Professor Simon F Mitchell continued as head of the Department for the 2015–2016 academic year as well as continuing as Acting Head of the Earthquake Unit. He was reappointed as head of Department for three more years (2016–2019). 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 Mandal was promoted to Senior Lecturer in April, 2016.

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. Dr Donovan Campbell (re)joined the Department as a lecturer
in Geography at the start of the 2015–2016 academic year. Mr Robert Kinlock and Miss Taneisha Edwards were further employed to teach in Geography and Geology respectively, and Dr Donovan Blissett and Dr Rose-Ann Smith taught courses in the Department on part-time contracts. Dr Rose-Ann Smith continued as a short-term replacement to run the Map Library. Dr Thera Edwards returned to the Department in June 2015 following a two year leave of absence. 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.

From the 23rd–28th November, 2015, the Department was strongly involved with the 60th Anniversary of the Geological Society of Jamaica. The conference saw the presentation of 17 academic papers and participants attended two fieldtrips. Nine papers were presented by staff members, and 5 by research students in the Department. Two workshops were run, one for teachers and one on Jamaican stratigraphy. A preconference fieldtrip (led by Prof Mitchell) examined the new unconformity discovered at the base of the White Limestone in south-eastern St Ann. A post-conference fieldtrip (led by Dr Stemann and Prof Mitchell) examined the geological evolution of south-eastern St Thomas and the geology of the Coastal Group. The participation of graduate students was funded by a grant of J$60,000 from the School for Graduate Studies and Research; the participation of undergraduate students was sponsored by a grant of US$800 from the Geological Society of Trinidad and Tobago (GSTT); the teacher’s workshop was supported by UNESCO, and the coffee break for the stratigraphic commission workshop was sponsored by Cafe Blue. The abstracts and field guides were published in the series UWI Contributions to Geology.

From the 27th June to the 1st of July, 2016, the Department hosted a conference, “Celebrating 50 Years of Geography at Mona,” to celebrate 50 years of teaching Geography at UWI. A week of conference activities was organized by the Jamaican Geographical Society in conjunction with
the Department of Geography and Geology, UWI Mona Campus. More than 70 people attended the celebrations including alumni, current and past lecturers, and current postgraduates. Visitors came from Australia, Canada, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados. The week’s activities included 31 presentations reviewing the history of geography at Mona, current trends and geographical research, and education papers on the theme of Geography in the 21st Century Classroom. Three members of staff presented papers, and eight research students presented papers. Two panel discussions were held; on contributions and challenges of geographers working in the public and private sectors, and on geography education. Two field trips involved a boat trip around Kingston Harbour, and a traverse of the new North-South Highway including a stop at New Seville Heritage Park. Social events included a rum blending and rum tasting evening sponsored by Appleton Rum, with a presentation by Master Blender, Joy Spence. An Awards Dinner held at the Alhambra Hotel featured guest speaker Theresa Turner-Jones, Caribbean Regional Head, Inter-American Development Bank, and at which ten Trail Blazing Awards were presented to geographers who have made a significant contribution to their discipline. Recipients included founder members of the Geography Department at Mona, past lecturers, and distinguished alumni. A book launch (Globalization, Agriculture and Food in the Caribbean: Climate Change, Gender and Geography) edited by Clinton Beckford and Kevon Rhiney) also formed part of the celebrations. Another noteworthy feature of the celebrations was the creation of a Geography Development Fund which attracted donations from alumni and other prominent overseas-based geographers. In association with the launch of this Fund, a new undergraduate scholarship was established through a generous donation from former HOD, Professor Elizabeth Thomas-Hope. A special advertising supplement was published in the Jamaican Sunday Observer on June 26th, and a newsletter, Jamaican Geographer, Volume 20, 2016, was published to highlight the week’s activities. The participation of graduate students was funded by a grant of J$60,000 from the School for Graduate Studies and Research.

Members of the Department attended various workshops during the year. Dr Arpita Mandal attended the Resilient Cities, 2017 conference at
Bonn, Germany from 4-9th July 2016. She was also a panellist at the forum on Managing Ecosystems for more resilient cities in India, Bolivia and Jamaica. She attended two workshops for CDKN – ICLEI Development of Inside Story for the project “Climate Change and Inland Flooding in Jamaica”. Inside Story is to be developed based on CDKN’S Second Sub-National Learning Programme, Phase II, Moving from Sub-National planning to implementation. The first workshop was held in Quito, Equador in June 2015, and the second workshop was held in February 2015 in Nepal.

Dr Kevon Rhiney was the keynote speaker at the postgraduate conference on Caribbean In/Securities and Creativity, held at the University of Birmingham, U.K., 23rd May 2016. The presentation was entitled “Vulnerability, resilience and livelihood in/Securities to global change in the insular Caribbean”. Dr Rhiney was a panellist in a workshop session entitled “Building partnerships and alliances to scale up climate-smart and adaptation solutions in the Caribbean.” This was part of the First Caribbean-Pacific Agri-Food Forum (CPAF15), held in Bridgetown, Barbados November 2-6, 2015, and sponsored by the Technical Centre for Cooperation on Agriculture (CTA) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). Dr Rhiney presented two papers at the Integrated Management of Water Resources and Adaptation of Family Farming to Climate Change Workshop hosted by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), September 14-17, 2015, Georgetown, Guyana. The presentations were entitled “The Caribbean in the throes of a Changing Climate?”, and “Adapting Family Farms to a Changing Caribbean Climate: Some Perspectives on Managing Climate Risks”.

The special issue of Caribbean Geography (Edited by Duncan McGregor and David Barker) appeared carrying papers from the 6th British Caribbean Geography Seminar held at UWI, Jamaica, in August 2014. It included 4 papers from research students in the Department – papers by Anne-Teresa Birthwright (with Prof David Barker), Ayesha Constable, Shaneica Lester and Amal Sealy.

From January to June 2016 the Department and the Earthquake Unit
hosted Fulbright CORE scholar, Dr Katherine Ellins from The University of Texas at Austin. Dr Ellins collaborated with the Department, the EQU and IRIS (Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology), Washington, D.C., on setting up JAESN (Jamaica Educational Seismic Network). The network will initially comprise about seven educational (AS-1) seismometers installed at selected high schools (and colleges) across the country allowing students to record earthquakes. IRIS is providing the analytical software, JAMASEIS, free of charge to participating school and teachers. Schools/ colleges have to pay for their instrument (about US $650 plus shipping) and supply a dedicated computer with Internet access to allow them to upload their data to the global network, as well as download data from other stations in the network, with assistance from the Earthquake Unit. Students and educators will have opportunities to assist the UWI and international researchers with local research in seismology and related geohazards, and to promote awareness, preparation and response in their community through, for example, service learning projects. The Department of Geography and Geology hosted two immersive 3-day educator workshops in April and May, 2016 for teachers interested in hosting a JAESN station. The purpose was to train participating schools’ geography, physics and mathematics teachers on JAESN. JAESN has been supported by the ODPEM and the Network was launched at Ardenne High School on the 23rd June 2016.

The UWI Geology Museum (UWIGM) hosted approximately 800 visitors, largely comprising students and teachers during Research Days and School visits. The Museum through the Department sponsored GreenCamp 2015 from 3rd–4th August 2015. The department sponsored the space for the hosting of the camp. The camp activities centred on environmental issues and solutions – reduce, reuse and recycle; alternative sources of energy; composting among others.

PAPERS PRESENTED

• **Mike J. Burn.** “Contextualizing contemporary climate change in the Caribbean using palaeoclimate archives.” Geography 50th anniversary conference, UWI, Kingston, Jamaica. 27th June–1st July 2016. Oral Presentation.


• **André Reid** and Sherene. A. James-Williamson. “Relationship between Rare Elements and the origins of Bauxite in Jamaica.” Geological


- **Simon F. Mitchell**. “Controls on facies patterns and stratal geometries in the Yellow Limestone and White Limestone of Jamaica – tectonic quiescence or carbonate productivity?” Geological Society of Jamaica,


**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books and Journals**


• Clinton Beckford and **Kevon Rhiney** (eds.) “*Globalization, Agriculture and Food in the Caribbean: Climate Change, Gender and Geography.*” (2016) London (UK): Palgrave Macmillan.
Refereed Book Chapters and Journal Articles


- Simon F. Mitchell. “Geology of the western margin of the Benbow


**Non-refereed Papers**


**Technical Reports**

• **Kevon Rhiney.** “Population dynamics and climate change in the Caribbean: Jamaica scoping study.” Study was funded jointly by the The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Project No. 721.07_01(UNFPA) (2015), 18 pp.


PUBLIC SERVICE

David Barker

– External Examiner in Geography for the Joint Board of Teacher Education (JBTE)
– Editor, *Caribbean Geography*
– Convenor, CAPE Geography
– Member, Editorial Committee, *CaribXplorer Magazine*
– Member, Editorial Board, *Caribbean Quarterly*
– Council Member, Jamaican Geographical Society

Sherene James-Williamson

– Editor, *Caribbean Journal of Earth Science*
– Editor, *Museums Association of the Caribbean*
– Expert Panel Panelist, St. Lucia National Trust Round Table Consultation for the Establishment of a national museum. April 21–22, 2016, St. Lucia.
– President, Museums Association of the Caribbean.
– Committee Member, GIS Enterprise Licence Agreement Management Support & Advisory Committee
– Conference Secretariat – GSJ 60th Anniversary Conference
– External Examiner, College of Agriculture, Science and Education
– External Examiner, Joint Board of Teacher Education

Arpita Mandal

– Elected to the Technical Committee of Global Water Partnership Caribbean (GWP-C)
– Council Member, Geological Society of Jamaica
Simon F. Mitchell

– Member, Scientific Committee, International Congress on Rudist Bivalves
– Member, Scientific Committee, Caribbean Geological Conference
– 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
– Member, 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)
Co-chair for the Global Water Partnership (GWP-C) Technical Committee

Jullian Williams

Presented at career day at Mel Nathan Preparatory (10th June 2016)

INCOME GENERATION

• **Arpita Mandal** (M. Taylor, Physics, and D. Smith, ISD) received funding from CDKN –ICLEI for Development of Inside Story for the project “Climate Change and Inland Flooding in Jamaica”. Inside Story to be developed based on CDKN’S Second Sub-National Learning Programme, Phase II. Moving from SubNational planning to implementation. Amount: 10,800 Euro (July 2015–June 2016).

• **Arpita Mandal** received funding from CDKN for Outreach work on Lessons learnt from the CDKN project “Climate Change and Inland Flooding in Jamaica”. Work involves training disaster coordinators and parish representatives on using ODK app to collect disaster data and upload them on an open source platform for use by stakeholders in planning and policy making. Amount 10,500 Euro (June 2016–November 2016).

• **Kevon Rhiney** (in conjunction with Z. Guido, C. Vaughan, M. Madajewicz, L. Goddard and T. Allen (Columbia), T. Buizer, J. Finan and D. Liverman [Arizona]) received funding for the project “Integrating Climate Information and Decision Processes for Regional Climate Resilience: Jamaica Coffee Leaf Rust Project.” Project funded under a Sub-award Agreement with Columbia University N.Y., totalling US$83,985.

• **Kevon Rhiney** (in conjunction with P. Noxolo [Univ. of Birmingham], D. Featherstone [Univ. of Glasgow], R. Jaffe [Univ. of Amsterdam], S. Mains [Univ. of Dundee] and R. Cummings [Univ. of Toronto]) received funding for the project “The Caribbean In/Securities Network: Creativity and Negotiation in the Caribbean (CARISCC).” Full Grant £118,475 (approx. £28,115 allocated to DoGG/UWJ). Duration: Covers activities up to 2017/2018.
## STUDENTS

### Undergraduate Students: Geography

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