



Jamaican Geode

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Geological Society of Jamaica

ISSN 1016 - 1936

Volume 13, Number 1
January 2005

Annual General Meeting 2005

Geological Society of Jamaica AGM

KEY NOTE SPEAKER

Mr. Franklyn McDonald

**The Role of the Earth Sciences
in Sustainable Development**

TIME: : **9:00AM**

DATE: **Saturday 12 February 2005**

LOCATION: **Inter-faculty lecture theater, UWI**

17th Geological Conference

July 17 - 21, 2005

Puerto Rico

For more information contact:

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**Geological Society
of Jamaica**

**50th Anniversary
Conference**

1-2 December 2005

U.W.I Mona Visitor's
Lodge

Conference will include
presentations, a ban-
quet and fieldtrips.

Watch your email for
more info.



OBITUARY



HOWARD R. VERSEY

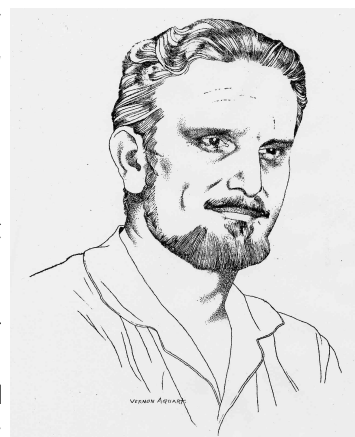
Howard R. Versey Former president of the Geological Society of Jamaica (1965) and former director of the Geological Survey (1966-1968) died on April 16th 2004 at his home in Leeds, U.K at age 76.

Son of a geologist, Mr. Versey was born, bred and educated in Leeds. His parents were keen naturalists and they endowed him with an abiding interest in the "open air". He was educated at Roundhay School, Leeds and Leeds University from which he graduated in 1949. Later that year, he was appointed geologist in the newly formed Geological Survey of Jamaica. His first six years were devoted to mapping the White Limestone Formation., and he succeeded in zoning the formation on the basis of large foraminifera and worked out the relationship between the several facies. This work gained him an M.Sc. In 1957.

Mr. Versey received special training under the United Nations Technical Aid Program and was in charge of the Ground Water Branch of the Geological Survey, responsible for all matters concerning underground water and its development. He was appointed Senior Geologist in 1959.

In addition to publications on stratigraphy and ground water hydrology, he has also written on Karst physiography in Jamaica and has been associated in publications on the Montego Bay earthquake of 1957 and on resistivity prospecting for water. (Geonotes 1960 Vol. 3 Pt. 1)

Mr. Versey is especially remembered for his pioneering work on the geology of the White Limestone Group.



Portrait By Vernon Aquart

The Geological Society of Jamaica would like to express our sincere condolences to Professor Trevor Jackson at the passing of his Mother and also to Mr. Gavin Gunter at the passing of his Father.

CONGRATS!!

Congratulations to Tony Porter on his new post as chief geologist at The Jamaica Bauxite Institute (JBI) as of March 1st 2004.

Congrats also to Gavin Gunter on his new post as a geologist with the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica.

The GSJ welcomes short articles, technical information, reports, news items, old photos etc. which are suitable for inclusion in the Newsletter. Submissions should be made to the Geological Society of Jamaica newsletter c/o Department of Geography and Geology, University of the West Indies Mona, Kingston 7.



Portland Field Trip Report

The field trip that took place on Valentine's Day and therefore dubbed "Romancing the Stone" had a more official subtitle – 'Geology and Coastal Hazards of North Eastern Jamaica'; and really the day was an appropriately disguised trip to beaches in Portland. After all, when one thinks of romance in our fair tropical isle, a beach is a likely image – even better in the still under trafficked parish of Portland, so what better place to seek it?

On a more serious note, this was a seriously good trip – the group was a fairly large one, with a mix of students, lecturers, graduates of geology and perhaps the most interesting (or is it interested?) lot – members and friends of the society who are into geology for the curiosity of it.



The various stops – Orange Bay, Hope Bay, St. Margaret's Bay, the view from Rio Vista and Folly Point were good demonstrations of environmental changes in a relatively short period of time; and yes, it was even a little romantic.



It was a good day – even a little swimming was possible at the lunch stop at Folly. Most did the wade to Woods Island and



for me the view was stunning – I am already planning my return! Well led Prof. Rob – where will you take us next?

Shanti Persaud
Council member

The Island of the Palisadoes

The Marine Geology Unit headed by Professor Edward Robinson has been carrying out research on coastal hazards in Jamaica. With the passage of Hurricane Ivan The Palisadoes and the surrounding areas have received much attention.

The damage sustained along the Palisadoes main road posed the question "Can the Palisadoes survive another hurricane?" published in the Jamaica Observer Sunday January 2nd 2005.



Investigating the damage along the Palisadoes. (L-R) Chris Gayle, George Warner, Monica Warner, Deborah-Ann Rowe & Derrick Gayle

The marine Geology Unit has continued their work and produced a document "The island of the Palisadoes" which is posted on the Marine geology Web site

<http://www.mona.uwi.edu/geoggeol/mgu/coastalhazards.htm>



GSJ Membership 2004-2005

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 Shereen Nairne
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 Deborah- Ann Rowe
 Jamar White
 Stephanie Williams

ASSOCIATE

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 Kai Meng Lui
 Joe-Ella Mitchell
 Deborah Smythe
 Monica Warner
 Elizabeth Montoya Stemann
 Karlene Black
 Peta-Ann Cherié

HONORARY

Trevor Jackson
 Edward Robinson
 Anthony Porter
 Vincent Hill

Tremors

The current issue of the Jamaica Journal –vol. 27 Nos. 2-3

Black Corals in Jamaica– George F. Warner

Port Royal Its Geological Heritage Anthony R.D. Porter

Recently Published Volume on the White Limestone Group

A special volume entitled *The Mid-Cainozoic White Limestone Group of Jamaica* was published in the journal *Cainozoic Research*, 3(1-2) December 2004. Edited by Geological Society of Jamaica member, Prof. Stephen K. Donovan, this special issue of *Cainozoic Research* covers a broad range of topics dealing with the White Limestone, Jamaica's most extensive lithostratigraphic unit. It includes 12 papers by authors from the University of the West Indies, Canada, Denmark, the U.K., and the U.S. With over 220 pages detailing the latest research on lithostratigraphy, biostratigraphy, bentonites, invertebrate and vertebrate fossil groups, and karst geomorphology in the White Limestone Group, this volume promises to be a crucial resource for anyone working with this unit.



AGM 2004 HIGHLIGHTS



(Left) Dr. Wiggins-Grandison during her presentation



(Above) A captive audience



(Above L-R) Dr. S. Mitchell, Dr. M. Wiggins-Grandison & Dr. T. Stemann

(photo at Right) Mr. A. Porter & Mr. I. Brown (foreground)



Photos by Prof. Edward Robinson



ISSN 1016 - 1936

Editor: Shakira Khan
Layout: Shanti Persaud

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GSJ MEMBERSHIP FORM 2004 – 05

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At which address would you like to receive mail?

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MEMBERSHIP FEES (Indicate your status with an asterisk (**))

| STATUS | ANNUAL FEE (J\$) |
|---------------|------------------|
| Institutional | 3,000.00 |
| Professional | 500.00 |
| Associate | 200.00 |
| Student | 100.00 |

Areas of Interest: _____

Membership in the Society is open to all persons with an interest in Geology and all related earth sciences. Application for Membership may be submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer, Geological Society of Jamaica. c/o Department of Geography & Geology, University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica. **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING EACH YEAR OR BY THE 31ST OF JANUARY.**

Jamaican Geoscience Abroad

Three of our members recently attended the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado from 7-10 November 2004 and gave presentations dealing with a diverse set of Jamaican research projects. Mr. Donovan Blissett gave a talk entitled "Aspects of micro and macroborings from the White Limestone Group, Jamaica, West Indies". Ms. Sherene James presented a talk entitled "Tectonic-sedimentary history of Southeastern Jamaica" while Dr. Thomas Stemann presented "Extant and extinct corals on a Late Pliocene reef tract from Jamaica". Associated with this meeting, Ms. James and Dr. Stemann also were reasonably well-behaved at a valuable symposium on Beer and Geology. Published ab-