DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo, CAPES Haiti, BA, MA Besançon, PhD Lille III, D.E.A Antilles-Guyane, Palmes académiques Chev.
– Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department welcomed five new members: Ms. Nathalie-Zoé Fabert (French), Ms. Nadia Bouadi-Barco (Spanish), Ms. Patricia Dos Reis (Portuguese/Brazil); Ms. Kumiko Yoshida, (JICA Volunteer/Japanese), and Mr. Clifton McCook, Language Lab. Technician. Dr. Françoise Cévaër went on Sabbatical Leave for 2008-2009. Dr. Paulette Ramsay was promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer with tenure effective August 1, 2008; she was also featured among the UWI scholars selected for the special Issue of The Pelican, “60 Under 60,” and her research fellowship was extended for an additional year. Mrs. Doreen Preston who was on Sabbatical in 2007-2008 went on no-pay leave for the first semester and resigned effective July 31, 2009. Our colleague, Dr. Claudette Williams, was promoted to the rank of Professor and was elected to the University Council for 2008-2009. She continued to serve as Deputy Dean in charge of Student Matters, Academic Quality Assurance, and was appointed Chair of the Institute of Caribbean Studies. Thirteen members of the Department were recognized at the Guardian Life Annual Premium Teaching Awards 2008 on October 2 for scoring consistently 4.8 to 5 in Student Evaluation.

On October 30, 2008, the Department hosted a panel on “Beyond Language Barriers: Oral Traditions in the Caribbean,” in collaboration with the Alliance Française de la Jamaïque. Mr. Hector Poullet, from Guadeloupe and Ms. Amalia Posso Liu from Colombia, Mrs. Jean Small and Amina Blackwood-Meeks presented on Folk Tales and Proverbs of the Region.
The HOD met with the Heads of Language Sections and the Director of the Language Learning Centre at the Inter-Campus meeting held in Barbados in January 19-21, 2009 in order to foster cross-campus co-operation in the implementation of the University 2007-2012 Strategic Plan.

Confucius Institute. In February, a Confucius Institute, Jamaica was established at the Mona Campus under the umbrella of the Department. The inaugural lecture of the CI, entitled “Language, Learning and the Future,” was delivered on February 12, 2009, by Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing. A second Confucius Institute Lecture on “Hakka Castle Dwellings: World Unesco Heritage” was held on April 14, 2009 and presented by Dr. Keith Lowe, a former director of the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto. The Confucius Institute was also associated with a slideshow series on China organized by the Chinese Cultural Association (June 3 and 10, July 1 and 7) and presented by Dr. Mai Ken Liu.

Obituary: The Department mourned on June 24, 2009 the unexpected death of its Administrative Secretary, Mrs. Maria Cover-Alao, a member of staff for 37 years.

Teaching and Learning.

The French Section submitted its post-review Action plan to AQAC. The Department held its usual retreats at the end of each semester to review teaching and exchange about best practices. It was agreed this year that CSEC 1/2 and CAPE students should be separated as of September 2009. Another matter of concern was the attrition rate at the advanced level of the language courses. Two new Japanese courses were designed with a view to offering a Minor in Japanese. A new Level I Spanish course on popular Hispanic culture SPAN1214 was approved by AQAC. One French course FREN2702 was redesigned to be offered at level I and received approval for a year.

Evaluation of Lecturers and Courses

The Department continues to be highly rated for its teaching and courses. The mean average was 4.6 (lecturers) and 4.3 (courses) for semester 1 and 4.5 (lecturers) and 4.1 (courses) for semester 2.
Publication output per capita

3 per capita in the lecturer category and above, not counting Graduate students in Lecturer positions [21 publications: 16 refereed, 5 non-refereed].

Student-centered activities

The Department received various donations of books and teaching material from the French, Japanese, Mexican and Spanish Embassies in Jamaica.

In October, the Spanish Club showed three Colombian films in collaboration with LACC and the Colombian Embassy. The Department organized a Modern Language Day at the Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts on February 12, 2009. On April 8, 2009, the Spanish Club staged successfully its annual Noche Latina at the Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts. Seven students participated in the Inter-Campus Modern Language Theatre Festival, which was celebrating its 10th anniversary at the Cave Hill Campus from March 23-24, 2009.

International Relations.

On February 13, 2009, the Vice-President of China, H.E. Mr. Xi Ping, while visiting Jamaica, presented the Confucius Institute Plaque to the Campus Principal.

Four students went on exchange programmes: two spent the first semester at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras; one spent the year at the UAG, Schoelcher Campus in Martinique and the other one at the Université Bordeaux IV.

Two graduating students from the Japanese language programme were selected to participate in the JET programme and four students were offered Assistantships in France.
PAPERS PRESENTED

Françoise Cévaër


Lindy Jones


Gilles Lubeth


Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo

• “Césaire et La tragédie du roi Christophe: l’histoire haïtienne comme ferment de la lutte anti-colonialiste.” October 15-16, 2008, Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre Y Maestra (Santo Domingo and Santiago de los Caballeros).

• “Using CALL to Teach Advanced Writing Competence.” Inter-campus Modern Language Symposium, UWI, St. Augustine, May 26, 2009, Trinidad and Tobago.

• Dominican Views of the Haitian Revolution: Carlos Esteban Deive’s Viento negro, Bosque del Caíman. LASA Congress, June 11-14, 2009, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
Ileana Sanz

- “Vacio cultural vs. vanguardia: los albores de un discours autóctono en el Caribe anglófono y sus resonancias en Cuba decimonónica.” LASA Congress, June 11-14, 2009, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Papers presented at the 34th annual conference of the Caribbean Studies Association, Kingston, Jamaica, June 1-5, 2009.

Caroline Cousins

- “Heteroglossia and Fluid Subjectivities in Caribbean Women Writing.”

Françoise Cévaër

- “Re-interpreting Haitian History through Vodou.”

Lindy Jones

- “The African Womanist in Georgina Herrera’s poetry.”

Warrick Lattibeaudiere

- “From Chameleon to Matador and Back: Towards a Feminist Politics of Change in Montero’s Del rojo de su sombra, Chamoiseau’s Texaco and Confiant’s Mamzelle Libellule.”

Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo

- “Establishing a Compulsory Foreign Language Requirement for the Degree at The UWI, Mona Campus? Challenges and Prospects.”

Patricia dos Reis

- “Brazilian Portuguese and the New Orthography.”

Ileana Sanz

- “CASA and Caribbean Studies.” Panel “Casa de las Américas: 50 Years on the Move.”
- “The spirit of Africa in contemporary Cuban literature.”
Maria-Tereza Villoria Nolla

* “Invisibility Undone: Heterogeneity and Mestizaje in Mayra’s Montero’s *Son de Almendra*.”

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Refereed**

Cévaër Françoise


Nzengou-Tayo Marie-José

Ramsay Paulette


Sanz Ileana


Williams Claudette

* “With all due respect…”: Postmodern Parody, Drama, and Antislavery Politics in Antonio Zambrana’s El negro Francisco.
Afro-Hispanic Review. Vo. 28, No.1 (Spring 2009), pp. 133-156.


Non-refereed

Nzengou-Tayo, Marie-José


Ramsay, Paulette


Williams Claudette.


Income Generation

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<th>UGC Fund</th>
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<th>Expenditures</th>
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PUBLIC SERVICE

Françoise Cévaer

- Member, Jamaica Association of French Teachers.
- Vice-President, Alliance Française de la Jamaïque
- Member, Caribbean Studies Association
- Member, Latin American Studies Association

Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo

- Member, Haitian Studies Association.
- Member, Jamaica Association of French Teachers.
- Member, Caribbean Studies Association.
- Member, Latin American Studies Association.
- Secretary, International Shotokan Karate Association of Jamaica (formerly Japan Karate Association of Jamaica).
- Ex-Officio member, Executive Committee of the Alliance Française de la Jamaïque (UWI Representative).
– Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Haitian Studies, MaComère, Caribbean Quarterly, Callaloo, Palimpsestes.*

**Doreen Preston**

– Assistant Chief Examiner, French CAPE, CXC.
– Examiner and Interlocutor for English, Jamaican Creole, French and Spanish (Database of Chartered Institute of Linguists in the United Kingdom).
– Certified forensic linguist, Chartered Institute of Linguists.

**Paulette Ramsay**

– Faculty advisor, UWI Chess Society.

**CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS**

**Undergraduate:**

**Registration:** 1799

**Preliminary Courses**

- French: 209
- Spanish: 390
- Portuguese: 50

**Hospitality & Tourism Management**

- French: 37
- Spanish: 90

**Non-BA Programme**

- Japanese: 130
BA Programme

French  199
Spanish  694

Graduating Students

French (minor)  4
Spanish  18

First Class Honours:

Marcia Jackson
Ainsley Reid
Keesha Robinson
Sabrina Watson
Shari Williams.

Postgraduate:

Registration:  11

MPhil French  2
MPhil Spanish  1
MPhil French/Spanish  1
PhD French  1
PhD French/Spanish  1
PhD Spanish  1
MA in Translation Studies  4 (Spanish 2, French 2)

Degree awarded:

Dr. Gregory Stevens (MPhil Spanish).
Prizes Awarded:

French:

Level I William Mailer Prize: Renee Rattray
Level II Prix Jambec: Marcia Jackson
Level III Prix Gertrud Buscher: Jo-Lane Anderson-Figueroa
Level III French Embassy Prize for overall achievement over the three years: Noelle Hoskins

Bridget Jones Memorial Award: Safia Beersingh Allenya Hull
Bridget Jones and William Mailer Travel Fund: Duran Duckett

Spanish

Gabriel Coulthard Prize: Marcia Jackson
Paul Davis Prize: André Clarke
Kemlin Laurence Prize: Noelle Hoskins
Latin American Women’s Club Award: Ainsley Reid Keesha Robinson Natashalce Thompson