

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS AND PHILOSOPHY



Professor Silvia Kouwenberg, BA., MA., PhD. *Univ. Amsterdam*
Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

During the 2013/2014 academic year, the Department continued the consolidation of its new English language Foundation courses, held many events and outreach activities, and engaged in curriculum design at the undergraduate and postgraduate degree levels. Members of the Department were actively engaged in outreach activities and in research and publication.

The Department observed Gandhi Day, which is internationally recognised as a day of non-violence, on the late Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, 2 October 2013, under the theme 'Peace and Non-violence as the way to Nirvana'. The ceremony was supported by the undergraduate Philosophy Society, and was attended by representatives of the Indian High Commission and members of the Indian Cultural Society, along with members of the academic community.

The work of Dr Earl McKenzie, a multi-talented retired member of the Department's Philosophy Section, was celebrated in a combined book launch of his philosophical works *The loneliness of a Caribbean Philosopher* and *Philosophy in the West Indian Novel* and his most recent poetry collection, *A Blue Bird Named Poetry: Linked Poems, Stories & Paintings*. The book launch was the closing event of the UWI/UNESCO Philosophy Day of 21 November 2013, and was supported by Arawak Press.

The UWI's Research Days of 19–21 February 2014 saw the active engagement of all sections of the Department. It included the Language Section's 'Fun with English' activities which tested critical thinking and vocabulary skills; the Philosophy Section's panel discussion on Doping in Sports at which speakers from within and outside the Campus spoke on the morality of doping in sports; the Linguistics Section's demonstration of sign language use in dental procedures; and a multimedia presentation by Linguistics students on their fieldwork experience in Curaçao.

Other events hosted by the Department included the Ninth International Colloquium of the Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC), held 23–25 April 2014 in collaboration with and support from the Nigerian High Commission, the South African High Commission, the African Caribbean Institute of Jamaica/ Jamaica Memory Bank (ACIJ/JMB), and the Campus Principal's office; the JLU's end-of-project presentation on its Graduate Research Student Coaching Project on 14 November 2013; and the Department's annual Postgraduate Research Day, held May 15, under the theme 'Transforming research into economic resource in the Humanities: the case of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy'.

A project of the Jamaican Language Unit for the preparation and delivery of radio news broadcasts in the Jamaican language on Newstalk 93FM received a Special Grant from the Principal's Office of \$1.55M. The project was preceded by a research activity involving undergraduate Linguistics students on the intelligibility of radio news broadcasts to persons with low English language competence and by a pilot of news broadcasts during the period October–December 2013. The grant enabled the training of five potential translators and Jamaican language

news broadcasters – all current or former students of the Department – during July 2014, and the production of daily radio broadcasts of the news in Jamaican.

Guided by the Campus Coordinator for Graduate Studies and with the support of the Campus Principal, a steering committee for the design of a programme in Speech-Language Pathology was formed, consisting of members of the Department's Linguistics Section, members of the Faculty of Medical Sciences' Department of Child Health, other medical specialists and Speech-Language Pathologists. The committee was successful in seeing a proposal for a self-financing M.Sc. in Speech-Language Pathology through to approval. This long-awaited programme is designed to equip fully functional speech-language pathologists, who are needed throughout the Caribbean region to treat with the language and speech disabilities of both adults and children. Apart from a similar degree programme at St. Augustine, no other such offering exists in the region. The programme is to be offered for the first time in 2015/16 in collaboration with the Department of Child Health.

At the undergraduate level, 2013/2014 saw the introduction of the discipline-specific English language Foundation courses FOUN1012 Critical Reading and Writing in the Humanities, FOUN1013 Critical Reading and Writing in the Social Sciences, FOUN1014 Critical Reading and Writing in Science and Technology and Medical Sciences, FOUN1015 Critical Reading and Writing in Education, and FOUN1019 Critical Reading and Writing in the Disciplines. Pass rates for the new courses ranged from a low of around 60% (FOUN1015, FOUN1019) to a high of 88% (FOUN1012). It has become apparent that the demand for FOUN1019, a six-credit year-long course offered to students who are unable to demonstrate sufficient English language proficiency to qualify for the discipline-specific courses, is substantial, and that it may take a few years for the backlog of students needing to take this course to be dealt with. Moreover, many students in that course are in dire need of more individual coaching than the Department's Writing Centre, constrained by its limited resources, has been able to offer. The goal for the coming period is therefore to increase substantially the Writing

Centre's income from commercial offerings. In the mean time, the Centre has begun the long overdue refurbishing of its facilities.

English Language electives were combined to form a Minor in English Language Writing and Speech, for first offering in 2014/15. This Minor aims to develop students' abilities to communicate effectively in different modes and for different audiences. It supplements the skill sets for writing academic papers with the skills to understand and produce different types of communication in business environments, to prepare and deliver appropriate oral communication for different audiences, and to reflect critically on the nature and purpose of communication.

The Department's Philosophy course offering at Western Jamaica Campus was expanded with the addition of two courses, so that students at that campus can now select the Introduction to Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind, and Philosophy of Sex and Love. A new course, PHIL2025 Introduction to Caribbean Philosophy, was successfully introduced to students at the Mona Campus. Just short of thirty students registered in this course, which encourages exploration of the various intellectual traditions, beliefs and cultural practices of the Caribbean people, and enables students of philosophy to appreciate the fact that the foundations of the belief systems of Caribbean society constitute a distinctive philosophical tradition, which has a contribution to make to philosophy.

Also offered for the first time was LING1819 Beginners' Caribbean Sign Language, which saw a registration of nearly 140 students, the majority pursuing programmes in the Faculty of Medical Sciences. This means that more students will graduate from medical degree programmes who have learned to communicate with deaf patients. It is worth noting that Dr Keren Cumberbatch published two e-textbooks, produced with the use of innovative technology and incorporating video illustrations of the relevant Sign Language communications, which will guide students in dentistry and medical sciences in the use of Caribbean Sign Language in their future professions.

Dr Cumberbatch's research received recognition in the form of the award of a UWI Mona New Initiative Grant of approximately \$1.5M

for her project 'Investigating Sign Language Dialectology in CARICOM Member States'. Collaboration with the Department of Physics further resulted in the award of a UWI Mona Multidisciplinary/Cross-faculty Collaboration Grant of \$3.1M for the project 'Engaging deaf students in mainstream education using speech and language technology and computer vision'.

Under the acronym LOUD (Linguists of UWI on Display), the undergraduate Linguistics Club was launched, complementing the undergraduate Philosophy Society which was launched two years earlier. Students can join LOUD to participate in activities which support their development as linguists, including fund raising activities to meet the cost of linguistic field work – considered an important part of our students' development, but out of reach for many financially challenged students. In the year under review, only six final-year students benefitted from a linguistic fieldtrip to Curaçao, three more from a linguistic fieldtrip to San Andres Island (Columbia), with partial funding from the Student Enrichment Fund and from the Principal's office.

Members of the Department across all the sections and units were actively involved with research and publication. Special mention should be made of the Principal's Award for 'Best Research Publication' given to Mrs Phyllis Coard and Dr Caroline Dyche for their article on 'Integrating psychological and sociocultural dimensions into the teaching of English to UWI students who speak Jamaican Creole: A case study.' The research projects of Dr Monica Taylor ('The role of writing in national development') and Sandra McCalla ('Performance enhancement drugs in sports: an inquiry into the freedom and responsibility of athletes') were featured in the 2014 'Research for Development' book produced for the annual Research Days. Dr Ingrid McLaren began work on her project entitled 'Modeling Speech and Writing Interventions in the University Science Classroom', for which a New Initiative Grant was awarded, while Dr Monica Taylor continued her New Initiative research on 'The role of writing in national development'. Dr Michèle Kennedy used her sabbatical year to compile the database derived from the video-recorded child language productions collected for her project 'What do they speak?',

and also forged ahead with the research for and writing of chapters for the book 'Language at Work in Jamaica: a Resource for Teachers' which is to be the culmination of the project. Part of the work was carried out as visiting researcher in the English Department of the University of Freiburg (Germany) and as a visitor to the Department of Language and Linguistics at the University of Essex.

Overall, ten members of the Department gave conference presentations, and twenty publications by twelve members of the Department appeared in the period under review.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH OR PRESENTATIONS

Drs Caroline Dyche and Vivette Milson-Whyte delivered workshops to 25 teachers of English as a Foreign Language at the Semaine de l'Amérique Latine et des Caraïbes in Cayenne, French Guiana, on 'Heightening Regional Consciousness in the English Language Classroom' and 'English and Identity in the English Language Classroom' (Dyche), 'Building Bridges in the English Language Classroom: Linking Identities, Domains, Interests' and 'Responding to Student Writing in the English Language Classroom: Sideshadowing Response' (Milson-Whyte), 26–28 May 2014. Their participation, organised through the Department of Modern Languages, was made possible by the support of the Vice Chancellery.

During the Western Jamaica Campus's Open House held 13–14 January, Ms Haidee Heron, Mr Rudolph Ellis, and Professor Silvia Kouwenberg conducted workshops for CAPE students, while the Jamaica Language Unit organised a CAPE Communication Studies presentation to Ardenne High School sixth formers in October 2013.

Ms Kadian Walters, Ph.D. Linguistics student whose research addresses the relationship between callers' choice of language and customer service response, was invited to present on 'Analyzing and Adapting to your Negotiating Partner' at JAMPRO's Export Plus Technical Assistance event 'Effective Negotiation and Communication for Business Management' held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, 31 October 2013.

Ms Ama Ababio and Dr Carmeneta Jones engaged in outreach activities in the corporate area schools Mona High and Immaculate High School, respectively.

Dr Lawrence Bamikole was one of three resource persons at the Jamaica Council for Interfaith Fellowship Workshop 2013, held under the theme 'Valuing Humanity and Living in Peace', United Theological College of the West Indies, 2 October 2013.

Dr Keren Cumberbatch spoke as panelist on 'Creating Disability-Friendly Higher Education Institutions', at the panel on Living with Disabilities – Accessing Higher Education: Institutional Concerns, hosted by Jamaica Theological Seminary and Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities at Jamaica Theological Seminary.

Several department members facilitated workshops for a UWI-based audience. Dr Carmeneta Jones conducted a workshop on interactive teaching for the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, 14 January 2014, and Dr Monica Taylor presented on 'Using Turnitin's GradeMark Tool to meet the needs of students and instructors' for the Centre's *Teaching with 21st Century Technology Showcase*, 16 April 2014. Ms Ama Ababio assumed the role of Moderator for a Focus Group discussion for Dr Monica Taylor's research project 'The Role of Writing in National Development', July 2014. Dr Carmeneta Jones spoke on 'Engaging Students Before, During and After Read Aloud' at School of Education, UWI, Mona, November 2013. Dr Vivette Milson-Whyte spoke on 'Conducting a Literature Review' at the UWISON's Annual Research Internship for Health Researchers, 11 June 2014. Prof Hubert Devonish made a presentation at the Faculty's Graduate Workshop of 14 November 2013 on the coaching of postgraduate students.

Dr Vivette Milson-Whyte spoke on 'The Quality of Writing and the new GPA Scheme' at the workshop on the Revised GPA Scheme organised by the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning for staff in the Faculty of Humanities and Education on May 1, 2014. Building on that workshop, Drs Ingrid McLaren and Vivette Milson-Whyte conducted seminars on the topic 'Situating Writing in the

Academy: Moving toward Assessment' at the Department of Library and Information Studies' retreat, 20–21 May 2014.

During her stay at the University of Freiburg as visiting researcher, Dr Michèle Kennedy gave presentations on 'Fieldwork in Jamaica' (14 May 2014), 'Creoles and Englishes in the Caribbean, with a special focus on the languages of Jamaica' (3 June 2014), and presented to the group of visiting researchers on contact varieties of English and French in West Africa or the Caribbean on her project 'What do they speak?' (22 May 2014).

Through the Jamaican Language Unit, the Department continued its international collaboration with the University of Geneva for a research project on child language acquisition in Jamaican Creole-speaking children, with the University of Cincinnati for a research project on bench marking child language development among Jamaican school children, and with Stanford University on the Survey of English Dialects.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- **Dr Carmeneta Jones** was appointed Lecturer in the English Language Section, replacing Ms Vivienne Harding, who moved on to a position with the Open Campus after serving the Department for many years. Also in that section, the temporary full-time appointments of **Ms Jessie Antwi**, **Ms Nekeisha Reid** and **Ms Kedisha Williams** supported an unexpectedly large demand for places in the English language Foundation courses.
- **Dr Douglas Kutach** was appointed Lecturer in the Philosophy Section, a position which he will take up for the 2014/15 academic year.
- **Dr Gerald Stell** arrived in October 2013 to take up an appointment as sabbatical replacement for Dr Michèle Kennedy in the Linguistics Section, while **Ms Nickesha Dawkins** was appointed as leave replacement for Professor Hubert Devonish in the second semester of the year.

- **Ms Jasmin Lawrence** accepted the task of Academic Coordinator for the English Language Proficiency Test Unit.

Towards the end of the reporting period, Ms Karen Clarke, Senior Secretary, accepted an appointment in a neighbouring Department, leaving a vacancy which the Department will seek to fill in the next academic year.

The Administrative staff of the Department went beyond the call of duty in handling the complex demands of event organisation, class rostering, budgeting, and so on, and rose admirably to the challenge of guaranteeing the continuity of the operations of the IELTS Examination Centre when the Department lost the services of the Centre's Coordinator. **Ms Angella O'Meally** was appointed as the Centre's new Coordinator at the end of July 2014.

AWARD OF DEGREES

- **Dr Keren Cumberbatch**, lecturer in the Department's Linguistics Section, was awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in University Teaching and Learning.
- **Andre Sherriah**, a Ph.D. Linguistics candidate, was successful in the oral examination of his thesis 'Identifying the sources of lexico-phonetic input from English into Sranan'; Dr Sherriah is currently a Research Associate with the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Conference presentations

- **Bamikole, L.O.** "Livity as a Dimension of Identity in Rastafari Thought: Implication for Development in Africana Societies". Rastafari Studies Conference and General Assembly 2013, organized by Rastafari Studies Unit and the Institute of Caribbean Studies, UWI Mona, 12–16 August 2013.

- **Bamikole, L.O.** “Fanon and Ghandi on the role of Violence in Liberation: A Reconciliation”. Black Radical Thought, Pedagogy and Praxis: A Conference in Honour of Professor Rupert Lewis, organized by the Department of Government, UWI Mona, 10–12 October, 2013.
- **Bamikole, L.O.** “The Ethics of Work in the Music of Shola Allyson Obaniyi”. Cave Hill Philosophy Symposium-Conversations IX: Grounding Aesthetics, hosted by the Department of History and Philosophy, UWI Cave Hill, November 11–13, 2013.
- **Bamikole, L.O.** “Agency and Afro-Caribbean Existential Discourse”. Caribbean Philosophical Association 2014 Annual Meeting: Shifting the Geography of Reason XI: Diverse Lineages of Existentialism-Africana, Feminist, and Decolonial at Hyatt Regency, St. Louis, Missouri, USA, 19–21 June, 2014.
- **Bewaji, J.** “The Twain Shall Not Meet – Afro-Caribbean Cultural Values at Logger Heads with Economic Interests over Human Sexuality”. Cave Hill Philosophy Symposium-Conversations IX: Grounding Aesthetics, hosted by the Department of History and Philosophy, UWI Cave Hill, November 11–13, 2013.
- **Cumberbatch, K. and Jones, T.** “Accessibility to Dental Healthcare for Jamaican Deaf Patients”, The UWI Mona Regional Disability Studies Conference 2014, UWI Mona, 11–12 March 2014.
- **Dyche, C.** “Caribbean English Creoles and Language Education Policy: The Case of Jamaica”. Séminaire International: “Plurilinguisme et Interculturel”, Pôle Universitaire Guyanais, Campus de Troubiran, Cayenne, French Guiana, 26 May 2014.
- **Jones, C.** “Planting the ‘Write’ Seed: Nurturing Budding Caribbean Doctor-writers”. The 17th Conference of the Caribbean Tertiary Level Personnel Association, Bahamas, 11–14 June 2014.
- **McCalla, S. and N. Shepherd.** “Performance Enhancement Drugs in Sports: An Inquiry into the freedom and responsibility of athletes”.

The American Canadian Conference for Academic Disciplines, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, 19–22 May 2014.

- **McLaren, I.** “Art and Ways of Knowing: Reshaping the Academic Landscape-Ways of Knowing, Thinking and Understanding through Narratives”. The Ninth International Conference on the Arts in Society: The Lives of Art, Sapienza University, Rome, Italy, 25–27 June 2014.
- McLeod, S., K. Washington, **H. Devonish** and M. Samms-Vaughan. “Children’s Speech Assessment: Cross-cultural Considerations”. 15th Biennial Conference of the International Clinical Phonetics and Linguistics Association, Stockholm, Sweden. 11–13 June 2014.
- **Milson-Whyte, V.** “Problems and Possibilities in Adopting Translingual Approaches in Teaching Academic Writing to Creole-influenced (Jamaican) Students”. Writing Research Across Borders III, l’Université Paris-Ouest – Nanterre, La Défense, France, 19–22 February 2014.
- **Milson-Whyte, V.** “Les Implications des approches translinguistiques dans l’enseignement de l’écrit aux étudiants influencés par le créole”. Séminaire International: “Plurilinguisme et Interculturel”, Pôle Universitaire Guyanais, Campus de Troubiran, Cayenne, French Guiana, 26 May 2014.
- **Mohansingh, S.** “Suicide... the States’ Hidden Agenda?,” The American Canadian Conference for Academic Disciplines, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, 19–22 May 2014.
- Washington, K., S. McLeod, **H. Devonish** and M. Samms-Vaughan. “Cross-cultural Competencies for Working with Bidialectal Children from Jamaica”. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention, Chicago, IL, USA, 14–16 November 2013.
- Washington, K., S. McLeod, M. Samms-Vaughan and **H. Devonish.** “Considerations During Speech and Language Assessment for Bidialectal Children in Jamaica”. 29th World Congress of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics Conference, Turin, Italy, 25–29 August 2013.

PUBLICATIONS

Books & Collections

- Dyche, C. (Ed.) Special issue on “Best Practices in Higher Education: Focus on the Caribbean”. *The UWI Quality Education Forum*, Vol. 19, 2013.
- Imafidon, E. and J.A.I. Bewaji (Eds.) *Ontologized Ethics: New Essays in African Meta-Ethics*. Lexington Books, 2014.

Refereed Book Chapters

- Dawkins, N. “She se dis, him se dat. Examining Gender-based Vowel Use in Jamaican Dancehall”. *International Reggae*. Ed. D. Hope. Kingston, Jamaica: Pelican Publishers, 2013. 124–165.
- Devonish, H. and K. Carpenter. “The Landing Point: The Bilingual Education Project and the Grade 4 (2008) Results”. *Education Issues in Creole and Creole-Influenced Vernacular Contexts*. Eds. I. Robertson and H. Simmons-McDonald. Kingston, Jamaica: The University of the West Indies Press, 2014. 167–180.
- Devonish, H. and D. Thompson. “Creolese”. *Survey of Pidgin and Creole Languages*, Vol. I: English-based and Dutch-based languages. Eds. S. Michaelis, P. Maurer, M. Haspelmath and M. Huber. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. 49-60.
- Kouwenberg, S. “Dutch Creole in the Caribbean”. *Language and Space. An International Handbook of Variation*, Vol. 3: Dutch. Eds. F. Hinskens and J. Taeldeman. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2013. 879–896.
- Kouwenberg, S. “Berbice Dutch Creole”. *Survey of Pidgin and Creole Languages*, Vol. I: English-based and Dutch-based languages. Eds. S. Michaelis, P. Maurer, M. Haspelmath and M. Huber. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. 275–284.
- McCalla, S. “The University of Morality: Myth or Reality”. *Ontologized Ethics: New Essays in African Meta-Ethics*. Eds. E. Imafidon and J.A.I. Bewaji. Lexington Books, 2014. 15–36.

- **Milson-Whyte, V.** “Working English through Code-Meshing: Implications for Denigrated Language Varieties and their Users”. *Reworking English in Rhetoric and Composition: Global Interrogations, Local Interventions*. Eds. B. Horner and K. Kopelson. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois UP, 2014. 103–115.

Refereed Journal Articles

- **Bamikole, L.O.** “David Hume’s Notion of Personal Identity: Implications for Identity Construction and Affective Communal Living in Africana Societies”. *Philosophy Study*, Vol 4, No. 4, pp. 266–276, 2014.
- **Coard, P. and C. Dyche.** “Integrating Psychological and Sociocultural Dimensions into the Teaching of English to UWI Students who Speak Jamaican Creole: A Case Study”. *The UWI Quality Education Forum*, Vol. 19, pp. 55–88, 2013
- **Kouwenberg, S.** “The Historical Context of Creole Language Emergence in Dutch Guiana”. *Revue Belge de Philologie et d’Histoire / Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Filologie en Geschiedenis*, Vol. 91. Special issue on Dutch and colonial expansion: different contact settings, different linguistic outcomes, ed. G. Stell, 2013. 695–711.
- **McLaren, I.** “Contexts of Engagement: Towards Developing a Model for Implementing and Assessing a Writing across the Curriculum Programme in the Sciences”. *Assessing Writing*, Vol 22, pp. 18–32, 2014.

Non-refereed books

- **Cumberbatch, Keren.** *Caribbean Sign Language for Dentistry: A Guide to Communicating with Deaf Patients for Dentists*. HIS Publications: Tacarigua, 2014. E-book with Video.
- **Cumberbatch, Keren.** *Caribbean Sign Language for Medicine: A Guide to Communicating with Deaf Patients for Medical Practitioners*. HIS Publications: Tacarigua, 2014. E-book with Video.

- **Cumberbatch, Keren.** *Notes on Jamaican Sign Language*. 2nd ed. HIS Publications: Tacarigua, 2014. E-book.

Other Refereed Publications

- **Devonish, H.** and D. Thompson. Creolese Language Structure Dataset. *Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures Online*. Eds. S. Michaelis, P. Maurer, M. Haspelmath and M. Huber. Munich: Max Planck Digital Library, 2013. Online at apics-online.info.
- **Kouwenberg, S.** Berbice Dutch Creole Language Structure Dataset. *Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures Online*. Eds. S. Michaelis, P. Maurer, M. Haspelmath and M. Huber. Munich: Max Planck Digital Library, 2013. Online at apics-online.info.
- **Kouwenberg, S.** Papiamentu Language Structure Dataset. *Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures Online*. Eds. S. Michaelis, P. Maurer, M. Haspelmath and M. Huber. Munich: Max Planck Digital Library, 2013. Online at apics-online.info.

Book reviews

- **Kouwenberg, S. & Darlene LaCharité.** Review of: *Wiederholung, Parallelismus, Reduplikation: Strategien der multiplen Strukturanwendung*, by A. Ammann & A. Urdze. Bochum: Brockmeyer, 2007, and: *The morphosyntax of reiteration in creole and non-creole languages*, by E. Aboh, N. Smith & A. Zribi-Hertz (eds.). Amsterdam: Benjamins, 2012. In: *Linguistic Typology* 17, 2013. 476–485.
- **Kouwenberg, S. & Darlene LaCharité.** Review of: *Total reduplication: The areal linguistics of a potential universal*, by T. Stolz, C. Stroh & A. Urdze. Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 2011. In: *Linguistic Typology* 17, 2013. 485–496.