

## DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo, CAPES (Haiti), BA, MA (Besançon),  
PhD (Lille III), DEA (Antilles-Guyane), *Palmes académiques* (Chev.)  
– Head of Department

### WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The work of the Department was seriously affected by staffing issues with the resignation of two staff members and the late arrival of the ICETEX-Colombia Foreign Assistant. The Department bade farewell to five members of staff: Ms. Fabert (French Foreign Assistant), Ms. Yoshida (Japanese Foreign Assistant), Ms. Estrada (ICETEX-Colombia), Dr. Sanz and Mr. Gilles Lubeth.



Dr. Paulette Ramsay was featured in the *Research for Development 2010* brochure published by the Principal's Office. Dr. Nzengou-Tayo participated in a panel on Haiti organized by the Department of History and Archaeology on February 11, 2010. On June 7, 2010 she participated in an educational programme on Aimé Césaire for Television FUNGLODE, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Dr. Nzengou-Tayo attended the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual West Indian Literature Conference hosted by the Department of Literatures in English, Mona Campus on April 29 – May 1, 2010 and the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual conference of the Caribbean Studies Association on May 26, 2010, in Barbados, Dr Ramsay attended the Conference of College Language Association in New York, April 7-10, 2010 and Professor Williams attended the “The State of Freedom, Freedom of States” Conference hosted by The UWI, Mona Campus on June 16-18, 2010.

## **Earthquake in Haiti.**

As part of the Faculty “Teaching Haiti” Initiative, the Department organized the showing of a documentary on Haitian women, *Haitian Women: Pillars of the Global Economy*, in collaboration with the Centre for Gender Studies and Development. Access to the language laboratory was given to the Jamaican Language Unit for the Haitian Creole Course. The Head of department was part of the UWI delegation visiting Haiti May 15-20, 2010 to select the UEH students who would come to the UWI, Mona in September 2010

## **Inaugural Lecture:**

Professor Claudette Williams gave her inaugural Professorial Lecture on April 23, 2010. Her presentation was entitled “*The Other Side of the Pancake: Reading and Reasoning in a Postmodern Mode.*”

**Japanese Cultural Grant:** The Department’s application for a Japanese Cultural Grant of 27 million yens (USD 270,000.00) for a new language laboratory was successful. A Grant Agreement is yet to be signed between the Ministry of Finance and the Japan International Cooperation Agency for implementation.

**Confucius Institute:** As acting director of the Confucius Institute at the UWI, Mona, the Head of Department was part of a UWI delegation on a visit to China in September 2009. The delegation visited Hanban and Taiyuan University of Technology, where a MOU was signed. The Head attended the annual international conference of Confucius Institutes in Beijing in December 2010. She also attended a post-conference workshop for directors of CIs. The CI at the UWI, Mona received the sum of US\$150,000.00 from Hanban for the refurbishing of a venue and the upgrading of the language laboratory donated by China in 2005. H. E. ambassador Chen Jinghua unveiled the plaque presented last year by the Vice-President of the People’s Republic of China took place on July 19, 2010 at the new venue of the institute.

## **University Service.**

Professor Williams served as a reviewer for the Quality Review of the Spanish Programme at Shortwood Teacher's College.

Dr. Nzengou-Tayo served as the Internal Academic member of the Quality Assurance Review for the French Section at the Saint-Augustine Campus from March 1-5, 2010.

Dr. Cévaër was elected at the Executive Board of WIGUT as chair of the Membership Committee.

## **Obituary**

Members of the French Section heard with sadness about the tragic death of Mr. Jacques Charrier. Mr. Charrier was a French Linguistic Attaché/Lecturer in the then Department of French from 1986 to 1992.

## **Teaching and Learning.**

The Department held its usual retreats at the end of each semester to review teaching and exchange about best practices. It was agreed to continue the separation between the CSEC and CAPE students. The new Japanese Culture course is to be reviewed at the request of AQAC. It was agreed to discontinue FREN1702 which had received approval for a year but did not meet the expectations. FREN2702 will be re-instated by 2011-12. The level III online Spanish Language course was completed and offered for the first time in the summer.

A matter of concern was the students' attendance and attitude toward learning. It was noted that by week 7-8, attendance dwindled which corollary was a high failure rate.

## **Evaluation of lecturers and courses.**

The Department continues to be highly rated for its teaching and courses. The mean average was 4.4 (lecturers) and 4.2 (courses) for semester 1, and 4.4 (lecturers) and 4.1 (courses) for semester 2.

## **Publication output per capita.**

1.5 per capita in the lecturer category and above, not counting Graduate students in Lecturer positions [8 publications: 7 refereed, 1 non-refereed].

## **Student-centered activities.**

**Brazilian Club:** *Baiana's* Day on November 25, 2009, a Festival of the city of Bahia; display entitled "Brazil 1500-2010," on April 22, Brazil's "Discovery" Day.

**Chinese Students:** Recording and uploading of a "New Year Greetings" video on the Hanban Confucius Institute Website ([http://college.chinese.cn/article/2010-02/13/content\\_111648.htm](http://college.chinese.cn/article/2010-02/13/content_111648.htm); [http://college.chinese.cn/node\\_3875.htm](http://college.chinese.cn/node_3875.htm)).

**Japanese Students:** performance at the JICA Alumni Association Annual Award Ceremony on November 7, 2009; Japanese Open Day activities on April 1, 2010.

**French, Portuguese and Spanish Students:** participation in the Inter-campus Modern Language Theatre Festival held in Trinidad, May 24-27, 2010.

## **International Relations.**

Two French / International Relations Students, Tamara Taylor and Shireifa Joseph, were selected for the UWI-UAG-Bordeaux IV programme. The programme is sponsored by the French Government. Five other students are currently at various stage of the Programme (Renee Rattray, at the University Antilles-Guyane; Jean-Pierre Murray and Bethel Cole, André Stevens and Haniff Miller at University Bordeaux IV). One Spanish student, Shanell Taylor, spent the first semester at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras.

Twelve students were selected for the French assistantship programme. One Japanese student was selected for the JET Programme. Twelve

graduating Spanish students were offered assistantship positions in Colombian High School and Universities under the Jamaica-ICETEX Colombia Exchange programme. Seven UWI students spent a month in Colombia and seven Colombian Students came in Jamaica.

### **Distinguished visitors.**

On November 18, 2009, the Department received the visit of Mr. Yu Xi, a writer journalist and professor at Wuban University in China.

Mr. Abraham Montes de Oca (Second Ambassador) from the Embassy of Mexico in Jamaica and Dr. Cynthia Hobbs, Department of Education at the Word Bank (Caribbean section) visited the SPAN3502 class on March 22, 2010.

H.E. Mr. Yagushi paid a surprise visit for Japanese Open Day on April 1, 2010.

H. E. Mr. Koichi Takemasa, Japanese State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and H.E. Mr. Yaguchi, ambassador of Japan in Jamaica visited the Language Laboratory on April 27, 2010.

### **Outreach**

French staff supported activities organised by The Jamaica Association of French Teachers (JAFT): Dr. Cévaër did a seminar for CAPE and CSEC students, February 26, 2010; Ms. Fabert organize the celebration of the *Francophonie* Week from March 18 to 26 and Dr. Nzengou-Tayo and Mr. Lubeth held a revision seminar for French CAPE students, April 7-8, 2010.

Ms. Fabert served as Chief examiner and Mr. Lubeth as examiner for the DELF and DALF examinations organized by the *Alliance Française de la Jamaïque*, June 15-24, 2010.

Dr. Cévaer was elected President of the *Alliance Française de la Jamaïque* at its Annual General Meeting held on May 28, 2010.

Ms. Yoshida presented on Japanese Culture the Language Training Centre and at the Regional Office of the MOEY in Portland.

The Head of Department represented the Confucius Institute at the Chinese New Year Garden Party organized by the Chinese Benevolent Association on February 21, 2010. Mrs. Feng, our Chinese instructor served as co-Master of ceremony for the cultural part of the programme.

## PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Françoise Cévaër.** “Le revenant de Gary Victor : entre croyances et cultures populaires,” International Conference: “Encres noires, écrans noirs, Poétique, Politique & Métaphysique entre texte et film noirs.” University of Toulouse-Le Mirail, June 1-4, 2010.
- **Lindy Jones** (PhD student). “Resilience: Georgina Herrera’s response to a violent past.” Annual Conference of the Caribbean Studies Association held in Barbados, May 24-28, 2010.
- **Warrick Lattibeaudiere**, (PhD student). “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*.” UWI-Duke University Conference, “States of Freedom: Freedom of States,” UWI, Mona Campus, June 16-18, 2010.
- **Gilles Lubeth.** “Total Simulation and the Teaching of Foreign Language: French for International Conference at The UWI, Mona,” NCU International Conference on Foreign Language Learning in Mandeville on March 3, 2010. (co-author: **Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo**)
- **Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo.** “*Malè pa gen klaksonn* (Danger doesn’t blow its horn): a personal account of a foretold yet unavoidable disaster.” Annual Conference of the Caribbean Studies Association, Barbados, May 24-39, 2010.
- **Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo.** “L’épopée christophienne vue ‘d’en bas’: voix paysannes dans *La Tragédie du roi Christophe* d’Aimé

Césaire (King Henri Christophe's Epics 'from below': Peasants' voices in Aimé Césaire's *La Tragédie du roi Christophe*), FUNGLODE, (Fundación Global para la Democracia y el Desarrollo) Colloquium on Aimé Césaire held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, June 7-9, 2010.

- **Paulette Ramsay.** “Visual Rhetoric: Racial and Ethnic Difference in Mexico through the Distorted Lense of Memin Penguin.” Conference on Literature and Identity in the Caribbean held on March 11-13, 2010, University College of the Cayman Islands.
- **Paulette Ramsay.** “Place and Belonging in Selected Poems of the Afro-Cuban Jesús Cos Causse.” Conference of the College Language Association in New York, April 7-10, 2010.
- **Paulette Ramsay.** “Towards a New Vista: Shirley Campbell's Representations of her Afro-Caribbean Cultural Heritage” 29<sup>th</sup> Annual West Indian Literature Conference, UWI, Mona, April 29 – May 01, 2010.
- **Patricia dos Reis.** “Teaching Portuguese in Jamaica: Investigating Ways of Facilitating Learning,” NCU International Conference on Foreign Language Learning, Mandeville, March 3, 2010.
- **Ileana Sanz.** “Mestizaje ¿utopía, mito, realidad? Su representación el discurso literario cubano contemporáneo.” Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Concordia University, Montreal. May 31 – June 4, 2010.
- **Claudette Williams.** “Reading Cuba's Literature on Slavery.” York University, Toronto, sponsored by the Center for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean and the Harriett Tubman Institute, July 15, 2010.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed

- \* Peters, Hugues and **Françoise Cévaër**. “Développement d’un corpus oral d’apprenants: Apport à la didactique du FLE dans les Caraïbes anglophones” *Cuadernos de lingüística de la UPR*, <http://linguistica.uprrp.edu/> Vol. 2, No. 2 (Diciembre 2009): Numéro spécial - Actes du Colloque FLE, pp. 21-32
- \* **Françoise Cévaër**. “Haitian crime fiction – Reinterpreting Haitian History through Vodou”, *The International Journal of the Humanities*, Volume 7, Issue 9, 2009, pp. 11-18, <http://ijh.cgpublisher.com/product/pub.26/prod.1671>
- \* **Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo**. “Indigenism.” *Oxford Encyclopedia of African Thought*. (2 volumes), edited by Abiola Irele and Biodun Jeyifo. London: Oxford University Press, 2010, Vol. 2, pp. 4-6.
- \* **Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo**. “Creole and French in Haitian Literature.” *The Haitian Creole Language: History, Structure, Use and Education*. Arthur K. Spears and Carole Berotte-Joseph (editors). Lanham MD, Lexington Books – Rowman and Littlefield Publishers Inc, pp. 153-174
- \* **Paulette Ramsay**. Under Basil Leaves: An Anthology of Poems. Hansib: London and Hertfordshire, England 2010, 130 pages.
- \* **Paulette Ramsay**. “Claiming Their Own: Righting Perceptions of Caribbean Sexuality. Thomas Glave (Ed). *Our Caribbean: A Gathering of Lesbian and Gay Writing from the Caribbean*. Duke; UWI Press, 2009, pp. 86-92
- \* **Maite Villoria Nolla**. “Invisibility Undone: Questioning Discourses of Power in Mayra Montero’s *Son de Almendra*.” *International Journal of the Humanities*, Volume 7, Issue 11, pp.25-38.



- \* **Claudette Williams.** *The Devil in the Details: Cuban Antislavery Narrative in the Postmodern Age.* Jamaica / Barbados / Trinidad & Tobago: The Press of the University of the West Indies, 2010.

## Non-Refereed Publications.

- \* **Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo.** “Innovating in Teaching Advanced Writing Skills to French Foreign Language Learners: The Use of Wiki and MS Word on the Moodle Platform of OurVLE.” Mervyn Chisholm (ed.). *JFHAA Active and Interactive Teaching and Learning Guide.* Part 2. Section 2.4. Kingston: Jamaica Fulbright Humphrey Alumni Association, Public Affairs Section of the American Embassy in Jamaica, Instructional Development Unit, University of the West Indies, Mona. pp. 49-54.

## Income Generation

UGC Fund	Income		Expenditures
Sale of Manuals (UGC Fund)	169,290.00	No over expenditure	
Commercial Accounts	Income		Expenditures
Colombian Exchange	13,208.00	Travel expenses	218,799.59
Consultation + Other Departmental Fund	202,377.49	other expenses	189,439.37
Language Courses and Translation services offered in the Language Laboratory	492,657.00	Salaries, Reimbursement and other expenses	330,077.34
Summer Courses	373,140.00	Salaries and administrative charges	93,285.00
<b>Total (UGC + Commercial Accounts) \$</b>	<b>525,672.49</b>	<b>Total (UGC + Commercial Accounts) \$</b>	<b>831,601.30</b>

## **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.
- Council Member, Caribbean Studies Association
- Member, Latin American Studies Association.
- Secretary, International Shotokan 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*.

### **Paulette Ramsay.**

- Faculty advisor, UWI Chess Society.
- Guest Editor of *Caribbean Journal of Education*, Vol. 30 no. 2
- Peer Reviewer for *Palara*, *Caribbean Journal of Education*, *Hispanic Journal*, *Dissidences: Journal of Cuban Exile Writing*, *Journal of Education and Development in the Caribbean*.

## CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

### *Undergraduate:*

**Registration:** 1822

#### **Preliminary Courses**

French	178
Spanish	491
Portuguese	40

#### **Hospitality & Tourism Management**

French	11
Spanish	99

#### **Non-BA Programme**

Chinese	37
Japanese	149

#### **BA Programme**

French	189
Spanish	633

#### **Graduating Students** 15

French (minor)	2
French and Spanish majors:	3
Spanish minors	3
Spanish and IR major	1
Spanish majors	10

**First Class Honours:** Trudi-Rae Goodison

#### **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)

## **Prizes Awarded:**

### **French:**

<b>Level I William Mailer Prize:</b>	Antwain L. Williams
<b>Level II Prix Jambec:</b>	Jared Tennant
<b>Level III Prix Gertrud Buscher:</b>	Marcia Jackson
<b>Bridget Jones Memorial Award:</b>	Alethia Hull Safiya Beersingh
<b>Bridget Jones and William Mailer Travel Fund:</b>	Duran Duckett

### **Spanish**

<b>Gabriel Coultard Prize:</b>	Trudi-Rae Goodison
<b>Paul Davis Memorial Prize:</b>	Keesha Robinson
<b>Kemlin Laurence Prize:</b>	Marcia Jackson
<b>Latin American Women's Club Award:</b>	Antwain Williams Glenroy Smith
<b>Maria Alao Memorial Bursary:</b>	Kerri-Kay Leon