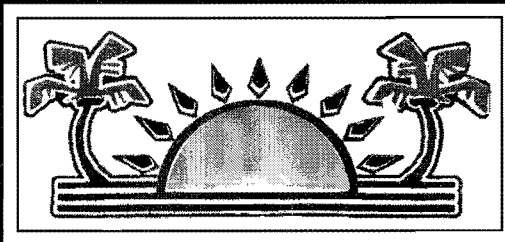


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Rapid HIV Testing Day held at Central Park



On Sunday, the San Pedro AIDS Commission held a HIV Rapid Testing Day, where members of the community were invited to stop over at Central Park and "know your status." According to

On Sunday, 59 people stepped up to the plate and had their blood drawn for testing. Once tested, individuals waited the short time it took for the results to be released. Nurse Bradley, Nurse Kelly

Solani Graniel is Miss SPHS 2010-2011

Congratulations to Miss Solani Graniel on her win in this past Saturday night's pageant, Miss San Pedro High School, 2010-2011. The pageant was a vibrant one, filled with entertainment and lots of glamour. Seven beautiful young ladies vied for a shot at the title

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Wilmington students wrap up their training in SP

For the past 38 days, students of the University of North Carolina have been on the island carrying out their teaching certifications at various schools on the island. The 17 students have been commiserating with fellow teachers, learning from them all while imparting education to the classes at the San Pedro High School, Ambergris Caye Elementary and Isla Bonita Elementary.

Throughout the weeks that they have been on the island, the exchange has been grand.

Both Belizean and American teachers have been able to learn from each other. Classrooms in the United States are different than classrooms in San Pedro Town, and as such, North Carolina student teachers have had to adapt. "We've learned to give better direction," commented a



teacher, "we have gone back to bare bones teaching. We have had to learn how to be creative especially since the schools here do not have the access to equipment the way we do back home."

According to Dennis Kubasko, secondary edu-

cation faculty member, Wilmington teachers have learned much about the country and its people by the students that they have taught here on the island. "The access to the environment is fantastic here in Belize. We see the student's love for the environment, the passion that they possess for the reef and the pride that they have. They are knowledgeable about their environment, too."



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However, it is the teachers' hopes that not only will they take with them training and lessons but friendships, as well. According to Principal of San Pedro High School Emil Vasquez, it has been a great experience and not only have the teachers arrived at a time when the school needed them the most but he knows that the friendships formed will last a lifetime. Not only are the teachers forming friendships but the Class of 3A at the High School has had the opportunity to carry out a cultural exchange between the students here and the students in Wilmington. It is their hope that the high school students will continue interacting and learning from each other even after the teachers have returned home to the United States.

Wilmington and San Pedro enjoy a sister city relationship which has proven beneficial to those involved. Kubasko also brought with him donations for the San Pedro Roman Catholic School in the sum of \$500 and the San Pedro High School in the sum of \$1,000, as well as a digital camera. Through fundraising efforts which took place in Wilmington, the schools received the donations which will help support the education program and not to go directly to salaries. The Sister Cities Association, which made it all possible, works to develop international educational, arts, culture and economic exchanges.

With the success the program has had for the past two years, Kubasko says that there will definitely be a third year of the program. Professor Susan Catapano, also joining the group, is currently planning a workshop for San Pedro schoolteachers which will help them grow in their profession.