

St. John's College Celebrates with Belize 400 Attend Alumni Banquet



The SJC President's Alumni Awards Banquet was hosted in succession by the Alumni Board, comprised of a dozen enviably devoted graduates whose leadership has fostered a kinship among the School, its Graduates and the Community. As the College reaches out to its former students, and to all affiliated with the school, it creates rewarding opportunities for alumni/ae many years after their enrollment, confirming a vital aspect of school mission in the mutual cultivation of bonds of friendship and support. In advancing its mission, St. John's College shares its resources with graduates as far as is possible, and, in turn, the school disposes itself to the gestures of goodwill and beneficence on the part of all of us as beneficiaries of its enduring service and endearing work. In honoring its graduates, several outstanding Belizeans have been recognized for their leadership in the service of our community: Mr. Francis Woods, HS '89, The Alumni Achievement Award; Mr. Antonio Habet, HS '77 JC '79, The Alumni Appreciation Award; Ms. Tricia Gideon, JC '01, The Outstanding Recent Alumni Award; Mr. William Aguilar, HS '72, The Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award

Undoubtedly, as the College celebrates 125 years of service to Belize and beyond, an additional award, The Lifetime Achievement Award, was given in memory and honor of the late Rt. Hon. George C. Price, HS '35. To relive a little of the Association's history, archives have captured in significantly vivid form, the triumphant spirit after young George Price became the President of the Alumni Association in the early 1950s. In his second term, his executive committee was voted back into office. George Price kept the post of President for three consecutive terms when he was re-elected unopposed at the end of his second term. The College's Alumni Association expressed its profound gratitude for his contributions to the Association, in its early years, as well as his involvement in the life of the College.

Going beyond recognition, the Alumni Association has launched a scholarship in its name to an incoming student in the High School division. The scholarship was awarded to Robin Rodriguez whose goal is to explore a career path in the field of science. To help in the development to pursue this career goal, Robin will be working closely with the Science Department and has been elected to serve as a prefect commencing at the start of his second year of High School. This scholastic opportunity will undoubtedly aid in the development of his spiritual, intellectual, social and physical capabilities. The Alumni Board members are very happy indeed for the young gentleman and wish him the very best in his academic endeavours.

The distinguished honorees received their recognition at the banquet on Saturday, September 1st at the Biltmore Plaza. The College President, Mr. Jorge Espat, along with the President of the Alumni Association, Mr. Valentin Marin, greeted honorees and guests and commended the efforts of the Alumni Board on behalf of the SJC community of graduates and friends. As a part of the celebration, those whose commitment to the advancement of education through the commission of support were honored as well and included: Brothers Habet, Mirage Belize, Love FM, Benny's Enterprises Ltd., GS-COM, Heritage Bank Ltd., Sol Belize Ltd., First Caribbean International Bank Ltd., and Atlantic International Bank Ltd, Atlantic Insurance Ltd., SMART and Belize Telemedia Ltd.

Finally, the evening program also featured a special presentation of honor, shared by our elder Jesuit, Fr. John Stochl, S.J. The interest in ensuring the furtherance of Ignation ideals among students, alumni/ae from one generation to the next over so many decades remains truly spectacular and was affirmed through the deep reflections by Fr. Stochl on the love and passion displayed by so many for St. John's College and Belize. He most gracefully expressed personal gratitude for having been a part of the Society's educational apostolate at SJC and of course the College and all that are affiliated, are in turn grateful to him for his untiring love and years of service that have helped in the development of the students and St. John's.



"125 years since its founding, SJC cherishes the love of questioning and learning, the pursuit of truth and goodness, the diffusion of knowledge through research, teaching and learning, and of testing limits. Our teachers and students change the world. Join us in creating the finest Belizean Jesuit school."

Jorge L. Espat, President

Celebrating Religious Faith

Living the long-held tradition of celebrating our fellowship with the Church as a faith community, framed by a 450-year practice among Jesuit schools, each division of the College gathered its student body and faculty to pray to the Holy Spirit for a successful school year. The Most Reverend Bishop Dorick Wright, D.D. and Most Reverend Bishop Christopher Glancy, along with Jesuit Con-celebrants delivered and celebrated mass with the faculty, administrators and students in both divisions.



On Thursday 19th of September, the atmosphere in the Fordyce Memorial Chapel was filled with much enthusiasm as the students welcomed Jesuit Con-celebrants to lead St. John's College's annual Independence Day Mass. The homily was delivered by Fr. Matthew Ruhl, S.J. and admittedly his talk earned every ear within the Chapel. He recounted past experiences which truly exemplified the qualities of our country being a flamboyant, flourishing, radiant, ever-blooming blossom. His excellent choice of words effortlessly ignited in all the students an eagerness to give more of themselves to our Belize. Words of wisdom and humility made evident the need for all to take on the initiative and goal to promote awareness and the reality of peace amongst ourselves, peers and ultimately, Belize.

Following the High School's Independence Day Mass, the Junior College also took on the role of patriotism and hosted an ecumenical service for the Country. Students from the various areas of discipline gathered in the Student Center for the service which commemorated with a medley of Belizean Cultural pieces. Anglican Revered Ilona Smiling led the invocation and Pastor Orville Williams, of First Wesleyan Church, addressed those gathered with solemn blessings. The College's gratitude goes out to the Campus Ministry for the planning of all spiritual activities that made the festive month an uplifting and undoubtedly unifying one.



Celebrating Belize's Independence

On September 20th, the College joined its efforts together to celebrate the 31st anniversary of Belize's Independence. Students from both divisions, High School and Junior College marched proudly, flaunting waves of Belizean flags, hand painted banners and the school's signature ripples of white and blue. The legions of students that marched are a reflection of their personal love and the school's unwavering love, devotion, and yearning to give back to their motherland, Belize. Currently celebrating its 125th anniversary, St. John's College reflects on the years it has been able to serve and grow with the nation and eagerly looks forward to the future: A future through which we may be able to impact the lives of many Belizeans by promoting spiritual and social growth.



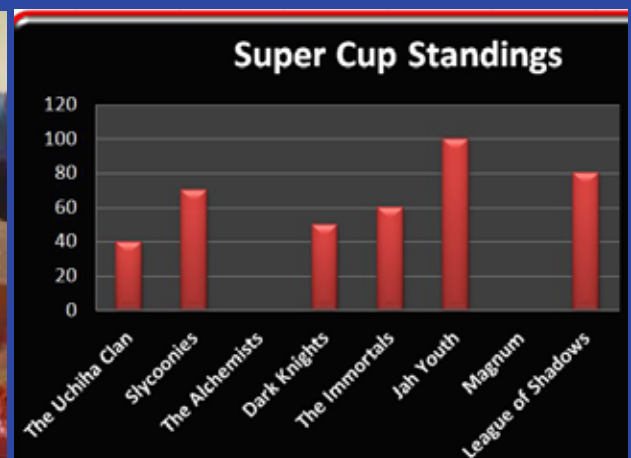
BELIZE @ 31 in IOWA



As part of Belize's 31st commemoration of Independence the Image Factory and St. John's College collaborated with the University of Upper Iowa in Fayette on a lecture and art exhibition. Yasser Musa, High School lecturer, delivered a lecture on art and ideas about Belize's role in contemporary visual art to an audience of students and professors at the Liberal Arts Auditorium at the University. An art opening and reception were also held for the exhibit, Belize @ 31, now on display at the Bing Davis Memorial Gallery on the University campus. Professor Elissa Wenthe facilitated and organized the exhibit and Professor John Siblik, chair of the Art program, fostered the collaboration between Belize and Iowa.

Super Cup Tournament

The Super Cup Tournament is a year-long competition comprised of 10 different sporting/ intellectual events. Each team has 6 members and will compete in each event, earning points. The team with the most points at the end of the tournament will be awarded the Super Cup (with their names engraved) and a cash prize. Events include 3x3 basketball, 4x4 football, 4x4 volleyball, debates, 100 meter sprints, marathons, quizzes, ping pong matches and much more. Here is a look at the winning results and of few encounters the teams have had over the past two months.



Expanding Knowledge and Skills in The Cyber World

Despite being a loss, it is always a great honor when our faculty members strive and excel in their educational aspirations. Mr. Stuart Simmons, Jr., former Director of Information Technology at St. John's College, has returned to work with the College for his dissertation. Stuart is currently enrolled as a doctoral candidate in the Education and Human Service Program at Nova Southeastern University with a major in Instructional Technology and Distance Education. The title of his Research: Instructional Technology in Belize: Teachers Perspectives and Attitudes toward Technology Adoption would yield the benefits where technology mediated courses are less costly. The primary purpose of the Research is to investigate and describe analyzed teachers' pre and post pedagogical and attitude perceptions toward the adoption and use of a Course Management System (CMS). In gathering findings, the study is utilizing a quantitative methodology to collect and analyze; hence, Junior College and High School lecturers, who serve as the participants in this study, have attended a 2- hr orientation session where they were briefed on how to access and use the CMS. Surveys have been distributed to record current standpoints, and during a ten week period of using the CMS, lecturers can request support on curriculum and technical issues from the implementation team. The CMS is called Moodle, which is a software package developed by Marin Dougiamas, and used for producing internet-based courses. The College extends its best wishes to Mr. Stuart Simmons for continued success in the attainment of his doctoral degree.



Going Viral

A Student's Guide to Reproductive Health and HIV & AIDS in Belize

The authors, Gian Cho and Kathleen Azueta are both lecturers in science at St. John's College Junior College. They produced the 150-page text book through a grant from the Ambassador's HIV Prevention Program of the U.S. Embassy in Belmopan. It is a non-profit venture on their part, and 50 copies of the book were donated to each Junior College countrywide as well as to the University of Belize, and also a few copies to some public libraries.

The book is geared toward students at the Associate Degree level majoring in non-science disciplines. The content of the text is designed to accompany a general science course on reproductive health and HIV & AIDS, which may be required by some students to graduate. The authors are currently offering a course this semester at St. John's Junior College.



An electronic edition of the book is available free to download when you join the group on Facebook:

"GoingViralTextbook"

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/goingviraltextbook>

JC Travelling Club's trip to Goff's Caye



There is more than just academic development when we talk about a Jesuit Education. This academic year, the Junior College launched the start of a new club for its students. The Travelling Club is one of the biggest clubs consisting of about 100 students. The main goal of the club is not just a leisurely motive, but rather the belief and reality that in exposing our students to Belize's natural habitats and wildlife, and all we have to offer, they develop a level of appreciation for Belize and the initiative to preserve the environment. This direct exposure undoubtedly is a learning experience in addition to the classroom environment and for some is a lifetime experience as well. As the country celebrated the Battle of St. George's Caye Day, the Junior College's Travelling Club, set out on their first adventure with a day trip to Goff's Caye. Again on September 29th, the group had another trip where they visited Cockscomb Basin in Southern Belize. Some activities there included hiking, cave tubing and of course swimming at the bottom of refreshing and rushing waterfalls. The next trip is scheduled for early November where the students plan to visit Half Moon Caye and explore sea life at National reserve, The Blue Hole. Moderators of the Club include Mrs. Marcia Bouloy, Ms. Tricia Gideon, Ms. Kristy Chan, Mr. Evan Dalton, and Ms. Kenisha Williams. Two honorary faculty members that assisted significantly also include Ms. Adelaide Sabido and Mr. Pedro Popper. Congratulations to them all for their efforts and organization to give students a wonderful and fun experience.



Success Starts with Active Participation

The Ministry of Education Youth & Sports hosted The Belize Youth Award Ceremony 2012 at the Bliss Institute on September 12 to bestow national honors on outstanding young Belizeans between the ages of 15-29. St. John's College had several recipients on the spot light. Congratulations to all recipients and wishes for continued success.



Academic Excellence Awards: Perry Diaz and Siian Rancharan



Person Living with Disability Award:
Dennis Ma and Miguel Alpuche



Youth Minister's Award: Tricia Gideon,
JC Economics Professor
Earning 1st Place



Secondary / Tertiary School Club Award:
B.I.O.N.I.C. Believe it or Not I Care 'JC Peer
Counseling Group', Earning 1st Place



Youth in Sports Award:
JC Kaya Cattouse

SCHOOL-WIDE RAFFLE
Launching in October/ November
Drawing date Friday, 8th February
2013

Projects Galore

Key to fulfilling administrative responsibility of the physical development of the College plant--one step at a time in re-claiming glory

St. John's College, as in all Jesuit schools, considers the physical environment a critical dimension of its work in the provision of quality academic and educational services to students and an important consideration in the plan for the community life of the College. Accordingly, the maintenance and upkeep of the fixed assets of the College incorporates the other aspect of administrative responsibility for the proper delivery of support services to the divisions. Over the past three months, a number of projects were pursued with the aim of meeting the significant expectation for ensuring the continued attractiveness, enchantment and charm of the physical environment of the Landívar campus, the majority of which were made possible with the direct support of the business community. It's an undertaking that in the very least requires a steady indeed riveted focus but for now we encourage only a sneak peek at some highlights:

- * Raising of the football field
- * Installation of a culvert at the Junior College entrance
- * Replacement of windows in the High School administrative building
- * Clearing debris across the campus property
- * Retrofitting pipes at the Junior College
- * Clearing the drainage system
- * Improving availability of amenities for enhanced professional service and personal comfort



Welcoming new minds & rewarding those who strive for Success

It takes quite a bit of foresight and even more energy in executing activities designed to ensure a level of smoothness in students' adapting to their new environments and communities, whether in the High School, the Junior College or the Extension. August 13th and 27th marked the start of a new school year for the Junior College and High School, respectively. Each division held a day or two of events geared towards the youths acquainting themselves with teachers, faculty, each other and more importantly what is expected from them in terms of academic, spiritual, and intellectual development.



Honors Convocations

Giving encouragement to students fulfills many aims, among them the acknowledgement of achievement and the motivation to either measure up or do better. The start of each semester signals the anticipation by many who excel in their studies of walking away with stocks of honor cards and receiving heaps of high praise from administrators and faculty alike. Over the last three weeks, the Junior College and High School divisions recognized their students, with the following results noted:

Junior College

Dean's List [GPA of 3.5] 123 Students

Honor Roll [GPA of 3-3.49] 232 Students

A total of sixteen students topped the Dean's List with a perfect 4.0 GPA for last semester. Our heart felt congrats to all of them.

High School

August 30th marked the day for the distribution of honors among last semester's freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Eric Chang, a first form student, earned the highest marks, with a GPA of 4.44, followed by 2nd Former Yan Cattouse with a GPA of 4.36 and 3rd Former Justyn Craig with a GPA of 4.27.

Exam Placements: One way to measure proficiency

Sitting exams set by overseas bodies creates its own challenges such as anxiety but provides an important basis by which to measure the rigor of academic programs in the school. All CXC exams were taken this summer, with the following results:

125 students registered for CXC exams, with 76 securing passes in 6 or more subjects, from among a total of 21 subjects; the two top achievers for St. John's College High School, are Ahmad Palacio and Inaru Enriquez, who both sat 12 CXC exams and secured ten Grade 1s, and two Grade 2.

Our congratulations to all students.



Enrollment Statistics: With over 2,000, the numbers are convincingly revealing

Looking over the numbers provides us all with a great deal of comfort, especially since the enrollment levels bear out a very pronounced desire for an SJC education. Leading the way is the Junior College, with almost 1,200, spread between the day and night students. First Form classes make up about 1/3 of the High School's student body of a little over 600, while the Extension comprises of just under 200 students.

Decriminalization of Marijuana Debate

The Junior College hosted its annual Social Justice Forum on Tuesday 25th of September in the Fordyce Chapel with a mass gathering of students ready to listen to an intense debate. The first team comprised of Senator Karen Bodden and Pastor Louis Wade who were in the opposition that decriminalization not be passed for marijuana. Team two included Mr. John Newport and Mr. Clinton "Pulu" Lightburn, who supported the movement. Both teams, whether users or not, brought their arguments forward in a diplomatic and respectful way where professionalism and peace was maintained. Mr. John Woods was also present as a guest and addressed the student population on his views towards the act and encouraged that there be some promotion of peace as there is the need for a decrease in violence and an increase in our faith. His words uttered that God is the only one who can steer our nation through the right path. After the debate, students had the opportunity to speak with the presenters and ask questions to both teams.



Youth Ambassadors Visit Belize & the College

In the last issue of the Alumni Newsletter, a notification was placed of High School recipient, Santiago Mora, being selected as one of thirteen Youth Ambassadors for Belize. Before leaving on his one-month visit to various US destinations and leadership conferences, Santiago was asked to deliver the welcome address to a group of young American Ambassadors who came to Belize in August. Assistant Headmaster for Student Services, Ms. Sol Yam and Director for Advancement and Alumni Relations, Ms. Adelaide Sabido, were also invited to take part in the event sponsored by the United States Embassy and Partners of the Americas. Despite being a little nervous, young Santiago showed true ambassadorial qualities as he spoke very highly of the great attributes of his county Belize and of his gratitude as a recipient of a Jesuit Education at St. John's College. He addressed all gathered and challenged the coordinators to request of their guests their assessment of the education system of Belize and offered a special invitation for a visit to his High School, St. John's College. Our heartfelt Congratulations to him and wishes for all the best in his continued work as a Youth Ambassador.



"It is only through an education that we can develop ourselves to be fully rounded critical thinkers ready to take transformative action in the changing world being driven more and more towards technology. EDUCATED, we can stand together and turn our DREAMS into WISHES, our WISHES into GOALS and our GOALS into REALITY."

Santiago Mora, Youth Ambassador for Belize and 3rd Form Student

In Grateful Remembrance

Lucila Evangelina Matus , d. 9 August 2012, Mother of Jose Matus, HS '67 JC '69, Gustavo Matus, HS '81, JC '83, Salvador Matus, HS '78, Lionel Matus, HS '72, JC '74, Carlos Matus HS '93 and other relatives.

Jose Espat Sr., 24 August 2012, Father of Jose Espat Jr., HS '84 JC '86, Teresita Espat JC '85, and Slaimen Espat, HS '88, JC '90 and other relatives.

Ernest Raymond Leslie Sr. d. 23 July 2012, Husband of Mrs. Pamela Leslie, HS Staff Member.

Margaret Valerie Eiley, d. 4 Aug 2012, Mother of Raymond Eiley, HS '79 JC '81, Victor Eiley and other relatives.

Dora Codd, d. 11 August 2012, Mother of Therese Codd, Robert Codd HS '81, Francis Codd, HS '83, Dora Codd, JC '90, and other relatives.

Khalid Hyde, d. 23 September 2012, Son of Cordel Hyde JC '92, and nephew of Mr. Evan Garnet, HS Faculty Member.