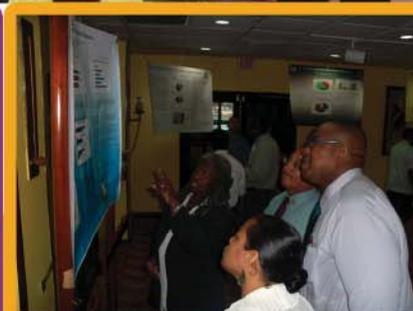




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BELIZE-MEXICO SEMINAR III

The University of Belize (UB) in collaboration with the Embassy of Mexico, the University of Quintana Roo, Institute for Social and Culture Research the National Institute for Culture and History (NICH) and the French Institute for Research and Development (IRD) hosted the Belize-Mexico Seminar III at UB Central Campus in Belmopan on 4-5 April, 2011.



The Seminar was previously hosted by the University of Quintana Roo in Chetumal, Mexico and was hosted for the first time in Belize by the University of Belize. It featured presentation of papers from Belizean, Mexican and other international scholars and was conducted under the theme “Cultural Dynamics across Borders” featuring four panel presentations namely: Art, Language and Culture, Population and Society and Publishing.



Participants at seminar.

Hon. Wilfred Elrington and Dr. Corinth Morter-Lewis “This Seminar, the third in a series, was aimed to provide a forum for sharing on-going research and scholarly work on the social and cultural dynamics in Belize and Southern Mexico (Quintana Roo) as well as stimulate collaboration between Mexican and Belizean researchers,” says UB’s Director of Research Dr. Filiberto Penados. “It was also designed to foster intellectual curiosity and research capacity among young people in the region, deepen understanding and build friendly relationship between the people of Belize and Mexico.”

The Seminar, entitled: “*Social and Cultural Dynamics Across Borders*,” was opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade, Hon. Wilfred Elrington.

MANAGEMENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE



Dr. Lewis along with UB personnel viewing poster.

The Dean, Faculty, Staff and Students of the Faculty of Management and Social Sciences (FMSS) of the University of Belize held its First Annual Student Research Conference on April 7 in Belize City.

UB acknowledges that research is an integral element of tertiary education and has therefore, endorsed ardently the bold initiative of FMSS to execute the first ever research conference. “One of the main objective of the Conference is to expose the academic accomplishments of our students



in the realm of research and professional development, explains the Research Conference Coordinator, Dr. Jean Perriott. “Thus, allowing our students to nurture their research capabilities and contribute to pioneer a culture of research within our institution and society at large.”

Research presentations by students and faculty members featured topics such as Oil Drilling, Business Development, E-Learning Technology, Economics, Value Chain, Tourism, Off-shore Services, the Current Economic Recession and Its Impact on Consumer Behavior in Belize and the Economic Impact of High End Resorts/Hotels on the Belizean Economy. Dr. Perriott emphasized that the conference “is in tandem with the university’s initiatives of treading into the avenue of a research based institution and contributing to public awareness of current national issues.”

UB HOSTS PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE HEADS OF AGREEMENT OF 1981

A panel discussion on *The Heads of Agreement of 1981* was hosted in April, at Jaguar Auditorium, Central Campus, Belmopan by the History & Anthropology Department of the University of Belize (UB) in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade (MFAFT).

On hand, were Belizeans who were active in that period and made presentations to the audience at the event. They focused on a key period in the shaping of this young nation of ours. Students of Belize-Guatemala class of the History and Anthropology department were the main questioners at the forum.

Lecturer of the department, Mr. Cesar Ross explained that the department will plan a another bold initiative to continue the process of increasing awareness in particular for the young as well as galvanize folks from the districts to participate.

UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE HOSTS INTERNATIONAL EXPERT ON WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, COPYRIGHT & INNOVATION

The University of Belize (UB) in collaboration with the Belize Intellectual Property Office (BELIPO) and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) launched “Intellectual Property Week 2011” in April, at UB Faculty of Management & Social Sciences (FMSS) Campus in Belize City. Coordinator and Regional Consultant to the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) Ms. Mary-Ann Richards delivered a presentation on Intellectual Property (IP) to faculty and staff of the national tertiary institution.

Topics discussed included commercialization and exploitation of research in the context of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), income generated from patents and licenses, taking shares or equity in companies to exploit research, and direct consultancy or commercial research partnerships. A high priority for the University of Belize is its research agenda. In this regard a Research Director recently joined the UB family of faculty and staff with the mandate to ignite research activities that will generate income and gain recognition for the institution and its faculty. The three-day Intellectual Property sensitization mission to Belize by Ms. Richards was coordinated by the Belize Intellectual Property Office (BELIPO) in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

CENTRAL CAMPUS STUDENT GOVERNMENT AT WORK

In April, Mr. Benjamin Acosta on behalf of the Central Campus Student Government added four picnic tables, and two bicycle racks to the campus.



UB...EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS WITH CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF BELIZE!

The University of Belize (UB) the national tertiary institution continues to contribute significantly to local and national development of Belize through strategic partnerships with private and public sectors within the country's multicultural environment.

UB in its continued commitment provides the future leaders of the country who are enrolled in the Bachelor degree in Information Technology with practical work experiences in Information Technology through its internship program spear-headed by the Information Technology Department of the Faculty of Science and Technology.

"Students are engaged in updating computer programs, creating and modifying database applications and designing, modifying and installing computer networks," explains Internship Coordinator/University Student Advisor and IT Lecturer Mr. David Garcia. "The students acquire real work experience and offer community service by completing a specific information technology project or performing duties as an information technology professional, in public and private sector companies/organizations."



Close to 40 students are currently attached to the various companies/organizations performing computer related tasks, which have been identified by the respective companies/organizations to meet a practical need while at the same time providing an opportunity for students to practice what they have learnt.

They include the Belize Electricity Ltd, Belize Telemedia Ltd, Belize Social Security Board, Statistical Institute of Belize, Belize Internet Consultants, Embassy of Venezuela, and the Ministries of Natural Resources and the Environment, Health, Education and Youth, and Sacred Heart Junior College.

Unlike the Associate degree work experience, these internships are full time placements for a period of 360 hours minimum which is five days per week (minimum 30 hours) for twelve weeks.

KUDOS TO UB STUDENTS... HOST SUCCESSFUL EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES



Hon. Gaspar Vega addressing audience.

“...Happy to see that the University of Belize (UB) has taken a lead role in bringing awareness to students and society as a whole on the importance of our natural environment; equally heartened to know that UB’s curriculum instills in its students responsible resource management through its natural resources management program,” declared Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Hon. Gaspar Vega. The Deputy Prime Minister congratulated the national university when he spoke at the Opening Ceremonies of UB Earth Day 2011 event which was held on 13 April, 2011 at Central Campus, Belmopan.



UB’s theme for this year’s activities was: **“Natural Resource Management: Building a canopy of knowledge, trees and harmony for Belize to flourish.”**

FST Lecturer /Program Coordinator Natural Resource Management Program , Ms. Cecy Castillo explained that this year theme focused on tropical forests in line with the International year of rainforests. She remarked “the goal of UB’s Earth day 2011 is to promote the conservation of forested areas in Belize by increasing awareness of the Belizean public about the importance of forests to our people.”



UB Earth Activities 2011 was sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Youth, Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCCC), Development Finance Corporation (DFC), Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MSBC), Caves Branch and Chaa Creek. Activities included display of student booths and projects, “Trashion Fashion”, Hector the Hicatee ambassador, music, poster and poem competitions as well as the winner of the 2011 Green Businesses.

Earth day is celebrated annually on April 22nd around the world. This year the theme was, **“Million Acts of Green.”**



UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE PRESENTS FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND ARTS & UBECSC PRESENTS CHILDHOOD STIMULATION MONTH



FEA Dean Dr. Wilma Wright and faculty at Cultural Fair.

As part of the national Early Childhood Stimulation month **“Parents – Educate your Child,”** the Faculty of Education and Arts (FEA) of the University of Belize (UB) successfully launched a week of activities in March across the university campuses in Belmopan, Belize City, and Punta Gorda.

Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Wilma Wright says that FEA Week of Activities was designed “to provide assistance in the areas of preparation and development of all students in particular children, adolescents, adults, and involvement of UB students with this endeavour.”

A notable activity was a parade and rally featuring Early Childhood Stimulation Center/Pre-school students of Belmopan at Independence Plaza by the National Assembly. The pre-school students presented a poem written by Acting President and President Emeritus, Dr. Corinth Morter-Lewis entitled: **“I Love School!”** for the rally at the opening of this event.



UB President presenting Certificate to Leader of Los Halcones.

Other significant events included Launching B.Sc. in Spanish education, Multicultural Fair in Belmopan, Toledo, and Belize City Campus; Voz Latina presented by Latin American Literature Class; Panel Discussion on Best Practices in Early Childhood Education and Children with Special Needs; guest appearance on radio and television morning talk shows - *Oapn Paki*” and *Open Your Eyes* culminating with a Parade and Rally

Students, teachers, parents, and members of the community also joined the University of Belize in celebrating the development of a better Belize in this unique initiative by FEA. The Faculty of Education and Arts, offers education programs and programs in the humanities, and provides the required language, communication, and history courses that service the general core of programs at all of UB’s four faculties.



Ms. Fel Torres,
UB Lecturer/ Coordinator of UBECSC



UB PSO Officers assisted in Simulated Fire Drill



SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

After an intensive month in March, Recreation and Sports Department continues to work hard. This month the main focus was softball. In a softball marathon our Lady Jaguars placed second. UB Lady Jaguars are also in the Belize Rural Softball Tournament. They started the season by defeating Double Head Cabbage by the score of 11-0.

In May the Digicell “Ballin for Life” Basketball Tournament starts and UB Black Jaguars will be present as defending champions. They will do their best on the court to bring the championship yet another time. Staff and students are asked to come out and support our team. For information regarding game times and transportation please contact Mr. Kirk Smith at 822-1000 (ext 439)



UB Lady Jaguars Softball Team

The Recreation and Sports Department also take this time to invite UB Staff, and students to come by the gymnasium and make use of the equipment. You can always come in and have training sessions with one of the personnel of the Department.

UB STUDENT GOVERNMENT ORGANIZE PEACE MARCH

Students of the University of Belize in April held a peace march against crime in Belize City. Organized by the Student Government, approximately 200 students with placards and banners along with faculty members marched from UB Campus, West Landivar, marched through the principal streets of the old capital converging in Battlefield Park. At the park, students voiced their concerns in relation to safety travelling to and from classes particularly at night, and called for an end to violence in Belize.



UB students promoting peace.



Central Campus SG President, Jevon McKenzie addressing students.

UB & UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA EXPLORE STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Representatives from the University of Belize have held discussions with representatives from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW) regarding student exchanges during their visit to Central Campus, Belmopan. The representatives were from the Offices of International Programs and Academic Advisors.

UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE TO ENHANCE & STRENGTHEN MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES COMPETITIVENESS IN BELIZE

The University of Belize (UB) has been tapped by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as the national coordinating institution in Belize to train trainers for the enhancement & strengthening of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) competitiveness in Belize. The project, entitled “Quality & Productivity Management System (QPMS) is a regional initiative spearheaded by JICA. It is being executed in Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama in Central America and Dominican Republic from the Caribbean region.

Dean of the Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Dr. Vincent Palacio, says one of the main objectives of the project “is to strengthen the supporting systems of MSMEs in Belize by creating a regional network for the development of Japanese quality and productivity techniques.”



UB Lecturer Mr. Romaldo Lewis (Left).

Dean Palacio explains that five representatives have been selected from each country totaling forty (40) combining both regions, in Phase 1 of the project and are presently undertaking intensive training at Costa Rica in Japanese Quality & Productivity Management systems tools (QPMS). Representing Belize were Mr. Romaldo Lewis (UB), and private sector officials.

The implementation process of the project will be closely monitored and supported by the CEFOF & JICA consultants from Costa Rica in conjunction with the University of Belize, the national coordinating institution, through site visits to the assigned SMEs every two months.

UB SCIENTIST SPEARHEADS BIODIVERSITY STUDIES ON 'DUNG BEETLES' FOR CONSERVATION & PROTECTION OF NATURAL HERITAGE

The University of Belize (UB) is actively engaged in research activities on dung beetles which are bioindicators that are useful for conservation and preservation of habitats and species including the sustainable use of resources and protection of Belize’s natural heritage.

Lecturer of the Science and Technology faculty, Ms. Latha Thomas explains that “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 & increase the content of organic carbon, nitrogen and other nutrients in the soil through their dung burial activity.”

In essence, the tunneling behavior of dung beetles increases the soils capacity to absorb and hold water.



Roller dung beetle hard at work.

“When beetles bury dung, seeds in the dung are planted underground protecting them from predation & thus participating in the natural process of forest regeneration,” remarked Ms. Thomas. “They play a significant role in reducing populations of disease-causing organisms such as flies and gastrointestinal parasites of livestock by competing for food (fecal) resources and destroying eggs and larvae.” They have been introduced in countries like Australia to remove cattle dung and control pestilent species of flies. Additionally, by removing the manure from pastures, dung beetles can significantly enhance grazing efficiency as cattle will not graze close to their manure pats.

Currently there are two ongoing projects on dung beetles in Belize: Taxonomy & ecology of dung beetles of Guanacaste National Park. This research focuses on the use of dung beetles as biological indicator in determining the effects of forest fragmentation & human habitations on the national park. This is the first study on dung beetles done in Belize and will provide baseline information on these beetles which are otherwise well studied in this geographic region. 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 protected areas in the north & south of Belize. Both research activities have the participation and assistance of UB bachelor Biology students.

Calendar of Events

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Labour Day	2 Early Registration begins. Last day to withdraw with a WP/WF	3	4	5	6	7 UB Alumni Annual General Meeting at ITVET
8	9 Oil Exploration & Drilling in Belize presentation	10	11 Student Government Elections Last Blast Bash	12	13 Last Day of Classes UB Black Jaguars vs Maxboro Mavericks	14
15	16 Final Exam Starts	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Sovereign's Day	24 Final Exam End	25 Student Summer Vacation begins	26	27 Bio-Propagation Lab Launch at Central Farm Campus	28
29	30 Dean turn in grades to the Registrar Office 9:00 a.m. MDG Jaguar Auditorium	31 R.L.C. Students Graduation	Follow UB Environmental Club on www.facebook.com/EnvironmentalClub.UB			

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 or forwarded on a CD to the Public Information Officer, c/o UB Administration Building, 2nd Floor, Belmopan. Tel: 822-3680, ext. 236.