



## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Dr. Sherene James-Williamson – Head of Department

### WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

At the beginning of the 2019/2020 academic year, the Department established a 5-year strategic plan (2019–2024) around six priority areas: staffing and administration; teaching and undergraduate curriculum; research and postgraduate programmes; finance and resource mobilization; outreach, visibility, and linkages and; infrastructure and work environment. The strategic plan is established on a vision for progressive and transformational change to support novel and societally relevant research and teaching while engendering a culture of staff success and happiness.

The department had a change in leadership from Dr. Donovan Campbell to Dr. Sherene James-Williamson at the start of the 2022–23 academic year. The new Head of Department has since continued on the trajectory, started by the strategic plan in 2019, with additions related to: implementing the recommendations of the Quality Assurance Review (QAR), curriculum reform towards revision of courses across both disciplines to include partnerships with other departments within as well as out of faculty and unifying the department through bridging the gap between the 2 disciplines and encouraging research.

To this end, 2 curriculum development seminars were held. The first of which explored the University process for preparation, submission and approval of new and revised courses and the second saw a full brainstorm session to determine where changes were required and what changes needed to be made and courses to be added. Revision and development tasks assigned.

The department produced its first report post QAR. This was very well received by both Faculty and Academic boards. The department highlighted among other things, the need for new field vehicles, new computers and microscopes, and remodeling projects to improve safety and security and boost morale.

The Department was engaged in a rationalization process for staffing as well as courses. The curriculum reform plans aided this process significantly.

- Dr. James-Williamson was appointed Head of the Department of Geography and Geology; Deputy Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for The University of the West Indies Disaster Risk Reduction Centre (DRRC); reappointed as Chair for the Campus Committee on Examination; re-elected Editor for the Caribbean Journal of Earth Sciences for the academic year; and continues to serve the Jamaica National Heritage Trust Declarations Committee; and Caribbean Examinations Council as Assistant Chief Examiner.
- Dr Donovan Campbell was promoted to the rank of Professor. He is now Professor of Environmental Geography.
- Dr Sarah Buckland was engaged on a temporary 1-year contract to replace Professor Donovan Campbell who was on 1-year no-pay leave.
- Mr Kevin Tankoo was appointed Research Fellow at the Earthquake Unit.
- Mr. Rajne Reynolds and Mr Matthew Rahamut graduate students in the Department were engaged as adjuncts to replace Dr Michael Burn who resigned in September 2022.
- Dr Patrice Pinder joined the department on September 1, 2022 as Honorary Researcher for a period of 1 year.

### Special Projects

- The Earthquake Unit continues to be a valuable asset to the people of Jamaica. They have increased capacity through funding and through collaboration has increased and maintained visibility within various Government agencies. Their event reporting capacity has increased significantly.
- The Department continues its research consultancy opportunity on the Connecting Communities for Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness in Dominica Project (CCC-DRIP) funded by IDRC Canada through the Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD). A new agreement was signed since the project was extended from the original January 31, 2023 end date due to the delays encountered during the period of the Covid-19 pandemic. The project has been extended until June 2024. The extension is only a time extension, the initial funding of JMD\$19 million remains with 40% already spent on the earlier stages of the project. The Project received the Principal's Research Awards for the project attracting the most research funding for 2021. This second phase of the project began in August 2022 with the planning and designing of the vulnerability of assessment.
- The Department was invited as a strategic partner for the Mona School of Business and Management (MSBM)-Caribbean School of Data (CSOD) Open Cities project. The team members participating in this initiative are Dr. Sherene James-Williamson, Dr Jason Tambie, Dr Robert Kinlocke and Dr Thera Edwards.

The undergraduate students Caitlin Milne and Rodane Samuels (finalizing undergraduate students who participated in Youth Mappers Fellowship Conference in January 2023) have been included as facilitators for the training sessions for the project.

- The Department re-established the Unit for Disaster Studies and the Marine Geology Unit. The Unit for Disaster Studies will be coordinated by Dr Aprita Mandal and Dr Rose-Ann Smith, The Marine Geology Unit will be coordinated by Dr Taneisha Edwards and Dr Jason Tambie. The Department held a handover meeting for the Marine Geology Meeting. The meeting facilitated a discussion and symbolic passing of the baton from Professor Emeritus Edward “Ted” Robinson who started the unit over 20 years ago to Dr Taneisha Edwards and Dr Jason Tambie who were assigned responsibility for the Unit.

## **ACCESS**

### **STUDENTS**

The Department launched social media pages and revamped its website in a bid towards attracting more students and providing timely information to the public. The department through the student societies (UWI Geological Society, UWI Geographical Society and YouthMappers) promote the department and the geosciences at large both on and off campus.

The department has carried out minor upgrades with plans for major upgrades in the upcoming academic year to improve the student teaching and learning experience. The introduction of a student experience liaison has helped to streamline activities and engage with students.

The department has also embarked on cross-campus teaching with our colleagues in the Department of Geography in St Augustine. Students from St Augustine will be able to take our Applied GIS and Remote Sensing Course as part of their GIS minor which was introduced during this academic year. All field classes resumed for the 2022–23 academic year as many were suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **STUDENT AWARDS:**

#### *Post Graduate*

- The Department graduated 2 postgraduate students – Peta-Gay Harris, MPhil Geology (Supervised by Dr Arpita Mandal) and Beverline Brown-Smith, PhD Environmental Management (Supervised by Dr Robert Kinlocke).

- Thera Edwards and Aleem Mahabir received Certificates of Completion with Merit for the course Research Writing in the Social Sciences on October 7, 2022. Certificates of Participation in three additional Modules, Academic Writing Skills, Proposal Writing with Impact – Part 1, and Proposal Writing with Impact – Part 2 were also awarded. The course was offered by the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) and AuthorAID. Their participation was sponsored by the Royal Geographical Society (RGS).
- Roshaun Brown has been invited and sponsored to participate in the International Seabed Authority/Geosciences and natural resources (ISA/BRG) at sea training programme for 6 weeks, March 28–May 14, 2023. Two weeks at sea to survey north-eastern Clarion – Clipperton Zone assessing and sampling of polymetallic manganese nodules along with sediments from the sea floor. Four weeks at the Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources, Hannover, Germany (BGR) for geochemical analyses of sediments and polymetallic nodules.

The following students received R&P grants to attend international conferences:

- Jorjan Dolphy, MPhil Candidate, Geology
- Romario Anderson, MPhil Candidate, Geography
- Shaughna-Lee Steele, PhD Candidate, Geography
- Lance Scott, PhD Candidate, Geography
- Kristinia Doughorty, PhD Candidate, Geography
- Aleem Mahabir, PhD Candidate, Geography

### *Undergraduate*

The following students received awards from the Geological Society of Jamaica

- Kemala Alexander – The Charles Alfred Matley Award (Level 1 prize) for Academic Performance.
- Brianna Alexis-Marie Walker – The Verners A. Zans Award (Level 2 prize) for the Best Field Map.
- Kimoy-Marie Douglas – The Trevor Jackson Award (level 2 prize) for Best Performance in Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology
- Isabelle Chen – The Raymond Wright Award (Level 3 prize) for Best Geology Project.
- The 2022 CCRIF Undergraduate Scholarship recipient was Duvania Evans (Geography Major, Tourism Management Minor)

## Student numbers

Undergraduate				Postgraduate	
<i>Geography</i>		<i>Geology</i>		MPhil Geography	5
Year I	50	Year I	40	MPhil Geology	3
Year II	23	Year II	14	Ph.D. Geography	7
Year III	16	Year III	26	Ph.D. Geology	3

## RESEARCH AND GRADUATE ACTIVITY

The department was recognized by the faculty at the annual awards ceremony for its outstanding throughput of publications during the 2021–2022 academic year. In order to increase and maintain research and publication output the HOD hosted a seminar with Junior members of staff to sensitize them about the assessment and promotions process. Discussions were held on where to publish. Attempts were made to indicate where synergies between colleagues can boost publication output.

The Marine Geology Unit and the Unit for Disaster Studies were re-established to boost research, grantsmanship and publications. To ensure continuity, 2 members of the academic staff will support the unit as co-coordinators.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book Chapters

- Cruickshank, A., Smith R., Compton, S., and Laidlow-Ferdinand, A. 2023. “A post-eruption analysis of the significance and challenges of addressing disaster risk management through community-based organisations in the north of Saint Vincent island, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.” In *Handbook of Civil Society and Social Movements in Small States*, edited by *Lino Briguglio*, Michael Briguglio, Sheila Bunwaree & Claire Slatter, 105–119.

### Edited Volumes

- *Caribbean Journal of Earth Science*, Volume 54. Editor James-Williamson, S.A.

### Refereed Journal Articles

- Becher, O., Pant, R. Verschuur, J., **Mandal, A.** Paltan, H., Lawless, M., Raven, E., Hall, J. 2022. A multi-hazard risk framework to stress-test water supply systems to climate-related disruptions, *Earth’s Future*, Dec 2022. <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1029/2022EF002946>
- **Buckland, S.** 2022. ‘To What Extent Is Parental Involvement Associated with

School-Based Adolescent Delinquency in Jamaica?'. *Caribbean Journal of Psychology*. 15(2) DOI:10.37234/CJP.2022.1502.A002.

- Kokesh, B. and **Stemann, T.** 2022. Dead men still tell tales: bivalve death assemblages record dynamics and consequences of recent biological invasions in Kingston Harbour, Jamaica. In Nawrot, R., Dominici, S., Tomašových, A. and Zuschin, M. (eds) *Conservation Palaeobiology of Marine Ecosystems*. Geological Society, London, Special Publications, 529, <https://doi.org/10.1144/SP529-2022-28>.
- **Mitchell, S.F.** 2022. Lower Campanian hippuritid rudists (Bivalvia) from the Dry Hill Formation of central Jamaica. *Cretaceous Research*. Online 31st October 2022.
- **Mitchell, S.F.** 2023. The development of the geological map of Jamaica in the Nineteenth Century. *Caribbean Journal of Earth Science*, **55**, 1–14. (Available online 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023).
- Ramlal, B. and **Tambie, J.** 2022, “A Qualitative Assessment of Geospatial Data Sharing Policies in the Caribbean”, *Industrial Engineering and Management Journal*, Vol.1, No. 2, December 2022, pp. 4–13

### Conference Proceedings & Published Abstracts

- **Mitchell, S.F.** and **James-Williamson, S.A.** (2022). Late Cretaceous rudist bivalves of the Caribbean Province. The First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites. IUGS, Spain 2022 p106–107. ISBN: 978-1-7923-9975-6 (**Peer-reviewed**)
- Rahamut, M. O. and **Stemann, T.A.** 2022. Signals of two-stage accretion of the Late Pleistocene coral reef deposits in Treasure Beach and Rio Bueno, Jamaica. *Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs*. Vol 54, No. 5, 2022 doi: 10.1130/abs/2022AM-381079 (**Peer-reviewed**)
- Harris Peta-Gay, **Mandal Arpita** and Gordon Smith Debbie Ann. 2022. Groundwater Quality and Water Resource Assessment of The Kingston Basin Jamaica. *Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs*. Vol 54, No 5, 2022. doi: 10.1130/abs/2022AM-381792 (**Peer-reviewed**)

### Other Publications

- **Edwards, Thera.** 2022. “Climate Change Adaptation Plan: Coastal Sector.” Prepared for the Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment & Climate Change on behalf of the Climate Studies Group, UWI.
- **Edwards, Thera, M. Ford** and E. Robinson. 2022. “Vulnerability Risk Assessment Report for Five Priority Sectors: The Coastal Sector”. Prepared for the Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment & Climate Change on behalf of the Climate Studies Group, UWI.

- Mahabir, A. 2022. Book review: Multifaceted Identities of Immigrant Haitian Families: Coping Strategies and Strengths. *Caribbean Quarterly*, 68(4), 625–627. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00086495.2022.2139561>
- Mahabir, A. 2023. Book review: The City as Action: Retheorizing Urban Studies. *Urban Studies*, 60(1), 205–207. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00420980221137012>
- Smith, R. 2023. “Back to the Future: Organic Coffee farming for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Livelihoods”, Blog Post, Women in Coffee (JAWiC), <https://jawic.org/blog/back-to-the-future-organic-coffee-farming-for-climate-change-mitigation-and-sustainable-livelihoods>
- Lester, S. 2023. “Closing the water loop to accelerate change,” *Jamaica Gleaner*, 22 March (print).
- Mahabir, A. “The opportunities and challenges in making the renewable energy transition in the Caribbean region.” It was featured on the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency’s (CCREEE) website: <https://www.ccreee.org/blog/making-the-transition/>

## ALIGNMENT

### PAPERS PRESENTED

#### Conference Presentations

- McHugh, C.M., Seeber, L., Hornbach, M., Wright, V., Steckler, M.S., Magnani, M.B., Gulick, S.P.S., Leroy, S., Cabiati-Pico, V., Kersh, J.C., Kilburn, R., Dasent, J., **James-Williamson, S.**, Chillrud, S.N., Ross, J.M. 2022. Submarine Record of Disastrous Earthquakes at a Strain Partitioned Transpressional Boundary: NSF RAPID Response of the Enriquillo-Plantain Garden Fault, Jamaica Passage. T15C-0142 presented at the AGU Fall Meeting, 12–16 December, 2022, Chicago, Illinois, USA and online.
- **Mandal, A.** 2022 Groundwater Quality and Water Resource Assessment of the Kingston Basin Jamaica. Presented at GSA Annual Meeting 12th Oct, Denver USA.
- **Lester, S.** 2022. Good Water Governance: Shifting the Paradigm for a Water Secure Future in Jamaica. Presented at the Caribbean Water and Wastewater 31st Annual Conference and Exhibition on October 17–21, 2022. Nassau, Bahamas.
- **James-Williamson, S.A.** 2022. “Late Cretaceous rudist bivalves of the Caribbean Province.” Presented at the IUGS 60th Anniversary Conference in Zumaia, Spain October 25–28, 2022.

- **Edwards, Thera.** 2023. Jamaican delegate for discussions on “contributions to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report on The Physical Science Basis, Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, and Mitigation of Climate Change”. Fifth International Conference for the World Balance, Havana, Cuba, January 26, 2023.
- Cruickshank, A., **Smith R.**, Compton, S., and Laidlow-Ferdinand, A. 2023. “A post-eruption analysis of the significance and challenges of addressing disaster risk management through community-based organisations in St. Vincent and the Grenadines,” Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.” Explosions, Ash and Lahars: The 2020–21 Eruption of La Soufrière Volcano, St.Vincent. Country Conference 2023, March 29–30, 2023.
- **Lester, S and Campbell, D.** 2023. “The Interplay among Food Security, Wellbeing and Climate Risk Management Practices in the Upper Rio Minho Watershed. “ HRDSG Hazards in Agricultural and Pastoral Regions 1 Session, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting 2023, March 23–27, 2023.
- **James-Williamson, S.A.** and Dolphy, Jorjan E. “Geoparks as a Repository for Natural Heritage in the Caribbean” Presented Panel at Museums Association of the Caribbean Conference, Nassau, Bahamas, March 1–5, 2023. 2023 MAC Conference Digital Programme Book pp. 9–10.
- Anderson, R.A and **Kinlocke, R.L.** 2023 An examination of the digital divide and its implications for social and economic development in Fruitfulvale, Jamaica. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting 2023.
- Dougherty, K. 2023. Factors influencing the adoption of climate smart agricultural practices in Grenadian nutmeg agro-ecosystems. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting March 23–27, 2023, Denver Colorado, USA.
- Mahabir, A.I and **Kinlocke, R.L.** 2023. Mindsets of marginalisation: Exploring the emotional geographies of exclusion, explicit bias, and discrimination. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting March 23–27, 2023, Denver Colorado, USA.
- Steele, S. 2023. Challenges and Opportunities for Community Resilience: An Assessment of Coping and Adaptation Strategies to Rainfall Hazards in the Rio Grande Valley, Jamaica. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting March 23–27, 2023, Denver Colorado, USA.
- Scott, L. 2023. Socio-economic and behavioural factors influence farmer’s willingness to use individual and group weather insurance. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting March 23–27, 2023, Denver Colorado, USA.
- **Mandal, A.** 2023. attended Hydromet Caribbean, a regional symposium for the Caribbean with weather, water and climate professionals organized by Varysian on January 31–February 2, 2023 at the Jamaica Pegasus. The symposium focused on improving data, developing partnerships and building resilient hydromet infrastructure.

- **Smith, R. 2023.** “Moving beyond Quantity: Areas for Intervention in Strengthening Community Resilience to Climate Change.” presented at the Commonwealth Science Conference (CSC), February 22–26, 2023.
- Plummer, N., A. Richards and **T. Edwards.** 2022. Connecting Caribbean Youth to Climate Justice through Plant Heritage Stories and Music. Mico University College Online Conference on Climate Change and Environmental Education. October 14, 2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3Uwppw5xDI>

### Workshops/Webinars/Seminars

#### Invited Talks

- **Simon F. Mitchell.** “Everything you ever wanted to know about earthquakes” Kiwanis Club of Kingston. 24th January 2023.
- **Mandal, A.** Hazard Assessment Methodology and Work Plan. Presented at the CCDRIP ISD workshop on Hazards and Early Warning system in Dominica. October 19, 2022.
- **James-Williamson, S.A.** Vulnerability Assessment Methodology and Work Plan. Presented at the CCDRIP ISD workshop on Vulnerability Survey for the CCDRIP in Dominica. October 19, 2022.
- **Dr Rose-Ann Smith** participated in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation Consultations on the Draft National Squatter Policy and Implementation Plan.
- **Dr Robert Kinlocke** participated in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation Consultations on the Draft National Squatter Policy and Implementation Plan.
- **Dr Sarah Buckland** presented at the *Keyano College Conference on Climate Change, Canada* (Virtual Presentation) March 25, 2023. “Critical Analysis of the IPCC Climate Risk Framework in Predicting Impacts in a Developing World Context: Case Study of Community Scale Drought Assessments Across Selected Farming Areas in Clarendon, Jamaica”.
- **Dr Thera Edwards** presented on the topic ‘SDG 13 Climate Action – What Can NGOs Do To Combat Climate Change and Its Impact?’ in the Council for Voluntary and Social Services and Caribbean Policy Development Centres series for Capacity strengthening of Civil Society Organisations on April 18, 2023.
- **Dr Thera Edwards** was a panellist for “Reimagining Nanny: Her Sword, A Seed.” Panel Discussion on Nanny of the Maroons hosted on March 23, 2023 by New York University.
- **Dr. Thera Edwards** was a panellist along with L. Douglas, M. Smith and Gamma Mama G for the “ReImagining Nanny: Her Sword, A Seed Documentary Premiere and Panel Discussion” at 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Charles Town Maroon Conference and Festival. June 24, 2023.

- **Dr. Thera Edwards** was a facilitator at workshops for the “Teaching Climate Justice and Resilience through Ancestral Plant Heritage in Jamaica” project held in Linstead and Lauriston, St. Catherine. October 13 & 14, 2022.
- **Simon F. Mitchell.** “Timing and distribution of Paleogene (30–66 Ma) rifting in Jamaica” Geological Society of Jamaica public lecture, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- **Simon F. Mitchell.** “The Earthquake Unit and Earthquakes” (invited talk). Earthquake Symposium, University of Technology, Jamaica, 18th May 2023.
- **Dr Shaneica Lester** presented “Rethinking Urban Water Management: A Case of the Kingston Water Supply System” at the Varysian Network Webinar on July 13, 2023.
- **James-Williamson, S.A.** 2023 “Geoconservation in Jamaica” presented at the ProGEO regional network for Latin America and the Caribbean Inaugural Workshop (Virtual) on April 26, 2023.
- **Dr Arpita Mandal** presented at the B.R.E.W. Online Research Forum – Part 1: Water – Agenda March 22nd 2023. Topic: Water – A Vanishing Resource.
- **Dr Thera Edwards** presented “Jamaica’s Watershed Area Management Mechanism.” Talk at Faculty of Science and Technology B.R.E.W Online Research Forum, Part 1 – Water. March 22, 2023.
- **Dr. Shaneica Lester** attended GlobalSCAPE: Global Relevance in Science Communication Workshop on February 10, 2023. The workshop is part of the Horizon 2020 GlobalSCAPE Project – funded by the European Union The workshop was focused on raising and building the capacity of the science communicators about differences in audience and context when planning and delivering science communication. The workshop presented an opportunity to assess gaps in science communication locally and globally and solutions to some of the barriers to effective science communication.
- **Dr Patrice Pinder** “East meets west: A candid talk on the pros and cons of using standardized tests as assessment tools of students in mathematics and science; globally, what appears to work and not work?” Invited Presentation Given at The 1st Standard-based Assessment and Evidence-based Research (SAER) International Conference (Hybrid), Jiangsu University, Zhenjiang, China (Virtual) [International Visibility–China].

### Conference/Workshop/Webinar Attendance

#### Dr Shaneica Lester

- participated in a Webinar themed: “World Water Day 2023 – “Water for people and cooperation partnership.” Monday March 20, 2023. International Water Resources Association (IWRA).

- participated in the 2nd Caribbean Symposium on Water hosted by the Global Water Partnership Caribbean (GWP-C) on Tuesday March 21, 2023 (virtual).
- attended the first meeting of the Consortium of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Education and Training Collaborating Partners (CONNECT) as representatives from Jamaica April 17–19, 2023, online. The meeting was held in Geneva but delivered in hybrid mode.
- **Dr Taneisha Edwards** participated in the Geological Society of America's Joint North Eastern & South Eastern Section Meeting March 13–19.
- **Dr Sherene James-Williamson** and **Jorjan Dolphy** attended the ProGEO regional network for Latin America and the Caribbean Inaugural Workshop (Virtual) on April 26, 2023.
- **Dr Arpita Mandal** attended the first meeting of the Consortium of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Education and Training Collaborating Partners (CONNECT) as representatives from Jamaica April 17–19, 2023, online. The meeting was held in Geneva but delivered in hybrid mode.
- **Dr Rose-Ann Smith** presented at the Department of Community Health and Psychiatry Disaster Management Virtual Workshop April 17–19, 2023 on the topic "Managing Climate Related Disasters".
- **Dr Thera Edwards** participated as a Lead Author for "Chapter 6 - Scenarios and pathways to a sustainable future" in Workshop #2 on the Second Order Draft of the Grenada National Ecosystem Assessment (Grenada - NEA) on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023 via Zoom.
- **Dr Thomas A. Stemmann** attended the Annual General Meeting of the Geological Society of America in Denver, Colorado, USA Oct. 8–12, 2022. Participated in the Oct. 10 meeting of the International Section of the Geological Society of America with discussions focussing on accessing funding for post-graduate students to attend future conferences.
- **Dr Jason Tambie**, attended the ESRI Annual User Conference in San Diego California, July 10–14, 2023.
- Final year Geography majors **Caitlin Milne** and **Rodane Samuels** participated in the YouthMappers leadership Fellowship held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, January 4–13, 2023. The 2023 cohort of leaders was the largest fellowship with 67 tertiary level students from 28 countries. The summit themes were:
  - **M** – Mapping for Climate Resilience
  - **A** – Activating Youth Leadership
  - **P** – Promoting Equity and Inclusion
- Graduate Students Lance Scott, Ayesha Constable and Jhannel Tomlinson represented The UWI/Jamaica at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) from November 8–18, 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

Lance Scott participated in a group activity surrounding Climate Activism and Climate Justice. He was invited to an official High-Level meeting with the Executive Director of the UN's Climate mobility where they discussed mapping of the Caribbean region and Climate Modelling of climate impact projections.

### New partnerships

- Dr James-Williamson engaged Etienne Peterson, PhD candidate Institut d'Études et de Recherches, Université d'État d'Haïti Africaines d'Haïti (IERAH-ISERSS), Lornadale Charles, Managing Director at The Social Mind (TSM) and Samantha Campbell, Assistant Curator, UWI Museum as liaisons in their respective countries for the geoparks and geoheritage aspects of the UNESCO International Geoscience Programme project IGCP718 "Bringing Geoheritage to Life".
- Dominica State College through lecturer Valda Joseph for the CCC-DRIP Project.

### Meetings Hosted

- Dr Sherene James-Williamson through her UNESCO IGCP grant (IGCP 718) hosted a webinar entitled "Disaster Heritage: Can Memorializing Disasters Make People More Resilient." the webinar was a collaboration between IGCP 718, IGCP 692, the UWI Museum and the Department of Geography and Geology. The webinar was presented in English, French and Spanish and engaged approximately 50 participants from across Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and North America. The webinar was moderated by Dr James-Williamson – Presenters included Dr Robert Kinlocke (Geo-Geo, "*Resilience theory and heritage*"), Dr Shani Roper (UWI Museum), Dr Marie Hardy-Seguet (Mémorial de la catastrophe, musée, Martinique), Dr Patrice Pinder (Geo-Geo, "*Building coping strategies and resilience among young children after natural disasters: The role of education in memorializing disasters.*") and Dr Lesley-Gail Atkinson Swaby (History and Archaeology, UWI).
- Arpita Mandal conducted a course on Hydrological and Hydraulic Modeling to the Postgraduate students of The Department of Geography, West Bengal State University, Kolkata July 11–14, 2023.
- Arpita Mandal delivered a guest lecture on Flooding and Landslide hazard in Jamaica;GIS based modeling at The Department of Geography, Womens University Kolkata, July 20th 2023.

### Short Courses Attended

- **Dr Rose-Ann Smith** participated in "Sectoral Recovery Capacity Assessment (SRCA) Methodology" Training held at the World Bank Office, June 27–29, 2023, Jamaica. This workshop was organised by CDEMA and the Canada-Caribbean Resilience Facility (CRF). It involved in-depth training on the structure,

scoring and recovery capacity index calculation. Participants were trained in how to apply the tool within countries and how to report on the data collected. Participated in Jamaica Women in Coffee (JAWiC) training session and closing ceremony that focused on building the capacity of women in coffee through training in areas that involve livelihood sustainability and adaptation to climate change impacts.

- **Dr Taneisha Edwards** completed a course entitled Introduction to Applied Micropaleontology held by United States Geological Survey in association with the Geological Society of America March 17–18, 2023
- **Dr Shaneica Lester** completed a Certificate in Climate Resilience and Integrated Water Resources Management, July 4–23, 2023 organized by Caribbean WaterNet, Global Water Partnership-Caribbean Water Academy for Youth and the University of the West Indies, Faculty of Food and Agriculture.
- **Thomas A. Stemann** participated in a short course on Modelling Paleoecological Data on Oct. 8, 2022 in the GSA AGM in Denver, CO.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

### **Dr. Shaneica Lester**

- Board member – The Water Resources Authority
- Commissioner – The Land Development and Utilization Commission
- Board Member – Caribbean Geography Speciality Group of the American Association of Geographers in the position of At-Large Officer.
- Member of the Consortium of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Education and Training Collaborating Partners (CONNECT)
- Fellow – United Nations Environment Programme Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7)
- Member – Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association

### **Prof. Simon F. Mitchell**

- Scientific Committee, International Congress on Rudist Bivalves
- Scientific Committee, Caribbean Geological Conference
- Editor, UWI Contributions to Geology
- Language Editor, Carnets de Geology
- Chairman, Jamaican Stratigraphic Committee

### **Dr. Sherene James-Williamson**

- Editor – *Caribbean Journal of Earth Science*

- Editor – Caribbean Museums
- Member – Science Advisory Committee of the Jamaican National Commission for UNESCO
- Member – ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme Country Working Group
- Member – Declarations Committee, Jamaica National Heritage Trust
- Assistant Chief Invigilator – Caribbean Examinations Council
- Council Member, Geological Society of Jamaica

#### **Dr. Thera Edwards**

- 2023 Berkshire Conference of Women, Genders and Sexualities Program Committee
- 53rd Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean Historians (ACH) Local Organising Committee.
- Geography Awareness Week Planning Committee
- Contributing Expert, World Justice Project (WJP) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB Environmental Governance in Latin America study
- Mentor, UWI Mona Guild Intergenerational Women's Mentorship Programme
- Associate Evangelist, Diocese of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands (UWI Chapel)
- Chairman, Board of Directors – Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation
- Assistant Chief Invigilator – Caribbean Examinations Council

#### **Mr. Kevin Tankoo (Research Fellow & Unit Head Earthquake Unit)**

- AAPG Latin America & Caribbean Region Chapter undergraduate mentor and project advisor

#### **Dr. Arpita Mandal**

- Member of the Technical Committee of Global Water Partnership Caribbean (GWP-C)
- Jamaica Representative, CONECT Management Group of WMO Education and Training program

#### **Dr. Taneisha Edwards**

- Vice President, Geological Society of Jamaica
- Co-coordinator for the Marine Geology Unit
- Member – American Women Geoscientists
- Member – Geological Society of America

- Member – European Geophysical Union
- Member – Society for Sedimentary Geology
- Member – Coastal Education and Research Foundation

**Dr. Thomas Stemann**

- Council Member, Geological Society of Jamaica

**Dr Jason Tambie**

- Member of the UWI-Trinity Exploration and Production Services Working Group

**Dr. Sarah Buckland**

- Member of the Global Land Programme

**Dr Rose-Ann Smith**

- Board Member, Jamaica Women in Coffee (JAWiC)
- Board Member, Enablers of Community Advancement Projects and Initiatives (ECAPI) Limited)

**OUTREACH, VISIBILITY & LINKAGES**

- Cape Workshop – The department participated in this year’s workshops on January 12 and 13, 2023.
- Simon Mitchell. Fool’s Gold in Hanover, Jamaica. Nationwide, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023
- Simon Mitchell. Fool’s Gold in Hanover, Jamaica. Beyond the Headlines, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023
- Simon Mitchell. Fool’s Gold in Hanover, Jamaica. TVJ, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023
- Simon Mitchell. Fool’s Gold in Hanover, Jamaica. Love FM, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023
- Taneisha Edwards. Fool’s Gold in Hanover, Jamaica, Smile Jamaica, TVJ, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Dr Patrice Pinder**

- Research was highlighted and cited in various news articles during the month of January. The list of linked articles are listed below. The research content highlighted relates to her work on “Black immigrants and their STEM performances/achievement in the USA, Canada, and the UK.” Cultural differences in how students perform in STEM was highlighted in the article; as well as advocacy for Black students and immigrants embracing a STEM education.

- @ Word in Black Press (a collaborative of 10 US media outlets across the USA), Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023
- Advocates Believe Education System Should Factor Cultural Differences Between African and African American Students – Word In Black
- @ Seattle Medium News, Wednesday, January 4, 2023 (*This article is one of a series of articles produced by Word in Black through support provided by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. Word In Black is a collaborative of 10 Black-owned media outlets across the country*):
- Advocates Believe Education System Should Factor Cultural Differences Between African And African American Students – The Seattle Medium
- @ Sacramento Observer News, Tuesday, January 10, 2023
- Advocates Believe Education System Should Factor Cultural Differences Between African and African American Students (sacobserver.com)
- @ Intercultural Press News Source, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023
- <https://theintercultural.press/a-religion-primarily-based-schooling-system-must-embrace-cultural-variations-between-african-and-african-american-college-students>

### **Sarah F. Buckland**

- Survey Consultation for Belmont Forum Project: Management of Disaster Risk and Societal Resilience Team. Other members of the team included – Michael Jacobson, Penn State University, USA; Adelaide Nardocci, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil; Nazmiye Ozkan, School of Water, Energy and Environment, Cranfield University, UK; Abdullah Konak, Penn State University, USA. (January 2023)
- Warriors, Influencers and Nurturers: Lessons from the Dahlia Flower. Students for Life Jamaica Presentation in collaboration with the Love March Movement and Chosen to GLOW Ministries (January 7, 2023, Devon House, Jamaica).
- Dr Taneisha Edwards had a group discussion with undergraduates in the student's UWI Geographical Society entitled: Strategic career planning for geologists and geoscientists in training. March 2, 2023, 2:00–3:00 pm
- The UWI Geological Society and the UWI Geographical Society jointly hosted a World Water Day Symposium on March 23, 2023, “Accelerating Change” Speakers included.
  - Mr. Geoffrey Marshall, The Deputy Managing Director of the WRA, Dr. Arpita Mandal, Ms. Melissa Curtis and 2 final-year students – Ms. Kelysia Williams and Ms. Kemala Alexander. The programme was moderated by

level 2 students Duvania Evans (Department Representative on FST Guild and Tisheika Thompson (President, UWI Geological Society).

- YouthMappers Mona Chapter was launched on Thursday March 30, 2023 with student leads **Caitlin Milne** and **Rodane Samuels** and Dr Thera Edwards as Staff Advisor.
- **Matthew O. Rahamut** and Thomas A. Stemann led a field trip for the Geological Society of Jamaica to Pleistocene Coral Reef exposures in the Treasure Beach area on 15 April 2023. For this trip the following paper was produced for the participants:
- Rahamut, Matthew O. and Thomas A. Stemann, 2023. Field guide to the Late Pleistocene reef exposures of Treasure Beach, Jamaica. pages 1–6.

## **AGILITY**

### **INCOME GENERATION**

#### **Research Grants**

- Earthquake Unit received a grant of **JMD\$100 million from the World Bank and JSIF** to strengthen the capacity of the EQU.
- The Map and Image Library received 2 Sandusky-Lee 72”H Storage Cabinets and ~350 Acid Free Storage Boxes from Gaylord Archival Supplies to provide improved storage conditions for The Royal Holloway College, University of London Aerial Photograph Collection. Total value of the items is **USD\$7,491.74**. Funding was provided by the Glasgow Caribbean Centre for Development Research.