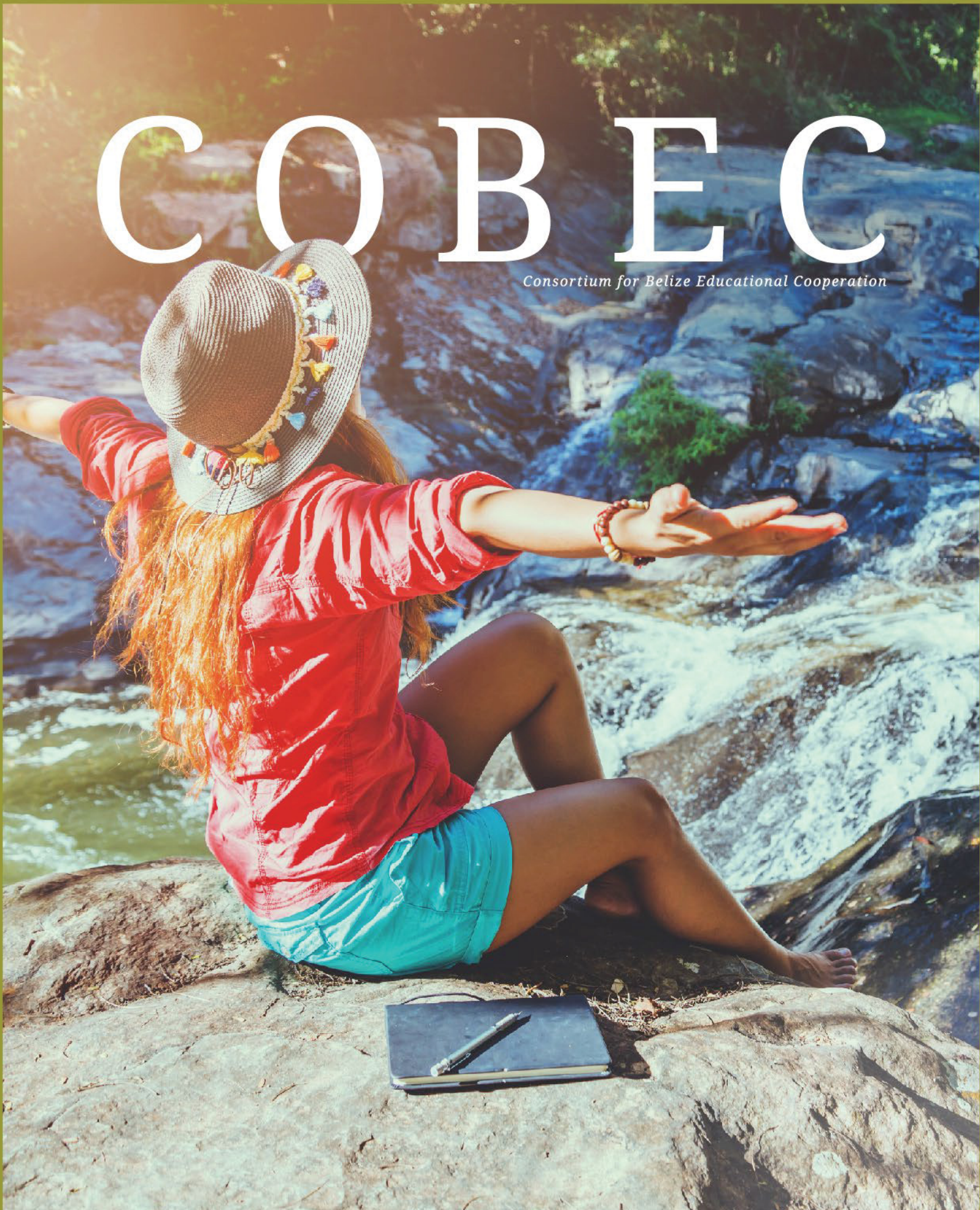


COBEEC

Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation



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SUMMER 2018

COBEC CONFERENCE

Bossier City, Louisiana
JULY 25-27

For full conference details, visit:
www.bpcc.edu/cobec

Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC) will serve as the main venue for conference activities. BPCC’s state-of-the-art campus is located at 6220 East Texas Street, Bossier City, LA. Meetings will be held in Building F, Room 203.

BPCC has arranged for discounted rates for COBEC Summer Conference participants at both HORSESHOE CASINO HOTEL (CAESARS) and RESIDENCE INN (Marriott). Both hotels are in walking distance to the Louisiana Boardwalk Outlets Shopping Complex.

Rates listed are available on a first-come, first-served basis until July 3, 2018. After the cut-off date, these hotels will continue to take guest reservations at their regular rates. When contacting a hotel by phone, indicate that your reservation is for the BPCC COBEC conference.

About Shreveport/Bossier: As the commercial and cultural center of the Ark-La-Tex Region, the sister cities of Shreveport and Bossier extend along the Red River in the northwest corner of Louisiana. The region is home to three public universities and two community and technical colleges and serves as a regional learning center.



COBEC MINI-GRANT SUPPORTS A VIRTUAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PILOT

Written by Kelly McDade, Associate Professor of Art, BPCCL Liberal Arts Division

With help from a COBEC mini-grant, Bossier Parish Community College and Galen University are partnering to provide a Virtual Exchange experience for students from both colleges who may otherwise not have the means to travel.

As a lead-in to the project, the two colleges connected through simultaneous art exhibitions from faculty or students at both institutions. During his site visit to Louisiana last fall, Kirkland Smith, Galen's project lead, shared Belize student and faculty artwork to be exhibited in BPCCL's art gallery. The show is concurrently on exhibit at BPCCL and includes more than 45 drawings, photographs and paintings.

In January, Kelly McDade, project lead for BPCCL, traveled to Galen University while in Belize for the COBEC conference to meet students and staff supporting the initiative and to continue preparations for the spring Virtual Exchange Pilot. She brought seven of her own artworks now on display at Galen.

The Student Exchange Pilot is on track to launch March 19 and run through April 13. Eighteen students, nine from Louisiana and nine from throughout Belize, will participate in joint classes and partner across their cultures to create and present projects in a virtual environment.

McDade and Smith agreed that the face-to-face pre-planning meetings, experiencing each other's hometown cultures, and collaborating in real-time well-prepared them for the spring rollout. McDade noted, "we are determined to help grow this initiative in the future and include professors from other fields, with the goal of building a larger COBEC virtual exchange model."

Bossier Parish Community College and Galen University thank COBEC for the mini-grant which helped to bring this unique vision to life.



MURRAY STATE'S EDUCATION ABROAD PROGRAM IN BELIZE CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

*Written by: Bonnie Higginson, Ph.D., Regents Professor Emeritus
College of Education and Human Services, Murray State University*

In 2017, the College of Education and Human Services at Murray State University celebrated the 10th anniversary of its Belize International Teaching Experience, a three-week education abroad program that allows students to broaden their world-views by spending a portion of their student-teaching requirement in Belizean schools. The program has been conducted in collaboration with two Belizean junior colleges in northern Belize—Corozal Junior College and Centro Escolar Mexico Junior College.

“It’s an opportunity to see a part of Central America that is challenged economically yet recognizes the value of its youth,” said Dr. David Whaley, dean of the College of Education and Human Services. “Our student teachers get to experience this firsthand by living it 24/7 for three weeks.”

Since the program’s inception in 2007, more than 100 Murray State student teachers have taught in Corozal, Belize. Students visit during both the spring and fall semesters with the most recent trip spanning Nov. 11 through Dec. 4 and including four students. Another group will be setting off on their Belizean adventure April 14 through May 7, 2018.

While abroad, students teach five days each week and spend the weekends exploring the natural wonders of the country. Typical excursions include exploring Mayan ruins, zip-lining, cave tubing, snorkeling and visiting local islands. Though a great deal of fun is had by the students, they also learn to cope with certain challenges that come along with living in another country and experiencing a different culture.



COBEC-affiliated Jr. College Faculty and Staff Participate in **ONLINE DESIGN WORKSHOPS**

Written by Allison Haughton Martin, Director of Institutional Effectiveness Initiatives, Bossier Parish Community College

Many thanks to COBEC for awarding Bossier Parish Community College a \$1,000 mini-grant that served as matching funds for on-site, online design workshops for three Belize junior colleges. Our gracious hosts Dr. Karen Martinez, Marie Young, Fermin Magana and Jeanne Link helped plan and coordinate workshop events held this winter.

In mid-February, BPCC's Allison Martin traveled to Dangriga and San Iganacio, Belize to present day-long online course design workshops for 60 faculty and staff members from Independence, Stann Creek Ecumenical, and Sacred Heart Junior Colleges. 24 Stann Creek Ecumenical and 12 Independence Jr. College faculty and staff met at SCEJC for a combined workshop on February 14, and 24 Sacred Heart faculty met for the second workshop held on February 16 at SHJC.

Attendees learned online and on-ground teaching strategies, best-practice online design, and metacognitive applications for online learning. The second half of each workshop day focused upon online quality assurance standards and hands-on practice in building out individual, online course content using a standardized template.





Conference Wrap-Up

WINTER 2018 COBEC CONFERENCE

*Written by Eleanor Gillett,
Wesley Junior College (WJC) Dean*

Wesley Junior College was proud to host the 2018 COBEC Winter Conference at the Best Western Biltmore Hotel in Belize City on February 1-2, 2018. It was our pleasure to host the fifty participants representing twenty-seven institutions for the two-day conference. On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of WJC, I want to thank everyone that attended and the many individuals who contributed to the success of the conference.

Day one of the conference was called to order by the Mistress of Ceremonies, Mrs. Anne Palacio. The program began with the National Anthem of the USA played by the Wesley College band and then followed by the Belizean Anthem song by the Wesley College Choir. Reverent C. David Goff led the invocation, his Lordship the Mayor of Belize City Darrell Bradley brought greetings as did the Chair of the WJC Board of Management, Bishop Roosevelt Papouloute. The COBEC Co-chairs, Dr. Karen Martinez and Dr. Emilia Hodge welcomed the attendees and the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Patrick Faber, provided the Keynote Address.

Presentations were provided by Dr. Eve Aird (The Evolution of Tertiary Education and the Role of COBEC); Dr. Angel Call and Nigel Encalada (The Need

for a National Research Council); Mark Usher (PROTO Foundation and People Reaching Out to Others); Kevin Geban (Tourism Training at the Tertiary Level in Belize); Mayor Darrel Bradley (Law and Education in Belize); Dr. Carly Womack-Wynne with Deryck Satchwell and Jeanne Link (Collaborating to build Quality Assurance Capacity in Belize); and Dr. Larry Daniels (Facilitating Follow-up on Strategic Planning).

Dr. Emilia Hodge called the Business Meeting to order on day two and the standing committees met to discuss a variety of initiatives. Dr. Sharmayne Saunders reported on work of the College Administrators/Faculty Experience (CAFÉ) Committee; Jeanne Link reported College Fair Committee (CFC); and Dr. Nancy Adamson and Dr. Eve Aird reported on the Study Abroad Committee (SAC). Additionally, the University of Illinois at Chicago was admitted as a new member of COBEC and the venues for the following future COBEC Conferences were confirmed: Summer 2018: Bossier Parish Community College, LA; Winter 2019: San Pedro Junior College, BZ (February 6 College Fair, and February 7-8 Conference; Summer 2019: University of North Florida, FL; Winter 2020: University of the West Indies – Open Campus, BZ; and Summer 2020: Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, WI.

“The Belize International Teaching Experience really goes beyond our conventional thinking of study abroad,” said Dr. Bonnie Higginson, regents professor emeritus and director of the Belize International Teaching Experience. “Our students gain experience through working directly with teachers and children in Belize, and those interactions impact the students’ perspectives about teaching in diverse settings and meeting the needs of all learners.”

Program participants are placed in various schools within Corozal’s Roman Catholic public school district. While many of the student teachers have been placed in primary schools, secondary-level student teachers in English, music, agriculture, math and other disciplines have taught at one of two high schools in the district.

To contribute to the program’s success, the College of Education and Human Services works with Murray State alumni in the region, including Marga and Carlos Lopez, a married couple from Belize who both earned graduate degrees from Murray State.

“They help us with all of the coordination from Belize,” Higginson added. “Marga stays with the students

and takes care of them while they are in Belize, and Carlos is now a lecturer at Murray State. Their son will become a Murray State student next fall.”

Meg Black, a participant on the spring 2010 Belize International Teaching Experience, reflected on her time abroad and what she learned in terms of teaching practices and classroom management.

“My biggest takeaway was learning how to teach using different resources,” Black said. “In my experience, the teaching in Belize was less dependent upon technology than my student-teaching experience in the States had been. This was immensely helpful in preparing me for this past year when I worked for a new school that didn’t have many resources. Because I was comfortable teaching without technology, it wasn’t a problem. My lead teacher in Belize also used projects-based learning, and I use many of the strategies I learned with her in my own classroom today.”

As for the Murray State students who participate in this education abroad program, there is no doubt that a lasting impression is made on them both professionally and personally.

“In my experience, the teaching in Belize was less dependent upon technology than my student-teaching experience in the States had been. This was immensely helpful in preparing me for this past year when I worked for a new school that didn’t have many resources. Because I was comfortable teaching without technology, it wasn’t a problem...”

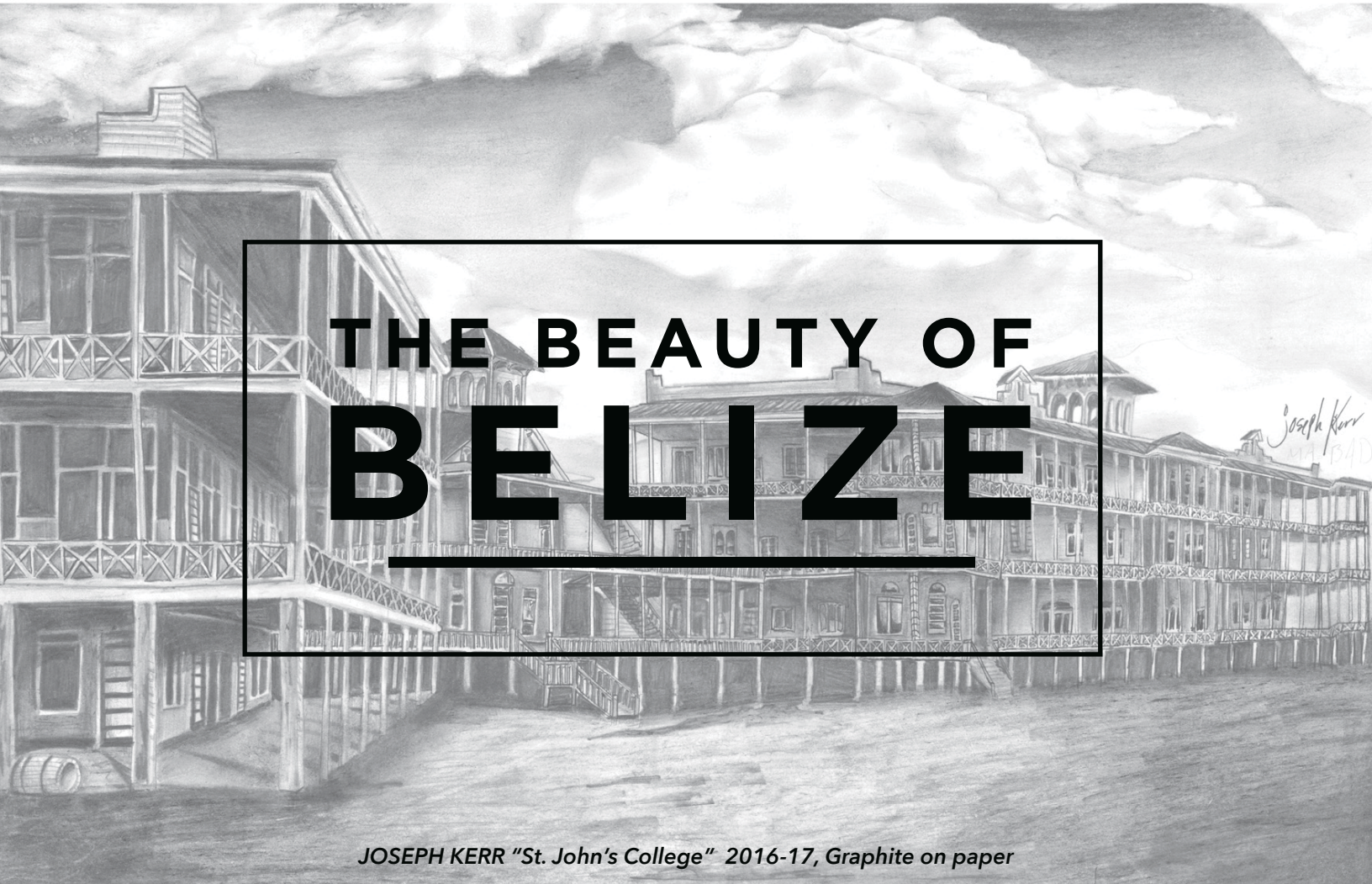
MEG BLACK
SPRING 2010 BELIZE
INTERNATIONAL TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

PHOTO COLLAGE: WINTER 2018 COBEC CONFERENCE



PHOTO COLLAGE CONTINUED: WINTER 2018 COBEC CONFERENCE





JOSEPH KERR "St. John's College" 2016-17, Graphite on paper

Thank you to the mini-grant provided by COBEC to make this exhibit possible.

The ARTIST TALK and OPENING RECEPTION was held at 11:30 am Wednesday, February 21 at Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC) in Bossier City, Louisiana.

The exhibit can be viewed in the Donna Service Art Gallery in Building A on the BPCC campus. The gallery hours are Monday thru Friday 8:30 am-4:00 pm.



ART EXHIBIT

MONDAY,
JANUARY 29
THRU
FRIDAY,
MARCH 23





MEETING WITH UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES FROM NORTH GEORGIA (UNG)

Written by: Clement Sankat, Ph.D.
President of the University of Belize

Following the Winter COBEC Conference hosted by Wesley Junior College in Belize City, Professor Sankat (President of the University of Belize) met with Mr. Deryck Satchwell (Ministry of Education and member of the UB Board of Trustees), Dr. Mariot Simon (Vice President of UB), and Dr. Carly Womack-Wynne from the University of North Georgia (UNG). Both UB and UNG are members of the Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation (COBEC). The meeting was held on February 2, 2018 at the Belmopan Campus of UB and points of discussion included matters on building quality in higher education at UB and in Belize. There is much hope for a fruitful collaboration between these two COBEC universities.



PRESIDENT OF UB MEETS WITH CO-CHAIR OF COBEC

Written by: Clement Sankat, Ph.D.
President of the University of Belize

On February 5, 2018, President Sankat of UB met with Dr. Emilia Hodge, Co-Chair of COBEC, and staff member of the University of Florida. UB had a booth at the Tertiary Options and Opportunities (TOO) fair held at the Saint Catherine Academy Multi-Purpose Auditorium in Belize City on January 31 and President Sankat attended the opening of COBEC's Winter Conference held at the Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza. President Sankat congratulated COBEC on its 30th Anniversary and he took the opportunity to congratulate Assistant Provost Dr. Cynthia Thompson, who received a recognition award from COBEC as a founding officer of COBEC. The President assured Dr. Hodge of UB's desire to engage with COBEC member institutions to create winning partnerships that support our development.



STAY CONNECTED

Visit www.COBEC.org to stay connected with news, updates, and events.

Contact Dr. Rick Bateman, Jr. at rbateman@bpcc.edu for news-related events, questions, or concerns.