

THE BLUE HOLE

The BAMSI Bulletin

July 13, 2015



At left are BAMSI staff members at the Staff Success and Professional Development Seminar.

The session touched on a range of topics from effective money management to steps toward a successful career.

BAMSI: Building a Cadre of Professionals

Promoting Staff Success and Professional Development

Preparing its staff to take advantage of an evolving national economy and the steady expansion of the Institute, the Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) held a Staff Success and Professional Development Seminar on Thursday, June 25, 2015.

Executive Director of BAMSI Dr. Raveenia Roberts-Hanna explained that as a result of the Institute's position as an essential element in the nation's push to ensure a level of food

security and introduce initiatives that support food sustainability, an important component of that effort is the development of an educated, progressive and critical thinking staff compliment. "BAMSI recognizes that its mission cannot be accomplished without the full embrace of a trained and mobilized cadre of operatives," she said.

The seminar was attended by nearly 60 BAMSI staff members, including agricultural field officers, culinary associates, administrative staff and faculty from its North Andros facility.

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BAMSI President Meets FAO Director General



President of BAMSI Godfrey Eneas (Rt) with newly elected FAO Director General Dr. Jose Graziano Da Silva.

GODFREY Eneas, president of The Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) travelled to Rome, Italy to attend the 39th Conference of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), held June 6-13. During the Conference the 182 member states present elected Dr. Jose Graziano Da Silva as its Director General. Dr. Da Silva was elected unopposed to a second four-year term.

The FAO's mandate, achieving global food security for all communities and ensuring individuals have regular access to sufficient amounts of high-quality food to maintain healthy lives, aligns closely with the mission of BAMSI. BAMSI's long term goal is to position itself as a catalyst for the widespread implementation of sustainable agricultural practices throughout the nation and to drive the development of strategic measures that will support a level of food security with the country's borders.

The Blue Hole Bulletin:

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Which Island Will We Come To Next... Will It Be Yours?

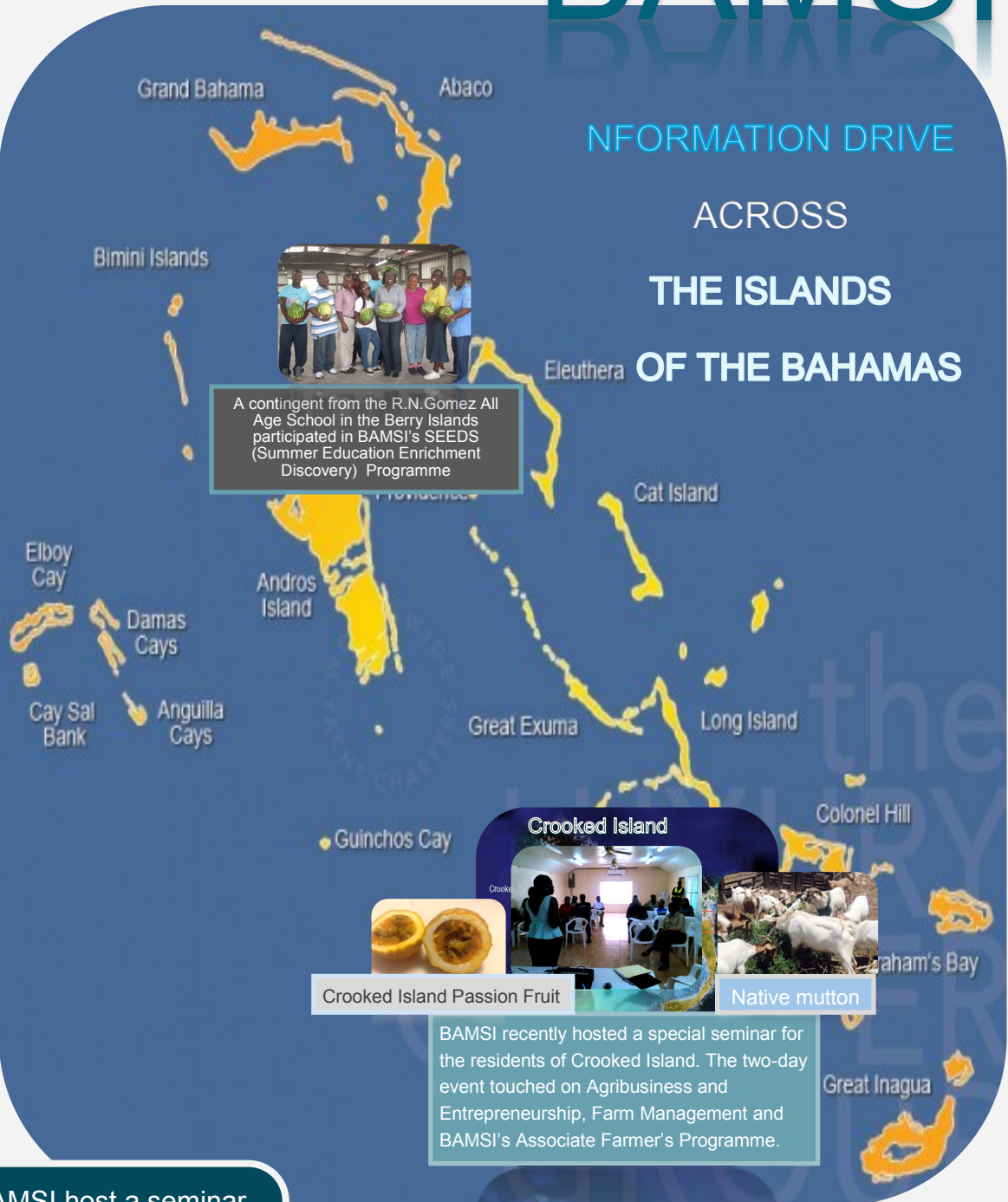
BAMSI

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Emerging Leaders Series

Future BAMSI Student

Miss Dejae Woods



WHAT is the first image that comes to mind when we think of the word farmer? Probably a man, an older gentleman, with a weather-beaten face standing out in the middle of a field or in front of some gigantic machinery. While that image may have been cemented in our consciousness by Hollywood and a touch of reality, in the Bahamas — and with BAMSI coming on stream, that view is changing.

Meet Dejae Woods: her goal is to become a farmer and she is set on making BAMSI a part of her academic future. The youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Doral Woods, this fifth grade Nicholl's Town Primary School student is already getting her hands dirty — so to speak.

Even at her young age Dejae already has an awareness of the importance of The Bahamas being able to grow its own food and feed its people. With this in mind, and an entrepreneurial spirit to boot, she recently launched her own business, Dejae's Quality Fresh Farm that sells organic eggs grown from her very own chickens. Confident in the excellent quality of her produce, Dejae boldly approach Agriculture Minister V. Alfred Gray and presented him with a crate of her organic eggs during the 2015 North Andros Agricultural & Marine Resources Agri-Business Expo in Nicholl's Town

Focused on building her business, developing her brand and just plain having fun because this is what she loves to do, Dejae spends her spare time and most weekends in her backyard planting crops and taking care of her garden. And what happens to the fruit of her

labour? It will likely make it into the kitchens and onto the tables of her growing clientele. A self-described "go getter", there is clear evidence that this little girl is willing to work hard to get what she wants.

Dejae contributes her love of farming to spending time with her parents and grandparents on their farm. And a natural extension of this, Dejae became a member of the Bahamas National Trust's (BNT) Discovery Club. It was through the Discovery Club that Dejae had the chance to enter a selfie competition put on by the Ministry of Environment's Forestry Unit. She placed second overall in the Bahamas with a selfie that featured her with a Five Finger Tree and a paragraph about why she chose that tree. She also entered a Public Service Announcement Competition about invasive species sponsored by BNT. Dejae won first place in the competition at the national level.



Dejae and her parents,
Mr and Mrs Doral Woods



Dejae and one of her
chickens.

So is Dejae the kind of student that BAMSI wants to attract — with her love for farming, a curious mind open to learning new things about the world around her, her entrepreneurial drive and strong ties to her Family Island community? The answer is a resounding YES! Dejae Woods, future BAMSI student, business woman and farmer of North Andros.

BAMSI Hosts First Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship Seminar



From left are Alaasis Braynen, seminar facilitator and BAMSI lecturer; Jevon Rolle, seminar attendee receiving his certificate, and Executive Director of BAMSI Dr Raveenia Roberts-Hanna.



From left are Alaasis Braynen, seminar facilitator and BAMSI lecturer; Rexeanna Rolle, seminar attendee receiving her certificate, and Dr Raveenia Roberts-Hanna, BAMSI's Executive Director.

AS part of its Community Summer Series, The Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute hosted a special seminar June 9 - 10, 2015 aimed at the agriculture and business sectors of the North Andros community. Alaasis Braynen, an expert in the field of agribusiness and financial management, guided participants through the steps needed to envision, construct and launch an entrepreneurial-initiative, particularly in the agriculture sector.

The two day event, held at the Western Air Conference Centre in San Andros, showed participants how successful companies formulate and execute their mission statements and objectives, allowing both the external and internal clients to buy into their vision, thus building brand loyalty and growing the customer-base. As part of the seminar attendees were invited to draw up a business plan of their own, which was presented on the second day.

Participants received feedback from Mr Braynen, who was able to briefly assist them through the overall development of their plan and aid in the process of initiating the first concrete steps toward execution. One of the benefits of the seminar was that participants were able to draw on the expertise of many of BAMSI's lecturers and staff members who committed to offering assistance, guidance, advice and expert knowledge over the long-term.

BAMSI Brings Personal Success and Professional Development Seminar

To The Nicholls Town & North Andros Community

BAMSI 2015 Summer Series

Adding another layer to its academic portfolio, The Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) held a Personal Success and Professional Development Seminar for the North Andros Community June 25th, 2015.

While the primary focus of BAMSI's academic arm is the delivery of material to support students through an associate degree programme, the Institute is also expanding its outreach efforts to include college prep courses in English, Math and Biology, technical training in the areas of agribusiness (commercial farming) and farms skills – through its Associate Farmers Programme. BAMSI is also offering short certificate programmes in both the personal and professional arenas.

Distance learning is also a critical part of BAMSI's mandate and is an area that the Institute has already branched into, with seminars being held in a number of Family Islands covering agribusiness and farms skills.

"Beyond our core objectives we understand that a national outreach effort is critical to the successful achievement of our mandate, which is to fill any educational or training gaps that might exist within the community," Executive Director of BAMSI Dr Raveenia Roberts-Hanna said. The Professional Development Seminar for members of the public, she added, is the first in a series of seminars that BAMSI intends to put on to assist the community where

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Dr. Raveenia
Roberts-Hanna



Dr. Raveenia Roberts-Hanna presents Dion Dean, manager of the National Insurance Board (NIB) Office, Nicholl's Town, with a certificate for attending the Personal Success and Professional Development Seminar.

necessary.

The seminar, which was attended by a wide cross-section of North Andros professionals, focused on financial planning and wealth building strategies, effective communication in the workplace. Other areas that were tackled during the

Cont'd on pg. 7.

NORTH ANDROS COMMUNITY
Cont'd from pg. 6.

seminar included the importance of a tertiary education and conflict resolution. Participants in the seminar received a certificate at its conclusion.

The workshop was facilitated by BAMSI staff members. Among the speakers were Dianne Brown, biology lecturer; Yolanda Deleveaux, Communications Officer and Philip Campbell, Counsellor.



Alaasis Braynen

Alaasis Braynen, lecturer at BAMSI and an expert in agribusiness and financial services, told participants that one way to identify an upturn in the nation's economy was the start of new construction. "If you notice as you drive along Queen's Highway there are a number of new developments taking place. Houses are being built, commercial enterprises are expanding – all of this points to growth in the North Andros economy."

He told participants that one strategy to utilize as they looked to build their financial



Positive feedback from participants is already pouring in. Many of those in attendance have applauded the initiative and are looking forward to future seminars!

resources was to develop a strong relationship with a financial institution by taking out a small loan that could be easily paid back in a timely fashion. He explained that this process would help build confidence in the lender so when it came time to get a significant loan, such as a mortgage - that positive relationship would already be in place.



(Above) A wide cross-section of the North Andros community were on hand for BAMSI's Personal Success and Professional Development Seminar, held June 25, 2015.

(At right) Dianne Brown, a biology lecturer for BAMSI, discusses the importance of a tertiary level education.



ANIMAL FARM



Dr. Keith Cox



While BAMSI's public image has primarily been that of an academic institution and a purveyor of produce — both of the sweet and succulent, and spiced and tangy variety — the institution is also working to build its impact in the area of commercial livestock farming.



Pictured are Dr Cox (kneeling at left) and BAMSI livestock team member Shorona Bar.

With a current herd of almost 150 sheep and goat, BAMSI's long-term mission is to be the largest producer of home-grown mutton in the country. Part of the process in achieving that goal – and ensuring that Bahamians get the most succulent, tender and flavourful cuts of lamb and mutton (cause you know we like up our sheep tongue, curried mutton and steamed mutton with a brown gravy!) - is to protect the health of the herd and establish that the animals are genetically of good quality stock.

BAMSI veterinarian Dr. Keith Cox, charged with effective herd management, took on the task of administering a round of treatment to the livestock June 17, 2015. Each animal received two injections – an antiparasitic or deworming agent called ivermectin, and an antibiotic, oxytetracycline. The doses are scheduled to be repeated on a two week cycle.

Dr Cox was assisted by the BAMSI livestock team Avon Cothrel, Shorona Bar and BAMSI intern Sterling Symonette.

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Pictured are Dr Cox (kneeling at left); BAMSI livestock team member Avon Cothrel and BAMSI intern Sterling Symonette.

CADRE OF PROFESSIONALS

Cont'd from pg. 1.

The goal of the staff seminar, Dr. Roberts-Hanna noted, was to support and encourage BAMSI associates to take positive steps toward developing themselves as well-rounded individuals who bring a number of strengths to the table, not just for BAMSI, but as productive citizens of society. Ultimately, BAMSI is looking to build a core group of trained, talented and skilled associates in a wide cross-section of areas who are able to push the Institute and their community forward incrementally.



Philip Campbell
BAMSI Student Counsellor

Dr. Roberts-Hanna also noted, going forward technical training specific to individual departments will be implemented shortly. The seminar focused on financial planning and wealth building strategies, and also conflict resolution. Philip Campbell, BAMSI's student counsellor, explained that perspective often plays a role in how a situation is interpreted. When disagreements arise or negative situations occur, he said, it is important to listen carefully to the other party, try to empathize where possible and seek a solution that benefits all those concerned.

Biology lecturer Dianne Brown, who addressed the seminar on the importance of a tertiary level education, encouraged staff to adopt the attitude of a lifelong learner. BAM-

SI's presence in North Andros, she said, made that an easy position to attain and she urged participants to take advantage of the many educational offerings provided by the Institute. Among the academic initiatives offered are BGCSE equivalency training in Mathematics, English and Biology, technical training in the areas of agriculture – such as agribusiness (or the business of commercial farming) and farms skills. Best known for its associate degree programmes, BAMSI also offers short certificate programs in both the personal and professional arenas.



BAMSI staff came together for the Professional Development

Other topics that were tackled during the seminar included financial planning and wealth building strategies, steps toward career success, effective communication in the workplace and occupational health and safety. Staff members received a certificate at the conclusion of the seminar. BAMSI's own staff facilitated the workshop. Among the speakers were Alaasis Braynen, an expert in agribusiness and financial services; Jarenda Rahming, Student Affairs Officer; Yolanda Deleveaux, Communications Officer and Dr. Joseph Lindsay, Soil Scientist.

Interested in creating your own Aquaponics system?

July 15—17, 2015
Registration Fee: \$200

“From the gate to the plate” takes on an even more sustainable dynamic when we consider the aquaponics system. This system combines the raising of fish and other sea creatures with the cultivation of plants in the same enclosed environment.

The BAMSI three-day program will help beginners and those already with a working knowledge of science-based aquaponics systems by providing the training and support to construct and operate a backyard system that will assist in satisfying the demands of family, community and nation.

The Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute

Backyard Farming: Aquaponics 101

Presented by the MARINE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Participants will experience:

- ♦ A theoretical overview of Aquaponics
- ♦ A tour of BAMSI
- ♦ Practical work: constructing a backyard system
- ♦ Materials included: Construction Manual

Registration fee includes meals and transportation

Attendees will receive a Certificate of Participation at completion of session.

For more information on the seminar contact: (242) 376.6913 or
Email: bamsipr.2014@gmail.com or bamsiadmissions@gmail.com
Follow us on Facebook: BamsiBahamas

BAMSI Students Have Once-In-A-Lifetime Internship Experience



Pictured at left are:

1. Garneth Campbell (Lt) and Arthero Nixon
2. Campbell and Nixon holding turtle
3. Nixon helping to release turtle back into the wild
4. Campbell in diving suit

AN unforgettable experience that will be remembered for a lifetime is likely how Garneth Campbell and Arthero Nixon, both Marine Science students at BAMSI, will recall the summer of 2015! Accepted into the Bahamas National Trust's (BNT) Sea Turtle Internship and Expedition programme, the students travelled to Long Island, Conception Island and Cat Island to research and tag sea turtles. According to BNT, during the expedition the two tagged over 12 turtles for their research, and also worked in Conception Island National Park, one of the country's national park areas. The trip was sponsored by Stephen Connett and Barbara Crouchley, who graciously provided most of the funding and resources for the expedition. ***For more information on how your organization can partner with BAMSI for future internship opportunities contact us at 397.6580 or 376.6905 or email bamsipr.2014@gmail.com.**

COGOP Youth Choir Tours BAMSI



The Youth Choir of the Church of God of Prophecy East Street Tabernacle visited BAMSI Saturday, June 6, 2015 for a tour of the Institute. The group visited BAMSI's farm, greenhouse and campus. They also toured a number of settlements in North Andros; Mastic Point, Nicholl's Town and Conch Sound, stopping to get up close and personal with Charley's Blue Hole and to sample the freshest and 'conchy-iest' conch salad at F&H Take Away in Lowe Sound.

NEW CERTIFICATE COURSES 2015

The Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute is pleased to announce a slate of new certificate courses offered this August:

- ♦ Agribusiness
- ♦ Farm Skills

NEW FOR FALL 2015: Calling all lifelong learners!

Under the umbrella of **Continuing Education and Enrichment Programmes**, BAMSI invites the public to explore new interests, develop new skills, and enrich their lives. Students of all ages will enjoy unique learning experiences year-round through classes, online learning, festivals and conferences, educational travel, and more. Available programmes include:

- ♦ Academic Upgrading (Preparation for college-level degrees)
 - A. College Prep Math
 - B. College Prep English
 - C. College Prep Biology
- ♦ Professional and paraprofessional development (Certification programmes)
- ♦ Personal Development (Non-credit courses and programmes)
- ♦ Family Island and Distance Education



ATTENTION STUDENTS

- ♦ Arrival of New Students: Sunday, August 16th
- ♦ Placement Exams (Math and English): Monday, August 17th
- ♦ Arrival of Returning Students: Tuesday, August 18th
- ♦ Orientation Activities Begin: Wednesday, August 19th
- ♦ Classes Begin: Monday, August 24th



EXECUTIVE Director of BAMSI Dr. Raveenia Roberts-Hanna, along with members of faculty, were excited to visit AUTECH, the US Navel Base in Central Andros, June 16, 2015, where they met with Commander Joseph Lopez, Officer in Charge at the base. The visit represented BAMSI's commitment to partnering with Andros-based agencies to help build the community and improve the lives of Androsians and ultimately, all Bahamians.

BAMSI STAFF VISIT AUTECH BASE



While there, the BAMSI team was able to share the Institute's mandate and forward vision with Commander Lopez and his team. The Atlantic Undersea Testing and Evaluation Centre (AUTECH), which is home to hundreds of US military personnel and private contractors, continues to make an important contribution to the island, with a significant number of Bahamians employed on staff.

Top Picture: BAMSI Assistant Farm Manager Cameron Lightbourne (left) presents Commander Joseph Lopez, AUTECH's Officer in Charge, with a gift of BAMSI fruit. Bottom picture: (Front row from left) BAMSI staff members Yolanda Deleveaux, Communication's Officer; Dianne Brown, Faculty; Executive Director Dr. Hanna; Dr. Joseph Lindsay, Soil Scientist; AUTECH Commander Lopez; Jarenda Rahming, Student Affairs Officer and Glanville Murphy, Driver. (Back row from left) Alaasis Braynen, Faculty; Erin Cash, Assistant Farm Manager; Cameron Lightbourne, Assistant Farm Manager, Dr. Vallierre Deleveaux, Deputy Director of BAMSI and Dr. Philip Campbell, Counsellor.

Chef's Corner

by Chef Dentry McKinney, BAMSI



Chef Dentry McKinney

Grouper with Mango Chutney

Yield 10 servings

8oz Grouper fillets: 10each

1tbs Lime juice

Mango chutney

12oz Mango chunks

8oz Mango juice

3oz Red pepper, diced

1oz Jalapeño pepper, finely diced

2Tbs Brown sugar (as needed)

2Tbs Rice wine vinegar

Method

1. To prepare the chutney, place the mango and juice in a pot. Reduce slightly. Add the pepper and simmer just to develop flavor. Season with brown sugar and vinegar to taste.
2. Sprinkle groupers with lime juice. Let marinate briefly.
3. Grill groupers. Serve immediately with warm chutney.

Look out for a special feature in the next edition of the BAMSI Blue Hole:
"The successful launch of our SEEDS programme!"

Summer 2015!

SEEDS: Summer Education Enrichment Discovery Programme

Learning, Living and Exploring #Islandlife

For more information or to submit community events/stories
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