



## UB Continues to Focus upon Development for Belize

Vancene Juan, Allie Yam, and Jasmine Tzul were the top finishers

## BELIZE ACCELERATES PROGRESS TOWARDS THE MDGS



Hon. Erwin Contreras

On January 30, the Jaguar Auditorium at the University of Belize, Belmopan was packed to capacity for the launch of the “Belize Scorecard and Outlook Report 2010,” a review of Belize’s performance in the context of the UN’s Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Present for the launch

were government and international officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, public, private sector officials, and non-governmental representatives and students both from the tertiary and secondary levels. President of the University of Belize,

Dr. Cary Fraser in addressing the gathering, emphasized the importance of the pivotal role that UB, should play in the future development of Belize. The Report revealed that Belize has made significant progress in the last years towards the achievement of the MDGs particularly those related to improving maternal health, reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and ensuring access to clean water. It also highlighted that Belize has already met the target of reducing the under-five mortality rate by two-thirds by 2015, and aims to further improve it, and it has made significant progress on universal access to primary education, particularly in relation to net enrolment reaching 95 percent in 2011.

Other areas of success are related to maternal health, in which the country has succeeded in bringing to zero the number of maternal deaths and in ensuring and improving access to clean water to both urban and the rural communities. Belize, the report says, has also made remarkable progress in reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

The Report was introduced by the Minister of Economic Development, Commerce and Industry, and Consumer Protection, Hon. Erwin Contreras who reaffirmed Belize’s commitment to the MDGs. He said “when celebrating success it is important to remind ourselves that progress belongs to everyone. It is the result of our joint commitment and efforts and of our shared vision for the future of Belize.”

UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Roberto Valent, stated that “the monitoring of MDGs progress is a crucial element of any effective MDGs national strategy, as it enables national legislators to (i) be more aware of the local challenges, (ii) to identify the key priorities, (iii) to draw from best practices with the ultimate goal of reaching out effectively to the most vulnerable groups.”



Mr. Roberto Valent

The University of Belize provided content specialists and was also instrumental in coordinating the preparation of the report. The “Belize Scorecard and Outlook Report 2010”, has been elaborated by the Government of Belize with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).



All eyes and ears on the report

### *About the Millennium Development Goals:*

The eight MDGs which range from having extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 – form a blueprint agreed to by the world’s leaders and all leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world’s poorest people. They are 1. Eradicate poverty and hunger 2. Achieve universal primary education 3. Promote gender equality and empower women 4. Reduce child mortality 5. Improve maternal health 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases 7. Ensure environmental sustainability 8. Develop a global partnership for development

## UB CONTINUES TO FOCUS UPON DEVELOPMENT FOR BELIZE

A total of 405 graduates 272 are females and 133 males received their diplomas at the Associate, Bachelor, Certificate and Diploma levels at the University of Belize Fourteenth Commencement Exercises on 28 January at the University's Central Campus, Belmopan. The graduates received their diplomas at the Associate, Bachelor, Certificate and Diploma levels.

The Faculty with the highest number of graduates once again is the Faculty of Education and Arts (FEA) with a total of 191, followed by the Faculty of Management & Social Sciences (FMSS) totaling 105, the Faculty of Science and Technology (FST) 76, and the Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health & Social Work (FNAHSW) with a total of 33.



President presenting appreciation plaque to guest speaker

Guest Speaker , Executive Chairman of the Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL) Mr. Nestor Vasquez said that, we are in an era of achieving the highest rate of innovation in our country's history. "Because innovation is critical in this age of Technology and Globalization... our initiatives in this area will continue to be our life's blood." He remarked. "You too must be innovative in how you perfect and market your expertise in the work force because this is what will ultimately set you apart."

Mr. Vasquez in closing pointed out to the graduates that:

*"Success is not a sometimes thing. IT IS AN ALL THE TIME THING. You don't succeed once in a while and you don't do things right once in a while, you must aim at doing right all the time, you will then find that success becomes a habit... Go for it and make UB PROUD, make your parents PROUD, and make Belize, this jewel of ours, even more PROUD."*

President of the University of Belize, Dr. Cary Fraser in extending congratulations to the graduates for their dedication, commitment and achievement noted that education which has the capacity to make us agents of change to make the world a more meaningful place was not simply about acquiring skills...it was about personal transformation.

*"To think intensively and to think critically are the indispensable tools of the educated person and that they are also the indispensable tools required to provide leadership to the societies in which we live our lives, " exclaimed Dr. Fraser. "Today, you are about to enter a new phase of your lives – keep intelligence, character, the ability to think constructively, and to focus intensively upon the future at the forefront of your lives as citizens of a world beyond the University."*

During the ceremony several students received University of Belize's official white, gold and purple honour chords. The tri-cable white honour chords are designed to honour those graduates with Cum Laude; gold honour chords designate graduates with Magna Cum Laude (great honour); and purple honour chords distinguish graduates with Summa Cum Laude the highest honour. The total number of honour graduates is 40.

The theme for this year's Commencement Exercises at the University of Belize was entitled: "GET INVOLVED...UB is for all of us."





**Congratulations!**

## UB'S ERI HOSTS FIRST PARTNER RECOGNITION CEREMONY



The Environmental Research Institute (ERI) of the University of Belize held on Thursday January 19, at an award ceremony at the George Price Center, Belmopan to recognize strategic partners and collaborators for their unstinting support and contribution to the development of research by ERI since its establishment.



Dr. Elma Kay, ERI

Award recipients at the included the Oak Foundation, Panthera, the United Kingdom Government's Darwin Initiative, and the Belize Fisheries Department in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

ERI, a department of UB, continuously builds national scientific capacity for the effective management, sustainable use and conservation of Belize's natural resources. The ERI currently focuses research and monitoring activities in the marine sciences, botany and wildlife and enables scientific and protected areas management training to both UB students and professional natural resources managers.

The ERI's vision is to provide sound science and create a culture of evidence-based decision-making in the public and private sector in areas relevant to Belize's sustainable development.

Examples of ERI efforts which are usually done in collaboration with partners include annual monitoring of ecosystems and sites at the Turneffe Atoll; maintenance of a Coral Bleaching database to support the work of National Coral Reef Monitoring Network (Coral Network); curation and maintenance of the National Herbarium at the Forest Department; and wildlife research, including jaguar population surveys in the Central Belize Corridor.



Strengthening strategic partnerships



Speakers included the Chairperson of the University of Belize, Mrs. Imani Fairweather-Morrison, UB's President, Dr. Cary Fraser, the Provost, Dr. Ismael Hoare and ERI science directors; Dr. Elma Kay, Administrative and Science Director (Terrestrial) and Dr. Leandra Cho-Ricketts, Science Director (Marine).



Dr. Howard Quigley,  
Western Hemisphere Panthera

## ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION



Lecturer Isabel Bennett, UB receiving certificate

The University of Belize (UB) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization conducted the training workshop on Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative (HINARI), which is a database that provides access to scientific health information.

***HINARI Programme set up by WHO together with major publishers, enables developing countries to gain access to one of the world's largest collections of biomedical and health literature. More than 8,000 information resources (in 30 different languages) are now available to health institutions in 105 countries, areas and territories benefiting many thousands of health workers and researchers, and in turn, contributing to improve world health. HINARI is an impressive resource that not only provides health information, but also provides a plethora of information about biology and natural resource management topics.***

According to the UB representatives, Mr. Elias Cowo, Library and Mr. Danladi Chiroma Husaini, Faculty of Nursing Allied Health and Social Work (FNAHSW), HINARI were able to identify hundreds of e-books on health. They even found a book on pharmacology that is currently used by students as a reference text. And it's all free.

A certificate of completion was issued to the attendees after the workshop. UB's Provost Dr. Ismael Hoare was present to award the certificate to the attendees. Dr. Hoare also provided opening remarks on behalf of the



Capacity building

University of Belize on the first day.

Representing UB were officials from the Library and FNAHSW. Other attendees included representatives from Belize National Library Service and Information System, Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, Ministry of Health, and PAHO/WHO Belize.

The three day training workshop was held from January 23 to January 25 at the George Price Center.

## NEW SUPPORT SERVICE FOR UB EMPLOYEES

Many people are challenged with issues they may not, or do not want to talk about at work, although they may be work-related; they may also have non-work-related issues they may feel uncomfortable or embarrassed to discuss at work. Yet these issues may adversely affect their work-performance and create untold stress which they do their best to hide, but which may then result in reduced productivity on the job, absenteeism and physical illness.

Recognizing this need, the University, under the umbrella of the Human Resource Department, is offering support through its newly instituted service the Employee Assistance Program. This service is free and is available to all employees and their immediate family members, (spouse or significant other and dependent children); some allowance may be made in circumstances where the issues that are being addressed are linked, in a critical way, to an individual who would not otherwise qualify as an immediate family member.

The service is completely confidential and information shared with the counselor will not form a part of the personnel file of those accessing the service, nor will it be shared with anyone, unless an employee requests or give permission for disclosure to be made; in such cases a release form signed by the employee would be required before such information would be disclosed. Managers, Deans, Directors and Supervisors have been asked to support those employees who may choose to access this service.

Copies of Brochures which contain the schedule and contacts for the Counselor/Psychologist, Dr. Corinth Morter-Lewis, President Emeritus, who is responsible for providing this service, are available at the Offices of all Departments, Faculties and Units at all UB Campus Sites.

## UB PARTAKE IN 2 MILLION EURO SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

The grant for Masters and PhD students in the Caribbean and Pacific regions is provided by the European Union under its Intra-ACP Mobility Scheme for the project entitled: “The Caribbean-Pacific Islands Mobility Scheme (CARPIMS)”.

The project is designed to facilitate the movement of Masters and PhD students and staff between a consortium of Universities from the Caribbean and Pacific regions as a means of building capacity and encouraging socioeconomic development in each region.

The primary goal of the scheme is to build the research and teaching capacity of each participating institution and their respective regions.

*The competitive scholarships provides Masters and PhD candidates opportunities to pursue qualifications in various fields including Agriculture Sciences; Architecture, Urban and Regional Planning; Art and Design; Business Studies and Management Sciences; Education and Teacher Training; Engineering and Technology; Geography and Geology; Humanities; Languages and Philological Sciences; Law; Mathematics, Informatics, Medical Sciences; Natural Sciences; Social Sciences; Communication and Information Sciences.*

*The scholarships cover all expenses (tuition, monthly stipend, health insurance, travel, etc.) for full masters programmes (up to 22 months), up to 10 months of Doctoral research (must already be enrolled in a Doctoral programme) and 1 month for staff exchanges.*

Deadline for application is March 15, 2012. Applicants are urged to visit the following website for details: [CARPIMS@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:CARPIMS@sta.uwi.edu), [www.sta.uwi.edu/carpims](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/carpims) It is coordinated by the University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus.

The Consortium of Universities participating in the European Union project includes the University of the West Indies, University of Belize, Universite D’Etat D’Haiti, University of Guyana, University of the South Pacific, University of Papua New Guinea, the National University of Samoa and the Universidade da Paz Timor-Leste.

**APPLY NOW FOR MASTERS/PhD FUNDING AT [sta.uwi.edu/carpims](http://sta.uwi.edu/carpims)**

CARPIMS will fund studies in numerous academic fields including:

- Agriculture Sciences
- Architecture, Urban & Regional Planning
- Art and Design
- Business Studies & Management Sciences
- Education & Teacher Training
- Engineering & Technology
- Geography & Geology
- Humanities
- Languages & Philological Sciences
- Law
- Mathematics, Informatics
- Medical Sciences
- Natural Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Communication & Information Sciences

**TO-DO LIST**  
~~New Year's Resolutions~~

1. Get funding for my Masters/PhD
2. Experience a new culture
3. Have a meaningful, unforgettable international experience
4. Apply to **CARPIMS** before March 15th!

**ABOUT CARPIMS**  
The Caribbean-Pacific Island Mobility Scheme offers funding to facilitate the movement of Masters students, PhD students and staff between selected Universities in the Caribbean and Pacific regions as a means of building capacity and encouraging socioeconomic development in each region. Read more about CARPIMS at [sta.uwi.edu/carpims](http://sta.uwi.edu/carpims). Applications close on March 15, 2012.

CARPIMS Partner Universities include The University of the South Pacific, University of Papua New Guinea, National University of Samoa, Universidade da Paz Timor-Leste, University of Guyana, University of Belize and Université D'Etat D'Haiti. The University of the West Indies is the coordinating institution for the implementation and management of the CARPIMS 2012 scheme, assisted by the European Union.

**CARPIMS**  
Caribbean-Pacific Island Mobility Scheme

**UWI**

**INTRA-ACP MOBILITY**

**EGO**

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.