

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES



Dr. Paulette A. Ramsay, BA, MA, PhD *UWI*
Head of Department

The academic year commenced with high expectations of the effects of the new Repositioning of Foreign Languages in The UWI Policy. Without doubt, we were initially flooded by large numbers of students outside of the Faculty of Humanities and Education, who were eager to take advantage of this new regulation. Among the numbers, were students from Science and Technology, Medical Sciences, and Law who had been strongly encouraged by their programme Co-ordinators to do a Foreign Language course. Unfortunately, the positive results were soon diminished due to the difficulties involved in making quick changes to the Timetable to accommodate the large numbers. The numbers diminished especially among students from the Medical Sciences, who can attend classes mainly in the evenings, due to their Faculty commitments. This particular problem will be addressed in 2013–2014.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The Department continued to work to achieve objectives that were set in 2011–2012 but were not fully met. These need to be addressed on an ongoing basis until they have been satisfactorily accomplished:

2011–2012

- Curriculum Review and Strengthening
- Increasing the numbers in the Department
- Income generation

NEW OBJECTIVES

Additional new objectives were set for the 2012–2013 year.

- Increase enrolment of full-time graduate research students.
- Improve throughput of research students.
- Enhance learning effectiveness by providing students with a more diverse, flexible and multidisciplinary teaching/learning experience.
- Strengthen co-curricular engagement and programmes.
- Increase our ability to recruit and retain high quality staff in the Department.
- Increase the number of peer-reviewed publications and citations.
- Promote research accomplishments locally and internationally.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENT

- Dr. Marie-Jose Nzengou-Tayo – Principal's Award for Research (Category: Journal Article), UWI, Mona, February 8, 2013.

DEPARTMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT

- The modified MA in Translation (French and Spanish) has now been approved by The University Committee for Graduate Studies and Research.
- The Spanish Club won the trophy for the most improved club, and five students received awards for outstanding participation in cultural and club activities.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

- Opening Ceremony of the Nippon Room on September 25, 2012. This was attended by representatives of the Japanese Embassy, members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, members of The Planning Institute of Jamaica, and members of Japan International Cooperation Agency and chaired by Dr. Paulette A. Ramsay, Head of Department. Presentations were made by Professor Gordon Shirley, Principal of The UWI and Dr. Swithin Wilmot, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Education who expressed appreciation for our new state-of-the-art facility.
- Collaboration with The UWI to celebrate Cuba/Jamaica relations. The students were prepared by Dr. Ramsay and presented a poem by Nicolás Guillén, “Tengo,” on December 6, 2012.
- Launch of French Cinè Club on October 9, 2012. This was a joint effort among the Office of the Principal, The French Embassy and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.
- Public lecture held on October 11, 2012 entitled: “The Current International Campaign in Support of the Cuban Five and the Lifting of the Blockade” by His Excellency, Yuri Gala, Ambassador of Cuba. This was organized by the Spanish Club.
- The Puppet Troupe of the Jiangsu Performing Arts Group held a Puppet Show on October 21, 2012 at the Phillip Sherlock Centre. Head of Department, Dr. Paulette A. Ramsay, represented the Principal who, due to a previous engagement, could not make the presentation as requested.

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

- Visit of Japanese Ambassador to the Department on February 15, 2013. The new Japanese Ambassador introduced himself to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, toured the new Language Laboratory, and interacted with third year students in Japanese.
- Modern Languages and Literatures Day was held on March 21, 2012. It comprised exhibitions of cultural artefacts, foods and other cultural products from China, Japan, Spain, Cuba, Mexico, Korea, France, and Colombia. The event was supported by several Embassies and Ambassadors from China, Japan, Spain, Cuba and Brazil. Events included films, mega concert, booth displays etc. It was well attended by more than fifteen Secondary Schools from across Jamaica.
- Japan Day, April 4, 2013. This was celebrated with a range of cultural activities in which students and the Japanese Embassy participated.
- A Third Year Sensitization programme was organized by Dr. Lindy Jones to give students an idea of the wide areas of work that require Foreign Languages and Literatures.
- The Cape Workshop was held on Saturday, April 13, 2013. This was well attended by students from the Sixth Forms of Campion, Wolmer's, Kingston College, Rusea's, Alpha Academy, Manchester Schools. They were very receptive of the ideas, suggestions and revisions.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

All clubs held regular meetings and participated in several activities to promote their respective languages and cultures. Faculty advisors for Clubs were Mrs. Esmeralda Nunes, Mrs. Rona Barnett-Passard, Ms. Lorene Vidal, Ms. Tazuko Iijima, Ms. Tomomi Yoshimatsu and Mrs. Yingping Liang.

DEPARTMENTAL RETREAT

This was a two-day workshop, May 21–22, 2013 which focused on the theme: “Innovativeness and Teamwork in the Teaching of Foreign Languages and Literatures”.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Dr. Paulette A. Ramsay

- Guest Lecture – March 8, 2013. “The Caribbean in Afro-Hispanic Literature.” Towson University. Baltimore, USA.
- “Eco-Feminism in Selected Afro-Mexican Folktales.” Paper presented. Conference on Geo-Aesthetics and World Peace. Towson University, Baltimore. USA. March 8–9, 2013.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Dr. Françoise Cévaër

- Cévaër, Françoise. “Nick Stone: la créolisation du thriller à travers le prisme du trickster » (The creolization of thriller through the prism of the trickster), *Antillanité, créolité, littérature-monde*” ed. Isabelle Constant, Kadhuïdi C. Mabana and Philip Nanton, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle, UK, 2013, 109–124.

Professor Claudette Williams

- “Narratives of Identity in Colonial Cuban Literature” *Identidades americanas más allá de las fronteras nacionales. Ensayos en Homenaje a Keith Ellis*. ed. María del Carmen Sillato and Patricia Varas. University Press of the South, 2012, pp. 57–72

Translations

Dr. Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo

- In collaboration with E. Wilson. Translation into English of articles by Jean Casimir’s and Michel Hector’s “Le Long XIXe siècle haïtien” (“Post-revolutionary Haiti,” pp. 289–297) and of Jean-Pierre Sainton’s “Mutations sociales et structures post-esclavagistes dans les territoires français (1848–1900).” (“The French West Indies,” pp. 311–325); in

“Chapter 9. Caribbean Social Structure in the Nineteenth Century” by Kevin A. Yelvington, Jean-Pierre Sainton, Michel Hector and Jean Casimir. *General History of the Caribbean. Vol. IV. The Long Nineteenth Century: Nineteenth Century Transformations*. K.O. Laurence (Editor). Paris / London / Basingstoke: UNESCO / MacMillan. 2011. pp. 283–333. Print.

Book Reviews

- Review of Matthew J. Smith. *Red and Black in Haiti: Radicalism, Conflict and Political Change, 1934–1957*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009. xi + 278 pp. *Caribbean Quarterly*. Vol. 58, No. 1 (March 2012). pp. 115–119. Print.
- Review of Martin Munro, ed. *Edwidge Danticat: a Reader's Guide*. Préface by Dany Laferrière. Charlottesville and London: University of Virginia Press, 2010. 222 pp. in *Caribbean Quarterly*. “Communication in Action.” Vol. 58, Nos. 2 & 3. June-September 2012. pp. 167–170. Print.
- In collaboration with Gilles Lubeth. “French for International Conference at The University of the West Indies, Mona: Total Simulation in the Teaching of Languages for Specific Purposes.” In Lourdes Sanchez-Lopez (editor). *The Scholarship and Teaching of Languages for Special Purposes*. Birmingham, AL: Mervyn H. Sterne Library. University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2013, pp. 73-86. DOI. <http://contentdm.mhsl.uab.edu/cdm/ref/collection/faculty/id/168>
- Review of Edwidge Danticat's *Creating Dangerously: The Immigrant Artist at Work*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2011, 189 pages. *Caribbean Quarterly*, Vol. 58, No. 4, December 2012, pp. 127–133. Print.

Dr. Paulette A. Ramsay

- “La Cultura Rastafari en Cuba.” Santiago de Cuba: Puré Davis. Editorial Oriente. 2011. 223pp. *Caribbean Quarterly*. Vol. 59. No 1. (March 2013): 117–119.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr. Paulette A. Ramsay

- Caribbean Examinations Council – CAPE, CXC
- E-Learning, Jamaica
- Review Editor, *Caribbean Journal of Education*
- Guest Editor, *Quality Education Forum*, Vol. 18, 2012
- Peer Reviewer for PALARA and *Hispania*
- Editorial Board Member, PALARA.

Professor Claudette Williams

- Editorial Board Member, *Afro-Hispanic Review*
- Peer Reviewer, *Afro-Hispanic Review*, *Contemporary Caribbean Dynamics: Re-configuring Caribbean Culture*
- Member of the Standing Committee on Ordinances & Regulations.
- UWI representative to the Board of Governors of the Edna Manley College for the Visual and Performing Arts.
- Academic Board (Mona) Representative to Cave Hill Campus Council.

Dr. Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo

- Peer Reviewer, *Caribbean Quarterly*
- Chair, 2013 Travel Grant Committee, Caribbean Studies Association (CSA).
- Member, CSA Translingual Working Group. (Pro-bono Translations into French for CSA's website and programme).