

**Society for Caribbean Linguistics, Biennial Conference  
Dominica 2006**

**Minutes of the Biennial General Meeting, 5 August 2006**

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:45 p.m. and participants welcomed by Salikoko Mufwene, President.

Present: Jeannette Allsopp, Michelle Braña-Straw, Kathryn Brodber, Antheia Cadette-Blasse, Pauline Christine, Vincent Cooper, Ken Decker, Hubert Devonish, Janet Donnelly, Marl'ene Edwin, Genevieve Escure, Sandra Evans, Nicholas Faraclas, Joseph Farquharson, Tasheney Francis, Rennie Gonsalves, Cándida González-López, Kate Howe, Winford James, Isabelle Léglise, Carla Martin, Rocky Meade, Bettina Migge, Ronald Morren, Emmanuel Nikiema, Jean Ourdy Pierre, Velma Pollard, Kay Polidore, John Rickford, Peter Roberts, Ian Robertson, André Sherriah, Hazel Simmons-McDonald, Jodianne Scott, Daidrah Smith, Arthur Spears, Monica Taylor, Don Walicek, Kadian Walters, Charlene White-Christian, Kedisha Williams, Don Winford, Valerie Youssef

Apologies for absence: Mervyn Alleyne, Richard Allsopp, Gertrud Aub-Buscher, Lawrence Carrington, Jean D'Costa, Michel DeGraff, Clive Forrester, Otelemate Harry, David Holbrook, Alison Irvine-Sobers, Ron Kephart, Barbara Lalla, Cristina Martínez Sanz, Iyabo Osiapem, Peter Patrick, Roger Reeck, Odile Renault-Lescure, Robin Sabino, John Singler, Michèle Stewart, Lise Winer

2. **Agenda**

The agenda below was read by Salikoko Mufwene from a PowerPoint presentation.

- Approval of 2006 Agenda
- Approval of minutes of SCL 2004 general meeting & matters arising from the minutes
- Resolutions to thank the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and UWI, St. Augustine
- Resolutions in appreciation of Jacques Arends & Bob Le Page
- President's report
- Secretary-Treasurer's report
- Publications Officer's report
- Sites of the next SCL conferences (2008, 2010)
- Election of new officers
- Other business
- Welcome to the new President

Janet Donnelly moved to approve. The motion was seconded by John Rickford.

3. **Approval of Curaçao 2004 Minutes**

John Rickford moved to approve and Hazel Simmons-McDonald seconded the motion.

Matters Arising

- Guidelines for Reinecke Fund

Kathryn Shields-Brodber pointed out that the minutes of the Curaçao 2004 conference were received two years later, so she had forgotten that she had agreed to check on the original guidelines for the use of the Reinecke fund. She recommended that the membership should get the minutes earlier.

4. **Resolutions (Thanks)**

a) Resolution to thank the Local Organising Committee (LOC)

“We the members of the SCL recognize that our 2006 biennial meeting could not have succeeded without the dedicated assistance of the LOC, enthusiastically led by Mr. Francis Severin, who has gone beyond the call of duty all the way to offering us even technical assistance. We hereby express our most sincere thanks to him and his team for generously lending us their time and energy toward the success of the meeting.”

It was pointed out that ‘biennial meeting’ should be changed to ‘biennial conference’, and that the names of the members of the LOC should be added.

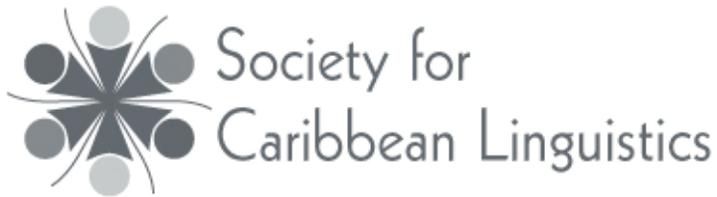
Don Winford reminded the meeting of the SCL tradition of thanking the LOC orally at the BGM, and not only by extending written thanks. Arthur Spears moved to approve, and Vincent Cooper seconded the motion.

The final resolution reads as follows:

*We, the members of the Society for Caribbean Linguistics, recognise that our 2006 biennial conference could not have succeeded without the dedicated assistance of the Local Organising Committee, enthusiastically chaired by Mr. Francis Severin, who has gone beyond the call of duty all the way to offering us even technical assistance. We hereby express our most sincere thanks to him and his team (Sonia Akpar, Martin Beyer, Pearle Christian, Lennox Honychurch, Arlington James and Laymond Lawrence) for generously lending us their time and energy toward the success of the conference.*

b) Resolution to thank Faculty of Humanities & Education, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

“We the members of the SCL recognize that we depend largely on the administrative support of the UWI system to function normally. This support comes through the space and logistic arrangement accorded to our Secretary-Treasurer to serve our Society. For this particular 2006 biennial meeting we have received, from UWI St. Augustine, non-budgeted



financial and material support toward the successful organization of the meeting, from both the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Arts and General Education as well from the Head of the Department of XXX . We write to express our profound gratitude for this help.”

It was pointed out that the name of the Faculty should be changed from Faculty of Arts and General Education to Faculty of Humanities & Education.

Kate Howe moved to approve, and Bettina Migge seconded the motion.

The final resolution reads as follows:

*We, the members of the Society for Caribbean Linguistics, recognise that we depend largely on the administrative support of the UWI system to function normally. This support comes through the space and logistic arrangement accorded to our Secretary-Treasurer to serve our Society. For this particular 2006 biennial conference we have received, from The UWI, St. Augustine, non-budgeted financial and material support toward the successful organisation of the conference, from both the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Humanities & Education as well from the Head of the Department of Liberal Arts . We write to express our profound gratitude for this help.*

## **5. Resolutions (Appreciation of Recently Departed Members)**

a) Jacques Arends

“At its 2006 biennial meeting, held on Dominica, during August 2-6, the SCL paused to pay tribute to Jacques Arends, a colleague whom we held in very high esteem, because of the outstanding quality of his scholarship and his exemplary collegiality. Jacques was a leader on the gradual development of creoles and on archival research regarding the Surinamese creoles. He will be sorely missed among us. We write to express our sympathy.”

Janet Donnelly moved to approve and Kate Howe seconded the motion.

John Rickford offered a friendly amendment: “Jacques was a leader on the gradual development of creoles” should be changed to “a leader in the study of the gradual development of creoles.” Janet Donnelly moved to approve and Bettina Migge seconded the motion.

Hubert Devonish pointed out the error of “on” Dominica which should be changed to “in” Dominica.

The final resolution reads as follows:

*At its 2006 biennial conference, held in Dominica, during 2-6 August, the SCL paused to pay tribute to Jacques Arends, a colleague whom we held in very high esteem, because of the outstanding quality of his scholarship and his exemplary collegiality. He was an executive member of the SCL. Jacques was a leader in the study of the gradual development of creoles and on archival research regarding the Surinamese creoles. He will be sorely missed among us. We write to express our sympathy.*

b) Robert Brock (“Bob”) LePage

“At its 2006 biennial meeting, held on Dominica, during August 2-6, the SCL organized a special session to remember Robert Le Page, one of the founders of both modern creolistics and our professional organization, a seminal innovator in dynamic aspects of sociolinguistics and on the study of the development of creoles, and an outstanding and personable teacher who touched our lives directly or indirectly in diverse ways. We write to expressed our sympathy collectively and to tell you how terribly he will be missed among us.”

It was suggested that “during” in “during August 2-6” should be struck out in line 1, that and “on the study of the development of creoles,” should be changed to “in the study of...”, that “expressed” be changed to “express”, that the first sentence should end after “organisation”, and continue “He was a seminal innovator...”, and that “how terribly he will be missed” be changed to “how deeply he will be missed.”

Hazel Simmons-McDonald moved to approve and Jeannette Allsopp seconded the motion.

The final resolution reads as follows:

*At its 2006 biennial conference, held in Dominica, 2-6 August, the SCL organised a special session to remember Robert B. Le Page, one of the founders of both modern creolistics and our professional organisation. He was a seminal innovator in dynamic aspects of sociolinguistics and in the study of the development of creoles, and an outstanding and personable teacher who touched our lives directly or indirectly in diverse ways. We write to express our sympathy collectively and to tell you how deeply he will be missed among us.*

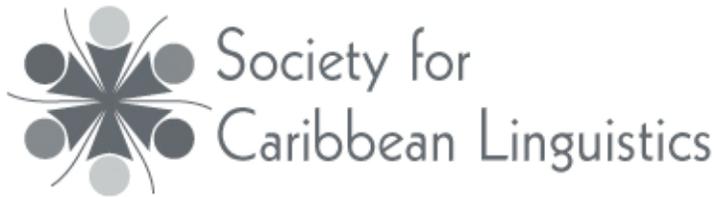
## **6. President’s Report**

### Executive Committee Meeting

The President reported on the outcome of the 2006 Executive Committee meeting.

### Publications office

He noted that over the last two years, the Publications office (including the Editor and Editorial Board) had been reorganised.



#### Preparations for the Dominica Conference

The President reported on the preparations of the Dominica Conference (from the initial contacts to the final programme)

#### Evaluation of abstracts

The President reported on the current process and practice of evaluation of the abstracts with a view to proposing changes for future practice.

#### Position of the Secretary-Treasurer

The President opened the floor for discussion of the Secretary-Treasurer's position. John Rickford opened the discussion of the position of the Secretary-Treasurer. He reminded the meeting that service to and in SCL does not have anything to do with The UWI and tenure.

Valerie Youssef (current Head of the Department of Liberal Arts at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine) suggested that postgraduate students from Liberal Arts could help the Secretary-Treasurer.

The President proposed a motion that a letter be written to the current Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education and the Head of the Department of Liberal Arts to ask them to provide support to the Society by assigning a postgraduate student to assist the Secretary-Treasurer with duties, and by allocating space to accommodate the files and publications of the Society. A suggestion was also made that similar requests be submitted to the Deans of Humanities and Education at Cave Hill and Mona, so that these procedures would be followed regardless of whether the Dean or Head was a member of the Society. Winford James approved the motion and John Rickford seconded the motion. All were in favour—none opposed and none abstained.

#### Circulation of papers

The President suggested that the Society put an end to the tradition of requiring papers before a conference.

#### Reproduction of handouts

There was also the issue of the reproduction of handouts. He also suggested cutting down on the production of CDs through effective use of the website. A recommendation was made that presenters should take their handouts to conferences.

The President concluded his report.

## 7. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

The Secretary began her report with the Conference budget and expenditure.

### Costs of the SCL 2006 Conference

The Secretary-Treasurer presented the statement of accounts for the Dominica conference and reported a small surplus, due in large measure to logistical support from the St. Augustine Faculty of Humanities and Education.

### Biennial Statement of Accounts

The biennial summary and statement of all accounts of the Society was presented by the Secretary-Treasurer. These accounts include USD and TTD accounts in Trinidad, USD and JMD accounts in Jamaica, as well as the Reinecke Fund, and a BBD account in Barbados.

### Membership Dues

The Secretary-Treasurer moved to have the Membership Dues equalised and raised as follows:

US\$10 to US\$20 for Caribbean-based regular members

US\$25 to US\$30 for non-Caribbean-based regular members

Velma Pollard moved to approve and Don Winford seconded the motion.

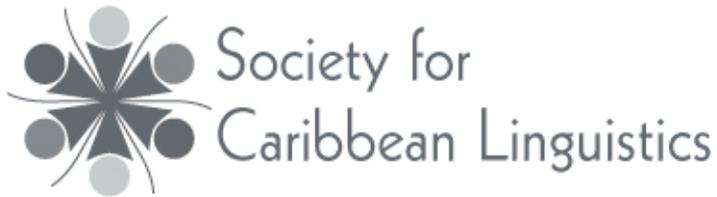
### SCL's Fiscal Calendar

The Secretary-Treasurer noted that the Society's fiscal calendar currently runs from October to October, according to the Constitution. The Constitution states that members must renew their dues by 31 October of each year. This implies that when members join the Society in August in a given Conference year, they become members for only 2 months after the conference, that is, only up to 31 October of each year, as well as retroactively for the months preceding the conference (the academic year of that conference only).

The Secretary-Treasurer suggested that the Society's fiscal year run from August to August, and that membership be effective after the conference, allowing members to be members for year to year and to receive publications for the year following the conference and not before.

Kathryn Shields-Brodber noted that this had been the practice in her tenure as Secretary-Treasurer (1990–1996), and this in fact continued to be the practice thereafter.

Although the practice continues to differ from the original wording of the Constitution, no change was made to the Constitution, since this would have to be proposed and voted on before the meeting.



### New Members

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that there 74 new members (including 29 regular members and 44 student members) from the 2004 Curaçao conference to the present 2006 Dominica conference. The list of new members is included to these Minutes as an appendix. The Secretary-Treasurer noted that several persons had become members as a result of the Society's presence on the internet.

### Website

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that the Society's website had been redesigned at no charge by three postgraduate students of Robin Sabino and the then Center for Diversity and Race Relations of Auburn University. The Center's mission included "cultivating respect for, understanding of, and appreciation for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or other attributes." The Center saw their mission as consistent with the activities and goals of the SCL and so offered the help of the three graduate students, Manoj Mahajan, Manish Marathe and Bhushan Dani. The Secretary publicly thanked Robin Sabino and her students.

### Reinecke Fund

Congratulations were extended to the winners for the 2005–2006 academic year, who are as follows (see website: <http://www.scl-online.net/johnreineckeaward.html>):

Cave Hill: Karen Burgin (Barbados)  
Mona: Ruby-Rose Demetrius (Jamaica)  
St. Augustine: Joy Charles (St. Vincent & the Grenadines)

The winners of the 2004-2005 academic year were:

Cave Hill: Glynnis Brathwaite  
Mona: Tasheney Francis (Jamaica)  
St. Augustine: Desiree Huggins (St. Vincent & the Grenadines)

John Rickford reported that it was a tradition to make financial donations to the Society's Reinecke Fund, and that there should be an option for contributions on the membership form.

John Rickford raised a motion to review conditions under which Reinecke Awards are awarded, and Jeannette Allsopp approved.

The Secretary-Treasurer concluded her report and Dr. Kathryn Shields-Brodber raised a motion to thank the Secretary-Treasurer. Isabelle Léglise seconded the motion.

## 8. Publications Officer's Report

### Publications

Publications Officer, Rocky Meade, reported that there were two Papers in the Occasional Papers series published in 2005, as follows:

- i. *Occasional Paper #31*: David Holbrook, "Grenada and Carriacou English-lexifier Creole(s): One Language or Two?" (March 2005)  
and
- ii. *Occasional Paper #32*: Barbara Lalla, "Virtual Realism: Constraints on Validity in Textual Evidence of Caribbean Language History" (April 2005).

There were two Papers in the Occasional Papers series published in 2006, in one volume, as follows:

- iii. *Occasional Paper #33*: S.R. Richard Allsopp, "The Case for Afrogenesis" with a preface by John R. Rickford (July 2006)  
published with
- iv. *Occasional Paper #34*: S.R. Richard Allsopp, "The Afrogenesis of Caribbean Creole Proverbs" with a preface by John R. Rickford.

### Pending publications

Pending publications included *Occasional Paper #35*: Hubert Devonish and Karen Carpenter, "Full Bilingual Education in a Creole Language Situation: The Jamaican Bilingual Primary Education Project". The production of this paper will be partially funded by the Jamaican Language Unit (JLU) due to the requests for extra copies for internal use.

### Proposed publications

Proposed publications included Carolyn Cooper's inaugural professorial speech in Jamaican. However, it was pointed out that Prof. Cooper is not a member of the Society and there was some discussion as to whether non-members' submissions could be considered for publication in either series. The Secretary-Treasurer pointed out that the Article 9 of the Constitution implies a "members only" policy, since the relevant clause directly follows a statement focusing on members. This may have to be more clearly articulated.

### Publications Policy

The Publications Officer brought forward two proposals for the SCL Publications policy: These are as follows:

- a. There are only two edited volumes of conference papers in the Society's publishing history – 1983 and 1992. The recommendation is to improve this by setting a target of one volume every four (4) years.

- b. The second proposal focused on the length of the papers, ideally approximately fifty (50) pages for the Occasional and the Popular papers.

Velma Pollard suggested that in future, all conference papers become an edited volume. The recruitment of papers for the Occasional Papers series should be different and separate from the edited conference papers, since the Society cannot publish all conference papers as Occasional Papers. An edited biennial conference volume would satisfy the needs of members.

Winford James suggested that the role and function of the Publications Officer should be officialised in the Society's Constitution. It was pointed out that it was in the Constitution, but that there was a discrepancy, since according to the Constitution, the Secretary-Treasurer was still responsible for supervising the Society's publications.

Kathryn Shields-Brodber pointed out that 50 pages was not reasonable for the Popular Papers.

The Publications Officer concluded his report.

#### **9. Sites of the 2008 and 2010 SCL Conferences**

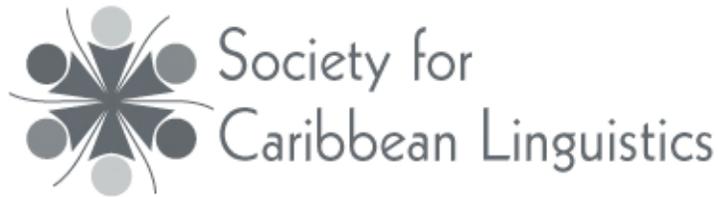
Following from discussions at Curaçao 2004, Cayenne is the first choice for 2008, with Cave Hill as a backup in case of any difficulties in hosting the conference in French Guiana. Janet Donnelly suggested the Bahamas as a possibility for 2010. Bettina Migge and Isabelle Léglise were asked to forward as much information as possible about Cayenne and all planning details. Hazel Simmons-McDonald would represent Cave Hill in case of a contingency plan.

#### **10. Election of New Officers**

The President thanked all who served on the 2004–2006 Executive Committee. He suggested considering job descriptions and new titles for the three EC officer posts.

Velma Pollard and Walter Edwards declined to continue serving on the Executive Committee.

Since Velma Pollard was Executive Committee member with the main role of SCL Financial Officer for Mona, a replacement would have to be sought. Michèle Stewart (in absentia) had agreed to serve in this capacity, and Jo-Anne Ferreira would also serve as signatory on the Mona accounts, in addition to being responsible for the Reinecke account held at Mona (Bursary) and the other SCL accounts in St. Augustine. The meeting agreed to these two appointments.



There were now three vacant posts, those of Vice-President, and two Executive Committee Officers, with the third EC Officer post, the Secretary-Treasurer and Publications Officer posts up for re-election.

Velma Pollard suggested that the outgoing President remain in office because of his service to the Society, and because the incoming President was going to face many time constraints because of her duties as Dean of the Faculty of Humanities & Education at Cave Hill. However, Peter Roberts reminded the meeting of the Constitution and noted that the Vice-President was voted in 2004 to be President in 2006, and therefore no change could be made to the incoming President. He noted that Fred Cassidy (first president from 1972 to 1974) demitted office after two years to Richard Allsopp in 1974 even though there was no conference and no biennial general meeting. The meeting also noted that the outgoing President would serve on the incoming Executive Committee as Immediate Past President and so could continue to contribute to the steering of the Society and thereby support the incoming Presidents.

Nominations were taken for the Vice-President. Don Winford nominated Valerie Youssef. This nomination was seconded by Winford James, and accepted by the nominee.

Arthur Spears nominated Winford James, but the latter declined. Genevieve Escure nominated Vincent Cooper, but the latter also declined.

Peter Roberts nominated John Rickford, seconded by Winford James and accepted by the nominee.

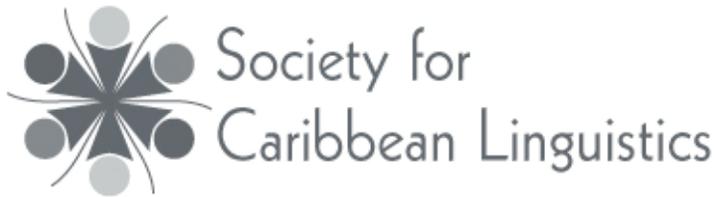
Nominations for the Executive Committee Officer included Jeannette Allsopp (available for re-election), Janet Donnelly, Bettina Migge and Ken Decker.

The posts for Secretary-Treasurer and Publications Officer remained unopposed.

The votes were counted, and John Rickford was elected as Vice-President by a convincing margin, and Jeannette Allsopp (returning), Janet Donnelly and Bettina Migge were elected as members of the Executive Committee.

The new 2006–2008 Executive Committee is as follows:

- President: Hazel Simmons-McDonald (The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill)
- Vice-President: John R. Rickford (Stanford University)
- Secretary-Treasurer: Jo-Anne S. Ferreira (The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine)
- Publications Officer: Rocky R. Meade (The University of the West Indies, Mona)
- Officer: Jeannette Allsopp (The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill)



- Officer: Janet Donnelly (College of the Bahamas)
- Officer: Bettina Migge (University College Dublin)
- Immediate Past President: Salikoko S. Mufwene (University of Chicago)

## 11. **Other business**

### Presidential plenary or address

The President suggested that every programme of future SCL Conferences should feature a presidential plenary or address, and that this should be one of the privileges of the post of President. The meeting agreed that this was a good idea and would be implemented in upcoming conferences.

### Webmaster

The Secretary-Treasurer outlined the need for a new website coordinator (content manager), since she was responsible for this task since 2002. She took the opportunity to again publicly thank Robin Sabino of Auburn University who undertook to coordinate the redesign of the website with the help of three graduate students, for free.

Various suggestions were made as follows: a) pay a student, b) get a volunteer, or c) pay a professional. It was agreed that the Secretary and President would find a qualified and willing volunteer who would keep design and content updated. The Secretary noted the plea not to exploit students.

### Tribute to Louise Bennett

Velma Pollard and John Rickford read a tribute to Ms. Lou (Dr. the Hon. Louise Simone Bennett-Coverley, 1919–2006), folklorist and poet Jamaica.

Velma Pollard recited a poem popularised by Ms. Lou.

### Books and Conference

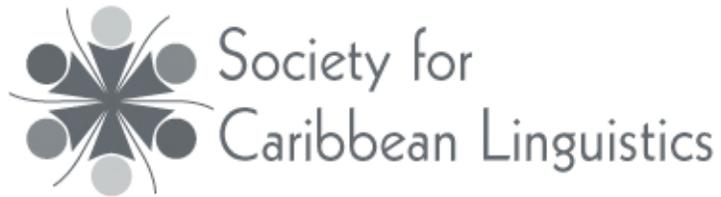
Joseph Farquharson announced the planning of the *Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures* by the Max Planck Institute and distributed information flyers.

Two book announcements were made.

Rocky Meade announced the SPCL summer meeting in June 2007 to be held in Amsterdam.

## 12. **Welcome to the New President**

The outgoing President thanked the membership, and welcomed the new President, Hazel Simmons-McDonald, symbolically passing on the gavel.



The new President took the chair, and thanked outgoing President, Salikoko Mufwene for all his work during his term in office.

The meeting concluded at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Jo-Anne S. Ferreira  
SCL Executive Secretary-Treasurer

APPENDIX I  
New Members 2004–2006

New (or Renewed) Regular Members (30):

1. Gerard Best (T&T)
2. Anu Bissoonauth-Bedford (UK)
3. Elizabeth Dayton (Puerto Rico)
4. Catherine Fleck (Puerto Rico)
5. Adrian Fraser (SVG)
6. Anthony Grant (UK)
7. Renison Gonsalves (US)
8. Nnamdi Hodge (T&T)
9. Kate Howe (Mtque)
10. Ron Kephart (USA)
11. Nevin Leder (PR)
12. Isabelle Léglise (France)
13. Esperanza Luengo Cervera (T&T)
14. Sonia Magloire-Akpar (Dominica)
15. Shelley Marshall (T&T)
16. Iyabo Osiapem (USA)
17. Courtney Parkins (USA)
18. Joyce Pereira (Aruba)
19. Kay Polidore (Dominica)
20. Dawn Raymond (USA)
21. Roger Reeck (T&T)
22. Odile Renault-Lescure (France)
23. Nicole Roberts (T&T)
24. Richard Rogers (T&T)
25. Yvette Simmons-Jemmot (Barbados)
26. Ishtla Singh (UK)
27. Ray Stegeman (Guyana)
28. Norman Thompson (Jamaica)
29. Rosita Tormala-Nita (USA), and
30. John Wells (UK).

New Student Members (44):

1. Ruth Alborno Chacón (T&T)
2. Lisa Barker (Jamaica)
3. Rhoda Bharath (T&T)
4. Michelle Braña-Straw (UK)
5. Jackie Bunting (USA)
6. Antheia Cadette-Blasse (Canada)
7. Stella Cambrone (Martinique)
8. Franz Cozier (USA)
9. Fabrice Delumeau (Guadeloupe)
10. Kathy-Ann Drayton (T&T)
11. Marl'ene Edwin (UK)
12. Keisha Evans (T&T)
13. Sandra Evans (T&T)
14. Tasheney Francis (Jamaica)
15. Renis Gabriel (T&T)
16. Dwane Garcia (T&T)
17. Cándida González López (Puerto Rico)
18. Audene Henry (Jamaica)
19. Curlin Hudson (St. Lucia)
20. Mirto Laclé (Curaçao)
21. Glenda-Alicia Leung (T&T)
22. Karen Mah-Chamberlain (T&T)
23. Carla Martin (USA)
24. Cristina Martínez Sanz (Canada)
25. Nicté Fuller Medina (Canada)
26. Edward Mitchell (Puerto Rico)
27. Agnes Nicholas (Puerto Rico)
28. Sky Onosson (Canada)
29. Christene Phillips (Jamaica)
30. Jean Ourdy Pierre (Puerto Rico)
31. Raeanne Pierre (T&T)
32. Patrice Quammie (T&T)
33. Nicha Selvon-Ramkissoon (T&T)
34. Jodianne Scott (Jamaica)
35. Andre Sherriah (Jamaica)
36. Daidrah Smith (Jamaica)
37. Marta Viada (Puerto Rico)
38. Mirta Valentin (Puerto Rico)
39. Don Walicek (Puerto Rico)
40. Kadian Walters (Jamaica)
41. Charlene White-Christian (Martinique)
42. Kedisha Williams (Jamaica)
43. Vanessa Williams (T&T), and
44. Kofi Yakpo (Germany)

