

New

2017-18

# ANNUAL REPORT



Transform. Inspire. Empower.

University of Belize



Education Empowers a Nation

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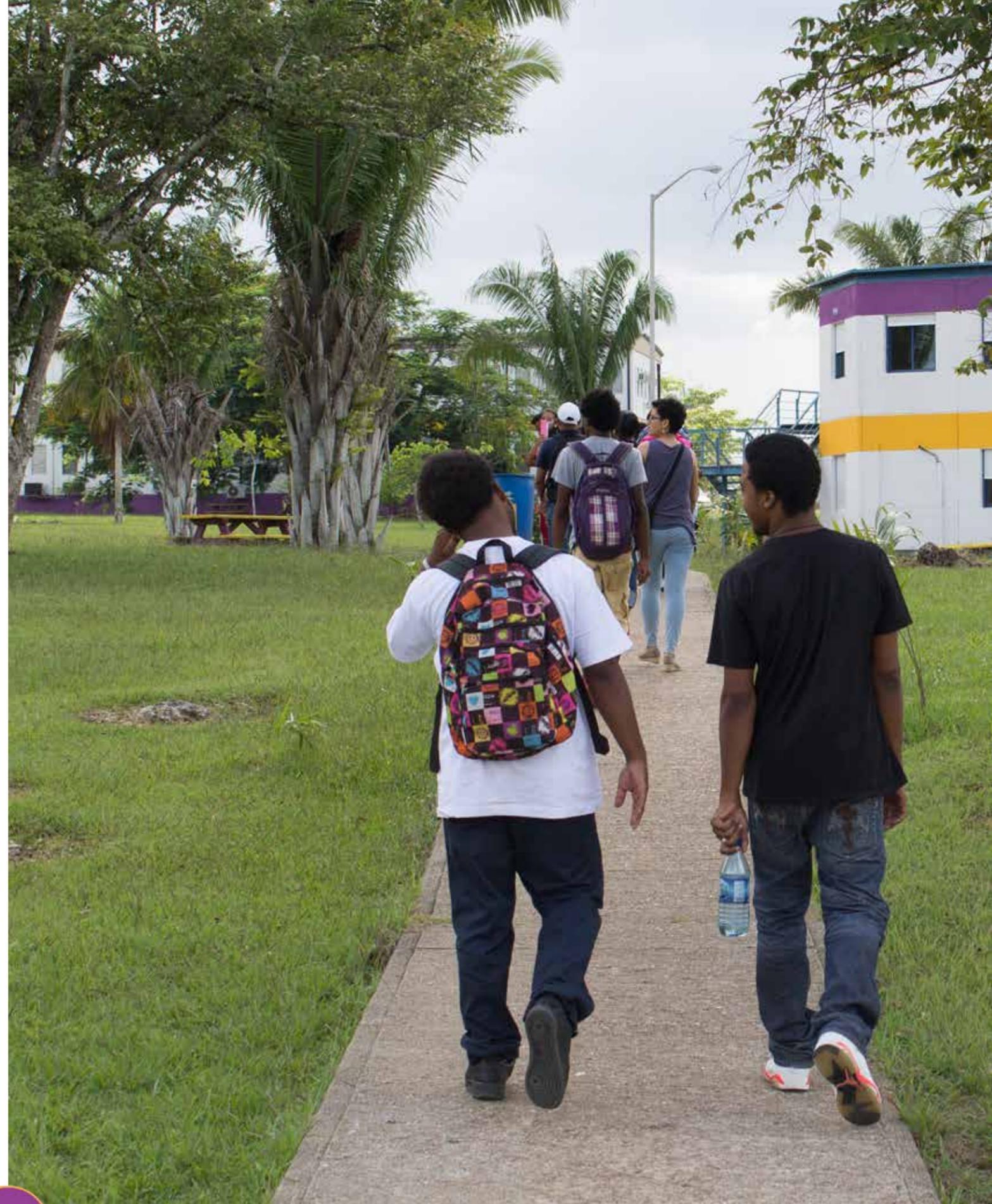
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# From the Chairman of the Board of Trustees



The University of Belize (UB) , established by an Act of the National Assembly, opened its doors in August 2000. It, like many national universities, came out of the amalgamation of existing government-run institutions. It has been funded primarily by annual Government subventions and from fees and tuition paid by its student users. This funding formula is often perceived to create barriers to entry as users must find significant sums of money to register and complete study at the institution.

In April 2016 UB attracted the services of a retired and highly motivated academic leader whose mantra in relation to University Management included a recognition that the institution must be 'relevant, responsible and accessible'. This vision resonated with UB's commitment to "excellence in higher education, research and service

for national development". Under Professor Sankat's leadership the University's programs are increasingly designed to meet national needs, encourage sustainable development and prepare Belize to meet the global challenges of the 21st Century.

The synergy created was symptomatic of the proverbial "opportunity meeting preparedness" - UB being the opportunity and the highly-trained, regionally experienced Professor Sankat coming prepared to face and overcome the myriad challenges of a fledging place of teaching and learning.

Student population in April 2015 stood at 4,598; at the beginning of the 2018 academic year it had risen to 5,035. This increase in student numbers was driven by a vibrant and visible University profile, by more effective marketing and

enrolment procedures; fuelled with new academic program offerings and greater accessibility to the institution.

Driven by "A Transformational Leap for the University of Belize - Vision 2022" has had broad buy-in and support from students, faculty and staff who have hailed the bold action plan as a great way forward. Launched internally and publicly in 2018 this Transformation Plan has begun to lift UB to higher academic achievement - many new programs have been introduced - Bachelor degrees in Chemistry, in Mathematics, in Marine Biology and in Information Technology were approved. A Masters in Educational Leadership and a Masters in Business Administration became some of the highly sought after newbies. In December 2017, memoranda signed between the Governments of India and Belize and between GOB and UB has given real traction to the execution of the India-Belize Center for Engineering (IBCE). Through these agreements the Government of India donated BZ\$1.09M in high tech equipment and GOB underwrote the cost of constructing a new building on the Belmopan Campus to house the equipment. This signals and paves the way for the move to Belmopan of the Engineering faculty.

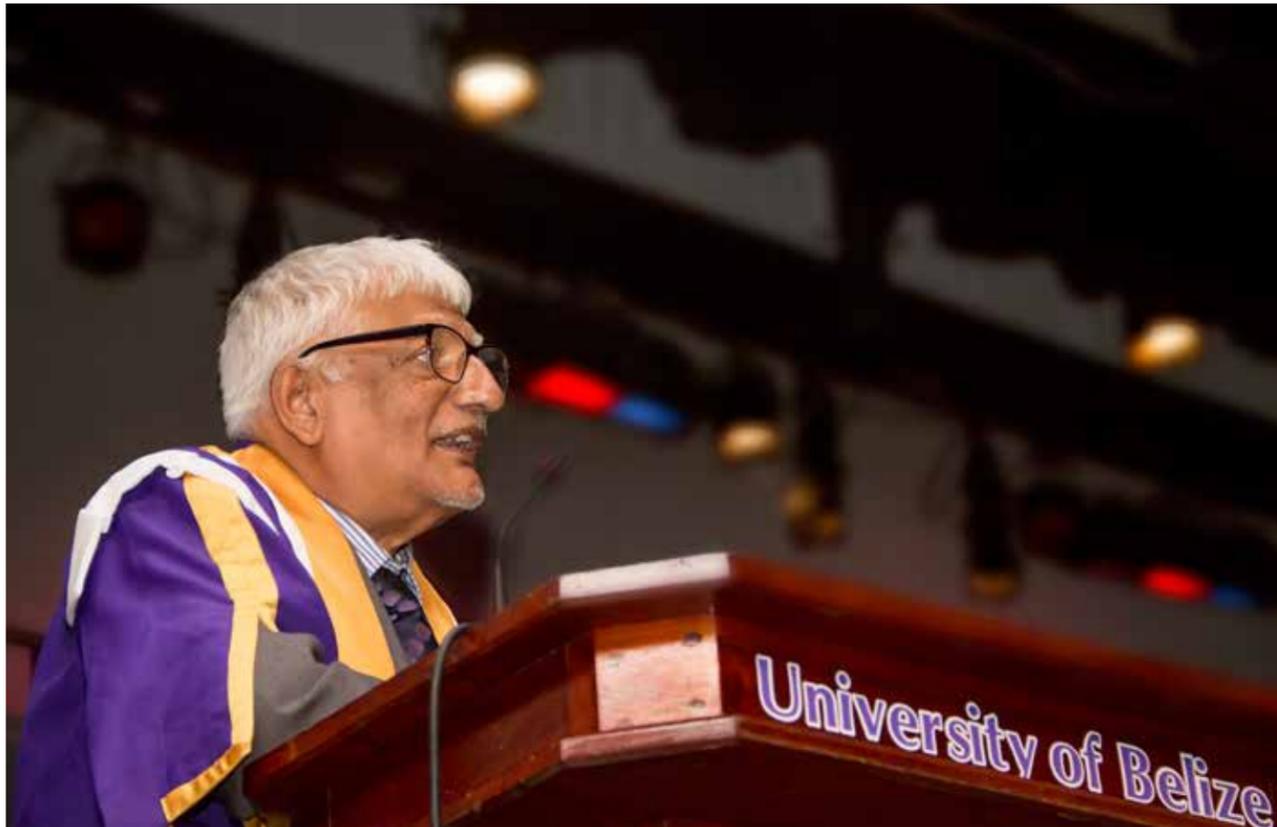
During the 2017-2018 academic cycle it was proposed that the mandatory retirement age for the University be moved from fifty five to sixty; proposals have been drafted for a general review of the twenty year old UB Act; sweeping adjustments were made to a costly and patronising retire/rehire faculty policy; and long outstanding Annual Reports for 2014-2016 were tabled and approved by the Board of Trustees.

At the fiscal level the spiralling downward trend in University financial reserves was stemmed. Across the University there is a sense of expectancy and renewed hope, a feeling of pride that the University was achieving more than modest gains towards its goal to make "Education Empower our Nation". The University's brand recognition has been taken to the next level.

The Board of Trustees is appreciative of the energy, earnestness and performance of the University's President, Vice President, Senior Managers, Deans and Chairs. We congratulate all who have made the University of Belize the Tertiary Institution of choice where we attract, retain and deliver a smooth, seamless experience always putting our students first.

G. A. Harrison Pilgrim BA, MBA, CLU  
Chairman, UB's Board of Trustees

# From the President: TRANSFORM, INSPIRE AND EMPOWER - NEW BEGINNINGS



My dear readers, I am very pleased to share this 2017/2018 Annual Report with you entitled "Transform, Inspire and Empower - New Beginnings." This is the first full year of my stewardship as President of the UB and hence another personal milestone, as it is for the University as a whole. I hope you will find this Report more informative, focused and inspiring, especially of our transformative efforts at UB.

Let me at the outset thank this "in-house" Team who worked with me to produce this Report - Ms. Santree Sandiford, Marketing & Communications Officer, and Mr. Nectaly Vela, Website Administrator and Graphic Designer.

This is a young UB Team who are being mentored to continue to produce such Reports well into the future.

What is defining about the Year under review, 17/18 was that it was the 1st Year of our transformation plan, entitled "A transformational Leap, Vision 2022." So it was a year of tremendous hope and expectations - a clarion call for the re-energization of this National University. In my first six months (February-July 2017) at the UB, we worked together on the conceptualization and approval of this Plan by the Board of Trustees; a plan that re-imagines ourselves as a national University, delivering at a much higher

and more efficient levels and with a strong focus on our 4Rs - Relevance, Responsiveness, Reach and Responsibility. As I said then, "The UB over the next five years and beyond will demonstrate to all the capacity to be bold, not afraid to take measured risks and to live this Plan which energizes us to execute and win." This has been our driving focus.

As you read this Report, I am hoping you will glean that the transformation has begun in all the facets of endeavor that are necessary to build a University and to one day in the years to come make it a great one!

There are many "new beginnings" here that I hope you find encouraging if not inspiring, eg

- » Bringing our new Transformational Plan Vision 2022 to the Nation's attention with the support of our Hon. Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports.
- » Inducting our new students to UB through Matriculation Ceremonies at our Campuses
- » The launch of new or significantly revised programs especially at the Bachelors level for example in Pharmacy and Medical Laboratory or the Certificate in Agriculture.
- » Developing and launching UB's first postgraduate program, the MBA, from the FMSS.
- » The creation of a UB Development and Endowment Fund (UBDEF) and our first big fundraiser, so that all of Belize and beyond can contribute to the future well-being of the National University - the 1st President's All Inclusive Fete at the Bird's Isle in Belize City.
- » The Award of five tuition bursaries to deserving Belizean Students from the proceeds of this fund.
- » Celebrating the successful completion of the EU funded Sugar Belt Project executed by the FEA and which saw a new program in ECE developed with the training of very many teachers in ECE and Secondary Education for the Northern Districts.

- » Rationalizing our graduation ceremonies with one major ceremony in Belize City at the New Civic Centre, while maintaining another ceremony at the PG Campus.
- » Launching of our 5 year Accreditation Drive.
- » The re-convening of our Assessment and Promotions Committee and the promotion of UB's first Professor.
- » Upgrading of our neglected physical facilities on our Campuses - especially our roadways and parking lots. Some repairing of our buildings, the addition of new, but modest affordable buildings, painting, lighting, out fitting etc.
- » Working steadily to balance our budget - directly addressing the matter of the Government Subvention to UB that was not touched for nearly a decade and the matter also of tuition fees that was never adjusted since the beginning of the University. This is a work in progress.
- » De-linking the universal tuition fee concept and linking the cost of our tuition fees more directly to the cost of delivering our specialized programs.
- » Beginning a conversation with Faculty and Staff on the matter of contracts, a contributory pension plan etc., as well as increasing the mandatory retirement age from 55 to 60 years and on the matter of contracts for "retire/ rehire" personnel at UB.
- » Signing an agreement with the Indian Government/Government of Belize to restart the moribund India Belize Centre for Engineering (IBCE) Project to be housed at the Belmopan Campus.
- » Getting agreement that the Department of Engineering will move from the ITVET location in Belize City (which is no longer the property of UB) to the Belmopan Campus and integrated into the FST there - once the physical facilities have been built in Belmopan.

- » A focus on our Research outputs with this being highlighted and a list of publications consolidated in this Report.
- » The very timely completion by our External Auditors of the 17/18 Annual Financial Audit Report.

There may be more but as I reflect I could not feel but thankful for the tremendous team effort here; the Government of Belize, the Board of Trustees, The Administration and the Faculty and Staff for their commitment to this effort of transformation. Change is not always easy as individuals lives can get touched in the process and hence this was carefully managed if not completely minimized. But beginning the process of change at UB in 17/18 was essential for the Institution's future sustainability and competitiveness.

I am therefore very pleased to report that this has begun and my heartfelt thanks go out to all who positively contributed to this goal - Team UB!. As I previously said, "If you change nothing, nothing will change" as these wise Mayan words have resonated with me.

Thank you for the Year 17/18.



Professor Clement K. Sankat  
President





**“Transformation for UB means collaborating with our community, with our industries and with our regional and international partners to advance Belize globally.”**

**Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat**

Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat with High Commissioner of India to Belize H.E. Muktesh K. Pardeshi

## The UB VISION

The University of Belize is committed to being a recognized University in the region and the premier degree-granting University in Belize, responding to national development needs and priorities of Belize and its aspirations for higher education.

## The UB MISSION

The University of Belize is committed to excellence in higher education, research and service for Belize's national development.

## Transformation: The Way Forward

The University of Belize, in the past 18 years, has contributed, in a substantive way, to Belize's development. As Belize's national university, it shall be the choice university for Belize's most talented and exceptional students, using its teaching and learning framework to transform its students into accomplished and innovative graduates.

As the University looks towards the future, it will ask: how can it best address the current human resource, development and research needs so as to make Belizeans competitive in the global system?

To become a service-oriented and student centered University that addresses the challenges of Belize and Belizeans, the University of Belize will increasingly focus, in the next five years, on 9 strategic priorities as articulated in its strategic plan - A Transformational Leap: Vision 2022.

The University will advance its transformative activities across four core pillars:

### Our Four “Rs”

#### Relevance

offering students, a global education where they are and where they want to go

#### Responsiveness

Meeting the current and future national needs through innovation, outreach, service and research

#### Reach

Engaging with and strengthening our communities, enabling our partners and enhancing our enterprises, both local & International

#### Responsibility

Operating an efficient, cost-effective & sustainable University

# Your University Your Future Our Plan

## A Transformational Leap: Vision 2022

As Belize's national university, the University of Belize aspires to build a distinguished tradition of academic excellence and relevance to create an innovative and sustainable future for Belize and Belizeans.

A Transformation Leap: Vision 2022 is the University of Belize's operational plan and was launched in the 2017- 2018 academic year. This plan envisions that by 2022 the University of Belize will be a recognized University in the region and the premier degree-granting University in Belize, offering more programmatic options for Belizean students, a student-centered teaching and learning environment and a much-strengthened sense of connection to the country and its people through enhanced communications and partnerships.

### Transformation: Vision 2017

Agreeing on a way forward by all stakeholders, this initial phase focused on Teaching and Learning and Quality Assurance. Innovative and relevant undergraduate programs being conceptualized and developed with a 2 + 2 framework. The University also launched its accreditation drive and commenced with pedagogical training for full-time lecturers.

### Transformation: Vision 2018

Building programmatic developments across all faculties, partnerships with businesses, government, alumni and the international community to leverage possibilities for research, outreach, income-generating initiatives and teaching; moreover, the University will focus on communicating with all stakeholders and will commence embedding sustainability in its financial practices and operations to further the cause of financial efficiency.

### Transformation: Vision 2019

To embed efficiency and sustainability in all aspects of its operations and teaching and learning programs that continue to support national development and harnessing itself into a modern and efficient university, capable of evaluating ourselves through focused stakeholder feedback.

### Transformation: Vision 2020

To put graduate and post graduate teaching and research at the heart of the University, which will serve to build the University's reputation for producing high level graduates and for research with impact that will enable the University to better serve the country through knowledge and information - Recognizing and rewarding Academic Faculty/Graduate Students who are contributing significantly to this endeavor.

### Transformation: Vision 2021

To transform the University's ecosystem, including its infrastructure and its HR policies, into one that provides opportunities for students, faculty and staff to successfully participate and be fully engaged in the educational, cultural and social life of the University.

### Transformation: Vision 2022

Striving steadily to enhance the quality of our programs and in our drive for student centeredness, and in our HR, Finance, Academic and communication processes so as to seek Institutional International Accreditation

*A Transformational Leap:  
Vision 2017-2022 is the most recent articulation of UB's  
plans to achieve its strategic goals*



(L-R) Chairman of Board of Trustees, Mr. Harrison Pilgrim, Deputy Prime Minister of Belize and Minister of Education Minister of Education, Culture, Youth & Sports, Hon. Patrick Faber, Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat, Attorney-at-law Ms. Lisa Shoman, Dean of Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Dr. Bernard Wotler, and Vice President of UB, Dr. Mariot Simon at the launch of the Transformational Leap on May 24, 2018 in Belize City.



Hon. Patrick Faber delivering Keynote Address at the University of Belize



Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology Ms. Juliane Pasos introducing new programs.

# UB at a Glance

## Students

**4,757**  
Total Students

**4,757**  
Semester I

**4,226**  
Semester II

**917**  
Course Enrollment

## Staff

**523**  
Total

**120**  
Full Time Academic

**231**  
Full Time Staff

**172**  
Adjuncts

### Faculty Designation

30 PhD    80 Master's    10 Bachelor's

## Student Enrolments

**36.1%**  
Faculty of Management & Social Sciences (FMSS)

**26.3%**  
Faculty of Education & Arts (FEA)

**21.2%**  
Faculty of Science & Technology (FST)

**14.1%**  
Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health & Social Work (FNAHSW)

**2.1%** Transient, Professional Development

Our Students						
Campus Outreach	CZL	BZE	BMP	PG	CF	OW
Degree Level	AA	BSc	Dipl	Cert	MSc.	
	2437	1962	82	163	5	
Citizenship	Domestic			International		
	4660			96		
Commencement Status	New			Returning		
	1148			3609		
Faculty	FEA	FST			FMSS	FNAHSW
	1429	1008			1720	667
Gender	CZL	BZE	BMP	PG	CF	OW
F	62	1085	1664	261	8	38
M	46	485	923	133	40	12

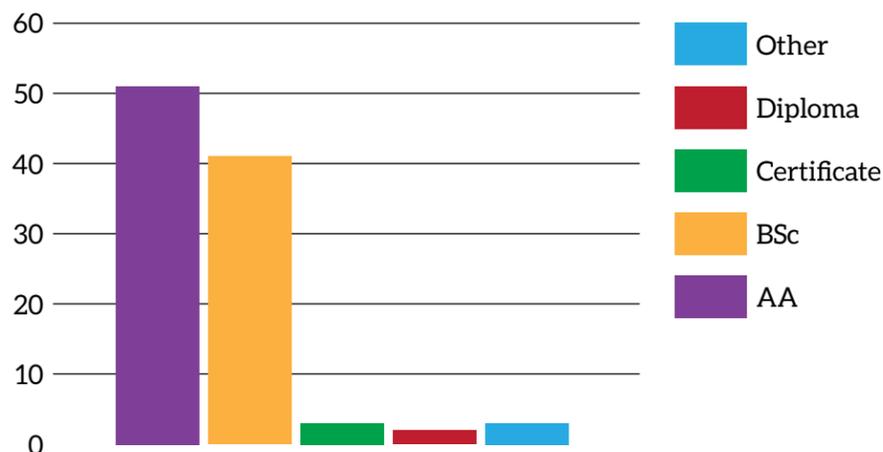
CZL: Corozal, BZE: Belize City, BMP: Belmopan, PG: Punta Gorda, CF: Central Farm, OW: Orange Walk

Social Media Engagement  
**150,000**

Website Visits  
**94,000**

Web Searches  
**3K**

## Course Type



## Graduates

AA 47%  
Certificate 10%  
BSc 36%  
Diploma 7%  
Total: 1147

Female 63%  
Male 37%



20 Global Partners

50 Belizean Partners



Over 30 Research Publications

## Top 5 Countries of our International Students

- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Honduras
- El Salvador
- Panama

Belize's Leading Environmentally Sustainable University





Matriculation Ceremony  
- student population 4,757



UB Awards Five Bursaries



1,147 graduates -  
Belize City Civic Center



Launch of MBA



Launch of Transformational Plan  
Vision 2022



Marketing Expo



International Multicultural Fair



1st President's All  
Inclusive Endowment Fete

The University of Belize  
began its journey  
of transformation as  
the national  
University of Belize.

# 17 18 Year In Review

UB Launches  
New Programs  
Across Faculties



President's End of Year Social  
- 99 members honored



UB Present at NATS



Completion of EU funded  
Sugar Belt Project



Graduation Ceremony  
in Punta Gorda

Financial accountability  
through bring our 16/17  
external finance audit current



Faculty and Staff Day



CFCS Meeting in Belize



Learning through discovery and students' participation in the creation of knowledge are at the core of UB's Transformational Leap: Vision 2022.

# Teaching & Learning

*A Transformational Leap: Vision 2022 places priority on providing students with a stimulating and in-depth knowledge of their discipline and a learning experience informed by industry needs with competent academic leaders, engaged in relevant research across traditional and emerging disciplines. Local internships and whenever possible, international student exchanges are supported.*

2017-2018 saw the launch of UB's strategic transformation of teaching and learning, against a backdrop of rapid change. The University invested in an integrated-based approach to its teaching, enhanced its teaching, learning and assessment through new curriculum design, digital innovation and course expansion and applied innovative training solutions for learning outcomes that were relevant to Belize's context, yet transferrable to the global market.

## Redefining quality course offerings and creating new ways of student-focused learning

With students at the center of the University's current and future strategic directions, the University built upon its existing initiatives to enhance its e-learning tools and environment, provided students with career-readiness resources and opportunities while further developing its study abroad platform.

### Learning & Teaching Key Objective

In 2017, the University's strategic goal to redefine quality course offerings and create new ways of student-focused learning were achieved by:

- » Enhance the quality of its course offerings

through new curriculum design and course expansion

- » Provide new international opportunities for students
- » Develop additional career readiness resources and opportunities
- » Enhance the University's e-learning tools and environment and improve educational flexibility through e-learning



UB President meets with Costa Rican representative to sign its MOU with EARTH University, Costa Rica

## Re-Designing our UB Curriculum & Expanding our Course Offerings

A key priority for UB in 2017 was to transform its educational offerings by triggering an upgrade in the scale of its curriculum, while also providing an engaging experience by incorporating technology and international benchmarks through new business models and strategic partnerships with other international Universities and stakeholders.

UB launched its Accreditation Drive in 2017 and began a major review and monitoring of its courses, program development and approval processes, broadly related to quality assurance and quality enhancements so as to ensure the University is in conformity with its self-accrediting obligations. Support was also provided to a university wide effort to create a more sustainable range and number of course offerings. A significant contributor to this process included consultations between faculties and key stakeholders so as to enable wider and deeper consideration of all aspects relevant to not only the programs, but also their international benchmarks.

Across the curricula, 18 program proposals/ program specifications were considered by the Academic Council. Of these, five were new programs which were relaunched in 2017-2018 - B.Sc. in Medical Laboratory, B.Sc. in Pharmacy, B.Sc. in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing, Finance and Management, Certificate in Agriculture and the University's first Master's Program - Master of Business Administration; seven remained under active consideration to be launched the following year, including a Master's in Educational Leadership, B.Sc. in Hospitality, B.Sc. in Agriculture, B. Sc. in Statistics, B. Sc. in Biology and a Certificate in GIS.

The 2017-2018 academic year also saw a total of 4 course offerings expanded to other campuses, making the University more accessible to Belizeans. These included a Bachelor's in Business Administration with concentration in Management, which was expanded to Corozal; Business Administration with concentrations in Management and Finance, which was expanded to Belmopan and to Punta Gorda. The Associates in Tourism was also expanded to Punta Gorda and a B.Sc. in Public Sector Management to Belmopan.



The Innovators Award was presented to the University of Belize from the Caribbean Association of Pharmacists (CAP) during the 37th annual convention. The award was the culmination of the work that went into the implementation of the Bachelors in Pharmacy Program in Belize.

(L-R) Jyana Venkata Kishan, Mrs. Genea Palacio, Dean of Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health and Social Work Ms. Leolin Swift-Castillo, Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat, Ms. Lydia Harris-Thurton, Yusuf Abubakar and Mrs. Patricia Lopez

## Assessment and Feedback

The University of Belize implemented a University Wide Student Experience Survey. Approximately 1057 evaluations were carried out in 2017, which allowed for assessments of course offerings so as to enable monitoring, feedback, support for academic integrity and student centredness.

Our students rated UB very positively in the 2017 Student Experience Instrument (SEI) with regards to their educational experience. Overall Satisfaction, Course Quality, learning resources and learner engagement ranked high among the benefits of a UB educational experience. Tables 1 and 2 below are from the 2017-2018 University wide datasets.

Feedback indicated that students found the UB educational experience engaging and that it provided them with a supportive and structured learning environment.

The Office of the Vice President is working with the Deans of each Faculty to use these evaluations to inform strategic and pedagogical development.



“Mr. Lewis is an exceptional lecturer. He brings ideas, which are interesting and sparks critical thinking... He goes beyond being ‘just a lecturer.’ I am fully engaged and focused.” - student feedback

### Student Experience Survey 2017-2018 - 2

Teaching Quality	Overall Course Satisfaction	Learning Resources	Learner Engagement	Skills Development	Course Quality
77%	78%	78%	83%	69%	82%

Students who completed their course offerings in 2017-2 were very satisfied with course quality, followed by Learner engagement. In terms of their learning resources, teaching quality and overall course satisfaction, the data set showed satisfactory responses by those who participated in the University wide survey. However, ranked lower in comparison to the other responses was that of skills development.

### Student Experience Survey 2017-2018 – 1

Teaching Quality	Overall Course Satisfaction	Learning Resources	Learner Engagement	Skills Development	Course Quality
83%	78%	80%	78%	72%	82%

Students who completed their course offerings in 2017-1 were very satisfied with teaching quality followed by course quality. In terms of their learning resources, learner engagement and overall course satisfaction, the data set showed more than half the responses by those who participated in the University wide survey were satisfied with their course offerings. However, ranked lower in comparison to the other responses was that of skills development.



Social Work students being accepted in the Belize National Association of Social Workers

## BSc in Social Work Receives US Evaluation

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in the United States approved the University of Belize’s Bachelor of Social Work’s academic credentials as comparable to an accredited Baccalaureate degree in Social Work in the United States.



(L-R) Pedro Choco, Dr. Thippi Thiagarajan, Lilian Blanco and Mr. Romaldo Lewis made presentations at the Third Mexico-Belize Binational Seminar held in Chetumal, Mexico on October 4-6, 2017

## Internationalising UB through our Binational Seminars with Mexican Universities

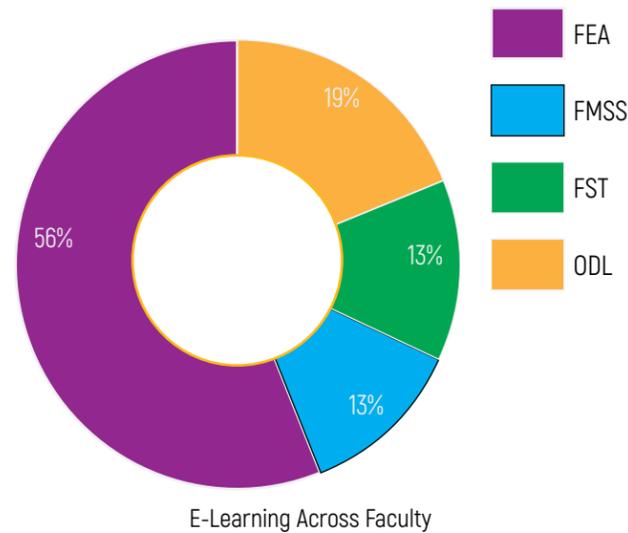
## Online Learning

The University of Belize enhanced the use of its online learning management system, MOODLE, for blended learning; with an aim for a more integrated digital environment into the University's Teaching and Learning Framework.

The UB promised in its Transformation Plan to increase the number of courses developed for online delivery. In 2017-2018, courses from the various Faculties were represented and assistance was provided to Faculty members through workshops, training and consultations to support the delivery, development and administration of Blended, Online and Self-Paced programs.

A greater focus, however, was placed on expanding pre-university and short professional course offerings across Faculties. A total of 442 students benefited from MOODLE and approximately 16 e-learning courses are now available on MOODLE, including courses in Caribbean Literature, Survey in Literature, Instrumentation and Performance, Fundamentals in Management, Introduction to Psychology, African Literature and Latin American Literature.

As well, the University also expanded its E-Learning Platform to incorporate wider rollout, strengthened interface between the application and end-user, an interface providing student guidance, help desk functionalities and online submissions. These teaching and learning initiatives contributed to the richness of the online student experience for those participating in these courses.



Participants at the Launch of UB's first Master's Program.



(L-R) Dr. Bernard Watler, Mr. Gilroy Middleton Jr., Mr. Kevin Geban, Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat, Hon. Tracey Taegar-Panton, Dr. Mariot Simon, Mr. Harrison Pilgrim, and Dr. Vincent Palacio

## Internationalizing UB

The University of Belize has 14 active partnerships in 10 countries to support academic and research collaboration via memoranda of understanding (MOU), articulation pathways and industry partnerships.

Some of the MOUs signed in 2017-2018 include:

- » Memorial University of Newfoundland (Institutional Collaboration- Faculty exchange, research, student exchange)
- » India-Belize Center for Engineering (Development of Engineering Department - learning spaces and laboratories at the Belmopan campus)
- » Commonwealth of Learning (Development of educational programs (Masters') and courses and training of education professionals to enhance leadership and to manage public and private educational organizations.)
- » Vancouver Island University (Institutional collaboration - Faculty, staff and student Exchanges; Collaborative research projects and joint initiatives and exchanging information and publications)

In 2017, UB's Faculty of Management and Social Sciences held its inaugural ceremony for the University's first Master's Program - Master's in Business Administration; a program that was developed jointly with UWI Cavehill. UB's President, Professor Sankat, in his address, stated, "The Masters in Business Administration program is very significant to national development of Belize. It is imperative that Belize, as a small developing country, richly endowed with natural resources, generate new employment and wealth so as to create a better future for its people." Keynote Speaker, Honorable Tracy Panton explained, in her address, "This carefully designed Master's Degree program in Business Administration will seek to address developmental needs of [Belize's] growing economy to provide the requisite exposure and tools that will help us to navigate an ever changing, more complex world of international trade and commerce, [which] is instrumental to expanding our reach, improving our competencies and competitiveness while creating new opportunities for business facilitation."

The achievement of this program is a testament to the University's ability to be a leader in education, serving Belize's national development needs and priorities.

Dr. Simon, UB VP



Participants receive certificate after completing short course in Microsoft Excel in July, 2018.



Participants including Sen. Hon. Godwin Hulse, Minister of Agriculture (centre), at the 54th CFCS Meeting held in Belize City



The project was a success thanks to the support of the European Union, Government of Belize and University of Belize.

## UB Focuses on Agricultural Education at the Caribbean Food Crops Society 54th Meeting in Belize

## UB Sugar Belt Project – Improving Early Childhood & Secondary Education in Northern Belize



President Sankat along with Zoe Zetina, Luis Hernandez and Francisco Tzul from the Central Farm Campus

The Caribbean Food Crops Society (CFCS) held its 54th Annual Meeting in Belize, July 8-13, 2018, and this was a first for Belize with the host being the Ministry of Agriculture.

In his speech, President Sankat spoke concisely on the history of the University's engagement in agriculture and highlighted how UB is responding to the needs of the Agricultural Sector through:

- » Programs that promote self-employment, knowledge and skills development for the practice of entrepreneurship and market driven agriculture
- » Placing sustainable development and natural resource management, environmental and climate smart themes into our training
- » Strengthening leadership, knowledge and skills - through communication, farm/agribusiness management, community and industry engagement, project management training

The Central Farm Campus also welcomed the delegation from the Caribbean and the Americas to its campus, where they learnt of the work UB is doing in Agricultural Education and toured the farm facilities.



Central Farm Campus students at the CFCS meeting

The University of Belize (UB) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports and the European Union (EU) held a special closing ceremony to acknowledge the achievements of the Sugar Belt project on Saturday February 24, 2018 at the Muffles College High School Auditorium in Orange Walk Town.

Through the Sugar Belt Project, a total of 395 persons had the opportunity to upgrade their skills and receive certification in teacher education including at the Early Childhood level during the period June 2015 - February 2018. 20 teachers received certificates; 28 received an Associate's Degree while 116 in-service teachers participated in Continuous Professional Development in Early Childhood Education. Meanwhile at the secondary level 20 teachers got their Diploma in Secondary Education, 111 received a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education, and 100 parents were sensitized about the benefits of Early Childhood Education.

The project valued at approximately €1,2M (BZ\$ 2.6M) was funded by the European Union along with the Government of Belize and the University of Belize. Its overall objective was to improve the quality and relevance of early childhood and secondary education in northern Belize.



Sir Colville Young, Keynote Speaker receives plaque from Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat.



Early Childhood Education teachers from Sarteneja, Corozal



Proud teachers at the Closing Ceremony



Regional Language Center students showcase their culture at Multicultural Fair

**“Delivering student centered support services to enable success and an enriched learning, living and social experience for students are UB’s first priority...”**

Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat, UB President



Central Farm students were present at the National Agriculture and Trade Show in 2019.

### Creating pathways for Students’ University Success

At the core of the Transformational plan is the University’s focus on nurturing the personal and professional development and wellbeing of its students, faculty and staff. From the onset, the plan ensured an ‘One UB Family’ approach with execution across organizational portfolios with representation from all units together with student representation.

Therefore, to accommodate the various ways students learn and engage with the University, the University of Belize hosted several events and activities on its various campuses to make learning more inclusive and engaging. In 2017, UB delivered peer-to-peer guidance/tutoring programs, opportunity fairs and support service and provided easier access to academic support groups on the campuses. These events ensured all students have access to clear, concise and compelling information about the right course selection and student opportunities open to them. Our student services and communication mechanisms were particularly focused on ensuring our first year students were well-informed, connected, welcomed and supported to start their programs and throughout their first critical year of University.

As well, the University also increased its academic support. This included a revised informational skills module to help students better understand and navigate academic demands and student life at the University.

**UB’s Wellbeing Centre is available throughout the academic year and gives students access to a range of personal development programs, to our counselling teams and to our gym & fitness programs.**

Our competent staff in our Office of Student Affairs, our wellbeing center, including those responsible for our sporting facilities, assists with reinforcing identity and promoting unity, health, fitness and wellbeing of our students, faculty and staff.



Sydellie Leslie (l) of the Writing Center helping student with research and writing skills



Our Lady Black Jaguars were once again the ATLIB Football Champions

# Teaching & Learning and the Student Experience

*Students are our first priority. The goal of nurturing the personal development and wellbeing of our students is fundamental to UB. This year, we commenced to improve on-campus experience for the entire campus community. The University also focused on improving the University’s infrastructure and ICT capabilities.*



Dean Perriott along student volunteers at the Matriculation Ceremony in Belize City

UB builds students’ aspirations and awareness of the University as a desirable and achievable pathway for professional and personal success.

Dr. J. Perriott, Dean of Student Affairs

### Welcoming, supporting and retaining committed and capable learners

The new Academic Year 2017-2018 began with Faculty, staff and the leadership team formally welcoming students at the historic and first matriculation ceremony on 16th August, 2017.

Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat, told students that the matriculation is a formal ceremony “to mark your enrollment as a student of the National University of Belize. It symbolizes your right of passage into this University, that you have met the standards for entry into our University and that you are now all enrolled as a student of the UB”.

This was accompanied by a Semester Kick-Off, which promotes Students Participation/

Involvement in campus life in order to enjoy a memorable Student experience. This event is held for the participation and the benefit of all students, faculty and staff of UB. This year, there were many games and activities and 16 Booths were organized for displaying student organizations that students can join on Campus. The booths highlighted student clubs, services and opportunities at the University of Belize.



President Sankat meets with students in Punta Gorda



# The UB Experience



**“The combination of UB’s academic rigor, internships and practical experience, academic leaders as well as its global opportunities give its students a truly unique Belizean perspective.” - Stephanie Windsor**

Stephanie Windsor, Bachelor in Information Technology student

“I chose Information Technology because it is much more than what it appears to be in the eyes of the unfamiliar. It is powerful and frankly, the closest thing there is to a superpower. It is a male dominated field, and in my opinion, the playing ground needs to even out. Information technology is challenging which is why I like it.

The I.T. program at UB came highly recommended, from students and those in the industry that I knew. I wanted professional training in the field and needed plenty of guidance.

The University of Belize, I discovered, offered exactly this. So, I took the chance and was very pleased that all the commentary turned out to be true.

I studied under expert lecturers, who were always willing to help their students cultivate an understanding and a passion for the challenging field; and the training I got through my internships and student opportunities as a UB student have definitely helped me to develop the skills I needed to transition and succeed in the

real world.

More importantly, my experience as a student at UB was unforgettable. I was not only surrounded by encouraging and supportive classmates, who excelled at their studies, but also, who participated in University activities and events hosted by the student government and student affairs office.

## Promoting and supporting Student Study Abroad Programs

In 2017, 12 students travelled overseas to undertake part of their degree. This includes student exchanges, semester abroad and study tours. There were also several students who studied overseas under professional or research placements.

Also, with the aim of increasing participation in the various student mobility programs, the University introduced a number of initiatives in 2017, which included implementing support in the application process as well as hosting several opportunity fairs, where students were able to become familiar with UB's existing study abroad programs.

The University has exchange partners in Central America, Canada, Europe and the United States.

## Supporting Students' Well-being & Health

The University implemented Wellness Week in April 2017 and hired its first full-time nurse Ms. Rose Thompson.

The purpose of the Wellness Week is to increase health and wellness awareness by providing health screenings, demonstrations, counselling support and information on preventative health. Med Lab students and their lecturers conducted 14 glucose, triglycerides, hemoglobin and urinalysis test and sixty-three (63) students and seventeen (17) staff members took advantage of this opportunity.

Twenty-five (25) students took the opportunity to take the HIV test, 37 donated blood on the day designated for our Blood Drive, 70 were vaccinated for Hepatitis B, MMR, and Tetanus. Some students also were given the HPV vaccine. Additionally, Health Education seminars were offered by Nurse Thompson. Healthy foods were on sale for the week and a seminar on Health Eating was also offered.



President Sankat with new Nurse Rosa Thompson on October 23, 2017 at UB's Wellness Center

## Empowering students for the jobs and skills for employability

The University of Belize seeks to improve employment outcomes for graduates and strengthen engagement with employers.

Through the embedding of employability skills and career development learning within the curriculum combined with 'real-world' applications and industry based activities and networks and extended internships, UB students are provided with the tools and support to commence, grow or design a career.



Lecturer Ms. Audrey Pascascio helping students prepare great resumes

## Incorporating ICT for Improved Student Experience

To facilitate technology into UB's teaching and learning structure, the University partnered with FULTEC and launched the FULTEC Computer lab inclusive of seventy-five (75) new computers that was purchase through competitive tendering for just over \$300,000 BZD.

The University also increased its bandwidth throughout the University from 16 MB to 248 MB. Also noteworthy, it connected the FMSS and the FEA campuses in Belize City to its Belmopan campuses through the ownership of its Fiber connection and as a result, all ICT services are controlled from the ICT office in Belmopan.

Moreover, the University purchased sixteen (16) EPSON pro EX9220 projectors and mounting equipment, which were installed at our Belmopan campus as part of our first phase of increasing technology in the classroom. The Scarlet Macaw and Jabiru buildings, which consist of eight rooms each, were equipped with the projectors.

Additionally, the University began to improve our network services at our Belmopan campus from a 100MBs to 10GBs network. The purchase of the necessary equipment commenced at the end of 2017-2018 and will resume in 2018-2019 financial year. The installation will take place in 2018-2019.

Finally, the University upgraded all its services with regards to the following:

- » ICT Steering Committee
- » Clean Installation of Windows 7
- » Microsoft Office 2016
- » Kaspersky Antivirus
- » Chrome/Firefox/Notepad++/Gimp/Google Drive
- » Relevant Software based on Departmental/Student Needs

## Going greener across Belmopan's campus for improved student experience

The University's focus on campus development with the implementation of the Transformational plan has shifted from a building-by-building approach to an increased emphasis on scaled developments. Of key significance for the 2017-2018 academic year was the formation of the Beautification Committee, where the objective of the committee is to beautify the landscape at all of UB's Campuses and to make same a place for knowledge dissemination on our various flora. Also, the University launched the Animal Bio-diversity Signage, where students, faculty, staff and visitors alike can learn about animal diversity and their importance at the Belmopan campus with colorful information signage on the various invertebrates. As well, at the launch of the National Service Day, UB dedicated this to the greening of our campus. Faculty, staff and students were encouraged to bring a plant, which were planted on campus grounds, all in an effort to work together to build UB and to beautify our campuses. These activities bring a range of opportunities for renewal and regeneration of our green spaces. This approach is expected to bring more student life to the campus through activated outdoor academic and social engagement spaces.

Dr. Latha Thomas and her Beautification Committee need to be recognized and congratulated.

## Investing in new indigenous learning spaces

As the student population has grown and diversified, the University has placed increased importance on investment in new buildings and modern teaching spaces as part of our Campus Development/Regeneration Plan.

The University is using innovation and creativity to develop such spaces, so as to treat with its capital and financial challenges. In 2017 work began through the renovation and revitalization of existing buildings - most notably, the partnership

with Digicell for the creation of an Audio facility at the FMSS campus in Belize City and the expansion of a MED Lab, the refurbishing of the Belmopan Gazebo and new learning spaces for the Faculty of Nursing at the Belmopan Campus. In PG, the University completed the refurbishing of our student spaces with the leaking thatched roof replaced. As well, phased painting of all the buildings across the campuses also commenced in 2017, with work also done on our parking lots and lighting of our campuses.

### Broadening student accommodation options

In 2017 the University began developing partnerships with private providers to ensure our Transformational Leap target of more student accommodations worthy of the national university will be achieved. A public call for expressions of interest for the private sector was advertised on the various media outlets and the University developed a proposal for a 100 room residence, "Mexico House" hopefully to be funded by AMEXCID from Mexico. This will assist with recruitment of students not only from across the country of Belize, but will also allow the University to expand its reach regionally and internationally.



### Broadening Access to UB

The University currently manages five (5) scholarship programs: The Black Jaguars Athletic Scholarship, The President Scholars' Scholarship, The Barton Scholarship, The Diane Sylvestre Scholarship and The PACT Scholarship Program. Currently there are fifty-seven (57) students obtaining their UB degree via these scholarships.

In the same vein, five (5) students received bursaries from the UB Endowment Fund, which was as a result of the first Endowment Fete. Additionally, the Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Education, supported 2, 384 students with scholarships at the University.

Also, in 2017/2018, twenty-five (25) employees and thirty-nine (39) dependents benefitted from Tuition Waivers at the University.

#### Number of Scholarship Recipients by Scholarship Type

Scholarship Types	Number of Recipients
Barton	2
Black Jaguars	45
Diane Sylvestre	2
PACT	5
President's Scholars	3

#### Names and Program of Study of PACT Scholars

Name of Students	Program
Maria Pech	NRM
Luwin Tzib	Mathematics
Monica Coe	NRM
Deadra Bennett	Social Work
Tara Scarborough	Biology



(L-R) PACT scholars Monica, Tara, Deadra, Maria and Luwin with President Sankat



Recipient of President's Scholarship Dianera Shol (c) flanked by CEO of Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Jose Alpuche; Minister of Agriculture, Sen. Hon. Godwin Hulse; President Sankat and Director of Central Farm Campus Dr. Gordon Holder

### UB BLACK JAGUARS STUDENT - ATHLETIC SCHOLARS



# Voices of Our Academic Leaders



## Dr. Bernard Watler

Dean, Faculty of Management & Social Sciences

Some of the accomplishments over the period 2017-18 include:

- » The Faculty of Management and Social Sciences (FMSS) hosted its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Conference in April of 2017 under the theme “Research is the gateway to innovation and transformation”. The event showcased the extra ordinary talents of our students in researching problems and issues that confront Belize. The Faculty’s Researcher of the Year Award was awarded to Assistant Professor, Dr. Romaldo Lewis.
- » In an effort to respond to stakeholders needs, the Bachelor in Management program was phased out in August, 2017 and replaced with a Bachelor in Business Administration with majors in Finance, Marketing and Management. This new four-year degree program was in response to the expressed needs of our stakeholders and produced graduates that hit the ground running with the requisite analytical, problem-solving, strategic thinking, communication (oral and written), and leadership skills. Additionally, it has allowed our students to choose a major and gain specific skills and knowledge in a particular area so as to be more competitive and marketable in the workforce. This program was launched at our Belmopan, Belize City and PG campuses, as well as in Corozal on a cohort basis.
- » In this same vein of responding to the needs of stakeholders and national development, the Faculty launched the first ever University of Belize Master’s in Business Administration (MBA) program in January 2018. This was seen as a momentous and trailblazing occasion for the University. The program started with an initial intake of 24 professionals from across Belize.
- » In August 2017, the Bachelor in Public Sector Management program was re-introduced on the Belmopan Campus after being dormant for a couple of years. This was in response to the Ministry of Public Service’s need to develop a cadre of qualified and knowledgeable Public officers that are capable of transforming the public sector delivery of goods and services.
- » Finally, the Associate’s Degree in Tourism Studies was expanded to Punta Gorda in August 2017. This program addresses the human resource needs of the growing tourism industry in southern Belize that is fuelled by the insurgence of cruise lines off the Placencia Peninsula and the opening of the new highway allowing easy access between Southern Belize and Guatemala. These two events merged with the district’s cultural diversity and abundant natural resources are producing an enabling environment for the expansion of the tourism industry in the area and the University of Belize has been playing a critical role in the region’s development.



## Dr. Nestor Chan

Dean, Faculty of Education & Arts

For the academic year 2017-2018, the Faculty embarked on numerous scholarly activities including the hosting of the International Caribbean Studies Conference that saw the participation of numerous international scholars. As FEA continued to respond to the many challenges facing teaching and learning at all levels of the Belize education system, the FEA poised itself to develop and launch new programs such as the Master Degree in Educational Leadership and the Associate Degree in Early

Childhood which went countrywide using an Online and Blended Modality. In addition, the Faculty partnered with the Lego Foundation and the Play Futures Organization to conduct the Exploration 6 research initiative. This sought to use Green Blue Spaces to promote learning through play by using the natural environment. Experts from Australia, Canada, the USA and Holland visited UB FEA to conduct workshops in partnership with our own scholars. A manual was developed based on the findings of this research group. The Faculty of Education and Arts continued to expand educational access for its students and Lecturers. This past academic year, Bridgewater State University in the USA hosted four students in the Bachelor’s in Elementary Education. In addition, two Faculty Members and two students went on a mobility scholarship to the University of Valladolid in Spain. These faculty members focused on developing proposals on program participation initiatives with the University of Valladolid as well as the review of the UB Bachelor Degree in Spanish Education. These scholarships came about through the CARPIMS Program funded by the European Union.



## Mrs. Leolin Castillo

Dean, Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health & Social Work

The major highlights of FNAHSW for the academic year 2017-18 included the implementation of two new programs: Bachelor’s in Pharmacy and Bachelor’s in Medical Laboratory Science (inclusive of the transition cohorts for the 2 new programs). For the said year, the faculty assisted in the activation of CASMET (Caribbean Association of Medical Technologists), three faculty members published their scholarly work in reputable journals, and a fundamental milestone was formal documentation indicating UB’s Bachelor of Social Work students’ ability to matriculate into the Master of Social Work program in the United States. Additionally, the nursing department graduated the largest number of graduates from the Bachelor of Science in nursing program, with 11 receiving honors; 2 Magna Cum Laude and 9 Cum Laude. The University of Belize-Department of Nursing offered its first ever RENR (Regional Examination for Nurse Registration) preparatory course. Four students enrolled and were successful at their first attempt, with one of them being the country’s top performer. The faculty commenced collaboration with the University of Nicaragua (UNAM – Managua) and the Ministry of Health in the development of Belize’s first Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery Program.



**Ms. Julianne Pasos**

Dean, Faculty of Science & Technology

The Faculty of Science & Technology this academic year pushed forward in the review of its academic programs to make them current and address gaps. The program review process included but was not limited to stakeholder consultation, needs assessments study and external review by national partners and international universities. This year the Academic Council and Board of Trustees of the University, approved the implementation of NINE new and revised programs

within the FST.

The approval and implementation of these programs were possible through the hard work and dedication of the faculty members under the guidance of Director Dr. Gordon Holder for Agriculture, Ms. Karen Bautista for Science and Dr. Sherlene Savery for the Math, Physics and Information Technology Departments. The program review continues as we work on the Engineering, Natural Resources Management and Physics programs to revise and/or update to the Bachelor level.

Members of the MPIT department kept pushing forth with the UBITs Stimulation Program which aims to enrich and improve the existing knowledge of programming at the primary and secondary level. Within the sciences, faculty members work diligently on research projects such as the ongoing IAEA Ocean acidification project, a Paleoclimatology study in Belize through a partnership with Auburn University and the watershed management plan for the Belize river project. Other ongoing research projects were undertaken with SIRDl and STACA. Several faculty members presented at national and international conferences. 5 members published articles in recognized international journals and several others have submitted papers for publication.

During the academic year, FST hosted a series of seminars/symposiapromoting the work being done by our current and past students these include the Math symposium, GIS symposium, the Research for National Development Conference and Biology Chemistry symposium. In an effort to promote Science & Technology, the Faculty coordinated the annual Science Expo in November and Earth Day in April.

This year we are very proud that our own, Dr. Thippi Thiagarajan, was promoted to Professor within the University of Belize, making him the first UB instituted individual at that rank.



**Mrs. Zoe Zetina**

Acting Director, Central Farm

The University of Belize Central Farm (UBCF) campus despite its numerous challenges, faculty and staff worked in 2017-2018 to use scare resources in ways that will enhance student learning and increase income generation. As such, over the last year UBCF:

- » Prepared for the introduction of the Certificate in Applied Climate Smart Agriculture and this was presented to the Academic Council and the Board of Trustees for approval.
- » Engaged in the European Union Funded “Productivity Enhancement of Banana Farms through integrated soil fertility management in the banana belt area of Belize”. The UBCF, through a refurbished Micro-propagation laboratory, will be able to provide micro-propagated banana plants to the industry.
- » Central Farm also introduced the Certificate in Applied Agriculture and delivered this program to the first cohort of students in the Toledo District under the leadership of Mr. Tzul, Lecturer. This initiative was led by the then Director of UBCF, Dr. Gordon Holder, whom the UB sincerely thanks.



**Mr. Roy Polonio**

Campus Coordinator, Punta Gorda

The Punta Gorda Campus made remarkable strides in improving the teaching and learning conditions and while enhancing networking/partnerships during Academic year 2017-2018. In 2017-1 we launched 3 three new programs, namely Certificate in Applied Agriculture, Associate’s degree in Early Childhood Education and Associate’s degree in Tourism Studies. During this period, we also hosted and coordinated activities, thereby strengthening relationships, with two

(2) international groups: one from Texas A&M University (USA) and the other, a student volunteer group called NTHU-Belize Educational Service Group from National Tsing Hua University, Republic of Taiwan; both of whom have been visiting UB Toledo annually since 2016. The Texas A&M group (professors and students) reached out and offered support and to school age children and teenagers in need of speech therapy.

Locally, we had improved networking with the District Education Center Management to increase success in the internship component of our teacher training program. Additionally, the PG Town Council, Belize Electricity Limited and the Business Community all made donations in support of our on-going campus infrastructure upgrade projects. During this period, through help from the Belize Defence Force, a local business and full support from President Clement Sankat, our Campus Student Center was renovated with a new and complete metal roofing; building reconfigured to accommodate 2 expanded classrooms with wall fans, LED lighting and new furniture. In an effort to engage the community we also hosted public functions, including the first ever Pi Day, Open House (Open Day), Golden Oldies Banquet; raffle fundraiser, marketing expo, mayoral debate and a book launch. We established a customer service survey instrument for UB – Toledo staff; presented staff appreciation certificates and provided personal and professional development opportunities for faculty and staff in finance management by means of presentations/workshop conducted by Dr. Albert Williams, NOVA Southeastern University. The above -mentioned accomplishments of the PG Campus aligned with the University’s mission and vision confirming that we aim to provide affordable and relevant education/training opportunities in southern Belize.





Hon. Patrick Faber delivering the Keynote Address at Belmopan Matriculation Ceremony



Mr. Harrison Pilgrim welcoming the students at the Belize City Matriculation Ceremony

## Matriculation Ceremony - Belmopan

"This country is depending on you. The entire country is looking up to you. You are among the cream of the crop of this country's students..."

Nobody should tell you that because of your age your contributions to Belize's development; to the development of your family, the development of your UB community, to the development of the wider community in which you live, your contributions to Belize and to the world are not important and big; don't let anyone tell you that you cannot do it. I tell you my dear students that there are people in high places; people that profess love and care for you; people whom you respect, who believe they know what is best for you, better than you do; and that's a fallacy. I'm saying you are the person in charge: the driver, the pilot of your destiny. You should not let anybody discourage you from whatever it is you want to be. And so as you start this very important journey; apply yourselves now and start to chart that very successful path forward for yourselves. Please do so also for this very important institution, the University of Belize."

Hon Patrick Faber, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture was the Keynote Speaker at the Matriculation Ceremony in Belmopan held on August 16, 2017.



Students signing the Matriculation Oath



"Welcome to history in the making! Welcome to the University of Belize! Welcome to Life! The longest journey begins with the first step. Today, each of you have set your sights on a destination and you have braced for the trek..."

You are not alone on this voyage into academia. Today you join a community of educators, researchers, mentors and teachers. Nurture new relationships, build strong learning circles and along with other students you are ready for every challenge...

So prepare to enjoy the flight; put a little pep in your step and face tomorrow with optimism and passion. Turn little obstacles into stepping stones and never be daunted by setbacks. Be guided by the mantra that "failure is not an option..."

UB, like life, is a journey of maturity, learning and decision making. After you take that long and winding road and wake up, what will you see? What footprints will you leave behind with the knowledge you gain at UB? Together, let's leave behind us a positive memorial to our presence, our interactions and our stewardship. Let's build UB together."

Mr. G.A. Harrison Pilgrim, Chairman of the UB Board of Trustees was the Keynote Speaker at the Matriculation Ceremony in Belize City held on August 24, 2017.

## Matriculation Ceremony - Belize City



Students signing the Matriculation Oath



# Our Sports' Ambassadors



# The University of Belize Endowment-Scholarship Fund

In 2017, the University of Belize established an Endowment Fund (UBDEF) that would allow the institution to improve services and support to its students through financial assistance with the aim to access a UB education. As a result, five bursaries were awarded to deserving students on June 21, 2018. The students were selected based on financial need and academic excellence.

Delroy Coc, a child of the South, was awarded a bursary that he utilized to pursue his Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology.



Zamarie Griffith is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Biology. She is aspiring to be an Environmental Scientist.



Aspiring Paediatric Nurse Rocio Calderon used her award to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing.



Roberto Melendez is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Medical Laboratory Technology.

Maria Chun, is feeding her passion for Math by pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics Education.



President Sankat feels that the UBDEF is a way for the University of Belize and the private sector as well as the general public of Belize to contribute to the development of the nation and achieve a positive impact on the society, through supporting our students to study at UB.



The five bursary awardees flanked by (L-R) Mr. Harrison Pilgrim, Dr. Sharmayne Saunders, Mrs. and Mr. Perdomo from Traveller's Rum and President Sankat at the Award Ceremony.

# 'Fultec Systems Computer Lab' unveiled at UB

The University of Belize had a landmark ceremony for the naming of the students' computer lab at the UB Belmopan Campus to the 'Fultec Systems Computer Lab' on December 18, 2017.

Mr. Harrison Pilgrim reiterated congratulations to Fultec Systems for agreeing to partner with The University of Belize to pave the way for growth and development of the National University. He hopes that another partner in the Belizean Community would consider following suit for one of the other labs on UB Campuses.

UB's President Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat, who takes every opportunity to invite the Private Sector to invest in UB, applauds Fultec Systems Ltd. for accepting the call to give. Our Private Sector partners reap the rich reward of getting innovative, creative and competent University of Belize graduates as their employees. Partnerships like these go beyond the day of the event, it benefits current and future students.



President Sankat and Mrs. Diana Fuller from Fultec Systems signed MOU to confirm partnership

Mrs. Diana Fuller said that having the computer lab named 'Fultec Systems Computer Lab' was an added reward to support the development of our National University. They see 'Fultec Systems Computer Lab' as a place for everyone willing to make a difference.

This was also the thought when they decided to assist with \$5,000 to the UB Endowment Fund specifically to assist a student who chooses to pursue advancement in Information Technology. Mrs. Fuller also presented the first \$10,000 that is a part of the MOU to initiate their commitment to the clauses agreed upon. Mrs. Fuller said, "The key to the improvement of self, community and country is to be inspired - to aspire to whatever your purpose is - to make a difference in this world."

After the unveiling, those present were able to view The Fultec Systems Computer Lab that is equipped with 70 new computers. The expansion of the lab sets the stage for the strategic focus of UB's institutional development through improved facilities and services provided to students.



Unveiling the Fultec Systems Computer Lab



Students utilizing the new lab

UB students participating in Belize's 36th Independence Day Parade in Belmopan





Dr. Arlenie Rogers conducting research on Sea Cucumbers

## Research & Innovation

**Making a difference through relevant research in response to national challenges and seeking out innovative solutions to pressing issues facing our communities**

A Transformational Leap: Vision 2022 outlines the University's commitment to putting research at the cornerstone of its activities. To support this strategic vision, the University of Belize will focus on innovation and robust partnerships with industry and business, and the regional and international community to address the social, cultural and environmental challenges of Belize.

### Research Excellence

With the implementation of the Transformational Leap: Vision 2022, UB's aim is to deliver high quality research and research training outcomes that are relevant and meaningful and improve the future of Belize. In 2017, UB researchers focused on the core area of safeguarding and protecting the natural environment of Belize.

Students learn about the different species of birds at the Belmopan Campus



**UB ERI in conjunction with its partners Panthera conducted coordinated a national wildlife monitoring and conflict resolution program for Jaguar protection and conservation.**

Photo Credit Panthera\_UB ERI\_BAS

## Research excellence on the national and international stage

The University of Belize conducted nationally and internationally recognized research in 2017, which will gain the University respect in its research reputation. Our researchers received regional/global recognition in their respective disciplines also.

In recognition of their contributions to their respective disciplines, University of Belize researchers published in several international academic and research journals.

## Strengthening Our Research Structure

Developed in 2017-2018, the University, through its President's Office, outlined the University's new approach and mechanisms for supporting the University's focus on research excellence and strengthening its Teaching and Learning

Framework through research. The University commenced deepening and establishing sustainable relationships with business, industry and government in conjunction with developing the systems, infrastructure and culture to identify, facilitate, and realize new opportunities, which included establishing: the Committee on Graduate Studies, the establishment of the Institutional Advancement Office and the Appointment and Promotions Committee. Complementing the deep expertise of our academic divisions, the University also began building professional services and multidisciplinary teams to support new relationships.

## Enhancing Belize's Wildlife Protection

In 2017, University of Belize Environmental Research Institute (UBERI) partnered with Panthera Wildlife to collaborate on wildlife monitoring activities

using camera traps. By early 2019, the University will have a better assessment of the status of wildlife, particularly jaguars, along the Southern highway in the Maya Golden landscape around the Golden Stream corridor. In the Central Belize Corridor, data collection for farms, testing various methods of reducing jaguar attacks was analyzed and a report will be produced on how best to mitigate jaguar-livestock conflict in a human dominated landscape.

The overall aim of the project is to ensure protection of Belize's forest, its plants and animals and the full benefits the forests provide to the country and Belizeans.

## "In 2017-2018, the University of Belize conducted & produced over 35 research publications"



This year, the University also completed the second year trial for *Orbicella faveolata* and *Acropora* coral restoration, a type of species that is important to the structure and function of the Belize Barrier Reef.

Corals in the genus *Orbicella faveolata* and *Acropora* are among the primary reef building corals in the Caribbean Sea. The research team used sexual restoration techniques and successful fertilization and settlement was achieved.

Coral restoration is being undertaken in collaboration with the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico's Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnologia.

## Extending industry-engaged research to develop Belize's Food sector

UB's long term marine monitoring program continued

this year with our ERI team completing the 2017 ecosystem health assessment, conch and lobster population assessment and Spawning Aggregation monitoring, which enabled the university to produce the 2017 Ecosystem Health Report, 2017 Conch and Lobster Report and 2017 Spawning Aggregation Report. The results in these reports have been shared with the Fisheries Department and the co-manager of the Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve and the Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association (TASA).

During this year, the University through its Central Farm Campus also launched the "Productivity Enhancement of Banana Farms through Integrated Soil Fertility Management in the Banana Belt."

The project is a joint action of the Banana Accompanying Measures (BAM) program to provide financial assistance to the Belize banana sector. It seeks to promote and to foster social and economic development, leading to the reduction of poverty, focusing on workers, their families, and communities in the banana belt area of Belize. The specific objective is to increase the efficiency of banana production and to increase knowledge capacities of farmers and the Banana Growers' Association for Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM). The project was conducted in partnership with the EU, IICA, BGA and UB.

## Protects the Health & Vibrancy of our Sea's Natural Ecosystem

The University of Belize through its Faculty of Science and Technology in 2017 engaged the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in several key research with regards to the protection of Belize's sea.

This includes ocean acidification research on Belize's marine ecosystem, strengthening monitoring and response for sustainable marine and coastal environments as well as research on Marine Pollution and Micro-plastics studies.

In October 2017, the University of Belize (UB), in collaboration with its partners the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Coca Cola and the Department of Environment (DOE), launched the Belize River Watershed Management Plan (BRWMP) - the first of its kind in Belize. The primary objective of the project lead by Dr. Abel Carrias is to develop an integrated BRWMP and to develop ecological and hydrological monitoring tools while assessing the status of the Belize River Watershed, through physical, biological, and social data collection and analysis and with the aerial surveys and mapping in order to guide decision making and the implementation of a sound management strategy of water resources in Belize.

# Excellence in Diversity Research



On February 27th, 2017, UB Faculty of Education and Arts' Lecturer, Mathias R. Vairez Jr., along with three research colleagues from Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas, USA were the winners of the International Award for Excellence in Diversity Research from the Diversity in Organizations, Communities & Nations Journal Collection, Volume 17.

The research article entitled "Does Diversity Really Matter? The Interplay between Students' Race and Their Teachers' Level of Cultural Responsiveness" was selected for the award from among the highest-ranked articles, emerging from the peer-review process and selection criteria, of Volume 17.



**Bachelor in Biology students of Natural History of Vertebrates class were treated to an educational fun day of birding activities on Saturday, January 27 at the Belmopan Campus.**

### Partnering with the Sugar Industry to translate research in solutions and innovative best practices

UB through the Faculty of Science and Technology partnered with the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI) on 'Biological Composition and Ecological Assessment of the Northern Sugar-Belt Region.' This Initiative involved assessing major insect pests and fungal diseases affecting sugarcane in the northern sugar-

belt region for the management and health of Belize's sugarcane industry.

The University also completed its water quality and dung beetle research in the Billy Barquedier National Park, in Stann Creek District. The study lead by Dr. Latha Thomas, Dr. Thippichetty Thiagarajan, Dr. Caroline Herron and Ms. Karen Bautista was done in collaboration with Steadfast Tourism and Conservation Association (STACA) who manages the National Park.

Through the data collected, park rangers were trained on water quality and dung beetle collection methodology, thus strengthening STACA's capacity in managing the National Park effectively.



Faculty of Science and Technology lecturers, Dr. Latha Thomas, Dr. Thippichetty Thiagarajan, Dr. Caroline Herron and Ms. Karen Bautista

### Students of Engineering/Architecture finding innovative ways to build climate resilient housing.



### Recognizing Outstanding Research of National Importance

During 2017, the University hosted six University and Faculty Research Symposium, where UB students and faculty members highlighted collaborative, interdisciplinary and policy oriented research on issues and topics of national and regional importance and impact.

These symposia will enable government, private sector and civil society to make more informed decisions for policy formulation and program implementation and the development of new and impactful projects that will seek to improve a variety of Belize's pressing issues.



Biology-Chemistry Symposium



FMSS Research Symposium



Caribbean Studies Forum

# 2017-2018 Research & Publications of our Academic Faculty

In 2017/18 academic year, a number of scholarly publications emanated from the UB. A listing of such publications is given below:

- » Beck, M., Unterrenier, A., & De Four-Babb. (2017). Keeping our boots on the ground: Independent scholars maintaining academic identities. *Professing Education* 16(2), 67–83.
- » Blanco, Lilian and Thiagarajan, Thippi, 2017. Ethnobotanical Study of Medicinal Plants Used by the Yacatec Maya in the Northern Districts of Belize. *International Journal of Herbal Medicine* 5: 33 - 42.
- » Chicas, S. D., Omine, K., Ford, J. B., Sugimura, K., & Yoshida, K. (2017). Using spatial metrics and surveys for the assessment of trans-boundary deforestation in protected areas of the Maya Mountain Massif: Belize-Guatemala border. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 187, 320-329.
- » Chicas S.D., Sivasankar V., Omine K., Valladarez J., Mylsamy P. (2018) Plant Microbial Fuel Cell Technology: Developments and Limitations. In: Sivasankar V., Mylsamy P., Omine K. (eds) *Microbial Fuel Cell Technology for Bioelectricity*. Springer, Cham
- » Daniels D., Gómez R. K. and Posada-Perez L. 2018. Genetic transformation of the banana hybrid cultivar 'FHIA-18' (Musa sp.) via particle bombardment using argon gas. In: *International Journal of Advances in Scientific Research and Engineering*. Volume 4. Issue 9, September 2018.
- » Daniels D., Itza C., Pat J., Guerra D. and Williams S. 2018. Enhancing the protocol for efficient sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) micropropagation using the BioMINT Temporary Immersion System in the variety B79-474. In: *International Journal of Scientific Engineering and Research*. Volume 6 Issue 7, July 2018.
- » Galvez Guerra D., Rodríguez Morales S.J., Beovides Garcia Y., Milian Jiménez M., Posada Perez L., Rubio Cabrera A., Robaina Jiménez A., Bauta Toledo M., Turiño Gomez F., Daniels D. and Gomez R.K. 2018. Propagation of dasheen planting material of the genus *Alocasia* by in vitro culture. In: *International Journal of Advances in Scientific Research and Engineering*. Volume 4. Issue 8, August 2018.
- » Galvez Guerra D., Rodríguez Morales S.J., Milián Jiménez M., Galvez Guerra J.R., Posada-Pérez L., Gómez Kosky R., Rubio Cabrera A., Robaina Jiménez A., Daniels D., Bauta Toledo M., García Ruíz J. 2018. Efecto del manejo a brotes in vitro de *Xanthosoma sagittifolium* (L.) Schott y *Colocasia esculenta* (L.) Schott durante la fase de multiplicación. In: *Bioteología Vegetal* Vol. 18, No. 2: 85 - 90, 2018.
- » Hermond, D. S., Vairez Jr., M. R., & Tanner, T. (2018). Enhancing the Cultural Competency of Prospective Leaders via a Study Abroad Experience. *Administrative Issues Journal: Connecting Education, Practice, and Research*, 8(1), 18-27. doi: 10.5929/2018.8.1.4
- » Hernandez, Jose C. D., Garcia, David A. and Rabbani, Farshad, "Tree Traversal to Achieve Generalization for Data De-identification", *International Journal of Open Information Technologies* (2307-8162), Vol 6, No 11 (2018) 8
- » James T. Brewster II, Apolonio Aguilar, Gonzalo Anguera, Hadiqa Zafar, Matthew D. Moore & Jonathan L. Sessler (2018) Synthesis and characterization of an amethyryn-uranyl complex displaying aromatic character, *Journal of Coordination Chemistry*, 71:11-13, 1808-1813,
- » McNab, J. & Rogers, A. (2017). Holothuroidea species found in Belizean waters. *SPC Beche-de-mer Information Bulletin #37* - March 2017: 111- 114.
- » Nganga, C. W., De Four-Babb, J. B. & Beck, M. Z. (2017). Spirituality as a humanizing pedagogy of practice and praxis. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association 2017 Annual Meeting, April 27–May 1, 2017, San Antonio, Texas, U.S.A.
- » Omine K., Chicas S.D., Sivasankar V. (2018) Current Advances in Paddy Plant Microbial Fuel Cells. In: Sivasankar V., Mylsamy P., Omine K. (eds) *Microbial Fuel Cell Technology for Bioelectricity*. Springer, Cham
- » Omine K., Sivasankar V., Chicas S.D. (2018) Bioelectricity Generation in Soil Microbial Fuel Cells Using Organic Waste. In: Sivasankar V., Mylsamy P., Omine K. (eds) *Microbial Fuel Cell Technology for Bioelectricity*. Springer, Cham
- » Panti N., Daniels D., Guerra D. and Williams S. 2018. Effects of different Paclobutrazol-Cultar concentrations on the micropropagation of sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) variety CPCL99-4455. In: *Journal of advances in Biotechnology*. Volume 07 Issue 01.
- » Choco, P., Blanco, L. and Thiagarajan, T., 2018. A comparative analysis of ethnobotanical use of medicinal plants by Q'eqchi' Maya of Sothern Belize and the Yucatec Maya of Northern Belize. *International Journal of Herbal Medicine*, 6 (4): 01 - 08.
- » Posada Pérez L., Padrón Montesinos Y., Gálvez Guerra D., Daniels D. and Gómez R.K. 2017. Complete germination of papaya (*Carica papaya* L. var. Red Maradol) somatic embryos using the rita® system and phloroglucinol in semisolid culture medium. In: *In Vitro Cellular; Developmental Biology - Plant*. 2017.
- » Puc I., Alegria J., Daniels D., Guerra D. and Williams S. 2018. Effects of four different capping systems in the micropropagation of sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) variety B79-474. In: *International Journal of Scientific Engineering and Research*. Volume 6 Issue 7, July 2018.
- » Rathinavel L., Jothinathan D., Chicas S.D., Mylsamy P. (2018) Fungal Fuel Cells: Nature's Perpetual Energy Resource. In: Sivasankar V., Mylsamy P., Omine K. (eds) *Microbial Fuel Cell Technology for Bioelectricity*. Springer, Cham
- » Rogers, A., Hamel, J-F., & Mercier, A. (2017). From life-sustaining to life threatening: The case of the sea cucumber fishery in Nicaragua. *SPC Bechede-mer Information Bulletin #37* -March 2017: 48-50

## 2017-2018 Research & Publications

- » Rogers, A., Hamel, J-F., & Mercier, A. (2018). Pearlfish *Carapus bermudensis* from the sea cucumber *Holothuria mexicana* in Belize (Central America). *SPC Beche-de-mer Information Bulletin* #38 - March 2018: 73-76.
- » Rosales S., Daniels D. and Tzib L. 2018. The effects of Neodymium and Ceramic magnets on the germination and growth rate of Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*) in ex-vitro conditions. In: *International Journal of Advances in Scientific Research and Engineering*. Volume 4. Issue 9, September 2018.
- » Sivasankar, V., Omine, K., Chicas, S.D., Senthil Kumar, M., & Gopala Krishna, GVT. (2017). Groundwater benzene levels and risk in Madurai, south India- A Kriging based analytical approach. *Geo-environmental Engineering*, Seoul Korea.
- » Tanner, T., Hermond, D. S., Vairez Jr., M. R., & Leslie, L. (2017). Does diversity really matter? The interplay between student's race and their teachers' level of cultural responsiveness. *The International Journal of Diversity in Organizations, Communities, and Nations: Annual Review*, 17(1), 1-10.
- » Thiagarajan, S. (2018). An Analysis of Performance of Commercial Banks in Belize during Post Global Recession Period. *Journal of Finance and Bank Management*, 6(2), 33-47.
- » Thomas, L., Gillet, A., Vasquez, G. (2018). Effects of land use on dung beetle community structure in a pasture ecosystem of Belize, In: Book of Abstracts, 11 th Natural Resources Management and Research Symposium, March 1-2, 2018, Belmopan, Belize.
- » Thomas, L., Gillet, A., Vasquez, G. (2018). Impact of pasture development on dung beetle (Coleoptera: Scarabaeinae) community structure in Belize, with first report on *Digitonthophagus gazella* (Fabricius, 1787). *International Journal of Agronomy and Agriculture Research*. 13(1):84-89.
- » Thomas, L., Hyde, B., Rhaburn, S., Wiltshire, J. (2018) Effects of habitat types on dung beetle (Coleoptera: Scarabaeinae) community structure in a protected area of Central Belize. *International Journal of Current Advanced Research*, 7, 8(D):14798-14804.
- » Thomas, L., Sabu, T.K. (2018). Dung beetle (Coleoptera: Scarabaeinae) community structure across a forest-agriculture habitat ecotone in South Western Ghats. *International Journal of Environment, Agriculture and Biotechnology*. 3(5):1879-1890.
- » Thomas, L., Sabu, T.K. (2018). Species list with pictorial key for dung beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae) of Nelliampathi in South Western Ghats. *International Journal of Current Advanced Research*, 7, 10(F):16121-16128.
- » Thomas, L., Huang, P., Paquiul, I.O., Perez, G. A., Young, E., Caballero, R. (2017) Dung beetles as Biological Indicators of Habitat Modification in forests of Central Belize. In: Book of Abstracts, 10th Natural Resources Management and Research Symposium and 2nd Global Trees Symposium, March 30-31, 2017, Belmopan, Belize.

## 2017-2018 Research & Publications

- » Thomas, L., Thiagarajan, T., Herron, C., Bautista, K. (2018). Consultancy Report on the Biological Composition and Ecological Assessment of the Northern Sugar Belt Region. Dept. of Science, Faculty of Science & Technology, University of Belize, Belmopan, Belize. pp 1-36.
- » Tuyud V, Thiagarajan T, Salazar D, Chun J and Perez L., 2018. Antibiotic Resistance Patterns of Pathogens Isolated from Surgical Site Infections at Public Health Facilities in Belize. *Journal of Antibiotics Research* 2 (2): 1 - 12.
- » Unterreiner, A., & De Four-Babb, J. (2017). Post-football player career transitions, athlete identity, and higher education. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association 2017 Annual Meeting, April 27–May 1, 2017, San Antonio, Texas, U.S.A.
- » Vairez Jr., M. R., Hermond, D. S., Gomez Jr., F. C., & Osho, G. S. (2017). Factors that contribute to the disparity in academic achievement of students from southern Belize. *Caribbean Quarterly*, 63(1), 83-108.



Lecturer Mr. Jair Valladarez of the Faculty of Science and Technology

# Voices of Our Administrative Leaders



## Mrs. Hertha Gentle

Director, Human Resources

The Human Resource Department (HRD) recruited fourteen professionals with academic qualifications and expertise in the area of concentration for lecturing and five professional administrative staff. The HR Department supported two lecturers (Mrs. Melanie Smith Santiago and Mrs. Roberta Thimbrel) and one administrative staff (Mr. Jhon Florez) with study leaves to pursue PHD's in different areas. Mrs. Melanie Smith Santiago was approved study leave to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology; Mrs. Roberta Timbrel pursued an Interdisciplinary Health Sciences PHD and Mr. Jhon Florez to pursue a PDH in Pedagogy (Curriculum Development, Communication and Language).

The Department also supported the development of employees from within the University, four personnel were promoted for the academic year August 2017 - July 2018, and they are Ms. Shereen Bodden, Mr. Darwin Henderson, Dr. Romaldo Lewis and Ms. Shanera Sanchez. The University's staff and their dependents are entitled to tuition waivers in the pursuit of further studies at the University of Belize. Tuition waiver is provided to employees to pursue Associate Degree and Bachelor Degree. For the academic year 2017/2018 tuition waiver in the amount of \$96,082.00 were issued to staff and dependents from the Human Resource Department (67 staff and dependents received assistance in semester 2017- 1, 47 in semester 2017 - 2 and 6 in semester 2017-3).



## Mr. John Salam

Director, Public Safety Department

The University of Belize, Department of Public Safety Emergency Response Team organizes and participates in several exercises throughout the year to prepare for emergencies. Police Department, Fire Department, Health Department, NEMO work with other departments at the University to ensure that emergency evacuation and response procedures are up-to-date and effective. At least twice a year, the Department of Public Safety conducts an exercise to test the emergency response and evacuation procedures of the four (4) campuses sites. The University will be notified of this exercise, and the notification will summarize the emergency evacuation procedures and indicate where full versions of the procedures can be found. For each test documentation will be kept which will describe the exercise, the date and time of the exercise and whether the test was announced or unannounced.



## Mr. Francis Burns

Director, Physical Plant

The Physical Plant Department undertakes most of its major project and maintenance during the summer time. During the period August 2017 to July 2018, the projects below were completed.

- » Installation of 49 solar lights on walkways, 9 spot lights on parking lots and Belize Electricity Limited repaired or replaced street lights that were out of service on the Belmopan Campus.
- » Painting of the Jabiru Building, Scarlet Macaw Building and three wooden Buildings that were purchased for classroom and office space.
- » Two hard-wood, 40ft by 20ft buildings were purchased for classroom and office space for the Faculty of Nursing department. Another 30ft by 20ft hardwood building was also purchased for the Faculty of Science, for both office space and a small lab.
- » The Chemistry Lab for the Faculty of Science was renovated and expanded to accommodate both Associates and Bachelor level students.
- » The once thatched gazebo on the Punta Gorda Campus was renovated to a steel structure with galvanized roofing.
- » Minor renovation was done to the zink structure building that houses two classrooms, with future plans of redoing the entire building out of concrete on the Punta Gorda Campus.
- » Painting of the Preschool and the ERI buildings on the Belmopan Campus were completed.
- » Major Repairs to both water tank and pier were completed at Calabash Caye Field Station.



## Mr. Abdulaziz Sanderson

Director, Information Communication Technology

At the start of this year, ICT increased not only network capabilities, but technology in the classroom as well. Noteworthy is that initially, faculty and students could not fully utilize the technology over the previous network as internet connection was slow and allowed limited connections. Therefore, ICT improved all buildings east of the Jaguar Building which utilized a 100Mb connection over the network.

In other words, network connection was facilitated to 10 buildings including our 16 classrooms where a majority of classes are held. The network now utilizes a 10Gb (10,240Mb) fiber connection which has greatly improved it. As a result, faculty and students are no longer limited as to how many can be connected simultaneously, hence increasing satisfaction and efficiencies throughout the eastern section of the University.

The most significant achievement, however, was the acquiring of 70 Dell All In One Desktop Computers . After the tendering process, the computers were successfully installed in the completed refurbished and expanded laboratory named after Fultec.

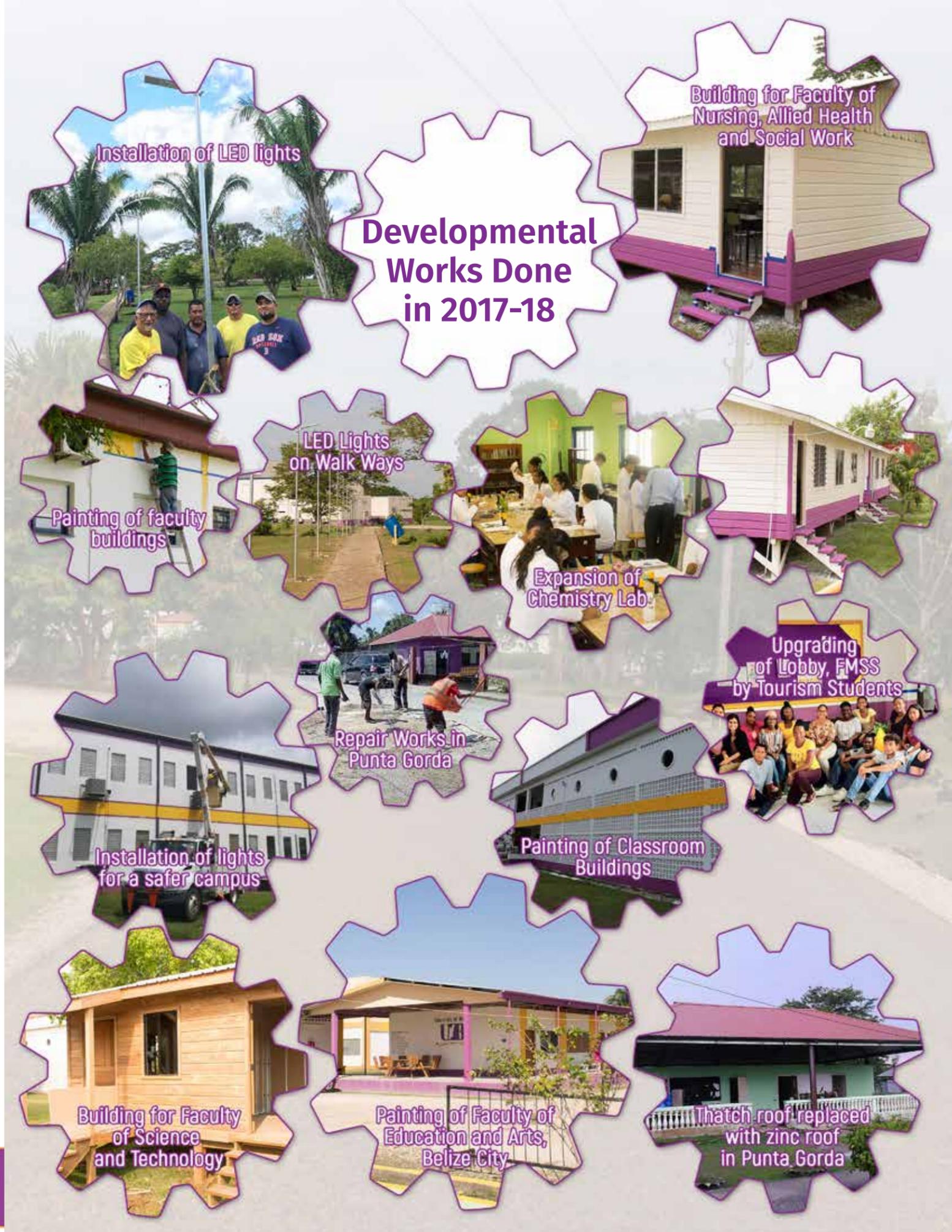
# UB's Capital Funding Project Let's Build UB

With the implementation of the Transformational Leap: Vision 2022, the University of Belize began a capital funding campaign to fulfill its commitment to becoming the preferred degree-granting University in Belize through new programmatic offerings and the supporting infrastructural developments for its students, faculty and staff, which is at the core of UB's growth initiatives.

The University experienced a 6% growth in student enrollment, an increase which surpassed our expectations. This, when coupled with the 5 new programs launched in 2017 as well as a suite of new programs expected to be launched within the five-year plan, which includes more Masters programs, Bachelors programs, some Associates and Certificate programs, it precipitated the need for facilities expansion.

The facility expansion proposal includes:

1. A Medical School Building
2. A Faculty of Health Sciences Buildings
3. A Multipurpose Conference Facility
4. A Facility for the School of Engineering in Belmopan
5. Class room facilities for the PG Campus
6. A School of Business Building for the Faculty of Management and Social Sciences
7. New & Improved Student Spaces, including a residence, communal spaces & cafeteria
8. Office Spaces for Faculty & Staff across all faculties and campuses.





The Library conducted its Annual Reading program so that very young students can "Read to Succeed"

## Outreach & Engagements

*In 2017, as guided by its Transformational Leap: Vision 2022, the University of Belize – as Belize’s National and only public University, recognized engagement as central to our purpose as an educational institution and to the fulfillment of our vision and our mission. Our engagements strengthen our teaching and learning framework and ties our research work and its focus to our local communities and their challenges so as to create more applicable solutions for Belize’s national development.*



The four mayoral candidates for Belize City Council along with Moderator Dr. Leroy Almendarez and President of Student Government Eluide Miller



The three mayoral candidates for the City of Belmopan (front) along with Ioderator Dr. Leroy Almendarez, President Sankat, Student Government President for Belmopan Shiyanne Perez, President Sankat (r), Ms. Vicki Quetzal and Mrs. Sharon Palacio-Moro of Student Affairs (l) and lecturer Ms. Audrey Pascascio.

### Creating a space for discourse on local development

The University of Belize’s Faculty of Management and Social Sciences (FMSS), Faculty of Education and Arts (FEA) and the UB Student Governments coordinated three fora for the Belize City, Belmopan & PG Mayoral Aspirants at its 3 campuses. Each candidate got a chance to make presentations and answered questions from very engaging

audiences about concerns as well as plans for the development of the three cities.

### Strengthening international engagements through bilateral agreements

In 2017, the University of Belize strengthened its international engagement with the signing of 10 new bilateral agreements. The objective of these agreements is to promote and expand international understanding, cooperation and outreach by stimulating and supporting educational, professional and intercultural activities, program development and projects among students, faculty and the University as well as the respective communities that support them.

One major event was held on Wednesday, 20th September,

2017 where UB President Emeritus Clement Sankat along with academic Deans and Directors addressed Non-resident Ambassadors accredited to Belize on the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honorable Wilfred Elrington. This was a time when the Ambassadors gathered in Belize for the 36th Anniversary Independence Celebrations.

A key area emphasized during the session was the need for international support to build the capacity of UB and to allow it to deliver its Transformational Plan 2022. The President addressed this matter with the Diplomats and pointed to ongoing development with various countries.

Several diplomats spoke of areas of interest and collaboration with UB, which the University saw throughout the 2017-2018 academic year.

### Leading Belize’s Future Generation

Professor Sankat was invited by the leadership of John Paul II Junior College in Benque to deliver a Distinguished Lecture on May 2, 2018 to Faculty and students of the Junior College. The President spoke on “My Journey of Leadership and Service: Innovating, Transforming, Reflecting and Learning.”

Also, the University hosted over 300 primary school students from 16 institutions, both rural and urban, at its Calabash Caye Field Station through its Young Marine Explorers Education and Outreach Program. This program gives students the opportunity to experience marine and coastal environments and to have firsthand encounters with the organisms that live within them.

### Celebrating our unique Cultural Life

The Faculty of Education and Arts hosted an “Evening of Arts” where there were exhibitions of artistic displays. The evening started with a visual art display where the audience appreciated drawings, paintings and art works of various Belizean artists.

Also, our Inno’on - La oh Student Club hosted a ceremony to honor Mother Languages. Mr. Jeremiah Chiac, President of Inno’on - La oh, welcomed everyone and reminded the audience that the reason why United Nations declared February 21 as International Mother Language Day is, “to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multiculturalism,” and the role of the Inno’on - La oh in encouraging linguistic diversity and multilingual education and creating awareness of language and cultural tradition.



Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat along with Diplomats and senior officers of the University of Belize at presentation to non-resident Ambassadors to Belize on September 20, 2017.

## Advancing Belize's agricultural sector

The President of the University attended the 33rd Meeting of the CTA Board in Brussels, Belgium. The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) is a joint international institution of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Union (EU). Its mission is to advance food security, resilience and inclusive economic growth in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific through innovations in sustainable agriculture.

CTA operates under the framework of the Cotonou Agreement.

The Board also met with the Secretary General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Dr Patrick Gomes (at ACP, House, Brussels and reviewed the work of the CTA and its future in the context of the Cotonou Agreement which will be coming to an end.



President Sankat (left) along with CTA Board and Secretary General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Dr. Patrick Gomes (center)

## Enhancing opportunities leads to higher faculty engagement

Throughout the year, the University enhanced and increased the range of international opportunities for faculty to gain industry insights and experience.

Dr. Mariot Simon, Vice President, represented the University of Belize at The Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation (COBEC) summer conference held in Bossier City, Louisiana from July 25- July 27, 2018. The Vice President was a member of the committee which engaged in discussions with the proposed consultant on developing a funding strategy as well as in restructuring the COBEC organization. Members collaborated in addressing educational needs among COBEC institutions and also in fostering greater access to training opportunities.

The University attended an

Electric Vehicle workshop held in Barbados, conducted by the CARICOM Secretariat. The workshop, attended by Mr. Cleavon Diego from the Engineering Department, was designed to train Caribbean Universities in matters of Energy, Policy, Renewable Energy and Maintenance of Electric Vehicles.

The University also had three staff participating in the Erasmus Plus Staff Mobility Scholarship, where they each spent a week at the University of Valladolid (UVa). The purpose of this exchange was to support the professional development and capacity of UB staff and the University, to offer the opportunity to build networks of international contacts and to increase the capacities, attractiveness and international dimension of UB.

Two members of the Faculty of Science and Technology underwent training in pesticide residue analysis. Dr. Abel Carrias went to Monaco for a two-week training course at the Marine Environment Studies Laboratory of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He was trained in organochlorine pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls residue analysis in sediment and biota. Also, Mrs. Zeida Franco Leon, laboratory technician, went to the Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR) in Santa Marta, Colombia for a two-month training course. Mrs. Franco Leon received training in analysis of pesticides in aquatic environment,



Zeida Franco-Leon (l) and Dr. Abel Carrias (r)

including sample preparation, extraction (surrogates standard spiking), clean-up and fractionation, quantification of organochlorinated pesticides by GC-ECD (optimization of conditions, calibration curves and quantification of samples), maintenance and troubleshooting of the GC-ECD, and quality control/quality assurance/control charts.

Additionally, Mr. Jair Valladarez from the Faculty of Science and Technology participated in a three weeks' fellowship at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden; The Sven Lovén Centre

for Marine Infrastructure, from June 4-22, 2018.

The training is part of the efforts to build research capacity at UB through participation in national, regional and inter regional projects funded by the Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The participation of Mr. Valladarez in this meeting will strengthen UB's capacity to perform ocean acidification (OA) research and monitoring and will complement work in other projects.



Mr. Ubaldimir Guerra at Valladolid, Spain

The Dean of Nursing from the Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health and Social Work, Mrs. Leolin Castillo, attended the Caribbean Nursing Council Meeting in Bermuda. This meeting, held from February 27th to March 1st, focused on the Regional Strategic Framework for Nursing and Midwifery, Standardization and Regulation and several other topics vital to the Caribbean's nursing and the health sector.



Lecturer Mrs. Tracey Sangster (front) along with students and participants at the Evening of the Arts

Ms. Franscine Sabal (circle), Chair of the History Department, attended the Commonwealth of Learning Training (COL) for Women Leaders in Education in Malaysia. The annual training seeks to strengthen women's leadership in the education sector.



Mr. Leonard Mortis (circle), Chair of the Engineering Department in the Faculty of Science and Technology, participated in a Technical Exchange on Disaster Management in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA during July 24-26, 2018.



Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat (circle) attended the 111th Meeting of Consejo Superior Universitario Centroamericano from March 13 to March 15, 2018 in Antigua, Guatemala. The President attended in his capacity as Vice President of CSUCA. While there, he attended a joint meeting between Presidents/Rectors of Universities from France and Central America. One of the major areas of information sharing and discussion was the engagement of France with institutions in Central America and the possibilities for even wider and deeper collaboration in areas such as quality and accreditation.



# 1st UB Endowment Fete At the Big Bird's Isle, Belize City



"The University of Belize Development & Endowment Fund" was recently established to assist students across the country with scholarships and bursaries and for other capital development at the country's National University. The financial struggles of students' families are many and the University of Belize's (UB) President Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat has begun this fundraising drive, including this celebratory event in Belize City during the September celebrations.

The Belize-Trini Affair held on September 17, 2017, featured the millennial generation sounds of Belize's Super G and Soca Queen Ernestine Carballo alongside Trinidad's "Crazy" for a truly old school flavor with his classic single "Nani Wine" and Tobago's Oscar B, a band member of the 90's Byron Lee and the Dragonaires. All artists were backed up by the diverse and talented Gilharry 7 band of Corozal. The concert provided an opportunity for the public, students,

the UB alumni, the business sector, professionals, diplomats, members of the diaspora, along with UB's faculty and staff to interact and to have a great time together.

The all-inclusive fete brought a new dimension to Belize's entertainment scene and happily raised the bar here. It is expected that this will be an annual event in Belize's Carnival/Independence celebrations. The Fete was also graced with the presence of the Governor General of Belize Sir Colville Young and the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture and Chairman of the National Celebrations Committee, the Honorable Patrick Faber. The private sector of Belize including Travellers Liquors with the famous One Barrel rum and Bowen & Bowen with Belize's National Beer, Belikin came to the support of UB. Other sponsors included Scotia Bank, LoveFm, Best Western-Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel, Belize Tourism Board and The Guardian Newspaper.



# Presidential Lecture Series

In 2017, UB's President initiated the 'Presidential Lecture Series, where the aim was to host enlightening, captivating and stimulating speakers who discuss a wide range of topics and issues pertaining to Belize's and the regions development. It was developed by the President as a means of enhancing the intellectual life on the campus, for our UB community and our stakeholders. The 2017-2018 Academic year, the University held three Lectures.

## Student Advocacy & Social Responsibility

On November 8th, 2017, UB held its inaugural Presidential Lecture Series, which was presented by Nikoli Edwards. Edwards is from Trinidad and Tobago, and is currently the Vice Chairperson responsible for policy, advocacy, and projects for the Commonwealth Youth Council, and was a past leader of the University of West Indies,



Professor Sankat accompanied by Board of Trustees member Dr. Fred Shyu (r) thank Dr. Chun-Wei Remen Lin (c) for delivering the Third Presidential Lecture

St. Augustine Students' Guild.

## Tribute to Fidel Castro

His presentation focused on student advocacy and social responsibility. In his presentation, Edwards focused on Youth Advocacy, which has the potential to take you worldwide, while spreading the message of the need for enhanced youth development and allowing the voices of others to be heard.

The Embassy of the Republic of Cuba and The President of UB held the second UB Presidential Lecture Series, as a tribute to the late Leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz.

The event was held on November 23, 2017 at the Jaguar Auditorium at the Belmopan Campus. During the presentation, audiences were given more insight on the life of Dr. Fidel Castro by an audio visual documentary entitled "Oda a La Revolucion".

Keynote address was done by the Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba, H.E. Lissette Perez Perez. Remarks were also given by members of the Northern Maya Association, Ms. Adela Pederson and Mr. Fostino Yam. Mr. Stan Martinez presented on behalf of the members of the National Garifuna Council.



Nikoli Edwards delivering his lecture on student advocacy at the Jaguar Auditorium

There were cultural presentations done by Cuban artists based in Belize. H.E. Lissette Perez Perez and Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat unveiled the plaque in honor of the late Commander Fidel Castro Ruz on the first anniversary of his death.

## Entrepreneurship Education

The third lecture in the Presidential Series entitled "Sustainable Innovation and Entrepreneurship of Higher Education in Taiwan- Asia University's Perspective" was presented on March 1, 2018 by Dr. Chun-Wei Remen Lin, the Director of the Center for Creative Leadership and who is a Distinguished Professor of Industrial Engineering and Business Administration at Asia University in Republic of China (Taiwan).

The lecture was presented in Belize City and streamed live to the Belmopan Campus. The presentation focused on both the academic and practical formation of entrepreneurs in Taiwan through University education.

Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat, President of the University of Belize, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Asia University which seeks to strengthen collaboration and possible exchanges for Faculty and Students especially in areas related to Business Studies, Entrepreneurship and Engineering.



Second President Lecture - A tribute to Fidel



# Sustainability

*The Transformational Leap: Vision 2022 reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to securing a sustainable future for the University of Belize and its core business activities. It outlined and commenced its plans for accreditation, for facilitating the attraction, retention and recognition of outstanding academic staff and for implementing a best practice framework for campus planning.*

## Accrediting our University

As part of our Transformational Plan, the University of Belize launched its Accreditation Drive on May 7th, 2018, which we hope to achieve by 2022. With this launch, the University emphasized its commitment to continuous quality enhancement. Therefore, to become accredited, the University will have to undergo a thorough self-evaluation and objective appraisal by an independent and internationally recognized agency.



Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat, Dr. Carlise Wynne and Dr. Chaudron Gille along with Board members, faculty and staff at the launch of the Accreditation drive.

The accreditation launch was facilitated by Dr. Carlise Wynne, Professor, and Dr. Chaudron Gille, Associate Provost of the University of North Georgia (UNG). They presented on the value of accreditation, the types of accreditation and the different regional and international accrediting bodies. They then went over the standards including candidacy, documentation and quality assurance and requirements.

*“Accreditation will not only enhance our quality and respectability in this national, regional and global community of Universities in which we operate, but most importantly the mobility and transfer of credits of our graduates – to graduate school for example; the employability of our graduates and the potential of our graduates for enhanced financial support; the licensing process for graduates from our professional programs and very importantly our ability to attract prospective students not only from Belize, but from the Caribbean and Central America and the world over.”*

Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat

## Enhancing excellence in academic careers across the University

In 2017 to complement its Accreditation Drive, University launched and implemented its Academic Development Program to assist our instructors to be more effective teachers. The University will be developing and conducting Pedagogical Skills Training for all its Full-Time Lecturers. The aim of this training will be:

- » to equip University of Belize Lecturers with skills, theories and techniques that will enhance their teaching ability
- » to develop learning goals for stronger learning

outcomes through effective pedagogical designs

- » to advance the students and customer experience through improving the quality of teaching and learning at UB.

It is expected that this training, once implemented, will be conducted continuously. This is to ensure that our Faculty members will be able to consistently enhance the global elements of our University's teaching and learning framework and to support individual academic careers at the University.

## Creating spaces to Advance the University

As part of its commitment to achieve its strategic objectives, the University created the Office of Institutional Advancement. This Office seeks to serve and support the University of Belize through Alumni Relations, Research Funding, Endowment Funding, Capital Campaign, Corporate/Foundation Relations and Development Support Services. Under the guidance of the President, our advancement team develops and implements strategies and programs for sustainable, long-term growth necessary to ensure the future success of the UB vision.

## UB pursuing its internationalization agenda for sustainability, academic strength, cultural relationships and resource sharing with institutions in Central America.



(L-R) Prime Minister of Belize Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow (3rd) welcomes Secretary General of SICA (Central American Integration System) Marco Vinicio Cerezo (1st), Secretary General of CSUCA (Central American Higher Education Council), Dr. Carlos Alvarado Cerezo and UB President Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat.

# Recognizing our Faculty & our Staff

## 15 Years of Service to UB



At a very festive end of year gathering on December 20, 2017, UB recognized several of its faculty and staff who have served us.

## 10 Years of Service to UB

Josue Ake	Ana Escalante
Eduardo Barrientos	Freida Palma
Darren Bovell	Lin Smith
Leonardo Cocom	Hazel Thompson
Ubaldimir Guerra	Patricia Tzul
Claude Jones	Mathias Vairez Jr.
Rufina Masibuwa	Diana Wade
Gilroy Middleton Jr.	Jermaine Williams
Ian Sangster	Adelia Young
Gregorio Ba	Francis Burns
Linval Baptist	Ronaldo Lewis
Owen Broaster	Dorla Myvett
Lloyd Carrillo	Enma Robinson
Candelaria Chun	Zeferino Sho
Ryan Domingo	

## 5 Years of Service to UB

Stacy Ordonez	Soberanis	Theresa Coye
Charnele Hyde	Marco Cordova	Gerrydean Stewart
Darwin Henderson	Selvin Vidal	Ivanna Waight-Cho
Apolonio Aguilar	Braulio Ah	Graciliano Cal
Filomeno Canto	Victor Kuk	Rosendo Che
Valerie Jenkins	Stanford Noralez	Marcello Cho
Shelley Wentz	Jaime Hernandez	Juan Cho
Jesus Velasquez	Ashton Myers	Lester Coleman
Kenny Balan	Carla Diaz	Ferrol Franzua
Erica Aguilar	Danie Moreira-Palacio	Desmond Manders
Ivory Kelly	Crystal Rodriguez	Rita Sebastian
Dalwin Lewis	Trenelle Samuels - Reneau	David Guerra
Cecilia Martinez	Maxine McKay	Anthony Francisco
Nashira Bradley	Rubicely Balan	Delayia Cho
Keisha Gentle	Evelio Itza Sr.	Catherine Wade
Carlos Choc	Anibal Garcia	
Stacey Miller	Roberta Thimbriel	
Carmen		

## Employment practices

The University of Belize continues to strengthen its employment practices and workforce issues through a range of strategies, initiatives and policies.

Key policies and strategies that enable the University in 2017 to manage employment issues included work on the revision of its Performance Management Tool and on establishing UB's Contributory Pension Plan, Staff Reorganization, Rationalizing of Contracts for Faculty, Development of a University Succession Plan, Revised Contracts for Service Providers and the revision of Key Human Resource related policies, such as leave, relocation, remuneration, performance and professional development. With the guidance of the Internal Auditor, the University began the task of correcting several HR anomalies that have accumulated over the years.

UB Faculty and Staff are further supported with programs such as the Employee Assistance Program, Staff Wellbeing Program, Manager and Supervisor Development Program.

## Increasing the Capacity of our people

The Transformational Leap: Vision 2022 represents a contemporary approach to enhancing and managing the capability of our staff, and addresses critical imperatives around:

- » Leadership
- » Attracting and retaining the best talent
- » Supporting professional growth and outstanding careers

## Assessment and Promotion Committee

The Assessment and Promotion Committee was established by the President of the University in the 2017-2018 academic year. Faculty members were evaluated for promotion to the higher grade of "Crossing the Bar/Associate Professor."

On June 4th, 2018, the University's Board of Trustees promoted Dr. Thippichetty Thiagarajan, Associate Professor of the Faculty of Science and Technology to the rank of Professor in Biology - the first such Professor at UB.

*"Valuing, supporting and encouraging our faculty & staff are important. Their diverse areas of expertise are what builds our capacity and defines our national University."*

Hertha Gentle, Head-HR

Since joining the University over 26 years ago, Dr. Thiagarajan was instrumental in establishing the teaching labs for the Biology and Chemistry programs and upgrading the undergraduate Education Degree programs to a full-fledged undergraduate degree. Option of minors to improve the marketability of the graduates and to attract a greater student population to make the programs more viable were accomplished.

What has differentiated Dr. Thippi is also his research and publication, which has brought reputation and visibility to the UB in the global world of academia.



# Faculty and Staff Day

The University of Belize held a day for faculty and staff to have fun together at the Belmopan Campus on April 27, 2018.

**“In Unity there is strength -when there is teamwork and collaboration, great things can be achieved. There is no better way to demonstrate Team Work than through sports and you will experience this yourself today. So let us demonstrate this kind of power, today and every day by putting out our best effort and in unison, and as a Team. That’s why we say “let’s build UB Together”.**

Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat



## Operating Framework

With the implementation of the Transformational Leap: Vision 2022, the University focused on strengthening its operating model to improve institutional and academic quality, financial stability and achieve learning and research outcomes congruent with its mission and vision.

During 2017/18, service improvement projects, aimed at enabling professional and academic excellence and improving the student experience, were delivered with increased efficiency by focusing on:

- » Adopting a quality assurance framework, standards and processes and to develop a more rigorous examination system
- » Infrastructure development
- » Partnerships for program expansion and course offerings
- » Income-earning operations and opportunities

The University also incorporated into its operational planning environmental sustainability with a key focus on ensuring energy reduction, reduced water consumption and recycling and getting “value for money” with respect to our procurements.

## Efficiency, Reach & Sustainability: Restructuring Our University

UB’s Method

- » Entrust the University’s Senior Management Team with greater executive latitude to lead strategy and major income earning and cost reduction opportunities so as to achieve a

balanced budget at UB with the Deans and Faculties leading the academic initiatives so necessary for UB’s growth.

- » Consolidate the University campuses for more effective, efficiency and reach, and accessibility of educational services while working to promote ‘on-line’ education
- » Restructure academic divisions to focus on core academic activities and expansion
- » Optimizing the University’s diversified mix of income sources and opportunities
- » Striving for a balanced budget

UB’s Savings

- » Reduction in operating costs per annum from more efficient utilization of resources and more transparent and prudent procurement
- » 75% of savings and income generation reinvested in academic divisions, student support services and opportunities and upgrading infrastructure to support all

UB’s Benefits

- » Consolidated student support services
- » Best practice with respect to staff & faculty on-boarding
- » Transactional process improvements
- » Efficient HR Management and procurement practices

The overall goal is to create a more sustainable University.

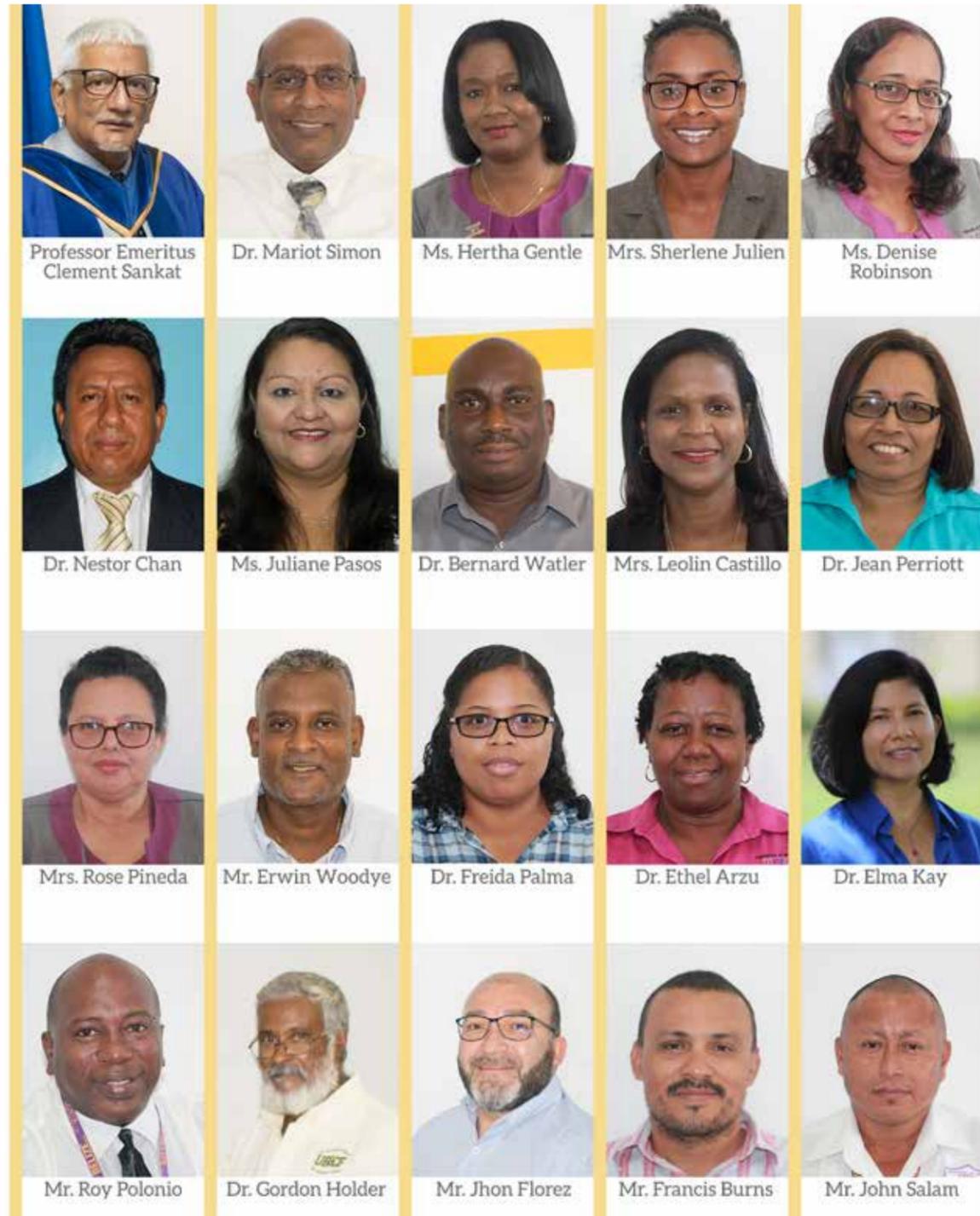


President Sankat meets with Hon. Patrick Faber (left)



Hon. Patrick Faber and executives from the Ministry of Education are apprised on UB’s Transformational Plan.

# University Management Team - 2017-2018



## Faculties & Centers

As of 1st August 2017, The University of Belize offered over 60 programs across its four faculties

### Faculty of Education & Arts

Faculty Dean Dr. Nestor Chan

Schools	Chairs
History Language & Literature Education Regional Language Center	Ms. Francine Sabal Dr. Virginia Hampton Dr. June Young Mr. John Flores

### Faculty of Science & Technology

Faculty Dean Ms. Juliane Pasos

Schools	Chairs/Director
Information Technology, Physics & Mathematics Science & Natural Resource Management Engineering	Dr. Sherlene Savery Ms. Karen Bautista Mr. Leonard Mortis
Central Farm - Agriculture	Dr. Gordon Holder
Environmental Research Institute	Dr. Elma Kay

### Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health & Social Work

Faculty Dean Mrs. Leolin Castillo

Schools	Chairs
Nursing & Midwifery Allied Health Social Work	Ms. Lecia Bevans Ms. Patricia Lopez Ms. Ava Pennil

### Faculty of Management & Social Sciences

Faculty Dean Dr. Bernard Watler

Schools	Chairs
Management	Dr. Vincent Palacio - Belize City Ms. Desiree Avila - Belmopan

### Open and Distance Learning

Director, Dr. Freida Palma

# Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Management Team, led by the President of the University, manages and monitors the University strategic objectives and risks, steers its businesses - its financial, human and physical resources and sets targets and benchmarks for the University.

## President

Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat

## Vice President

Dr. Mariot Simon

Director of Finance  
Sherlene Julien

Human Resource Director  
Hertha Gentle

Administrative Officer  
Denise Robinson

# Academic Council

The Academic Council (AC) is a regulatory body established to a) oversee the academic affairs of the University, b) formulate academic policies, plans and procedures and c) evaluate and lead the implementation of the University's strategic development plan as it relates to the Academic Division.



The four Faculty Deans. (L-R) Dr. Bernard Watler, Ms. Juliane Pasos, Mrs. Leolin Castillo, Dr. Nestor Chan

Vice President (Chair) - Dr. Mariot Simon

Dean, Student Affairs - Dr. Jean Perriott

Director Regional Language Center (RLC) -  
Mr. Noe Agreda

Chief Librarian - Mr. Erwin Woodye

Quality Assurance Officer (QA) - Dr. Ethel Arzu

Admissions Coordinator - Ms. Camilla Barker

University Registrar - Mrs. Rose Pineda

Director, Environmental Research Institute (ERI) -  
Dr. Elma Kay

Dean, Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health & Social  
Work (FNAHSW) - Mrs. Leolin Castillo

Dean, Faculty of Education & Arts Work (FEA) -  
Dr. Nestor Chan

Dean, Faculty of Science & Technology (FST) -  
Ms. Juliane Pasos

Dean, Faculty of Management & Social Sciences -  
Dr. Bernard Watler

Campus Administrator, Punta Gorda -  
Mr. Roy Polonio

Director, Open and Distance Learning -  
Dr. Freida Palma

# Governance and the Board of Trustees

Minister of Education's Representative  
Mr. Harrison Pilgrim (Chairman)



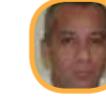
Ministry of Agriculture Representative  
Mr. Jose Alpuche



Ministry of Education Representative  
Mr. Deryck Satchwell



Ministry of Health's Representative  
Dr. Ramon Figueroa



Minister's Representative, Agriculture Sector  
Mr. Gaspar Martinez



Minister's Representative, Industry Sector  
Mr. Lynn Young



UB Student Representative  
Ms. Shiyanne Perez



Non- Governmental & Civil Society  
Representative

Mrs. Michelle Lindo-Longsworth



ATLIB Representative

Dr. Sharmayne Saunders (Vice Chairman)



National Trade Union Congress of Belize  
Representative  
Mr. Luke Palacio



Belize Council of Churches Representative  
Dr. Fred Shyu



UB Alumni Association Representative  
Ms. Darlene Vernon



National Council for Education Representative  
Mr. David Ruiz



Faculty Representative  
Dr. Maxine McKay



Secretary to the Board  
Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat



Recording Secretary  
Ms. Denise Robinson



# Congratulations to the 1,147 UB Graduates

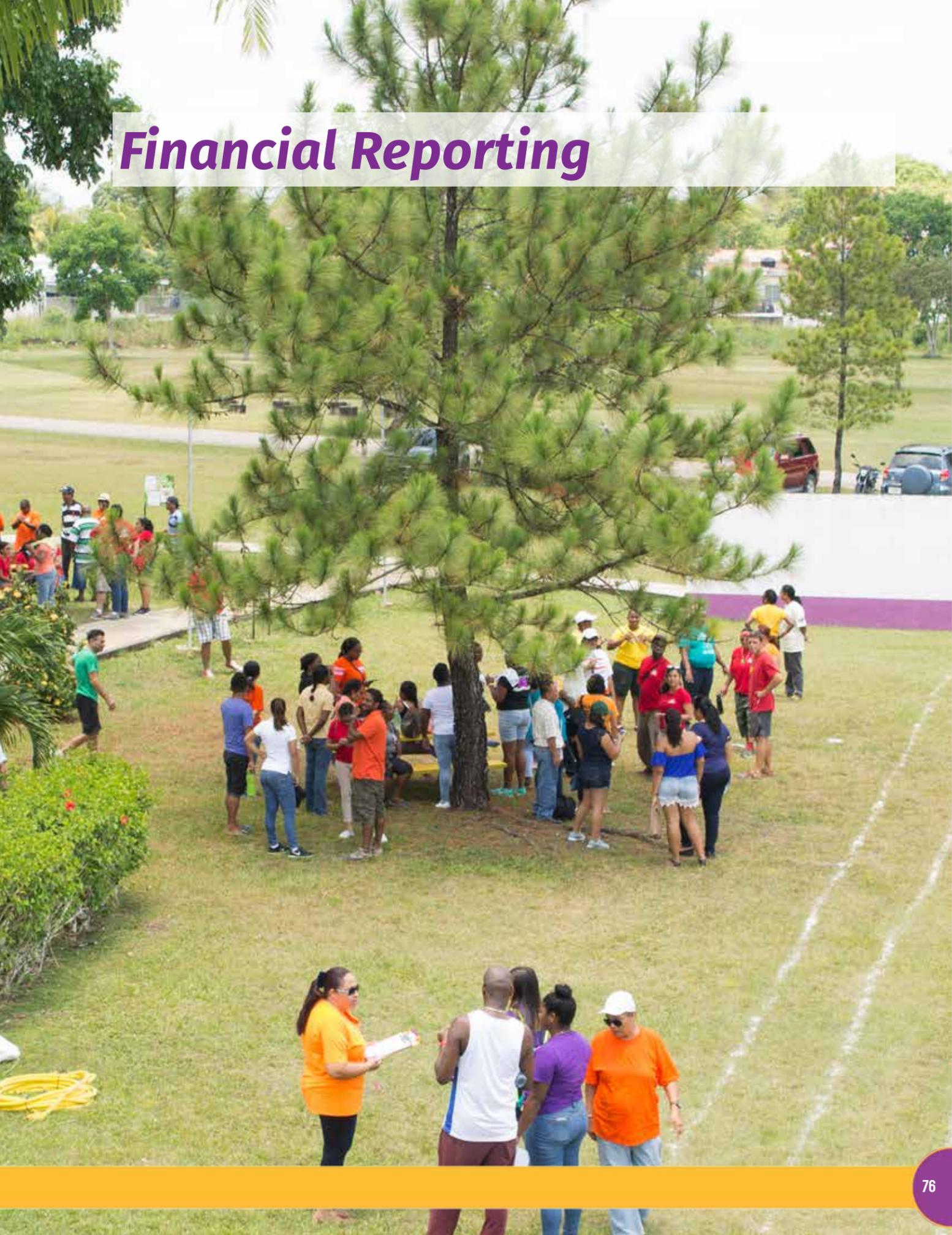


*Top  
Overall  
Achievers*



We closed the Academic Year 2017/2018 with Ceremonies on June 14, 2018 and June 16, 2018 at Punta Gorda and Belize City. 1,147 students graduated and the ceremonies were addressed by the Hon. Patrick Faber (Belize City) and Mayor Ashton McKenzie of Punta Gorda. This was the first year our graduation ceremonies were consolidated to two ceremonies, with the largest in Belize City at the new Civic Centre. Congrats to our Faculty, Staff and Students especially our graduates.

# Financial Reporting



# Financial Overview for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year

The University of Belize (UB) provides an overview of the financial position and activities for the fiscal year ending July 31st, 2018, and which should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements, attached.

UB's financial position continues to support the objectives of A Transformation Leap: Vision 2022, with the University steadily working to maximize its investment in teaching, research and the student experience.

Over the past year, the Office of Budget & Finance worked diligently to provide timely and accurate financial information to key stakeholders (internal and external), while protecting the University's assets, both real and intangible. We exercised prudence in our spending and continuously made efforts to identify areas for revenue enhancement and cost reduction. Systems were set up to streamline our supplier lists, reduce check payment costs through uploads and direct deposits to vendors and employees, and maximised bulk-buying, where possible.

Payroll processing outside our established schedule was minimized and our TD-4s were reconciled and distributed in a timely manner. The strategic focus on student accounts was geared to reducing payment delinquency and increasing collections. In FY17-18 we implemented a summer discount, which resulted in an increased enrolment; we improved the student records management system to allow students to acknowledge their financial terms and conditions online and improved our collaboration with the MOE to achieve a 95% collection rate for GOB receivables as at year-end.

We partnered with lending institutions to establish student loan schemes and worked with DFC to implement a loan scheme tailored to UBs students. The culmination of our efforts resulted in an unmodified opinion on our external audit review. While we have managed to meet our FY17-18 goals in the quality of our service



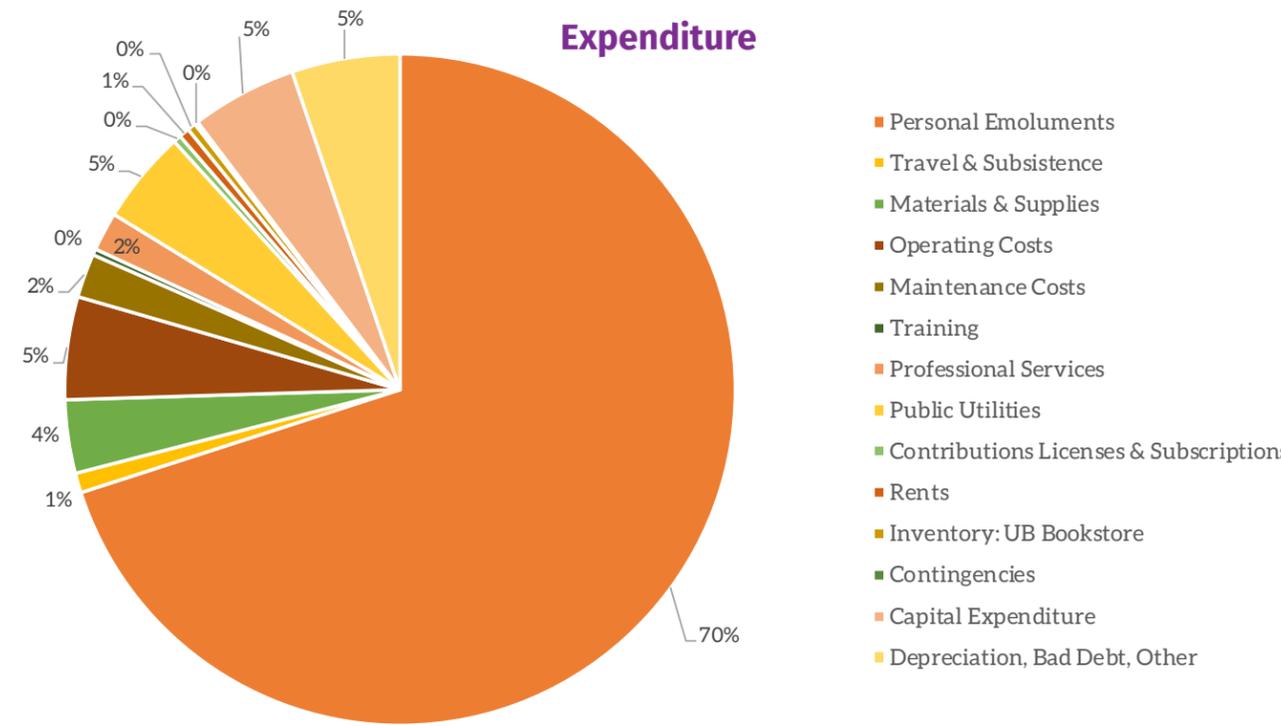
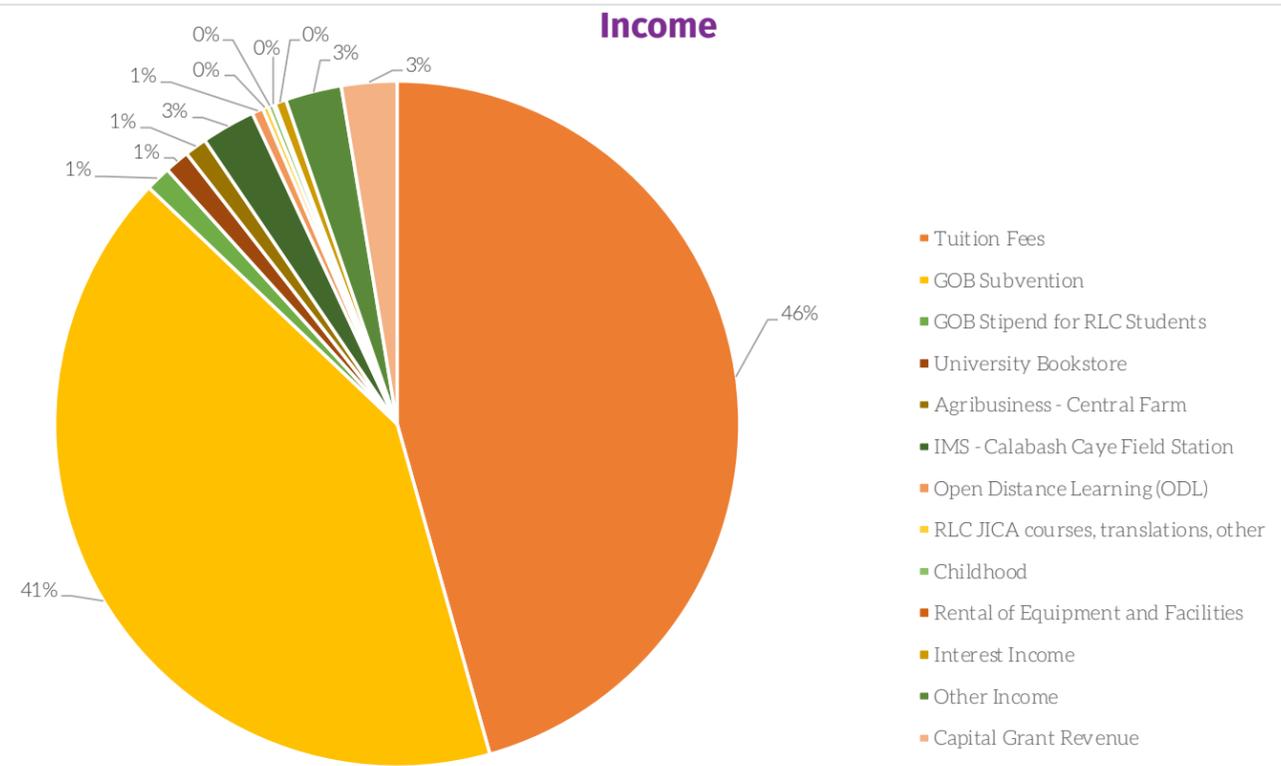
Mrs. Sherlene Julien  
Director of Finance

Mr. Orlando Palma  
Accounts  
Receivable

Ms. Chiung-Yu Lin  
Budget Officer

delivery and financial reporting, we endeavor to continue to raise the bar of excellence in our efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability.

# Operating Budget 2017-2018



## University of Belize

*Financial Statements for the Years Ended July 31, 2018 and 2017 and Independent Auditors' Report*

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Trustees of:  
University of Belize

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of University of Belize which comprise the statement of financial position as at July 31, 2018 and 2017, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in fund balances and statement of cash flows for the years 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, 2018 and 2017, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

### 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.

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Belize  
T +501 227 3020  
F +501 227 5792  
E info@bz.gt.com  
www.grantthornton.bz

## 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.

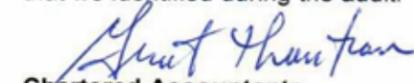
### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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  
April 25, 2019

# UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION JULY 31, 2018 AND 2017 (IN BELIZE DOLLARS)

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents – unrestricted	2g, 3	\$ 1,344,882	\$ 1,492,893
Cash and cash equivalents – restricted	2g, 4	344,119	495,130
Short term investments – unrestricted	2g, 5	466,288	393,991
Short term investments – restricted	2g, 6	2,745,425	2,866,288
Students receivables – net	2g, 7	430,288	665,789
Government of Belize receivables	2g, 8	5,976	84,575
Prepayment	2g	225,095	208,936
Other receivables	2g	237,120	170,193
Employee loans and advances	2g	56,453	68,071
Inventory	2h, 9	660,662	733,114
Total current assets		<u>6,516,308</u>	<u>7,178,980</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS:</b>			
Other asset	10	877,111	956,236
Equity investment in associate	2k, 12	450,000	450,000
Other investments	2g, 2L	100,000	100,000
Property, plant and equipment – net	2i, 11	93,937,971	70,842,328
Total non-current assets		<u>95,365,082</u>	<u>72,348,564</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$101,881,390</b>	<b>\$79,527,544</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>			
Line of credit	2g, 13	\$ 30,052	\$ 64,100
Accounts payable	2g, 14	3,542,203	2,416,111
Gratuity and severance payable – current portion	15	199,825	149,019
Total current liabilities		<u>3,772,080</u>	<u>2,629,230</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>			
Gratuity and severance payable	15	6,020,140	5,036,245
Deferred income	16	872,532	1,781,053
Deferred grant	2m	-	79,125
Total non-current liabilities		<u>6,892,672</u>	<u>6,896,423</u>
Total liabilities		<u>10,664,752</u>	<u>9,525,653</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES:</b>			
Capital grant	2o, 17	29,920,696	28,805,688
Revaluation surplus	18	62,226,157	40,675,540
General fund		(930,215)	520,663
Total fund balances		<u>91,216,638</u>	<u>70,001,891</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>		<b>\$101,881,390</b>	<b>\$79,527,544</b>

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 April 25, 2019 and are signed on its behalf by:



\_\_\_\_\_  
President



\_\_\_\_\_  
Audit Committee Chair



\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Finance

# UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE

## STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME YEARS ENDED JULY 31, 2018 AND 2017 (IN BELIZE DOLLARS)

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>OPERATING REVENUES:</b>			
Tuition and fees	2m	\$12,304,107	\$10,508,146
Other	2m, 19	3,311,360	3,892,885
Government subvention	2m, 2e	9,999,996	9,999,996
Amortization of capital grant	2o	632,992	626,417
		<u>26,248,455</u>	<u>25,027,444</u>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>			
General and administrative	2n	2,764,457	2,858,503
Educational services and facilities	2n, 21	3,279,325	4,065,279
Depreciation	2i, 11	1,426,041	1,426,302
Employee benefits	22	20,318,188	19,237,330
Loss on de-recognition of property	2i, 11	-	3,440,000
		<u>27,788,011</u>	<u>31,027,414</u>
<b>LOSS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>(1,539,556)</b>	<b>(5,999,970)</b>
<b>NON-OPERATING REVENUES:</b>			
Interest earned and investment income		88,678	110,114
<b>LOSS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(1,450,878)</b>	<b>(5,889,856)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>	11, 18	<b>23,298,617</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)</b>		<b>\$21,847,739</b>	<b>\$ (5,889,856)</b>

## UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE

### STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES YEARS ENDED JULY 31, 2018 AND 2017 (IN BELIZE DOLLARS)

	Capital Grant	Revaluation Reserve	General Fund	Total
Balance, August 1, 2016	\$29,432,105	\$44,115,540	\$2,970,519	\$76,518,164
<b>Total comprehensive loss for the year</b>				
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	-
<b>Total comprehensive loss</b>	<u>(626,417)</u>	<u>(3,440,000)</u>	<u>(2,449,856)</u>	<u>(6,516,273)</u>
Balance, July 31, 2017	\$28,805,688	\$40,675,540	\$ 520,663	\$70,001,891
Balance, August 1, 2017	\$28,805,688	\$40,675,540	\$ 520,663	\$70,001,891
<b>Total comprehensive loss for the year</b>				
Loss for the year	-	-	(1,450,878)	(1,450,878)
Amortization	(632,992)	-	-	(632,992)
Other comprehensive income (see note 18)	1,748,000	21,550,617	-	23,298,617
<b>Total comprehensive loss</b>	<u>1,115,008</u>	<u>21,550,617</u>	<u>(1,450,878)</u>	<u>21,214,747</u>
Balance, July 31, 2018	\$29,920,696	\$62,226,157	\$ (930,215)	\$91,216,638

The notes on pages 7 to 26 are an integral part of these financial statements.

## UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE

### STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS YEARS ENDED JULY 31, 2018 AND 2017 (IN BELIZE DOLLARS)

	2018	2017
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Loss for the year	\$(1,450,878)	\$(5,889,856)
Adjustments for:		
- Amortization grant income	(632,992)	(626,417)
- Depreciation	1,426,041	1,426,302
- Provision for gratuity and severance	1,034,701	607,344
- Interest income	(88,678)	(110,114)
- Loss on disposal of property & equipment	59,539	3,446,007
Operating profit (loss) before working capital changes	347,733	(1,146,734)
Changes in:		
Student receivables – net	235,501	92,444
Prepayment	(16,159)	50,406
Other receivables	(66,927)	(5,095)
Government of Belize receivables	78,599	542,164
Employee loans and advances	11,618	8,878
Other assets	79,125	155,811
Inventory	72,452	78,063
Accounts payable	1,126,092	(277,216)
Operating profit (loss) after working capital changes	1,868,034	(501,279)
Severance paid	-	(45,569)
Interest received	88,678	110,114
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	1,956,712	(436,734)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(1,282,606)	(849,367)
Short term investments – unrestricted	(72,297)	470,912
Other investments	-	(100,000)
Net cash used in investing activities	(1,354,903)	(478,455)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Line of credit	(34,048)	(77,543)
Deferred income	(908,521)	70,441
Deferred grant	(79,125)	(562,599)
Net cash used in financing activities	(1,021,694)	(569,701)
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – UNRESTRICTED	(419,885)	(1,484,890)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, AUGUST 1 – UNRESTRICTED	1,492,893	843,645
NET TRANSFERS FROM CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – RESTRICTED	271,874	2,134,138
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – UNRESTRICTED, JULY 31	\$1,344,882	\$1,492,893

LET'S BUILD UP  
TOGETHER



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