



## FEMALES WIN 36TH ANNUAL UB RELATHON

16



## FANNIE LOU HAMER: THIS LITTLE LIGHT

7



## BLACK JAGUARS IN LA RUTA MAYA

15



## USAC STUDENTS VISIT UB

3



## EARLY CHILDHOOD MONTH

11

# Table of Content

San Carlos University Visits UB	3
Bringing Plays to Life	4
Campus Beautification — Together We Can Do It	5
UB Young Women Honored	6
Fannie Lou Hamer: This Little Light	7
Managing Our Forests Together	8
UB Present at International Seminar in Brazil	9
Cultural Day	10
Early Childhood: Where Our Future Begins	11
Belize-Venezuela Relations Going Strong	12
Professional Engineer Meets with Future Engineers	13
Top Student Receives Award	13
Afraid of Math?	14
Building Bridges to the Future	14
Three Teams in La Ruta Maya	15
Females Win 36th Annual UB Relathon	16
UB Annual Relathon 2014 – The Perspective of a Female Coach	18
Welcome to the UB Team	19
New Uniform Shirts for Males	19
UB Black Jaguars Advance to ATLIB Football Finals	20

# San Carlos University Visits UB



A delegation of 19 linguistics students and their two professors from San Carlos University (USAC) in Guatemala visited the University of Belize from March 12th to 14th, 2014. The main purpose of the trip was to continue to foster the relationship between San Carlos and UB and to conduct a comparative analysis of similar programs at both institutions.

The San Carlos students presented an overview of their University to UB faculty and students.



The delegation also met with Acting President, Dr. Wilma Wright, and RLC Director, Dr. Rosemarie Modera.

San Carlos and UB have a long history of partnership which has been dormant for a few years. Their aim now is to revive and strengthen the ties to benefit both institutions through future collaborations.

UB is exploring the possibility of a reciprocal visit to San Carlos by our students.



# Bringing Plays to Life

by Courtney Weatherburne



Drama, Drama and more Drama. Dr. Virginia Hampton, lecturer in the University of Belize's Faculty of Education and Arts, along with guest director and set designer Stefani Willis and a cast of very talented UB students brought Wole Soyinka's play "The Lion and The Jewel" and Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House" to life. Although the performances were staged readings, meaning that the actors read from their scripts during their performance, the actors brought excitement, passion and humor to the stage. Dr. Hampton notes that it was quite a challenge for the cast as they prepared for show time: attending training sessions, rehearsing, and transforming into their characters. But overall it was an enriching experience for the cast and crew. The staged reading of Soyinka's "The Lion and The Jewel" took place on March 6 at the University of Belize's Jaguar Auditorium, Belmopan Campus, and Ibsen's "A Doll's House" was presented on March 13. They were both great successes. Director and set designer Stefani Willis thanks the UB students, staff and faculty for their support for this grand art project. Willis states: "Our experiences now will hopefully bloom into future shenanigans of creative expressions."



# Campus Beautification — Together We Can Do It

by Dr. Latha Thomas

The Campus Beautification Project at the University of Belize is the continuation of an effort initiated in October, 2012 by Mrs. Pearl Fraser with the participation of a few faculty members. The main purpose of this project is to beautify the campus to produce an environment where students can learn in an outdoor laboratory of fruit trees, medicinal plants, hardwoods, and endemic and endangered plants. Through this project the club plans to create a medicinal garden as well as an orchid/ fern house, label trees and plants around campus, provide seating areas for students, and install garbage bins and “No Littering” signs at strategic locations. This type of environment will enhance the aesthetics of the campus and offer teaching and learning opportunities to the community. It is also an opportunity for the University of Belize to develop environmental stewardship among students and the wider community and contribute to the conservation of plant species. This project ties in with the University of Belize’s Strategic Plan, completed in 2011, which calls for the creation of a living campus environment which ensure a clean, aesthetically pleasing and well maintained environment at all of UB campuses.



The community has been very supportive of this project and continues to assist. Major contributions of plants were made by Ms. Lola Simon, Mrs. Eva Segenfelder, Mrs. Cordelia Raymond, Mr. & Mrs. Binfield, Mr. Anthony Chanona, and Mrs. Pearl Fraser. Monetary contributions towards the project have been made by Mrs. Imani Fairweather Morrison, Mr. Cedric Flowers, Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Williams, Dr. & Mrs. Cary Fraser, and students who held fund raisers for this purpose. UB’s Central Farm has also generously contributed to the effort in the form of labor, equipment and materials. Furthermore, donations of garden tools and two outdoor benches were received from Dr. & Mrs. Fraser this month.



The project has been moving forward with student volunteers who have planted more than two hundred plants in different parts of the campus and who also weed, trim, and water the plants regularly. The club invites all faculty, staff and students to join the efforts. If anyone is interested, kindly meet under the white tent every Friday between 8:00 and 11:30 a.m. or contact Dr. Latha Thomas at ext. 425 or by email at [llthomas@ub.edu.bz](mailto:llthomas@ub.edu.bz).

# UB Young Women Honored

courtesy of  
Women's Department

March is known as Women's month, and the Women's Department has released a booklet entitled *Women's Month 2014: Investing in Change: Honoring, Respecting and Celebrating Women and Girls!* The book highlights the contributions and accomplishments of 20 outstanding Belizean women and girls, including two of our UB students: Alliana Barrias and Hydeia Nichellie Golanche



Eighteen year old Alliana Barrias is a second year student at the University of Belize, Toledo Campus. She is currently pursuing an associate degree in Natural Resources Management. She was born and raised in Punta Gorda Town and is the oldest of five children. Alliana is a humble, vocal, friendly, and outgoing person.

Sadly, at the age of seven, Allana lost her father. Despite this tragedy and its subsequent setbacks, Allana has pressed on to continue her studies and work as a community activist. She is a member of the Belize Police Youth Cadet Corp and has served as a Junior Instructor. She was awarded Cadet of the Year and two other significant awards—the Coordinator Award and the Commissioner Award—for her outstanding performances. Presently she volunteers as a researcher at the TIDE community Research institute which carries out research on marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Allana is also involved in water quality testing, sediment trap analysis and other lab works. Scuba diving and underwater life are among her passions.



Hydeia Nichellie Golanche was born on April 16, 1993 resides and in Belize City. She is currently a student at the University of Belize pursuing a Bachelor's degree in English Education. She is a graduate of Edward P. Yorke High School and former peer helper in the Peer helpers Association at that institution.

Hydeia is also a recipient of the 2011 CXC award of Excellence for passing all 9 of her CXC exams. She is also very active in her church and aspires to become the lead singer for the church choir and a lay reader for the church. She is the secretary of the Belize Family Life Association's youth group known as the Youth Advocacy Movement (YAM). She also co-hosts "Big Chatz," of one the top educational teen shows, is sponsored by BFLA.

Hydeia also volunteers as an educator and facilitator at the Caribbean Shores Resource Center, located on Kelly Street in Belize City, where she helps students with assignments and preparations for the Primary School Examination. Furthermore, she serves as a youth ambassador to Belize and has been certified for this role by the US ambassador to Belize and the Dean of Georgetown University in Washington DC. She is also active in the Belize Theater Company at the Bliss Center for the Performing Arts where she is an actor and also helps in editing the writers' works. Hydeia is also a violinist of the Pallotti School of music and is willing to offer her talent to charitable organizations when needed.

continued on page 6

# Fannie Lou Hamer: This Little Light

On March 12, 2014 the University of Belize joined the Women's Issues Network and the US Embassy in the celebration of Women's Month by hosting a one woman show titled "Fannie Lou Hamer: This Little Light" by Dr. Billie Jean Young, internationally renowned performer, activist, author and educator.

"Fannie Lou Hamer: This Little Light" is a compelling and brilliant portrayal about the life, challenges and triumphs of Fannie Lou Hamer, a civil rights activist from Ruleville, Mississippi.

It is a timeless story of courage, personal growth and selfless dedication to social justice and equality and is both entertaining and educational.

UB lecturers and staff also presented poems dedicated to Women's month.



continued from page 5

Currently, she is in the process of writing a book about her struggles in life and plans to publish the book to inspire other young ladies in Belize and beyond. All in all, Hydeia enjoys community work and loves giving back to her community. Her life motto is "Love yourself, and most importantly, love God."

# Managing Our Forests Together



Sen. Hon. Lisell Alamilla

Do you think you can plant a mahogany tree, care for it as it grows, measure it every year for the next 50 years, and then inform other mahogany “owners” of the best ways to have a beautiful and healthy tree? Well, some agencies in the science community around the world monitor entire forests for varying reasons. After gathering and analyzing a set of data, some researchers are able to suggest management practices that could help the forest thrive while still being logged sustainably. For sustainable practices to become a common management tool in our Belizean forests, first it is necessary to determine how and what we monitor, and then we need to determine how this scientific data is factored into the management practices of

the logging industry. All this cannot be done by one single entity. It requires the input and collaboration of researchers, local communities, government agencies, NGOs, wood buyers, and all the other forestry sector stakeholders.

On March 20 and 21, 2014 the University of Belize Environmental Research Institute in collaboration with the Forest Department, the GIZ Selva Maya Program, and the GIZ REDD Program, hosted the first Forest Management and Monitoring Stakeholder Forum. The forum was designed to strengthen the capacity of government, non-government, community and private sector stakeholders in Belize for sustainable forest management and long-term monitoring through information sharing and discussion. It set out to capture stakeholder input to the proposed national forest monitoring network for improved forest management using permanent sample plots, and then to determine priority capacity-building needs and best practices and/or changes to current management systems for improved forest management in Belize.



Acting President Dr. Wilma Wright

The two day forum kicked off with a passionate keynote address delivered by Hon. Senator Lisel Alamilla, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries & Sustainable Development. Thereafter, invited guests and partner organizations had the opportunity to share their insight through thought-provoking presentations. The discussions that took place inside the auditorium and even in the hallways of UB's Jaguar Building were ignited by the presentations of local and foreign forestry experts. Panel discussions at the end of both days focused on securing collaboration and participation from the different

stakeholders in forging the way forward.

continued on page 9

# UB Present at International Seminar in Brazil

The International Alumni Expert Seminar is an Academic Seminar where German Academic Exchange Service (translation for Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst, DAAD) Alumni of Latin America, German Experts and local authority personnel participate in presentations, discussions, fieldtrip and group work to analyse and find solutions to issues in water resource management. This year, the topic was the second part of "Flood Risk Management in Latin America" with sub-topics such as: Alerts, Action Planning, Event Analysis Measures, After Care/Regeneration, Damage Analysis and Project Assessment, and.

The seminar was held from the March 24-28, 2014 at Porto Alegre, Brazil. The German Academic Exchange Service Alumni funded the seminar, while the University of Siegen's Research Institute for Water and Environment (<http://www.bau.uni-siegen.de/fwu/ww/projekte/?lang=de>) and the Federal University of Rio Grande Do Sul's Institute of Hydraulic Research (<http://www.ufrgs.br/english/the-university/institutes-faculties-and-schools/institute-of-hydraulic-research>) (Instituto de Pesquisas Hidraulicas,IPH, in Portuguese) and the Geological Survey of Brazil (Companhia de Pesquisa de Recursos Minerais, CPRM, in Portuguese) partnered to execute and coordinate the Seminar. Participants were from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Belize, Columbia, Ecuador, Germany, Nicaragua, Mexico and Paraguay.



Mr Josué Aké M.Sc., one of three Belizean DAAD Alumni and the only Alumnus in Water Resource Management, participated in the International Alumni Expert Seminar representing the University of Belize and the country. Mr. Aké is the Science Lab Technician and an Adjunct Lecturer in the

Department of Science, Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Belize. He made a presentation entitled: Belize: Ways of Communication During Flood Events (Responsibilities, report lines, alarm levels, contact persons).

continued from page 8

Presenters were from the Belize Forest Department, the Rainforest Alliance, the United States Department of Agriculture and Forest Service, the International Institute of Tropical Forestry, the Forestland Group, Program for Belize, Bull Run Overseas Ltd., the University of Florida, CITES Mahogany Working Group, Taylor Guitars, the Asociacion de Comunidades Forestales de Peten (ACOFOP), the Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM), and of course the University of Belize Environmental Research Institute.

UB ERI would like to extend a great thank-you to the partners, presenters and forum audience for their participation and contribution in making the first Forest Management and Monitoring Stakeholder Forum a success!

# CULTURAL DAY



# UB EARLY CHILDHOOD STIMULATION CENTRE



EARLY CHILDHOOD WHERE OUR FUTURE BEGINS

# Belize-Venezuela Relations Going Strong

The History Department hosted a presentation entitled "Belize-Venezuela Diplomacy & PetroCaribe" by Carlos Clarke of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on March 19.

Mr. Clarke spoke about Belize-Venezuela diplomatic relations from as early as 1982, noting that in 1977 and 1978 Venezuela voted in favor of Belize's right to independence.

Venezuela is known for being an oil-producing country, and in 2005, during the presidency of the late President Hugo Chavez the Energy Co-operation Agreement, also known as PetroCaribe, was birthed. The Petro-Caribe "takes the shape of an innovative deal whereby contracting states pay 60% (or financing of 40%) of the market price within 90 days, with the balance becoming a concessionary loan/financing to be paid over 25 years at a 1% interest rate. Also, if oil prices rise above US \$100 the credit increases to 50%," Clarke explained. Belize has benefited from this agreement, and Clarke further added that:

If you have been following the recent budget presentation by the Hon. Dean O. Barrow then you would have heard that the Venezuelan fund now stands at \$ 168 million dollars and has been used for deficit funding. Ten million dollars was invested in the start-up of the National Bank, 1 million in the commencement of works by the Belize Infrastructure Limited, and about \$15 million in the national infrastructure renewal programmed.



Carlos Clarke delivering his presentation



Ambassador H.E. Yoel Perez Marcano

Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, H.E. Yoel Perez Marcano, was also present and answered questions and concerns regarding the current events in

Venezuela and their impact on Belize.



# Professional Engineer Meets with Future Engineers

The students from the University of Belize's Engineering Department were visited by Dr. Rohan Bailey who is currently the head of the Caribbean School of Architecture at the University of Technology, in Kingston, Jamaica.

Every academic year, the Caribbean School of Architecture conducts study tours of cities in the Caribbean Region to learn from urban settlements as well as fulfill the mandate of the school to be a truly Caribbean institution. School personnel and students have been to most of the islands of the Caribbean, and this year they decided to visit Belize. The twenty-seven 4th year students and their Professors arrived in Belize on the 1st of February.



Professor Rohan Bailey gave a presentation to our students titled "The Past, Present and Future of The Caribbean School of Architecture at the University of Technology in Jamaica," and he discussed ways in which Belizean students can continue their education in Jamaica.

He also mentioned to our student body that in the past they have had a few Belizean students who studied and completed their degree at the Caribbean School of Architecture and that they would like to increase those numbers.

Currently enrolled in their Architectural program in Jamaica is Shanice McKoy, a former student of the University of Belize's Engineering Department.



# Top Student Receives Award

Ms. Shahira Melanie Muschamp who is studying for her Bachelor of Science in Biology degree, was presented with a book as an award for being the top student in the Higher Plants (BIOL 4151) class and the Higher Plants laboratory (BIOL 4151L) class in 2013. The book is titled *Checklist of Vascular Plants of Belize, with Common Names and Uses* by Michael J. Balick, Michael J. Nee and Daniel E. Atha.

The book, presented to Ms. Muschamp by Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, Dr. Joaquin Urbina, was a gift from Dr. and Mrs. R. J. Ferry Sr. of Texas, USA.



# Afraid of Math?

Are you afraid of Mathematics? Well, the Math Club thinks that Math is fun, and they hosted a Math Day to prove it.

Activities included mathematical games, such as using logic to guess how many sweets were in a container. Rosalind Rowley gave the closest guess.

Remember pi ( $\pi$ )? It is useful for finding the circumference and area of a circle. Normally 3.14 is used but pi is an irrational number, which means it is never ending and does not follow a pattern. The Math

Club held a pi contest to see who remembered the most digits for pi. Arthur Taylor won by remembering 99 digits. He won a pie for remembering pi.



# Building Bridges to the Future

"F.E.A. Building Bridges to the Future" the Faculty of Education and Arts' Education Week which was held from March 24 to March 28, 2014. The week of activities began with an opening ceremony, with guest speaker Dr. Wilma Wright. A Cultural Day was also held whereby students showcased the various cultures in Belize including their traditions, music, clothing, and food.



# Three UB Teams Paddle in La Ruta Maya



Central Team:  
Vian Caretela, Darwin Young,  
Eric Mazin

UB Black Jaguars (females)  
Jane Salazar, Yipka Jagbir,  
Louise Rodriguez

UB Black Jaguars (males)  
Elvis Sutherland, Hector Bejerano,  
Terrence Morreira



*Congratulations to our UB Paddlers. Keep it up!*

# Females Win 36th Annual UB Relathon

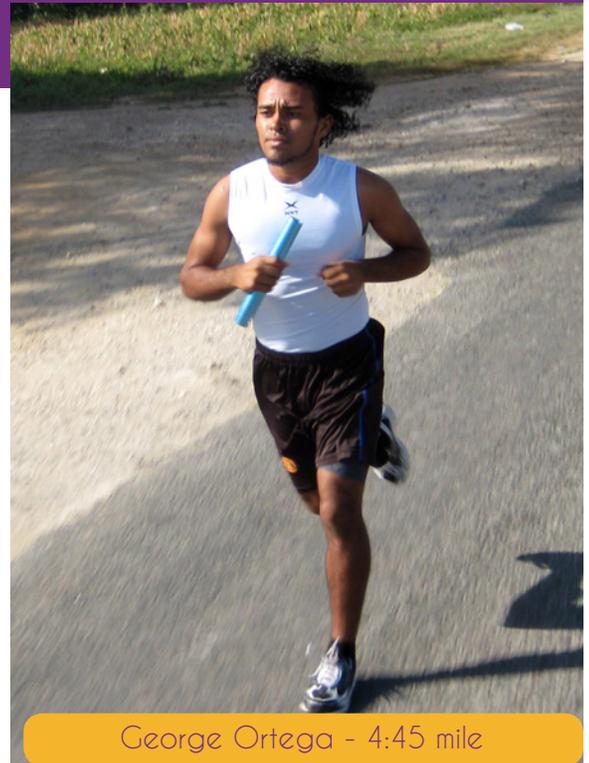
Six hours, twenty-nine minutes is the cumulative time that it took UB's speedy females to reach the Engineering Department in Belize City, winning the Dudley Marshall Cup for the 36th Annual UB Relathon on Sunday, March 30, 2014. The females started in Belmopan at the Market Square, while the males began in front of the Police Station in San Ignacio, but both embarked on their journey at 8:30 a.m. The females ran with a singular goal in mind: 3-peat as champions. Their effort paid off when they crossed the finish line at 2:59 p.m. The males tried their best to win and closed the 20 mile handicap to only 3 miles but fell short and finished 18 minutes later.

While it might appear to be merely a race to underscore the battle of the sexes, and while the females are given a sizeable head-start to compensate for any physical differences, the premise is actually based on a mathematical principle of vectors and the average speed and time that females and males utilize to cover a mile. So let's talk the history: The year is 1977, and Belize Technical College (BTC) student Dudley Marshall—athlete and member of the student union—is working on a novel idea to use as a fundraiser. Being an astute student, he is constantly looking for practical ways to use new educational theories and prove that education is always relevant in the real world. He spends countless hours brainstorming, eager to maximize the impact of



UB Board of Trustees Chairman Harrison Pilgrim with speedy Patricia Chavarria

his latest initiative while garnering support from all corners at BTC. After his exposure to math—specifically calculus—in a recent class, he finally settles on a simple, practical way to utilize his mathematical skills and prove a theory through a tangible application. He designs a race between males and females to demonstrate that if they are traveling at different speeds across different distances they should intersect at some point. He postulates that if the males leave from San Ignacio, Cayo and take an average of 5 to 7 minutes to run a mile while the females leave from Belmopan, Cayo and take an average of 7 to 9 minutes per mile, the boys should be able to overtake the girls at approximately mile 2 on the Western Highway (now George Price Highway). Of course the average speed—based on the strength and conditioning of the runners from both teams—is the variable that



George Ortega - 4:45 mile

would determine the winner of the race annually.

Now fast forward to 2014, and the girls have won the last three. The overall total now stands at Males 18 and Females 16 (there were three years when the race was not held). This year 48 females and 43 males participated to make it happen. The 2014 top female finishers were: Patricia Chavarria (5:43), Alberta Garcia (6:46) and Anna Soler (6:51). The best time for the boys and the new all-time record was set by George Ortega who ran a mile in a remarkable time of 4 minutes and 45 seconds. Other males with noteworthy speeds were Melvin Perez (5:06) and Elvis Sutherland (5:10).



A new addition to this year's UB Relathon was the opportunity for the Belizean community to text vote for their favorite team (G for Girls or B for Boys) at UBRUN. Congratulations to the members of the UB community—athletes, faculty, and staff who participated and supported the UB Annual Relathon 2014.

# UB Annual Relathon 2014 – The Perspective of a Female Coach

by Edo Arzu

In this 36th year of the running of the UB Annual Relathon, the 34 runs continue to be fiercely competitive. The female team has triumphed yet another year, bringing the victories to a slim margin of 18 wins for the boys and 16 wins for the girls. Since 2000, the UB Relathon has become a tradition inherited from the former Belize Technical College.

As one of the lead organizers of the female team, and recognizing the need for sportsmanship and discipline among our young students, I always commit to recruit students to form a competitive team from the Belize City campus. Very early in the year, students are given a brief history of the UB Annual Relathon with the intent to spark competitive interest and increase physical health awareness. This initiative is followed up with numerous telephone calls, text messages and emails to past and present students, in an effort to conduct meetings, schedule training sessions and confirm participation.

On February 3rd, we commenced training with the Belize City team. This continued consistently until March 28, 2014, three times a week for a minimum time of one hour. This year our training sessions were made up of both male and female runners; the purpose of this was to strategize by capitalizing on the competitiveness of the boys. I focused directly on building discipline among the runners which resulted favorably for the female team.

In promoting the UB Annual Relathon, students got the opportunity to appear on the premier local television morning shows such as Open Your Eyes, Love TV and Krem TV. This year, for the first time in its history, Love FM had a live broadcast of the event.

All this was made possible by our UB Relathon committee and Office of Public Information.

On Sunday, 30th March, 2014, forty-nine females participated in the UB Relathon;



this involved representation from Belize City, Punta Gorda, and Belmopan campuses, as well as the alumni. The top finisher for the female team was Patricia Chavarria with the time of 5:43 minutes a mile.

In a continuous effort to engage students in maintaining discipline through sports, it is important to have them see it as a form of recreation. This I believe will not only assist them academically but will also nurture body, mind and soul. In addition, it will foster characters of high achievement and competitiveness which will eventually lead to wholeness of self.

With that said, the female UB Annual Relathon team is working toward bringing the number of victories to a tie at 18 wins and then go on to take the lead. I would like to thank all the organizers, coaches, supporters, and the UB community at large, as well as the media and the general public who made this event a reality. Our prayers go out to Ms. Isabel Bennett of the Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health and Social Work (FNAHSW), who was unable to be a part of this year's event due to an accident that caused her to be hospitalized. Thanks to all! The UB Annual Relathon lives on and is here to stay!

# WELCOME TO UB

*Shara Pascascio*

Human Resource Assistant (General)

Human Resources

Central Campus (Belmopan)



*Giselle Borland*

Human Resource Clerk I (HRIS)

Human Resources

Central Campus (Belmopan)



*Cynthia Garbutt*

Admissions Clerk

Records and Admissions

Central Campus (Belmopan)



## New Uniform Shirts for Males

Although March was Women’s Month, the male staff at the University of Belize “broke in” their new uniform shirts.

Our hardworking staff got their burgandy shirts—long sleeve and short sleeve—with the UB logo. Now the entire UB staff look impressive with the new uniform.



# UB Black Jaguars Advance to ATLIB Football Finals



UB Black Jaguars advanced to the Association of Tertiary Level Institutions (ATLIB) National Football tournament finals after defeating Sacred Heart Junior College (SHJC) on March 12 at the Isidoro Beaton Stadium. In the first game between the females, UB Lady Black Jaguars defeated SHJC by a score of 2-1, winning on aggregate by a score of 5-1 in the two matches played with SHJC. The females will be seeking the bi-championship in the finals.

In the second game, the UB Black Jaguars (males) and the SHJC tied 1-1 with UB winning the aggregate by a score of 4-1 in the two games played with SHJC.

The ATLIB finals will be held April 26, and 27, 2014 and will be hosted by SHJC.

