

COBEC DISPATCH

IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Gainesville State College serves as host*
- *Dr. Cary F. Fraser installed as 4th President of The University of Belize*
- *Dr. Edward Minnock, VP for External Affairs passes*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- *Sacred Heart College will host our Spring Meeting, February 1-4, 2012 in San Ignacio, Cayo District, Belize*

GAINESVILLE State College Serves as Excellent Hosts for Summer Meeting

Dr. Carly Womack and staff at Gainesville State College served as excellent hosts for the biannual COBEC meeting on the GSC campus July 28-30, 2011. Belizean tertiary institutions represented included The University of Belize, Sacred Heart College, Wesley College, Galen University, Corozal Junior College, University of the West Indies Open Campus Belize, and the Ministry of Education. The professional development workshops conducted by GSC included conducting Faculty Assessments during the morning session and Utilizing Free or Low Cost Electronic Course Hosting and Meeting Facilitation Software during the afternoon session. During the Friday Session, Dr. Al Panu, VP of Academic Affairs at GSC greeted all attendees. Mr. Deryck Satchwell, representing the Ministry of Education, shared opening remarks from (continued on page 3)



*Dr. Carly Womack
Host of the Summer 2011 Meeting*



*Mr. Miguel Montero presents Dr. Eve Aird with the
COBEC Outstanding Service Award*



Dr. John P. Kemppainen, University of North Florida speaking at the Installation Ceremony on behalf of COBEC and offering our support to UB.



President Richard Carvajal of Bainbridge College chatting with Minister Faber after the installation ceremony.



President of Bainbridge College, Dr. Richard Carvajal, President of UB, Dr. Cary F. Fraser, Dr. John P. Kemppainen & Mrs. Imani Fairweather, Chair of Board of Trustees of the University of Belize.

Dr. Cary F. Fraser Installed as the 4th President of The University of Belize.

August 24, 2011. Belmopan, BZ. In an elegant ceremony attended by His Excellency, Sir Colville Young, Governor General of Belize, The Honorable Patrick Faber, Minister of Education and Youth as well as other Cabinet officials, Members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Belize, members of the Diplomatic Corps, Delegates from International Colleges and Universities, Junior College and other tertiary institution representatives in Belize, as well as UB's own administrative and academic staff and students, Dr. Cary F. Fraser was installed as the 4th President of The University of Belize. President Fraser has an extensive, impressive background in higher education and educational leadership. Dr. John Kemppainen, U.S. Co-chair of COBEC extended congratulations and pledged continued COBEC support for President Fraser and the University of Belize as he begins his new duties. President Fraser has expressed his appreciation for COBEC's warm welcome and is looking forward to working with all of COBEC as UB moves forward to become a recognized regional and global university.

Dr. Edward Minnock, Passes

Dr. Edward Minnock, Vice President for External Affairs at Bridgewater State University, passes.

Members of COBEC were saddened by the recent news of the passing of Dr. Edward Minnock, Vice President for External Affairs at Bridgewater State University. Many will recall the interview Dr. Minnock did with the Honorable Patrick Faber, Minister of Education and Youth that was aired on local television in the Bridgewater, MA area and also appeared on the internet. Those who attended the summer conference in Gainesville, GA this past summer were able to view the interview. *(Continued on page 3)*

Dr. Edward Minnock, Passes *(continued from page 2)*

Dr. Minnock was one of those rare individuals who seemed to know how to unite and support everyone regardless of national origin. He will be missed and our prayers and sympathies go to his family. May he rest in peace.

Gainesville State College Serves as Host *(continued from page 1)*

the Honorable Patrick Faber, Minister of Education. The day included round table discussions from our U. S. institutions on different initiatives they have been pursuing in Belize. Several students from GSC shared their experiences in Belize through a slide show of the developmental activities taking place in San Pedro. Mr. Trygve Olson of a newly founded organization called, Friends of Belize, made a brief presentation to the membership and expressed hope that we may be able to collaborate with him and FOB on different projects and endeavors.

During the business meeting, COBEC welcomed the return of SUNY Cortland State University (New York) and the University of Florida (Gainesville, FL). SUNY was reinstated as it appeared to be an oversight in the transition of officers from New Mexico State University to Bainbridge College. The University of Florida has requested reinstatement and the membership will vote on their return at our next meeting in San Ignacio in Belize. SOWELA Technical Community College was represented and is requesting consideration to become a member of COBEC. Several Belizean tertiary institutions offered to sponsor SOWELA for membership.

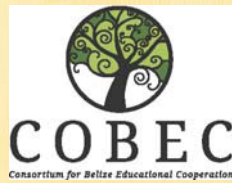
Discussion also centered around the COBEC webpage. It has been acknowledged that our webpage needs much work and updating. Co-chair Jose Mai presented a letter from a service in Belize that would consider hosting us. After some discussion, Dr. Kim Shakelford stated that she had discussions with their IT department at Ole Miss and that they had indicated Ole Miss would be willing to serve as hosts. It was suggested that Dr. Shakelford work with Co-Chair Kempainen to make the smooth transition and hopefully before the next meeting in February we could be up and running.

Additional discussion centered around the Federal Tax Exempt Status for COBEC. We are registered as a not-for-profit organization in the state of Georgia but it appears that we do not have tax exempt status under the 501 C3 code with the Federal Government. Susan Ralph has been exploring possibilities through Bainbridge College. The decision was made that Co-chair Kempainen and Susan will work on this. It may require and expenditure of funds to have it done correctly.

The issue of our COBEC logo was also discussed. Dr. Rick Bateman from SOWELA Technical Community College offered to have individuals within his institution work with the logo using the copies we had on file. The logo was formally approved by a unanimous vote at the summer meeting at Georgia Perimeter College in 2010.

Dr. Eve Aird reminded everyone that the Spring 2012 COBEC meeting will be hosted by Sacred Heart Junior College and that everyone should reserve dates during the first week of February 2012 for this event. More to come on the program and other relevant information. Dr. Kimberly Shakelford also reminded everyone that the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) will serve as hosts for our summer 2012 COBEC meeting and Independence Junior College was mentioned as a possible host for the Spring 2013 conference/meetings. No one was present from Independence Junior College so this was not confirmed.

COBEC DISPATCH



US Co-chair: John Kemppainen jkemppai@unf.edu

Belize Co-chair: Jose Mai jmai56@gmail.com

www.cobec.org