WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

Professor Simon F. Mitchell continued as head of the Department for the 2016–2017 academic year as well as continuing as Acting Head of the Earthquake Unit. Dr Arpita Mandal continued as coordinator of Graduate Students in the Department, Dr David Miller coordinated examinations, Dr Sherene James-Williamson coordinated outreach, and Dr Kevon Rhiney and Dr Thomas Stemann coordinated the Geography and Geology programmes respectively.

Dr Kevon Rhiney took a one year leave of absence, and Dr Rose-Ann Smith oversaw his teaching duties for the year. Dr. Kevin Rhiney formally resigned as Lecturer in the Department at the end of the year, but is still engaged with the Department in running research projects and co-supervising research students. Mr Robert Kinlock and Miss Taneisha
Edwards were further employed to teach in Geography and Geology respectively, and Dr Donovan Blissett taught a course in the Department on a part-time contract. Ms Jullian Williams continued as a research assistant for the Head of Department, but resigned at the end of the year.

The Department continued to offer its full curricula of courses in Geography and Geology during the 2016–2017 academic year despite staffing restrictions. Once again, some staff members had to undertake excessive teaching loads in order to accommodate this.

Dr Mandal organized two workshops on mobile data collection using the Open Data Kit (ODK) app at the Department of Geography and Geology in September and November 2016. The work involved training disaster coordinators and parish representatives on using the ODK app to collect disaster data and upload these on an open source platform for use by stakeholders in planning and policy making. Dr Mandal attended and conducted training workshop on capacity building in the utility and application of the Tropical Storm Model along with Hydrologic and Hydraulic models for CARICOM countries in the Eastern and Southern Caribbean Region. This was funded by USAID and Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC/5Cs). Under this initiative, workshops were conducted in St Kitts and Nevis (19–28 April 2017), St Lucia (19–30 June 2017) and Barbados (24 July–4 August 2017).

The Department hosted a mapathon in collaboration with the National Spatial Data Management Division (Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation) during GIS Day (November 16, 2017) and UWI Research Days (February 1–3, 2017). The department hosted 30 and 50 students and their teachers, respectively.

The Museum saw approximately 500 persons this year from UWI Research Days and School visits. The Museum through the Department sponsored GreenCamp 2016 from August 8–11, 2016. The planned activities, initially scheduled for August 1–4 and 8–11 were disrupted by heavy rains associated with Tropical Storm Earl (later became Hurricane Earl). The department sponsored the space for the hosting of the camp. The camp activities centred around environmental issues and solutions –
reduce, reuse and recycle; alternative sources of energy; composting among others.

PAPERS PRESENTED


• **Arpita Mandal** and A. Nandi. “Hydrological modelling to estimate


- **Simon F. Mitchell.** “Understanding the Eocene of Jamaica.” Oral Presentation. AGM, Geological Society of Jamaica, 3rd June, 2017, Department of Geography and Geology, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica.


PUBLICATIONS

Books and Journals


Refereed Book Chapters and Journal Articles


• **Simon F. Mitchell**, Richard N. Abbott, Suresh Bhalai, Shonel Dwyer, **Taneisha C. P. Edwards**, Amir Mohamed, Natalie Ferguson, Norman Harris, Stefon Harrypersad, Orane Hepburn, Cheyne Howell, **Sherene A. James-Williamson**, Kenrick Mcfarlane, Nicole Nembhard, Stephanie Parker, Jared Quintal, Andre Reid, Odane Reid, Natalie Robinson, Sarah Shirt, **Thomas Stemann**, Herona Thompson,


**Technical Reports**

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

Mike Burn
– Editorial Board Member for the peer-reviewed journal Scientific Reports, for Springer Nature.

Donovan Campbell
– IPCC Lead Author: selected to participate as a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems.
– Academia Representative: Office of the Prime Minister’s Environment Working Group under the Partnership for a Prosperous Jamaica (PFPJ) initiative.
– Caribbean Representative: selected as Caribbean representative to participate in an international programme on Governance, Institutions and Water Metabolism.
– Small Island Developing States (SIDS) representative: selected to participate in a Global Marine Science Summit focused on coastal resilience and the Blue Economy.

Taneisha C. P. Edwards
– Non-Departmental philanthropic activities: April 2016 to Present: Hosting the Caribbean Women Honors and Empowerment Groups
Kingston Chapter and maintain management duties as Assistant District Manager for the Kingston Chapter. This is a global initiative started in Toronto Canada and now establishing a presence in over 50 cities across the globe with a mandate to empower minorities, and especially women and girls. EmpowerHer Chat series every other month, held at various locations, Kingston Jamaica. website: blackwomenawards.com

Sherene James-Williamson
– President, Museums Association of the Caribbean
– Committee Member, GIS Enterprise Licence Agreement Management Support & Advisory Committee, National Spatial Data Management Division
– UWI Representative for the EU-LAC Virtual Museums Project
– UWI Representative, Land Information Council of Jamaica, National Spatial Data Management Division
– UWI Representative, National Restoration Committee, Mines and Geology Division
– Committee Member, National Declarations Committee, Jamaica National Heritage Trust

Arpita Mandal
– Elected to the Technical Committee of Global Water Partnership Caribbean (GWP-C)
– Council Member, Geological Society of Jamaica

Simon F. Mitchell
– Scientific Committee, Caribbean Geological Conference.
– Editor, *UWI Contributions to Geology.*
– Language Editor, Carnets de Geology.
– Member, National Committee on Coastal Zone Management (NCOCZM).
– 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
– Elected to the Steering Committee for the Global Water Partnership (GWP-C)
– Re-appointed as co-chair for the Global Water Partnership (GWP-C) Technical Committee

**INCOME GENERATION**

Kevon Rhiney attracted funding for Crop Resilience-Crop Suitability Modelling. Pilot Program for Crop Resilience (PPCR), funded by the Ministry of Economic Growth & Job Creation and the Inter-American Development Bank. Amounting to J$22,735,240.00. Collaborators: Aidan Farrell (UWI St. Augustine), Anton Eitzinger (CIAT), Leslie Simpson (Independent consultant) and Andre Haughton (UWI Mona).
The Earthquake Unit received a contribution of J$104,000,000.00 (=US$) towards seismic equipment, construction of accelerometer and seismic stations, upgrading the central control room and capacity building. The money was part of the World Bank Loan and administered by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF).

**STUDENTS**

**Undergraduate Students: Geography**

Year I 129  
Year II 40  
Year III 29

**Undergraduate Students: Geology**

Year I 96  
Year II 42  
Year III 22

**Postgraduate Students**

MPhil Geography 6  
MPhil Geology 6  
PhD Geography 4  
PhD Geology 2