DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Professor Wilma Bailey, BA Newcastle, MA Leicester, PhD UWI
– Acting Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

Professor Elizabeth Thomas-Hope, Head of the Department, was on sabbatical leave for the year, and Professor Wilma Bailey was appointed to act in her place. Dr David Barker, Senior Lecturer in Geography, was promoted to Professor. Mr Remy Sietchiping, Temporary Lecturer in Geography, left the Department at the end of his contract. Dr Susan Mains, Lecturer in Geography, was awarded a UWI Research Fellowship, and Dr David Dodman was appointed Temporary Assistant Lecturer in her place. At the end of the year under review, Dr Faisal Butt, Lecturer in Geology, resigned his position.

Mr Rafi Ahmad represented the Mona campus on the Vice-Chancellor’s Task Force to deal with the rehabilitation and reconstruction following the devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan in September 2004. He also helped to organize the thematic activities for the UWI’s Research Day 2005, which was held on January 27-28, 2005, and focused on natural hazards and disaster preparedness in the Caribbean region.

The Department continued to administer the Earthquake Unit, the Unit for Disaster Studies, the Environmental Management Unit, and the Jamaica Sustainable Development Unit.

Table 1 gives an indication of the overall teaching achievements of the Department in terms of mean (and standard deviation) scores and response rates on teaching assessments for lecturers and courses.

PAPERS PRESENTED

• R. Ahmad. “Hazard mapping and site suitability with special reference to Kingston and St Andrew, Jamaica.” Symposium on Sustainable Housing, Kingston and St Andrew, October 14, 2004, Kingston, Jamaica.
• R. Ahmad. “Sediment-water floods in the Caribbean.” Workshop on Enduring Geohazards (Landslides and Floods) in the Caribbean Region, December 8, 2004, St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago (with S. Baban).


Books and Monographs


T. Jackson & S. Donovan. “MPhil in the earth sciences at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica.” Planet, 2005, 14, 39.


Non-Refereed Articles


Technical Reports


INCOME GENERATION

Professor Wilma Bailey was engaged in an 18-month, J$5.9 million project on “The Impact of User Fees” in collaboration with the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) and the Ministry of Health.

Professor Bailey also collaborated with members of the Department of Physics on a
J$253,000 Knowledge, Aptitude and Practice Study funded by the Assessment of Impact and Adaptation to Climate Change.

* Dr Susan Mains was part of a group of researchers (from Georgia Southern University, The State University of West Georgia, and the Sapelo Island Cultural and Revitalization Society in the USA) awarded a Global Partnerships Grant worth US$10,000 for a study of trans-Atlantic island communities of African descent.

* Professor Emeritus Edward Robinson continued work on the BEACHES (Beach Erosion and Coastal Hazards: Ensuring Safety) project, funded in the amount of J$5.9 million by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica. A report on the first year of activities was submitted in March 2005.

* Professor Robinson and Dr David Miller completed work on a one-year programme to examine the sediment budget of the Rio Grande watershed and its effect on the beach sediments at St Margaret’s Bay, Portland, funded to the extent of US$24,000 by NEPA-USAID through Associates in Rural Development as a part of the Ridge to Reef Watershed Project. A report was submitted to the funding agent in March 2005.

* Dr Balfour Spence continues to represent UWI, Mona, on the Caribbean Disaster Management (CADM) Project, an initiative of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Through this project the Department has secured equipment valued at close to US$80,000 for use in the development of its programme in disaster management. Dr Spence has overall responsibility for community disaster management planning in the project.

* Dr Spence received a follow-up research grant from the Japan International Cooperation Agency, through the JICA/JOVC office in Jamaica, to conduct a behavioural study of impacted residents of Jamaica in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan. The research involved undergraduate students in the Disaster Management course, as well as graduate students in the MSc Natural Resource Management programme. The cost of field trips was defrayed by the grant.

* Dr Thomas Stemann worked with principal investigator Dr S. Donovan (Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, The Netherlands) and R. Portell (Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, Florida, USA) on a project funded by a National Geographic Society grant. The project was on “Pliocene reefs of Jamaica: implications for biodiversity and faunal turnover,” covering work on the Hopegate Formation of Jamaica. The fieldwork for the project was completed in May 2005.

PUBLIC SERVICE

R. Ahmad

– Member, UWI Vice-Chancellor’s Task Force on Hurricane Rehabilitation.
– Member, National Damage Assessment, Recovery and Rehabilitation Subcommittee, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, Jamaica.
– Member, National Hazard-Impact Mitigation Policy Development Committee.
– Member, Board of Representatives, International Consortium on Landslides.
– Fellow, Geological Society of London.

W. Bailey

– Chief examiner, CAPE Geography.
– Alternate UWI representative, Board, Environmental Foundation of Jamaica.
– Member, Environmental Foundation of Jamaica Membership Committee.

D. Barker
D. Dodman

- Council member and Membership Secretary, Jamaican Geographical Society.
- Member, Public Education Committee, United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

S. Mains

- Board member, Cultural Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers.

D. Miller

- Book review editor, Caribbean Geography.
- Council member, Jamaican Geographical Society.
- Secretary, Jamaican Association of Geomorphologists.

S. Mitchell

- Member, Scientific Committee, International Rudist Congress.
- Permanent member, Standing Committee for the Caribbean Geological Conferences.
- Chairman, Commission on Jamaican Lithostratigraphy.
- Member, Technical Working Group on Jamaican Beach Policy.
- Council member, Geological Society of Jamaica.
- Editor, Caribbean Journal of Earth Science.
- Editor, UWI Contributions to Geology.
- External examiner (Geology), Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica.

T. Stemann

- Vice-President, Geological Society of Jamaica, 2005.

E. Thomas-Hope

- Chairman of the Board, Jamaica Social Development Network.
- Member, Tribunal for the NRCA Act, Ministry of Land and Environment.
- Director, Jamaica Board of Engineers Foundation.
- Director, Luis Fred Kennedy Environmental Foundation.
- Member, Advisory Board, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London.
- Member, Advisory Board, Japan International Cooperation Agency project on Caribbean disaster management.
- Member, International Scientific Advisory Group for the People, Land Management and Ecosystem Conservation project, United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan.
- Member, Royal Institute for International Affairs Caribbean Study Group (London).


CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS Undergraduates:

Geography

- Year I: 152
- Year II: 77
- Year III: 33

Undergraduates: Geology

- Year I: 81
- Year II: 47
- Year III: 17

Postgraduates

- MSc Natural Resource Management: 12
  (Number completed from previous cohort: 14)
- MSc Water Resources Management: 11
  (Number completed: 7)

- MPhil Geography: 5 (Number completed: 2)
- MPhil Geology: 8 (Number completed: 3)
- PhD Geography: 3 (Number completed: 2)
- PhD Geology: 4
- PhD Environmental Management: 10 (Number completed: 2)

Prizes Awarded

The Barry Floyd Prize for Best Performance in Level I Geography: Seema Kadir.

The Geological Society of Jamaica Scholarship: Shereen Nairne.

The Harry Kuarsingh Memorial Bursary: Vishal Maharaj.