

Dr. Cary Fraser President of the University of Belize



UB WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS

The official kick-off for orientation for new students for the academic year 2011–2012 was held in August at the University’s Central Campus in Belmopan under the theme “**GET INVOLVED...UB is for all of us,**” with the final portion expressed in Kriol, Spanish, Garifuna and Ketchi. It is a call for Action!

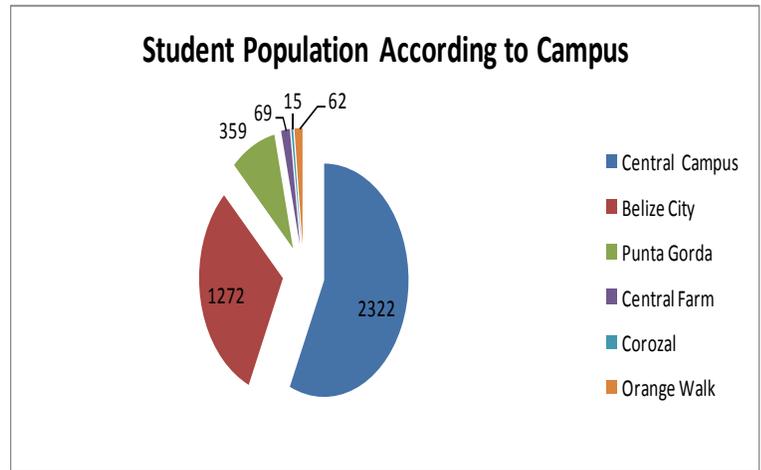
During the orientation exercise, students enrolled in the Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health and Social Work (FNAHSW), Faculty of Education and Arts (FEA), Faculty of Management and Social Sciences (FMSS) and Faculty of Science and Technology (FST), were introduced to academic and non-academic policies of the University, online registration, issues related to student life etc.

Dean of Student Affairs, William A. Neal in addressing the students remarked that the University of Belize is committed to providing them with the best educational experience at the national **university**. He emphasised that the University is “*student-centered and learning focused.*”

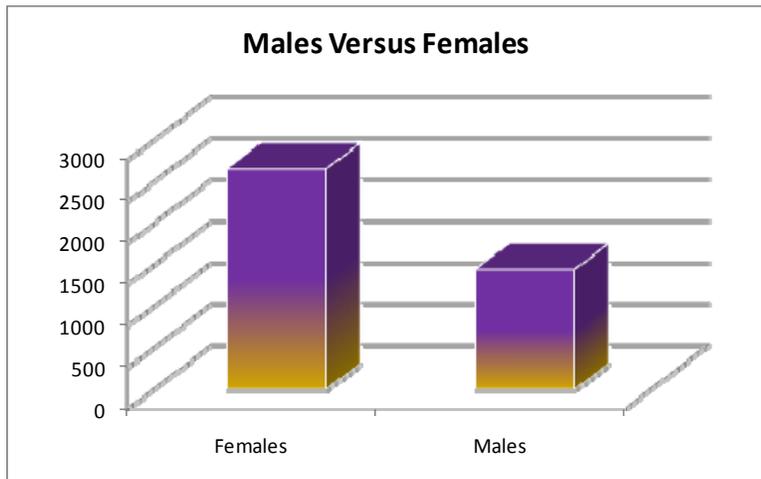
Approximately 1,900 new students are enrolled for the new Academic Year, August 2011 to July 2012, at UB’s major teaching sites and smaller satellite centres in Corozal, Orange Walk and San Pedro.

In related news, 13 students have been admitted to the University’s first Masters Degree in **Biodiversity, Conservation & Sustainable Development**. In June, UB launched this homegrown Masters Program in partnership with the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, the University of Guyana, and Anton de Kom Universiteit van Suriname. Evaluations and approvals of students’ research projects and thesis will be conducted by external examiners of a world-class external partner, the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.

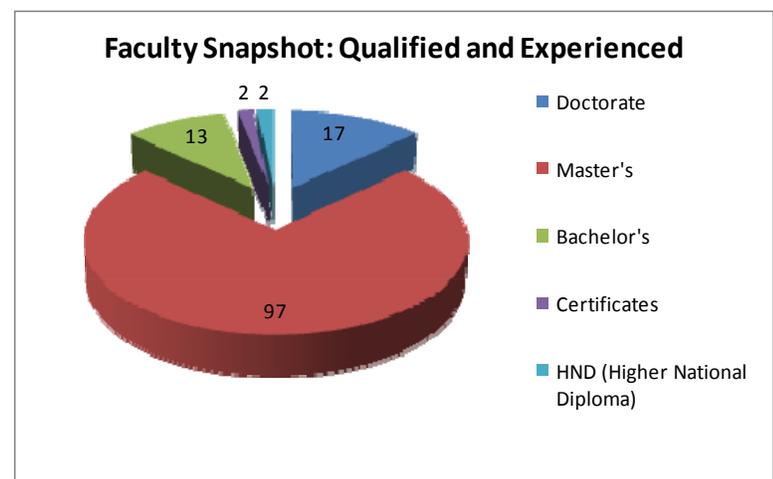
The Office of the President, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, Management, Faculty, Staff and students extends a hearty welcome to all new students for choosing the University of Belize as their premier tertiary institution and expresses warmest regards to the future leaders of Belize.



Graph 1: The student population according to campus



Graph 2: Comparing the male and female population



Graph 3: Qualified Faculty



UB welcomes you!

- Racism
- Alcohol and other drugs
- Gambling
- Weapons
- Property
- Falsification
- Computer/Network Misuse, etc.

Faculty of
Science
&
Technology

UB AND UNICEF SIGN AGREEMENT

The University of Belize will establish a new Policy Observatory with UNICEF's support. The annual work plan was signed by the President Emeritus and Acting President of UB, Dr Corinth Morter-Lewis and the Representative of UNICEF, Ms. Christine Norton. UNICEF's support to the Policy Observatory represents its commitment to build national capacities for research on children's issues, analysis of data and policy advice to support the efforts of national authorities, NGOs and agencies working with children locally.

The Policy Observatory was tabled in 2005 by the University of Belize and is the product of a joint initiative launched in December 2007 by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the University of Belize (UB) to build national capacity for the implementation of efficient and effective policy investment strategies, methodologies and tools, as practices for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in 2015. The establishment of the Policy Observatory as an entity within UB is projected to occur in two phases. In the first phase, under the guidance of the three founding institutions, a project manager is tasked to prepare a process-oriented Plan of Action that would guide the establishment of the Policy Observatory and its work for the first two years of operations. The establishment of the Policy Observatory includes the formation, by the end of the first phase, of the Public Policy Working Group (PPWG). This group has since been established and is chaired by Dr. Carla Barnett. The second phase is the stage of further articulation and subsequent implementation of the Plan of Action by the PPWG. This phase is expected to become the bridge towards the development and implementation of the longer-term Strategic Plan of the Policy Observatory, which is expected to include the evolution of the Policy Observatory into the University's Institute of Public Policy (Research).

UNICEF and UB will work together to ensure that the rights of children and women in Belize are respected, protected and fulfilled and will promote efforts towards Belize's achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.



UNICEF representative and UB Acting President signing the policy.

LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The University of Belize's Library offered its third summer reading program under the theme : "Read to Succeed," from July to August, at UB's Central Campus, Belmopan. The main goals of the program were to assist children in building self-esteem, improving reading speed, enhancing skills in the pronunciation of words, spelling and vocabulary use, comprehension, and increasing attention span.

A total of 53 students who had completed Infant II, from eight elementary schools in the Belmopan area, participated the program. The students were selected based on criteria used by the teachers and principals at their respective schools. The program was planned and organized by the Library Staff of Belmopan. The University of Belize, steadfast in its commitment to the empowerment of the nation through education, sponsored the annual program. The closing ceremony was held on August 05, at UB Jaguar Auditorium where the esteemed guest speaker was Dr. Priscilla Brown-Lopez, Lecturer of FEA, UB, who provided positive and inspirational words, and invaluable tips for promoting reading. Facilitators and students received certificates, and parents shared their appreciation openly, expressing high words of praise for the program.



Inspiring young minds.

The University of Belize Library is excited to announce our new online catalog Koha, which for the first time combines its circulating and non-circulating collections. A project more than three years in the making, the Catalog is now available on any computer with Internet access. Koha will officially be launched on August 31, 2011 (2:00 p.m.) at the Jaguar Auditorium.

University of Mississippi discuss collaboration with University of Belize

In July, UB Toledo Campus Administrator, Mr. Stanley Nicholas discussed possible areas of collaboration with officials of the University of Mississippi (UM) at the University's southern campus in Toledo. In anticipation of future ventures together to address shared goals, and areas of mutual interests, topics explored centered on education, in particular teacher education. Representing UM were Debby Chessin, Ed.D. and Amber Carpenter McCullough, PhD.



Strengthening inter-university collaboration.

Assistant Professor in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences at McGill University and an Honorary Fellow in the School of Forest and Ecosystem Science at the University of Melbourne, Dr. Gordon M. Hickey addressed UB students and community members in August on interdisciplinary research, which uses science applications to address natural resource issues related to sustainable development. One area of focus was the investigation of the complex society/nature relationships in a range of contexts. Dr. Hickey is in Belize to work with Ms. Stephanie Sabbagh a Ph. D candidate from McGill University, and a former adjunct faculty member at UB Toledo Campus.

In other news, kudos to Mr. Devon Paulino who has received a full scholarship to study Economics and Law at the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus in Barbados and also to UB student from Toledo, Armin Garcia who was chosen as one of five student-teachers for a one-semester experience at Bridgewater State University (BSU).

The new Director of Development, Director of Quality Assurance, Director of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Development Officer, Campus Administrator, and Computer Lecturer of UB-Toledo visited the Living Reef Center at Hunting Caye to review and make recommendations for revenue generation.

Living Reef Centre

The University of Belize-Toledo Campus now has a 32 foot fiberglass boat equipped with two 200 horse power 2 stroke Yamaha engines. It has a carrying capacity of thirty (30) persons. The name of the boat is "**Living Reef**". UB now has the capacity to provide transport for member of its community, students from schools in Belize, study abroad groups, researchers and others interested in exploring and/or experiencing marine life in most prestige form at the Living Reef Center at Hunting Caye..

The Living Reef Center (LRC) has 9 dorm rooms that can accommodate 32 persons. It also has bathroom facilities, kitchen, dining room, wet lab, and a dry lab. The LRC is designed as a research station. It is funded by the Earth Watch Institute. It was initiated in 2006 and handed over to the UB on May 17, 2008. The LRC facilitates research, monitoring and educational activities by University of Belize, local and international students, and researchers. The LRC will also serve as a tourist accommodation site during periods when no research is taking place. The activities offered are island hopping, scuba diving, snorkeling, and fishing.. You are sure to enjoy this awesome facility.



Campus Administrator, Stanley Nicholas.

INSTALLATION CEREMONY FOR NEW PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE, DR. CARY F. FRASER.



Dr. Cary F. Fraser is the new President of the University of Belize (UB). An installation ceremony was held for Dr. Fraser on August 24, 2011 at Central Campus, Belmopan. Dr. Fraser's is the first UB president to be appointed following the recommendation of a search committee. Members of the search committee included Chair of UB Board of Trustees, Mrs. Imani Fairweather-Morrison, who spearheaded the process, Dr. John Kemppainen, Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation (COBEC), Mr. Harrison Pilgrim, Industry Sector Representative to Board of Trustees and Mr. Deryck Satchwell, Representative of the Association of Tertiary Level Institutions of Belize (ATLIB) to the Board of Trustees.

President Fraser is a historian of International Relations who has written extensively on American foreign policy in the Caribbean and the wider world, the history and politics of race in the United States, the Caribbean, and the broader Atlantic World, and the contemporary international relations of the Middle East and the politics of Islam. His work has been published in Canada, the Caribbean, the UK and the United States.

He obtained his B.A. in History from the University of Guyana, the Diploma and M.Sc. in International Relations at the Institute of International Relations at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, and his Ph.D. at the Graduate Institute of International Studies of the University of Geneva, Switzerland. He has held fellowships from the Swiss Federal Government, Cornell University, the Social Science Research Council in New York, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation of Chicago, the University of Rochester, and has been a Visiting Fellow at the University of Maryland and Princeton University.

Dr. Fraser has pursued a multi-faceted career as a high school teacher, a researcher on indigenous and other populations in the Mazaruni area of Guyana, and a project officer for the Caribbean Conference of Churches working in both Guyana and Suriname. He has also served as a Human Rights Observer for the O.A.S. in Haiti.

Dr. Fraser comes to the University of Belize from the Pennsylvania State University where he taught in the Departments of African and African American Studies and History. He had also served as the Director of the Africana Research Center.

He is the author of *Ambivalent Anti-Colonialism: the United States and the Genesis of West Indian Independence, 1940-64* (Greenwood, 1994).

Dr. Fraser was born in Guyana in 1955. He is married to Pearl Fraser, and they have a daughter, Ayesha.

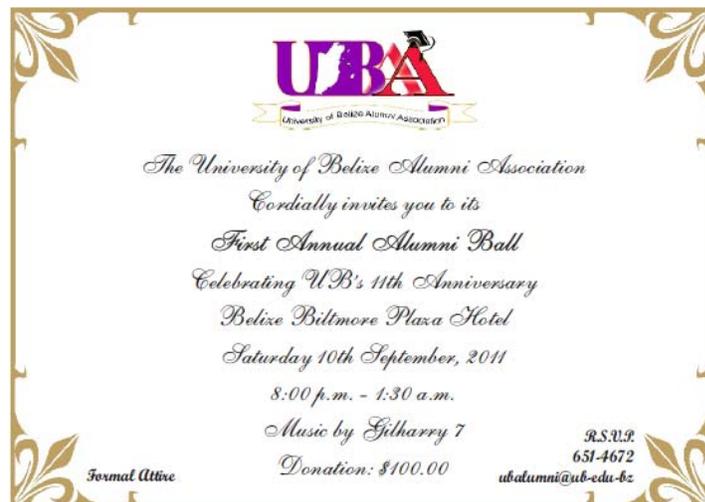
The Board of Trustees also, on the First Day of August, joined with members of Administration, Faculty, Staff and Students, in acknowledging the **11th Anniversary of our National University** which was established on the 1st Day of August 2000. *Happy Anniversary UB!*

UBAA BALL

The University of Belize Alumni Association (UBAA) will hold its **First Annual Alumni Ball**, “Celebrating UB’s 11th Anniversary”. It will be held on **September 10th** at the Best Western **Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel** in Belize City from 8:00 p.m. This formal event will feature a prominent Patron, an Award Ceremony, a dinner and an evening of Entertainment with one of Belize’s most talented band, Gilharry 7.

The first of its kind for the University and Alumni, the **First Annual Alumni Ball** is expected to bring together graduates from all the amalgamated schools and from UB. The Ball is the perfect setting for reunion and reflection as well as to enjoy ourselves at a time that certainly coincides with our National September Celebrations.

The Ball will serve as the Alumni’s premier annual fund raising event. All proceeds will go to the UBAA Student Scholarship Fund which provides bursary disbursements for books, registration fees and tuition for UB students. The donation and cost of tickets for this occasion is \$100.00 per person. Tickets can be purchased from members of the UBAA Board of Directors or from UB’s Office of Development at 822-3680. You may also call Dr. Cynthia Terry at 651-4672, or email ubalumni@ub.edu.bz.



UB ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

Julio Cesar Escalante is a true village hero. He is from the small village of San Jose in the Orange Walk district and is now a Ph.D. candidate at the Centre for Development Studies, at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. He plans to finalize his doctoral thesis in 2012. In his thesis, Julio is investigating how the denunciation of the 1975 ACP-EC Sugar Protocol affects cane farmers in northern Belize. Julio has a B.Sc in Business Administration from the former University College of Belize (2000) and a Masters degree in Development Economics (2003) from the Catholic University of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. He has also been awarded a professional certificate in Rural Micro Enterprise Development (2005) by the National Institute of Rural Development in Hyderabad, India. Julio is a career public servant, on study leave, at the Ministry of Economic Development where he serves as a Project Officer for the National Authorizing Office in Belize. Julio’s professional and academic work has focused on agricultural policy, economic development, global value chains, international trade, political economy and regionalism. He recently published a case study on cane farmer disputes in Belize in the *Social Report 2011- Caribbean basin: “Sweet islands for a sustainable future?”* for Ethical-Sugar.

Julio believes that his foundation years at our national university helped to shape his career and teach him life skills that were paramount for his success. Julio is a proud alumnus of our national university and encourages young students to grasp the opportunities that life presents to them. He is a volunteer for UBAA’s distance Student Mentorship Program and is willing to assist students that who may be interested in his field of study!



Julio C. Escalante

WELL DONE... HAPPY RETIREMENT!

Friends and Family, as well as members of the entire UB community would like to honor Mrs. Merlene Patricia Alford Henkis who will retire from the library service after 37 long years of hard work and dedication. She has been enthusiastically working in the library service until her retirement which will officially start on August 26th, 2011.

Mrs. Henkis' love of reading led her to join Belize Teachers College in October 1974. Belize Teachers College is one of the five tertiary institutions that merged to form the University of Belize. Ms. Merle did not study in universities or major in Library Science to gain the knowledge and experience that she has. She, however, attended workshops, conferences, trainings etc. when opportunity arose so as to expand her knowledge and gain expertise. She also represented the Belize Library Association in Jamaica, and worked at Texas Southern University Library on an exchange program.

One feat that Ms. Merle achieved which demands admiration is her creation and subsequent up keeping of a huge cataloguing system which was all done manually while at the Belize Teacher's College. That certainly would have taken a person with great organizational skills and an endless supply of patience because she achieved it all by herself. She always ensured that she knew everything about the library of which she was a custodian.

In the year 2000, upon the amalgamation of the University of Belize, she gained the title of Senior Library Assistant. In 2002, she was appointed as a Justice of the Peace, adding to her responsibilities to society. From 2004 to the present, she has been the supervisor of the Faculty of Management and Social Sciences Library in Belize City

Professionally, Ms. Merle is a team player; a very knowledgeable and encouraging role model. Ms. Merle is a very animated individual and enjoys travelling, socializing, dancing, singing, karaoke, and reading. She can best be described as young at heart. She is a loving wife to Frederick Henkis Sr., a wonderful mother of four children Chalonie, Kendra, Vanessa and Frederick Jr. as well as the caring grandmother to five grand children Antwoine, Ameerri, Jaydah, Richard Jr and Michelle.



Mrs. Merlene Henkis.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE OFFICIALS VISIT UB



Exploring opportunities and mutual interests

A delegation of officials from Houston-Belize International Trade Forum during their visit to Belize met with, and has explored opportunities with officials of the University of Belize.

Topics of mutual interest discussed ranged from student recruitment to college, Higher Education, student and faculty exchanges, the International Year for People of African Descent in the Western Hemisphere, Joint research projects (environment, material science, nanotech), Business development training for public and private sector managers, Maritime Science Technology and Study Abroad GLOBE

Management and Security, STEM Education, Aviation Science Technology and Study Abroad GLOBE (www.globe.gov) etc.

The Trade Forum was organized by Leondria R. Thompson, Trade and Investment Promotion Envoy, Belize Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Houston, Texas.

FEA DEAN VISITS FIRST COHORT IN BANANA BELT PROJECT

The Dean of the Faculty of Education and Arts, Dr. Wilma Wight, in keeping with UB's commitment to provide academic excellence for national development visited the first cohort of the UB/EU Project for Education and Training to the Banana Belt Communities on August 11, 2011. Dean Wright was pleased to see the excitement of the first cohort on site in Independence Village first hand. The project is utilizing a combination of distance education, internet communication and on-site instructors to provide education and teacher training in these communities. The funding for this project is being provided by the European Commission under its Banana Belt Support program. The lecturers are members of UB's Faculty of Education and Arts.



SPORTS SPOTLIGHT



Our Lady Black Jaguars are the new Softball Rural Playoff Champions. They defeated Flowers Bank village 13-2 in the final game. They have now qualified to the Belize National Softball Tournament which will be held at Rogers Stadium, Belize City on August 26-28, 2011. Please come out and support our team during the tournament.



SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT



Photovoltaic panels model

Infrastructure work has commenced for the building of a BZ\$20 million clean solar energy project at UB's Central Campus, Belmopan.

Approximately 2.04 acres of land will be made available for the operations of this cutting-edge technology using photovoltaic panels.



Infrastructure work

The Government of Belize in March of this year through the Ministry of Finance signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a clean solar energy project with UB.

The Project, funded by the Government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is designed to introduce clean energy to Belize by solar electricity generation using photovoltaic panels which are referred to as the PV system.

The power generated by the PV system will be sold to Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) and the gross proceeds from such sales will be transferred by way of a grant to UB. Also, GOB will transfer the ownership and management of the PV system after a period of ten years to UB free of cost.

The national University in this regard is poised to become a leader in clean solar energy coupled with the fact that students will benefit from being exposed to this cutting-edge technology.

The equipment procured under the project will be maintained by the Ministry of Works and UB with necessary assistance from BEL and other related organizations.

Updates will be provided as the project progresses.

UB LIBRARY RECEIVES BOOK DONATION



The University of Belize Library received a donation of almost 100 books from Dr. Scott McCoy of the College of William and Mary, Mason School of Business, USA in July. The donation is comprised of Business and Information Technology books.

This second donation within recent months represents the strengthening of a long-lasting relationship with the College of William and Mary and the University of Belize.

UB extends its appreciation to Dr. McCoy.

(R-L) UB President Emeritus Dr. Corinth Morter-Lewis, Dr. Scott McCoy, and Provost Dr. Ismael Hoare



Snippets - President's Installation Address.

I am very cognizant of the challenges that lie ahead and I look forward to working with all constituencies to move the University towards the goals of accreditation and the establishment of a reputation for academic excellence in training both Belizean and international students.

The investment of resources in the University of Belize to accomplish those tasks, and the prudent use of those resources, should be directed at sustaining both short- and long-term commitments to academic excellence and integrity. The University should be the foundation stone for the training of successive generations of leaders and skilled people who can work to improve life for all Belizeans

Knowledge, like capital, works best when it is used to create skills, opportunities, and a wider constituency invested in acquiring knowledge. Knowledge is, in fact, intellectual capital that needs to be invested to secure a return on the investment which can then create new avenues for investment. No society in the contemporary world can expect to create opportunities for its future generations without the replenishment and reinvestment of its intellectual capital.

A society that fails to provide access to a dynamic and effective university education for its citizens is a society that will lose its way.

The university, as a global institution, will have to play a critical role in preparing new generations of students for the future – a future which will require more effective stewardship of our environment and the resources that it offers to support human life.

The University is an invaluable vehicle for setting an example in the promotion of citizen engagement in public life. It provides a space for serious, well-informed analysis, and thoughtful debate – the marriage of learning and thinking - that helps to illustrate for students and the wider community the responsibilities of citizenship in matters of public concern.

The responsibility of the University is to foster the curiosity, the creativity, and the self-confidence of the students to ensure that they acquire the knowledge and skills that will make them effective and engaged citizens.

The University remains a place in which the diversity of the human experience – across generations, across cultures, and across fields of knowledge – will provide the stimulus for us to learn and to think.