



University of Belize

**UB**

Education Empowers a Nation

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## Government transfers land title to UB

*Many Faces, Many Dreams, One Goal - Celebrating Belize*



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# Government of Belize transfers land title to UB

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources and Agriculture, Hon. Gaspar Vega on September 5, presented the land title for the Central Farm Campus (CFC) to the University of Belize during the inauguration of a newly constructed building that will house classrooms and a Soil and Biology laboratory.

In his Keynote Address entitled: "Agriculture: the foundation of our diversified economy," the Deputy Prime Minister said that UB has played an important role in the development of agriculture in Belize. The DPM indicated, that the collaboration between the ministry and UB offers an opportunity for the two agencies to have a positive impact upon development across all districts in Belize.

"We are certain that the training at UB will deliver many new entrepreneurs in agriculture that will become excellent employers," he said. "These new facilities for UB will also increase your capacity and we look forward to your new students and graduates actively participating in the job of revitalizing the agriculture and food sector."

The Deputy Prime Minister concluded that his ministry will also make available land to the two top graduates from UB's agriculture programme as a way to stimulate the growth of the agricultural sector.



Hon. Gaspar Vega



Speaking to the gathering, Campus Administrator, Dr. Gordon Holder remarked that CFC graduates have distinguish themselves as farmers, agribusiness entrepreneurs, technicians and professionals for the agro-industry due to relevant skills training and competencies acquired at CFC.

He added, that new building will promote the ongoing transformation of the campus into a working farm. The campus will also serve as a catalyst



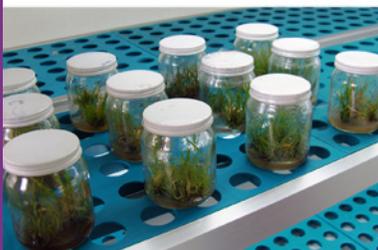
to promote growth and development of the agriculture sector through its training programs. The campus will be expanded through the establishment of a Bachelor’s program in Applied Agriculture.

“The building was constructed at a cost of \$90,000 with funds raised by the Central Farm Campus for the building materials,” said Dr. Holder. “It was built by the carpenters, the field staff and students of CFC.”

The President, Dr. Cary Fraser in thanking the Deputy Prime Minister for transferring the land title to the University, indicated that UB’s training program would encourage a focus on expanding rural incomes and productivity

increases in the agricultural sector.

Receiving the land title from the Deputy Prime Minister was the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University, Mrs. Imani Fairweather-Morrison. Also present at the inauguration were other Members of the Board, government officials, students, faculty and stakeholders.



The DPM during his visit to CFC, toured the Bio-Propagation Lab. The lab is designed to produce high quality planting materials for the banana and sugarcane industries

# Solar Energy: increase incomes/boost rural electrification/reduce greenhouse gases

Senior officials from the governments of Belize, Japan, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the University of Belize, stakeholders in the energy sector, and representatives of United Nations agencies gathered at the University's campus to witness the historic handing-over of the Solar Energy System by the Government of Japan to the Government of Belize on August 24 in Belmopan.

The University of Belize is the host of the Solar Energy System and its 2,664 photovoltaic panels. The panels will absorb sunlight and produce electricity. Thereafter, the power conditioners turn the direct current into alternating current that is sent to the transformer. The transformer boosts the voltage from 400 volts to 11,000 volts which is fed into the Belize Electricity Limited distribution grid. The System is connected directly to BEL, the national utility company. The power is sold to BEL and the revenue from such sales will be transferred by way of a grant to UB. Also, GoB will transfer ownership and management of the System after ten years to UB.

To date, 2,000 kilowatt hours has been generated daily by the facility since August 3, when it began its testing phase.

Speaking to the gathering, Ambassador of Japan to Belize, H.E. Hiroshi Yamaguchi said his government is proud to recognize Belize as a partner

“in the process of promoting one of the most advanced solar energy systems of the world here in Belize and as one of the cleanest power generating technologies available in this era.”

The Ambassador also added that the project has made adjustments to the generation capacity of the facility by increasing its output from 350 kilowatts to 480 Kilowatts.

The Hon. Senator Godwin Hulse, Minister of Local Government, Rural Development, Immigration and NEMO in thanking the Ambassador said that the Government of Belize is commit-



“...one of the most advanced solar energy systems of the world here in Belize”

ted to pursuing the development of renewal energy sources as part of its overall environment commitment to promoting green technology. It also signals Belize's contribution to worldwide environmental improvement.

The President of the University of Belize, Dr Cary Fraser in his remarks pointed out that students and faculty will benefit from this cutting-edge technology. He welcomed the opportunity to play a role in the development of an applied science tradition within the University that

“will prepare our students for the future and allow our faculty to pursue careers in the field of alternative energy technology.”



“...one small step for man and a giant leap for mankind,” Hon. Godwin Hulse

Belize can become a living laboratory for the use of solar power in agriculture to increase productivity and incomes, in construction, and, in rural electrification. In effect, solar power technology can allow Belize to move beyond the fossil fuel conundrum and open new avenues for creating opportunities for Belizeans.

The significance of this facility lies in its production of clean energy, replacing the use of fossil fuels in power generation and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.



## Learning new language for global communication



Orientation for International students attending the University of Belize to learn English as a Second Language through the 10 month intensive program offered by the University's Regional Language Center (RLC) was held in August.

The 41 students, upon successful completion of the program, will receive a certificate in English-as-a Second Language issued by UB.

The program offers these students the opportunity to develop a level of language proficiency that will prepare them for career development in their home countries.



The students are from Japan, Mexico, the Republic of China (Taiwan), Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, and the People's Republic of China.

## Music Expert: Reggae and Dancehall



Students, faculty, staff and members of the public gathered at the Jaguar Auditorium at the University of Belize in Belmopan to hear the "Sounds of Freedom: Reggae and Dancehall Music in Decolonization and the Formation of Caribbean Identities,"

by Professor Carolyn Cooper of Jamaica. The presentation was part of the 2012 September Celebrations in Belize.

Dr. Cooper is a professor of literary and cultural studies at UWI, Jamaica, and an advocate of the use of Jamaican creole.

Her work focuses upon Reggae and other popular musical idioms as well as the analysis of Jamaican Creole.



The lecture by Dr. Cooper was a collaboration between the University of Belize and the University of the West Indies, Open Campus, Belize.

# Semester Kickoff



Hundreds of students participated in the Semester Kick-off at Central Campus, Belmopan. Students at the event interacted with faculty members, joined various clubs as well demonstrated their athletic skills in basketball, volleyball and football. They also enjoyed themselves at the much anticipated bonfire.

## Student Leaders

Every year students elect their representatives at their University. Each campus has a Student Government body, for a term of one year and have the responsibility of being the voice of the student body. In August, the Student Governments of all the campuses were sworn in by the Dean of Student Affairs, Mr. William Neal. Students were briefed on the rules and responsibilities that come with their positions.

They then proceeded to elect their representatives of the Association of Student Governments (ASG). Hope Amadi, was elected Chair, Oliver Gray as Vice Chair , Cordelia Belezaire as Treasurer, and Mario Cho as Secretary.



William Neal, Hope Amadi, Oliver Gray, Cordelia Belezaire, Mario Cho

# Decriminalization of Marijuana?



The Office of Student Affairs held its first Divergent Discussion for this academic year on the "Decriminalization of Marijuana at the Jaguar Auditorium on August 29, 2012 during student hour. During the discussion, the students learned of the pros and cons of the proposed decriminalization of marijuana and its impact on Belize. Community activist and legendary basket ball player,

Clinton "Pulu" Lightburn argued that decriminalizing marijuana would be beneficial to Belize. Senator and high school counselor, Ms. Karen Bodden, shared her view that decriminalizing marijuana is not beneficial to Belize and Belizeans. The students also participated in a lively question and answer segment. Kudos to the Office of Student Affairs for organizing this relevant discussion!



# Superbond...What is it?



On Wednesday, 5 September 2012, a Divergent Discussion was held at University of Belize, Toledo campus during the student hour. Ms. Yasmine Andrews, Head Researcher from Great Belize Production Data Analysis and Research Center, presented for approximately 45 minutes on "Superbond: What does it mean for me? What does it mean for my community?" The remaining fifteen minutes included questions from the audience. The presentation was organized as a collaboration between the Toledo campus student government, instructor and student services campus coordinator, Glen Enriquez, and student counselor, Renee Wentz. A standing room only crowd gathered to listen to the presentation and ask questions of the presenter.

Students and faculty from the Toledo campus benefited from Ms. Andrews' presentation and expressed appreciation for her visit from Belize City.

Plans are underway for two more Divergent Discussions to be held at the Toledo campus this semester and all students at the campus are encouraged to participate.

# Convocation: Touching Lives Forever

Students of the Faculty of Management and Social Sciences gathered at the Jaguar Auditorium on September 12, to participate in the faculty's annual convocation. They took the opportunity to meet with their Dean, Dr. Vicent Palacio, and lecturers. The students also received an overview of the Faculty's activities and



events in which

they can participate. Remarks were presented by a representative of the Ministry of Economic Development and alumni of the University of Belize, Mrs. Gayle Garnett.

The Faculty also has an honor society, Sigma Beta Epsilon, which recruits high performing students. Representing the honour society was

Ms. Fiona Briceño, who listed the advantages of belonging to the society. The Accounting Society also presented information regarding their club.

The theme of this year's convocation was "FMSS Touching Lives Forever"

## Barton Scholarship Recipients

The Barton scholarships support students who apply for financial assistance and who are also pursuing programs that will contribute towards Belize's development. The Barton Scholarship program is funded by a British couple who make an annual contribution to the University of Belize. For the academic year 2012-2013 the program is supporting 17 students.



Students wishing to apply for this program can do so during April-June, 2013.

For further information kindly contact the office of the Assistant Provost.

# PATRIOTISM... UB Honors Patriot

Every year during the national September festivities, students, faculty and staff participate in UB's annual Patriotic Day celebrations to demonstrate their patriotism. Guest Speaker at this year's event was Mr. Inez Sanchez, a former Patriot and educator.

This year's Patriot is recognized for her notable and selfless contributions to the development of Education spanning some 50 years. Presenting the award to Mrs. Beatrice

"Patriotism has been defined as an undying love for one's country, and love of country for which one is prepared to die for if need be," said Mr. Sanchez. "Nurture love of country in yourself, by yourself and for yourself. That would be true patriotism."

Kingston Smith was His Excellency, Governor General of Belize, Sir Colville Young.

At the event, students participated in patriotic poetry, song, and dress competitions. Melonie Gillett, a leading Belizean singer also entertained the audience.

The event celebrates the legacies of the 1798 Battle of St. George's Caye and Belize's Independence in 1981 in shaping Belizean patriotic sentiment.

