DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURES IN ENGLISH

David Williams, BA, MA UWI – Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department continued to expand its course offerings, in line with its commitment to increasing its involvement in Cultural Studies, Comparative Caribbean Literature, African/Diaspora Studies, and Film Studies. New undergraduate courses were staged this year in all of these areas. The list included:

- Introduction to Film Studies (E10F)
- Writing Africa from the Diaspora (E21M)
- African Literature (E36A)
- Reggae Poetry (E27F)
- Latin American Cultural Studies (E29A)
- Literature and Ideas in the Caribbean (AR22A)

The Department also deepened its investment in the teaching of Postcolonial Literature and Theory at the undergraduate level. New courses in Environmental Literature, Crime and Science Fiction, and Borderlands Cinema will be added in the coming year. A new course on Writing for Screen and Stage (E26F) was also taught (by Mr Trevor Rhone) during the 2005 summer session, while our courses in Creative Writing (Poetry and Prose Fiction) were this year taught by Mervyn Morris and Donna Hemans.

At the graduate level new courses in African Literature and Writing the Nation in Jamaican Poetry were made available to students in the MA and MPhil programmes. The department has also completed a proposal for a new MA in Caribbean Literary and Cultural Studies which will soon be offered for approval to the Board for Graduate Studies and Research. All of these new ventures are intended to broaden the range of choices available to our majors and to students from outside the Department, even...
as we maintain our core strengths in Shakespearean and modern drama, West Indian, British and American literature, and literary theory.

Our teaching activities were enhanced by the efforts of Department members to provide a wide range of material for on-line access by students, and by our attempts to make use of the technology now available within a limited number of classrooms. The Department will also shortly produce a journal, edited by Dr Michael Bucknor, which will feature the best essays submitted across the range of our undergraduate courses. The on-going Friday afternoon Staff/postgraduate seminars, organized by Dr Victor Chang, continued to provide a lively forum for discussion of ideas and issues.

Another forum of a different sort was represented by this year’s career seminar for our final-year students, which featured presentations by Mr Wayne Brown, Ms Tanya Batson-Savage, and Dr Kim Robinson-Walcott, graduates of the Department who have all gone on to make viable careers as writers. The Department also continued to explore the possibility of linkages with other institutions, with Prof Carolyn Cooper visiting Malmö University, Sweden, in order to continue discussions on staff/student exchanges.

The Department staged readings by Donna Hemans, author of *River Woman*, and Dr Kim Robinson-Walcott, winner of the Commonwealth prize for best short story.

The Department participated in the launch of new creative work by Kamau Brathwaite, Eintou Springer, Thomas Glave, Ramabai Espinet and Andrew Kei Miller, and sponsored the launch of new academic publications by Dr Curdella Forbes and Dr Kim Robinson-Walcott. Various Department members also gave lectures to high school students. The Department also continued to be involved in designing and teaching courses for the BEd Secondary (Distance) programme which is offered at centres across Jamaica.

The Department's work has benefited from the acquisition of a fax machine, and from the attempts by some members of the teaching staff to increase our stock of DVDs and other material, particularly for the new courses in Film and Cultural studies.
The Departmental Consultative Committee continues to function effectively as an opportunity for students to engage lecturers in discussions about the delivery of our courses. The system of academic advising, in which students are assigned to specific lecturers, was not utilized as fully as we would wish, despite our invitations to students. We have also not progressed as quickly as we hoped with our Department website.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Emeritus Professor Edward Baugh


Professor Carolyn Cooper

- “Celebrating the Arts of Regional Integration in the Poetry of Louise Bennett and Derek Walcott.” The Inaugural Cherrie Orr Memorial Lecture, hosted by the Jamaica/St. Lucia Community, Castries, St. Lucia, June 2006.
- “From Beowulf to Bounty Killa: Or How I Ended Up Studying Slackness,” Annual Conference on West Indian Literature, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, March 2006.
- “What the Backside All You Want?: Interrogating Rastafari in Derek Walcott’s O Babylon!,” Conference in honour of Professor Barry Chevannes, University of the West Indies, Mona, January 2006.


Dr Curdella Forbes

• “Re/Making the Nation, Making the Trans-nation: The Poetics of Body and Voice in the Work of George Lamming and Marlene Nourbese Philip.” 25th West Indian Literature Conference, University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad, March 2-4, 2006.

• “Some Thoughts on Caribbean Literature and Tourism, with reference to Earl Lovelace’s The Dragon Can’t Dance and Julia Alvarez’s In the Time of the Butterflies.” Colgate University, November 2005.

Dr Mawuena Logan


Dr Anthea Morrison


Emeritus Professor Maureen Warner-Lewis


• “Heritage Languages, Retentions and Obsolescence”, Cultural Studies Graduate Colloquium, UWI, St. Augustine, September 26, 2005.


• “African Retentions in the Languages of Trinidad and Tobago”, Undergraduate Caribbean Dialectology Class, UWI, St. Augustine, September 21, 2005.

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Monographs

Emeritus Professor Edward Baugh

* Derek Walcott. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006

Professor Carolyn Cooper


Prof John Lennard


Emeritus Professor Mervyn Morris

**Refereed Book Chapters**

**Professor Carolyn Cooper**


**Dr Norval Edwards**


**Prof John Lennard**


**Emeritus Professor Mervyn Morris**


**Refereed Journal Articles**

**Dr Michael Bucknor**


**Prof John Lennard**

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Dr Mawuena Logan


Emeritus Professor Mervyn Morris


Non-refereed

Emeritus Professor Edward Baugh


Professor Carolyn Cooper


Peer Reviewed

Dr Mawuena Logan


* “Africa, Sub-Saharan.” (22-25).
* “Diop, Birago.” Vol. 1 (416)
* “Meniru, Teresa.” Vol. 3 (66).
* “Nwankwo, Nkem.” Vol. 3 (184).
* “Salkey, Andrew.” Vol. 3 (389).
* “Saro-Wiwa, Ken.” Vol. 3(396).
* “Sutherland, Efua.” Vol. 4 (61).

**Emeritus Professor Mervyn Morris**


**Dr Anthea Morrison**


**Dr Gregory Stephens**


**Professor Emeritus Maureen Warner-Lewis**

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr Michael Bucknor

– Chief Examiner for CAPE Literatures in English for the Caribbean Examinations Council.
– Editor, Postcolonial Text.
– Editor, Journal of West Indian Literature.
– Member of the Editorial Board, Pathways.
– Chair, West Indian Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (WIACLAS).

Dr Victor L. Chang

– Chair, West Indian Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (WIACLAS).
– Editor, Pathways.
– Co-editor, Journal of West Indian Literature (JWIL).

Professor Carolyn Cooper

– Member, Board of Directors, the Calabash Literary Festival, 2001 - 2006.

Dr Norval Edwards

– Associate Editor, Small Axe: A Journal of Criticism, 1996-
– Manuscript reader, The Press, UWI.

Dr Curdella Forbes

– Assistant Chief Examiner, English B, Caribbean Examinations Council.
– Editor, Postcolonial Text
– Book Review Editor, Journal of West Indian Literature
— Editorial Advisor, *Anthurium*, online peer-reviewed journal of original Caribbean works and critical studies
— Associate Member, Smithsonian Institution
— Member, University of the West Indies Alumni Association, Washington DC Chapter

**Dr Mawuena Logan**
— External Exit-Examiner, Northern Caribbean University, Mandeville, Jamaica, 2006

**Emeritus Professor Mervyn Morris**
— Member of the judging panel, Creative Writing (Poetry), Jamaica Cultural Development Commission.
— Selector for a Bermuda Anthology of Poems.
— Chairman, Carreras Postgraduate Awards Committee.

**Dr Anthea Morrison**
— Reviewer, *Postcolonial Text*.

**Mr David Williams**
— Judge, JCDC Annual Literary Competition.
— Judge, National Book Development Council Literary Competition.

**CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS**

**Undergraduate**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number Registered</th>
<th>(majors)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year I</td>
<td>554</td>
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<td>Year II</td>
<td>358</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year III</td>
<td>560</td>
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**TOTAL:** 1,472 (994 majors)

**First Class Honours:**
— Terisa Bernal-Benjamin
— Tenesha Myrie
— Yanique Stewart
Eddie Whyte
Shala Whyte

POSTGRADUATE

Registration

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<td>MA</td>
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Award of Degrees

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPhil</td>
<td>Donna Hayles</td>
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<td>MA</td>
<td>Aisha Spencer</td>
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