



THE LINK

Belize Chapter



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QUOTE

"The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing."

- [Albert Einstein](#)

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UWI Open Campus, Belize Centre welcomes talks about the CCJ

By Ion Cacho
UWI Open Campus Belize

In March of this year The University of the West Indies (UWI), Open Campus (OC), Belize welcomed two professors to the beautiful jewel as they came to meet with the Prime Minister and other government officials to discuss the issue of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).

Visiting were Professor Simeon McIntosh who is the Dean of the Faculty of Law, UWI, Mona Campus and Professor Winston Anderson who is the Executive Director of the Caribbean Law Institute Centre (CLIC). They met with the Prime Minister of Belize Hon. Dean Barrow and the Attorney-General Hon. Wilfred Elrington where a number of very important issues were discussed none more so than the CCJ and Belize's position as a CARICOM member and a signatory to the original jurisdiction.

They also, held two sessions at the UWI, Open Campus, Belize Centre Auditorium. The first was with members of the Bar Association and the second was a public symposium where the professors made presentations. Professor McIntosh presented on "**West Indian Constitutional Authority: The role of the Caribbean Court of Justice**". While Professor Anderson presented on "**Delinking from the Privy Council and adopting the Caribbean Court of Justice**".

The presentations were a success as there was a great deal of participation from both the Bar Association and the General Public.



Prof. Anderson

After these consultations It was revealed by the Prime Minister that Belize would be replacing the Privy Council with the CCJ.

Belize to abolish appeals to Privy Council and join CCJ

By **Oscar Ramjeet**
Reprinted from: **Caribbean Net News, March 14, 2009**

BELIZE CITY, Belize: Belize will rid itself of the Privy Council and will accept the Caribbean Court of Justice as its final court of appeal.

Belize Prime Minister, Dean Barrow This announcement was made by the country's Prime Minister Dean Barrow when he addressed CARICOM leaders at the opening of the Twentieth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community in Belize City on Thursday.

Barrow, who was among the first batch of West Indian trained lawyers graduating in 1975 from the Caribbean Council of Education, said, "It is my intention to end Belize's hesitation to let go to the coat tails of the Privy Council and embrace the Caribbean Court of Justice as Belize's final appellate court, thereby enhancing our Caribbean identity." The Prime Minister, who is also Chairman of CARICOM, added, "The significance of our apparent unwillingness to replace the Privy Council with our first class jurists is not lost on our populations. It can't help to contribute to cynicism about the seriousness of our commitment to Caribbean identity."

Barrow admitted that his country should have abolished appeals to the Privy Council long ago when he said, "I can hardly say this just to be a scold, since Belize in this matter is one of the guiltiest parties. I introduce the subject rather in order to employ precept and example.

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I commend the merit of the court as a critical linchpin of our government, and I also undertake to propose shortly here at home, the constitutional amendment that would allow Belize to sign on to the appellate jurisdiction.”

He took over the Belize government 13 months ago after he defeated Said Musa's party. Musa is also an attorney, but was not interested in joining the regional court. Only Guyana and Barbados have so far accepted the CCJ, which was established in April 2005, as the final court of appeal.

Current Situation: Belize and the Caribbean Court of Justice

June 2009

At the recent sitting of the House of Representatives, the Prime Minister of Belize Hon. Dean Barrow tabled proposals in the National Assembly to change the Belize Constitution to replace the jurisdiction of the Privy Council by giving the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) powers as Belize's final appellate court.

The Pearson representatives expressed their appreciation that UWI took the time to attend the presentation and book fair. The presentation was short as they explained that the main vision was to try and equip tertiary level institutions with updated text books that students would find relevant for their respective areas of studies. They also explained the negative impact of photocopiers in libraries as it relates to copywriting. They further gave reason for their presence which was to try and facilitate the schools with books at an affordable cost so that all the students would have access to their own individual copies of text books.

The books on display covered several subject areas which included: English and Linguistics, Psychology, Sociology, Research Methods, Environmental Studies, Anthropology, Business Studies, Management, Human Resources Management, Mathematics, Accounting, Business Law, Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, and Nursing studies to name a few.

Catalogues collected for the UWI Library:
Pearson Health Science 2009
Longman 2009 Law Catalogue (Pearson/ Longman)



ON LINE
 ON SITE
 ON DEMAND

UWI Represents at Pearson Education Book Fair



March 24th, 2009, The University of Belize (UB), Belmopan Campus, was the venue for a presentation and book fair from one of the biggest book publishers in the world Pearson Publishers. The presentation was given by two representatives from Pearson Education in Jamaica.





Visitors and happenings at the UWI Belize Centre

During the last couple of months the UWI, Open Campus, Belize Site was the host of historic events as well as for a couple of UWI officials and other distinguished visitors.

The first guest at the Belize Centre was Professor Zee Edgell well known Belizean author of the book "**Beka Lamb**" and three other books including her latest "**Time and the river**". Professor Edgell came to the centre to visit with the Head, Mrs. Jane Bennett and the staff and she was given a mini tour of the Centre. Later this year Professor Edgell will be given an honorary degree (**DLitt**) *Doctor of Letters* from the University of the West Indies for her literary contributions to the Caribbean most recognizable is the book **Beka Lamb** which has been placed on the CXC curriculum.



Head Mrs. Bennett with Zee Edgell in the library

The second guest is no stranger to the Belize Centre for she previously served as Resident Tutor/Head. Mrs. Luz Longsworth who is the **Director of the Open Campus Country Sites** was doing her rounds to all the thirteen Open Campus Sites to inform about the progress of the fourth campus of The University of the West Indies. Mrs. Longsworth met with the Head of the Belize Centre and all the staff both as a group and individually.

She informed that some new programmes would be made available online and it is anticipated that the student body would increase. She also stated that as internet access becomes more readily available education via that mode and teleconferencing will become a more viable choice for those seeking quality, relevant and accredited education. Online, on site, on demand from anywhere in the world.

The University of the West Indies through it's fourth campus (Open Campus) continues to be the regional leader in education for over sixty years.



Mrs. Luz Longsworth
Director, Open Campus Country Sites

Our third guest during this period was Mrs. Karen Lequay, **Campus Librarian, Open Campus**. As Campus Librarian, she has been visiting all the Open Campus Sites to meet with staff and to assess the needs of the libraries. She also focused on the development for library staff at each site including Belize. While here she met with the Chief Librarian of the Belize National Library Service and Information Systems (BNLSIS) Mrs. Joy Ysaguirre. She also met with library personnel from the University of Belize and the National Heritage Library in Belmopan City.

During her short visit she even found time to hold a one-day workshop on E-librarianship for library personnel from across the country which was held at the UWI, OC, Belize auditorium.



Mrs. Lequay



HISTORIC FIRST HELD AT UWI OPEN CAMPUS BELIZE

The University of the West Indies (UWI), Open Campus (OC), Belize was the host for the first ever Mental Health Symposium which was aimed at counsellors, police officers, and community workers for wellness training.

The President of the Mental Health Association, Ms. Jennifer Lovell who is also a lecturer at the University of the West Indies OC, Belize was one of the pioneers behind this historic event. Also giving presentations were, Dr. Debra Murray, a motivational interviewing specialist from Viterbo University, Dr. Ryan Jackson and Neilson Waiter of Yale University and Dr. Shirlene Smith a Belizean born currently employed by the University of North Carolina. The symposium was a great success and there were many participants from all over the country.



FUN ZONE



“A Brand New Day”

By: Jane E. Bennett

**When I awoke to this brand new day,
I gave thanks to my God and I prayed,
That by my side He'd forever stay,
So I'd make it to the end of today.**

UWI Represents at MoE Teachers Day



NEW ARRIVALS at the UWI Book Club:

The Innocent man by John Grisham

The appeal by John Grisham

Comments or suggestions?

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