

COBEC

DISPATCH

UWI served as an outstanding host for spring 2011 Biannual COBEC Conference

BELIZE CITY – The University of the West Indies Open Campus Belize served as exemplary hosts for our biannual spring COBEC conference from February 2nd through the 4th.

The College Fair’s new location at the Institute for Technical & Vocational Education & Training (ITVET) attracted a large crowd of students seeking information about continued educational opportunities at COBEC partner schools in the U.S. The CAFÉ workshops for Belizean educators was a huge success with approximately 90 teachers in attendance.

The attendees were greeted by the Samuel Haynes School of Excellence Marching Band with a series of memorable melodies followed by warm words of welcome from

His Excellency, Sir Colville Young, Governor General of Belize. The Honorable Patrick Faber, Minister of Education and Youth for Belize extended his welcome to COBEC members and reassured everyone the importance of COBEC and the many contributions we have made and are making to the nation of Belize.

He also presided over an agreement-signing event with Vice President of Academic Affairs, Al Panu of Gainesville State College in Georgia to work collaboratively on pressing issues facing primary education in Belize.

Other speakers included Dr. Cynthia Thompson, Assistant Provost at the University of Belize; Ms. Christine Smith, Director, Youth for the Future; Ms. Jennifer Lovell, President, Mental Health Association; Mr. Kenroy Ellis, Manager at ITVET; Mrs. Celcilia Ramirez-Smith, Director, Teacher Education and Development Services; Mr. Dennis Jones, Managing Director for Belize Enterprize for Sustained Technology and Mr. J.A. Diffly, Deputy Chief of Mission from the U.S. Embassy. (continued)



Pallavi Thadhani
The Picture of Pallavi is the winner of the Martin Aird Memorial Scholarship. She is currently attending Murray State University in Kentucky as a graduate MBA student.



Sacred Heart Junior College, San Ignacio
This is the site for Spring 2012 COBEC Conference.

COBEC DISPATCH

Main story continued

Mr. Ismael Garcia of the Ministry of Public Service, Governance Improvement, Elections & Boundaries and Sports as well as Mr. Eugene Waight, Chief Agricultural Offices and Mr. Sheldon Samuels Coordinator of Adult Continuing Education also made presentation.

Needless to say, we had a very busy day and everyone came away with a better understanding of the various needs in Belize.

The Business meeting included a report from Dr. Carly Womack from Gainesville State College in Georgia about her recent small grant activities on classroom management in Belize with the Ministry of Education.

Dr. Eve Aird volunteered Sacred Heart Junior College to be the host site for our spring 2012 COBEC conference in Belize. In the meantime we all look forward to our summer conference hosted by Gainesville State College and Carly Womack and her crew just north of Atlanta this July 28-30. More information on this conference will be coming soon.

Dissertations wanted

Susan Ralph, Bainbridge College and U.S. COBEC Treasurer notified us that Ms. Joy Ysaguirre, Chief Librarian at the National Library Service of Belize would like to have copies of dissertations done by Belizean students who have earned their doctorates at U.S. institutions. I suspect that anyone who did a thesis for their master's degree could be included in this. So please alert your graduate Belize students to share their research with the National Library Service. Thanks Susan, for the news.



The second picture is of Gainesville State College Vice President for Academic Affairs signing an agreement with the Honorable Patrick Faber, Minister of Education and Youth in Belize for on-going support and collaboration.

Dues reminder

Susan Ralph recently sent out a gentle reminder to several U.S. COBEC partners about their dues obligation. For those who received her notice, please check with your institutions to see if your dues have been paid, and if not, please process the request immediately. We would want everyone to be paid up before our July meeting date.

Pallavi Thadhani wins Martin Aird Memorial Scholarship

Pallavi Thadhani, a graduate of Corozal Community College and Corozal Junior College is the winner of the Martin Aird Memorial Scholarship. Ms. Thadhani is currently attending Murray State University in Kentucky where she is completing her MBA. Pallavi is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma International Honor Society at Murray State and is active with both the Belize Student Organization and the International Student Organization on campus. Her letters of recommendation were outstanding and the \$1,000 scholarship will be sent to the financial aid office at Murray State for fall semester 2011. The \$1,000 non-renewable scholarship was approved at the July 2010 COBEC meeting at Georgia Perimeter College to honor and remember the Martin Aird, the son of Chris and Eve Aird who lost his life last year. Congratulations Pallavi from all of your COBEC supporters.