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Jamaican Geographer

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President's Message

On April 12, 2008, a new JGS Council was elected. On behalf of the Society, I would like to express my appreciation to its outgoing members for their hard work: David Dodman, Marvette Brown, Beverline Brown-Smith, Paul Henry and Basil Forsythe. We know we can count on your continued support.

The Society's activities have been on hold for a while because several Council members are actively involved in organising the international conference: "Foundations and Directions: Celebrating Geography & Geology at the UWI," as part of the University's 60th anniversary celebrations. This meeting will showcase papers on the Department's history, as well as current research. In keeping with the spirit of the anniversary, department alumni from Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean will be in attendance, many of whom participated in the JGS while on campus. The JGS is an integral part of the conference, this newsletter issue shares its theme. The JGS will also host a "Reunion Night" on Thursday, July 10, in conjunction with the Geological Society of Jamaica. Please support this function, have fun and reunite with old friends.

In the upcoming year a number of events are planned, including a panel discussion on C.A.P.E. Geography, field trips to Hellshire Hills, southern St Elizabeth, and a hike across the Blue Mountains via the old Vinegar Trail. As usual, your suggestions are welcome.

David Barker, President, JGS

Inside this Issue:

Foundations & Directions in Geography: Changing Spaces

In today's multi-media landscape, a growing array of television programmes, newspaper features, and online blogs encourage us to make a place for ourselves—to go forth and seek a vocation or a goal that enables us to find "meaningful" identities in the world. *Placing* ourselves is part of a larger (and smaller) series of social and physical travels that take place on a daily basis. Rather than becoming simpler as they progress, however, these journeys towards greater understanding and critical engagement become more complex and slippery, but at the same time—ideally—more fulfilling.

In light of UWI's 60th anniversary celebrations, it is also informative to ponder the ways in which the study and practice of geography has advanced in recent decades. The discipline has grown from a focus on largely descriptive research, through to comparative studies utilizing quantitative (and other systematic) techniques, to examinations of cultural and political change via the integration of a broad range of social theories and technologies. Increasingly, there has been a growing sophistication and interdisciplinarity in approaches towards human-environment relations, which has encouraged greater cooperation between different sub-disciplines, and with non-governmental and governmental organizations alike.

I would suggest, however, that one of the key "foundations"—and possibilities for future research and teaching directions—comes from geography's contributions towards our understandings of *space*. In many different ways, geographers have illustrated that the idea of space refers not only to physical distance (e.g. a specific location on a map or particular physical landscape), but also to social relations and practices (e.g., our cultural proximity, activities, and relative social status), and how these can be reinforced and transformed by, or challenge, the material environments in which we live. This broadening of our understanding of spatial relationships has been crucial for facilitating a discipline that is engaged with current events, and how these might be more thoughtfully approached. Through a reconceptualisation of space, geographers have been able to analyse social and environmental changes in specific contexts, while also examining how we frame our research, and how we might ask important questions about changing places and cultures in different ways.

The iconic obelisk, unofficial "symbol" of the Department of Geography & Geology

These theoretical and methodological changes in geographic research have meant that the discipline itself has had to reflect on how it can become a more diverse area of study—partly in terms of topics explored, and also in relation to who is encouraged to become a professional geographer. If geography is to have continued relevance for local, national, and global decision-making then it also has to be socially

(Continued on page 2)

News from the Jamaican Geographical Society

From Annotto Bay to Nettle Point

On Saturday, October 20, 2007, twenty geographers and friends participated in a coastal field trip through St. Mary and Portland. The field trip was led by Dr. David Miller and Shakira Khan (Marine Geology Unit). The trip's first stop was at the mouth of the Wagwater River, where there is a well developed barrier beach. The second was at Welshwoman's Point, where a small tombolo is hinged to the nearby offshore fringing reef, followed by a stop at Folly Point.

The final stop was at Manchioneal, a fishing village recently damaged by storm surges from Hurricanes Ivan and Dean. The highlight of the day was a walk out to the spectacular Nettle Point, another raised-reef terrace, where there were several blow holes and huge boulders strewn randomly on the surface. The latter were of particular interest because, scientists from the Marine Geology Unit had previously thought the boulders were deposited there during an ancient mega-tsunami. However, on close inspection, it was observed that one huge boulder had been moved during the storm surge associated with Hurricane Dean. There is therefore no definitive conclusion on how the boulders were originally deposited. This exciting finding illustrates that new field evidence constantly requires scientists to revise their ideas about physical and environmental processes.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Jamaican Geographical Society (JGS) was held on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at the Department of Geography and Geology, UWI Mona. The meeting was a lively one, with a number of issues being discussed. JGS President Prof. David Barker gave a spirited President's report outlining some of the activities and accomplishments of the JGS over the past year. The biggest issue on the agenda for the day was the election of officers to the JGS Council for 2008/9 (see page 8). The meeting also included the treasurer's report, the membership secretary's report, and a discussion on revising membership fees (page 8).

Port Royal Fieldtrip

Saturday, April 12, 2008 was a busy day for the JGS. It began with the highly successful AGM and was then followed by a thrilling fieldtrip to Port Royal. The afternoon at Port Royal began with a tour of the Jamaica Defense Force (JDF) coast-guard facility. Our group, of about 20, was graciously received by members of the JDF who gave us a comprehensive tour of the coast guard headquarters and one of its state-of-the-art vessels, the HMJS Cornwall. Only one word can describe the tour: impressive.

Tour of the HMJS Cornwall. (Photo: S. Ashby)

JGS Members at Gloria's. (Photo: S. Ashby)

After the JDF tour, the group broke up to explore the quiet town of Port Royal. One small group toured Fort Charles, including the Parade Ground and the Giddy House. Of course, no trip to Port Royal is complete without a visit to Gloria's Restaurant for her famous seafood. This was the final stop for our group where we ended the day with , cold beer and idle conversation.

David Barker, Carlos Michel, Seema Kadir, JGS Council Members

Foundations & Directions in Geography: Changing Spaces (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

and spatially representative. The discipline has to move towards being more inclusive by offering greater opportunities to a broader cross-section of the populous in terms of race, gender, physical ability, age, nationality and income. Greater collaboration is key: across different regions, especially the Global South and Global North; and, cooperation among academics, policy makers, and community activists.

To return to the theme of knowledge as an ongoing journey—I would argue that it is not only the process of travelling, but the concept and experience of *mobility* that offers important opportunities for future geographic research. Mobility refers to the movement of people, goods, and ideas—key components of Caribbean identities—and also to the ways in which people have (or are restricted from) social and economic access to places and activities. This idea of movement can also be applied to the notion of *mobilising*, i.e., encouraging social activism, political representation, and collective action, such as participation in a neighbourhood association's efforts to provide play spaces for children, an online petition to support small scale farming internationally, or a local and national arts movement that involves activities in a diversity of low and middle income communities (e.g., the recent Kingston on the Edge Arts Festival, Jamaica). Mobility and mobilization should be key concerns for contemporary and future geographers seeking greater understanding in our dynamic world.

Susan Mains, Lecturer, Dept. of Geography and Geology, UWI

News from the Department of Geography and Geology, UWI

Population Dynamics

The semester commenced with a significant loss to the academic staff as David Dodman departed after three years of service. Dr. Dodman now works with the International Institute of Environment and Development where his focus has shifted to policy development informed by his academic experience. The migration of staff was paralleled by a departmental baby boom, which increased the national population count by four. Lecturer, Dr. Susan Mains, postgraduates Sherene James and Enika James, and secretary Coreen Perry each gave birth during the semester.

Academic Advancement

In early and mid April, seminars were delivered by Seema Kadir and Donovan Campbell, respectively, who demonstrated significant progress in their research, and were therefore upgraded to PhD status. Seema's presentation situated social exclusion in the context of contemporary trends in access to public housing in Trinidad while Donovan explored the vulnerability and adaptive strategies of rural farmers facing challenges imposed by a changing climate.

Another academic milestone was attained by Sherene James and Ryan Ramsook who successfully defended their PhDs in geology.

Awards

The department has had a long history of producing Commonwealth Scholars, and this year the tradition was maintained as Chanelle Fingal was awarded the Commonwealth Split Site Scholarship. She will spend the first six months of the next academic year at the University of Reading, conducting research on Fair Trade. Soyini Ashby also received a PhD dissertation grant from the Association of American Geographers.

Robert Kinlocke, Natainia Lummen, Kevon Rhiney in Boston. (Photo: M. Israel, San Francisco State University)

Conferences

This year's Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) was held in Boston, Massachusetts from April 15 to 19. Three members of the department presented papers at the conference. Kevon Rhiney participated in a panel on 'The Geography of Graffiti and Inscription,' presenting a paper that was in collaboration with Dr. Rivke Jaffe from the Department of Cultural Anthropology & Development Sociology, Leiden University, and Ms. Cavell Francis from the Department of Government, University of the West Indies, Mona. Robert Kinlocke presented in a session entitled 'Home and Identity,' and Natainia Lummen participated in the 'Coastal Zone Risk, Vulnerability and Integrated Assessment' paper session. All three papers were well received and attracted positive feedback.

This year's AAG meeting was attended by more than 7,000 participants. Over 2,000 of these were from outside the United States. One of the major highlights of the conference was the city of Boston itself. The historic city boasts some of the finest architecture in the world. While in Boston, the group embarked on a small field excursion to Harvard University, located in the town of Cambridge. Founded in 1636, Harvard is the oldest institution of higher learning in the United States, and one of the most prestigious universities in the world. Aside from this, many nights were spent roaming the streets of Boston, sampling its foods and fraternising with new found friends from the conference. One memorable night was spent in an Irish Pub drinking Guinness!

Farewell Party

In keeping with recent traditions, the semester came to a close with the celebration of the end of a scholastic journey. The annual party for final year students was hosted by Prof. Barker and was generally well attended.

Robert Kinlocke, Kevon Rhiney, JGS

For the most part, virtual reality has superseded geography...the global neighbourhood where surfers can roam without borders in search of culture, employment, leisure and even friends...Distance is rendered meaningless.

The internet has plainly liberated millions from the confines of conventional sources of knowledge. But it remains limited to the dimensions of a lighted screen. The user can surf the world but not experience it: the world is squeezed into the experience of the screen. By eradicating distance, the internet eradicates an understanding of what distance means, of the diversity of peoples, nations, climates and environments. It reduces the world to a trillion pixels. Everest is neither in Europe nor Asia, it is on screen.

I cannot believe it makes sense to replace star-gazing with screen-gazing. The awareness of distance defines villages and communities, just as physical contact, not a chatroom, is the essence of friendship. Geography is the narrative of that distance.

From "The assault on geography breeds ignorance and erodes nationhood" by Simon Jenkins, The Guardian, Friday, November 16, 2007. Reprinted with permission.

Geography Education in Jamaican High Schools

Teaching at my Alma Mater

Kevin L. Facey

I have been teaching geography at the Wolmer's Boys' School since November 1998, four months after leaving the Department of Geography at the UWI. At the time, I saw teaching as a temporary move, as I wanted to work with the then Office of Disaster Preparedness (O.D.P) or the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (R.A.D.A). I was convinced that the only place a geographer could improve the environment was in the field, not in the classroom.

However, ten years later, my views have changed. Having obtained a diploma and a postgraduate degree in Geographic Information Systems (G.I.S.), I realise that the opportunity exists for imparting vital knowledge at the high school level. Looking back, I can only hope that I have done my part by challenging my students to view themselves as stewards of our fragile orb, Earth.

The State of Geography in High Schools

At Wolmer's Boys', the geography department comprises several full-time staff members. The geography syllabus covers a wide range of topics from basic map work at the first form level, to more complex and advanced sixth form topics, such as fluvial systems and karst geomorphology. There is still a lot of room for improvement in the syllabus. We at Wolmer's Boys' School have found that too many of our first form students are unaware of Jamaican geography. In the lower school, our challenges include a shortage of teaching material, along with spending the first year teaching content that our students should already have known from the primary level. With regards to C.A.P.E. there is a shortage of current information on the Caribbean, which limits our ability to effectively cover the syllabus. Finally, there are instances when it seems as if the C.A.P.E. syllabus and the C.A.P.E. exam are not in sync.

Besides these problems, geography as a subject faces its own set of challenges at the secondary level. Apparently, geography is not afforded the same level of resource support in all secondary schools. In fact, in many of the schools formerly known as "secondary" or "comprehensive high," there is an absence of maps, teaching aids, and dedicated space for the subject. In some "traditional" high schools, the situation is often not too far from that of the former "secondary" schools.

Another observation is that geography is not a separate department in an increasing number of secondary schools. It is often under the umbrella of social studies, or even history. Thus it is not afforded the attention it deserves. Additionally, geography is not taught at all levels in some schools. It is taught at grades 10 and 11, but in grades 7 to 9, social studies may be taught instead of geography or history. Thus these schools have the mammoth task of covering the syllabus in just two years. Finally, the Reform of Secondary Education (R.O.S.E.) programme, aimed at replacing geography and history with a revised social studies syllabus, has affected the level of support that the government has given to either history or geography, and has serious implications for the future of both subjects.

The way forward

Innovations such as GIS and remote sensing offer us a chance to attract a new wave of potential geographers from the high school level. These students are already equipped with the requisite skills in information technology or computer studies needed for the above methodologies. Recently, the Ministry of Land and Environment, in association with the Ministry of Education Youth and Culture, and with the assistance of the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) have spearheaded a multi-million dollar programme to have students of primary and secondary institutions trained and educated in GIS, and the use of related software. So far the programme has been a success and has sparked the interest of a number of primary and secondary schools spanning the entire island.

Kevin L. Facey, Acting Head of the Department of Geography, Wolmer's Boys School

Just as the education system has downgraded geography in the pantheon of GCSE subjects, along with history, so the computerised shrinking of space has led to the loss of a sense of place. Beyond the walls of home and hearth lies nothing but the great wide world, comprehended through the prism of a screen. When we leave home, even driving a car no longer requires map-reading skills, as GPS guides us to our destination. If it fails we are as lost as if the engine breaks down. Knowledge of maps has gone the way of knowledge of gaskets and carburettors. Yet I cannot see how a well-rounded education can be stripped of a sense of spatial perspective and a sense of the passage of time.

Geography in the widest sense of the concept remains to me the queen of sciences. It holds the key that unlocks the coherence of the physical world as its sister, history, unlocks that of mankind's occupation of it. Without geography's mapping of planet Earth, the work of chemists, biologists and physicists is disjointed, mere technique.

It is geography that applies common sense to the statistical hysteria of the climatologists. It is geography that brings global warming into context and applies the test of feasibility to whatever political priorities are deemed necessary. It is geography that explains why each of us is located where we are, in neighbourhood, nation, continent and planet, and how fragile might be that location. Without geography's instruction, we are in every sense lost - random robots who can only read and count. ***From "The assault on geography breeds ignorance and erodes nationhood" by Simon Jenkins.***

History of the Department of Geography & Geology

In 1961, the University of the West Indies, Mona, established a department for the newly instituted discipline of geology. Housed in a wooden hut, the department began with 26 students, sharing the limited space with the Chemistry Department.

By 1964, concerns about the growth rate in geology led to considerations of expanding the work of the department to cover the teaching of geography, and possibly oceanography and geophysics, and perhaps a new name, the Earth Science Department.

The teaching of geography was greatly deliberated and further encouraged by the Caribbean Association of Headmasters and Headmistresses, Jamaica's Ministry of Education, and other interested parties. This was to cater for the growing number of students leaving secondary schools with O- and A-Level geography passes, and for the further development of geography teachers.

The year 1965 witnessed the teaching of geography as a sub-discipline within the Geology Department, and the move of the department to its current location, the de la Beche Building, named after Sir Henry de la Beche, who produced one of the first geological maps in the Western Hemisphere, that of Eastern Jamaica, in 1827.

An early photo of the de la Beche Building. Can you spot the differences?

In 1965, Dr. Barry Floyd, a British Geographer, accepted the assignment to head the newly created Geography department. He expended tremendous effort in establishing geography as a university discipline in the English-speaking Caribbean, and contributing to research and writing on the geography of the Caribbean. He was awarded the status of honorary life member of the Jamaican Geographical Society, which he launched and developed during the years 1966-1972, to promote the professional advancement of geography in Jamaica and the Caribbean. The University Geographical Society was launched a year earlier, in 1965, by geography students.

The department produced *The Caribbean Geographer*, an annual newsletter sponsored by the department, featuring reports from many universities, professional organizations, and individual scholars with teaching and research interests in the Caribbean.

In 1971, geography became a separate department, but later merged with geology to form the present Department of Geography and Geology in 1996. S tudents benefited from a general degree and post-graduate programme in both disciplines. An M.Sc. programme had been introduced in 1967, while the first PhD candidate was accepted in 1970.

Over the past few decades the department has welcomed many visitors, experienced lecturers, and instructors from around the world; many of whom have impacted the lives of the increasing number of students learning within its walls. These students, mainly from the Caribbean, have moved on to test their skills in the real world beyond the Mona campus, contributing to local, regional and international development.

The obelisk, a monumental stone pillar depicting Jamaica's principal rock types in stratigraphic sequence, was built outside the de la Beche building in 1984. It represents the physical tenacity with which the department perpetuates change in Jamaica, and the world.

Mellissa Raymond, JGS

Opening up a World of Possibilities through GIS

A whole range of exciting possibilities can be realized through the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS). GIS, a system for capturing, storing, analyzing, managing and presenting data and associated attributes which are spatially referenced, has undoubtedly made significant positive contributions to geography. A close examination of modern day cartography and geospatial analysis will highlight the important contributions which GIS has made to the field of Geography.

Since the advent of geography, cartography, a related discipline, has played an important role representing spatial data. Before the age of GIS, maps were produced manually — a task which proved to be tedious and painstaking. With the introduction of GIS, the creation of maps has been made less difficult, as GIS software has allowed for the quick generation of maps with the touch of a button. In addition, GIS allows for the creation of maps that are more visually stimulating when compared to traditional maps. With GIS, spatial data can be displayed in versatile ways, including 3D modeling, and interactive maps.

Geospatial analysis has been made more effective with the use of GIS, as it provides definitive quantitative and qualitative answers to solve spatial problems. For instance, GIS has been able to generate accurate ore body volume calculations in a timely manner, which can then be used as a critical basis for decision-making for mining. GIS can also generate hotspot models, which can graphically display data indicating areas where crimes are concentrated. Other types of analysis such as hazard mapping or hazard scenario mapping can indicate areas that are most vulnerable to specific disasters, and guide mitigation policy. These kinds of analyses can also show policy-makers where increased enforcement is needed, and the possible effects of non-compliance. Unlike static maps, GIS allows different sets of data to be analyzed in relation to each other, which is ideal for site suitability analysis.

GIS has proven beneficial to agencies such as the JCF, JDF, ODPEM, NEPA, and the Met Office. The possibilities of GIS technology are endless, and those who are trained in the use of GIS can pursue exciting careers in mining, engineering and urban development companies, just to name some.

Paul Greene, Parris Lyew-Ayee, Jr. and the staff of Mona GeoInformatix, Ltd.

Reaching Globally from a Foundation in Geography

Caribbean Impact, Global Reach. This, theme of the UWI's sixtieth anniversary celebrations is more than a slogan for one of the Department of Geography & Geology's most successful graduates, Dr. Mark Griffith. It has been his life.

This life has been fuelled by a long-held personal philosophy. "I was always oriented toward the outside, physical things," he explains, "an inbuilt instinct from the time I was a young kid…nature and whatever that entails, not only a defined space in terms of my country, or the Caribbean, but the world…I had an orientation towards doing practical things in that space called the world."

So in 1978, after graduating from Barbados Community College, and then teaching at Garrison Secondary School, he made his first step out into that space: to study geography at the UWI-Mona. Seeing a first degree as only "basic training," he left Mona seven years later with a PhD. He headed to the UWI's Cave Hill campus, where he established the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES). By then, his vision reached beyond academia, so he shifted to the government service, where he spearheaded the establishment of an environmental unit in one of the then government's ministries. During that time he co-edited *Economic Policy and the Environment: the Caribbean experience*, his first publication. After seven years with the Barbados government, he started a private company, Environmental Systems, in 1994. In 1996, he went a step further: to work with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), first in Kenya, and now at UNEP's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) in Panama.

During his career, he helped to engineer a major breakthrough for regional environmental management. He contributed to the formulation of the concept of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which has been successfully used as a negotiating tool internationally.

For this process, his geography education helped to lay the foundation. "I had the opportunity where I could influence the course of history and basically that was how I applied that knowledge." To do so, he took his knowledge of physical geography and social systems, and asked himself: "Going into the international system, how can you use all of that information that you had access to and package it in a way, and then negotiate it in a manner to the benefit of the countries, in order to change the course of history?"

He has influenced history, not only professionally, but through social development. He reveals that: "In Africa, I've come across lots of brilliant people that are poor and the only difference between them and us is that we had the opportunity, and they never had the opportunity." So he has always tried to give back, mainly through the Rotary Club. In Nairobi, he financed and coached a cricket team, most of whose players came from the slums, and which produced three Kenya national team players.

He never stopped educating himself either. Along the way, he earned an LLB and LLM from the University of London, specialising in corporate, commercial and integration law. He also has a company, CaribInvest West Indies Ltd., which aims at marketing and promoting the region as a single market space, while ensuring its resources are used in the most effective, efficient and environmentally sound manner.

Soyini Ashby, Secretary, JGS

Exploring the Cultural Richness of Southern India—Part II

PART II - Still in the State of Karnataka, our next stop was the city of Mysore. Words do not do justice to my experiences in Mysore. On the Sunday evening that we arrived, our driver took us to Mysore Palace. Between 7 and 8 p.m. every Sunday the Palace is lit (there are 96 000 bulbs around the frame of the Palace), and the local military band plays soothing Indian classical music for the thousands who gather on the lawns to experience the majestic ambience. Many locals boast that this monument reflects the camaraderie between Hindus and Muslims, as the city was once governed by a Wodeyar King (a Muslim), who treated both Hindus and Muslims equally.

During our final week, we took part in *Onam* celebrations. Onam is a Kerala festival, mainly of the Malyalaees, but celebrated by all since 800 AD. It is the birthday of Sage Vamana, and is an annual harvest festival that falls during the month of *Chingam* (August/September), the first month of the Malayalam calendar. The festival lasts for ten days. Onam has two specific significances, both tied to the legend of Mahabali (which means *Great Sacrifice*). During Mahabali's reign his humility, devotedness to his people, and generosity were demonstrated in all his doings, brining much prosperity to Kerala.

A man dressed as Mahabali during the festival of Onam. Source: S. Kadir

Legend has it that Vamana, Lord Vishnu, took the form of a young boy asking Bali for the extent of land that can cover three of his footsteps. After it was revealed that Vamana was Lord Vishnu, Mahabali kept his promise allowing Vamana to claim his first footstep as the earth, the second as the heaven, and upon Bali's request send him down into the earth with his third footstep. As a last wish Mahabali was granted permission to visit his subjects once a year; hence the festival of Onam.

A geographer never rests, it is ingrained in us to examine the interactions of man and his environment, delving deep into our past, exploring the transformations (and the challenges to transformation) of culture over time. What better way to explore all this than travelling yourself, allowing cultures to consume you while you simultaneously consume them, and allowing them to transform and reproduce your thinking through your experiences.

Seema Kadir, Membership Secretary, JGS

Brown Bag Seminars – Weekly Morsels of Geography Diversity

Brown Bag Seminars are held in the Department of Geography and Geology, UWI, every Thursday from 1 to 2 pm, and offer persons with an interest in topics of a geographic nature the opportunity to enjoy their lunches while being stimulated by fascinating and interesting subject matters. The presentations made this semester were on a wide range of topics, including agriculture, tourism, housing, landscape history, hazard management and geology.

Three of the presentations were made by people from outside the Department of Geography and Geology, and they were well received. The first, made by Dr. Veront Satchell from the Department of History and Archaeology, was an intriguing talk entitled: "Palimpsest: A useful concept in landscape history." This presentation made the audience realise that the layout of the Liguanea and Mona areas as we know it today has been shaped by past generations, and remnants of their activities can still be seen on the present landscape, showing that geography and history are intimately intertwined. The second external presentation was done on protected agriculture in small farming. Mr. Luke Lee of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), talked about the experience of the USAID-Jamaica farms project, which involved introducing high tunnel house technology on small farms. This talk sparked much interest, especially for one third-year geography student, who said that she intended to plant herbs after graduating, and was very interested in how the technology worked and its associated costs. Finally, Professor Jeremy Jackson from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography gave a seminar on 'Reconstructing the last four million years of marine biodiversity and abundance in the Caribbean'.

Brown Bag seminars also offer the Department's graduate students an opportunity to share the findings of their research in a public forum, and receive relevant feedback. They are also used by new graduate students to present their Master of Philosophy (MPhil) proposals. This semester there were four such presentations: "the Caribbean Diaspora and motivations and implications of return visits to the Caribbean" (Carlos Michel); "the influence of trade liberalisation on land use and household strategies in St. Kitts" (Joyelle Clarke); "Site response to earthquakes in Portmore, St. Catherine" (Stephanie Williams); and "Clay stratigraphy and biostratigraphy of Jamaica" (Jason Fisher).

Proposals for upgrade to Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) are also done, and the opportunity to do so was seized by Donovan Campbell and Seema Kadir, whose studies focus on "Domestic food production and hazard vulnerability" and "Public housing provision and social exclusion," respectively. Seminars were also done by Natainia Lummen and Shenika McFarlane who are completing their MPhil work on the "Vulnerability of coastal communities in Jamaica to the hurricane hazard," and "the ICC World Cup 2007: perceptions of tourists and residents of Kingston," respectively.

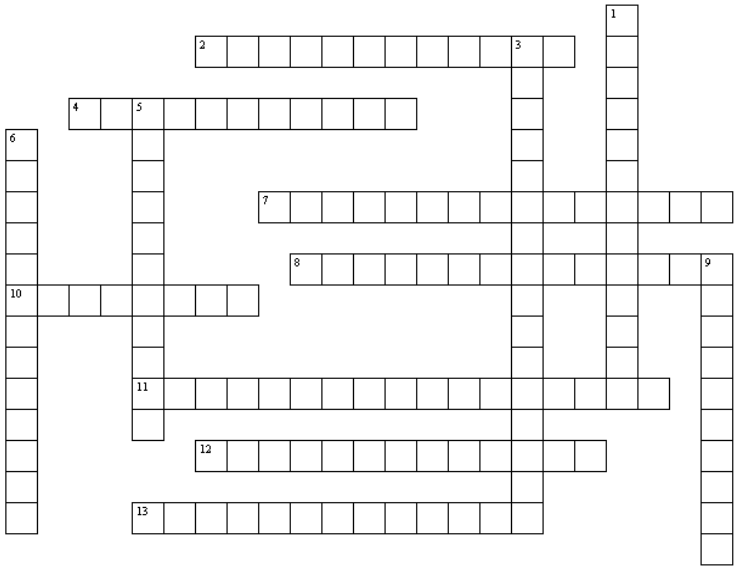
Many loyal members of the audiences have come to realize how interconnected most of the studies being done are. For example, Kevon Rhiney's presentation on 'Tourism- agricultural linkages in Jamaica" is closely linked to Donovan Campbell's study, and both are extremely relevant, as food security and hazard management issues have become major concerns in Jamaica.

The diverse nature of geography can easily be seen if one is a regular attendee of the 'Brown Bags,' where a delightful morsel is offered every week. All are invited!

Jasmine Waite, Assistant Secretary, JGS

Are you a GeoGuru?

Careers In Geography



ACROSS
2 Lays out cities (2 wds)
4 Solves water-related problems
7 Explores rivers and valleys
8 Sells sun, sea and sand (2 wds)
10 Teacher, lecturer, etc.
11 Disaster calls for these (2 wds)
12 Global warming expert
13 Fancy name for farmer

DOWN
1 Studies nutrient cycles
3 Tree-hugger
5 Births & deaths interest
6 Creates interactive maps and spatial models (2 wds)

See back page for answers.

Jamaican Geographer

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Interested in Becoming a JGS Member?

Contact:
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2008-2009 Membership Fees:

Professionals-J$1,200	Overseas- US$20
Students-J$300	Corporate -J$10,000

Join now and enjoy reduced fees for trips and activities!

Answers:
1 Biogeographer; 2 Urban Planner; 3 Environmentalist; 4 Hydrologist; 5 Demographer; 6 GIS Specialist; 7 Geomorphologist; 8 Tourism Manager; 9 Researcher; 10 Educator; 11 Emergency Manager; 12 Climatologist; 13 Agriculturist

We cherish your opinion! Please send your suggestions and comments to soyini.ashby@uwimona.edu.jm