

THE BLUE HOLE

The BAMSI Bulletin

October 26, 2015



Bridging the Gap:

B

AMSI recently celebrated the achievements of students from the Nicholl's Town Primary School. Executive Director Dr. Raveenia Roberts-Hanna (far left) was the guest speaker for the Awards Day and Prefect Induction Ceremony held October 19, where she presented the honours students with their certificates. Included in that special number were two of BAMSI's own: Haliah Meyer (pictured with Dr. Hanna and her mother bottom left), daughter of Florence Pratt-Meyer, Farm Administrator and Trinity Phillips (top left), daughter of Tanya Phillips, an agricultural worker at the BAMSI farm.

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BAMSI Connects with Local Community And Those in Need

Faculty, staff and students of The Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) recently joined with members of the Public Service and the North/Central Andros and the Berry Islands

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Pointing the way for Future Generations

BNT Promotes a Mind-Set of Conservation in BAMSI Students



Pictured front row left are: Erin Cash, Assistant Farm Manager, BAMSI; Vallierre Deleveaux, Deputy Executive Director, BAMSI; Lynn Gap, Deputy Executive Director, BNT; Dr. Raveenia Roberts-Hanna, Executive Director, BAMSI; Gimel Morely, Marine Science Student; Liz Brace, Education Officer, BNT Andros; Jerri Kelly, Marketing Officer, BAMSI. Back row from left: Montez Hopkins, Agriculture Student; Nigel Sands, Marine Science Student; Cameron Lightbourne, Assistant Farm Manager and Aaron John, Agriculture Student.

THE Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) received a generous donation from the Bahamas National Trust (BNT) in the form of a 306-glossy page book entitled, 'Atlas of Shallow Water Marine Habitats of Cay Sal Bank, Great Inagua, Little Inagua and Hogsty Reef, Bahamas'.

The two agencies have a shared interest in conserving the terrestrial and marine habitats of the Bahamas and the book, compiled as a result of an initiative led by the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation, now becomes a valuable contribution to BAMSI's library. The hardback edition examines the environment of a number of cays and small islands, including Cay Sal, and gives an assessment of the geological status. It also maps out the ecosystem of many Bahamian reefs and cays through brilliantly-coloured aerial photographs, satellite imagery and data from hundreds of research dives.

On hand for the presentation was Dr. Raveenia Roberts-Hanna, BAMSI's executive director of BAMSI and Lynn Gape, BNT's deputy executive director. Dr Roberts-Hanna expressed gratitude for the donation, noting that the book would play an important role in educating students about the country's marine environment and why the work of conservation is so critical.

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BAMSI PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO FAO MINISTERIAL MEETING

On October 2 and 3, the islands of the Southeastern Bahamas would be ravaged by Joaquin, a category 4 hurricane. The Southeastern Bahamas comprises the eleven islands of Eleuthera, Cat Island, Exuma, Long Island, Mayaguana, Inagua, San Salvador, Rum Cay, Long Cay, Acklins and Crooked Island. Fifty percent of the islands in this sub-region encountered severe devastation causing evacuation from many island settlements and communities because of the damage to homes, infrastructure, utilities, healthcare facilities, schools, churches, businesses and the disruption of livelihoods of people who depend on the land and sea for economic survival from subsistence farming, commercial fishing for the export market and sport fishing. Between 25 - 30,000 people have been impacted by the hurricane or about 10 per cent of our population.

This scenario is further compounded by the fact that these islands are the least developed in the archipelago. It is through this corridor through which our country is inundated with illegal immigrants, drug traffickers and marine pirates who engage in the poaching of our marine resources, particularly our high value Spiny Lobster Fishery which for us is a hundred million dollar export commodity .

Ministers, The Bahamas is the second CARICOM state to experience extreme damage by hurricanes this year. Earlier this summer, Dominica was a victim.

The territorial geography of The Bahamas encompasses 100,000 square miles making The Bahamas the largest state in the Caribbean. It is an archipelago with one of its islands, Andros, being the fifth largest island in the Caribbean. There are some 20 inhabited islands.

The economic developmental strategy of The Bahamas has facilitated substantial infrastructural investments on all of the inhabited islands – schools, clinics, paved roads, telecommunications, electricity, satellite and cable network, docks, 37 ports of entry, yachting marinas and some 53 airports/airfields with paved runways comprise this infrastructure. There is a subsidised mail boat system which services all of the islands thereby providing transport for people and food.



Ambassador Godfrey Eneas
President of BAMSI

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Ambassador Wm. J. Godfrey Eneas, Ambassador to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) addresses The Ministerial Meeting Food Security and Climate Adaptation In Small Island States. Pictured at right with Ambassador Eneas is Director General of the FAO Graziano da Silva.

During the second half of the 20th century, The Bahamas experienced a decline not only in the growth of its agricultural sector but also Sector's importance to the economy as the Sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell to less than one per cent. The Bahamas became a service dominated economy

with tourism and financial services fuelling the economic growth of the country.

One of the features of tourism is that it exacerbates food imports causing The Bahamas to evolve into a net food importing country with 85 per cent of its population residing in the urban centres of Nassau and Freeport. The National Food Import Bill has now skyrocketed to a billion dollars annually and increasing. Visitor arrivals last year reached seven million. We treat the tourism sector as a built-in export market for our burgeoning Agricultural Sector.

Even though the World Trade Organization (WTO) came into existence in 1995, The Bahamas has commenced the accession process to WTO membership. In order to comply with the requirements of WTO membership our trade infrastructure is in its embryonic stages as we now have a fledgling Bureau of Standards and legislation being proposed for a Health and Food Safety Authority, and agencies to deal with Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures to address animal and plant health issues. It is anticipated that the SAMOA Pathway would trigger the implementation of the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement to provide technical assistance as we work our way to WTO membership.

The European Union, the US and China have been, over the years, markets for our spiny lobster. We have the potential to develop export markets, specifically to the eastern sea board of the United States, for a range of winter vegetables and tropical fruits. From this perspective, the SAMOA Pathway can assist using building capacity to "effectively participate in the multilateral trading system, including with respect to explaining trade rules and disciplines, negotiating, and implementing trade agreements and administering coherent trade policies".

The government of The Bahamas recognizes that the country cannot continue to use valuable foreign exchange earned from Tourism to buy food. We must address the issue of Food



Spin Lobster Tails



ATLAS OF SHALLOW WATER MARINE HABITATS OF CAY SAL BANK, GREAT INAGUA, LITTLE INAGUA AND HOGSTY REEF, BAHAMAS'.

"Part of ensuring that this nation achieves an acceptable level of food security is implementing policies that support sustainable measures used in developing, cultivating, growing, harvesting and capturing our primary food sources. BAMSI looks to collaborate with other agencies that support these same end goals and that seek to preserve the country's natural habitats for future generations.

"The Atlas of Shallow Water Marine Habitats...' provides an invaluable and comprehensive look at coral reefs in the Bahamas and for our marine science students especially it is the perfect foundation to build an understanding of the need for conservation and why it is important that we, as a country, adopt practical measures of protection for our resources."

BNT's Andros division has a formal relationship with BAMSI through the establishment of a student club, the BAMSI Eco-Warriors, which focuses on environmental, natural and conservation matters. BAMSI Faculty advisors for the club Cameron Lightbourne, Jerri Kelly and Erin Cash and Liz Brace, BNT's Education Officer and Operations Manager, Andros, guide students to a greater awareness of environmental stewardship.

According to the Living Oceans Foundation website, the book is the "result of months of underwater research to survey and map the seafloor" by a number of agencies, including BNT, the Department of Marine Resources and The Nature Conservancy. It is the first atlas to be published from the world's largest coral reef study, the Global Reef Expedition – launched in 2011.

The Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation is a non-profit environmental science organisation and ocean research foundation established to help preserve, protect and restore the world's oceans and aquatic resources through research, education and outreach.

ESSENTIALS FOR THE OFFICE PROFESSIONAL

By Candice M. Roberts

THE Bahamas Agriculture & Marine Science Institute's (BAMSI) Human Resources and Training team hosted a professional development seminar for staff and faculty aimed at building a strong team, encouraging professional practices and creating an environment for continuous learning and personal development. Under the theme: 'Essentials for The Office Professional', the two-day event was facilitated by Simone Bowe, a human resources consultant and principle of Strategic Transitions.

Highlighting the fact that while BAMSI's dual focus remains educating young minds to embrace the agriculture and marine science industries and also the establishment of a level of food security for this nation through sustainable measures, Ms. Bowe said the role of the office professional in that equation was not to be underplayed and should instead be seen as an important part of the Institute's drive toward success.

Ms Bowe focused on best practices and real world scenarios to encourage staff members to be conscious of their supporting role and how their actions can either assist the process to move forward or hinder the Institute's ability to achieve its mission. She employed a number of exercises from games and quizzes to group projects to



Simone Bowe, Human Resources consultant and principle of Strategic Transitions, leads BAMSI staff members through best practices exercises during the 'Essentials of the Office Professional' seminar.

equip staff members with the tools necessary to make a meaningful contribution.

For BAMSI's administrative staff in particular, she quickly laid the foundation outlining the role of an effective office professional. "You ought to be relevant, revolutionary, diverse, knowledgeable, efficient, forward thinking, globally competitive, have strong communication skills, be flexible, be growth seekers and solution oriented."

She also stressed that BAMSI's objectives and vision can only come to fruition with efforts of a "Team."

"I attended both sessions, my experience was enlightening, informative and fun. I enjoyed the role play and communication exercises she designed. Everything presented was very important to my daily duties; those are the highlights for me. Ms. Bowe did a remarka-

ble job, being well prepared and presented marvellously to the group. This refresher course was beneficial." Jarenda Rahming, BAMSI's Student Affairs Officer, said.

Ms. Bowe challenged the staff to remain current in the procedures and best practices of office professionals, allowing their skills to develop in support of growing responsibilities. More importantly, she emphasized that the administrative staff stay in sync with BAMSI's vision, philosophy, values and standards, executing professional services at all times and noting that in the world of business - service is everything!

The symposium was a great success, as participants left thoroughly prepared to take BAMSI globally!

STAR STUDENTS SHINE AT AWARDS CEREMONY



Ms. Haliah Meyer



Ms. Trinity Phillips

Deputy Head Girl of Nicholl's Town Primary School **Haliah Meyer** achieved Honour Roll status for the 2014/2015 school year. The exceptional sixth grader also received certificates in: Social Science, Language Arts and Mathematics. **Trinity Phillips** attained the Principal's List for the 2014/2015 school year. The outstanding student also received certificates in the following subjects: Social Science, Mathematics and Language Arts.



BAMSI Donates cont'd from page 1.

School District in a special food drive aimed at assisting residents of the Southern Bahamas who suffered devastating loss during Hurricane Joaquin.

Led by Family Island Administrator Mr. Ivan Ferguson and Michelle Bowleg, Superintendent of the North/Central Andros and Berry Island School District, organizers were able to collect more than 100 boxes of goods; including canned food items, toiletries, cleaning supplies, baby products and clothes. The items were donated to the Bahamas Red Cross in New Providence with the support of Captain Taylor of the Lady Rosalind, who transported the goods free of charge.

As part of the fundraising efforts two national agencies also received monetary donations on behalf of the North Andros Community – the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Department of Education. The latter was presented with a cash donation by Ms. Bowleg. The gift represents a collective effort by school administrators, teachers and students.

The drive was held during Public Service Week.

The FAO's Ministerial Meeting on Food Security and Climate Adaptation In Small Island States was held at the MinItalia Pavilion - EXPO Milano 2015 in Milan, Italy, October 14 – 16, 2015. Ambassador Eneas represented the Hon. V. Alfred Gray, M.P. who could not attend because of the aftermath of Hurricane Joaquin. It was Minister Gray's constituency which experienced the wrath of Hurricane Joaquin.

Security. In that regard, the country has embarked on an aggressive Food and Nutrition Security Programme commencing with the establishment of The Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute on the island of Andros.

The Institute is responsible for driving not only food production by also provides the training for a new cadre of agriculturists, marine scientists, agri-business entrepreneurs as well as farmers and fishermen and will function as a Centre of Excellence for agricultural and marine research.

Though only two years in existence, the Institute has already begun to impact food production with the introduction of new technologies through its Associated Farmers' Programme. The Institute in this initial stage of development is a 20 million dollar investment by the government.

Like most countries, The Bahamas is facing an aging cadre of farmers so the Institute is developing a technologically driven approach to the New Agriculture it is introducing to the country to enhance our competitiveness of our food production system as well as attract the Bahamian youth. This is in sharp contrast to the labour intensive system of cut and burn, shifting cultivation. In our country, we call it pot-hole farming. Come May of this year, the first class, at the Associated Degree level, will graduate.

The Bahamas would hope to partner with key global stakeholders in the further development of the Institute as a Caribbean academic and research institution with strong emphasis on the marine environment and the development of marine resources to capitalize on the linkages to our Tourism Industry. There are substantial economic benefits which can accrue by adding value to our sponges which are now being exported and to the creation of a unique production the conch shell which is a by-product of our conch fisher.

On September 23rd, 2014 at the United Nations Climate Summit our Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Perry G. Christie made the following remarks:

"Climate change is a serious business. This threatens our very existence. . . Eighty (80) percent of my nations land mass will be lost if the sea level rises 1.5 meters.

They also say that with a warming of 3.7- 4.8 c by 2100, as currently predicted, The Bahamas we know would be no more"

With the adoption of the SOMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and the upcoming Climate Change Conference in Paris this December, the government of The Bahamas anticipates that the nexus between climate change and food security will be given the prominence it deserves as Small Island States (SIDS) like The Bahamas continue the journey toward the development of a sustainable food production system.



ITS ABOUT THE BEES



WORKING to encourage an entrepreneurial spirit and also ignite the economy by generating a second stream of income for individuals, The Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) partnered with the Bahamas Agriculture and Industrial Corporation (BAIC) to host a beekeeping workshop at Bahamas Faith Ministries over the weekend.

The workshop was spearheaded by Garth Roseboro, senior consultant with BAIC, who brought in Dr. Solomon Ward, a biologist by profession and a bee enthusiast, along with Don Lam, an American beekeeper with some 30-years of experience, to conduct the workshop. The two also visited BAMSI's own hives, with the Institute hoping to increase its honey making capabilities and bring the product to market shortly.

Beekeeping or apiculture is a billion-dollar global industry and practitioners have the capacity to make thousands of dollars a year just from venturing into the field as hobbyists. As a result of this outcome, the objective of the workshop was to educate Bahamians about the financial benefits of beekeeping and also to demonstrate how they are to be farmed, focusing on keeping healthy animals, having the right equipment and implementing best practices to ensure a top quality product. As part of the three-day workshop Dr. Ward and Mr. Lam assisted person in capturing bees to start a hive.

According to Dr. Ward, there is a worldwide deficit in the honeybee population, with the US alone losing up to 30 percent of its bees in a single year. And it is this deficit that has created an opportunity for Bahamians to enter the market and gain an economic advantage in the industry.

Mr. Lam, who began his beekeeping career with about two hives and now has 30, noted that while the Bahamian beekeeping industry is still in its infancy the hobby is appealing to a wide cross-section of individuals because of how easy it is to operate once proper procedures are followed. He said that everyone from students, and children, judges, homemakers, doctors and bankers participate in the industry, and that one or two hives in a persons' backyard would provide a sufficient supply for their household, their neighbours, friends and family.

Honey, which is touted to have significant health benefits, is currently sold at approximately \$60 a gallon, with one hive generating about 12 gallons a year. There is a large market for honey, which is seen as a healthy alternative to white sugar. Dr. Ward pointed out there is a significant market for honey in the Bahamas, from the health conscious to hotels and restaurants and also supermarkets and retailers.



THE Business of BEES: BAMSI continues to look at ways to diversify its product offering and joined with BAIC to support Bahamian entrepreneurs entering the agriculture and food production arena. Pictured from left are Dr. Solomon Ward, a biologist and bee enthusiast; Dr. Raveenia Roberts-Hanna, BAMSI's Executive Director and Don Lam, an American beekeeper with some 30 years experience. The pair facilitated a beekeeping workshop in Nassau



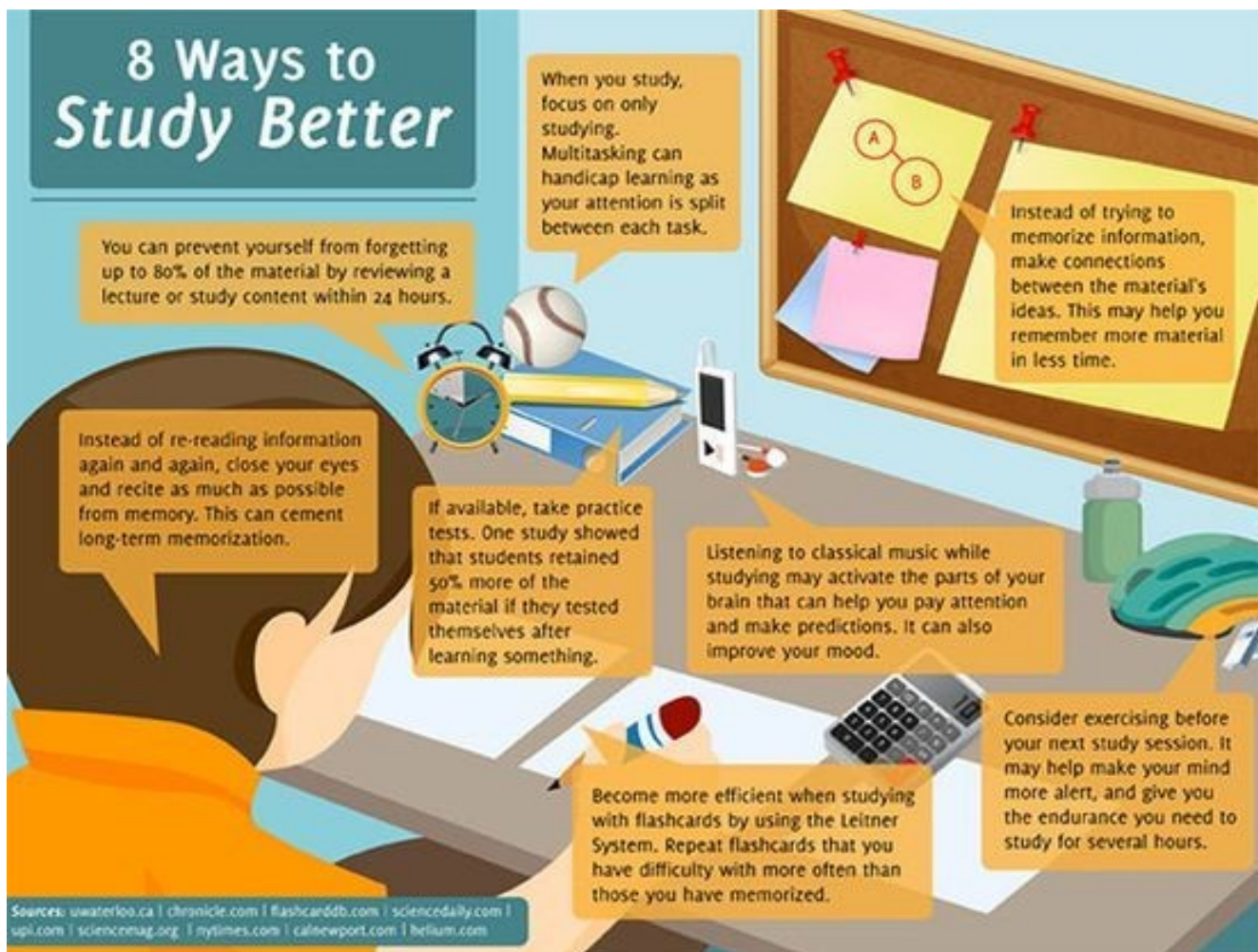
SCHOOL

NEWS



- November 27: Classes End
- November 30: Final Exams Begin
- December 2: Final Exams End
- December 25: Christmas Day
- December 26: Boxing Day
- January 1: New Year's Day
- January 12: Classes Resume (Spring Semester)

15 Ways to Stop Procrastinating! - Click [Here](#) to Learn More



REMEMBERING MIKE WALLACE



Mike Wallace, as he liked to be called, served as a Soil Scientist during BAMSI's 2014 Fall semester. He was passionate about the students, about the soil and about BAMSI. Pictured at left is Mr. Wallace (second from right) surrounded by students in his soil science class.

Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity and sound speech... Titus 2: 7-8.

As a Soil Scientist and as a man that cared deeply, passionately, about sharing his knowledge and encouraging a younger generation of Bahamians to deliberately and aggressively pursue their academic interests, Michael Wallace proved to be a unique and irreplaceable asset to BAMSI. He has left his stamp upon the lives of those he taught and his legacy within this institution is secure. Dr. Raveenia Roberts-Hanna, Executive Director, BAMSI.

Michael Wallace not only taught soil science, but he also taught life skills and love lessons. He was passionately adamant about the BAMSI brand and that encompassed faculty, the tutorial/commercial farm, but most importantly, the students. There was a longing in his spirit to see every student he came into contact with here at BAMSI climb every mountain that stood in their way en route to success, Graduation Day! Marilyn LaFleur, Agriculture Student, Class of 2016.

I remember how eager Mr. Wallace was every morning to impart his knowledge to the students. We had a very cordial and friendly relationship. He would hail me and say Hey Commodore, how's it going?" I respected and appreciated him immensely. Cameron Lightbourne, Assistant Farm Manager, Marine and Aquatic Sciences Department.

Mr. Wallace will forever be in my memory. Although I only knew him for a few months he left an imprint on me that will last a lifetime. His exterior at sometimes might have seemed harsh but on the inside he was a very caring man. This was clearly shown after long days at school where he would spontaneously buy us Sunny Delight from the store. Gimel Morely, Marine Science Student, Class of 2016

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IN MEMORIAM
MR. MICHAEL WALLACE
(1945—2015)
BAMSI Lecturer and Soil Scientist

There are some people whom you know all of your life. Mike Wallace was one such person for me. Mike's mother and my mother were childhood friends. Our mothers were pregnant together. His mother was pregnant with his older brother, Bill, as my mother was pregnant with me. Our paths always crossed either socially or educationally as he and his brother Bill were Government High School (GHS) products and I at St. Augustine. It did not end there.

At eleven years old, my father arranged for me to become an apprentice at the Agricultural Experimental Station in Chippingham. The Experimental Field Station is today the Botanic Gardens, back then it was part of the Department of Agriculture which was headed by Mr. Oris Russell, the first Director of Agriculture. The Experimental Station was headed by Palestine Michael with Mr. Rufus Sands as his assistant.

Mike started as an apprentice a few years after me. We were followed by Dr. Robert Taylor and Dr. Grenshaw Blyden. When I finished St. Augustine, I went on to Tuskegee Institute, now University and after Mike's advanced levels he went to the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine's Campus. Taylor and Blyden followed me to Tuskegee.

In Mike's second year around 1965/66, I entered the post graduate programme at UWI, St. Augustine. My courses fell under the aegis of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, (ICTA).

Mike distinguished himself in agronomy, specifically in soils. He had an outstanding faculty with Chemistry in which he pursued graduate studies after joining the Department of Public Health and in the private sector, doing analytical work at Syntex in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

Mike's outstanding scientific work was done when he was assigned as Bahamian counterpart to the professional staff of the UK's Land Resources Survey team which was retained by the Bahamas government. The land resources survey was an extensive investigation into the Natural resources of the Bahamas. It was from this experience that Mike developed his expertise in Bahamian soils.

As an agriculturist, he was a professional's professional. It was from this perspective that I knew he would be an asset to an Institution, in its embryonic stages, like the Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute, BAMSI. So without hesitation he was prepared to come to BAMSI and lecture.

The Bahamas has lost one of the finest agriculturists. His dedication to the field agriculture is unrivalled. His publications have revealed the depth of his knowledge not only in agriculture but also in environmental matters, particularly in chemical pollution of our country.

For me, I will miss him as a reference source because of his objectivity in so many aspects of Bahamian Agriculture. In the words of Longfellow, I will remember Mike in this way

Lives of great men remind us....and departing leave behind us footprints on the sands of time.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL WALLACE
BY AMBASSADOR GODFREY ENEAS
