Professor Simon F. Mitchell continued as head of the Department for the 2014–2015 academic year as well as continuing as Acting Head of the Earthquake Unit. Dr Arpita Mandal took over the coordination of Graduate Students in the Department, Dr David Miller coordinated examinations, and Prof David Barker and Dr Thomas Stemann coordinated the Geography and Geology programmes respectively.

Staffing continued to be a serious issue affecting the Department; and fiscal conditions in the University were a major setback in the hiring of new staff. At the end of the 2014–2015 academic year Prof David Barker retired after a long and distinguished career at the UWI. He has been honoured with an emeritus professorship at the UWI. Mr Robert Kinlock and Miss Taneisha Edwards were employed to teach in Geography and
Geology respectively, and Dr Donovan Blissett and Miss Rose-Ann Smith taught courses in the Department on part-time contracts. Dr Leo Douglas completed his stint in Jamaica and has now taken up a position in Colombia. Dr Thera Edwards began a two year leave of absence to undertake project coordination in the Institute for Sustainable Development, and in her place, Miss Rose-Ann Smith was employed as a short-term replacement to run the Map Library. Mrs Nadine Sherlock left the Department at the end of the academic year to take up a position with Prof Dale Webber the new PVC for Graduate Studies. Ms Jullian Williams continued as a research assistant for the Head of Department.

The Department continued to offer its full curricula of courses in Geography and Geology during the 2014–2015 academic year despite the staffing restrictions. Some staff members had to undertake excessive teaching loads in order to accommodate this. Both the new major in Geosciences and the new minor in Human Geography were offered for the first time.

The Department ran two workshops during the year on training on Tsunami Modelling and Hazard Assessment in collaboration with the Environmental Hydraulics Institute IH Cantabria, AECID (Spanish Corporation Agency), the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the UWI Earthquake Unit, and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM). The workshops were hosted by the Department of Geography and Geology and ran from the 15th–19th of September, 2014, and the 26th–30th January, 2015. Funding came from by AECID and Chilespana.

Members of the Department attended major conferences in the region. Three staff members (Dr Arpita Mandal, Dr David Miller and Dr Kevon Rhiney) and three graduate students from the Department attended the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting in Chicago, 21st-25th April, 2015, where they presented a series of papers and posters. Three members of the Department (Prof Simon Mitchell, Dr Thomas Stemann and Dr Sherene James-Williamson) attended the 20th Caribbean Geological Conference in Trinidad in May, 2015. A total of five presentations and posters were presented. Prof Simon
Mitchell also attended the meeting of the Standing Committee to consider the venue for the 21st Caribbean Geological Conference to be held in 2018.

Dr Kevon Rhiney attended the Forum on the Future of the Caribbean held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 5th–7th May 2015. The forum was organized by the United Nations Development Programme in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Dr Arpita Mandal attended a workshop from the 27th–31st July 2015 in Quito, Ecuador, organized by CDKN–ICLEI on Sub-national Climate Compatible Development.

Dr Arpita Mandal was a member of the committee for the 10th Faculty of Science and Technology (FST) Conference, UWI MONA, which was held in May, 2015. Four research students from the Department (Andre Reid, Natalie Robinson, Shaneica Lester and Ann Teresa Birthwright) gave oral presentations and two research students (Amal Sealy and Anuradha Maharaj) presented posters. An undergraduate student, Sarah Buckland, also presented an oral presentation and received a prize for the best presentation by an undergraduate student at the conference.

Anuradha Ann Maharaj received an M.Phil. degree in Geology for her thesis entitled “Analysing high intensity, rainfall-driven, river flooding in Port Maria, St. Mary, Jamaica” in July of 2015.

Shaneica Lester, an M.Phil student in Geography in the Department, presented at the 23rd Annual Caribbean Water and Waste Water Association Conference and Exhibition, “Water Waste and Energy in the Caribbean” in Nassau, Bahamas (6–10th October 2014), was a participant in the Water After Borders Summit entitled “Global Stakes and Local Politics” at the University of Illinois, Chicago (23rd-24th April 2015) and was a recipient of a Summer University Program (SUN) Scholarship to attend the Central European University for the course titled: “Bridging ICTs and Environment- Making Information Talk and Technologies Work for Water Security: Remote Sensing”, Budapest, Hungary (6th–10th July 2015).

Dr Sherene James-Williamson was the Guest Presenter for the Moruga

Professor Simon Mitchell received the Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in the areas of Research and Public Service for his work on geology in the Caribbean Region. He also received the Chubb Award for Excellence from the Geological Society of Jamaica at a ceremony held in January of 2015. Dr Kevon Rhiney received the 2014/2015 Principal Award’s for Research Project with the Greatest Business/Economic/Development Impact, in the Faculty of Science and Technology.

The UWI Geology Museum (UWIGM) hosted approximately 800 visitors, largely comprising students and teachers during Research Days and GIS Day. Various rural and local area schools were also accommodated as part of the Jamaican primary, secondary and tertiary curriculum. The UWIGM hosted Miss Emma Locatelli a researcher from the Department of Geology and Geophysics, Yale University, who is working with Dr Thomas Stemann. Her collaboration has gained the museum additional specimens which she will continue to work on over a period of time and a cabinet to house these new items. The UWIGM in collaboration with the UWI Museum hosted the Museums Association of the Caribbean annual conference and AGM at the Mona Visitors’ Lodge 16th-20th November 2014. This conference saw persons from North America, Europe and the wider Caribbean in attendance. The UWIGM hosted a volunteer for 30 hours this summer from the Kingsway High School as part of the school’s outreach programme.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- **David Barker**, T. Malcolm and D. Campbell. “Understanding the social dimensions of marine protected areas (MPAS) in Jamaica: an assessment of fishers’ perceptions and attitudes towards special fishery
conservation areas (SFCAS) across the island.” Annual Conference SEDAAG, November, 2014. Athens, Georgia.


• **Simon F. Mitchell**. “Rise and Fall of the American Rudists.” Oral


**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books and Journals**


**Refereed Book Chapters and Journal Articles**


Non-referred Papers


PUBLIC SERVICE

**David Barker**
- External Examiner in Geography for the Joint Board of Teacher Education (JBTE).
- Editor, *Caribbean Geography*.
- Convenor, *CAPE Geography*.
- Editorial Committee, *CaribXplorer Magazine*.
- Editorial Board, *Caribbean Quarterly*
- Council member, Jamaican Geographical Society
Sherene James-Williamson
- Editor, *Caribbean Journal of Earth Science*
- Editor, *Museums Association of the Caribbean*
- Vice President – Museums Association of the Caribbean
- Deputy Chair – Heritage Clubs of Jamaica
- Board Member – Empowered Caribbean Community (EmPCC)
- First Vice President, UWI Alumni Association, Jamaica Chapter
- UWI Representative – Land Information Council of Jamaica (LICJ)
- Committee Member – National Restoration Committee
- Committee Member – Jamaica National Heritage Trust Declaration Committee
- External examiner – College of Agriculture, Science and Education
- External Examiner – Joint Board of Teacher Education
- Mentor – UWI Mentorship Programme

Arpita Mandal
- Member of Global Water Partnership Caribbean
- Council Member, Geological Society of Jamaica

Simon F. Mitchell
- Scientific Committee, International Congress on Rudist Bivalves.
- Scientific Committee, Caribbean Geological Conference.
- Editor, *Caribbean Journal of Earth Science*.
- Editor, *UWI Contributions to Geology*.
- Language Editor, *Carnets de Geology*.
- Member, National Committee on Coastal Zone Management (NCOCZM).
- President, Geological Society of Jamaica.
- Chairman, Jamaican Stratigraphic Committee.
Kevon Rhiney
- External Examiner, College of Agriculture, Science and Education
- External Examiner, Joint Board of Teacher Education
- Editorial Board, Caribbean Geography Journal
- Council Member, Jamaican Geographical Society
- Member of the Steering Committee for the Climate Change Action Training (CCAT) Programme (USAID-funded Ja REEACH Project).
- Steering Committee Member, Global Water Partnership – Caribbean (GWP-C)
- Member, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) Civil Society Consulting Group (ConSoc) Jamaica – The Environment, Energy and Infrastructure Thematic Group
- National Fisheries Policy Steering Committee: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management sub-committee

STUDENTS

Undergraduate Students: Geography
- Year I 142
- Year II 50
- Year III 29

Undergraduate Students: Geology
- Year I 95
- Year II 37
- Year III 33

Postgraduate Students
- MPhil Geography 6
- MPhil Geology 2
- PhD Geography 3
- PhD Geology 2