeria*, 8(4), 38-71.
- **Bamikole, L.O.** (2017c). Livity as a dimension of identity in Rastafari thought: Implications for development in Africana Societies” *Caribbean Quarterly*, 63(4), 451–466. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00086495.2017.1392173>.
- **Bewaji, J.A.I., Harrow, K. W., Omonzejie, E. E., & Ukhum, Christopher (Eds.)** 2017. *The humanities and the dynamics of African culture in the 21st century*. London: Cambridge Scholars Publishers. ISBN: 978-1-4438-5626-3.
- **Bewaji, A.I., & Adedara, P. B.** 2017. *Media theory, practice and ethics: A textbook of film and television studies*. Ibadan, Nigeria: Bwright Integrated Publishers Ltd.
- **Kouwenberg, S., & Singler, J.V.** (2018). Creolization in context: Historical and typological perspectives. *Annual Review of Linguistics* 4, 213–32.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- **Milson Whyte, V.** 2018. Caribbean creole-speaking cultures, language and identity. In J. I. Liontas (Ed.), *TESOL Encyclopedia of English Language Teaching*, (1st ed). NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. DOI: 10.1002/9781118784235.eelt0304.

PUBLIC SERVICE

- **Dr Vivette Milson-Whyte** is a member of the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) Committee on Globalization of Post-Secondary Writing Instruction and Research. She is a Member of the Board of Directors of the Teachers Service Commission, The Ministry of Education, Youth & Information. Dr Milson-Whyte also serves as 3rd Vice President of the Council of Girl Guides Association of Jamaica since September 2017 as well as Chairman, Executive Committee, Girl Guides Association of Jamaica since January 2018. She was an Invited Reader of the Book Industry Association of Jamaica (BIAJ), Kingston Book Fair, Hope Gardens, 11 March 2018 and read from *Academic Writing Instruction for Creole-Influenced Students*, at the UWI Press Booth.
- **Dr Michele Kennedy** has served as Chairman of Board of Governors at St Michael's Theological College from 2015 to 2018. Since 2009, she has served on the Selection Committee for Scholarships for Tertiary Education for the Percy and Alice Chang Education Foundation and has been Chairman of the Board since July 2016. Dr Kennedy has also served as Joint Board of Teacher Education External Examiner for Modern Languages – Linguistics since 2014.
- **Professor Silvia Kouwenberg** served as President of the Society for Caribbean Linguistics, 2016–2018.
- **Dr Joseph Farquharson** acted as a judge in a Translation Competition (English to Jamaican) hosted by the Translators and Interpreters Association of Jamaica. On August 17, 2017, he did an eight (8) minute interview on language and linguistics on TVJ's Smile

Jamaica. He then gave Testimony, on October 21, 2017, at an event hosted by the Aston Preston Hall Honour Society. Dr Farquharson is currently the Secretary of the Kingston Chapter of the Cornwall College Old Boys' Association.

- **Dr Keren Cumberbatch** is currently a Board Member at the Danny Williams School for the Deaf.
- **Ms Sandra Minott** acted as a First Year Experience Facilitator (FYE) for the 2017-2018 academic year.