

DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURES IN ENGLISH



Dr. Norval Edwards
Acting Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The 2015/16 academic year presented the Department of Literatures in English with several challenges as well as new opportunities that underscored the significance of UWI's role as the premier site of literary excellence in Jamaica. Despite staffing concerns and low student enrollment, we maintained a robust and packed schedule of activities that included public lectures, book launches, literary readings, film screenings, "Reggae Talks," creative writing workshops, our annual Poetry Clash Competition during Research days, interactive sessions and annual CAPE lectures and workshops for high school students and teachers. We also partnered with other departments and institutions such as the Institute of Caribbean Studies, Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, CARIMAC, the Jamaica Writers Society, the Book Industry Association of Jamaica, The National

Library, and the Creative Production Training Centre to host certain events. Our strategic initiative in creative writing was enhanced with the appointment of the award-winning St. Lucian poet, Vladimir Lucien, as Writer-in-Residence for the second semester. We continue to work on the recommendations from the department's Quality Assurance Review regarding a Creative Writing Minor, formal institutionalization of the Writer-in-Residence position, the introduction of a Creative Writing Minor, as well as an MFA in Creative Writing, the expansion of our film courses, and the establishment of a strong internship programme. The Department was given oversight of the interdisciplinary Liberal Studies programme, which had an enrollment of sixteen (16) students. This programme has expanded the current curriculum and will complement the prospective Creative Writing Minor and the MFA Creative Writing programme. The department's annual budget was increased by JMD\$1,000,000.00, and this greatly facilitated the range and scope of our activities and our ability to fund student field trips to Rose Hall Great House and the Calabash Literary Festival.

The Department offered three (3) courses in the summer: LITS2604: Creative Writing: Prose Fiction, LITS3111: Contemporary Science Fiction and LITS3806: Popular Film and Ideology. These courses were taught by Part-time Lecturers Ms Diana McCaulay, Ms Shala Alert and Ms Mezan Morrison respectively.

Curriculum Development

The course LITS3801: Environmental Literature was reintroduced in Semester 1, and two new courses, LITS2111: Narratives of Migration and LITS2707: Reggae Narratives were approved. In semester two, Mr. Vladimir Lucien assisted in designing the Creative Writing Minor programme and also conducted a Creative Writing Poetry Workshop.

Graduate Studies and Research

The MA programme is being reviewed to upgrade the present credit rating from 24 to 35 credits. Given the situation, the Chairman of the

Committee for Graduate Studies and Research ruled that the MA programme should be suspended for the 2016/2017 academic year. The department intends to reactivate the MA programme for the 2017/2018 academic year.

The Graduate Students Welcome Social was held on Monday, September 7, 2015. The department was particularly pleased to welcome Mr. Tohru Nakamura, our first MPhil student from Japan, whose arrival coincided with the signing of an MOU between UWI and his alma mater, Sophia University.

Three (3) students, Whitney Eaton, Tohru Nakamura and Alexis Samuels were selected for the 2015/2016 Departmental Awards. Ms Eaton provided administrative support, and Mr. Nakamura and Ms Samuels provided Research Assistant duties for various research projects that were conducted by lecturers.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT MATTERS

Two (2) Departmental Consultative Committee (DCC) meetings were held for the academic year on Thursday, October 29, and March 31, respectively. Overall, the reports by the course representatives expressed a high degree of student satisfaction with lecturers and courses.

The Department hosted its annual First Year Social on Thursday, September 17. A Welcome Social was held with the Liberal Studies First Year students on Friday, October 2.

In Semester 1, undergraduate students, Shanese Whyte and Cornel Bogle won Canadian ELAP Exchange Scholarships to attend McMaster University and Brock University respectively.

The Annual Faculty Awards Ceremony was held on Thursday, November 5. Davia Andrews, Cornel Bogle, Judith Campbell-Jones, Serita-Gaye Levy, Xavienne-Roma Richardson, Shanese Whyte, Letay Williams and Yaundeen Wright were presented with departmental awards. The Perry Henzell/Trevor Rhone Prize was also introduced for the first time in memory of the late Jamaican film maker, writer, and creative spirit, Perry

Henzell, best known for his iconic film, *The Harder They Come*. The prize is for the student with the highest mark in the course LITS2606: Creative Writing: Screen and Stage, and it was won by Letay Williams.

Ms Tanya Shirley, Temporary Full-time Lecturer, coordinated the Poetry Clash Competition at the annual UWI Research Days held February 17-19, 2016. Unpublished poets (past and present UWI students) competed and the top three (3) winners received cash awards. Cheneé Daley, Mark Smith, and Joel Moder won the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize respectively.

The department held its annual Career Talk on Thursday, April 7. The guest speaker was Petra-Kene Williams, Manager, Communications and Customer Service at the National Transport Authority.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES AND OUTREACH

Annual West Indian Literature Conference

- Ms Lisa Brown, Dr. Michael Bucknor, Professor Carolyn Cooper and Dr. Anthea Morrison represented the department at the 34th Annual West Indian Literature Conference held October 1–3, 2015 at the University of Puerto Rico. The 35th Annual West Indian Literature conference will be hosted by the Department in collaboration with the Western Jamaica Campus (WJC) in Montego Bay on October 6–8, 2016.

Edward Baugh Distinguished Lecture

- Professor Glyne Griffith, Chair of the English Department at the University of Albany, delivered the 9th Edward Baugh Distinguished Lecture on Sunday, November 22 at the Sir Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts. His presentation was entitled, “How BBC Radio Served West Indian Literature: 1943–1958.”

Events

- The 8th Africa World Documentary Film Festival (AWDFF) was held November 6-8, in the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre (NI). The

festival was organised by the Departments of Literatures in English, Language, Linguistics and Philosophy and CARIMAC with sponsorship from the University of Missouri, St. Louis.

- The Sankofa Arts and Facilitation in association with the Department of Literatures in English successfully staged “Word Soul: The Turnt Up Edition” on Sunday, December 19 at the Sir Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts.
- Michael Katz, a co-founder of the Vancouver-based Tradewind Books (a children’s literature publishing firm), gave a Public Lecture, “Writing and Publishing Children’s Literature,” on Monday, March 14, in N5.

Workshops

- The Jamaican Writers Society in association with The Department of Literatures in English presented a workshop, “Wielding the Storyteller’s Net: The Spaces Between Words.” It was held on Saturday, November 7 and was conducted by Jean D’ Costa. Visiting Lecturer, Linton Kwesi Johnson conducted a one day Performance Poetry Workshop on Monday, January 25. Two Master Classes on Writing Fiction were held by Award-Winning novelist Marlon James. The first was held on Friday, February 12, while the second was held on Thursday, March 24. Participants received certificates of participation. The Department conducted a Creative Writing Poetry Workshop Series with Vladimir Lucien on Saturday, May 21 & 28. Participants received certificates of participation.

Meet the Author

- Visiting Lecturer, Linton Kwesi Johnson discussed his work with students in the LITS3504: West Indian Literature Special Author Seminar (Linton Kwesi Johnson) on Wednesday, January 27.

March Is Literatures in English Month

- The weekly Reggae Talks were held at the Medical Sciences Lecture Theatre, from March 1–31, and featured Linton Kwesi Johnson,

Mutabaruka, Bob Andy, Agent Sasco, Queen Ifrica, Tanya Stephenson, and Oliver Becker and Jonas Schaul.

- The Department partnered with the Kingston Book Festival on Sunday, March 6 to stage “Love Affair with Literature 6” featuring poetry and prose readings by A-dZiko Simba Gegele, Mel Cooke, Olive Senior, and Vladimir Lucien.
- Olive Senior, internationally acclaimed Jamaican writer and poet, launched her new book, *The Pain Tree* on Thursday, March 10 at the Undercroft. The Department in association with the National Library of Jamaica hosted a book launch for the 3rd edition of *On Holy Week* by Professor Mervyn Morris, Poet Laureate of Jamaica on Sunday, March 20 at the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre (N1).

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS AND OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS

- Dr. Michael Bucknor presented CAPE Workshops in Literatures in English for the Mona-Western Jamaica Campus Open House on January 11 and 12, 2016. His presentation was entitled ‘How to Read a Poem.’ Ms Carolyn Allen also conducted two workshops on Dennis Scott’s play, *An Echo in the Bone*. She also did an interview on News Talk Radio.
- Olive Senior, internationally acclaimed Jamaican writer, visited the Department and had an interactive session with one hundred and eighty four (184) high school students on her poetry collection, *Gardening in the Tropics*, on Friday March 11 at the Faculty of Law, Lecture Room 3.
- The annual *CAPE Literatures in English Lecture/Discussion Series* with CAPE students was held on Friday, April 8 and Friday April 15 at the Tent. Three Hundred and Thirty Eight (338) students from 28 schools were in attendance. The presenters included Ms Carolyn Allen, Mrs. Janice Beckford, Ms Lisa Brown, Mr. Vladimir Lucien, Dr. Norval Edwards, Dr. Rachel Moseley-Wood, Mr. Dwight Pennycooke and Ms Tanya Shirley.

STAFF/POSTGRADUATE SEMINAR SERIES

The Department's Staff/Postgraduate Seminar Series featured Dr. Rachel Moseley-Wood, lecturer, who presented the paper, "Real/Reel Life in Jungle: Mediating 'ghetto life' in two films by Chris Browne" on Friday, November 27, and Professor Susan Visvanathan, a sociologist, social anthropologist, and fiction writer, from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, who presented on the topic "Fiction as a Form of Documentation" on Friday, April 1.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND LINKS WITH OTHER UNIVERSITIES

Dr. Michael Bucknor

- Dr. Michael A. Bucknor presented the invited lecture "Canada in Black Transnational Studies: Austin Clarke, Affective Affiliations and the CBC" sponsored by McMaster University Library and the Department of English and Cultural Studies on September 15, 2015 at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. He also presented a paper entitled "Beyond Windrush: Clarke, Race, Canada's Influence on Anglophone Caribbean Literature" in a Plenary Round Table at the West Indian Literature Conference on October 3, 2015 at the University of Puerto Rico. In October 2015, both Share News and The Caribbean Camera in Toronto reported on the McMaster University tribute to Louise Bennett-Coverley and Austin Clarke, whose works are being preserved at the McMaster University library. Dr. Bucknor represented the department at the inaugural Lignum Vitae Award Ceremony on November 6, 2015 and announced the winner of the Vic Reid Prize. The department is delighted at the resurrection of the Una Marson Prize and the expansion of the awards to include the new Jean D'Costa and Vic Reid Prizes; all three prizes now form the new Lignum Vitae Awards. Dr. Bucknor also participated in the Actor Boy Awards Judges Workshop held at the Knutsford Court Hotel on November 14, 2015. He has been appointed an Actor Boy Judge for the 2016 theatre year.

Professor Carolyn Cooper

- On August 20, Professor Carolyn Cooper gave a keynote lecture, “Hurricane Humor: Music As Resistance in Caribbean Popular Culture”, at the 10th Anniversary Katrina Conference, hosted by the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies, New Orleans. On October 5, she delivered the Annual Lecture of the Africana Studies Program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her lecture was entitled, “‘The Unity is Submarine’: Submerged Narratives in Caribbean Literature and Popular Culture”. She also led a faculty seminar on interdisciplinarity on October 6. On October 15, Professor Cooper was a panellist at a public forum on “Gender-based Violence in the Caribbean”, hosted by the UWI Mona Model United Nations Club. Prof. Cooper presented the Distinguished Lecture titled, “Making Work: Capital Investment in the Humanities,” at The Inaugural ‘Ideas Matter’ Colloquium and Distinguished Lecture: The Cultural and Creative Industries, hosted by the Faculty of Humanities and Education on Friday, April 15 at the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre (N1).

Amina Blackwood Meeks

- On May 9, The Ministry of Education at a function to honour 6 retirees, recognized Ms Amina Blackwood Meeks for her outstanding contribution to education in Jamaica.

Ms Tanya Shirley

- Ms Shirley did a reading for a book club that has been around for over forty years, on March 1, 2016 at Caymanas Estate. She also read her poems in honour of International Women’s Day at the Reggae Talks featuring Bob Andy on March 8, 2016. Ms Shirley gave a talk to CSEC students at Dunoon Technical on March 10, 2016. She was also the featured guest on Miss Kitty’s Nationwide programme in March, discussing love poetry. Ms Shirley was recently appointed as one of the judges for the Small Axe Poetry Competition. She was the chief judge for the second round of the Talk the Poem island wide competition finals for high school students organized by the

Department of Education on April 11. She was also recently appointed to the board of Jamaica's Meatless Monday organization. Two of Ms Shirley's poems, "Imagining the Body" and "Ode to the Mosquito," were accepted for publication by *The Normal School literary magazine* published in California. Ms Shirley was featured as one of Jamaica's Game Changers by the online magazine mypatoo.com. Ms Tanya Shirley was a featured poet at the BIM Literary Festival in Barbados, May 12–14. Two of Ms Shirley's poems were published in the Spring Issue of *The Normal School literary magazine*, California, USA.

Dr. Lisa Tomlinson

- Dr. Lisa Tomlinson did a radio interview on Beyond the Headlines in relation to her column published in the Jamaica Gleaner on Wednesday November 25, 2015, titled "Cheap shot to blame mothers." Dr. Tomlinson was also a part of a panel discussion in December 2015 on TVJ's All Angles, in response to Dr. Herbert Gayle's study on "Brutal beating of sons by mothers create killers." Dr. Tomlinson was a Panel Judge for Half the World Global Literati for the months of May July 2016.

STAFF MATTERS

- Dr. Michael Bucknor and Dr. Anthea Morrison proceeded on Sabbatical Leave for the academic year 2015/2016. Dr Norval Edwards acted as Head of Department in Dr Bucknor's stead. Dr. Mawuena Logan, Senior Lecturer in the department, resigned from his position with effect from December 31, 2015. He served the university for ten (10) years and gave excellent and dedicated service to the department and university during his tenure.
- Dr. Lisa Tomlinson and Ms Tanya Shirley were employed as Temporary Full-time Lecturers for the academic year, substituting for Dr. Hilb who resigned from his position as lecturer w.e.f. July 8, 2015, and Dr. Bucknor respectively. Ms Shirley also served as the department's Events Coordinator for the year. Ms Carolyn Allen was

employed as Temporary Full-time Lecturer for Semester 1, and Part-time Lecturer for Semester II, substituting for Dr. Morrison. Dr. Lorna Down, Ms Amba Chevannes and Carlton Lowrie were also employed as Part-time Lecturers, and Dr. Aisha Spencer as a Tutor for Semester 1. For Semester II, the department welcomed Ms Amina Blackwood Meeks and Mrs. Barbara Collash as Part-time Lecturers, and Dr. Wendy Grant as Tutor. We also welcomed Mr. Vladimir Lucien who was appointed Writer-in-Residence, and Visiting Lecturer, Linton Kwesi Johnson for the period, January 24–28.

- The department advertised for and successfully filled three lecturer/senior lecturer positions to replace Dr. Benjamin Hilb (Drama and Film Studies), Dr. Mawuena Logan (American/African Diaspora Literary and Cultural Studies), and Professor Carolyn Cooper (Caribbean Literature and Popular Culture).
- Four (4) students, Latoya Briscoe, Renée James, Damar Najheer and Chad Robinson were employed as Student Assistants in the department for the academic year.

CONFERENCE PAPERS PRESENTED:

- On December 6, 2015, Dr. Michael Bucknor presented “‘Refashioning Futures’ for Jamaican Masculinities,” as the Opening Address for the National Gallery of Jamaica’s “Explorations IV: Masculinities” exhibition being staged between December 6, 2015 and March 5, 2016. His article, “Jamaican Masculinities and Artistic Representation,” also appeared in the National Gallery’s Catalogue for that exhibition. He presented the paper, “Canada in African Diaspora Studies: Austin Clarke, Affective Affiliations and Black Global Cultural Production” at the “Caribbean and Diaspora Dialogues in the University” Conference at Goldsmiths College, University of London, UK, June 27–29, 2016. He also presented the paper, “Horizons of Desire: Altered States of Conception in Caribbean Queer Speculative Fiction” at the 17th Triennial Conference of the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS) at Stellenbosch University, in South Africa, July 10–15, 2016.

- On October 1, **Prof. Carolyn Cooper** gave a paper, “Dem Naa Go Tired Fi See Bob Marley Face: Imaging the Legend In the International Reggae Poster Contest”, at the Annual West Indian Literature Conference, hosted by the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras. Prof. Cooper also gave a paper entitled, "'Christopher Columbus Is a Damn Blasted Liar': Post-colonial Thought In Reggae/Dancehall Discourse", on a plenary panel at the conference, "What Is Post-Colonial Thought?", Université des Antilles, November 24, 2015.
- **Dr. Anthea Morrison** presented a paper entitled “Remember Us in Motherland: Africa revisited in Lorna Goodison’s *Oracabessa*” at 34th annual West Indian Literature Conference, University of Puerto Rico, October 1–3, 2015. Dr Morrison also presented the paper “Stories from England, stories from home: Competing voices in Caryl Phillips’ *In the Falling Snow*” at the 17th triennial conference of the ACLALS, Stellenbosch, South Africa, July 2016.
- **Dr. Rachel Moseley-Wood** presented a paper entitled “Lurking in the sub-text: Homoerotic Tension in *Third World Cop*” at the University of Chester conference, “Talking Bodies: An international, interdisciplinary conference on identity, sexuality and representation” held from March 31–April 2, 2015 in Chester, UK. She also presented a paper at the Caribbean Studies Association 40th annual conference in New Orleans, May 25–29, 2015 entitled “Dreaming History in Storm Sauter’s *Better Mus’ Come*”. Dr. Moseley-Wood presented another paper on Storm Sauter entitled “Telling Caribbean Stories: Storm Sauter’s Place in the New Caribbean Canon” at the Caribbean Cinema Now conference held as part of the activities of the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival, held in Port-of-Spain, September 24–26, 2015. “Trying to Bridge the Divide: Postcolonial Film in Jamaica” was the title of a paper she presented at the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS) conference, held at Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa, July 10–15, 2016.
- **Dr. Lisa Tomlinson** attended a conference at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill on January 12–15. She presented a paper entitled “Literary Pan Africanism: The Literary work of Una Marson.”

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Michael Bucknor

- “Looking from the Corners of his Eye: Kei Miller’s Slant-Eye Poetics”, Review of Kei Miller’s *Writing Down the Vision: Essays and Prophecies*. *Jamaica Journal* 36.1 & 2 (Dec) 2015. 138–140.

Dr. Norval Edwards

- Review of Alison Donnell, Maria McGarrity, and Evelyn O’Callaghan’s (eds), *Caribbean Irish Connections: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. *Journal of Caribbean History* 50.1 (2016): 94–95.

Dr. Rachel Moseley-Wood

- “The Other Jamaica: Music and the City in Jamaican Film.” Special Issue on Caribbean Film in *Caribbean Quarterly* 61. 2&3 (2015).

Dr. Anthea Morrison

- Review of *And Caret Bay Again* by Velma Pollard. *Jamaica Journal* 3.1-2, 140–143.
- “Remember us in Motherland: Africa Revisited in Lorna Goodison’s *Oracabessa*”, *Journal of West Indian Literature*, 24.1 (April 2016), 9–26.

Dr. Lisa Tomlinson

- Review of Austin Clarke’s *Membering* in *Literary Review of Canada* (December 2015): 7–8.
- “Dancing Between Cultures: Claude McKay and the Harlem Renaissance” in *Critical Insights: Harlem Renaissance*. Ed. Varlack, Christopher Allen. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2015: 248–264
- “Una Marson: Cultural and Literary Nationalist” in *African American Intellectual History Society* (online, March 26, 2016)

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr. Michael Bucknor

- Editor, *Journal of West Indian Literature* (Regional Refereed Publication)
- Editorial Board Member, *Caribbean Quarterly* (Regional Refereed Publication)
- Member, Board of Readers, *Issues in Critical Investigation*, Vanderbilt University, USA.
- Senior Editorial Advisor, *Lucayos*, College of the Bahamas. (Regional Refereed Publication)
- Executive Member, Association for Commonwealth Literatures and Languages Studies (ACLALS)

Professor Carolyn Cooper

- Member, Board of Directors, Development Partners and Management International Limited, Kingston.
- Regional Editor (Caribbean), *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, Routledge.
- Weekly column for the *Sunday Gleaner*

Dr. Norval Edwards

- Review Editor, Northern Caribbean University's peer-reviewed journal, *International Review of Humanities*
- Manuscript Reviewer for *Postcolonial Text*, *Journal of West Indian Literature*, *Small Axe* and *Transnational Literature*
- Member, Advisory Board, *Issues in Critical Investigation*, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

Undergraduate

Majors	31
First Class Honours	3
Liberal Studies Majors	16

Postgraduate

PhD	1
MPhil	3
MA	1