

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

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Palmes académiques – Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

This was another transition year for the department with the arrival of new members of staff and the review of the Spanish section. Dr. Paulette Ramsay and Mrs. Shuquin Wang joined the Department in August, followed by Dr. Ileana Sanz and Ms. Anouck Carre later in October. Dr. Claudette Williams' research fellowship was extended for one more year. Ms. Michelle Stewart left the Department to join the Department of Educational Studies. The Spanish section was reviewed, which was a major challenge for members of the section who were all fairly new in the Department, and several being junior staff members. The review took place in March 19-23, 2007 and the report from the review team was received in May. Our colleague Maria Tereza Villoria Nolla successfully defended her PhD Dissertation at the University of Nottingham, UK. Mr. Paharsingh, our lab technician, retired at the end of the academic year.



Teaching and Learning: A survey was conducted in order to evaluate the impact and the perception of foreign language learning at the UWI. The report shows that students are increasingly aware of the need to master a foreign language but are not yet ready to carry language subjects at the advanced level unless they can declare it as a minor. During the year, three new courses were approved (two Level II Chinese courses and one new course in Spanish) as well as the reclassification of the Japanese courses. The department had two retreats, one at the end of each semester. At the May 4 retreat, the department reflected on the level of completion of its 2006-2007 work plan and agreed on its 2007-2008 work plan. The main objectives for 2007-08 are to (1) standardize and establish a format for testing listening comprehension over the

three years of the programme across languages; (2) respond to the Spanish Review by establishing a course of action and implement that plan; (3) conduct the review of the French Section; (4) propose a revised language programme for the Hospitality and Tourism Management programme; (5) develop two new courses in Japanese in order to be able to offer a minor.

Evaluation of lecturers and courses: The department continues to be above the target (4) set by the faculty in terms of its teaching even though there was a slight decline in the second semester. The average means for lecturers was 4.4 in the first semester and 4.1 in the second. The average means for courses was 4.2 in the first semester and 4.1 in the second.

Publication output per capita: The department counts 7 permanent and 6 temporary full-time members of staff, plus 3 externally funded full-time as well as 14 part-time. The research output per capita is for this year 0.85 (counting only staff in the lecturer category and above).

Student-centered activities: The Department facilitated the Japanese Embassy in hosting a presentation of the JET Programme for the University students in the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre (On November 9, 2006). The Japanese section of the Department organized a very successful Japanese Day at the Undercroft (March 1, 2007). The event was put on by our Japanese instructors, Misses Tazuko Iijima and Miho Takahashi in collaboration with the Japanese Embassy and the Japanese Club. The ambassador of Japan, Mr. Masahiro Obata presented gifts to the participants. During the semester break, March 3-10, a group of students from the Business Spanish course (S30B) went on an internship programme in Panama. They were accompanied by Dr Maite Villoria. The Panamean Embassy had assisted in identifying the host companies. Students from the French Business course (F30A) went on an intersnship programme in Guadeloupe. The programme, organized by the CORECA, was partially funded by the Conseil Général de Guadeloupe. A group of 2nd-year students went to Colombia, University del Norte, within the framework of the Colombia-UWI exchange programme. They were accompanied by Mrs. Esmeralda Nunes. Some first-year students spent three weeks in Costa Rica, the trip was organized by Mrs. Lindsay Hernández-Quiros.

For the celebration of 'Francophonie' Day, on March 20, Mr. Gilles Lubeth and Ms. Anouck Carre organized an exhibition in the language laboratory entitled "Mots Migrateurs" (Migrating Words) around

French some words. They also edited a student journal Français hors Frontières.

The Department received various donations of books and teaching material. Japanese books and CDs were handed over by the Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Masashiro Obata. French books were offered by Mrs. Aminata Eluther-Wesley, the French Attaché Culturel to the Main Library. Chinese textbooks and workbooks were donated by the Chinese Ambassador, Mr. Jen Chinghua. The Latin American Women's Club made its annual donation to assist students participating in the Colombia Exchange programme.

International Relations: The Egyptian University Al-Azhar has approached the University through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Egyptian Embassy for the offering of Arabic next academic year.

A M.O.U. was signed between the University and the Spanish Government. Under the agreement, the Department will receive a Spanish Foreign Assistant who will help with the Development of the Spanish for Hospitality and Tourism Courses.

Distinguished Visitor: H. E. Mrs Woo Qidi, the Vice-Minister of Education of the People's Republic of China, visited the Language Laboratory while on tour on Campus on March 23, 2007.

Ms. Muffett Barry successfully defended her PhD Dissertation entitled: "Dynamics of Diasporic Identity in Selected Cuban-American Writers," on January 19, 2007.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Dr. Françoise Cévaër

- "Mythes et stéréotypes, vecteurs de la "constriction identitaire dans L'Impasse de Daniel Biyaoula" Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountains Modern Language Association on October 14, 2006.
- "Martinique – Etats-Unis: Daniel Picouly sur les traces de Chester Himes: un exemple d'intertextualité par delà les frontières linguistiques," Caribbean Studies Association Annual Meeting, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, May 28-June 1, 2007

- “Rumpus in Harlem-sur-Seine: Francophone crime fiction hosting Chester Himes,” at the fifth International Conference on New Direction in the Humanities, Paris, July 2007.

Ms. Caroline Cousins (MPhil student)

- “Colonial Desire in the fictions of Maryse Condé, Jean Rhys and Jamaica Kincaid” December 2006.

Mr. Warrick Lattibeaudiere (MPhil student)

- “The Chameleon Gender: Towards a Sexual Identity Politics in Confiant’s Mamzelle Libellule and Mayra Montero’s Del Rojo de su sombra,” June 2007.

Dr. Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo

- “Présence noire dans les romans américains de Julien Green.” (African Presence in Julien Green’s American Novels), 16th annual meeting of The Julien Green International Society, University of California San-José, November 2006.
- “La traduction des textes littéraires antillais: quels enjeux ?” Colloquium La Traduction et après ? Ethique et Professions, University of Liège, Belgium, April 2007.
- “Un pacte avec le Diable : l’écrivain haïtien et la malédiction du pouvoir dans le roman de Gary Victor, Je sais quand Dieu vient se promener dans mon Jardin.” Haiti Seminar Series “Haiti Now!” UWI, St. Augustine, May 2007
- “Selling One’s Soul to the Devil? New Perception of Political Commitment by Haitian Writers.” Caribbean Studies Association 32nd Annual Meeting, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, May -June 2007.
- “La colonie du nouveau monde: Condé’s Pessimistic Views of a Caribbean Utopian Community.” Caribbean Studies Association Annual Meeting, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, May -June 2007.
- “From Négritude to Créolité: Francophone Influences in Caribbean Literatures.” Symposium of the Latin American Institute, “Mapping Paths of Culture: The Circulation of Knowledge and Cultural Practices in the Caribbean and its Diaspora.” Free University of Berlin. Berlin, July 2007.

Messes Nancy Sanchez-Richards & Marta Jorge-Wallfall

- “Juegos lingüísticos en la enseñanza del español como segunda lengua,” International Workshop on Innovation in Education, Centre for University Teaching of Las Tunas, Las Tunas, Cuba, May 2007.

Dr. Gregory Stephens (MPhil candidate)

- “Indigenismo en el discurso Zapatista”, November 2006.

Dr. Ileana Sanz

- “Groundings for a Circum-Caribbean Thought,” 32nd annual conference of the Caribbean Studies Association, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, May-June 2007.

Dr. Maria Tereza Villoria-Nolla

- El subalterno que empanicó Medellín: la ciudad del sicariato en la novela colombiana contemporánea. University of Nottingham, December 2007.
- “Havana Transfigured: The Return of the Repressed Other in Padura’s *Mascaras*” 5th International Conference on New Direction in the Humanities, Paris, July 2007.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed

Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo

- * “La Diffusion de la littérature haïtienne en France: Quelle reconnaissance” *Critique*, Nos. 711-712, Août-septembre 2006, Paris: Editions Critique. pp. 708-719.
- * “Haitian Callaloo: What You Ask For Is Certainly Not What You Get!” *Callaloo*. Reading Callaloo / Eating Callaloo. Vol. 30 No. 1, Winter 2007. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, pp 175-178.
- * “Haitian Gothic and History: Madison Smartt Bell’s Trilogy on Toussaint Louverture and the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804).” *Small Axe*. No. 25, June 2007, pp. 184-193. Bloomington: University of Indiana Press.

Paulette Ramsay

- * “Soy una feminista negra: Shirley Campbell’s Feminist / Womanist Agenda.” *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies*. Vo. 2, Issue 1, April 2007, pp. 51-68.

Claudette Williams

- * “Cuban Antislavery Novel in a Postcolonial Light: Anselmo Suárez y Romero’s *Francisco*.” *Caribbean Quarterly*. Vol. 52 No. 4 (December 2006): 1-25.
- * “The Devil in the Details of Cuban Antislavery Narrative: Félix Tanco y Bosmeniel’s *Petrona y Rosalía*.” *Afro-Hispanic Review* Vol.25 No.2 (Fall 2006), 129-150.

Non-Referred Translations

Claudette Williams

- * “Death’s Yellow Eyes” [“Los ojos amarillos de la muerte”] by Excilia Saldaña. *Caribbean Writing Today*
<http://www.caribbeanwritingtoday.com> (February 2007)
- * “The Waves that Cradle the Silence” [“El agua que mece el silencio”] by Rose Mary Salum *Caribbean Writing Today*
<http://www.caribbeanwritingtoday.com> (April 2007)
- * “Through the Mist” [“Atraves de la niebla”] by Souleen Dell’Amico Ciruta
<http://www.caribbeanwritingtoday.com> (June 2007)

INCOME GENERATION

Sale of Manuals	221,639.73
Consultation	117,149.35
Donation by the Latin American Women Club	40,000.00
Courses and translation services (Language Laboratory)	164,225.00
Summer Courses (F30A, S111, S11B, S211, S25B, S311, S35B)	1,036,451.00
Total \$	1,579,465.08

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr. Françoise Cévaer

- Judge, Poetry Competition, Alliance Française

Mr. Gilles Lubeth

- French Interpreter, Prof. the Hon. Rex Nettleford
- Facilitator, CAPE Revision Seminar for Oral examination, JAFT CAPE/A-Level
- Judge, Poetry Competition, Alliance Française

Dr. Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo

- Presenter, Training Seminar for French Teachers
- President, Haitian Studies Association
- French Interpreter, Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica

Mrs. Doreen Preston

- Assistant Chief Examiner, CAPE French at the CXC.

Dr. Paulette Ramsay

- Chief Examiner, CSEC Spanish at the CXC.

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

Undergraduate: 2052

Registration: Preliminary Courses

French 178; Japanese 107; Spanish 352

Hospitality & Tourism Management

French 79; Spanish 351;

BA Programme: Chinese 39; French 148; Japanese 17; Spanish 781
(78 from MOEY-BEd Programme)

Graduating Students

French (Major) 3; Spanish (Major) 33; First Class Honours 4

Postgraduate Registration: 11

MPhil French 3; MPhil Spanish 2; PhD Spanish 1;
MA in Translation Studies 5

Degree awarded:

PhD Spanish – Mrs Muffett Barry
MPhil Spanish – Ms. Marsha Gray
MA in Translation Studies – Mrs. Trisha Atkinson-O'Sullivan

Prizes Awarded:**French:**

Level I William Mailer Prize: –
Noelle Hoskins
Level II Prix Jambec: –
Jo-Lane Anderson-Figueroa
Level III Prix Gertrud Buscher: –
Stefane Daley
Level III French Embassy Prize for
overall achievement (3 years): –
Stefane Daley

Spanish

Gabriel Coulthard Prize: –
Simara Howell
Paul Davis Prize: – Ruby Rose Demetrius
Latin American Women's
Club Bursary: – Chrishane Williams