

UB BULLETIN

January, 2010

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Calendar of Events

www.ub.edu.bz

January Graduation: A First for UB

For the first time, UB will hold a graduation ceremony; this will be in addition to the traditional June graduation, and it occurs on January 16, 2010. The January graduation ceremony is for students who completed in Summer and December 2009. Unlike the June ceremonies, January will have one ceremony for all campuses at the central campus in Belmopan: Belize City, Punta Gorda, Belmopan and Central Farm Campuses. It occurs at 10:00 am at the Recreation & Sports Center (UB Gymnasium). Graduation practice will be held on Friday, January 15th at 9:00 a.m. for candidates from the Punta Gorda, Belize City, Belmopan and Central Farm campuses. UB will provide buses to transport students from Belize City and San Ignacio (return) for the practice and ceremony. The prospective number of students graduating is 350. The January graduation theme is "We Care."



Above: June 2009 graduates smile proudly.

Graduation Gown Design Contest

Remember: The deadline for submission of entries is January 25, 2010. Check opi@ub.edu.bz for details.

UB Signs MOU with CRFM-Training & Research

On Friday, December 18, 2009, UB signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM). It occurred at UB -FMASS, Belize City. Signing on behalf of UB was President Dr. Santos Mahung. Signing on behalf of CRFM was Mr. Hugh Saul, Executive Director. Partners include CERMES (Center for Resource Management and Environmental Studies) within the University of the West Indies, represented by Dr. Patrick McConney, the United Nations University (Fisheries Training Program) and the University of Akureyri (pronounced Acure) of Iceland. Representatives of the latter two organizations were also present at the signing ceremony. They were in Belize over several days meeting with relevant personnel on the way forward with capacity building.



Front L- R: UB's Dr. Santos Mahung and CRFM's Hugh Saul.

Standing L-R: Patrick McConney, senior lecturer at CERMES, Thor Heidar Ageirson, Deputy Program director at UN University, Arsaell Arnasson, University of Akureyri in Iceland, Dr. Ögmundur Knutsson, Asst. Professor at University of Akureyri, and Milton Haughton, Dep. Executive Director of CRFM. (missing from picture: Helgi Gestsson, University of Akureyri)

(Continued on pg. 6)

DEADLINE REMINDER — UB’s Graduation Gown (undergraduate) Design Contest : January 25 is the deadline for submission of entries.

UB Choir: Another Great Christmas Concert!

The second annual UB Choir Christmas Concert promised to be as heartwarming as the 2008 premier concert...and it was! It occurred on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at UB’s Jaguar Auditorium in Belmopan. The concert was entitled “Belize at Christmas.” The UB Choir thanks the Belize Choral Society, the Cayo Music School, the Office of Student Affairs and its personnel, especially Miss Vicky Quetzal, and Sir Colville Young for the signal “UB SONG.” Big kudos go out to Choir Director, UB’s own Dr. Leopold Perriott and manager UB’s Dr. Jean Perriott. The choir, which was formed in 2008, has already made appearances at universities in Mexico and elsewhere in Belize.

A segment of the UB Choir warming up before the December 5, 2009 Christmas Concert



FMASS Students: TASTE TAIWAN! Events Coordination UB Students Hold End-of-Year Exhibit

On December 3, 2009 UB’s tourism students, of the Events Coordination class, held a successful and delightful “Taste of Taiwan” exhibit. It was an end of year class project and the students chose Taiwan to feature at a booth set up at the Belize City campus of the Faculty of Management and Social Sciences. Taiwanese culture, food, and crafts were on display and, yes, food tasting was a part of the activities!

UB-Toledo Students Contribute to “Angel Says Read” Program

“Angel says: Read” was founded in May 2009, and its organizer, Jackie Spinner, gave profuse thanks at a public launch of the program to the UB-Toledo students who have joined this innovative literacy effort. The launch occurred at the Leo Bradley Library in Belize City on November 3, 2009. The reading program has partnered with the University of Belize, primarily though its Toledo campus currently, in implementing the project. The Angel Says Read organization was formed in the effort to give lovers of books, especially those who also travel with a novel or two, to donate their books while traveling to other countries. Spinner says that Belize is the first chapter in what she hopes will extend to other parts of the globe. Spinner, a former reporter for *The Washington Post* and herself a book author, has traveled extensively, and the idea came to her during one of her travels as she herself is an avid reader. The stated mission, available at angel@angelsaysread.com is as follows: “Angel says: Read is dedicated to providing books donated by tourists to the Belize public library system. As an organization, we believe in the power of words, the creative underbellies of poetry, essays, short stories and long stories. It is our mission to provide a way for these words to be recycled.” The project is endorsed by the Belize Tourism Board. UB’s students have been assisting in the area of collecting and placing books. Kudos are in order for Lecturer at the UB Toledo campus, Mathias Vairez, and the Toledo students who are involved.



Above: Members of the “Angel Says Read” governing committee

Below: Audience at the Leo Bradley Library for the launch

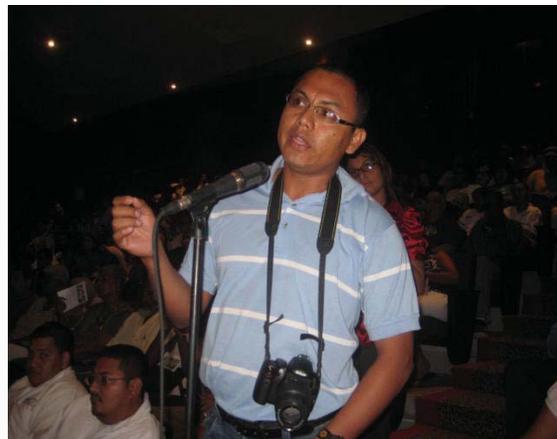


OCEANA: FST Lecturers and Students Participate in Launch

On November 16, 2009 Oceana opened its office in Belize. Oceana is an organization that campaigns to protect and restore the world's oceans. Its team of marine scientists, economists, lawyers and advocates promotes specific and concrete policy changes to reduce pollution and prevents the irreversible collapse of fish populations, marine environments and other sea life. In Belize, Oceana is led by Belizean lawyer and media personality, Audrey Matura Shepherd. Mrs. Matura Shepherd involved members of educational institutions in Oceana's launch, and UB was well represented, with over 90 students and faculty attending the opening night lecture given by Dr. Daniel Pauly. Dr. Pauly spoke on "World Fisheries at Risk-Causes and Solutions" to a packed audience at the Bliss in Belize City on November 16, and in addition to UB and other students, members of the audience included faculty, organizations, particularly those in conservation, ministry representatives, diplomatic representatives and members of the public. For UB, the majority of students were from the Faculty of Science and Technology (FST), as UB boasts an impressive marine science program. Dr. Pauly, who holds a Ph.D. from Kiel University in Germany, gave a dramatic audiovisual presentation. His scientific output, mainly dedicated to fisheries management and ecosystem modeling, comprises writing and editing more than 500 books, scientific papers and reports. UB's Chairperson of the FST Science Department, Juliane Pasos, gave the Vote of Thanks, in which she expressed UB's thanks for Oceana's assistance with bus transportation and information in assisting with Belmopan students' attendance at the Bz City lecture.



L-R: Eden Garcia of FST, Dr. Daniel Pauly of "Sea Around US" project, Audrey Matura-Shepherd, vice-president of Ocean's new office in Belize, and Juliane Pasos, Chair of UB's FST-Science Department



Above: UB lecturer in the Faculty of Science and Technology, Jair Valladarez, participating in Oceana's lecture discussion

UB Gears Up to Host Public Policy Unit



Following Phase One of a UNDP, UNICEF and UB initiative to establish a Policy Observatory Unit, Phase Two began with the holding of a capacity building workshop at the Black Orchid Resort in Burrell Boom Village, Belize on December 4, 2009. The purpose of the Policy Observatory Unit (a name not yet confirmed) is to build national capacity to enable implementation of efficient and effective public investment strategies, methodologies and tools. Phase One began in December 2007, but with the country's national elections coming in February 2008, conclusion of Phase One was delayed. (Continued on pg 7)



Above: Sylvia Cattouse of UB's President's Office coordinated the workshop.

**UB's Recreation and Sports:
Volleyball, Basketball, Softball, Football, Canoeing**



UB Black Jaguars Win Big in ATLIB B-ball!

Congratulations to UB's Black Jaguars basketballers! Both the male and female teams did extremely well and both gained first place. The ATLIB (Association of Tertiary Institutions of Belize) National Basketball Tournament was held at the St. John's College Gym on the 28th November 2009. For the females, in Game 1, Wesley Junior College defeated Ecumenical Junior College 21 -15, then went on to lose to UB in game 2 (50—17). In Game 3, UB then defeated Ecumenical 34 -7. In the males, UB took the early lead, defeating Muffles Junior College in game 1 with a score of 54-32. UB then returned in Game 5 to defeat Galen University 79 -22 and then, it was UB's turn again in Game 8, in which UB defeated Sacred heart Junior College with a score of 73 - 11. The University of Belize and its Black Jaguars male and female basketball teams—leaders in sports!



L-R Coach Kevin Siroki, Travis Lennon , Daniel Noliberto, Stephen Williams, Jarrell Velasquez , Jorett Jones and Farron Louriano .



(Back) Coach Darren Bovell **(L-R)** Stacey Pope, Lupita Lopez, Ashley Elrington , Shalika Ferguson, Gemma Guerra , Shanice Garbutt **(front)** Kimberly Spence and Nelissa Ramirez

2010: Upcoming in Sports!

FEBRUARY:



ATLIB. Football Regional-Feb. 6, 2010

ATLIB Football National—Feb. 20, 2010
(Note: Female players are needed!)

ATLIB Softball Regional—March 27, 2010

ATLIB Softball National—April 17, 2010
(Male players are needed!)

**MARCH: UB in La Ruta Maya Canoe Race
and in the Annual UB Relathon!**
(Female participants needed!)

Black Jaguars and Santa!



This December the UB Black Jaguars visited the community, spreading Christmas cheers. The team showed us all that basketball is not the only activity on their minds and they spoke to the children at Hummingbird Elementary School in Belize City about the importance of staying in school. Similarly, you may recall last Christmas the Black Jaguars also visited the children in the Crooked Tree area who were affected by the floods and showered them with gifts. The Santa Clause in the picture and last year... Coach Siroki!

UB: More Regional and International Links

BRIDGEWATER STATE COLLEGE

Bridgewater State College (BSC) of Boston, Massachusetts in the United States was on a familiarization visit to Belize from December 5-9, 2009, meeting with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and institutions towards exploring possible areas of mutual educational cooperation. The high level team met with UB's chairperson, president, acting provost, deans and other personnel on December 7th at the Administration Building's conference room and later took a tour of UB's central campus. Following the meeting, the following points were agreed upon: BSC's Dr. Ostroth and UB's Dr. Thompson will jointly draft a proposal for collaboration in the area of community service; BSC's Professor Battaglino and UB's Dean Wright will jointly draft a proposal for collaboration in the area of Special Education; Dr. Minnock and UB's Dean Akinkuolie will jointly draft a proposal for collaboration focusing in Business. The three draft proposals should be completed by Feb. 1, 2010, in time for a second meeting before, during, or after the regularly scheduled Belize COBEC meeting.



L-R: UB's President Dr. Santos Mahung, UB's Provost (Ag.) Dr. Angel Cal, BSC's Dr. Lisa Battaglino, MoE's Ms. Carol Babb, UB's Chairperson Mrs. Imani Fairweather-Morrison, BSC's Dr. Edward Minnock, and BSC's Dr. David Ostroth: The Dec. 7, 2009 familiarization meeting is expected to lead to collaborative educational outputs.

Instituto Politécnico Nacional

The *Instituto Politécnico Nacional* (IPN), which is headquartered in Mexico City, made a return visit to the UB Central Campus on Friday, December 4, 2009. The IPN has 122 post graduate programs that cater to over 300,000+ students, and UB is pleased with the ongoing developments with IPN for mutual educational collaboration, particularly with UB's Faculty of Science and Technology. Leading last December's discussions at UB were Dr. Cynthia Thompson, Assistant Provost, in the area of online and distance education; Dr. Urbina, in discussions for collaborations in science; and Jair Valladarez, who led discussions for research and other cooperation. The process of collaboration with IPN began through earlier meetings involving UB's President Dr. Santos Mahung and UB's Provost (Ag.) Dr. Angel Cal. The *UB Bulletin* thanks **Jair Valladarez**, UB Marine Science and Biology lecturer, for the picture.



Caribbean Knowledge & Learning Network

The Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN) is a multilateral project, supported by the OAS, the World Bank, the European Union and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). It was launched by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in 2004. UB is one of the regional educational institutions that is expected to become an integral part of its network, C@ribNET. To this end, UB's Assistant Provost Dr. Cynthia Thompson attended a familiarization workshop in Jamaica November 17 -19, 2009. Following that, Howard Armstrong, a CKLN consultant, visited Belize in December and met again with UB as well as with the Ministry responsible for governance to establish what exists in Belize in terms of IT capabilities. The idea is to establish a high speed Internet link, which the IDB will be sponsoring, for networking among educational institutions. For more information on CKLN, visit <http://www.ckln.org/>



UB's Assistant Provost, Dr. Cynthia Thompson

Tune in to **Conversaciones con Amado** Wednesday nights on PlusTV!!!

UB Hosts Coral Reef Traveling Exhibition



UB was the host for the Belmopan segment of a traveling coral reef exhibition. The exhibit, which was on display from December 1 to 4, 2009 at UB's Jaguar Auditorium featured large visual panels of the coral reef system, its beauty and challenges. The exhibition was interactive and hundreds of students visited it during its stay at UB. The traveling exhibition was sponsored in Belize by the Healthy Reef Initiative, and the UB segment was organized by UB's Dr. Leandra Cho-Ricketts, UB's FST lecturer Cecy Castillo and several students and staff. The name of the exhibit, which has been traveling throughout the Caribbean, is "Our Reefs—Caribbean Connections." For more information, visit www.ourreefs.org

(Continued from page 1) UB Signs MOU with CRFM

One immediate output is a training workshop in leadership being planned for 2010, possibly in April. Dr. Santos Mahung, in his presentation at the ceremony, also linked the intentions of the MOU to being in line with UB's provision of relevant education, training and service to the country, and he noted that UB's recent Establishment of its Environmental Research Institute (which focuses on marine and terrestrial research) and its tie in to the CFRAM initiatives in terms of the impact of research and the data it will yield to drive sustainability of the marine environment.

Security Consultant Meets with UB's Public Safety Supervisors

"School Security, Safety and Discipline" was the theme of a two-hour session held on October 28, 2009 that drew together eight of UB's Public Safety supervisors. It was organized by UB's Public Safety director Michael Gutierrez and facilitated by Carl Cambridge, a security consultant by profession who was recently in Belize. Gutierrez says the purpose of the session was to inform and update UB's security personnel on present existing matters concerning campus security. Those present were representative of UB's staff and grounds supervisors. Mr. Gutierrez notes that Mr. Cambridge has done similar presentations in St. Lucia and most recently in St. Vincent. He attended the Texas Safety Association in Security Management and Supervision, the Texas National Security Academy and America Security Academy. Additionally, he worked in the Trinidad and Tobago Customs Department and worked as Safety Officer for the Trinidad and Tobago Home Developers and Industrial Developers.



L-R: Mr. John Salam, UB Belmopan Public Safety supervisor, Jerome Ellis, UB Belize City Public Safety supervisor, Carl Cambridge, security consultant, and Michael Gutierrez, UB's Public Safety director.

FEA Lecturer Presents on Early Childhood Strategies

Priscilla Brown Lopez, lecturer in the Faculty of Education and Arts, is completing her doctorate this year...and she is helping to link up UB with several educational initiatives. On December 28, 2009 she met with colleagues from Indiana Wesleyan University and Washburn University, both of the U.S., to share a presentation on "Innovative Instructional Strategies for Early Childhood Education." The presentation was scheduled to be a part of a Belizean International Symposium on Education in late December, but it has had to be postponed. Nonetheless, on December 28, Priscilla, the U.S. colleagues Dr. Judith McConnel-Farmer and Pamela Cook and UB's Silvaana Udz and Sylvia Cattouse met to discuss possible ways of sharing research information. A more formal follow up to that meeting is expected to take place, possibly as an event later in 2010. Recently, Priscilla Brown Lopez also made available to the UB Central Library a 69-page report "An Evaluation of Teacher Effectiveness in Urban Schools in Belize, C.A." It is unpublished research sponsored by the *Coordinación Educativa y Cultural Centroamericana* (CECC), UB, and the Ministry of Education. The study examined the effectiveness among teachers who have completed an associate degree in teaching and whether they continued to apply the pedagogical skills they acquired during training. The Likert-scaled questionnaire with an internal consistency of .82 was administered to teachers and administrators and analyzed using an independent sample t-test. The t-tests results at $p < 0.5$ revealed that there were no significant differences among teachers' and principals' perceptions of effectiveness. Classroom observations were conducted with a random selection of 12 teachers in the Belize and Cayo districts. These illustrated that, while they acquired some skills, there were notable weaknesses in planning for instruction, addressing individual needs, classroom organization, effective use of resources and classroom assessment.



Above: UB's Priscilla Brown-Lopez

UB's SOST Assists Trinity School

The University of Belize Social Studies for Primary Teachers (SOST 304) classes in Belize City through the guidance of their lecturer, **Kevin G. Tucker**, did a Service-learning project at Trinity Methodist School in Belize City towards the end of last semester. On Saturdays, they volunteered their time (up 19 hours within 4 weeks) to paint the entire external school building. Students also painted the lavatories and helped to landscape the campus. This service-learning project was part of an effort to build positive attitudes toward the community and increase civic responsibilities, both of which are hallmarks of social studies pedagogy. Congratulations!



UB's SWSA's RED RIBBON AWARENESS

Kudos also go out to UB's Social Work students and lecturers. Amidst the bustle of final papers last semester, the students and faculty at the Belize City campus paused to focus on an urgent issue affecting an increasing number of persons in our society. On Tuesday, December 1, 2009, the Social Work Student Association (SWSA) hosted a RED RIBBON AWARENESS hour to focus on the issue of HIV and AIDS and to call for solidarity in the fight against discrimination. The activity, which was well attended, had a guest presentation by the executive director of the National AIDS Commission, Dr. Martin Cuellar, on the "Situation of AIDS in Belize." Other highlights included "Are You Positive?" which was a play by students of Excelsior High School and a "Candle of Hope" lighting ceremony in honor of all those affected by AIDS. All those in attendance also participated in the RED RIBBON signing.

(Continued from pg. 3) **UB Gears Up to Host Public Policy Unit**

However, UB, UNDP and UNICEF formed an initial working group, called the Project Executive Group (PEG), which continues to be the primary implementing body until such a time as a Public Policy Working Group (PPWG) is formalized. The Unit would address one area of weakness identified in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Symposium held in September 2006. This area is the lack of adequate research and statistics to help drive development decisions. UB was one of the organizing partners of the MDGs, along with the then Ministry of National Development, UNDP and Galen University. The concrete result of Phase One was the production of a 52-page "Plan of Action for Phase Two of the UB-UNDP-UNICEF Policy Observatory Unit." It was prepared by consulting economist Dr. Carla Barnett, and she served as the main presenter at the December 4, 2009 capacity building workshop. Also presenting was the UN's Joseph Hendrikx. UB's President Dr. Santos Mahung delivered Opening Remarks. Participants were provided with handouts that contained the summary points of the Plan of Action.



Calendar of Events

January 2010



The UB Mission:

The University of Belize is a national, autonomous and multi-location institution committed to excellence in higher education, research and service for national development. As a catalyst of change it provides relevant, affordable and accessible educational and training programs that address national needs based on principles of freedom, equity, transparency, merit and accountability.

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 - | 2 - |
| 3 | 4 -Faculty and staff return | 5 - | 6 -Grade reports available in the Registrar's Off. -Orientation for new students at Bmp campus only 9a.m.-3:30p.m. | 7 - Registration begins | 8 -Registration continues - Nova Southeastern University's doctoral cohort meets at UB, 5:30-9 p.m. | 9 -Nova 's doctoral cohort meets in Belize at UB 8:30 a.m.-5:00p.m. |
| 10 - Nova's doctoral cohort at UB, 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. | 11 – Registration continues | 12 - Registration continues -UB on LOVE radio/TV promoting Graduation Gown Contest | 13 - Registration ends | 14 | 15 - UB on KREM radio/ TV promoting Graduation Gown Contest | 16 - UB holds first January Graduation Ceremony, Bmp, 10 a.m. |
| 17 - | 18—Semester Two: classes begin -Drop/Add begins -Late Registration period begins -Withdrawal w/100% tuition refund begins -Audit switch begins | 19 - | 20 - | 21 - | 22 - | 23 - |
| 24 | 25 –Deadline for submission of entries to UB's Graduation Gown Design Contest | 26 - | 27 –UB Recruits at OW Tech -Sexual Harassment, FEA Bz City, 5:30-7:30p.m., Rms 127-129 | 28 - Launch of UB's ERI (Environmental Research Institute) | 29 Last day to: -add a class -audit switch -withdraw w/100% tuit. Rf -do late registr | |
| 31 | Looking Towards February 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Feb. 1: UB's Official Census Day—Semester Two 09-10 ◆ Feb. 6 and Feb. 20: UB in ATLIB Regional/National Football ◆ Feb. 11: UB's Open Day—Scholarship Fair | | | | | |

Looking for the latest updates on UB ? ALWAYS CHECK the [UB NEWS](#) and [UB Calendar of Events](#) on www.ub.edu.bz

UB Bulletin: All UB faculty, staff and affiliates can submit information for publication. Send submissions via email to opi@ub.edu.bz or forwarded on an electronic format to Public Information Officer, UB Administration Building,-Second Floor, Central Campus, Belmopan. Tel: 822-3680, ext. 204 or 205.