

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Professor David Barker, BSc *Wales*, PhD *Bristol*,  
Dip Urb & Reg Studies *Birmingham* – Head of Department

### WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department mounted a full programme of undergraduate teaching in Geography and Geology, and supervised and facilitated an active and vibrant group of postgraduate research students in the two disciplines. For several years now, the Department has faced considerable challenges in fulfilling this commitment, due to staff retirements and resignations and the related difficulties of recruiting qualified specialist lecturers. Budgetary constraints and limited teaching space were additional challenges, although some progress was made in acquiring additional scientific equipment for teaching, and in establishing and managing audio-visual facilities in our teaching laboratories.



**Dr Michael Burn** joined the Department in December as lecturer in Geography, specializing in climate change research. **Mr Kevon Rhiney** continued as temporary assistant lecturer in Human Geography. **Dr Sherene James-Williamson** joined the staff in April as curator of the Geology Museum. The departures included **Dr Balfour Spence** and **Dr Savitha Ganapathy**, lecturers in Geography, who resigned their posts, as did **Dr Margaret Wiggins-Grandison**, head of the Earthquake Unit. **Mr Paul Williams** was appointed as Acting Head of the Earthquake Unit.

Student numbers in first-year Geology (specifically, GEOL1001 in Semester 1) suddenly and unexpectedly increased by more than 50%. These increased numbers created serious difficulties in practical classes as a third laboratory stream was needed. The problem of increased staff workloads was compounded by a shortage of demonstrators/teaching assistance. It also created pressure on teaching space and scientific

equipment. An acute shortage of microscopes needed to be urgently addressed. The number of students in second- and third-year Geology was slightly lower. In Geography, second-year student numbers were higher and final-year numbers were slightly lower as the abnormally small entry from the Faculty of Humanities and Education in 2006/07 went into their final year.

**Professor Simon Mitchell** served as Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences for the 2008/2009 academic year. He presented his inaugural professorial lecture on “Making a mark in the rocks” in October 2008.

**Professor David Barker** again delivered the second-year Agricultural Geography course at the St Augustine campus in Semester II.

The Geography section of the Department (staff and postgraduate students) was well represented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers held in Las Vegas, Nevada, in March 2009. Apart from papers presented (details below), Professor David Barker and Dr Clinton Beckford (a graduate of the Department now Acting Dean at the University of Windsor, Canada) organized a panel discussion at the conference on “Directions in Caribbean Geographical Research”, while **Dr Susan Mains** organized two panel discussions, on “Media(ting) Migration: Mobility, Inclusion and Popular Culture” and “Postcolonial Migrations.” **Professor Barker** also organized a panel discussion on “Global Change, Food Security and Agricultural Development: Vulnerability and Adaptation among Caribbean Small Farmers” at the Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development held on the Mona campus in July 2009.

**Professor Mitchell** and Dr. Peter Skelton (The Open University, UK) were invited to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. for two weeks to review the rudist bivalve fossil collections, and received a grant of US\$2,500 each to cover transport and accommodation from the Smithsonian. **Professor Mitchell** also spent three weeks working on the rudist bivalve collections at the Texas Memorial Museum, Austin (Texas) as part of a National Science Foundation Grant to produce a digital online access facility for the collections.

**Dr Susan Mains** and Dr Tracy Skelton were Guest Editors for the July 2009 issue of *The Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* (Vol. 30). The Department continued to be the home base of two local, peer-reviewed journals, *Caribbean Geography* and *Caribbean Journal of Earth Sciences*,

the former edited by **Professor David Barker** and the latter by **Professor Simon Mitchell** and **Dr Tom Stemann**.

The Unit for Disaster Studies (**Mr Rafi Ahmad**), in collaboration with the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (Oddvar Kjekstad), Norway, and the Mona Geoinformatics Institute (**Dr Parris Lyew-Ayee**), successfully completed a two-year collaborative project aimed at capacity building in natural disaster mitigation. The focus of the project was mapping and modelling landslide and tsunami hazards in the Caribbean region. The final Seminar on Natural Disaster Mitigation in the Caribbean was held on December 4-5, 2008 at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, to present the results of the Regional Mapping of Landslide and Tsunami Hazards in the Caribbean.

More than 800 Jamaican schoolchildren visited the Geology Museum in the course of the year. Following the appointment of a new museum curator, an innovative programme of educational activities has begun. A workshop/seminar for visitors from Barbados was organized in July. A collection of 135 agate items was donated to the museum by Anthony Porter. More than 500 new specimens have been accessed and labelled in a major overhaul of the museum collection's data base and cataloguing system.

The Department continued to administer the Earthquake Unit, the Unit for Disaster Studies, and the Marine Geology Unit.

## **INCOME GENERATION**

The consultancy project with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands – “Consultancy Agreement on the Cockpit Country Boundary Study” – which began in 2007 was completed. The project's budget was J\$1.8 million. The main investigator was **Professor Simon Mitchell**, and the co-investigators were **Dr David Miller**, **Dr Savitha Ganapathy** and **Dr Balfour Spence**.

## **PAPERS PRESENTED**

### **D. Barker**

- (with D. McGregor & D. Campbell). “Environmental change and Caribbean food security: recent hazard impacts and domestic food production in Jamaica.” Annual Conference of

the Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers, Kings College, University of London, August 2008.

- (with D. McGregor & D. Campbell). “Environmental change and Caribbean food security: recent hazard impacts and domestic food production in Jamaica.” International Conference on The World Food Crisis and the Global South, Institute for the Study of the Americas/School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, January 2009.
- (with D. Campbell). “Hazards and agriculture: a comparison of Jamaican farmers’ vulnerability and adaptation to hurricanes and drought.” Annual Meeting, Association of American Geographers, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, March 2009.
- “Perspectives on global change and food security in the context of domestic agriculture in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean.” Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, UWI, Mona, July 2009.

### **S. Ganapathy**

- “Forest fire dynamics and fire-risk mapping in tropical forests of Jamaica using GIS and remote sensing”. Annual Meeting, Association of American Geographers, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, March 2009.

### **S. James-Williamson**

- (with I. McLymont-Lafayette, N. Douglas & S. Swaby). “Voices for climate change education: a national climate change communication strategy.” 4th Biennial Conference on the Environment 2009, Kingston, Jamaica, May 2009.

### **S. Mains**

- “Returning to Jamaica: representing urban spaces of diaspora and development.” Annual Meeting, Association of American Geographers, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, March 2009.
- “Rethinking Caribbean urban identities: ‘return’ and diaspora cities.” 2nd Annual Anthropology Day, UWI, Mona, March 2009.

#### **D. Miller**

- “Beach morphology and sediment dynamics on a carbonate beach: Manatee Bay, St Catherine, Jamaica.” Annual Meeting, Association of American Geographers, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, March 2009.

#### **S. Mitchell**

- “Late Cretaceous rudist biostratigraphy of the Caribbean region – correlation of shallow platform carbonate/volcanic successions.” Third Cuban Earth Science Convention, Havana, Cuba, March 2009.
- (with R. Ramsook). “Rift basins in Jamaica: sedimentary architecture and basin development.” Third Cuban Earth Science Convention, Havana, Cuba, March 2009.

#### **K. Rhiney**

- “Trench Town rock: reggae music, identity and place contestations in Trench Town, Kingston.” Annual Meeting, Association of American Geographers, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, March 2009.
- (with D. Campbell). “Boosting local capacity and strengthening linkages: farmers’ groups and their supply links with the Jamaican tourist industry.” Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Developments in the Americas, UWI, Mona, July 2009.

#### **E. Robinson**

- (with S. Khan, D. Rowe & R. Coutou). “Size of shoreline boulders moved and emplaced by recent hurricanes, Jamaica.” Second International Tsunami Field Symposium, UNESCO/IGCP Project 496. Italy & Greece, September 2008.
- (with S. Khan, D. Rowe, R. Coutou & M. Johnson). “Emplacement and evolution of debris deposits on coastal platforms, Jamaica. 26th Regional IAS/SEPM Meeting, Bochum, September 2008.

- (with S. Khan). “Presentation of draft report on Second Communication to UNFCCC: Coastal Resources including Human Settlements.” UNFCCC Workshop, October 2008.

#### **T. Stemann**

- “Tracing the robust and complex coral clades into the Eocene and Paleocene.” Encyclopedia of Life/Biodiversity Synthesis Group Workshop on The Systematics and Evolution of Scleractinian Corals, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **D. Barker**

- \* D. Barker (ed.), *Caribbean Geography*, Volume 15, Issues 1 and 2, 2008/2009.

#### **S. Mains**

- \* (with T. Skelton (guest editors), “Special Section on Neoliberalism, Mobilities and Development: Caribbean Intersections,” *The Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, 30, 2009.
- \* “Representing Cultural Geographies of Jamaica,” *Caribbean Geography*, (15(1), 2008.

#### **T. Stemann, S. Mitchell**

- \* *Caribbean Journal of Earth Science* (40), 2009.

### **Refereed Book Chapters and Journal Articles**

#### **D. Barker**

- \* (with C. Beckford). “Agricultural intensification in Jamaican small-scale farming systems: vulnerability, sustainability and global change.” *Caribbean Geography*, 15(2), 2008, 160-170.

#### **M. Burn**

- \* (with F. Mayle, M. Power & D. Urrego). “Vegetation and fire at the last glacial maximum in tropical South America.” F. Vimeux *et al.* (eds.), Past Climate Variability in South

America and Surrounding Regions. Developments in Paleoenvironmental Research, 14, Springer.

## S. Mains

- \* “Access to justice.” J.A. O’Brien (ed.), Encyclopedia of Gender and Society, 1: 6-8, 2009. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage.
- \* “Development: cultural imperialism.” R. Kitchin & N. Thrift (eds.), International Encyclopedia of Human Geography, 2009. Oxford: Elsevier.
- \* “‘English fever’: documenting the Caribbean diaspora in ‘The Colony’.” A. Escher, A.C. Lukinbeal & S. Zimmerman (eds.), The Geography of Cinema – A Cinematic World, 2008, 137-153. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner-Verlag.
- \* (with T. Skelton). “Intersections of neoliberalism, mobilities and development in the Caribbean: an introduction.” *The Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, 30, 2009, 151-157.
- \* “Island village, tourist world: representing cultural geographies of Jamaica.” *Caribbean Geography*, 15(1), 2008, 1-13.

## S. Mitchell

- \* (with J. Collins, & S. Donovan). “A new species of land crab, *Sesarma* Say (Decapoda, Brachyura), from the Pleistocene of Jamaica.” *Scripta Geologica*, 138, 2009, 11-21.
- \* (with S. Gotz). “The *Laluzia armini* (gen. et spec. nov.) ecosystem: understanding a deeper-water rudist lithosome from the Early Maastrichtian of Mexico.” *Facies* (DOI 10.1007/s10347-009-0184-6).
- \* (with H. Loser & T. Stemann). “Oldest scleractinian fauna from Jamaica (Hauterivian Benbow Inlier).” *Journal of Paleontology*, 83, 2009, 333-349.
- \* “A new rudist from the Santonian of Jamaica.” *Caribbean Journal of Earth Science*, 40, 2009, 15-20.
- \* “Discussion of *Campanile trevorjacksoni* sp. Nov. (Mollusca: Gastropoda) from the Eocene of Jamaica – at last, a name for the first fossil used in intercontinental biostratigraphic

correlation (de la Beche 1827): (v. 43, pp. 542-551).” *Geological Journal*, 44, 2009, 494-496.

- \* (with R. Ramsook). “Rudist bivalve assemblages from the Back Rio Grande Formation (Campanian, Cretaceous) of Jamaica and their stratigraphical significance.” *Cretaceous Research*, 30, 2009, 307-321.

### **K. Rhiney**

- \* “Forging new linkages in a changing global economy? The case of cooperatives and their link with the Negril tourism industry.” *Caribbean Geography*, 15(2), 2008, 142-159.

### **E. Robinson**

- \* (with R. Ramsook). “A new record of the Paleocene larger foraminifer *Ranikothalia catenula* in the Wagwater Formation of eastern Jamaica.” *Caribbean Journal of Earth Science*, 40, 2009, 21-23.

### **T. Stemann**

- \* (with J. Collins & S. Donovan). “Fossil crustacean of the Late Pleistocene Port Morant Formation, west Port Morant harbor, southeastern Jamaica.” *Scripta Geologica*, 138, 2009, 23-53.
- \* (with H. Loser & S. Mitchell). “Oldest scleractinian fauna from Jamaica (Hauterivian, Benbow Inlier).” *Journal of Paleontology*, 83, 2009, 333-349.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

### **D. Barker**

- Convenor, CAPE Geography
- President, Jamaican Geographical Society.

### **S. James-Williamson**

- Member, Council, Jamaica Institute of Environmental Professionals.
- Vice-Chair and Treasurer, National Environmental Education Committee.



- Member, Steering Committee, NEEC/PANOS Caribbean Climate Change Project.
- Member, Executive Council, Geological Society of Jamaica.
- Member, Publications Committee, Natural History Museum of Jamaica, Institute of Jamaica.

### **S. Mains**

- Board member, Qualitative Research Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers.
- Member, Association of American Geographers International Research across the Americas Advisory Group.
- Editor, *People, Place, Praxis: Qualitative Research in Geography Specialty Group Newsletter*.
- Council member, Jamaica Geographical Society.
- Member of the Editorial Boards, *Aether: The Journal of Media Geography*; *The Spaces of Democracy and Democracy of Space Journal*; *Revista Brasileira do Caribe*.

### **S. Mitchell**

- Permanent member, Standing Committee for the Caribbean Geological Conferences.
- Member, Scientific Committee, International Rudist Congress.
- Chairman, Commission on Jamaican Lithostratigraphy.
- Editor, *Caribbean Journal of Earth Science*.
- Member, Executive Council, Geological Society of Jamaica.

## **CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS**

### **Undergraduate Students: Geography**

|           |    |
|-----------|----|
| Year I:   | 93 |
| Year II:  | 60 |
| Year III: | 26 |

**Undergraduate Students: Geology**

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| Year I:   | 165 |
| Year II:  | 39  |
| Year III: | 31  |

**Postgraduates:**

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| MPhil Geography: | 5 (1 completed) |
| MPhil Geology:   | 5               |
| PhD Geography:   | 9               |
| PhD Geology:     | 1               |