WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Geography and Geology continued to mount a full programme of undergraduate teaching and postgraduate supervision in spite of the continuing and increasing challenges imposed by budget and resources (both human and physical, including space and equipment).

Professor Simon Mitchell (Geology) and Dr David Miller (Geography) were granted sabbatical leave for the year. As part of his research activities, Professor Mitchell visited England, the Netherlands, Texas and Mexico City. Ms Shakira Khan was appointed to take over Professor Mitchell’s teaching for the year, but because of organizational problems relating to replacing Dr Miller, he was given permission to take his sabbatical year beginning with Semester II; he will return to the Department in Semester II, 2010/2011. His Level II course (Geosphere and Hydrosphere) was taught by Professor Paul Shaw and Dr Matthew Wilson, from the St Augustine campus.

With existing vacancies remaining unfilled, the Department faces severe problems in finding qualified lecturing staff to mount the full range of undergraduate courses necessary for the completion of both the Geography and the Geology Majors. Mr Kevon Rhiney and Mr Robert Kinlocke were appointed as Temporary Assistant Lecturers, and Mr Donovan Campbell was appointed as a Teaching Assistant. Dr Lyndon Brown was appointed as Head of the Earthquake Unit.

Student numbers in first-year Geology were, for the second successive year, far higher than expected, again creating enormous difficulties in
Geology practical classes. These difficulties were compounded by the shortage of demonstrators/teaching assistants and put pressure on the use of scientific equipment for laboratory work.

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 Washington, D.C. in April 2010. The group of thirteen staff and postgraduates was the largest contingent from the Department ever to attend this prestigious meeting, and a total of twelve papers were presented and three panel sessions organized, details of which are included later in this report.

The book *Global Change and Caribbean Vulnerability: Environment, Economy and Society at Risk*, co-edited by Dr Duncan McGregor, Dr David Dodman (former lecturer in Geography) and Professor David Barker (Geography), was awarded the prize for the bestselling environmental studies book published by UWI Press in the period 2007-2010. Dr Parris Lyew-Ayee (Director of the Mona GeoInformatics Institute and affiliated to the Department) and Mr Rafi Ahmad (Geology) were awarded the prize for the best publishing proposal for their *Natural Hazard Atlas of Jamaica*, to be published shortly.

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

**INCOME GENERATION**

**Dr Michael Burn** (Geography) was part of a team including Allison Bain (P.I.), Lisa Kennedy and Debbie Pearsall which received a grant of C$37,000 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for a research project on “Human Eco-dynamics in Barbuda – New Approaches for Caribbean Archaeology.”

**Dr Sherene James-Williamson**, Geology Museum Curator, received a grant of C$12,000 from the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives for the upgrade of the education capacity of the museum with the installation of interactive whiteboard and multimedia facilities for effective teaching and learning. Mr Stephen Hallihan, the Canadian High Commission to
Jamaica, officially opened the learning centre on March 11, 2010. The Principal of the Mona Campus, Professor Gordon Shirley, was in attendance.

**Dr Susan Mains** (Geography) received a UWI Research and Publications and Graduate Grant of US$1,298 for a research project on “Media and Place (MAP) Lab: Centre for Qualitative Analysis of Caribbean Geographies.”

**Professor Simon Mitchell** (Geology) received a grant of US$5,000 from the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica, Sargress Energy and CaribX for graduate research and travel on a variety of small-scale consultancies.

The **Marine Geology Unit** received a grant of US$8,460 from the World Resources Institute, Washington, D.C., USA, for research on coastal flooding related to reef protection and weather systems. The Unit completed its final report on “Beach Erosion at Long Bay, Negril” for the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica.

**PAPERS PRESENTED**

**D. Barker**


**M. Burn**

- With F. Mayle & T. Killeen. “Differentiation of pollen spectra from Amazonian rainforest communities and implications for lowland palaeoecology in tropical South America.” *Eos*


Transactions of the American Geophysical Union, Foz do Iguassu, Brazil, 2010.

S. James-Williamson


S. Khan


S. Mains


A. Mandal


- “Modelling of rainfall-induced river flooding of Port Maria, St Mary, Jamaica.” Eighth International Conference on Disasters, Havana, Cuba, June 14-18, 2010.
David Miller


S. Mitchell

• “Jamaica’s geology – Jamaica’s geologists. 180 years since the first geological map of Jamaica. 150 years since the establishment of the first Geological Survey. 140 million years of geological history. A personal celebration.” Department of Geography & Geology, UWI, Mona, November 16, 2009.


K. Rhiney

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Journal Issues

D. Barker


S. Mains


* “Tenth Anniversary Special Issue.” *Qualitative Research on Geography Specialty Group Newsletter: People, Place, Praxis*. April 2010

S. Mitchell


Refereed Book Chapters and Journal Articles

D. Barker


M. Burn


D. Campbell

* with C. Beckford “Negotiating uncertainty: Jamaican small farmers’ adaptation and coping strategies, before and after hurricanes – a case study of Hurricane Dean.” Sustainability, 1(4), 2009, 1366-1387.

S. Mains


S. Mitchell


* with A. Hastie, A. Kerr, & I. Millar. “Geochemistry and tectonomagmatic significance of Lower Cretaceous island arc lavas from the Devil’s Racecourse Formation, eastern Jamaica.”


**K. Rhiney**


**E. Robinson**


T. Stemann


**Technical Report**

K. Rhiney

* “Analytical Study on Industry within Jamaica of a National Spatial Plan” (lead author). Prepared on behalf of the Centre for Leadership and Governance, Department of Government, UWI, Mona. Sponsored by the National Environment and Planning Agency and the Office of the Prime Minister. Project Coordinator: Dr Lloyd Waller, Department of Government, UWI, Mona.

**PUBLIC SERVICE**

D. Barker

– Editor, *Caribbean Geography*.
– Convenor, CAPE Geography.
– President, Jamaica Geographical Society.
– Editorial Committee and writer, *CaribXplorer Magazine*.

S. James-Williamson

– Council member, Jamaica Institute of Environmental Professionals.
– Chairperson and Treasurer, National Environmental Education Committee;
– Member, Steering Committee, NEEC/PANOS Caribbean Climate Change Project.
– Vice President, Geological Society of Jamaica;
– Member, Publications Committee, Natural History Museum of Jamaica, Institute of Jamaica.
– Member, Steering Committee, International Conference on Rudists 2011.

S. Mains
– Editorial boards of: Handbook of Human Geography series; The Journal of Media Geography; The Spaces of Democracy and Democracy of Space; and Revista Brasileira do Caribe.
– Manuscript reviewer for: ACME: An International e-Journal for Critical Geographies; Gender, Place and Culture; Journal of Cultural Geography; and Professional Geographer.
– Council member, Jamaica Geographical Society.
– Special local correspondent, Caribbean Hurricane Network – StormCARIB.

S. Mitchell
– Permanent member, Standing Committee for the Caribbean Geological Conference.
– Member, Scientific Committee, International Rudist Congress.
– Chairman, Commission on Jamaican Lithostratigraphy.
– Council member, Geological Society of Jamaica.
– Chairman, Ninth International Congress on Rudist Bivalves, Kingston, Jamaica, 2011.

E. Robinson
– Member, Jamaican National Council on Ocean and Coastal Zone Management.
– Fellow, Third World Academy of Science.
– Member, Coastal Education and Research Foundation.
– Board Member, International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Science.
– Member, Geological Society of Jamaica.
– Member, Jamaica Institute of Environmental Professionals.
– Board Member, Centre for Marine Sciences.
- Member, Graduate Faculty, Florida International University, U.S.A.

**CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS**

**Undergraduate Students: Geography**

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<td>Year II</td>
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<td>Year III</td>
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**Undergraduate Students: Geology**

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<tr>
<td>Year II</td>
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**Postgraduates:**

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