

THE BLUE HOLE

The BAMSI Bulletin

March 9, 2015

CARICOM Ministers Tour BAMSI

FOCUSED on building the BAMSI brand and securing its position as a top tier research and agricultural development facility within the region, Minister of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Local Government Alfred Gray recently led a delegation of nearly two dozen CARICOM Ministers of Agriculture, the media and representatives from a number of interna-



Executive Director OF BAMSI Dr. Hanna

tional agriculture agencies on a familiarization trip to The Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI).

The Ministers arrived in North Andros to the sounds and sights of a brilliant Junkanoo rush-out, courtesy of the talented girls and boys of Nicholl's Town Primary School and their supportive teachers. The energetic youngsters, outfitted in colourful attire and showcasing their Bay Street worthy dance moves and musical

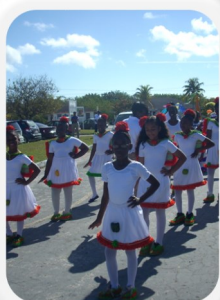


Minister of Agriculture Alfred Gray

prowess, gave the visitors a brief glimpse of the best of the Big Yard and the exciting day that awaited them.

With only a few hours to tour all that is BAMSI, the group headed to the heart of the Institute – the 800 acre farm that currently grows some 25 acres of bananas and 15 acres of papayas. At its peak BAMSI expects to have approximately 150 acres dedicated to the production of bananas, BAMSI

Cont'd on pg. 4



Nicholl's Town Primary School

From the President's Desk

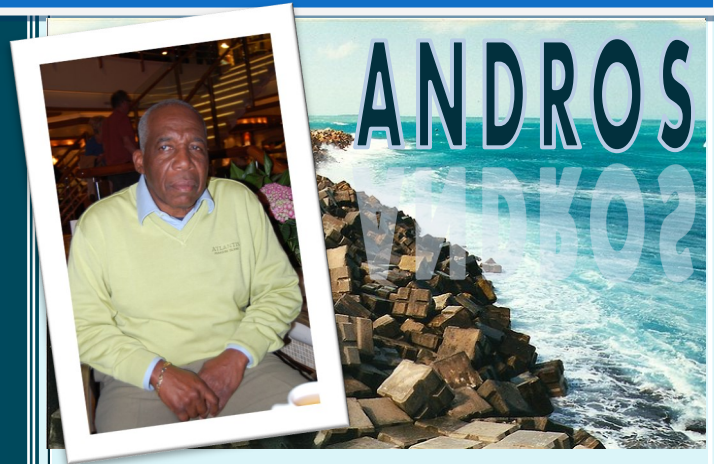
When I saw the first edition of *The Blue Hole*, I was blown away and decided to email it to a number of friends in the U.S., the Caribbean and Europe. I wanted them to see the progress the student body of the Institute had made since September 2014.

The Blue Hole depicts the life of the BAMSI students on Andros, the fifth largest island in the Caribbean Basin and yet one of its most underdeveloped and underpopulated islands not only in the Bahamian archipelago, but the region as well. It also reflects the manner in which the students from the urban locales of Nassau and Freeport have adjusted to the slow-paced lifestyle of one of our Family Islands.

On the other hand, it also displays the positive attributes that the Institute is bringing to the communities of North Andros and the manner in which, though slowly, transforming the tempo of life in these communities.

Institutions like BAMSI are transformative not only at the island level but also nationally as a new generation of Bahamians are being trained to take their place in the various Family Island communities from which they come.

Ambassador Wm. J. Godfrey Eneas



5 FUN FACTS

BOUT DA BIG YARD

- 1. The largest island in The Bahamas**
- 2. Land of the crab (and dough)**
- 3. Boasts the world's third-largest fringing barrier reef.**
- 4. Home to the mythical creatures called Chickcharnees (maybe)**
- 5. The Tongue of the Ocean (a mile-deep abyss filled with marine life) lies at its door step.**

BAMSI's Brightest and Best

AT a glance, it is unlikely that one would come to the conclusion that 25-year-old Gimel Morley would leave the (comparatively) bright lights and fast pace life of the big city – okay, we're talking about Nassau - and move to Andros where she would not only begin a course of critical and imperative study, but would exist in a cultural breezeway light years away from her previous academic and social experiences.

Already the holder of a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina, Gimel's openness to a shift in career, academic training and lifestyle is the result of a small idea that blossomed into a reality with the establishment of BAMSI. As she navigates passage through the Institute her goal is to move closer to what drives her passion - protecting and preserving the environment which she calls home and along the way controlling her financial, creative and soul destiny. Ultimately, Gimel seeks to establish her own company, and help feed her countrymen. A random search of the internet would point her in the direction of aquaponics and aquaculture and her mother's curiosity would fill in the blank with BAMSI.

While she initially found living amidst the pine forests, sandflies and testosterone-rich class environment a challenge, Gimel has fallen in love with island life – or more precisely, Andros island life. She enjoys the peace and quiet that comes with living on a Family Island – it offers a sense of freedom: from fear, from being too crowded, from others invading your personal space. And while many in the largely male student population look at her as just one of the guys or as the big sister, Gimel admits that having more female students would be good. She notes that a lot of her friends are interested in marine science and she is hopeful that they will come to BAMSI to pursue their interests.

While Gimel is quick to note that there is little comparison between her college experience in North Carolina and her work at BAMSI where she is studying toward an Associate Degree in Marine Science, she finds her classes at BAMSI to be interesting, the work of a visual nature and offering a unique hands on experience that she hopes will propel her through, at least the initial stages, of developing her own business.

A typical day for Gimel and the other students begins with a road trip of sorts – driving along a long stretch of North Andros' Queen's Highway, back and forth for lunch and classes and every activity in between. As part of her course Gimel is learning about invertebrates,



Gimel Morley

Student Profile

Student Name:
Gimel Morley

Major:
Marine Science

Expected date of Graduation: 2016

Favourite Colour:
Robin's Egg Blue

Favourite Food:
Conch pasta (say what!)

Favourite Inspirational Quote:
"Music is the literature of the heart; it commences where speech ends."
Alphonse de Lamartine

CARICOM VISIT Cont'd...

Consultant Omer Thomas .

Other produce grown on the extensive farm include peanuts,



pineapples and limes. The Ministers also had the opportunity to see BAMSİ's herd of sheep. According to Farm manager Everton Parks, BAMSİ looks to expand its herd in the months ahead and is currently constructing a wooden sheep-fold to house the animals. A total of four sheep-folds are expected to be built, at a cost of some \$40,000 each. To understand what the future of BAMSİ holds, each structure is capable of housing 250 sheep.

The delegation then moved on to the still-under-construction fish farm which will employ aquaponics and aquaculture methodology and techniques. With more than a dozen tanks already set up along with the placement of shade cloth, the farm, which is expected to yield some 10,000 pounds of fish (tilapia and cobia) annually, will play a major role in the country's

conservation efforts and its push to food self-sufficiency. Dr. Val-
lierre Deleveaux, director of BAMSİ's Marine Science Department explained to the group what the facility would look like and its production capabilities once it was fully functional.

Located just beyond the farm and situated to become the gem of the Institute – with an estimated input of some \$100 million - the delegation visited the extensive campus facility that boasts a cafeteria, administrative building, women's dormitory – which will



house some 25 students in single rooms - and classroom buildings that will be equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories. While the buildings are still under construction – officials report that the campus is some 75 to 80 percent complete – the Ministers, along with the press, had the opportunity to enter many of the buildings and view classrooms, dorm rooms and the cafeteria.

Leaving the campus and farm behind the group made its way to the BAMSİ Greenhouse where they were greeted by the students, staff and faculty of the In-

stitute. For the 2015 Spring semester BAMSİ boasts a healthy mix of agriculture and marine science students. The 50 odd students; men, women, young and young at heart, from across The Bahamas - New Providence, Andros, Grand Bahama, Exuma and Long Island - have placed their academic future in the hands of BAMSİ's exceptional faculty, and exhibit a passion and concern both for the terrestrial and marine environments that bodes well for the country's future.

Rounding out the day with a visit to a farm produced with the support of BAMSİ's Associate Farmer's Program, the Ministers and other delegates saw BAMSİ's positive impact on the local farming community. By sharing its expertise, technical knowledge and providing hands-on support to the island's (and nation's) farmers, BAMSİ continues to build on



its commitment to strengthen this Commonwealth's ability to feed itself while preparing future leaders in the field of agriculture and marine science.

BAMSI's Brightest and Best cont'd

the geography of the ocean floor and experiencing the farm practical and race ways (an aquaculture recirculating system) each element a stepping stone to her ultimate goal. She is hopeful of being able to experience the aquaponics farm in the short term as BAMSI continues to expand on its offerings, and to learn about the hatchery systems that are central to the structure of aquaponics.

According to Gimel, BAMSI is her first foray into the field of agriculture and man's ability to create self-contained systems that produce fish and plant material. She discovered that a good grounding in chemistry is helpful to the agriculturalist and that productive farming has evolved far beyond the slash and burn method. With a growing global population she feels strongly The Bahamas should be able to feed itself and realizes that aquaponics and aquaculture will likely play important roles in that endeavor.

And what of this company, this venture that Gimel sees in her future. Her goal is to create an urban aquaponics system using linear methodology; in other words a vertical farm that is similar to a giant greenhouse that ascends in layers and relies upon a revolving belt to ensure consistent sunshine to the crops. Such a design, Gimel points out, maximizes the limited space found in urban areas and enables her to combine hydroponics (growing plants in water), aquaponics (growing fish and plants in a single enclosed system) and aquaculture (fish farming) in a single element. And how does BAMSI fit into this vision? For Gimel it is the perfect place to learn the business side of agriculture – how distribution works, what type of resources, including human, are needed to make the venture successful and understanding the feasibility of such a project: will it work in The Bahamas, will she have to modify some of her ideas?

Perhaps not what you might expect, Gimel represents a new breed of women in agriculture. They are passionate about the science, and their role in shaping the way forward, and they are smart – very smart – smarter than the boys smart. She is a sophisticated go getter who is unimpressed with average and ready to - quietly, but persistently - make her way to the top.

You go Gimel!

in my Community

The North Andros Music & Arts Festival

will be held
March 13 & 14
at Seaview Beach,
Nicholl's Town.

March is Consumer Month

and the focus will be on Healthy Lifestyles. There will be a health fair and walkathon during the month.

Listen out for upcoming dates!



BAMSI Calendar of Events

- ◆ March 27: Deadline for Fall 2015 applications
- ◆ March 31: Deadline for payment of tuition

Chef's Corner

by the **BAMSI Kitchen**



CHICKEN BREAST WITH PLANTAIN and HERB

METHOD

1. Heat sauté pan and sweat onions, sweet pepper and garlic for a minute in butter.
2. Add plantains, bread crumbs, a tsp of old bay seasoning and stir for two minutes.
3. Remove pan from fire and let rest.
4. Butterfly chicken breast then lightly tenderise with a mallet and season with 1 tsp old bay .
5. Place a tbsp of stuffing in center of chicken, fold over fold tightly.
6. Place chicken in a 6x12 baking pan.
7. In a bowl, combine cilantro, oregano, paprika, 1tsp melted butter and remainder of old bay and rub over chicken.
8. Place in a 350 degree oven and bake for 45 minutes.
9. Remove from oven and let rest for 8 to 10 minutes before slicing.

Bon appetite!

YIELD 4 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 1. Medium onion finely diced**
- 1. Green sweet pepper finely diced**
- 1. Ripe plantain medium diced**
- 1. Cup panko bread crumbs**
- 1. Tsp oregano**
- 1. Tsp cilantro**
- 3. Tbsp butter**
- 1. Tbsp paprika**
- 1. Tsp diced garlic**
- 3. Tsp old bay seasoning**
- 4. 6oz chicken breast (boneless)**

Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. II Timothy:3-15

Faith is the daring of the soul to go farther than it can see.

Successful Strategies for Studying

1. Winning Strategies

- ◆ Schedule daily studying and homework time
- ◆ Make lists of things to accomplish during studying
- ◆ Put off pleasurable events until work is completed
- ◆ Read the textbook/handouts (!!)
- ◆ Review the class textbook/assignments before going to class
- ◆ Create mnemonics and vivid mental images to aid learning
- ◆ Memorize the material through repetition
- ◆ Generate examples to apply the material
- ◆ Record information relating to study tasks (e.g., keeping a study log)
- ◆ Self-verbalize the steps to complete a given task
- ◆ Use chapter review questions to self test
- ◆ Use a study partner
- ◆ Review the items missed on the exam, including items guessed at
- ◆ Make an outline before writing a paper
- ◆ Check work before handing in an assignment

2. “Dangerous Detours” - Key behaviors students should avoid are:

- ◆ Spending too much time on key terms or summaries to the extent of paying less attention to other pedagogical aids (e.g., review questions)
- ◆ Highlighting too much text (i.e., not knowing what the important information really is), thus increasing study load
- ◆ Using chapter review questions (and their answers) as more content to study versus using them to test their own knowledge
- ◆ “Studying with a friend” where this *does not* involve testing each other, taking review questions, creating examples, or reviewing notes
- ◆ Listening to music, watching television, text messaging, or surfing the Internet while studying

3. Higher exam scores were associated with:

- ◆ Attending class...every...single...day!
- ◆ Answering all questions on the study guide
- ◆ Using practice exams to study
- ◆ Ability to explain problems using the material

** Gurung, Regan A.R., Lee I. McCann. *How Should Students Study? Tips, Advice, and Pitfalls*. Association for Psychological Science. n.d Web. 10 March 2015.

The Blue Hole Bulletin:
Brought to you by the Office of Communications.
For more information or to submit community
events/stories email us at
bamsipr.2014@gmail.com

THE STUDENT HONOUR CODE

As a lifelong member of The Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute, I adhere to the principles of

TRUTH
INTEGRITY
&
RESPECT.

I will not lie,
cheat, steal or
tolerate those
who do.