

## University of Belize Rolls Out Belmopan Campus Development Plan



**Health Science Complex**



**Multi-purpose Building**



**University Center**

**PROPOSED UB BOOKSTORE & CAFETERIA**

**INTERIOR VIEWS**

VIEW TOWARDS CASHIER

CASHIER & FOOD SERVICE AREA

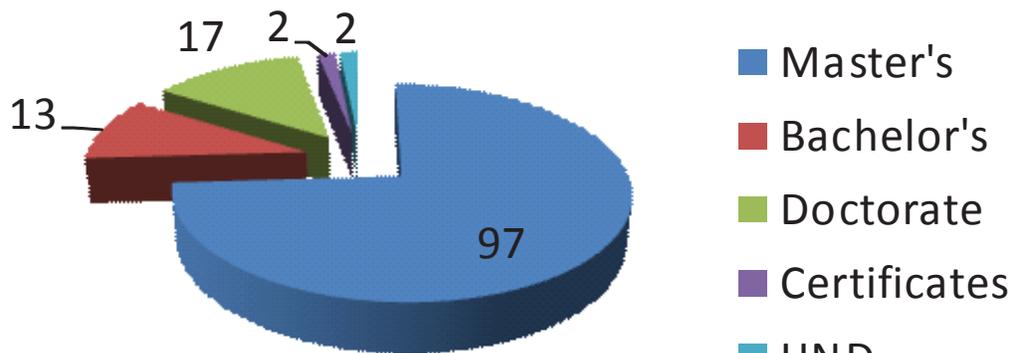
MITCHELL-MOODY ASSOCIATES



**Library**

The University of Belize, committed to the unwavering philosophy of contributing and responding to national development needs of the country through higher education, has embarked on bold and unique initiatives that are aligned with its Strategic Development Vision to equip and empower Belizeans with leadership in academic excellence, research and cutting-edge technology through the transformation and expansion of its facilities in the creation of career opportunities in a rapidly changing technological environment. We take this opportunity to share our UB vision!

### UB the Place You Want to Be The flagship institution of tertiary education Faculty Snapshot Qualified and Experienced



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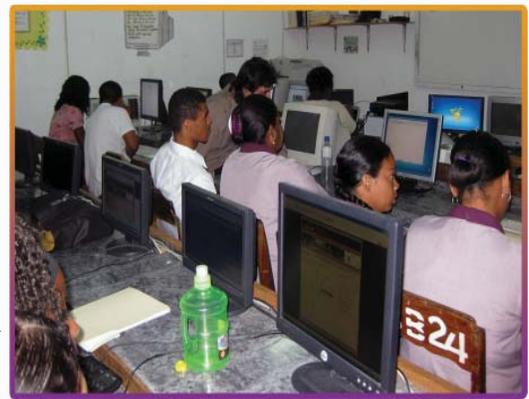
## IMPROVING QUALITY OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN BANANA BELT COMMUNITIES

33 students from the Banana Belt communities participated in a two-day orientation for the Certificate in Primary Education (CPED) project at the Independence High School, a fitting place since the majority of students are primary school teachers in this area.

Educational activities of the three-year project which is being carried out by the Faculty of Education and Arts (FEA) of the University of Belize (UB) is designed to improve the quality of primary education in the communities in the banana belt in the southern region of the country. “Lecturers of the faculty will focus primarily on teacher training for primary level teachers, childhood education and training support and community training for parents and education leaders, said Dean of FEA Dr. Wilma Wright. “Specific areas will include mathematics, science and reading.”

Students at the orientation were briefed of the online hybrid modality, how to access their grades online utilizing their new UB account, user name, password and other important online procedures; courses offered through a blended modality (online/face to face), details on how to interact in online forums with peers, and provided with a DVD guide with step-by-step procedures if they need further assistance.

The Certificate in Primary Education is a national initiative that began in 2008, which UB has extended to the Banana Belt region. It is a part of Banana Belt Primary Education Support Program which is largely funded by the European Union to the tune of Bz\$1.2 million. UB team at the event included the project coordinator along with admissions and ICT officials.



Teacher training for primary level teachers.

## UB & TOURISM STAKEHOLDERS COLLABORATE TO FINE TUNE BACHELOR OF TOURISM PROGRAM

The Faculty of Management and Social Sciences (FMSS) of the University of Belize (UB) in collaboration with tourism stakeholders of the industry have completed the program review process for the university’s Bachelor of Degree in Tourism Management programme.

The review, says FMSS Dean, Dr. Vincent Palacio, “was designed to ensure that the Bachelor Degree program meet international quality standards and institutional accreditation.” The review was carried out by conducting internal and external review with auditors from Belize, Costa, and Panama. Findings and recommendations emanated from the review process will be incorporated into a Quality Enhancement Plan that will guide the quality improvement process.

Tourism stakeholders in Belize included the Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA), the Belize Hotel Association (BHA), the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Alumni, students and the Organization of American States (OAS).

“UB is extremely excited that graduates from the program in the upcoming academic year will be equipped with the relevant skills for the tourism industry,” added Dean Palacio. “the collaboration between the UB, the private sector of the tourism industry and international organization demonstrates a sound working relationship committed to national development of Belize.” To date over 100 students who have earned UB’s Bachelor Degree in Tourism Management are employed in all areas of Belize tourism sector.

## U BETTER BELIEVE WE CAN FARM

The University of Belize Central Farm (UBCF) campus is currently experimenting with vegetable production under a covered structure made with porous sides and a transparent plastic roof. The shed or covered structure is part of the tissue culture propagation facilities donated by the European Union to UB and the facilities were used for crop production while work continued on commissioning the laboratory. The main crop planted was sweet peppers also known as Bell peppers (cv. Lido) with some intercropping with red habanero peppers. The periphery of the shed, with a reduced vertical height, was planted with cabbage (Photo 1) and cilantro.



Bell peppers like tomatoes, beans, cassava, cucurbits, and a host of other crops cultivated in the open are affected by viruses transmitted by the white fly (*Bemisia* spp.). There are some 60 Begomoviruses transmitted by this genera. The viral infection vastly reduces growth and ultimately yield and chemical control of the vector is expensive, poses serious risks to human health if the effective chemicals are not properly used and is extremely toxic to bees. The covered structure reduces the use of insecticides and allows for enhanced and efficient use of water and fertilizers through the process of fertigation. The crop, a total of 850 plants, was transplanted in three months. Production has increased to an average of over 600 pounds per week with the peak production of 840 pounds in a single week. Care and maintenance of crops has been carried out by Miguel Rodriguez a recent graduate, Associates degree in Agriculture at UBCF and Mr. Joseph Hinds, a veteran in the field.



Data collection from sweet pepper under covered structure

Data collection from sweet pepper under covered structure

## OAS/CICAD MEETING



UB delegation: Mr. King, Ms. Udz, Dr. Perriott, Dr. McKay and Mr. Olivera with Professor Edward Greene, Advisor to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).

The University of Belize (UB) along with eight Caribbean universities met with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) Secretariat of Multidimensional Security of the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in Kingston, Jamaica to discuss the drug phenomenon on March 2-4, 2011.

At the meeting entitled “**CICAD-CARICOM Regional Meeting with Caribbean Universities on the Drug Phenomenon,**” universities presented findings on the existence/extent to which the drug phenomenon is addressed in the curricula and activities of Caribbean universities; discussed CICAD’s partnership experience in Latin America and the Caribbean; and developed an integrated proposal to mainstream drug issues across faculties in each participating university.

UB delegation presented an integrated proposal that would involve the UB community namely faculty, staff and students into the Drug

Demand Reduction (DDR) plan for the first 12-months’ phase incorporating drug phenomenon in UB’s curricula. The proposed plan will provide the UB community with knowledge and relevant materials for DDR activities such as education/advocacy, outreach and research activities within the university and the wider society following the first phase.

The Regional Meeting with Caribbean Universities on the Drug Phenomenon was funded by the governments of the United States of America, Canada, and the European Community. The UB delegation included Dean, Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health and Social Work Dr Abigail McKay. Associate Professor, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences Dr. Jean Perriott, Lecturer, Faculty of Education and Arts Ms. Silvana Udz, Lecturer, FNAHSW Mr. Fermin Olivera, and Mr. Selwyn King, Office of the President.

## SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Our Recreation and Sports Department has been on the go this month. The month started off with the Ruta Maya Canoe Race. UB Black Jaguars came in second (Intramurals Category) in the race. We are proud of Elvis Sutherland (Team Captain), Benedicto Yatz, and Eduardo Barrientos. They tried their best and in the end it paid off.



In Belize City (Engineering Department), a football Intramural Competition was held, and the Mechanical/Engineering team emerged champions after a penalty shootout on Thursday March 24, 2011.

The 33rd UB Relathon was held on Sunday, March 27 and the females won for the 3rd year in a row over the males. The race started Sunday at 9:12 am and concluded at 4:16. The Females did the run in seven hours and four minutes beating the males by two minutes who did it in seven hours and six minutes. The Best Female time (per mile) was from Tichele Solis six minutes and 21 seconds, and for the males it was from Benedicto Yatz with four minutes and 58 seconds. There were 46 female runners and 27 male runners



### Great Job Riparian Forest Protectors!



The Environmental Club was present during the Ruta Maya River Challenge cleaning along the riverside in order to raise environmental awareness.



## CENTRAL CAMPUS SG HAND IN HAND WITH CENTRAL FARM CAMPUS

The long anticipated date came through when Vice-President of the Student Government Belmopan Campus, Mr. Benjamin Acosta and Advocacy Secretary Ms. Alexandria Cleaver delivered four picnic tables for students at Central Farm Campus. On hand to receive the tables was student representative for that campus Ms. Indira Williams. The tables are situated near the basketball court, where students would be able to enjoy sporting activities as well as study in a more comfortable environment.

Kudos to Student Government Belmopan Campus.



Picnic tables for Central Farm Campus Students.

## UB/SG AND UQROO UNITED AND FIRM

22 students accompanied by 2 lecturers from the University of Quintana Roo (UQROO) Cozumel campus were on a three-day visit to UB Belmopan campus last month. During their visit, they were hosted by members of the Student Government Belmopan who enlightened them on the history of UB. Activities for the visiting students also included attending an English class where they were delighted to share their experience of being involved in a class where English is the main menu; treated to the taste of Belizean food as well as a visit to Hopkins whereby they experienced a taste of culture in the south.



UB fostering and enhancing international student exchange.

## PSO RECEIVE CERTIFICATES IN SELF DEFENSE



(L-R) Mr. John Salam, Mr. Kayaba, and Mr. Jerome Ellis

The Human Resources Department in its continued commitment of Human Resource Development organized a Self Defense Course for Public Safety Officers of UB. The course was for a month. The University PSO Officers each received a Certificate in Self Defense. Mr. I. Kayaba was the trainer of the PSOs. Mr. Kayaba is the trainer of Cayo Shotokan Karate Club.



HR Personnel (extreme left & right) along with proud PSOs.

## FEA WEEK AND CHILDHOOD STIMULATION MONTH

This month was Childhood Stimulation Month, and the last week was FEA Week. Both were packed with activities. Due to space limitation this month FEA week of activities will be featured in April Bulletin.

## PAHO/WHO BELIZE & UB INITIATES COLLABORATION

As part of the technical cooperation and knowledge sharing, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) in Belize conducted a one day administrative training workshop to personnel from the University of Belize (UB) at the PAHO/WHO office in Belize City.

The objective of the training session was to sensitize administrative staff from UB on technical cooperation procedures for projects carried out by both entities collaboratively. As an effective collaboration-based organization, PAHO/WHO promotes partnerships and network-building with national counterparts.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Ruby Dominguez, on behalf of Dr. Gustavo Vargas, Acting PAHO/WHO Belize Representative, highlighted the importance of these trainings to enhance capacity of national counterparts which supports improved coordination and facilitates the cooperation procedures. Participants received an overview of the administrative collaboration done by PAHO/WHO Belize. Areas covered were, financial management, courses and seminars, filing and procedures for carrying out technical cooperation with national counterparts. Participants were given a tour of the office and were able to interact with administrative personnel from PAHO/WHO Belize.



UB staff along with PAHO/WHO personnel.

## UB & MSBC HOSTS NRM AND CLIMATE CHANGE SYMPOSIUM: A FOCUS ON BELIZE

The Environmental Research Institute (ERI) of the University of Belize (UB) and the Belize Chapter of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation (MSBC) held their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Natural Resources Management (NRM) Symposium at UB on March 25th.

The theme of the Symposium was, "**Natural Resources Management in the Context of Climate Change: A Focus on Belize.**" It featured special session on climate change as well as research on marine ecosystem health and natural resource management strategies.

The annual event brings together scientists, natural resources managers, students and other interested persons to share in the latest scientific and management findings in Belize within the environmental and natural resources management arena.



Scientists and NRM students at Symposium.

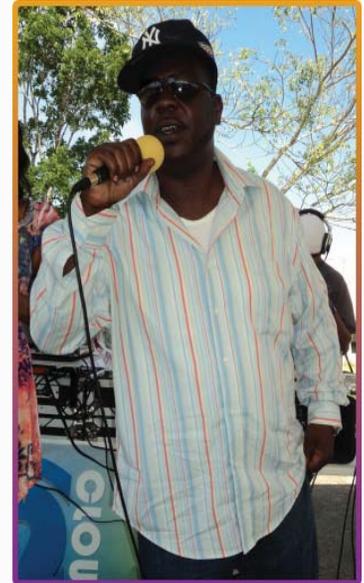
UB scientists and researchers and UB Natural Resource Management (NRM) students will be joined by local and international counterparts conducting research in Belize to present their latest findings in the field of natural resources management.

In 2010, UB along with MSBC hosted the fourth Annual Natural Resources Management Research Symposium entitled: *Exchanging research knowledge to promote sound decision-making for natural resource management in Belize.*"

## SECOND UB TALENT UNDER THE TENT

On Wednesday, March 23rd, 2011 during student hour the Second UB Talent Under the Tent was hosted under the white tent. Many students came out for an hour full of entertainment, and some participated by singing a song, or reciting a poem. This time the guest band was Jag Camp Entertainment, who delighted the students so much that they even chorused along. Once again Cloud 9 sounds was there to keep the tempo alive.

Usually every third Wednesday of the month (except for April due to Easter vacation) during student hour Talent Under the Tent will be held... *Don't hide your talent! Show it under the Tent.*



## UB SIGNS MOU WITH YOUTH BUSINESS TRUST OF BELIZE



The University of Belize (UB) on 25 March signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Youth Business Trust of Belize (YBTB) at the university West Landivar Campus, Administration Building, Belize City. The objective of the MOU is to promote entrepreneurship and business development among our emerging entrepreneurs across the landscape of Belize. Signatories to the MOU were Acting President and President Emeritus, Dr. Corinth Morter-Lewis and Chairman of YBTB Mr. Shaun Finnety.

The signing of the MOU, says Dr. Morter-Lewis “is a testament of UB’s continued commitment in pursuit of significantly contributing to the national development of Belize through entrepreneurship, business development, and creative initiatives for Belizeans.”

**UB President and YBTB Chairman signing MOU.**

The MOU is designed to prepare and equip emerging entrepreneurs with relevant business and management skills and a deeper understanding of business enterprises in order to lead sustainable businesses. Priority areas that will govern the MOU and cement the synergy between UB and YBTB will include but not limited to the following such as: good practice; consulting, understanding entrepreneur needs, and engaging mentors and entrepreneurs; decision-making as it relates to entrepreneurship & business development; membership involvement through business mentoring; joint delivery of relevant marketing and advertising campaigns; and relevant activities to address barriers and socio-cultural issues, increase participation, improve quality and standards, joint bidding for resources, responding to government & public policy/ priorities on enterprise issues, and joint delivery of Training and Educational programs etc.



# Calendar of Events

## April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 FEA week ended	2
3	4 Mexico - Belize Seminar 3	5 Mexico - Belize Seminar 3	6	7	8 Campus Day	9
10	11 Early Registration begins (by appointments Summer & Aug 2011 semesters)	12	13 Earth Day Easter Rush (Central Campus)	14 Easter Rush (FEA, Belize City)	15 Easter Rush (Rita Gorda)	16
17	18 Easter Vacation Begins	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Easter Vacation Ends	26	27	28	29 Agricultural Showgrounds Start	30 UB will be at Agric Show

**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.*

**UB Bulletin:** All UB faculty, staff and affiliates can submit information for publication. Send submissions via email to [opi@edu.bz](mailto:opi@edu.bz) or forwarded on a CD to the Public Information Officer, c/o UB Administration Building, 2nd Floor, Belmopan. Tel: 822-3680, ext. 236.