

# COBEC DISPATCH

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*Dean Brian Gerber addressing COBEC conferees*

**VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY PROVIDES THE PERFECT SETTING FOR COBEC SUMMER CONFERENCE.**

August 1 – 3, 2013. Valdosta, Georgia. Valdosta State University, home of the VSU Blazers, provided all that was needed for a very productive COBEC summer meeting and conference. With Ivan making airport runs, Dean Gerber actively participating and Dean LaPlant extending his home for the southern hospitality charm, conferees left feeling much had been accomplished and were yet challenged to move forward with different action items to be able to report at our next COBEC meeting in Dangriga next February. VSU faculty was involved in providing meaningful hands-on professional development workshops in areas requested by our Belizean COBEC partners. Feedback on the sessions has been very positive and we look forward of more to come.



*The Honorable Patrick Faber, Minister of Education and Youth chatting with COBEC Members*

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Several changes took place in the officer ranks as our U.S. Treasurer, Susan Ralph Bainbridge State College, announced that she needed to step down as treasurer because of her anticipated retirement this year. In addition, Dr. Aline Harrison, Belizean Treasurer and COBEC Secretary also submitted her resignation as she was leaving Galen University and returning to the United States. Both the U.S. side and the Belizean side were successful in being able to find individuals to fulfill the two vacancies. Ms. Deborah Davis, librarian at VSU agreed to take over the U.S. Treasurer's office and Ms. Marie Scott, Independence Junior College, agreed to take over the Belizean Treasurer's office and also serve as the COBEC Secretary. Both Jane Bennett and John Kemppainen welcomed Deborah and Marie to their new positions.

Ms. Susan Ralph was recognized for her extraordinary effort in doing what needed to be done to have COBEC officially recognized as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation under the U.S. Internal Revenue Public Charities section. It was not an easy task and thanks to Susan's contacts at Bainbridge State College the legal and financial expenses were kept at a very low cost to COBEC. We are poised now to be able to apply for and receive grants and donations from U.S. businesses and corporations which can be used by those organizations as tax write-offs on their own taxes. Susan was recognized with a special COBEC award for her efforts as was Deborah Davis (VSU) who has worked behind the scenes for many years as our archivist. Valdosta State University serves as the central location where the history of COBEC can be stored and Deborah and her staff have organized and stored our historical documents. On the Belizean side, Ms. Brenda Armstrong was also recognized for many years of service to COBEC and to education in years of service to COBEC and to education in Belize. Brenda is well known for her outstanding work and COBEC recognized her many contributions over many years. Congratulations to all three COBEC award winners. Another agenda item focused on the library services in Belize and also at the University Belize. After some discussion it was determined that VSU would assist in coordinating an RDA library services workshop for librarians in Belize including Ms. Joy Ysaguirre of the Belize National Archives. It was decided that there would be a COBEC pre-conference workshop beginning at the end of January and continuing on through February 4<sup>th</sup> to provide the RDA training. On-going discussion since the summer COBEC meeting has established the following timetable. (See next page) We need to continue our efforts to work collaboratively in between our bi-annual meetings. Many thanks to Guy Frost, Associate Professor of Library Science, Deborah Davis and Susan Ralph for continuing to work with Joy Ysaguirre, Dr. Cynthia Thompson, Erwin Woodye and others to bring this to fruition.

*COBEC members chatting informally at the home of Dean James LaPlant during an evening reception*

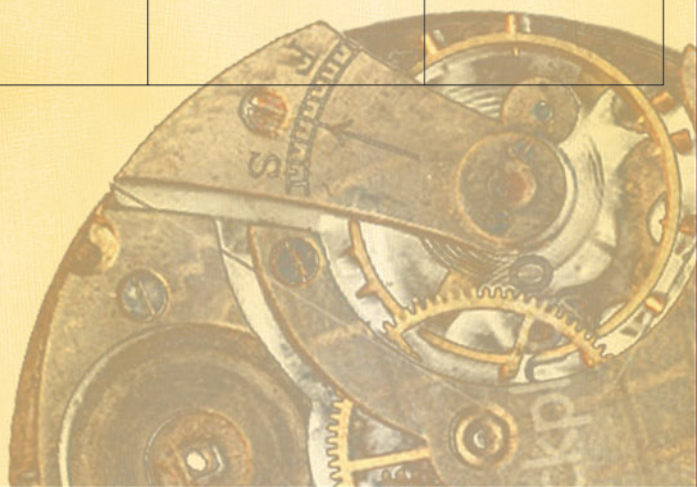


COBEC  
RDA  
TRAINING  
Schedule of  
Activities




*COBEC members relaxing after great food and drink at the home of Dean LaPlant..*

	<b>WEDNESDAY JANUARY 29</b>	<b>THURSDAY JANUARY 30</b>	<b>FRIDAY JANUARY 31</b>	<b>MONDAY FEBRUARY 3</b>	<b>TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4</b>
9:00-10:00	- International Cataloging Principles - WEMI/FRBR	- Relationship designators (\$4 v. \$e) - Relationship designators (\$i); Structured and Unstructured choices	Hands on Practicum: Audio/Visual Materials	Hands on Practicum: Cartographic material	Hands on Practicum: Archival Collections and other unpublished resources
10:00-11:00	- RDA TOOLKIT - LC-PCC PS				
11:12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30-3:00	Hands on Practicum: RDA Toolkit; Basic Cataloging of monographs	Hands on Practicum: Single Volume Monographs; Multivolume monographs; Sequels; Prequels; Related resources	Hands on Practicum: Streaming Video/E-Resources	Hands on Practicum: Serials/Integrating Resources	Hands on Practicum: RDA Toolkit: Creating Workflows



### **Bylaws Discussion**

A great deal of time was spent on reviewing the Bylaws and working on them to have them reflect where we are today as an organization. Kirk Armstrong, (GCSU) agreed to take the notes and have some of his grad assistants at GCSU put them into a proper format.

### **Faculty Development Seminar Proposal**

Dwight Call (GCSU, Ret.) and Neal McCrillis (Columbus State University) led a group discussion with a focus on having a Faculty Development Seminar which would involve both U.S. and Belizean faculty as well as both U.S. and Belizean students. Rationale for such a program was present and included in a proposal sheet distributed shortly after the conference.

### **Louisiana Students Travelling to Belize**

Dr. Rick Bateman, Jr. and his wife Araceli Bateman will be leading a Service Learning Trip to Belize. Thirteen students and a professor from Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) will be in Belize from January 4-10, 2014. The group is partnering with Dr. Eve Aird and Sacred Heart College to organize the service learning experience which is being funded by the Student Government Association at BRCC and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System Foundation.

The BRCC students will partner with Sacred Heart Junior College students to identify a service learning project that will be relevant to the needs of the community and they will complete the project together. Other activities planned include seminars on Belizean history, language, and culture to be led by Belizean experts. The visiting students will also take part in learning expeditions that will provide opportunities to understand the Maya heritage of Belize and issues of conservation.

## **COBEC Welcomes It's First Emeritus Members**

The conference at VSU was the first opportunity to recognize and welcome our new category of membership, our Emeritus members. Dr. Betty Flinchum, Dr. Tracy Harrington, Dr. Keith Miser and Dr. Dwight Cal (all present) represented our first class of emeritus members. Also in attendance were Dr. Jane Zahner (VSU, Ret.) and Dr. Jack Hasling (VSU, Ret.). It was great to see everyone again. We look forward to seeing you again in the future and hopefully, often. The years you all have given to COBEC and the experience and background you all have are valuable resources for our current membership.

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## **One of Our Own Recognized**

Dr. Betty Flinchum was recently recognized by her alma mater as one of several "Women of Distinction". The University of North Carolina Greensboro recently notified Betty of her selection and she will be recognized and honored at a ceremony on October 24<sup>th</sup> in Greensboro. Congratulations Betty.

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## **Valdosta State University to Take On COBEC Webpage**

After some discussion regarding our website, who owns it, who is maintaining it and so on, Valdosta State University has agreed to host our webpage. Ms. Deborah Davis indicated that they have a separate server for their library and that she has graduate assistants who would be able to keep it current and looking good. COBEC owns the domain [www.cobec.org](http://www.cobec.org) and we are now attempting to work with Oklahoma State University to see who can release the information on their site so it can be transferred over to the COBEC site. Hopefully we will have something up soon.

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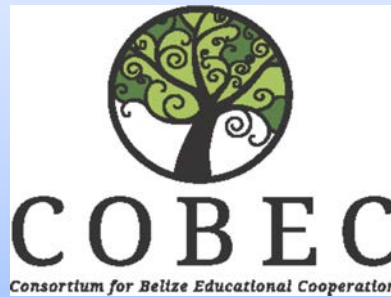
## **Winter COBEC Conference**

The winter 2014 COBEC conference is just around the corner. Stann Creek Ecumenical Junior College in Dangriga will be serving as our Belize hosts. Both Chairs are already getting inquiries, which is great, as to when and where the conference will be. As usual, the College Fair will be in Belize City at our usual ITVET building on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at around 2:30 PM. This will be following the Library RDA workshops that will begin the last week of January. The conference itself will be held in Dangriga on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Karen Martinez will be providing us with more information regarding lodging and so on. In addition to the Pelican Beach Resort, we also have the Jungle Huts, Pal's Guest House, and the Chaleanor Hotel in the Dangriga area. Lodging and a conference site in Hopkins is also being considered. And to our U.S. partners, if you have never been to Dangriga or Hopkins before, you are in for a treat. More to come on the winter 2014 conference.

## Preparing for Election

At our winter conference meeting we will be caucusing to select candidates for the different offices within COBEC. All offices are up for re-election. This means we will be selecting candidates for the U.S. and Belizean Chairs, U.S. and Belizean Treasurer and the Belizean Treasurer also serves as the Secretary to COBEC. We might start keeping in mind who we would like to have serve in the various offices. The election of the new officers will take place at our summer conference at Indianapolis University in Indianapolis, IN. As I recall, we also discussed holding our summer meeting a little earlier in hopes of being able to catch everyone.

## COBEC DISPATCH



### COBEC Officers:

U.S Co-Chair:	Dr. John Kempainen University of North Florida
Belizean Co-Chair:	Ms. Jane Bennett UWI Open Campus, Belize
U.S. Treasurer:	Deborah Davis Valdosta State University
Belize Treasurer & COBEC Secretary:	Marie Scott Independence Junior College