



dateline: UVI

The monthly newsletter of The University of the Virgin Islands

September 26, 2011 vol xvii, number 9

UVI Remembers 9/11



UVI commemorated the 10th Anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks with ceremonies on the St. Thomas campus and Albert A. Sheen Campus on St. Croix. Left, Kablid Matthew and Elvor Narciss of UVI's ROTC Program salute the United States flag at the ceremony on St. Croix. Below, staff members wave their flags as they sing at the ceremony.

Photos by Kevin Dixon



UVI Alumna Dr. Delivette Castor, left, speaks to a student about her HIV research following a lecture to his Freshman Development Seminar class on Sept. 14, on the St. Thomas campus.

UVI Alumna and HIV Researcher, Returns

33.3 million: The number of people world-wide living with HIV, according to USAID 2009 statistics. One in eight: The number of people in the Virgin Islands estimated to be living with HIV in the mid 1990s. It was those last statistics that intrigued Dr. Delivette Castor to become an HIV/AIDS researcher. The 1997 UVI graduate recalled a program between UVI and the Roy Lester Schneider Hospital on St. Thomas where, as a student, she assisted with testing blood samples for HIV.

"This is my first time coming to the serology lab," she explained. A battery of 32 tests was done. Four tested positive for HIV. "I was like wow! This is one in eight!" At that time public service announcements were being broadcast saying that one in eight people in the territory were infected, Dr. Castor said. Her data proved the statistic accurate.

HIV continues to intrigue Dr. Castor. She went on to earn a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Alabama and a Ph.D. in Epidemiology from Columbia University. She is the technical advisor in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Bureau for Global Health at USAID. On Sept. 15, she was making her way across the campuses speaking on the topic, "Global Epidemiology of HIV." Her research of HIV takes her to nations around the world where she studies the disease and designs trials of HIV prevention drugs.

"I really valued my education here," she said in an interview following her lecture to a Freshman Develop-

See Dr. Castor on next page

Events Calendar

Sept. 27-29	CGTC Teachers' Workshop	STT
Sept. 29	Hispanic Heritage Panel	STX
Sept. 29	Healthy Homes Workshop	STJ
Sept. 29	Health and Wellness Day	STT
Oct. 20-21	Health Disparities Institute	STT
Oct. 29	Board of Trustees Meeting	STX

CERC to Host Health Institute

The Caribbean Exploratory NIMHD Research Center for Excellence (CERC) at the University of the Virgin Islands School of Nursing is pleased to announce The Fourth Annual CERC Health Disparities Institute, scheduled for Oct. 20-21, at the Marriott Frenchman's Reef on St. Thomas. The theme for this year's institute is "Partnerships, Collaborations, and Models to Reduce Health Disparities in the USVI and the Caribbean."

The Institute is expected to attract public health scientists, pharmacists, nurses, allied health professionals, physicians, social workers, health policy makers, health educators, researchers, and public and community health leaders with an interest in eliminating health disparities utilizing multidisciplinary approaches.

A Donna M. Christensen Lecture Series was established this year to recognize an individual or organization that promotes or improves the health of individuals, families, communities, or populations by addressing timely issues in health policy, treatment, research or advocacy. The lecture series is named for the Honorable Donna M. Christensen, a medical doctor and eight-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives, representing the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Dr. Garth N. Graham is the inaugural Donna M. Christensen Lecturer. He is the deputy assistant secretary for minority health in the Office of Minority Health (OMH) at the Department of Health and Human Services. In his role as deputy assistant secretary, Dr. Graham and the OMH develop and coordinate federal health policy that addresses minority health concerns and ensure that federal, state and local health programs take into account the needs of disadvantaged, racial and ethnic populations.

For more information visit www.cercinstitute.org or call (404) 559-6191.

dateline: UVI

2 John Brewer's Bay
St. Thomas, VI 00802

SBDC Salutes State Star

Debra Thompson, left, was the 2011 State Star of the VI Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Thompson, an administrative specialist, was chosen by the VI SBDC for being an outstanding performer, making a major contribution to the VI SBDC program, and showing a strong



commitment to the growth of the network. She was recently honored on Sept. 6, in San Diego, Calif., at the America Small Business Development Center's national conference. She is pictured with VI SBDC State Director Leonor D. Dottin and Associate Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration Michael Cbodos.

Dr. Castor continued

ment Seminar class. "When I went on to do my master's (degree) is when I really realized how really prepared I was as a scientist-in-training," she said, noting that she did not experience many of the academic pitfalls that she saw other students in her MPH program go through. She encouraged UVI students to have clear goals and a plan to achieve them, seek faculty support, be proactive about their education by asking questions, manage time wisely and maintain good grades.

"I really enjoy what I do," she said. "It's a relevant intersection of science and policy."

Dr. Castor's visit and lectures were sponsored by UVI's Emerging Caribbean Scientists programs.

dateline: UVI is a production of the UVI Public Relations Office. Contact us by telephone at 340-693-1056 or by fax at 340-693-1055.