



COVICRIER

COLLEGE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, CARIBBEAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE, ST. THOMAS, V.I. 00801

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Research: Projects & Plans

VISITING STUDENTS AT VIERS

The Virgin Islands Ecological Research Station (VIERS) at St. John continues to receive a steady

stream of students and professors from the mainland interested in studying marine biology and tropical ecology.

From the University of Georgia, Mr. Brian Simmons arrived in November to do research on population dynamics of the feral donkey population on St. John. The project is funded by the U.S. National Park Service.

Dr. Bruce Coblentz, Professor of Wildlife Studies at Oregon State University, arrived in December. His research project includes studies on feral animals impact on St. John specifically, pigs and goats. A visiting group from the College of Depage Illinois



stayed at VIERS during the month of November. The emphasis of their classwork was tropical marine and Mangrove ecology.

PROGRESS
REPORT ON
CRIME STUDY

On January 26th the Research Group on Crime heard an advance report on a paper which is nearing completion. Dr. William Harris presented to the group the first results of their initial research on the problem of crime in the Virgin Islands.

"Crime in the social matrix of a microstate: the case of the United States Virgin Islands," is now under peer review. The preliminary report is comprised of six sections viz: (1) Growth of the population and economy of the Virgin Islands as background factors to increases in crime. (2 & 3) review the social science literature with respect to the causal factors of crime with some hypotheses. (4 & 5) description of the economic, instrumental, and population variables studies, and the design of the multiple regression model used to analyze the data. (6) An interpretation of the results and the future plans for this comprehensive research program.

Preliminary results of this work reveal some interesting relationships for example the incidence of violent crimes (e.g. homicide, rape, assault) is seen to be related to the presence of youths and tourists at large in our society. On the other hand, the incidence of property crimes (e.g. burglary, larceny, car theft) is seen to be rather strongly related to economic hardship, such as that brought on by rising prices. Policy implications are also appearing e.g. It might be necessary to index police strength to the leisure time periods of actors in our society in order to

diminish the incidence of violent crime. The reduction of property crimes may require a program of economic reconstruction. The report already provides some basic and essential information on this problem in the Virgin Islands, and it points us the way to the work ahead. Given the continuing effort of the Research Group on Crime, in the months ahead we expect to generate grant funds to enhance and ensure our efforts to discover the root causes of crime in the Virgin Islands.

The Drop-out Study contracted to the Institute by the Department of Education in April of last year, has been completed.

The study which is a 150 plus page document consists of a stratified random sample of students who had been in grade eight in the U.S. Virgin Islands public and private schools from the 1961-62 academic year. They were traced through their secondary school careers to determine whether they had (1) graduated from a USVI secondary school, (2) transferred to a secondary school outside of the territory prior to receiving a high school diploma, or (3) were still enrolled in a USVI public or private school. The study has been delivered to the Department of Education officials.

RESEARCH
PAPERS
COMPLETED

Eleven research papers are at present in the publication pipe-line" either in the hands of editors, internal or external readers for review or returned to the authors for corrections based on readers comments.

Comings & Goings

CONFERENCES

The Director journeyed to Pittsburgh on

October 26 for preliminary discussions of cooperative projects between the Center for International Studies and CRI. The trip was proposed by Dr. Burkhardt Holzner who served as a member of the Evaluation Team for the Institute earlier in the year. The University is pursuing Caribbean projects for which, if its proposals are accepted, the Institute would serve as its field monitor. To date no decisions have been taken.

Meetings were also held with Dr. Paul Masoner, former Dean of the School of Education and now Director of the University's International Programs. Dr. Masoner is on the Publications Advisory Committee and with Dr. John Bolvin, has discussed an Institute monograph for which he was serving as external reader.

Some time was also devoted to attend sessions of a Conference on the invitation of the Center for Latin American Studies. Scholars as well as national public officials made presentations on the outlook for the Caribbean in the decade of the 80's.

IDEAS AND ISSUES CONVOCATION

Dr. Jones-Hendrickson spoke at an Ideas and Issues Convocation on the St. Croix Campus on

November 16. He addressed the students on "Opportunities and Careers in Economics."

PLANS FOR ANNUAL CSA CONFERENCE

The CSA Annual Conference will be held in Santo Domingo this year and as Vice-President and President-Elect, Dr. Jones-Hendrickson attended a council meeting in Miami on October 8-10th. The main purpose of this meeting was to draw up plans and arrangements for the May 1983 conference.

Outreach Activities

DIRECTOR CHAIRS BVI COMMISSION

At the request of the Minister of Social Services for the British Virgin Islands, President Richards made Dr. Harrigan's services available to serve as chairman of a Commission appointed to review the Community Development Services of the Territory from December 13 - 31. A report and recommendations have been prepared for the Government.

This activity is in keeping with the College's concern for the problems of the neighboring islands and its willingness to assist in finding solutions.

SRC COORDINATOR SPEAKS TO MORAVIAN YOUTHS

The Moravian Church in the Caribbean celebrated its 150th anniversary during the month of December.

Dr. Jones Hendrickson was invited to speak at the Moravian Youth Conference in Christiansted, St. Croix. His topic was, "Economics, What is it? How can it help."

Publications

MICROSTATE STUDIES Microstate Studies Vol. 3 is ready for circulation and Vol. 4 is in press. After a series of editorial and printing problems with the University of Florida Press, a local firm was able to produce a creditable job.

ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN "CARIBBEAN CONTACT" The issue of Independence for St. Kitts has stirred up a lot of discussion in the Eastern Caribbean. Dr. S.B. Jones-Hendrickson, a native of St. Kitts addressed this issue in an article published in the Caribbean Contact, entitled "The Big Sellout in St. Kitts - The White Paper Prosals."

Personnel

NEW PROJECT ASSISTANT AT VIERS Mr. Bradley Weichert, Project Assistant, started at VIERS in November as a temporary employee under a Water Research Project, entitled "Freshwater Impact On Marine Fisheries Study." Mr. Weichert's duties include responsibility for sampling, marine, chemistry and laboratory coordination.

Equipment

APPLE COMPUTER AT CRI By judicious management of funds the Institute was able to purchase a computer together with a word processor which was delivered in mid-December. This acquisition should make a tremendous difference to the research and publications efforts.

Publications Available at CRI

Purcell, Thomas W., The Effects of Rainfall on Two Undeveloped Tropical Bays in St. John U.S. Virgin Islands, 1980, 47pp
\$2.00

BOOKS

McElroy, Jerome L., & Caines, Joseph. Consumer Expenditure Patterns--A Survey of St. Thomas, U.S.V.I., 1975-1976. University of Florida Press \$11.00

Microstate Studies (Vol.1). Florida Press, 1977. \$4.00

Microstate Studies (Vol.2). Florida Press, 1979. \$4.50

Microstate Studies (Vol.3). Caribbean Research Institute. \$4.50

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The Caribbean Research Institute is a division of the College of the Virgin Islands. It was established in 1966 to provide a central research agency in the Virgin Islands and to encourage research in the Caribbean basin. It pursues a broad spectrum of investigation in the natural, physical, social and economic sciences.