



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

University of Belize, University Drive P.O. Box 340
Belmopan, Belize 822-3680, ext. 236
www.ub.edu.bz

Press Release

February 16, 2016

Bright Young Minds from UB's Faculty of Science and Technology Participated in Research Activities over the Christmas Break

The Dean of Faculty of Science and Technology Ms. Julianne Pasos joins Dr. Abel Carrias in congratulating Raphael Martinez and Mark McNab, students from UB's Bachelors in Biology and Bachelors in NRM programs respectively, for participating in research work under the supervision of US scientists. Raphael participated in the Coastal Studies Field Course offered in Belize by Marine Biology scientists from the University of North Carolina Wilmington while Mark participated in research work at Carrie Bow Cay Field Station led by Marine Biology scientists from Lamar University.

Raphael participated in an 8-day course at UB's Calabash Caye Field Station, Turneffe Islands Atoll. The course focused on the ecology of coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves, and island geology. In addition to onsite lectures and field activities, Raphael worked on a research project of his choice in which he did quadrat sampling of red white and black mangroves as well as of sea grass using MBRS protocols. Of his participation, Raphael had this to say, "It was very educational and fun. It allowed for information exchange through networking, inspired friendship and created bonds amongst participants. An experience you should definitely seek". Mark on the other hand participated in 14-day research project and assisted scientists in a study to test the hypothesis that microbial response to macroalgal dissolved organic matter and temperature facilitates coral loss on the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef.

We take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to our very own Mr. Eden Garcia, PhD candidate at UNC Wilmington and Dr. Matthew Hoch from Lamar University for the opportunities and mentorship provided to our UB students. Thanks also to Ms. Karen Waight, Ms. Cecy Castillo, Dr. Pio Saqui, Dr. Thippi Thiagarajan and to Dean Juliane Pasos for assisting in one way or the other in making these and other opportunities available to FST students. We also take this opportunity to encourage students to take advantage of similar opportunities that become available at UB and to take time to visit the offices of faculty researchers to explore potential ways of getting involved in research.

The research opportunities provided to these two students is part of FST's ongoing effort to foster research at UB and to give students the opportunity to practice science through a research mentorship approach.

For further information about the training and research participation of Mr. Martinez and Mr. McNab contact Dr. Abel Carrias at acarrias@ub.edu.bz, or contact the students directly at Raphael_S_Martinez@hotmail.com (Raphael) and markmcnab911@yahoo.com (Mark).

The University of Belize (UB)...Education Empowers A Nation!