

# Bi-Annual Newsletter

May 2017



**COBEC**

Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation

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*This summer's*  
**CONFERENCE HOST**

**SUMMER 2017:**  
JULY 26-28 • MADISON, WI  
MADISON AREA  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

**IN MEMORY OF TRACY HARRINGTON**

One of COBEC’s founding members will be dearly missed. Calvin Tracy Harrington passed away on April 22, 2017 at the age of 74. Tracy’s love of learning and travel, his strong sense of fair play, and his joie de vivre, made a lasting impact on his family and wide network of friends.

Tracy earned a degree in sociology from Washington and Lee University in 1965, then moved his family to Africa, where he and his wife, Judy, taught English at a Tanzanian secondary school. After earning a Ph.D from Florida State University in the 1970’s, Tracy returned with his family to Africa, this time as a professor at the University of Zambia. Tracy later was a pioneer in the field of international education as Director for International Programs at Murray State University and Valdosta State University, where he internationalized the campuses and established a number of faculty and student exchange programs.

A memorial service for Tracy will be held at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Tallahassee at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2. All are welcome. Memorial donations may be made to Big Bend Hospice or Goodwood Gardens in Tallahassee.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM FEBRUARY CONFERENCE IN BELIZE



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## BELIZEAN FACULTY VISIT CCGA

The College of Coastal Georgia (CCGA) was honored and privileged to host representatives from three Belizean institutions -- Sacred Heart Junior College, Independence Junior College and Ecumenical Junior College -- last July to discuss potential international partnering initiatives. The opportunity for the Belizean contingent to meet with a cross-section of CCGA representatives helped identify ways to cultivate potential partnerships between our respective institutions.

One immediate outcome from the summer discussions was to establish an institutional exchange whereby faculty are paired with their corresponding counterparts in various disciplines to teach in a class setting, engage in class observations, help design curriculum, and conduct course assessment. This initiative has now become a reality as three Belizean hospitality management lecturers – Ms. Josephine Juan, Sacred Heart Junior College; Ms. Lyann Onecia Flowers, Stann Creek Independence Junior College; and Ms. Tiresie Lino, Ecumenical Junior College – spent two weeks (April 3-15) shadowing CCGA hospitality management faculty and meeting with hotel and resort professionals in the local community. Among the activities the guest lecturers participated in included hands-on full-service observation in the preparation of campus dining events; discussion of ACFEF competencies for culinary courses taught that meet industry expected student learning outcomes; opportunity to stage with a current culinary arts student in each course they participate in; participation in hospitality management courses; visits to hotels and resorts on Saint Simons Island, Jekyll Island, and Sea Island, Georgia; and trips to externship sites to meet the operations staff and learn how an externship is established and maintained.



Dr. Tracy Pellett, provost and vice president for academic affairs at CCGA, noted that this faculty exchange program is “a microcosm of our expansion efforts to create a seamless pipeline where our students, faculty and staff can take advantage of the benefits and opportunities afforded through study abroad and other global educational exchanges.”

“The hope and expectation is that through this faculty exchange program our three visiting lecturers will expand their teaching abilities with new perspectives, along with engaging cross-cultural experiences, which they bring back to Belize to share with their respective institutions,” stated Dr. James (Jim) Lynch, Interim Director of International Education and Director of Institutional Effectiveness. “The next step is to send faculty from CCGA to Belize to partake in a comparable experience.”

*Submitted by  
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## DR. LONGSWORTH INDUCTED AS PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL OF THE UWI OPEN CAMPUS



On Thursday, March 16, 2017, Dr. Luz Longsworth was inducted as the third Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The University of the West Indies (The UWI) Open Campus. The induction ceremony took place in Belize, where Dr. Longsworth is a naturalized citizen, having served in the country through various capacities in academia and business. It was witnessed by over 150 guests including the Governor General of Belize, Sir Colville Young; the Lord Mayor of Belize, Darrell Bradley; government ministers and UWI officials and academics from across the Caribbean.

In addition to being the third Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Open Campus, Dr. Longsworth is also the Campus' third female leader. Commenting on this occurrence she said, "While we often celebrate the first woman who achieves a breakthrough, it really is only when we have evidence of the continuity of that breakthrough that we can claim true gender progress. I therefore celebrate being the third female principal of the Open Campus and salute my predecessors; our first female principal Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald and our second principal, Professor Eudine Barriteau, as well as former Deputy Principal Professor, Vivienne Roberts and current Deputy Principal Professor Julie Meeks for their roles in ensuring that we are making our firsts in the Open Campus last for a long time!"

The ceremony commenced with a traditional university academic procession and the proceedings included remarks from University Registrar, Mr. C. William Iton and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, greetings from Head, Open Campus Country Site Belize, Mrs. Jane Bennett; President of the Guild of Students, Mr. Howard Brown; Alumni Representative, Dr. Lisa Johnson; Private Sector Representative, Mrs. Kim Aikman; Campus Council Chair (Ag), Dr. Lennox Honychurch; Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Cave Hill Campus, Professor V. Eudine Barriteau; Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, St Augustine Campus, Professor Brian Copeland; Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Mona Campus, Professor Archibald McDonald; Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, Belize, The Honourable Patrick Faber and a tribute from Director of Open Campus Country Sites, Dr. Francis Severin.

Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles then presented Dr. Longsworth to Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne with the ceremonial robing for the induction. In his remarks, Sir George declared, "You now have the opportunity to lead the newest of the institution's major centres of learning and research. You will also have the opportunity to put into practice what you have often declared as almost a holy grail: improving the lot of Caribbean people through education. No other responsibility is greater than this: that of helping to shape and guide the minds and thinking of the young people of our region and I have absolute confidence in your capacity to discharge that responsibility."

Dr. Longsworth's induction speech centred on advice she received prior to the ceremony which she summarized in three 'C' principles: Community, Commitment and Conchs. She acknowledged the community of family and friends that contributed to her foundation, values and core principles and The UWI community for her academic, intellectual and activist formation. Explaining the second 'C', she alluded, "...the commitment of my colleagues to our mandate of expanding access and

leading innovation (of The UWI Open Campus) has been unwavering.” Lastly, her final ‘C’ represented the Queen Conch shell. She said, “This symbol of the conch shell—a symbol that is recognized throughout our region from Belize to Barbados from Trinidad and Tobago to Turks and Caicos. This is a symbol of resilience, it is a symbol of struggle, it is a symbol of community, it is a symbol of a call to action that our ancestors in each one of these Caribbean lands used to bring our communities to action.”

The ceremony ended with traditional Belizean performances by Garifuna drummers & dancers, followed by the departure of the academic procession and a cocktail reception sponsored by the Belize Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture.



*Submitted by  
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**INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE - PROFESSOR EMERITUS CLEMENT SANKAT**

On Thursday, July 27, 2017, Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat will be inducted as the 7th President of University of Belize beginning at 3:00 p.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m.

There will be special entertainment by the UWI Arts Steel and the UWI Arts Chorale of the UWI St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad.



## APPOINTMENT OF DR. MARIOT SIMON AS ACADEMIC AFFAIRS VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



The University of Belize is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Mariot Simon as Vice President reporting to the President on Academic Affairs.

Dr. Mariot Simon graduated from the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship with a Doctorate in Business Administration with a specialization in International Management. He also holds a Master's in Business Administration and a Master's in Agricultural Economics. He has extensive experience in economic development, emerging sectors development, export market development and international marketing. He worked for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in that country's national economic development agency where he worked in export marketing, industrial development and investment promotion. He also managed a World Bank funded grant programme aimed at increasing the export competitiveness of businesses.

Dr. Simon migrated to the United States in 2003 and pursued his doctoral studies where he graduated from Nova Southeastern University in 2008. On completion of his doctoral studies, Dr. Simon worked with Strayer University, initially in the capacity of full time lecturer and then as a Dean. Dr. Simon taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in business, economics, management and leadership. As a Dean, Dr. Simon has extensive experience in academic leadership. He developed new policies and procedures at his campuses to streamline operations to increase efficiencies. He was the Dean at multi locational campuses and ensured that quality education was delivered to students. He continuously strives for excellence in delivery of the educational product and focuses on excelling in the provision of customer service to various publics.

Dr. Simon has an avid research interest in small and medium enterprise management and development, international trade, leadership, entrepreneurship and international strategy. Dr. Simon is currently pursuing studies in Christian Apologetics. He is a U.S. citizen and a native of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

UB thanks Dr. Cynthia Thompson for holding over the Academic Division over the last 3 months.

*Submitted by  
Office of Public Information  
University of Belize*



**EXPANDING LEARNING IN BELIZE THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT**

In January 2017, seven faculty and fifteen students from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, located in Green Bay, traveled to Belize. NWTC has coordinated a study abroad program to Belize for a number of years with a focus on early childhood education. In 2016, NWTC was awarded the Capacity Building Grant, funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by Partners of the Americas. The goal of the grant is to increase study abroad participation, with an emphasis on diverse students, and strengthen relationships with international partners. The College's partnerships in Belize was an integral part of the Capacity Building Grant. The grant activities focus on expanding beyond early childhood education, to also include health and sustainability study abroad programs. During the program in January, faculty from health, environmental, and sustainable agriculture academic programs shadowed the early childhood education leaders and students. They were also spending their time gaining ideas to develop a study abroad program that fit the needs of their students. The same faculty are currently organizing itineraries and recruiting students for the 2018 programs to Belize. In the end, the College is dedicated to growing the study abroad programs in Belize because of the enriching impact on the students. Here are a few of the 2017 student's testimonials from their experience in Belize:

“I feel that seeing the cultural differences of education from another cultural standpoint provided invaluable information for me going forward in my field. It was great to be challenged to see things from another perspective- something in my field that is highly sought after [is] providing culturally competent care for children.”

“[Study abroad] is eye-opening in ways that you will never understand if you don't go. We think that we learn and know from reading a book, but there is nothing like personal experience to challenge us and help us grow; personally and professionally. You will benefit in more ways than you can imagine.”

“[Studying abroad] has shown me so much as a future educator about what it means to truly meet the needs of your students. It taught me that there is nothing more important than building relationships with your students and providing them with a place where they feel happy, healthy, and safe.”

The Capacity Building Grant is a one year opportunity; therefore, the grant will end this August. However, it will have a lasting impact as NWTC strives to grow its collaborative partnerships in Belize. NWTC would like to share its appreciation with COBEC and for their valuable support.



*Submitted by  
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Northeast Wisconsin Technical College*





## COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IN BELIZE

Photographs below show the Columbus State University's Spring Break study abroad program in Belize. This program is led by Dr. Doug Tompson.



(1) A group of students studying 'History of the Caribbean' at Columbus State University traveled to Belize during Spring Break. While there they toured the Mayan sites of Cahal Pech and Xunantunich, visited Stann Creek Ecumenical Junior College, and saw the Museum of Belize--among many other activities.



(2) The students visited the Mayan Women's Cooperative in San Antonio. There they watched a pottery demonstration and ate a traditional meal. They also had a chance to try their hand at grinding corn, and to prepare their own tortillas.

*Submitted by  
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### STAY CONNECTED

Visit [www.COBEC.org](http://www.COBEC.org) to stay connected with news, updates, and events.

Contact Dr. Rick Bateman, Jr. at [rbateman@bpcc.edu](mailto:rbateman@bpcc.edu) for news-related events, questions, or concerns.