

University of Belize



2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT



**UB WELCOMES SEVENTH PRESIDENT
PROFESSOR EMERITUS CLEMENT SANKAT**

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 academic freedom, equity, transparency, merit, and accountability.

Vision

The intention is the transformation of the University as a recognized university in the region and as the premier degree-granting university in Belize, which is student-centered and which responds to the national development needs and priorities of the country and aspirations of higher education.

Core Values

- Excellence and Merit
- Relevance and Contribution to National Needs
- Spirit of Inquiry and Academic Freedom
- Diversity and Equitable Access
- Sustainability and Future Orientation
- Accountability and Transparency
- Empowerment and Initiative

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Overview.



*“Vision must be transformed into
Action.”*

“A vision for this University should not be constrained, as a vision is a destination, and great Universities were built through hundreds of years of dedicated, steady, work. We have a long journey ahead that will be sometimes marred by challenges but then that is the role of leadership – to set the course and steer the ship to its port of destination through heady, rocky and calm waters.”

Professor Emeritus, Clement Sankat

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Board of Trustees Chair's Overview



(L-R) Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat,
Mr. Harrison Pilgrim and Dr. Mariot Simon

2016 brought with it a wind of change in the minds of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of The University of Belize (UB). Enough was enough! Enough of waiting for Management technocrats to, “analyse and understand” what needed to be done to turn the finances, output quality and University’s image around. Enough of waiting for critical positions within the staff and faculty to be filled. Enough of plans that were hardly ever implemented. Enough complaints, criticisms and concerns about quality, content and output.

At the first BOT meeting in January 2016, the Trustees adopted a resolution to empower a Board Committee to take full responsibility to identify and recommend suitably experienced candidates for President, Vice President and Provost. Board Chairman, Harry Pilgrim captained the committee. From the outset, it was agreed that to get different results than had been experienced from past appointments, the committee had to do things creatively different.

We are grateful to all those within and outside of the University’s framework who contributed ideas, time and critical thinking to fuel the process which resulted in selections to fill all three senior leadership positions. Contracts were eventually signed with two: Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat as President and Dr. Mariot Simon as Vice President -Academic Affairs. After consultation and given the University’s precarious finances, it was agreed to collapse the duties of the top three management positions with the new president assuming responsibility for most functions previously assigned to a VP Administration.

Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat took leadership of our flagship on February 16th, 2017. He was up and running almost immediately, meeting with internal and external University constituents, building alliances and creating a wave of awareness across the entire educational landscape. Vice President, Dr. Mariot Simon joined the Senior Management team on April 3rd assuming responsibility for Academic Matters.

Effective leadership delegates wisely, allowing others to get things done. Effective leadership sets goals, communicates, and gives recognition, always looking for lasting solutions. The 2016-2017 Academic year has set the stage for transformative change at UB. There are great expectations. I commend the administrative and academic leaders within the University for the tremendous team spirit amidst this tide of change. We are grateful to all the University partners for the patience, confidence and support given. Future generations will be proud; UB da fi all ah we, let’s build UB together.

G.A. Harrison Pilgrim
Chair, Board of Trustees

President's Perspective

I am very pleased to share my thoughts, for the very first time, for this Annual Report of the University of Belize and for the Academic year 2016/2017. Of course I must begin by stating that I began my work as the 7th President of the University of Belize in mid-February, 2017. Hence my acknowledgement and thanks must go to Mr. Alan Slusher, former President for steering the University through much of the Academic Year.

So much of my engagement in the academic year 2016/2017 had to do with getting to know the University, our people, our programs, our finances, our infrastructure etc., and of course our external, interacting environment. Making an assessment of the University of Belize within the context of Belize's educational landscape was therefore a priority. This I have done and will be shared in our 2017/2018 report through our document in press, "A Transformational Leap, Vision 2022"



Several things came to my mind on reflecting: my very warm welcome into the University of Belize family, the very friendly, faculty, staff and students of the University of Belize, my first Ruta Maya River race, the memorable installation of the President at the historic St. John's Cathedral in Belize City, the visit of the UWI Chorale and UWI Steel from the UWI St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad to Belize and their stirring performances both in Belize and in Chetumal, Mexico, reaching for higher enrolment at the University of Belize through enhanced marketing and promotion including our presence at the National Agriculture and Trade Show (NATS), my own invitation to be the featured speaker at NATS on the subject "Putting Agriculture as a National Priority for sustained growth and competitiveness of Belize and the wellbeing of its farmers and rural communities", of course meeting our Faculty, Staff and Students at all our campuses/sites including Punta Gorda and Calabash Caye, listening to our students and staff, and their research



work including that of Dr. P. Castillo of FMSS who won the researcher of the Year Award at FMSS and his presentation on the matter of “pension liability in Belize”, our staff and student’s Sports Day, engaging our Belmopan Mayor to support our Campus, our self-help initiative on “Let us build UB together” and the painting of several buildings, paving of roads and car parks etc. And there is much more.

But it was also a time to push the University to higher levels of achievement, new programs and Bachelor’s programs in particular. With the support of our Deans this planning effort began in earnest and I was very pleased to see the fruits of this effort – new BSc programs in Pharmacy, in MedLab and the Certificate in Agriculture. But then the planning for our first Master’s program, the MBA also began and several more. The appetite, hunger and enthusiasm to go higher at UB, was quite evident. I thank my colleagues for this. But the unsatisfactory side of my realization had to do with the state of our finances, and our teaching and learning infrastructure with the latter being extremely poor in certain areas. Infrastructure as a whole at UB needed urgent fixing! The lack of functional systems in place to recognize and reward faculty and staff, so as to treat with assessment and promotion of faculty for example was particularly stark. But these are all areas that require dedicated attention and work.

So it was an entry that can be described as exciting as it was hopeful; hopeful that a much better University can be built in the service of the thousands of expectant students of Belize –giving them a clear sense of hope for a good quality, tertiary education.

So in 2016/2017, the journey of change and hope, just began. I do expect you find this Annual Report and the work of our Faculties and Administrative Support Offices interesting and informative and I thank all who contributed to its publication. I would welcome your feedback.

Professor Clement Sankat
12th April, 2018

Installation of Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat as Seventh President of UB

Excerpts from Inaugural speech:

“Building the National University of Belize to support the country’s advancement –Let us transform it together”

The Almighty works in mysterious ways, setting us upon journeys that are as much capricious as they are driven by an end in sight. Our mandate is to build and transform this seventeen-year-old Institution, University of Belize into an entity that all Belizeans, here and abroad can be proud of –through its teaching, its research, its service and its outreach. So the destination is clear, but the path less so. But there is the good news, and I quote from Ephesians 2:10, *“God has made us what we are. He has created in us Christ Jesus to live lives filled with good works that He has prepared for us to do.”*

I have always told my students “whatever we design and build can be done better, whatever we do can be improved upon”. This is what makes the world in which we live today, such an exciting place of progressive change.

My aspirations for this emerging institution are to widen our reach providing access especially to the students of the far corners of this land, giving many of them hope for a better tomorrow; to strengthen our responsiveness to the knowledge needs of the Belizean society, and being engaged in problem solving, treating with national issues like poverty and crime, the economy, health care education, the creative arts, the environment, agriculture, tourism, industry etc., thus shaping the possibilities for a better future. UB must become a responsible, scholarly institution – both to our internal and external stakeholders, recognizing that as an Institution and as individuals of the Academy, we are beacons of enlightenment, hope and good examples for this society. Reach, responsiveness and responsibility must define us as the National University, that is the heavy mantle of leadership we wear.

Let us not underestimate the challenges of sustainability facing national Universities in small, developing countries like Belize – the virtuous circle of increasing societal demand for relevance, quantity and global quality; the economics of scale; limitations on the reservoir of human talent to support teaching, research, administration, and consistent funding both recurrent and capital, in often small, fragile, and uncertain economies.

Contained within this discourse is the often emotional response to the question of who pays for a University education? From past and current experiences that are unfolding in the Caribbean, sustainability requires all beneficiaries to contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of this National University. This cost must be balanced with the benefit that this country and its people can aspire to through human development and knowledge that support enhanced growth, socio-cultural and economic progress, through the University's work. One imperative of a National University and the community that I wish to point to is that no deserving student should be left behind, and it is therefore an obligation of all gathered here to find creative solutions that can facilitate this. To ensure its sustainability, the University must be an enlightened, productive partner with all the constituents of Belizean Society while building bridges to our Regional, Diasporic and International partners and friends.



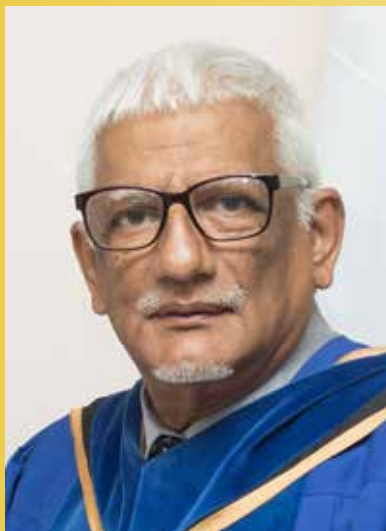
I am inspired to lead the UB on the path to a renewed hope - one that creates new and wider educational opportunities for the young people of Belize to get a sound, quality education; bringing the knowledge resident at the University to shape and facilitate Belize's development pathway through leadership, research, creativity and innovation and all together bringing service to the people of Belize. Universities, and especially publicly funded universities do not exist to serve themselves, but have an obligation to serve the communities that nurture their existence.



**Professor Emeritus, Clement Sankat
President, University of Belize**

Management Team

Prof. Emeritus, Clement Sankat
President



Dr. Mariot Simon
Vice-President



Sherlene Julien
Director of Finance



Hertha Gentle
Director, Human Resources



Denise Robinson
Administrative Officer
Office of the President



Dr. Cynthia Thompson
Assistant Provost





The Office of Public Information holds the responsibility of documenting and broadcasting the workings, events, and stories of the University of Belize. During the review period, this unit has focused on developing and modernizing its media approaches.



Office of Public Information OPI

Currently, the OPI is shifting its direction specifically to "Marketing & Communications." While maintaining the documentation of the University of Belize's history through photography, video, and newsletters. The OPI has also been focused on improving the University's website in addition to developing enhanced marketing tools that will assist the University in reaching potential students and faculty, and encouraging close collaboration with other institutions.





**Learning.
Teaching.**



UB Welcomes Vice President Dr. Mariot Simon

Dr. Mariot Simon graduated from the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship with a Doctorate in Business Administration with a specialization in International Management. He also holds a Master's in Business Administration and a Master's in Agricultural Economics. He has extensive experience in economic development, emerging sectors development, export market development and international marketing. He worked for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in that country's national economic development agency where he worked in export marketing, industrial development and investment promotion. He also managed a World Bank funded grant programme aimed at increasing the export competitiveness of businesses. Dr. Simon migrated to the United States in 2003 and pursued his doctoral studies where he graduated from Nova Southeastern University in 2008. On completion of his doctoral studies, Dr. Simon worked with Strayer University, initially in the capacity of full time lecturer and then as a Dean.

Throughout the university teaching and learning community, all faculties continue to build bonds that allow them to work together to move the student population towards achieving all learning outcomes. Beyond the classroom, these bonds reveal themselves through campus activities including symposiums, conferences, seminars and clubs that bring professionals from many local, regional and international entities together with students, staff and faculty, toward national goals regarding academic research, publication, and sustainable creative thinking and solutions. These activities invite social dialogue, student and faculty exchanges and mentoring, as well as integration of essential technology.

Faculty of Education + Arts

Dean: Nestor Chan, Ed.D

Education.Languages.History

Regional Language Center

Early Childhood Stimulation Center



"The Faculty of Education and Arts (FEA) is committed to excellence in teaching, research and service and to the development and implementation of programs for initial preparation and continuing professional development of teachers and other educational professionals, empowering them to act as catalysts of change in response to national needs."

FEA spans a large spectrum of University's offerings as it interfaces the other disciplines toward the goal of educating educators as well as supporting the advancement of students toward graduate studies. FEA maintains numerous goals, the foremost being to promote national discussion so as to sensitize students and the wider public on historical issues that are still impacting Belize's development. Efforts employ a variety of approaches.



Outreach

Outreach programs serve not only the communities around the nation, but also offer students a hands-on opportunity to make a difference and learn in the field while applying theory and exploring new possibilities.

FEA continues to strengthen the cooperation between the University of Belize and Kuxlin Ha Government School as student teachers get the opportunity to apply methodology covered in their various courses in the primary school classroom.

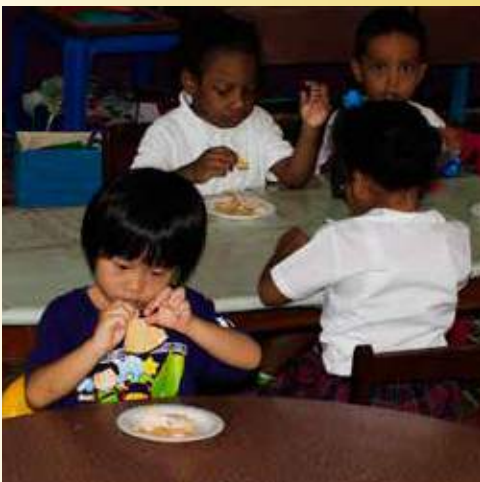




Authentic experiences enhance the quality of the teacher training programs. Similarly, with the Language Arts Methods for Primary School Teachers, Dr. Young and Dr. Wagner's students established literacy centres at the Early Childhood Stimulation Centre in Belmopan and taught Language Arts Lessons at Garden City Primary School and other schools in the City of Belmopan and neighbouring communities.



In the 2016-2017 academic year, the History Department established partnerships with the Belize History Association and the Museum of Belize, both entities of the National Institute for Culture and History (NICH), to promote Belizean History to the general public. These public presentations were held in both Belmopan and Belize City and saw the participation of faculty and students of the department. Also, the History Department Coordinated the Belmopan session of the Belize History Association (BHA) Lecture on the Preliminary Findings on the Battle of St. George's Caye held in the Jaguar Auditorium. Dr. Angel Cal of the History Department was the lead presenter of this lecture. Expanding educational opportunities beyond the classroom to relevant destinations in Belize and Mexico also helped push the Faculty closer to the goal of sensitizing students and the broader community.



With the 2016 publication of *Like Bush Fire: Male Social Participation and Violence in Urban Belize* co-authored by Dr. Virginia Hampton of the English Department, faculty and students have the opportunity to engage academically and practically in the serious social issues facing Belizean society. By offering a variety of literature courses and specializing in Belizean as well as regional post-colonial literature, FEA promotes discussion of relevant post-colonial issues by referencing and analysing writings from many cultures near and far. At the same time, FEA has hosted international lecturers, which encourages a broader global awareness and tolerance as UB students prepare to become catalysts of change.

Student Exchange

One of FEA's priorities is establishing opportunities for student exchange which would also encompass opportunities for cross university credit attainment. This goal is supported by the University of North Florida, University of Quintana Roo, University of Valladolid in Spain, Bridgewater State University, etc. During the 2016-17 academic year, FEA sent 5 students on an exchange program for one semester to Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts. All these are education majors. The faculty also established a mobility program with the University of Valladolid in Spain and selected 4 students and 3 lecturers to travel to Valladolid University in Spain for training for semester 2017-1.

Bachelor in Primary Education students successfully participated in the Bridgewater State University semester abroad program and completed the semester with excellent grades. The students who have returned to Belize are currently finishing up their degrees at UB.



The Arts



The English department takes increasingly broad steps to enhancing the writing experience. Two projects include a writing workshop facilitated by Ms. Ivory Kelly for students from the University of Quintana Roo as well as the establishment of a writing centre in Belize City, spearheaded by Ms. Lisa Ramirez. These endeavours encourage ongoing collaboration with other universities, the nurturing and development of creative writing in Belize, and the strengthening of general writing skills. This year also, a University of Belize Bachelor in English alum, Keshia Peyrefitte, published a debut collection of short fiction, *I Love Her and Other Stories*, while Lecturer Christopher DeShield piloted a student literary journal and is charting the path towards publication and further expansion.



The 4th annual Silvaana Udz Lekcha featured UB alum Jacklyn Burns who delivered a dynamic lecture, reflecting on her journey as a creative writer.



The annual Evening of the Arts featured a multitude of visual and musical artists from the student body, faculty and staff, and the wider community, the highlight of the evening being a soulful, electrifying musical performance by world renowned Garifuna artist and alum Adrian “The Doc” Martinez. In another very memorable FEA event, UB’s Tooth + Claw Theatre Troupe produced an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen’s “Enemy of the State,” which the student-actors adapted to make relevant to contemporary Belizean society. Through the production, the students also took advantage of the opportunity for multi-dimensional artistic expression

Academic Expansion

With research being a multilateral tool, research data offers FEA guiding posts as the faculty develops policy, course work and class structure. Throughout the University, faculty and students alike engage in research to enhance the various programs. As such, the FEA continues to increase their participation in research projects that expand professional development and improve student perception of academic endeavours. Several FEA lecturers have attended and presented research papers at international conferences in countries such as Malaysia, Jamaica and the U.S.

FEA expanded the Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education (AECE) program to Punta Gorda and Belize City campuses and succeeded in attracting 50 students into this new program. A proposal for the implementation of the ECE Program at the other UB Campuses will provide the much needed training that the Ministry of Education is expecting. This initiative will increase the number of trained teachers in this area by at least 15% in the first cycle. Even as the Ministry of Education continues to provide scholarships and grants to students enrolled in Bachelor's in Education Programs, it is also seeking ways in which it can assist UBFEA in the further development of capacity in early childhood education. Meanwhile, the English department is working steadfastly in designing a four-year bachelor degree curriculum to replace the existing separate two-year Associate in English and Bachelor's in English programs.





With regard to the delivery of on-line courses, FEA, in collaboration with the Department of Online and Distance Learning (ODL), delivered two on-line courses in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Professionalism in Education and Teaching Methods for Secondary Teachers. Both courses were offered via an asynchronous mode.

FEA continues to raise the bar in professional proficiency by fostering a team work ethic among faculty and enhance the overall work experience. Efforts to improve planning, teaching methods, assessment, advising and research led to improving work conditions, refurbishing a room for adjunct faculty, and restructuring faculty office spaces.



Research Publications

De Shield, Christopher. "Bayam, the cosmopolitan: postcolonial ecologies of the Amaranth". *Cosmopolitan Asia: Littoral Epistemologies of the Global South*. Eds. Gabriel, Sharmani Patricia and Fernando Rosa. Milton Parks, Abingdon: Routledge, 2016.

Hampton, Virginia et al. *Like Bush Fire: Male Social Participation and Violence in Urban Belize*. Benque Viejo del Carmen, Belize: Cubola Productions, 2016. Print.

Kelly, Ivory. "For Rest and Food and Loving Care and All That Makes the World So Fair." *The Caribbean Writer*. St. Croix: University of the Virgin Islands, December 2016.

Kelly, Ivory. "A Certain Kind of Beautiful." *Interviewing the Caribbean*. Vol 2.1. Kingston, Jamaica: Opal Palmer Adisa, January 2017.

Sangster, Tracey. "Langston Hughes in LITR 3352 American Literature: "Belize Meets Langston"" *The Lincoln University Global Heritage and Legacy Teaching Resource*. Eds. Button, Marilyn and Susan Pevar. Pennsylvania: Lincoln University Press, 2015. Print.



Regional Language Center RLC

Director: Jhon E. Flórez O



"The university over the years maintains a singular pillar for the support, research and academic promotion of languages spoken in the region. The director of Regional Language Centre (RLC) highlights 4 major areas of development, based on the RLC Strategic Work Plan 2016-2019."

Academic Excellence

The RLC has continued the tradition of working with representatives from the embassies of Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Taiwan to enhance the services that RLC offers to the international students enrolled in the Certificate in English as a Second Language (CESL). Embassies have been actively working with the RLC by participating in different events such as the RLC Orientation 2016, the RLC Multicultural Fair 2016-2017, and the UB Graduation 2017. Language training sessions were offered to volunteers from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). These included an Experience Belize session, Spanish, and introduction to the Belize language. RLC has created the "RLC Seminar Series" in order to exchange successful teaching/learning experiences, as well as research results that will contribute to enhanced language learning and teaching at UB. The first session of the seminar was facilitated by Mr. Jhon E. Flórez O., RLC Director, who delivered a workshop titled: "Bilingualism, Language Policy and Planning."

Learner-Centered Network

The RLC has established a "Community Service Program" for all RLC scholarship students. The objective of this program is to engage students in different activities at the University of Belize; for ex-





ample, all RLC scholarship students are required to complete service by becoming RLC Lab Monitors. RLC has also improved the ESL Internship program by enhancing relationships with internship host institutions. Additionally, a blended internship modality has been developed between RLC and BELTRAIDE. Two brochures have been designed to advertise RLC; one brochure is in English and Spanish and the other is in English and Mandarin. Furthermore, RLC has actively been working with the UB Office of Public Information to develop a new website.

National + Local Development

The RLC hosted meetings with the translators with whom the Centre works (Mandarin-English-Mandarin and Spanish-English-Spanish), to discuss ways of improving the Centre's translation services. A training session for translators and language teachers was held on "Sociolinguistic and Pragmatic Aspects that are Relevant in Translation and Language Teaching." The RLC Director participated in the planning of the Binational Seminars Mexico-Belize, organised by UB, UQROO, ECOSUR and the Embassy of Mexico in Belize. A Local Committee was convened, which includes representatives from UB, the Embassy of Mexico in Belize, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and PAHO/WHO Belize to plan and organize the seminar.

Faculty of Management + Social Sciences

Dean: Dr. Bernard Watler
Business Management
Accounting
Public Sector Management
Tourism Management



"The Faculty of Management and Social Sciences provides student centred, professional education in management and social sciences to its clients by seeking to achieve excellence in teaching, service, and research. Through focused partnerships with stakeholders, the qualified and experienced faculty and staff provide technologically relevant services that contribute to Belize's sustainable development."



During the year in review, FMSS continued to strive towards accomplishing three overarching goals: 1) to equip students with the principles, concepts, techniques, and knowledge necessary to take leadership positions in business, government, and non-governmental organizations. 2) to develop skills, knowledge, and interest in entrepreneurship. and 3) to present students with an education relevant to the Belizean environment and the needs of globalization.





FMSS aims to provide students with an integrated approach to the pluralistic practice of management and creative entrepreneurship. In pursuit of the stated goals, the Faculty offers an expanding array of new programs at campuses around the nation. Launching an MBA degree at the Belize City Campus is at the forefront of the FMSS' commitment to nurture and support the growth and development of Belize. Also, new programs and expansion of current programs will increase the access of the population to management education opportunities. The faculty has maintained a continuous effort to update as well as standardize course outlines each semester and going forward.

Partnerships

Key to achieving the stated goals is the creation of partnerships. This can be seen in the various programs and activities that reflected the Faculty's vision, mission and goals. Furthermore, numerous activities outside of the classroom were promoted in the national media – an integral component in marketing. During 2016-2017, FMSS maintained a rigorous schedule of workshops, conferences, symposiums and expositions which highlight the dynamic, relevant and hands-on interface with movers and shakers in the broader community. Many of these relationships help students learn the value of growing a nation in a holistic fashion, taking into consideration issues concerning the environment, global economic realities and ingenuity.

Activities

The review period highlighted numerous outreach activities which enriched partnerships and development for the faculty.

October 2016 – Mr. Romaldo Lewis served as a panellist on UWI's Belize Country Conference Leadership for Sustainability Agenda. Panel Discussion: Improving Climate Change Resilience in the Caribbean: Environmental Sustainability Through Entrepreneurial Growth.

February 2017 – Dr. Bernard Watler served as a panellist in a Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry discussion on labour issues.

November 2016 – Belmopan Campus's 4th Annual Entrepreneurship Symposium featuring collaboration among UB and other stakeholders including, but not limited to, Belmopan City Council, Courts Belize, BELTRAIDE and SBDC Belize

November 2016 – Belize City Marketing Expo. Key note speaker, Belize City Mayor Darrell Bradley. Judges for the displays were from University of Quintana Roo, Mexico, San Pedro Belize Express Water Taxi, University of Belize, SBDC Belize, Choice Bank, Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture, Labour Department, Tropic Air Belize, and Santiago Castillo Ltd.

November 2016 – Belmopan Marketing Expo cosponsored by Scotia Bank Belmopan and UB student affairs department.

April 2017 – In the promotion of the ATOS program in Punta Gorda, several stakeholders such as the principals of Julian Cho Technical High School and Toledo Community College, the Mayor of Punta Gorda Town and representatives from TIDE, We Art Gallery Museum, Battle of the Drums Secretariat/Beya Suits and the Belize Tourism Industry Association expressed their support for the expansion of programs in the southern region on Belize and appreciation for the University of Belize's continued contribution and presence.

In October and November 2016, FMSS assisted the Admissions Office in the marketing and promotion of the university in all the districts.



National Entrepreneurs

FMSS contribution to the development Belize's National Entrepreneurship Framework via participation in preparation and validation workshops. Belize's National Entrepreneurship Framework was presented during Belize's Annual Entrepreneurship Convention at the Biltmore Best Western Hotel.

Annually, FMSS hosts key events such as the annual Entrepreneurship Symposium and annual Marketing Expo that promote entrepreneurship and business development as the fuel of economic development in Belize. These initiatives significantly help to create enabling environments for young Belizeans to evolve into successful entrepreneurs in the future.

Internships

FMSS boasts a long, diverse list of businesses, organizations, and governmental agencies that provide internships for students. Students are offered the benefits of on the job training as well as opportunities to network with professionals and work alongside associates. Eco-based non-profits, banks, utility companies, resorts and even, at home, at the University of Belize (to name a few examples), engage students with the nuts and bolts of their operations; and interns reciprocate with exemplary output, which then yield mutually beneficial outcomes.



Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health + Social Work

FNAHSW

Dean: Leolin Swift-Castillo
Business Management. Accounting
Public Sector Management
Tourism Management



"The Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health & Social Work is committed to the development of competent and caring practitioners respectful of human rights and dignity, embracing a multi-disciplinary educational system that emphasizes leadership, professional standards, knowledge creation and dissemination and excellence."



A critical pillar of any society is the health of its members, thus as the faculty that is responsible for the training of healthcare professionals, the impact on national development has been significant. The teaching-learning process is a life-long, cyclical, and dynamic process. Over the past year, activities were implemented to improve the teaching-learning process. These efforts include the development and submission of two new programs: a Bachelor's in Pharmacy and a Bachelor's in Medical Laboratory Science.



National Health



Continuous professional development workshops were held for lecturers, and the transfer of insights acquired from the workshops were demonstrated within the classroom. The enrollment trends in the different programs (namely Nursing, Pharmacy, Medical Laboratory, and Social Work) continue to increase. The faculty recognizes that the needs of the country must be taken into consideration in determining student intake per year. However, due to the limited size of the healthcare sector, administrators often ruminate about the ability of FNAHSW to provide placement sites to accommodate all student interns. Fortunately, external funding was received from the Ministry of Health in the sum of \$338,334.11 for the training of 15 midwifery students. The impact of services and ideals defining FNAHSW extend far beyond the classrooms to the nation's districts – in clinics, pharmacies and non-profits. Research, internships, partnerships, and hosting of regional conferences are among the opportunities that FNASW provides.

Collaboration



Collaboration and exchange projects can allow for socio-cultural immersion of faculty and students from a multitude of institutions. The opportunity will provide students with diverse perspectives on any course content or phenomenon. For lecturers, it will provide additional pedagogical insights that can be utilized upon their return to their respective countries. Similarly, faculty and students coming from other universities will be able to appraise the educational system in Belize and offer insights as to how the FNAHSW can improve in its programs and teaching methodologies. Collaborative arrangements are being formulated with the University of North Florida and Northwest University.

Partnerships

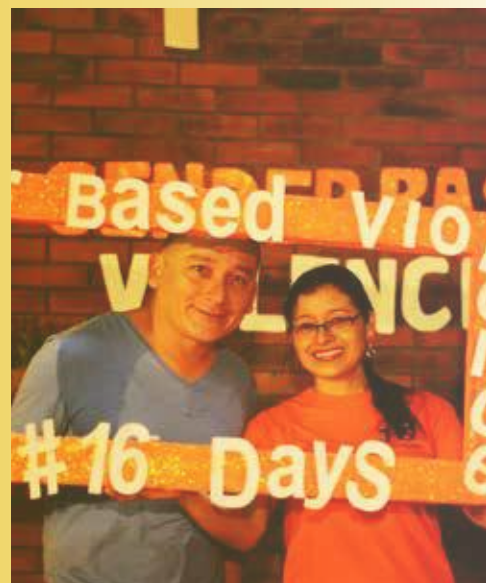
The FNAHSW continues to develop partnerships with local, regional, and international universities/organizations. Locally, FNAHSW works closely with the Ministry of Health (MOH) which remains a crucial foundation in accomplishing better healthcare nationally. The FNAHSW continues to partner with different stakeholders such as Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (K.H.M.H), Magistrate Court, National AIDS Commission, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Central Medical Laboratory, Restore Belize, Youth hostel, Family Court, pharmacies, district hospitals, the police department and other institutions in the delivery of all of FNASHW programs. Regionally, FNAHSW continues to partner with other universities, such as the University of the West Indies, and University of Technology, Mona, Jamaica. The Department of Allied health, Medical Laboratory, attended the Caribbean Association of Medical Technologists (CASMET) conference in Barbados. It is believed that if the stakeholders are part of the process, our consumers – students – will be able to gain employment with the respective organizations/institutions to fill the deficit that currently exists in the healthcare field. Key partnerships also help to ensure that programs are relevant.

Community Engagement

Community involvement/engagement in the educational process plays not only in academic success, but also life-long success of the individual, entity, or organization. Thus the goal of this faculty is to ensure that the members of the community are educated on health and societal issues so that they can make informed decisions in their daily lives. Hence the faculty and university's goal of more community involvement is realized through such engagements.

Faculty Research

The University of Belize, as the singular national university, holds as a priority its responsibility to nurture academic and field research especially





in regards to the pressing societal issues plaguing our country. Aware that research in our areas of expertise will generate scientific evidence that can be incorporated into evidence-based practice FNAHSW acknowledges the need for research in a dynamic, developing society such as ours.

Quality Of Teaching

The quality of teaching within all FNAHSW programs continued to be of paramount importance in 2016-2017. FNAHSW not only strives to produce graduates who are competent and certified practitioners but also engages faculty members in continuous professional development programs while continuously monitoring and evaluating faculty members in the classroom environment. This particular goal employs focus groups to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses of each FNAHSW lecturer. Additionally, two midwifery lecturers were trained in Obstetrical Neonatal Resuscitation, which is a critical component of the midwifery program. The FNAHSW continued to be actively engaged in the Institutional Curriculum Review process. To that end, the Bachelor's in Medical Laboratory and Bachelor's in Pharmacy program proposals, previously developed, were reviewed by the Quality Assurance Office and the Academic Council and were approved.



Work Environment

It is critical for the work environment to be conducive to enhancing faculty productivity, motivation and satisfaction. This remains a work in progress and priority for the faculty. There have been great strides in regards to this goal: in Belize City (Education Campus), faculty members have demonstrated a positive attitude and commitment to success and created a supportive work environment, which have been projected into the classroom. FNAHSW seeks to improve the efficiency of procurement of supplies as this remains the foremost challenge for the faculty.



Faculty of Science + Technology

FST

Dean: Juliane Pasos
Engineering. Math. Physics. Science
Information Technology
Micro-Propagation Lab



"The Faculty of Science & Technology provides relevant and accessible programs through quality instruction, research, and service. The Faculty is oriented toward addressing scientific, technological and environmental needs that will contribute to national development by producing critical-thinking, confident, and entrepreneurial lifelong learners."

The faculty is aware that the road to achieving academic excellence requires an extensive review process. During 2016-17 therefore, course outlines were reviewed for all courses offered within the Faculty as part of the FST Institutional Curriculum Review(ICR) plan.





As a result of this review, FST, in collaboration with the Environmental Research Institute (ERI), now has the capacity to develop and offer an entire program, including a Master's degree at the University of Belize to, essentially, promote the achievement of academic excellence. Equally key to the success of FST are the following concepts: building a "Learner-Centered Network", contributing to national and local development, and, of course, the ongoing process of improving governance and management.

Academic Excellence



In order to raise the bar in academic offerings, FST assisted in reviewing of the structure of the current M.Sc. Program in Biodiversity offered in partnership with UWI, Guyana and Suriname. A major aspect of this effort included strengthening academic programs aimed to move the faculty's associate degree programs to 4-year bachelor's degree programs in the areas of Math, Biology, IT and Natural Resource Management. Three Faculty members completed their Ph.D. degrees this past year, thus expanding FST's capacity to offer upper level courses.



As academic and departmental growth requires increasing lab/storage space for science projects and equipment, while engaging relevant practical experience for students within programs, these are priority areas in the faculty. Training opportunities for faculty are also continuously sought, as well as enhanced teaching, service and research capabilities. Students of the Engineering Department won the XVIII Concurso De Diseño Y Construccion De Modelos Estructurales, V Fase Internacional", hosted by the Instituto Tecnologico De Chetumal (ITCH) in Quintana Roo, Mexico from 23-25th November 2016. The students were among thirty-four teams who competed in a challenge to design and build a scaled structural model of a bridge. With other collaborative efforts, FST aims to further foster a culture of research and establish a learner-centred network that engages students in relevant dialogue, service and academic projects.

Collaboration

The Faculty of Science and Technology has notably welcomed collaborations with a diverse array of scientists from around the world. In one notable example, UB President Professor Clement Sankat met with Ambassador Lee In-ho of the Republic of Korea and his Team along with the President and Vice President of the Belize Association of Professional Engineers to discuss a proposal for the establishment of a Modern School of Engineering at the University of Belize, Belmopan Campus. The department is also establishing ties with the University of Technology in Jamaica and Kun Shun University in Taiwan to build capacity for the department and its graduates. The progressive global concerns about environmental issues also affects how FST pursues collaborations and welcomes projects. Members of FST and of FNAHSW met with the group and identified possible ways in which UB could collaborate on a proposed project focusing on epidemiological and entomological surveillance, targeting Zika in Belize. The project is being developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Belize Central Laboratory as well as the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, U.S.A. Ms. Inmaculada Bertral Tolosa, a marine scientist at the Marine Environment Laboratory of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Monaco, visited UB in the capacity of Technical Officer to UB's project, "Strengthening National Capacity for Measuring and Monitoring Marine Pollution and Studying the Effects of Ocean Acidification on Marine Ecosystems".



The purposes of the visit were to assess the progress of the project, to provide technical assistance for the preparation of the laboratory to receive a Gas Chromatography system for pesticide analysis, and to discuss methodologies for pesticide and heavy metal research and monitoring. Additionally, Ms. Tolosa and UB assistant professor Dr. Abel Carrias met with project stakeholders, including UB faculty and students and personnel from the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute and the Department of the Environment.

Dr. Mitko Voutchkov, Physics Professor at the University of West Indies in Jamaica, with expertise in the development of analytical applications of nuclear techniques in interdisciplinary science, visited UB in March, 2017. The objective of his visit was to build the institutional capacity of the University of Belize to systematically monitor environmental pollution and provide policy and decision makers with correct information on water and land usage, particularly in respect to pollution from human development and minerals exploration, extraction and processing.



National + Local Development

By increasing awareness of program offerings and career paths for FST, students can participate in the organization of national and international conferences, forums, and workshops to showcase the work of the faculty and of the students. The various events serve to engage and raise awareness of both students and the broader community in national and civic development issues. FST held its 2nd annual GIS symposium; stakeholders in the field, such as Belize National Energy, Total Business Solutions, and others, presented on the work they do with GIS. Additionally, FST sponsored events such as a Science Open Day and Expo with more than 25 stakeholders participating in promoting science and technology in their areas of specialization. All of the FST departments excelled, especially the physics group which focused on electricity. Also, the Research Conference hosted by the MPIT department exposed students to Open Journal Systems (OJS), a journal management and publishing system which allows for work to be peer reviewed. For the past 10 years, FST has annually coordinated Earth Day. This year's event was celebrated under the theme "My Community, My Climate" and included the participation of several NGOs and governmental agencies along with our students promoting environmental awareness. Ms. Belize, Rebecca Rath, was one of the featured guests for the day. The annual Math Symposium was held in April under the theme "Mathematics for Life". The objective of the symposium was to expose students to local research findings in Mathematics thus revealing the relevance of tertiary level Mathematics in everyday life.



Research + Action

At the heart of FST programming is facilitating internships especially for Natural Resources Management (NRM) and Engineering students. FST also provided research opportunities for students. Two such projects were collaborations with students from abroad. One focused on the ecology of coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves, and island geology. The research project involved quadrat sampling of red white and black mangroves as well as sea grass using MBRS protocols. The other research project involved assisting scientists in a study to test the hypothesis that microbial response to microalgae dissolves organic matter and temperature facilitates coral loss on the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef at Carrie Bow Cay Field Station. In Information Technology, members of that department are working on an IT Stimulation Program to advance the implementation of Computational Thinking courses in secondary schools in Belize. Members of the Faculty participated in various international academic events that encourage further research opportunities. Dr. Kieran Ryan participate in the ICT4ED Working Group Meeting and Global Symposium on ICT in Education held Seoul South Korea, which included research at the forefront of implementing computational thinking initiatives in education.





Additionally, the Science department, along with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), has been charged to develop a Management Plan for the Belize River Watershed (BRW). The plan will be the first of its kind in Belize and serves as a model for much needed future watershed management. Through scientific research, stakeholder consultations and community engagement, a sustainable management plan will be produced by identifying long-term monitoring programs and bolstering policies for the protection of Belize's freshwater resources. This project will also support data collection and finance three (3) student research fellowships along with the purchase of aerial monitoring devices and laboratory equipment. Dr. Abel Carrias and his team are working on the International Atomic Energy Agency Technical Co-operation Project whose objective is to reduce pollution in the Belize marine environment by strengthening national research and monitoring capacity for the production of data to inform decision-making toward effective marine conservation policies and management programs.

Publications

Arzu, Yakini, and Thippi Thiagarajan. "Medicinal plants used by the Rastafarian community in Belize." *Int. J. Herbal Med* 4 (2016): 15-20.

Thomas, Latha, Emmanuel Young, Diomar Salazar, and Rolando Caballero "Effects of Anthropogenic Disturbance on Dung Beetle (Coleoptera, Scarabaeinae) Community Structure in The Central Belize Corridor, Belize" *IOSR Journal of Environmental Science, Toxicology and Food Technology*, Volume 10.7 (July 2016). 24-30.

Environmental Research Institute ERI

Director: Dr. Elma Kay



"ERI is focused on these primary objectives: Increasing Natural Resources Management Capacity in Belize, research and monitoring, strengthening the governance and sustainability of the ERI, and building the ERI's credibility (image) by communicating the results of ERI's scientific work to decision-makers and academia."

ERI functions within FST but maintains an independent role in developing research projects focusing on sustainable environmental practices and policy. Primary objectives of the Institute include efforts to strengthen, improve and more efficiently manage resources.

This past year, the ERI Directors selected a team to design and deliver training to strengthen board training for one of our protected areas management partners. Members of the team included our Training Officer and our Administrative/Marketing Officer. We chose to work with the Rio Blanco Mayan Association that manages the Rio Blanco National Park in the Toledo District. Furthermore, the ERI team will develop an action plan to accompany the transformational operation plan. ERI drafted revisions of new fully articulated policies and procedures on volunteers and interns, as well as management systems for the Calabash Caye Field Station among others.





In the development of a comprehensive business plan, the Institute manages ERI grants/contracts including Oak Foundation, PACT, Panthera, Darwin Sustainable Forestry Project, and Syracuse Project. ERI engages in technical consultancies such as with the American Bird Conservancy, to implement a new bird monitoring project and, with the Belize Audubon Society, delivering an Operational Policies and Procedures training session to the Scarlet Macaw Bed and Breakfast Group in Red Bank Village, Stann Creek District. These projects help to increase the value of the work of ERI by attracting grants, providing consultations and encouraging eco-tourism.



It is imperative that ERI continues to build its capacity, develop staff professionalism and administer grant writing. ERI is committed to deliver courses, training programs as well as implement a graduate program for the discipline.

Through its partnerships and activities, ERI holds an esteemed place in the area of Natural Resource Management for academic research and practices such as monitoring environmental biodiversity and providing much needed support towards national development.

Open and Distant Learning

ODL

Director: Dr. Freida Palma



"ODL provides stakeholders: students, businesses, working professionals - both national and international - with quality non-credited and credited courses and programs. These courses and programs are developed internally; and are also in partnerships with other institutions and businesses."

Vision

ODL will house the human and technical resources needed to ensure the efficient delivery of Open and Distant Learning programs including learner support and faculty development. ODL will have responsibility for ensuring that the University's distance learning programs are produced to the highest quality.



Service

The ODL provides training workshops that enrich university wide efforts to develop and expand on-line distance learning. These workshops serve to enrich and support the University's overall mission to engage students around the nation as well as move the teaching and learning environment progressively into a 21st century environment. Toward this end, the Faculty of Education and Arts (FEA), in collaboration with ODL, resolved to offer on-line courses and to students in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye. ODL also worked with FMSS in assisting faculty members to prepare two courses, namely, Introduction to Psychology and Fundamentals of Management as fully online courses.



Additionally, during the last year the FNAHSW were again given three different web links to engage in professional development. The links provided free courses to assist faculty members. The ODL Program Coordinator, in collaboration with the Quality Assurance Administrator, also conducted a focus group evaluation to assess the Punta Gorda campus. The ODL is committed to continue to seek the most effective ways to help UB increase its online course offerings.

Central Farm Campus

Director: Dr. Gordon Holder
Micro-Propagation Lab
Applied Agriculture



"UBCF is dedicated to the expansion of the Applied Agriculture Program by employing low risk production activities geared primarily for training and generating income as a leading participant in pursuit of sustainable economic goals for Belize. CF is committed to becoming a major participant and contributor to national and regional agriculture development."

Academic Growth

Central Farm holds the responsibility of educating students in agricultural research and practices. UBCF began work on the development of The BSc program in Applied Agriculture with specific emphasis on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). With overwhelming support CF plans to implement the program in 2018 and, in preparation for the introduction of the BSc degree program, welcomed two new staff members this year, Zoe Roberson-Zetina and Luis Hernandez, both with master's level certification. Additionally, Central Farm initiated a program to supervise a Certificate in Applied Agriculture (CAA) at the Punta Gorda Campus.

Program Development

UBCF continued to develop industrial attachments to further enhance applied workplace training in a diverse range of agriculture enterprises. UBCF strived to maintain and strengthen commitments in the area of competency (applied) based training. Unfortunately, the grain crop failed for the first time in 8 years. Consequently, the program goals were revised and the lands were re-purposed to simply earn rental income. A restructuring plan with recommendations to make UBCF more cost effective in delivering its training mandate was delivered to the Office of President.





Micro-Propagation Laboratory (MLP)

Central Farm implemented a project designed to enhance the infrastructure of Central Farm Campus by providing additional equipment for the MLP to reduce the cost of producing micro propagation plants as well as preparing the laboratory for certification with support under the European Union's Banana Accompanying Measures. With such support from the European Union, CF also obtained additional equipment for the MLP and central tank and pipe distribution system, forming a comprehensive water distribution system. The EU Ambassador was scheduled to visit UBCF on 26th February to view project progress and officially open the BAM (2013) project. Other renovations occurred at the CF Campus in order to improve the work environment for students, faculty and staff. Significant projects included an upgraded nursery and plant hardening structure, with a toilet system in close proximity, as well as a second toilet system located in the vicinity of the piggery. Central Farm also completed the construction of a perimeter fence for the campus and eight cameras located at strategic points throughout the campus to enhance security.



Outlook

"In the national budgets of some Caribbean Countries, the Agriculture Sector gets the smallest slice of the pie. While it is important to utilize effectively whatever financial support is provided for the Agriculture Sector, overall it is not difficult to understand why the Caribbean imports over BZ \$8-10 Billion in food with 80% of what is consumed, imported! Agriculture needs to be nurtured and sustained if it is going to thrive; it cannot win with intermittent actions. It is important that we commit to improving the Agriculture Sector, by being creative and innovative, implementing climate smart agriculture infrastructure and using technology wherever possible together with market growth as drivers. Let us commit to learn and innovate as we produce."

Excerpt 2016 NATS speech: Prof. Sankat



Punta Gorda Campus

PG



Sapodilla Cayes Living Reef Center (SCLRC) Hunting Caye Deans of FEA, FST, FMSS + Student Affairs

"PG Campus' is committed to making educational/training programs and professional development opportunities accessible to students coming from both urban and rural communities in southern Belize."

Punta Gorda Campus shares the goals of the University and partners with most faculty and administrative components based at the Central Campus. In 2016-17, PG engaged in various national and regional workshops for faculty professional development and arranged partnerships with international universities to implement projects that benefit the greater PG community.



Teamwork

To further academic expansion, members of the PG faculty maintained dialogue with the Dean of FEA and with the Toledo District Education Centre (TDEC) Management to explore the feasibility of launching an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education; the campus also worked with the Dean of FMSS to explore the feasibility of launching an Associate Degree in Tourism Management. In collaboration with the Central Farm campus, PG also maintained on-going dialogue with the Campus Administrator to explore the feasibility of launching a Certificate in Applied Agriculture.

One collaborative effort was to develop a school pilot gardening project focused on landscaping with herbs and spices, and operating a fruit tree nursery. PG successfully launched the first UB Toledo Campus Open Day in March, 2016, showcasing the campus to the community and providing opportunities for government and NGOs.



Dr. Kieran Ryan (UB Belize City) helped to prepare the logistics/links for the planned visit of student volunteers from National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan. The visit was designed to enable interaction and exchange between UB and NTHU students and for the NTHU students to provide basic training sessions in computer technology for primary school and lower level high school students.

Systems And Measures

PG has taken steps to improve the overall educational experience on campus through the work of the PG Campus Advisory Council and the Toledo District Education Centre Management. PG engaged in the monitoring of academic quality, offering further support to the Toledo Campus operation management framework, and formalizing the appointment of an Academic Chair for PG Campus. Closer collaboration with the UB Office of Quality Assurance will be pursued to nurture a much better sense of commitment and compliance among faculty. The continued involvement of District Education Centre Management staff and UBPG Advisory Council members (retired educators) in classroom visits and exam invigilation fosters quality assurance.


Networking with Texas A&M University, Texas A&M International University and Tennessee Tech University (USA) continue to promote cultural exchange among faculty and students. Partnering with local government agencies, NGOs and government departments like the Ministry of Agriculture enabled us to undertake various projects and satisfy routine operational needs. With technical assistance from Belize Electricity Limited and Fire department volunteers, PG campus also received physical improvements. These efforts included general renovations, repairing and installing of new large flood lights on Campus, and 8 new security cameras.

Sapodilla Cayes Living Reef Centre + Hunting Caye



PG upholds the management of these university extensions. There have been efforts to enable these entities to generate income and become more sustainable. PG entered into negotiations, accompanied by President Sankat, with potential business partners and produced marketing tools advertising the facility for leasing/renting. One such project included the construction of a shed that features an outdoor grill for rent and repairing a marine vessel as well as producing an estimate for the sale of boat, engine and trailer.

The Marine Field Station at Hunting Caye serves to promote marine science education, research and environmental conservation efforts while generating income for the University. A new approach which concentrates on leasing of the facility will ensure that the University makes meaningful gains from such assets. Building on the goal of optimising its assets, PG utilised guided management, using documentations and recommendations, to stop the financial haemorrhaging at the Sapodilla Cayes Living Reef Centre, Hunting Caye, which had been afflicting the University. In welcoming new UB President, Professor Clement Sankat, PG coordinated a boat trip to assess the performance of its marine vessel and outboard engine as well as familiarize the new president with the Port Honduras Marine Reserve. In its dialogue with the President, PG also developed and recommended measures for a way forward.

A group of students is gathered in a classroom or meeting room. They are standing around a table, some looking at papers or devices. The room has large windows with blinds. A yellow banner is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text "Students. Resources." in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Students. Resources.

We understand that grades are only a portion of the college experience. Along the way, day-to-day, semester-by-semester, students require ongoing support, a dynamic campus life, and adequate resources. Whether that support be financial, academic or emotional, the university community seeks a holistic approach to student success that includes activities in student clubs, counselling, and participation in community activities and team sports.

Office of Student Affairs

Dean: Dr. J. Briceño-Perriot
Student Services
Wellness Centre
Sports and Recreation



"The Department of Student Affairs supports the University's vision for transformation and its mission by providing services, programs, and university experiences which foster students' analytical skills, ethics, assertiveness, genuine interest in knowledge, social responsibility, creative, and athletic talents."



The Office of Student Affairs provides a variety of services designed to promote experiences that meet our mission, vision, and goals such as: addressing student concerns, student advocacy, counselling, health care, support of academic units, financial aid, immigration, student transportation services, cafeteria services, student governments, recognized student organizations, sports, and recreational activities.



Student Services + Programming

OSA reflects the overarching vision of the university by both honoring and tracking graduates, as well as actively organizing efforts to maintain a healthy and vibrant student body.



One of our goals at University of Belize for The Office of Student Affairs is to promote learning support services, including the Faculty of Education and Arts' management of two Writing Centers; one in Belize City and the other in Belmopan. Student Affairs also provided two work scholar tutors for the Accounting Tutorial Center, managed by the Faculty of Management and Social Sciences. Plans for the new academic year include providing Math tutors on all campuses and formal evaluation of the Writing and Accounting Tutoring Programs.



Additionally, the Dean (with guidance from the VP and in collaboration with the other faculty deans) worked on an advising program for new associate degree students in response to student concerns regarding academic advising.

Outreach

The Belmopan Opportunities Fair took place on February 23, 2017. At the fair, students were provided with information on scholarships (undergraduate and graduate level), health insurance, and financing. The highlight of the fair was the call for applications for UB's Student Exchange Programs with our Canadian and Mexican partner universities. Many students expressed interest in the exchange programs.



The University of Belize has established exchange programs with universities in both Canada and Mexico. Participating Canadian universities include Thompson Rivers University, Huron University College, FANSHAWE University and Canadore University. Our Mexican educational partner is the Universidad de Quintana Roo. Student Affairs helps students to obtain scholarships which cover the cost of student exchange. This year the same students were also recipients of the Emerging Leaders Scholarship funded through the Global Affairs Canada International Scholarships Program.



Wellness Fairs are held annually to increase health and wellness awareness by providing health screenings, activities, demonstrations, and information. A highlight of the day was students taking the opportunity to visit the masseuse. Indeed, anecdotally, students and staff stated that the massage service was much needed, with the end of the semester and exams fast approaching. The Wellness Fairs were held in April on both the Belize City and Belmopan Campuses.

Orientation

Each year we're excited to welcome a new group of students. Whether fresh from high school, transferring from other tertiary level institutions, pursuing study leave opportunities, and sampling the ever expanding menu of courses purposed to broaden horizons, they all have the potential of leading to program completion. It is in this moment, when we orient students to not only the campus, but to an academic life of varying lengths, student services must coordinate with every department on campus to provide new students with information and a degree of security that they will be supported through the inevitable challenges inherent in the university experience. This year saw a significant increase in student matriculation to the university.



Graduation



University of Belize



The graduation ceremony serves as the most tangible and emotional expression of our university community's commitment to each student's success. Student Services tracks the progress of University of Belize students and administers the graduation ceremonies; inviting families, students, and local leaders to acknowledge our communal achievement. Three graduation ceremonies were held this year: two in Belmopan (January and June, 2017) and one in Punta Gorda (June, 2017).

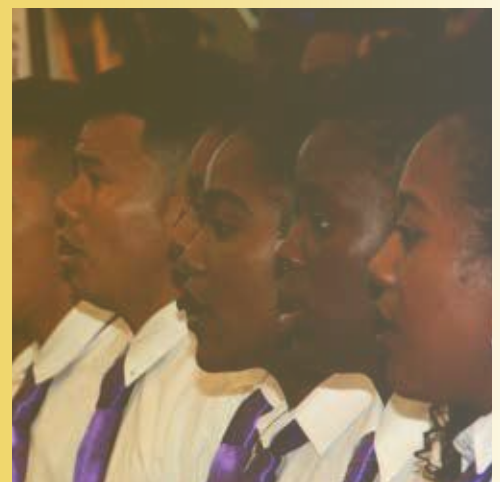
Financial Aid

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) currently manages three scholarship programs: The Black Jaguar Athletic Scholarship, The Barton Scholarship, and the Diane Sylvestre Scholarship. These scholarships are funded by the University of Belize and, in collaboration with the Counseling Officer, the Office of Student Affairs in Belmopan implemented a buddy study program to help athletes. OSA has noted that students consistently seek financial aid whether it be in the form of scholarships, loans, or employment. Multiple students have shared that they could not enroll if they were not able to obtain some form of financial aid. Office of Student Affairs has submitted a proposal to develop a new position - a Financial Aid/International Student Officer - who will be charged to focus on pathways to easing the financial strains on both the students and the institutions.

Student Issues

Throughout the January semester, and into the summer, students visited the Office of Student Affairs (which include the assistant student coordinators on our satellite campuses) to voice their concerns and/or request information. At times, issues were brought to the Dean by Student Government members. Students also expressed apprehensions to the Dean when she visited our satellite campuses. In most instances, students did not want to submit grievances in writing. Student faculty complaints, as well as grade appeals that were brought to the Office of Student Affairs, fell under two distinct categories: academic advising and lecturer professionalism.

The Dean sought to manage the units under her supervision effectively and to enhance management systems by providing leadership and guidance in the development of procedures to clearly delineate what is expected of officers, provide information for continuity, and enhance communication amongst Student Affairs personnel. Further, she sought to ensure that (a) personnel has necessary equipment to perform duties and meet work-plan objectives,



(b) resources are used efficiently, and (c) collect data for more efficient services. The Student Handbook was also completed and submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval, which was granted.

Wellness Center

The Wellness Center is a critical component of the mission of the OSA. Wellness services are provided on all campuses; personnel includes two counsellors and one nurse. Currently, there is only one nurse on staff, Johanna August, who provides services through the Central Farm Campus. The Center hopes to expand nursing staff in order to provide one nurse for each the Belize City and Belmopan Campuses.

Each UB Wellness Center employs a holistic approach in tending to the well-being of students and is seeking to expand personnel who can extend caregiving on all campuses. In addition to individual counselling, workshops are offered on stress management, childhood sexual abuse, relationship issues, and grief & loss. During the school year two students died tragically in Belmopan. The counsellor for that campus provided individual and group grief counselling to the students' classmates.

In addition to providing medical wellness services, the nurse also served as Student Affairs Representative on campus and provided academic advising. Some of the primary projects and services carried out by Nurse August include working with medical supplies and obtaining condoms for distribution sourced through the San Ignacio Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) Center.

With the coordination efforts of the Nurse August, the Office of Student Affairs hosted a Free Eye Exam Clinic in collaboration with the Belize Council for the Visually Impaired (BCVI). The office also hosted group health education sessions and student activities such as Student Sports Day.



Student Government

University of Belize's Student Government elections were held on May 3rd simultaneously on all campuses. All SG members attended a mandatory workshop where they learned strategies to improve their leadership capabilities. Throughout the school year, SG initiates and engages in projects that have been beneficial to the university student body.

The Student Government donated money to UB for the acquisition and installation of two LCD projectors with accessories for two classrooms. This year the SG also painted all campus picnic benches and two classrooms. Additionally, many of the members volunteered time to the Physical Plant to help with the painting of buildings.

In order to strengthen the Student Government's relevance to the overall mission of UB, members of all three student governments (Belmopan, Belize City, and Punta Gorda) attended a workshop designed to assist with the revision and submission of the UB Student Government Constitution to UB's Board of Trustees. FMSS' lecturers Kevin Geban, Eda Arzu, and Devon Paulino facilitated the workshop. The revised constitution was submitted to, and approved by, the Board of Trustees.



Recreation + Sports



The Department of Recreation and Sports works to improve the personal growth of the student body by promoting good health practices. This is accomplished via the development and administration of sports programs that focus on encouraging and maintaining a physically engaging lifestyle, through individual, intramural, and extramural activities. Two traditional competitive events took place in this semester: La Ruta Maya and University of Belize's Annual Relathon. Both events were extremely successful, yet very costly. Although these traditions are invaluable, Student Government and Office of Student Affairs require the adequate funds to optimize these events.

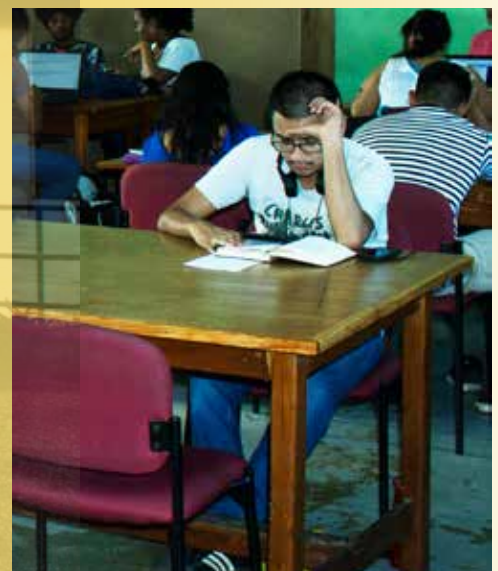
In addition to representing UB at varsity events and maintaining good academic standing, the athletic scholarship recipients provide institutional and community service. Student athletes also undergo monthly physical assessments. This year, we are proud to announce that the Lady Black Jaguars won both the national basketball and football championships of Belize.

Library Services

Acting Librarian: Trevelee S. Williams
Belmopan Central Campus Library
Belize city Library



"The University of Belize Library is committed to providing access to, and delivery of information resources to UB administrators, faculty members, students, and staff in support of the university's teaching and research mission. By creating a setting conducive to learning, discovery, and cultural life, the library assists patrons to achieve professional goals. The library provides resources and services to non-UB users to the greatest extent possible."



Our Library at the University of Belize delivers operative accessibility of collections and delivery of information resources & services to support learning, teaching, and research. The Library Staff offers bibliographic instructions by teaching students of various disciplines how to utilize the online databases and documents using APA/MLA formats. Students are also trained on the effective use of all Library Services. Lecturers use the Audio/Video Room to show students films and documentaries as educational resources. As always, the Library collection continues to expand assets which are loaned to students and faculty for research, as well as providing assistance to students and faculty using Library reference tools.





The Library continues to partner with the National Library Service and the Belize National Archives to be able to offer information resources to patrons. The Government of Belize Though informally, the UB Library continues to partner with the National Library Service and the Belize National Archives to be able to offer information resources to patrons. The Government of Belize continues to subsidize a portion of the subscription to EBSCOhost Research Databases that the University of Belize can access.

Library Staff also engaged in the Orientation Exercise for our new academic intake. Staff from Central Campus Library (CCL), FMSS, and UB Toledo Library briefed students on the Library's Policy and Services.

The Library Staff work to consistently ensure the best support for students and faculty staff who engage in the many services that the library provides.



Outreach

Annual Summer Reading Program – Every year, Central Campus Library branch hosts a reading program for Infant II students in an effort to improve students' reading levels. This year's program was held under the theme, "Read to Succeed".

Food Drive – The FMSS Library, under the theme "A Healthy Body Makes a Healthy Mind" launched a campaign in January 2016 to obtain food items for donation to the feeding programs of Ebenezer Primary School and Skills Training Center.

In December 2016, two weeks before Christmas, the items that were gathered were donated to five needy families from the Skilled Training Center. The success of the drive was largely due to its partnership with the wider UB Community.

Thematic Displays – The FMSS Library, throughout the year posted several displays on topical issues such as HIV/AIDS, Breast Cancer, Diabetes, and Patriots of Belize.





Infrastructure

Infrastructure refers to the inner-workings of the University of Belize; essentially, what makes it function. The buildings, systems, support services, and people lay the foundation on which UB can grow and succeed. The University of Belize, after 16 years, is at a crossroads where systems & procedures require upgrades, where students, staff, and faculty have evolving demands. Efforts to improve the condition of the classrooms, offices, and lands have been underway as have statistically-based assessments of academic possibilities and robust student-focused recruitment. As leadership continues to transform, the path of UB's direction and potential has also been shaping into focus. While shedding old skins, new roads get paved.

Admissions

Camilla Allen-Barker



"The Office of Admissions is dedicated to targeting & attracting the most academically competent and well-rounded local & international students to the University of Belize while providing service with excellence, diligence, and innovation in a multicultural global environment. We are committed to quality in higher education"

As the recruiting arm of the University System, the Office of Admissions works with passion, drive, and dedication toward building the University of Belize. This Office actively coordinates the educational journey of each potential and incoming student; these efforts include analysis, mobilization, and policy development.

Going forward, systems will be implemented to specially-track applications issued at recruitment activities so effectiveness of such efforts can be accurately measured. For the upcoming Recruitment Drive, a database will be generated to capture all students of interest who attend and participate in our recruitment ventures.

In February 2017, the Consortium of Belize Educational Corporation (COBEC) held its annual Conference and College Fairs. The University attended and recruited at both fairs, one at the Institute for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ITVET) Compound in Belize City and the other at Sacred Heart College in Cayo District.

In order to facilitate the matriculation process following recruitment, we are currently implementing an online application service for applicants in order to alleviate some of the most critical challenges we're currently experiencing concerning application submissions.

In February of 2017, the University was filled to capacity and we received confirmation from our Deans that programs were fully-enrolled, and no additional space existed for intake of applicants. As the University continues to grow, admissions will maintain its commitment to efficiency and student support during their matriculation at the university.





Human Resources

Director: Hertha Gentle

"The Human Resource Department provides efficient & effective human resource services by developing, implementing, and maintaining active & responsive policies, strategies & practices in order to recruit, appoint, develop, and retain quality staff within a stable & productive working environment."

Goals for this year included: Revising current performance management tools, the Faculty & Staff Handbook, Faculty Contracts, and the development of a Contributory Pension Plan. The Director continued to offer staff professional development opportunities by implementing a Confidentiality Pledge, sponsoring a Faculty and Staff Sports Day and encouraging community volunteerism. One of the major initiatives for this year focused on getting more employees at the University of Belize insured. For the maintenance of healthy employees and their families, good life & health insurance is essential. The University provides insurance for all full-time employees and pays 90% of the cost of the insurance, while employees contribute ten percent. Currently, 84% of our full-time employees are currently insured under this arrangement.



Every person who works with the university at some point interfaces with the Human Resources Department. Our Staff is, often times, the face of the University and must be considered reliable for providing courteous and efficient service to students, parents, faculty, the media, as well as the general public. For these reasons, it is crucial that all staff are well-trained in the area of Customer Service and Improving Interpersonal Relations. This academic year, trainings were held for maintenance personnel and drivers from the Physical Plant, located at the Central Farm Campus (which were facilitated by Paul Lecky and Sharrett Yearwood).

Another beneficial step in the direction of advanced professional development involved putting the University Counsellor through a week-long training in Family Mediation that was offered by Restore Belize and the University of the West Indies. The training was successfully completed in the area of Family Mediation through the Family Court, while the Counsellor also attended a stakeholder's workshop held by the Ministry of Health to address the issue of suicide and develop a national plan for suicide prevention in the country of Belize.

Department of Public Safety

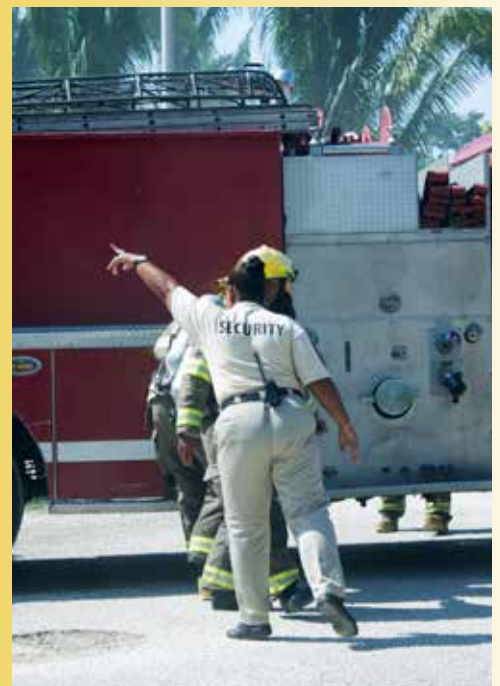
Chief of Public Safety: John Salam

"The role of the University of Belize, Department of Public Safety, is to develop and promote the maintenance of a work-environment that is conducive to learning and self-actualization. The department is responsible for providing protection to the University Community (students, faculty, staff, visitors, and campus). The Department of Public Safety is also responsible for maintaining a good working relationship with residents of the community in an effort to develop harmonious community relations for the University."

The primary objectives of DPS are to develop and support an environment in which University Community Members can safely achieve their educational, research, and employment goals without fear or concern for their personal safety. Safety on campus is maintained through an ongoing process of crime prevention, responsiveness, and documentation.

Crime and Prevention

Studies have shown that the optimal means of preventing crime is through community awareness and support. Additionally, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) has sought to prevent criminal activity through the power of open communication, technology, and statistics. This year, the new Student Orientation Public Safety Officer offered early orientation programs through the aggressive promotion of safety brochures which ensure that more students comply with the best safety practices while on and off campus. The Department of Public Safety continues to increase awareness and provide tools that reduce victimization, support proactive community building that discourages crime, educate against criminal behaviour, and will work to reduce the motivations to commit crime.



DPS conducted a cleaning campaign on Belmopan and Belize City Campuses. The primary objective of this cleaning campaign was to reduce crime occurring on campus as the Department of Public Safety took the initiative to introduce a Crime Prevention Campaign. The Department also manages a Safety Escort Service for the protection of students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Escorts are provided from dusk until dawn.



Furthermore, DPS monitors and maintains a Closed Circuit Camera system at all the campuses; however, DPS submitted a proposal to upgrade and increase security coverage and therefore the number of IP cameras to approximately fifty (50) on the Belmopan campus and expanding to the other three campuses this year.

Response

The Department of Public Safety maintains the highest of standards in its operations by focusing on the improvement of response-level emergency notifications, emergency evacuation preparations, and crisis communication. A highlight of the period in review included the Department's response to damage resulting from Hurricane Earl, which required the DPS to assess property damage and losses. Additionally, the DPS held a seminar on Hurricane Preparedness that was held in the Auditorium of the Belmopan Campus. The Department of Public Safety also conducted fire drill exercises which prepared students for emergency evacuations, during which they tested the efficiency and professionalism of the Department First Responders.

Documentation

The University of Belize encourages prompt reporting of crimes and incidents; the DPS is staffed with a trained Communications Operator, a set of protocols, procedures, and accurate record keeping – such as the “Annual Disclosure of Crime Statistics.” Such documentation serves also to assist with safety and crime prevention in the future, completing the circle of security on and off campus.



Information Technology



Acting Director: Michael Link



"ICT exists for the sole purpose of providing, modernizing, upgrades and maintenance of all things technology in service to students, faculty and administrators."

Tasks for this period included the installation of new computers, conferencing equipment, projectors, new printers, new routers, upgrading the Belize City Faculty of Education and Arts (FEA) General Purpose Lab & website server, renovating the Jaguar General Purpose Lab, implementing new staff, and faculty servers.



Operational Achievements

Operational achievements include improving communication with faculty and staff for technology requests. To this end, the Information and Communications Technology Helpdesk was created to provide a communication channel with ICT and UB's Staff allowing them to track submitted requests and receive status updates.

Going forward, there are several upgrades needed to improve and maintain ICT services as resources become available. These upgrades include resolution of major hardware issues, upgrading the UB Network – both wireless and wired network, replacing of outdated equipment (computers, printers, network, and wireless equipment), the modernization of phone networking, and the recognition & addressing of a major governance issues which have already been identified. To this end, the ICT Steering Committee was developed along with an ICT policy and governance framework.





Physical Plant



Director: Francis Burns

"Our mission is to serve the University of Belize's students, faculty, and staff by maintaining, operating, and repairing the physical aspects (facilities, utility systems, grounds, and other infrastructural assets) of the campus in a responsive, proactive, cost-efficient, and service-oriented manner that complements and enhances the missions of the University."

The Physical Plant of the University has been improved significantly by cultivating an enhanced campus atmosphere through the painting of distressed buildings, properly paved streets & driveways, higher quality computer labs, and greatest of all, offering our students an improved and safe learning environment. UB's Physical Plant completed numerous improvement projects at the Belmopan and Belize City campuses during this review period, including the paving of campus road areas and parking lots. Several buildings requiring repairs and renovation received much needed work. These projects included AC repairs or replacements. Physical Plant expanded both the Medical Lab and PC Repair Lab to meet our increasing demands, while also painting the exterior for the following buildings on the Central Campus: Library, Administration, Hummingbird, Manatee, Kinkajou, Coatimundi, Iguana, and Faculty of Education were completed.

The most noticeable project included a renovation of the Palapa (which stands prominently at our main entry) by replacing the tensile tarp type material with a stronger metal frame roofing that accommodates more space for student meetings, projects, and other activities. Similar to the Central Campus, PP painted the exterior of all the classroom buildings in Belize City. In an effort to optimize our campus spaces, the Physical Plant began replacing light fixtures on the Faculty of Education Campus with LED energy saving lights to reduce power consumption. The Department replaced 75% of the exterior lights with LED for both FMSS and FEA Campuses in Belize City.

QA Quality Assurance

Assistant Provost: Dr. Cynthia Thompson



"The Quality Assurance Unit aims to improve institutional capacity by strengthening the quality of the teaching/learning, service, and research functions of the University. QA will work methodically and systematically to plan, develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate the structures, mechanisms, systems, and interventions needed to institutionalize a culture of quality."

In order to assume a leading role within the planned development of eminence in higher education offered throughout Belize, Quality Assurance undertakes numerous projects as it works to institutionalize a culture of quality. This is done by establishing a consensus on standards of excellence and to improve the value of teaching and learning.

The QA Unit has impacted the teaching/learning process in several ways. Each semester Student Evaluations of Instruction (SEIs) are conducted; the reports, which are shared with academic leaders and faculty, provide a condensed view on a question-by-question basis. These reports are significant for several reasons: (1) lecturers may use the data to make necessary adjustments to improve instruction and enhance student's learning; (2) academic leaders may use the information to determine the usefulness of course offerings and identify areas that need drastic improvements; (3) academic leaders may use the data to identify areas for professional training & development and a system of support for lecturers; (4) academic leaders may use the data to improve and strengthen academic programs and practices at the University.



Quality Assurance has been involved in the revision of program proposals, program specifications (PS), course syllabus of record (CSR), course outlines (CO), and has worked with individual Chairs to provide feedback regarding areas for improvement related to instructional alignment. This process ensures that the rubrics are appropriate for each given task and that grading criterion is clearly defined.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Quality Assurance Unit made substantial progress in the area of partnership during this period in several ways. Namely through collaborating with visiting professors from the University of North Florida to facilitating clinical workshop trainings for Deans and Department Chairs at our Central Farm Campus, and through our Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation partners to provide opportunities of professional development for faculty.



In anticipation of the COBEC Winter Conference in February 2017, the QA Officer worked directly with Dr. John Kempainen, Coordinator for International Collaboration at the University of North Florida, to facilitate a workshop on “Teaching Adult Learners” for FMSS. The faculty role in quality assurance, tertiary education, and the law through creating a culture of continuous improvement by the QA Unit. Members from all faculty, including Deans and Chairs participated in these sessions.



The purpose of the Association of Tertiary Level Institutions of Belize (ATLIB) Quality Assurance Committee is to develop a framework for quality assurance in postsecondary education. Thus far, the committee has worked on draft academic standards and teacher evaluation instruments. The objective is developing standardized measures of excellence and instruments that may be used across all postsecondary level institutions in Belize.

Activities included: Orientation for new faculty, collaboration with the Office of Distance Learning Program Coordinator, the conduction of focus group evaluations on the Punta Gorda campus, and preparation for (and facilitation of) SEIs across all University of Belize campuses.

A close-up photograph of a brown bear's face and paw. The bear's eye is visible on the right side, looking towards the camera. Its paw is on the left, with several claws visible. The background is a blurred natural setting. A semi-transparent yellow banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "Facts. Figures".

Facts. Figures

Financial Overview for Annual Report Fiscal Year 2016-2017

The University of Belize (UB) herein provides an overview of the financial activities for the fiscal year ended July 31, 2017 which should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements. The UB's total revenues from tuition and fees decreased by 4.21 percent (\$461,735) as compared to the prior year's actual. Total student enrolment in the Bachelor's program decreased in 2016-1 and 2016-2 semesters, while there was a decrease in the Associate program in 2016-1. Additionally, cohorts for the new Bachelor's in Pharmacy and Medical Laboratory Science were deferred to FY17/18 although budgeted for in FY16/17. Other Revenue consisted of receipts from the UB Bookstore and Central Farm operations as well as reimbursements from the Government of Belize in support of the European Union Early Childhood Education Project in Northern Belize, the Caribbean Development Bank's funding for the completion of an institutional development assessment conducted by PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC), and revenues from the Ministry of Health's Project for the Post Bachelor Certificate in Midwifery.

While the UB managed to reduce its operating expenses in the General and Administrative and Educational Services and Facilities categories, employee benefits by way of its pension liability increased and the University de-recognized the Middle Long Caye asset held at a value of \$3,440,000.00, since securing title to the property was ongoing. Increase in salaries attributable to targeted efforts to fill vacant positions, particularly at the senior management level while reducing a couple of these positions for 2017-2018. Additional pressures on expenditures include the need for:

- Capital maintenance/upkeep and infrastructural upgrades to enhance the student experience with expanded classroom capacity and classroom technology
- Systems integration and interfacing capabilities for accounting, student records, human resources, and payroll
- Tuition and fees rate review and additional funding to keep pace with the rising costs to deliver a quality education and to meet operating expenses.



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Trustees of:
University of Belize

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Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of University of Belize which comprise the statement of financial position as at July 31, 2017, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in fund balances and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the University of Belize as at July 31, 2017 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Other Matter

We audited the financial statements of University of Belize for the year ended July 31, 2016 and expressed a qualified opinion on those statements dated May 2, 2018.

Emphasis of Matter

The supplementary information accompanying the financial statements is not necessary for fair presentation of the financial position or results of operations in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. Management has decided to include this information to assist in understanding the individual performance of the Environmental Research Institute of the University of Belize. The supplementary information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the examinations of the financial statements and in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the University of Belize in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRSs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Partners

Claude Burrell CPA CISA
Giacomo Sanchez CPA

Audit • Tax • Advisory
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Independent Auditors' Report

Page 2

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the ability of the University of Belize to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the University or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the University of Belize's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error; to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and to obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the University of Belize to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identified during the audit.

Chartered Accountants
Belize City, Belize
July 20, 2018

UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION JULY 31, 2017 AND 2016 (IN BELIZE DOLLARS)

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash and cash equivalents – unrestricted	2g, 3	\$ 1,492,893	\$ 843,645
Cash and cash equivalents – restricted	2g, 4	495,130	2,853,023
Short term investments – unrestricted	2g, 5	393,991	864,903
Short term investments – restricted	2g, 6	2,866,288	2,642,533
Students receivables – net	2g, 7	665,789	758,233
Government of Belize receivables	2g, 8	84,575	626,739
Other receivables	2g	379,129	424,440
Employee loans and advances	2g	68,071	76,949
Inventory	2h, 9	733,114	811,177
Total current assets		<u>7,178,980</u>	<u>9,901,642</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS:			
Other asset	10	956,236	1,112,047
Equity investment in associate	2k, 12	450,000	450,000
Other investments	2g, 2L	100,000	-
Property, plant and equipment – net	2i, 11	70,842,328	74,865,270
Total non-current assets		<u>72,348,564</u>	<u>76,427,317</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$79,527,544</u>	<u>\$86,328,959</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</u>			
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Bank overdraft	2g, 13	\$ 64,100	\$ 141,643
Accounts payable	2g, 14	2,416,111	2,693,327
Gratuity and severance payable – current portion	15	149,019	136,623
Total current liabilities		<u>2,629,230</u>	<u>2,971,593</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Gratuity and severance payable	15	5,036,245	4,486,866
Deferred income	16	1,781,053	1,710,612
Deferred grant	2m	79,125	641,724
Total non-current liabilities		<u>6,896,423</u>	<u>6,839,202</u>
Total liabilities		<u>9,525,653</u>	<u>9,810,795</u>
FUND BALANCES:			
Capital grant	2o, 17	28,805,688	29,432,105
Revaluation surplus	18	40,675,540	44,115,540
General fund		520,663	2,970,519
Total fund balances		<u>70,001,891</u>	<u>76,518,164</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		<u>\$79,527,544</u>	<u>\$86,328,959</u>

The financial statements on pages 3 to 6 were approved and authorized for issue by the President on behalf of the Board of Trustees on July 20, 2018 and are signed on its behalf by:



President



Director of Finance

UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE

STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME YEARS ENDED JULY 31, 2017 AND 2016 (IN BELIZE DOLLARS)

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
OPERATING REVENUES:			
Tuition and fees	2m	\$10,508,146	\$10,969,881
Other	2m, 19	3,892,885	3,897,262
Government subvention	2m, 20	9,999,996	9,999,996
Amortization of capital grant	2o	626,417	629,598
		<u>25,027,444</u>	<u>25,496,737</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES:			
General and administrative	2n	2,858,503	3,809,949
Educational services and facilities	2n, 21	4,065,279	4,449,410
Depreciation	2n, 22	1,426,302	1,446,557
Employee benefits	2i, 11	19,237,330	18,423,414
Loss on de-recognition of property	23	3,440,000	-
	2i, 11	<u>31,027,414</u>	<u>28,129,330</u>
LOSS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		(5,999,970)	(2,632,593)
NON-OPERATING REVENUES:			
Interest earned and investment income		<u>110,114</u>	<u>136,369</u>
LOSS FOR THE YEAR		(5,889,856)	(2,496,224)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE LOSS		<u>\$ (5,889,856)</u>	<u>\$ (2,496,224)</u>

UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES YEARS ENDED JULY 31, 2017 AND 2016 (IN BELIZE DOLLARS)

	Capital Grant	Revaluation Reserve	General Fund	Total
Balance, August 1, 2015	\$30,061,703	\$44,115,540	\$5,466,743	\$79,643,986
<i>Total comprehensive loss for the year</i>				
Loss for the year	-	-	(2,496,224)	(2,496,224)
Amortization	(629,598)	-	-	(629,598)
<i>Total comprehensive loss</i>	(629,598)	-	(2,496,224)	(3,125,822)
Balance, July 31, 2016	\$29,432,105	\$44,115,540	\$2,970,519	\$76,518,164
Balance, August 1, 2016	\$29,432,105	\$44,115,540	\$2,970,519	\$76,518,164
<i>Total comprehensive loss for the year</i>				
Loss for the year	-	-	(5,889,856)	(5,889,856)
Amortization	(626,417)	-	-	(626,417)
Derecognition of property (see note 11)		(3,440,000)	3,440,000	-
<i>Total comprehensive loss</i>	(626,417)	(3,440,000)	(2,449,856)	(6,516,273)
Balance, July 31, 2017	\$28,805,688	\$40,675,540	\$ 520,663	\$70,001,891

UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS YEARS ENDED JULY 31, 2017 AND 2016 (IN BELIZE DOLLARS)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Loss for the year	\$(5,889,856)	\$(2,496,224)
Adjustments for:		
- Amortization grant income	(626,417)	(629,598)
- Depreciation	1,426,302	1,446,557
- Provision for gratuity and severance	607,344	(18)
- Interest income	(110,114)	(136,369)
- Loss on derecognition of property	<u>3,446,007</u>	<u>-</u>
Operating loss before working capital changes	(1,146,734)	(1,815,652)
Changes in:		
Student receivables – net	92,444	(676,815)
Other receivables	45,311	(54,854)
Government of Belize receivables	542,164	(92,508)
Employee loans and advances	8,878	(15,923)
Other assets	155,811	317,574
Inventory	78,063	21,884
Accounts payable	<u>(277,216)</u>	<u>(515,594)</u>
Operating loss after working capital changes	<u>(501,279)</u>	<u>(2,831,888)</u>
Severance paid	(45,569)	(5,843)
Interest received	<u>110,114</u>	<u>136,369</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(436,734)</u>	<u>(2,700,894)</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(849,367)	(969,908)
Short term investments – unrestricted	470,912	(225,166)
Other investments	<u>(100,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(478,455)</u>	<u>(1,195,074)</u>
FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Bank overdraft	(77,543)	104,275
Deferred income	70,441	(308,918)
Deferred grant	<u>(562,599)</u>	<u>404,349</u>
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	<u>(569,701)</u>	<u>199,706</u>
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – UNRESTRICTED	(1,484,890)	(3,696,262)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, AUGUST 1 – UNRESTRICTED	843,645	4,275,364
NET TRANSFERS FROM CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – RESTRICTED	<u>2,134,138</u>	<u>264,543</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – UNRESTRICTED, JULY 31	<u>\$1,492,893</u>	<u>\$ 843,645</u>

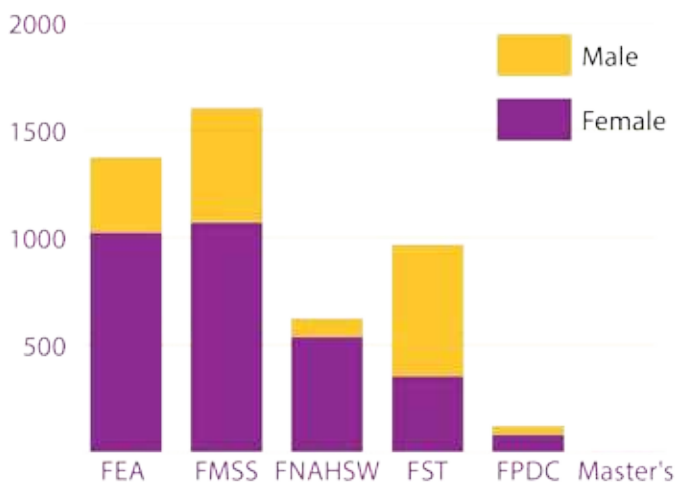
Statistical Data

As UB continues to expand programming and services, the administrative departments tracked many efforts that occurred during this review period. An important aspect of the functioning of UB rests in the realm of employment.

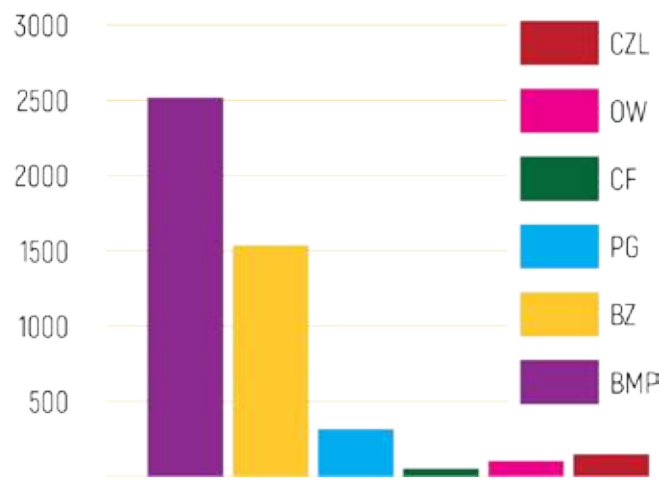
A wide variety of data collection and analyses serve as beacons of change as the university seeks to expand academic offerings, student support and ways to improve the overall student experience going forward.

UB Students (2016-2017)							
Semester	New			Returning			Total
	Full Time	Part Time	Total	Full Time	Part Time	Total	
2016-1	773	445	1,218	1,694	1,789	3,483	4,701
2016-2	36	147	183	2,095	1,870	3,965	4,148

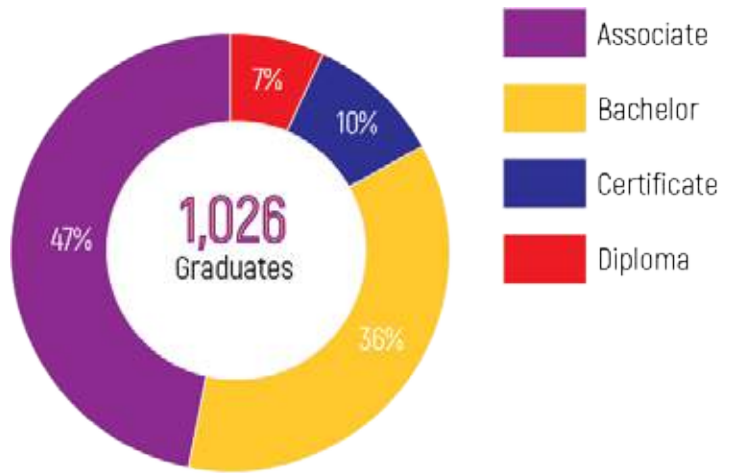
2016-1 Students by Faculty and Sex



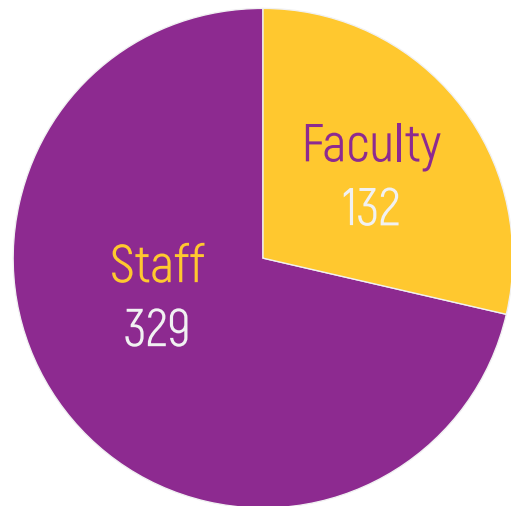
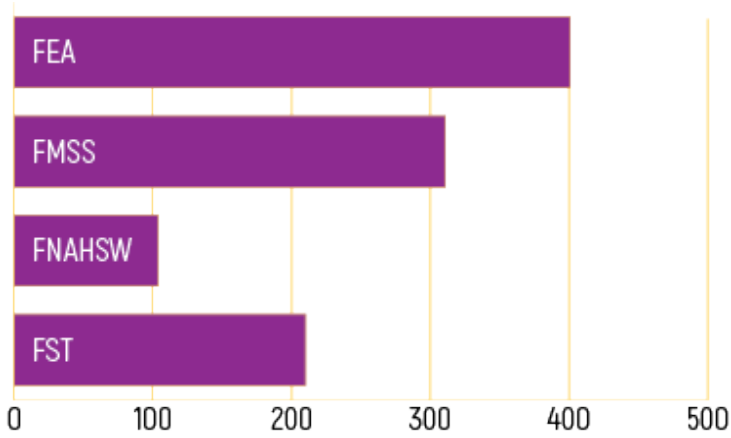
2016-1 Students by Campus



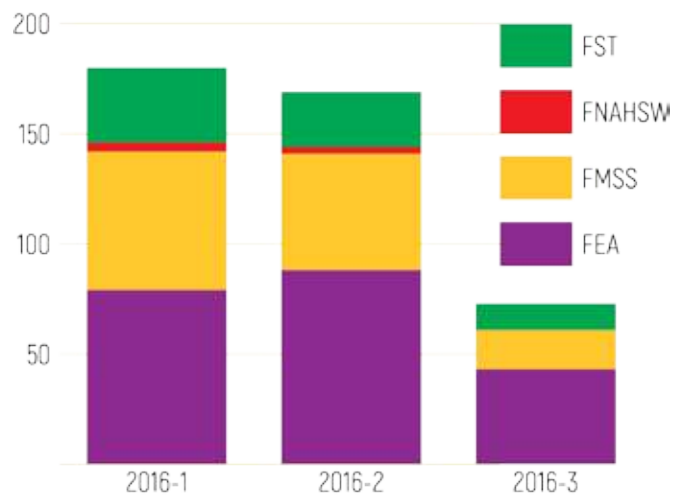
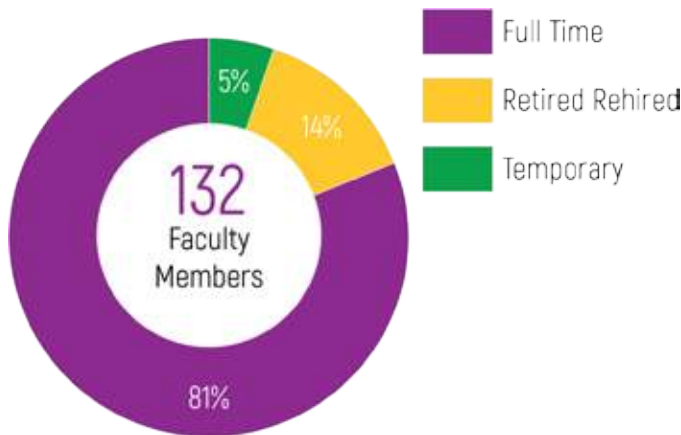
The University of Belize continues to produce graduates that contribute to the development of Belize. This year in two graduation ceremonies (February and June) UB had a total of 1,206 graduates.



2016-2017 Graduates by Faculty



Adjunct Faculty by Semester



FEA

bachelor

English	Belmopan	
History	Belmopan	
Biology Education	Belmopan	
Business Education (Accounting)	Belmopan	
Business Education (IT)	Belmopan	
Business Education (Management)	Belmopan	
English Education	Belmopan	
Mathematics Education	Belmopan	
Primary Education	Belmopan Punta Gorda	Belize City
Secondary Education (English)	Orange Walk	Corozal
Secondary Education (Math)	Orange Walk	Corozal
Secondary Education (Science)	Orange Walk	Corozal
Secondary Education (Social Studies)	Orange Walk	Corozal
Secondary Education (Spanish)	Orange Walk	Corozal
Spanish Education	Belmopan	

associate

English	Belmopan	
Primary Education	Belize City	

certificate

Early Childhood Education	Belmopan	Corozal
English as a Second Language	Belmopan	
Primary Education	Orange Walk Belize City	

diploma

Education		
Education Methodology	Belmopan Orange Walk	Belize City Punta Gorda

bachelor

Accounting	Belmopan	Belize City
Management	Belmopan	Belize City
Public Sector Management	Belize City	
Tourism Management	Belize City	

associate

Business Science	Belmopan	Belize City
Tourism Studies	Belmopan	Belize City

certificate

Paralegal Studies	Belmopan	
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Nursing	Belmopan		bachelor
Social Work	Belize		
Pharmacy	San Pedro		associate
Social Work	Belize City		
Medical Laboratory Technology	Belmopan		
Midwifery	Belmopan		certificate
Nursing Anaesthesia	Belize City		
Operating Room Nurse Technician	Belmopan	Belize City Punta Gorda	
Practical Nursing	Belmopan	Belize City	
Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner			
Biodiversity & Conservation	Belmopan		master of science
Biology	Belmopan		bachelor
Information Technology	Belmopan		
Mathematics	Belmopan	Belize City Punta Gorda	
Natural Resource Management	Belmopan		
Agriculture	Central Farm		
Architecture	Belize City		
Biology	Belmopan		
Biology & Chemistry	Belmopan		
Biology, Chemistry & Physics	Belmopan		
Biology, Chemistry & Mathematics	Belmopan		
Biology & Mathematics	Belmopan		
Biology, Mathematics & Physics	Belmopan		associate
Building & Civil Engineering	Belize City		
Business Science	Belmopan	Belize City Punta Gorda	
Chemistry	Belmopan		
Chemistry & Mathematics	Belmopan		
Chemistry & Physics	Belmopan		
Chemistry, Mathematics & Physics	Belmopan		
Marine Biology	Belmopan	Belize City	
Mathematics	Belmopan		
Mathematics & Physics	Belmopan		
Mechanical & Electrical Engineering	Belize City		
Adult and Continuing Education	Belmopan	Belize City Punta Gorda	

University of Belize



U.B. SONG **Composed by Sir Colville Young**

Students lift your voices
To praise our Alma Mater,
Together we're united,
Each UB son and daughter

For your prize of knowledge
Our hearts were ever yearning,
Till sleepless nights of study
Were well repaid with learning.

And your torch, when we are gone,
Burning bright will be handed on:
UB, this shall be our pledge!
UB, this shall be our pledge!

Pyramid and temple
Once soared like man-made mountains,
And in this land the people
Drank deep of wisdom's fountain

Now we can recover
The ancient pride and glory,
And our Belize's future
Shall tell the UB story.

For the torch, when we are gone,
Burning bright will be handed on;
UB, this shall be our pledge!
UB, this shall be our pledge!

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