

# DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

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– Head of Department



## WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

### Department's Mission and Vision. Context

In order to well support The UWI Triple A Strategy (Access, Alignment, Agility) 2017–2022, the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (DMLL)'s Mission and Vision had to be precisely redefined to articulate the administrative operations of the Department with its academics objectives and activities. The underlying idea is to shift towards a culture of collaborative relationships that cultivate the following skills: personal commitments to mutual success, commitment to truthfulness and openness, self-accountability, self-awareness, and commitment to promote a cooperative atmosphere and practices in support of each other. Collective growth is personal advancement and this is the attitude that will sustain the Department in the long term, regardless the circumstances. This is also the core principle that, set by example within an intercultural environment, must guide our students in the Department, along with the wider community that it serves and all stakeholders involved. Accordingly,

**Our Mission** is to enhance the Department by:

1. Streamlining and Documenting Administrative Policies and Practices that are regulation supported;
2. Instituting Best Practices in the Teaching of Foreign Languages and Cultures;
3. Train and Upgrade Staff Members.

**Our Vision** is expand the Department by:

1. Becoming an integral part of each Programme so that each UWI graduate leaves this institution having pursued either a Bachelor or a minor in a Foreign Language, or at least a single course;
2. Being impactful in Outreach as it relates to Teaching, Training and Services.

All that is included in this report is as a result of ongoing conversations and planning with administrative and academic staff in the format of meetings but mainly one-on-one conversations. Being fully in charge of our portfolios and democratization of our decision making process is the overarching goal of the Department. There is, however, a long way ahead to achieve this shift of paradigm but that is the spirit sustaining this report and the three years ahead.

## **ACTIVITIES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2018–2019**

On that basis, the report of the DMLL's Activities will be structured following the objectives itemized under the Department's Mission and Vision, referring to the enhancement and expansion of the Department respectively. This section presents more in detail why the shifting of paradigm is necessary; what strengths and challenges contributed to or put on hold the resolution of the matters listed; and what the plans forward are. Also included are the instances the performances and accomplishments of faculty and students enhanced the reputation of Department, interdisciplinary initiatives or collaborations that would reinforce relationships with other departments or institutions. Postgraduate Matters are presented concurrently with the Undergraduate matters.

### **Activities related to our Mission: Enhancement of the Department**

#### ***Documenting Administrative Policies and Practices that are regulation supported.***

#### **Re-engineered Administrative Processes**

To improve efficiency of the department, a few processes were identified, documented and re-engineered. These were the processing of Exchange Applications, Exemption Requests, and addressing Students Queries. These changes resulted in fewer delays/errors, improved accountability and transparency in the conducting of the department's business. For the Exchange Programme, we introduced a system of scheduling, informing and interviewing students to ensure that our best and brightest was selected. For the exemption process, a form was created to document the request being made by the student and the support/non-support given by the lecturer for the granting of the exemption. This made for easier referencing and transparency in processing of the students' request. Finally for the Student Query form, revisions were made to include options such a 'requested a remark/review', 'requesting to add a minor' and 'un-processed over-ride' among others. We also included a section for the staff to log the queries they received from students and what action/outcome came from the query. This improved accountability and ensured the completion of tasks.

Another pressing matter arising from the advising/registration periods for Semester I

and II of the Academic Year 2018–2019 was that of conflictive prerequisite information and consequent overrides requests. Data analysis guided the Department to correct the Department's course listing and their respective prerequisites in the last coordinator's meeting on May 15, 2019. The next step is to clarify particular issues with the respective faculties/departments.

### **Update and Revamp the Department's Website**

Accurate and timely information and feedback can be administered in many instances thorough a friendly website. Frequent ask questions, submission forms, clear guidelines for programmes, are some of the features that would improve our image, maximize our time, and would provide important feedback to improve the Department's operations. This website will follow the Faculty's layout to keep up with standards. From the beginning of the academic year, administrative steps were taken to initiate this important project coordinated by Mr. Clifton McCook, Language Lab Technician. This is a work in progress.

### **Instituting Best Practices in the Teaching of Foreign Languages and Cultures/ Conducting Programme Reviews**

Precise feedback was offered by the following lecturers in French, Japanese, and Spanish (undergraduate and postgraduate levels):

**Nzengou-Tayo.** Use of *Blackboard Collaborate* on OURVLE for FREN3118 French for International Conferences in order to accommodate two working students. Guest presenters: Mr. Paul Robotham (former Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, former Ambassador); Ms. Alicia Reid (Communication Officer at the Caribbean Football Federation).

**Mrs. Rona Barnett-Passard.** Students grudgingly admitted to learning a lot from the OURVLE graded exercises but, as in previous years, many waited until the end of the course FREN0101 Beginner's French to rush through them. The plan for next semester is to divide the exercises by week and to close them off at the end of the week to which they have been allocated, in order to encourage timely completion of the exercises, throughout the semester, and in line with the syllabus.

**Dr. Naoko Finnerup and Ms. Grace Perez.** UWI Student's participation in Japanese Speech Contest in the Dominican Republic for the first time.

**Dr. María Teresa Villoria-Nolla.** Within the framework of autonomous learning, assessment strategies such as reflexive diary and Portfolio, was incorporated to level II Spanish language courses. Peer feedback and per assessment are also successful methods.

**Dr. Tamara De Inés Antón.** Through the changes to the mode of delivery and content update of the foundational courses in the **MA in Translation Studies**, registration will be open every semester rather than every two years. For this purpose, the courses TRAN6101 Principles and Practices of Translation and TRAN6102 General Translation were reviewed and submitted to all appropriate Boards for approval.

The MA students have attended several training and feedback session via Zoom with the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The programme coordinator acknowledges Ms. Sandra Hamilton's initiative in this activity.

From next academic year, the translation students will be able to collaborate with LALT (Latin American Literature Today) as an unpaid internship.

For the last four years, **Dr. Nina Bruni** has been practicing consecutive interpreting as a tool to teach Spanish as a Foreign Language at levels I, II and III. When shared the effectiveness of this tool with **Dr. De Inés Antón** it was agreed to also introduce the practice of subtitling as part of the learning process and assessment of our third year students, who enthusiastically and professionally embraced this new aspect. It was noted that the links between our language-based courses and our translation courses at the undergraduate level could be strengthened by updating the course outlines for SPAN2503 Spanish to English Translation II and SPAN3001 Spanish to English Translation III. Both were approved and the joint approach adopted at the beginning of the academic year continues to strengthen with further research and review of course materials and assessment strategies.

Based on the same principles is that Dr. Bruni proposed Dr. De Inés Antón to coordinate a subtitling project of the documentary on Iván García (Dominican Republic) with the MA students in translation and the third year Spanish students for the Research Day. The project was an absolute success where students showed intellectual and managerial skills supported by evident professionalism.

**New course SPAN1012 Spanish for Medical Purposes.** After discussing and reviewing a proposal from 2017, Spanish for Medical Purposes is a course that results from collaboration between the Department of Community Health, Faculty of Medical Sciences (DCH/FMSc), and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities and Education (DMLL/FHE), The UWI, Mona Campus. The objective is to sensitize medical sciences students towards the importance of learning Spanish for their career within a heavy teaching schedule.

The project will be managed by the coordinator from DCH/FMSc and the HOD of (DMLL/FHE), since the DMLL will be the academic body delivering the course in Spanish Language. The Lecturer(s) teaching the course will be the MLL HOD's academic partner(s)/proxy(es) to enhance and develop the course(s) in all instances.

Any changes will be discussed with the FMSc's coordinator. A team of tutors will be co-teaching the course to facilitate the role-playing and simulation aspects of the delivery of the course. This is a good opportunity to include advanced Spanish language students in the teaching process.

The teaching and assessment strategies of this course aims to alleviate medical students' stressful learning process while learning a foreign language as an incentive to advance in it. **Dr. Tamara De Inés Antón** and **Dr. Nina Bruni** rewrote the course for its approval by the pertinent Boards.

Amend and facilitate in collaboration with the Office of the Deputy Principal our annual **Staff-Student Evaluation through Focus Groups and Online Questionnaire**. In Semester I, lecturers agreed that this dynamics would favour objectivity in the process and would offer timely and useful feedback to improve their courses while teaching them. Lecturer were requested to submit some questions for the questionnaire to be outlined. However, very few answers were received. The Staff/Student Liaison Meetings were not held during this academic year. This strategy will be fully embraced next academic year. The University evaluation proved to be of great use so students' feedback is documented. The Department got an overall ranking of 4.5.

### **Mentor and Upgrade Students**

**Meeting with French and Spanish Students (Beginners and Intermediate Courses).** This initiative attempts to sensitize and guide students pursuing French and Spanish at Beginner's and Intermediate Levels in our Department for them to successfully complete their courses, be aware of class and exam procedures and discuss the range of opportunities available for Modern Languages students. Two (2) Former students in Foreign Languages were re the guest speakers: Ms. Prescila McLure and Mr. Cavoy Ashley. Mrs. Ronna Barnett-Passard, French Lecturer and Coordinator FREN0101 Beginner's French, and Ms. Rhochell Curtis, Senior Administrative assistant of the DMLL led this project and made presentations on academic and examination matters respectively. The session was held on, Thursday, 24th January 2019 in N1 from 2:20 to 4:00 p.m.

**Final Year Sensitization** was usually organized in the second semester for students about to graduate. A reorganization of this activity in a more holistic and timely manner was suggested within the Department. This item will be discussed during the summer period.

### **Summary of Club Activities**

#### ***French Club: The Soci  t   Francophile***

The French club, in its endeavors to revamp the club and to attract more individuals

to join, changed its meeting format for the second semester of the 2018/2019 school year. Meetings had a mix of educational items and French games with French music being played to improve the atmosphere, videos were often used so that club members could learn vocabulary and get used to hearing French. These videos were taken from various YouTube Channels. The club made plans to acquire club shirts and the club president sought and received a quotation however the actual date on which the shirts will be purchased was changed to the first semester of the 2019/2020 school year. Various activities were done during club including: baccalauréat (ABC fast or slow in French), le Loup Garou de Thiercelieux, Chinese telephone in French etc. the Spanish club and the French club decided to increase support for one another with members of the Spanish club visiting the French club and vice-versa. For modern language's day there was no club meeting but members of the club executive body gave a helping hand on the day to ensure that things ran smoothly.

#### **Japanese Club.**

- Japanese Film Screening of "Home Sweet Tokyo", Thursday, 27th September 2018, at 2 pm in N1.
- Members of the Club worked as volunteers for the Embassy of Japan: Japan Day, February 2019.
- Members of the Club participated in the Modern Languages and Literatures Day/ Japan Day 4th April, 2019.
- Japanese Dance for the Opening Ceremony of the Japanese Doll Exhibition, Institut of Jamaica, Thursday, 11th April 2019.
- Chinese Club and Spanish Club did not submit reports.

### **ACTIVITIES RELATED TO OUR VISION: EXPANSION OF THE DEPARTMENT**

**Becoming an integral part of each Programme so that each UWI graduate leaves this institution having pursued either a Bachelor or a minor in a Foreign Language, or at least a single course**

The new course SPAN 1012 **Spanish for Medical Purposes** constitutes a positive step forward towards further integration with the Faculty of Medical Sciences and the kind of change needed in language courses to better articulate with other disciplines outside and within the Faculty of Humanities and Education (Cf. III.1.2)

The Department envisions the realization of two new joint major programmes to incorporate languages at the core of other disciplines: **Tourism Management and Foreign Languages** (beginning with Spanish) and **International Relations and Foreign Languages** (beginning with French). These projects are at their very initial stage. Dr. María Teresa Villoria has been requested to develop the former and Dr. Françoise

Cévaër to develop the latter. The Department expects to get preliminary feedback before the end of the semester.

### **Being impactful in Outreach as it relates to Teaching, Training and Services**

#### **International Collaboration**

**Argentine Fund for South-South and Triangular Cooperation – FOAR: Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology, Buenos Aires, Republic of Argentina.**

Dr. Nadine Barnett was selected to represent the DMLL at the Regional Cooperation Workshop on Spanish Teaching Education in the Caribbean in Buenos Aires, Republic of Argentina, during the period 25–28 February, 2019. This Workshop introduced participants from the Anglophone Caribbean to the Argentine’s capacities and experience in the Teaching and Assessment of Spanish as a Second and Foreign Language, as well as in Curriculum Design and Teacher Training. Officials Representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Christoph and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago, shared common experiences and the diversity of challenges in the areas above-mentioned. Specific goals, expected results and an action plan was tabled at the meeting to be followed up. Dr. Barnett will coordinate further activities with the DMLL as necessary. The Government of Argentina, through its FOAR programme, fully funded this activity.

**1st Caribbean Seminar of Actors Involved in Francophonie (1er Séminaire Caribéen des Acteurs de la Francophonie-SECAF), Universidad Acción Pro Educación y Cultura (UNAPEC), Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.**

Mrs. Rona Barnett-Passard represented the DMLL at the 1st Caribbean Seminar of Actors Involved in Francophonie, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, during the period 12–13 March, 2019. This seminar concentrated on four major areas in the field of French language and Francophone cultures: affirmative actions and challenges in teaching French language, the need for a collaborative approach, research projects, and cooperation agreements, and ways to increase them. Mrs. Barnett-Passard’s presentation concentrated on the existence of different types of cooperation between The UWI Mona and various universities and agencies in France, data analysis related to the numbers of students pursuing the English Assistantship programme in France, challenges faced along the years with official and international bodies in this area, as well as on the positive impact of the repositioning policy for foreign languages at The UWI Mona on the number of students registered to pursue Beginner’s French and, consequently, complete a Minor. Mrs. Barnett-Passard’s participation in this forum facilitated opportunities for the DMLL to contact the *Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie* who has shown immediate interest in partner with The University of the



West Indies, Mona Campus. Preliminary conversations are underway and further developments will be duly informed.

**ERASMUS+ Staff Mobility for Training and Teaching: The University of the West Indies and Universidad de Valladolid, Spain.**

Dr. Nina Bruni was the second member of the DMLL academic staff to be awarded this scholarship to participate in the above-mentioned programme during the period 21–27 February, 2019 as visiting scholar in the Universidad de Valladolid, Spain. This particular portfolio included the following activities: class observation, teaching, and meetings with university administrators to agree on strategies that will guarantee the sustainability of the programme. An additional extraordinary cultural collaboration was added: Andrecia McLarty, Chrisle Thompson and Rushane Bailly, DMLL students presently pursuing a semester abroad under the same ERASMUS+ Mobility programme for students, have made a sterling contribution. All objectives have been successfully fulfilled as attested in the Certificate of Activities Carried Out. This Certificate, however, does not reflect the excellent synergies generated among academics, students and university administrators. Further developments emerging from this visit will be duly communicated.

Dr. Teresa Villoria-Nolla was the first member of the DMLL academic staff to be awarded this scholarship to participate in the above-mentioned programme during the period 10–15 December 2019. This portfolio included two (2) lecturers: one to second year students on Comparative Grammar; the other to first year students on Jamaican Culture as part of their course on “Culture of English Speaking Countries”. Comparing best practices, methodologies and curriculum with other lecturers better informed Dr. Villoria on the student exchange programme with Valladolid.

**Visit Chair of the Bridget Jones and William Mailer Trust**

This Trust offers small bursaries and grants for French students at Mona. It was set up in memory of Bridget Jones and William Mailer, who were both members of staff in French. Dr. Gertrud Aub-Buscher, former Head of the Department of French at The UWI Mona, and Chair of the Bridget Jones and William Mailer Trust, visited the DMLL on 18 March, 2019, to discuss with the members of the French programme and the HOD matters related to the grant of bursaries and follow-up reports. It was decided that from now on the HOD of DMLL will liaise officially with all stakeholders for the continuation of this support, and prepare necessary documentation to be submitted to the Trustees and The UWI Mona authorities in this regard. The Department is reconceptualising the principles and processes guiding grants and exchange programmes. Further developments will be duly informed.



### **Mexican Chair**

Dr. Rubén Olachea Pérez's public lecture "Knowing the stereotypes to transform them: Mexican Cinema, Past and Present" was successfully co-hosted with the Department of History and Archaeology on Tuesday, 6th November, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the Multifunctional Room, The UWI Main Library. The lecture was interdisciplinary and very engaging. First year Spanish Language students attentively participated and were actively involved during the dialogue session.

### **ICETEX Colombia Volunteers**

As part of the Department's ongoing collaboration with the Latin-American Caribbean Centre (LACC), and within the longstanding Academic Agreement with the Instituto Colombiano de Crédito Educativo y Estudios Técnicos en el Exterior (ICETEX), the DMLL continues to support and promote the student teaching immersion in Colombia and the request of teaching volunteers for the Spanish Programme.

The DMLL in collaboration with the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Jamaica, has organized an intensive **Russian language course Beginners'** for June 2019. The lecturers are Jamaican professionals who studied Medical Sciences, Management, Translation and Russian language in Moscow. They have offered to **teach this course as a courtesy to the Department** with the goal of raising awareness of the importance of Russian in the international arena. So far twenty (20) expressions of interest have been received and logistics put in place.

**Foreign Language Training Services** (Kindly see V. Income Generation Section)

### **Visitors/Visits**

On Monday, 15th April 2019, the DMLL hosted an hour Language Laboratory simultaneous sessions for sixty (60) visiting Grade 4 and Grade 5 students from **St. Ann's Bay Primary School**, St. Ann's. This practise comprised listening interactive activities and subtitling games. These young visitors must be praised for their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm shown for the given opportunity. This experience was deeply enriching for all those involved in the activity. The DMLL expresses its gratitude to the Mona Campus Marketing & Communications Office for coordinating the logistics for this visit. The DMLL intends to continue in a more structured way with this kind of outreach activity. Teachers accompanying students liaised with the Head of Department for further collaboration with regards to foreign languages teaching/learning and outreach activities.

On Thursday, 1st November 2018, third year Spanish language students (SPAN 3501) visited the **National Gallery in Kingston**. Their request was facilitated by the Course Coordinator due to its pertinence to the course's major theme: The Arts in

Latin America and the Caribbean. Dr. Rubén Olachea, Mexican Chair, joined the students in this field trip.

### Activities

The Department celebrated its 10th **Modern Languages and Literatures Day** on Thursday, 4th April 2019. The programme, held in N1, included greetings brought by each ambassador in attendance: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, France, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, Spain, and Venezuela; two inspirational addresses to students brought by Ms. Alicia Reid and Mr. Duncan Reid, both UWI alumni whose daily work activities encompass the use of foreign languages. The addresses were interspersed with cultural items of the highest quality: songs, dances and poetry representing the languages offered at The UWI and making the event light and entertaining. Twenty (20) schools participated in the event bringing a total of approximately five-hundred (500) students to the campus. Members of the Campus and wider community were among other distinguished guests. Students enjoyed a diversity of Language Activities facilitated by colleagues and advanced language students in six (6) different venues in the Humanities area. Preparation for the event was engaging for everyone involved, and the teamwork exhibited was heartening and made it worth the effort. Language Students made a significant contribution to the organization acting as ushers and trainers as well as performers in the event. The Department's intention is to continue growing this event in a more articulated way with all stakeholders involved.

Modern Languages and Literatures day has been celebrated during the last decade. Its objectives and activities will be a matter of discussion at Departmental level during the summer period to be relaunched next year.

The third edition of the **Coulthard-Mailer Distinguished Lecture** in honour of the two past members of the Departments of Spanish and French respectively, was postponed for the academic next academic year. The reasons are as follows: changing of the Modern Languages and Literatures Day further down in April to accommodate a conference organized by the Department of History and Archaeology, constraints in human and financial resources, ongoing overall reorganization of the activity, and clashing of multiple Faculty activities during the month of April. **CAPE Workshop** was suspended for the same reasons. Schools that contacted the Department were offered support if needed. The overall organization and dynamics of this event will also be reexamined during the summer period for further action.

### Media

The article, “**Importance of Foreign Languages**” written by **Timothy Simmonds**, a third year Spanish Major Student, was published in the *Jamaica Gleaner* on Sunday, 24th March, 2019 (<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/authors/timothy-simmonds-contributor>).

This is the second contribution during the present academic year from the DMLL to the Humanities in Action Series initiative by the Faculty of Humanities and Education, The UWI Mona.

The article, “**The Vibrancy of Multilingualism**” written by **Nina Bruni**, was published in the *Jamaica Gleaner* on Sunday, 16th December, 2019 (<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/art-leisure/20181216/vibrancy-multilingualism>). Also posted in “Lead with Languages” 27th December 2018.

## **POSTGRADUATE MATTERS**

### **Masters of Art in Translation**

For the 2018-2019 academic year, the Masters of Art in Translation programme was quite active with students engaging and participating in departmental activities, The University of the West Indies Annual Research Day and the Department’s Modern Languages Day. All examination question papers and mark-sheets were submitted on time to the Examinations Section and students progressed well from semester one into semester two. Initially, a few new students’ registration status read full-time instead of part-time, however this was quick amended to reflect part-time with the help of the Office of Graduate Studies and Research and Registry Information Systems.

For this academic year, we also began with efforts to try to re-engage ‘at-large’ Masters of Art in Translation students who were only pending their Research Projects to be awards. To do this, an email was sent asking for them to come in and meet with the Academic and Administrative coordinators of the programme. Eight Students were contacted and of this figure, only two responded. From this two, one stated that she was progressing well and is expected to complete for this academic year. For the other student, she communicated that she though she is very committed to completing the programme, she is experiencing challenges with financing school at this time.

**Programme Review.** The DMLL proposed modifications to the assessment and mode of delivery of TRANS6101 (Principles and Practices of Translation) and TRANS6102 (General Translation), both foundational courses of the MA in Translation Studies (Spanish/French). The assessment was changed to 100% course work to account for the change from face-to-face to online mode of delivery and, mainly, for the developments in the pedagogy of Translations Studies as a relatively new discipline. A letter dated 12th April 2019 was sent to Professor Denise Eldemire-Shearer to offer a detailed rationale for these changes that will place our MA in Translation at the level of widely recognized translation programmes. It was also reassured that the DMLL is well equipped to fully deliver online the two proposed courses without incurring additional costs. (Cf. Section III.1.2)

**Admissions.** To date five (5) new students have been accepted to pursue the MA in Translation Studies (Spanish/French) for the academic year 2019–2020. One (1) PhD application in French needs to be completed for the Department to review it.

### **Masters of Philosophy in Spanish/French**

For the 2018–2019 Academic Year our Masters of Philosophy students also engaged. Mrs. Terisa Bernal-Benjamin gave her first seminar presentation on Thursday December 6, 2018 on “**Violence as Mental Prison in the Scorpio City Space**”. The seminar was attendance was low, however this was advantageous as students were able to ask multiple questions and interrogate her research process as she describe it. They were also able to give her alternative perspectives on the topics she presented.

Ms. Kaezia Mills also progressed in her programme. She has submitted a change in her research topic and continues to meet regularly with her supervisor.

Ms. Kerry-Ann Shadeed, another Master of Philosophy student within the department also advanced in her programme. Ms Shadeed continued her research and was awarded a grant from Graduate Studies Research and Publication. This grant was used by Ms. Shadeed to fund a trip to Cuba to do further research. Ms. Shadeed is now preparing to make a seminar presentation on this trip.

### **STAF/GRADUATE SEMINARS**

Several staff members presented in our Staff/Student Seminars during this academic year. Presentations have been made as seen below:

- **October 4, 2018:** “I Teach....I Research.....”  
Presenters: Dr. Nina Bruni, Dr. Francoise Cévaër, Dr. Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo, Dr. Teresa Villoria Nolla and Dr. Tamara de Inés Antón
- **October 18, 2018:** “How to become a Professional Translator?”  
Presenters: Dr. Tamara de Inés Antón, Ms. Sandra Hamilton, Mrs. Rona Passard-Barnett and Mrs. Esmeralda Nunes
- **November 15, 2018:** “The Journey.....Study Abroad.”  
Presenters: Dr. Nadine Barnett, Ms. Anthonisha Henry, Ms. Grace Perez
- **December 13, 2018:** “Aime Cesaire and Vodou: Unthinking Western Epistemology”  
Presenter: Dr. Jason Allen Paisant
- **May 21, 2019:** “Code Switching / Code Mixing / Code Twisting ? : Creole, French and English in Port-au-Prince Youth’s Speech as portrayed in *Bredjen Blues* by Haitian Writer Kettly Mars.”  
Presenter: Dr. Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo

Our graduate programme continues to encounter a completion challenge; the challenge of engaging students who have completed the taught course of the programme with only the outstanding research project to submit remains. Students seem to be either daunted by the task of doing research or have encountered financial or familial constraints that have prohibited them from moving forward. This has made it difficult to assist students administratively as they progress through the programme. Many times they withdraw from the programme without communicating officially to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research and upon trying to re-enter the programme they are faced with registration and financial clearance issues.

To counter this problem, the department will continue with efforts to re-engage students. We will also continue to inform and provide guidance to students on the proper channels and processes to follow should they want to 'voluntary withdraw' from a programme or requesting 'leave of absence'.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Dr. Françoise Cevaër** "The Imaginary Writer and The Staging of The Literary Figure in Lyonel Trouillot's *Parabole du Failli* (2013)." The 4th Biennial Conference of The International Autobiography Association Americas Chapter (IABA), UWI Mona, 13–15 June, 2019, 9 p.
- **Dr. Teresa Villoria-Nolla** "Estéticas cinematográficas postmodernas; (de)construcción de identidades en el relato narco criminal contemporáneo. "Congreso Internacional Hispanismo y Cine. VI Encuentro académico TECMERIN", Madrid, Universidad Carlos III, 2–5 July, 2019.
- **Dr. Tamara De Inés Antón** "Translation and Anthologisation as Mirroring Practices". V Jornadas Internacionales de Traductología: Perspectivas en Diálogo, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Republic of Argentina, 31 July–2 August 2019.
- **Dr. Tamara De Inés Antón** "The translation of *testimonio* and the canonisation of a genre". Multilingual Literatures: Interdisciplinary Conference, Gregynog Hall, Wales, 17–19 July 2019.
- **Mrs. Rona Barnett-Passard** "Cooperation among the national, regional, and international actors of Francophonie with a special on UWI, Mona", UNAPEC-Universidad APEC, French Embassy, and the AUF-Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, Dominican Republic, 11–12 March 2019.
- **Dr. Nina Bruni** "La hospitalidad en la poética mística de Jit Manuel Castillo de la Cruz." Movimiento Interiorista del Ateneo Insular/ Academia Dominicana de la Lengua, Seminario Católico de la parroquia franciscana Nuestra Señora del Rosario, Villa Duarte, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 22–23 June 2019. 26p.

- **Dr. Nina Bruni** “La hospitalidad en la poética mística de Martha María Lamarche, Tulio Cordero y Jit Manuel Castillo de la Cruz (República Dominicana)”. VII Jornadas Diálogos entre Literatura, Estética y Teología “La hospitalidad: encuentro y desafío”, Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina Santa María de los Buenos Aires, Facultad de Teología y Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Republic of Argentina, 7–9 May 2019. 24p.
- **Dr. Nina Bruni** “Mercy and the Mystical: Engendering Mercy and Justice in Caribbean Spirituality.” Mercy Week Seminar, Coor. Sister Theresa Lowe Chin. St. Michael’s Seminary and Theological College, Kingston, Jamaica. 25 September 2018. 12p.

## PUBLICATIONS

### EDITED Books

- **Dr. Françoise Cevaër** and Carole Edwards, Eds. *La figure du loser dans le film et la littérature d’expression française*. Presses Universitaires de Limoges et du Limousin, November 2018, 174p.

### Refereed Journal Articles

- **Dr. Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo** « Impact de l’Occupation américaine sur la représentation des femmes dans la littérature haïtienne : hier et aujourd’hui ». In *Déjouer le silence: Contre-récits sur les femmes haïtiennes*. Ss. la direction de Denyse Côté, Sabine Lamour et Darline Alexis. Montréal / Port-au-Prince: Remue-ménage / Mémoire d’encrier / PressuniQ, 2018.
- **Dr. Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo** “Pyès teyat osijè migrazyon popilè ayisyen : Pèlin tèt pa Franketyèn ak DMP Kanntè pa Jan Mapou.” *Pawòl Kreyòl*. No. 15. Miami, October 2018.
- **Dr. Françoise Cevaër** « L’art de la perte dans la *Parabole du failli* de Lionel Trouillot ». In *La figure du loser dans le film et la littérature d’expression française*. Eds. Françoise Cevaër and Carole Edwards. PULIM, Presses Universitaires de Limoges et du Limousin, November 2018, 123–157.
- **Dr. Nina Bruni** “De la palabra a lo trascendente: *En la voz del silencio* de Jit Manuel Castillo de la Cruz.” *Cuadrivium*, Revista del Dept. de Español de la Universidad de Puerto Rico en Humacao, 13, Año 20, pp.44–53.

## INCOME GENERATION

### Training Programmes

**Beginner's Spanish Language** (Phase I) at the **Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ)** for twenty (20) employees from September to November 2018. The course comprises of forty (40) teaching hours. Certificates of completion were awarded to the students in a special ceremony at the BSJ headquarters in December 2019. (Visit the DMLL's Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/pg/modlanguwimona/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=2159910024070026](https://www.facebook.com/pg/modlanguwimona/photos/?tab=album&album_id=2159910024070026))

Completion of **Lunch time Korean Language** Classes. Eight (8) students successfully completed this 20 contact-hour course during the period from September to November 2018. . It was held twice per week in the **Language Laboratory** in the Faculty of Humanities and Education. Certificates of completion were awarded to the students in their final class.

Completion of **Lunch-Hour Korean Language** Classes. Ten (10) students successfully completed this 20 contact-hour course during the period 4th February to 12th April, 2019. It was held twice per week in the **Language Laboratory** in the Faculty of Humanities and Education. Certificates of completion were awarded to the students in their final class.

For the period 23rd April to 7th June, 2019, the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (DMLL) will be delivering a **Beginners' Business Spanish** course to sixty (60) employees of **The Victoria Mutual Building Society (VMBS)** in Kingston. This course covers a total of 42 contact hours distributed over six (6) contact hours per week for three groups of twenty (20) learners each. It is held in the VMBS premises in Kingston.

### Interpretation and Translation Services

Services include interpreting and translating at conferences and other official functions as well as translating birth certificates, transcripts, scientific and other documents. A more entrepreneurial structure to offer these services will be presented by December 2019.

## PUBLIC SERVICE

### Dr. Françoise Cévaër

- The Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) (2005–present)
- The Haitian Studies Association (HAS) (2010–present)
- Women in French (2017–present)



- Jamaican Association of French Teachers (J.A.F.T) since 1997–present)
- CIEF, Conseil International d'Etudes Francophones (2010–present).

**Mrs. Rona Barnett-Passard**

- Coordinator for the Jamaica/Bahamas leg of the French Ministry of Education's (CIEP) Foreign Language Assistants in France Programme which allows Jamaican and Bahamian students of French to spend 9 months in France, from October 1 to April 30, as teaching assistants in French high-school or primary-school classrooms, while being immersed in the French language and culture.

**Dr. Nina Bruni**

- Apostolic and Educational Projects with the Missionaries of the Poor (MOP) Brothers. Kingston, Jamaica (2015–present).
- Corresponding member of the Academia Dominicana de la Lengua (Corresponding to the Real Academia Española, RAE-Spain), Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. (Life-long appointment 28th April 2018).
- ExOfficio Board Member Alliance Française de la Jamaïque (2018–present).
- Member of the Permanent Interdisciplinary Seminar on Literature, Aesthetics and Theology [Seminario Interdisciplinario Permanente de Literatura, Estética y Teología (SIPLLET)]. Instituto de Investigaciones Teológicas, Facultad de Teología and Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina, Santa María de los Buenos Aires, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Republic of Argentina. (2018–present).

## STUDENTS

### Departmental Prizes for the Faculty Awards Ceremony

**Chinese.** **Amanda Gooden**, Most outstanding Chinese Student at Level II; **Monique Robb**, Most outstanding Chinese Student at Level III.

**Japanese.** **Rennique Thomas**, Most outstanding Japanese Student.

**French.** **Kodi-Anne Brown**, William Mailer Prize; **Russell Green**, Prix Jambec Prize; **Jamaal McKnight**, Bridget Jones & William Mailer Bursary.

**Spanish.** **Darian Reid**, Gabriel Coulthard Prize; **Jamaal McKnight**, Paul Davis Memorial Prize; **Jamila Scott**, Paul Davis Memorial Prize; **Darian Reid**, Kemlin Laurence Prize; **Russell Green**, Translation Prize; **Adia Maxwell**, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Prize.

**United Nations Grants for Graduate Students MA in Translation Studies**

**Ashley Fraser** was granted a remote internship translating Spanish to English for The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC). Duration: 6 months (29th January 2019 to 28th July 2019).

**Gaby Barkley** was granted an internship in the English Translation and Editorial Service, Documentation Division, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) in New York. Duration: 2 months from 1 July 2019 to 30 August 2019. The internship is UNPAID and full-time. Interns work five days per week (35 hours) under the supervision of the Chief of the Translation and Editorial Service, the Chief of the Editing Section or the internship supervisors, as appropriate.

As part of TRAN6103 Institutional Translation, **all four MA students** were given the opportunity to enjoy seven remote training/feedback sessions with members of the English translation section of UN New York (21 and 28 February, 14 and 21 March, 4, 11 and 25 April, 2019).