



UB RECEIVES AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT DONATION

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WELCOME, NEW STUDENTS

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ASSISTING THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

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University of Belize Collaborates with Texas A&M University



A group of 17 international Students and two professors from Texas A&M University, Kingsville (TAMUK), Texas during a 13 day Study Tour which was developed and coordinated in collaboration with the University of Belize. The professor met with UB officials and discussed the possibility of establishing a formal agreement or Memorandum of Understanding that would include various academic activities.

The focus of this year's Study Abroad Program focused on communication disorders and involved 10 graduate students from TAMUK led by Dr. Alan L. Seitel, Associate Professor of Communication Sciences & Disorders, and seven undergraduate students from a sister school, Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) led by Melissa Garcia, Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences & Disorders.

Students involved in the academic component of this Study Tour participated in a four day Service Learning/Practicum at the Stella Marris School in Belize City. They also took the opportunity to visit popular destinations such as San Pedro, Ambergris Caye; San Ignacio; Xanantunich Maya Ruin; and the Belize Zoo.



UB History Lecturer Mr. Joseph Sampson, teaching about Belizean History

The professors from TAMUK envisioned that the Study Abroad Program to Belize would become an annual event. Further aspirations from both institutions involve a possible collaboration in a program in Speech Pathology and other possible areas of interest. The University of Belize believes that these types of international partnerships will contribute positively to the Belizean community and expand areas of expertise within the university.

The visiting delegation arrived on the eve of the new year.

UB Receives Agricultural Equipment Donation

The Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) has donated, through the CARICOM Education for Employment project (C-EFE), equipment to the Agriculture Department of the University of Belize. The equipment forms part of enhanced facilities for the introduction of a demand driven, skill based curriculum scheduled for July of 2015.

The donation, valued at approximately \$32,000, is part of \$80,000 worth of capital items that the project will provide to Central Farm to enhance the delivery of skill based training in soil, agronomy, livestock husbandry, and food processing. The presentation was made at the College of Agriculture of the University on January 23, 2014 to the Acting President, Dr. Wilma Wright, by Ms. Marie Legault of DFATD (formerly CIDA) on behalf of the C-EFE project. The equipment will be used to develop hands-on skills in soil sampling, soil characterization for crop production and management, and land evaluation.



Dr. Wilma Wright, Dr. Gordon Holder, and Ms. Marie Lagault

The Institutional Partnership Component of the C-EFE project was launched on April 11, 2013 and is scheduled to last for three years with a total budget of \$1.63M(BZ). Funding is provided by DFATD (\$0.88M), the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (\$0.47M), and the University of Belize (\$0.28M) and is part of a regional initiative supported by Canada to realign education with the needs of industry.

Dr. Wright, on behalf of the University, expressed her appreciation to DFATD for their valuable support through Ms. Legault and members of the visiting team which included Dr. Linda Cooke, the regional coordinator for C-EFE; Ms. Pat Bidart, senior C-EFE advisor to Jamaica and Belize; and Mr. Phil Westman, the Canadian Rep in Belize.



Also on hand at the event were members of the UB Management team and the chair of the project's steering committee, Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim of IICA, who used the occasion to discuss achievements of the project to date. He also gave an outline of the project's work plan for 2014. This was all done within the context of a 5-year development plan for the Central Farm Campus of the University.

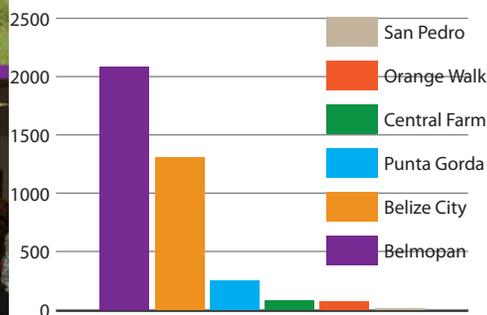
Welcome Students



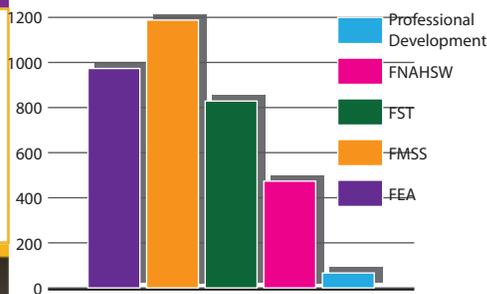
3,538

students registered for this semester

Students Registered by Campus



Students Registered by Faculty

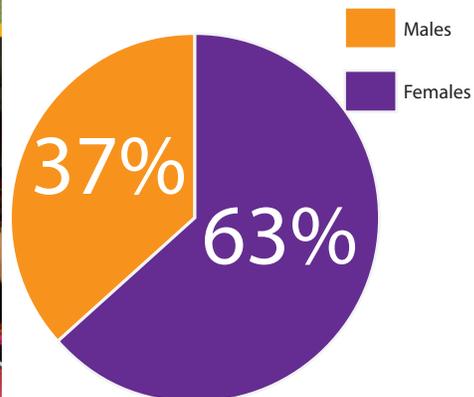


The University of Belize welcomed the new students on January 3, 2014. Of the 190 students entering the University 97 enrolled as full time and 93 part time.

Welcome to the University of Belize!

FEA - Faculty of Education and Arts
 FMSS - Faculty of Management and Social Sciences
 FST - Faculty of Science and Technology
 FNAHSW - Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health, and Social Work
 Professional Development - Transient and ACE

Students Registered according to Gender



Educational Trends

The fifth annual Belize International Symposium on Education was held on January 3, 2014. It was designed as a means of collaboration among educators and students and to provide an opportunity for them to discuss diverse topics of interest. The Educational Symposium was also a means through which materials were donated to local organizations working with young children in Belize.



University students from Dr. Judith McConnell-Farmer's Study Abroad in Belize Program at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, as well as professors from the University of Belize, Galen University, Canada, Mexico, and the USA participated in the Educational Symposium.



The theme for this year was "Educational Trends: Past, Present & Future." Presenters spoke on other topics as well. Dr. Silvaana Udz presented "Towards Improving English Usage at the University of Belize," and Mrs. Feliciano Torres, UB Early Childhood Stimulation Centre (UBECSC) Director, also took the opportunity to discuss the goals of UBECSC.

UB Receives Donation of Technological Equipment

The University of Belize received donations valuing over US \$300,724.00 from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. The package includes several Cisco GBIC switches, spools of fiber optics and jumpers. This equipment will allow for the upgrade of the University's network backbone to 1 gbps, effectively making it ten times faster than what it is today.

UB will now boast a network which is in par with most International Universities. This equipment will be installed over the next couple weeks after which faculty and staff will enjoy faster network speed. The University of Belize remains grateful to MVNU.



Information, Communication and Technology Department staff with donated equipment

UB Distributes Micro Propagated Planting Materials to Benefit the Agriculture Sector

The University of Belize, as a catalyst for change to enable socio-economic transformation and sustainable development in Belize, is producing high quality planting materials to benefit the agriculture sector. Its current focus, at its micro propagation laboratory at the Central Farm Campus, is Belize's sugar-cane industry.

To date, the University, in collaboration with the Sugar Industry Research & Development Institute (SIRDI), the Belize Sugar Industries (BSI), and individual cane farmers of the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA), has distributed close to 30,000 micro propagated plants to the sugar industry to establish demonstration plots in the Corozal and Orange Walk areas. Such plots are to be used by these organizations as trial nurseries to produce quality cane seed for farmers.



The planting materials will benefit the sugar cane farmers



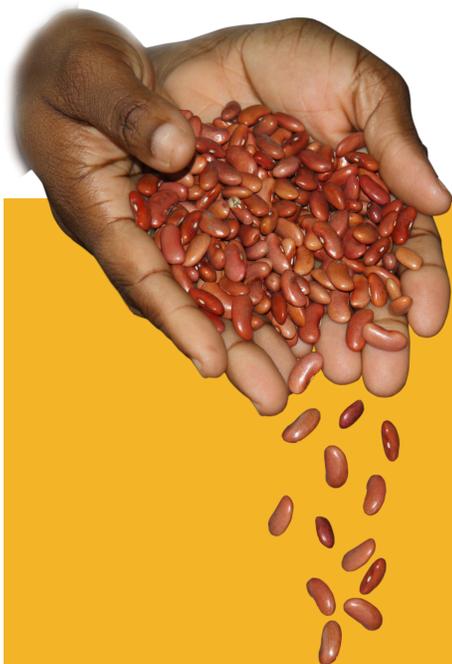
Spearheading the activities at the Bio-propagation laboratory is Dr Stephen Williams, Micro propagation Laboratory Manager.

Speaking about the project, he explained that "the demonstration plots will serve as a practical example, for cane farmer organizations, of the advantages of using this type of planting materials for establishing plots for seed production as well as encourage them to acquire micro propagated plants for the 2014/15 production years.

Micro-propagation is a technique used in biotechnology whereby a very small piece of tissue (shoot apex, leaf section, or even an individual cell) is excised and placed in a sterile culture medium and is used for rapid multiplication of plants. The technology can be used to produce large amounts of high quality planting material at key times of the year and to introduce large quantities of newly selected varieties into an industry.

The state of the art facility, fitted with equipment funded by the European Union and the University of Belize, was inaugurated in 2011. The technology is being introduced into Belize to benefit the agricultural sector through the University's collaborative links with institutions in Cuba and Mexico.





Preserving Red Kidney Beans via Science

Red Kidney Beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.), a major staple food source in Latin America and particularly in Belize, plays a significant role in the cultural and economic activities of Belize.

The legume, high in protein content and very popular on daily menus across Belize, is faced with on-going challenges due to increased soil salinity, global warming, and its effect.

It is in this context, that the experiment was carried out in an effort to develop a salinity resistant variety of red kidney beans. "The experiment was carried out," said Associate Professor in the Faculty of Science and Technology of the University of Belize, Dr Thippi Thiagarajan, "to test the ability of Red

Kidney Beans to form callus and undergo organogenesis under in vitro saline conditions."

Grain legumes have been noted to have a poor regeneration capacity under in vitro conditions, and in light of the recent sea level rise and its effect on soil salinity, developing a variety that can withstand saline conditions will be an advantage for countries like Belize where climate change can have drastic negative effect on salinity of soil in the near future. Research is being conducted in generating full plantlets from callus under saline conditions that can tolerate moderate saline conditions that may result from rising sea level.

Kudos to Dr Thiagarajan for leading the research and to the students he supervised during the research, namely Helly Recinos and Arlitta Tillet who have since graduated from the University of Belize. The research was conducted between 2008 to 2012 and was published in *European Scientific Journal* vol 9, No 33 (2013)

BSU President Visits UB

Bridgewater State University President Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, along with his delegation, visited the University of Belize in January. He met with the Acting President of the University of Belize Dr. Wilma Wright and other members of the University.

In September of last year, a BSU delegation visited the University to discuss collaboration. High on the agenda was UB Study Abroad Program and a Student Exchange Program that would allow BSU students through their international study at UB to embrace an international educational experience in a multicultural society.



Dr. Wilma Wright (3rd) and Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria (4th) along with UB and BSU team

UB Scientist Spearheads Research on 'Dung Beetles'

Dr. Latha Thomas of Department of Science, Faculty of Science and Technology completed her Ph. D. in Entomology from the University of Calicut, India. Her research was on *"Systematics and Ecology of Dung Beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae) in the Nelliampathi region of South Western Ghats."* The research provided new scientific information on the taxonomy of dung beetles and the effect of habitat modification and degradation on their community structure from a region of Western Ghats which is a global biodiversity hotspot. Nine species endemic to the Western Ghats and three first reports from South Indian region were recorded. Her study also revealed that severe habitat degradation in the region led to the establishment of generalist species and synanthropic species of dung beetles in the region. During the course of her research work three new species were also discovered.

Dr. Thomas also conducted research on dung beetles in Belize to collect baseline information. The research projects included "Taxonomy & Ecology of Dung Beetles of



Dr. Latha Thomas

Guanacaste National Park" which focuses on the use of dung beetles as biological indicator in determining the effects of forest fragmentation and human habitations on the national park. The other is "Taxonomy & Ecology of dung beetles of Big Falls, Belize". This research focuses on the significance of Big Falls as a biological corridor linking the protected areas to the north and south of Belize.

"Dung beetles are useful as biological indicators of habitat change as they are sensitive to habitat modifications.

Dung beetles also play a remarkable role in agriculture as they are great recyclers and increase the content of organic carbon, nitrogen and other nutrients in the soil through their dung burial activity," explained Dr. Thomas.

UB Bachelor students majoring in Biology participated in both research.

The University of Belize congratulates Dr. Latha Thomas on the completion of her Doctoral degree.

Beetles hard at work



Students setting up a beetle trap

Students Enhancing Campus Landscape



Students from the class of Environmental Conservation and Development NRMP 1014 (section 4) demonstrated their commitment to enhancing the environment at the University of Belize last semester. Guided by their professor Dr. Arlenie Rogers, the students fundraised by selling recycled bottles, and they bought white lime to paint decorative rocks and seedlings to plant around campus. They planted hardwoods, including Mayflower, Cedar, Mahogany, Teak, Zericote and Rosewood as well as eight different species of palms that were planted around campus. The students also donated a total of \$238 cash to the UB Beautification Project. These monies will be used in the future to further enhance UB's natural environment.

Many thanks to these students who made extra efforts in this project: Jacqueline Canul, Simeon Coc, Rackel Reneau, Jinelle Pott, Mariela Yupit, Javan Grant, Rohan Haylock,

Adrian Rogers, Ihjani Puerto, Leroy Matura, Knissa Geban, Shakeria Bucknor, Shanelli Cal, and Ida Martinez.

US Graduate Student on Internship at UB

Phillip Lindey, a graduate student from Kennesaw State University (KSU) in Georgia, a UB partner institution is in Belize to do his internship in Social Work at the Women's Department in Belize City during the Spring 2014 Semester. UB's Faculty of Nursing and Allied Health's Assistant Professor Fermin Olivera is serving as the student's supervisor.

The University of Belize and Kennesaw State University signed a Student Exchange Agreement on February 6, 2013. Several students from KSU's Faculty of Education have benefitted from this partnership by doing their teaching experience in Belize. Several faculty members from UB have also benefitted by pursuing graduate degrees at KSU.

For potential opportunities for faculty, staff and students at KSU and other UB partner institutions, interested person may contact the University of Belize's Office of Development or the Office of Student Affairs.



Phillip Lindey along with Mr. Ewart Robateu of the Office of Development

New Year, New Uniform



The new year has delivered new uniform for the hardworking females of the University.

The uniform consists of three combinations:

- i. jacket, blouse, and pants
- ii. jacket, blouse, and skirt
- iii. jacket and dress

UB Black Jaguars Coach Receives High Level Training



UB Basketball Coach, Darren Bovell, recently returned from a high level technical Basketball Coaching Certification Course – Olympic Level held in Chihuahua, Mexico. Coach Bovell along with 33 other coaches from 24 countries attended this intense course.

The training was designed to improve methods of teaching and coaching Basketball at every level, and was delivered by two world renowned instructors Prof. Victor Ojeda and Prof. Mario Pesquera. Coach Bovell's training was funded by Belize Olympic Committee.

Coach Bovell will be able to showcase his coaching skills in the upcoming ATLIB Basketball tournament where our Black Jaguars seek the Championship.

Congratulations to Coach Darren Bovell.



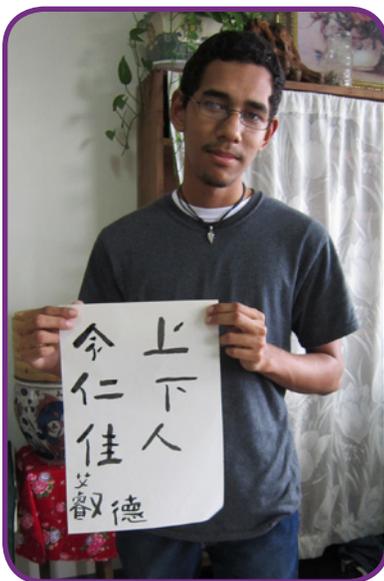
Bringing Smiles to Children

The Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health, and Social Work, along with the UB Library, held a successful toy drive over the recent Christmas holidays that brought smiles to children's faces. Gifts were donated by kind individuals; then the UB team went to the Karl Heusner-Memorial Hospital Paediatric Ward and distributed the gifts.

Kudos to the students, faculty, and staff members who took part in this initiative.



Mandarin Class - Hen Hǎo



Mandarin is poised to be a growing language in Belize, and it is in this context that the Regional Language Centre, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of Republic of China (Taiwan) provided free mandarin classes to students, faculty, and staff of the University of Belize. The classes were held for eight weeks starting in November of last year and ending in January.

Students were introduced to the basics of the language and the taiwanese culture. They also learned basic sentence structures and mandarin characters. As part of the course, students also dialogued in mandarin.

The Mandarin teacher was Mr. Bing Chen of the Huaxing Language Center in Belmopan.



WELCOME TO UB

Xunan Quetzal



Lecturer

Faculty of Management & Social Sciences

Central Campus (Belmopan)



Marion Lambey

Electrical Technician

Physical Plant Department

Central Campus (Belmopan)

Genea Thompson



Pharmacy Technologist

Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health, and Social Work

Central Campus (Belmopan)



Adelita Belle

Secretary II

Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health, and Social Work

Central Campus (Belmopan)

Name	Position	Dept./Faculty	Campus
Arieni Arzu	Associate Lecturer	FST	Punta Gorda
Blanca Marroquin	Assistant Teacher	UBECSC	Belmopan
Lauren Burn	Associate Lecturer	FEA	Belmopan
Dawn Elliott	Clinical Instructor	FNAHSW	Belmopan
Angie Moro	Lab Monitor	ICT	Belmopan
Olga Pival	Lab Monitor	ICT	Belmopan
Lucerita Torres	Lab Monitor	ICT	Belmopan
Antonio Cano	Lecturer	FST	Belmopan
Trevelee Williams	Librarian	Library	Belize City
Vanessa Parham	Library Clerk	Library	Punta Gorda
Carlos Shol	Maintenance Supervisor	Physical Plant	Belize City
Egbert Martinez	Plumber	Physical Plant	Belize City
Wayne Godoy	System Administrator	ICT	Belize City

FST-Faculty of Science and Technology;FEA-Faculty of Education and Arts;FNAHSW-Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health, and Social Work;ICT-Information, Communication and Technology;UBECSC-UB Early Childhood Stimulation Centre





now providing **FREE** LABORATORY TESTING

**DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE ILL
BEFORE YOU GO FOR A TEST**

OPEN TO UB STUDENTS FACULTY AND STAFF



CHEMISTRY
Glucose
Cholesterol
Triglyceride

HEMATOLOGY
Blood Group
Hemoglobin
Hematocrit

OTHERS ON REQUEST
Rheumatoid Factor
C-Reactive Protein
Complete Urinalysis

Requirements

- Chemistry** - Fasting
- Urinalysis** - Ask for a Specimen Cup
- Hematology**

**ALL samples are collected before eating breakfast*

Med Lab, Jaguar Building

*Mondays & Tuesdays
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.*

For more information contact Mr. Diomar Salazar, Med. Lab Technician at (822-1000) ext 467