



UVI Celebrates a Half-Century of Education

In 1962 Gov. Ralph M. Paiewonsky took a step of faith – he signed into law a charter creating the College of the Virgin Islands. About a year after, Desmond Maynard and a handful of other students also took a step of faith – enrolling in the fledgling institution.

It was a time of excitement and also a time of uncertainty. “Very few people get the chance to attend a brand new institution – something that meant a lot to the entire territory,” Maynard said. On the other hand, “no one knew what would become of the college,” he said. “We never knew if the college would have existed the following year.” Maynard took his chances.

Proponents of the college felt that an institution in the territory would stem the brain drain; students who left the territory to attend college seldom returned. Naysayers felt it would be cheaper if the territory provided scholarships for students to attend mainland institutions than to invest in a college.

At the March 16, 2012 Charter Day Ceremony celebrating the now University of the Virgin Islands’ 50th anniversary, former Governor and UVI Professor Emeritus Charles W. Turnbull shared a historical perspective of the institution. “They thought it was a Paiewonsky pie-in-the-sky dream,” Gov. Turnbull said of early critics. “For him it wasn’t whether we could afford to have a college, but if we could afford not to have one.”

At the ceremony, honoring Paiewonsky for his faith, vision and tenacity, UVI President Dr. David Hall said, “in one stroke of a pen this territory elevated itself so that it produces its own leaders.” He also honored the spirits of

all the unsung heroes that contributed to the University. Government officials, UVI trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, students and members of the community gathered on all three islands – connected through video-conference technology – in a ceremony that marked the University’s progress and success.



Desmond Maynard



UVI President Dr. David Hall, left, and Board of Trustee Chairman Alexander A. Moorhead, Jr. unveil a new sign at the rededication of the Ralph M. Paiewonsky Library on the St. Thomas campus. Looking on, from left, are Gov. John P. deJongh, former UVI President Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster, UVI Board of Trustee Emeritus Dr. Auguste E. Rimpel, Jr. and Lt. Gov. Gregory Francis.

Dr. Hall said the institution’s next challenge is to create a future by envisioning how UVI must continue to grow and excel. He challenged everyone to sign an internal oath to work on creating a more bold, dynamic and relevant University in the next 50 years.

Dr. Bernard Paiewonsky, a UVI Trustee Emeritus and son of the late Gov. Paiewonsky, said that UVI was a major factor in his father’s life until his death. Via a video message that was played during the ceremony, the younger Paiewonsky explained his father’s passion for an institution of higher learning from the day of his inauguration in

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Events Calendar

April 30-May 1	Energy Conference	STT
May 12	Commencement	STT
May 13	Commencement	STX
May 14-June 18	Summer Session I	STT/STX
June 21-July 27	Summer Session II	STT/STX

A Celebration for the World to See



The University of the Virgin Islands participated in the 60th Anniversary of Virgin Islands Carnival with entries in both of the Carnival Parades. The UVI Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Troupe participated in the Children's Parade on Friday, April 27. The UVI Carnival Troupe participated in the Adults' Parade on Saturday, April 28. From the left; A reveler dances up the parade route with UVI's Adult's Parade troupe; A youngster participates in the Children's Parade; and A mocko jumbie performs in UVI's Adult's Parade troupe.

The Roles of Women in the Workplace have Improved, Panelists Say

Have the roles of women changed for better or worse over the past 50 years? That was the question that UVI's 2nd Annual Women's Leadership Forum set out to answer at this year's forum on March 29. A panel featuring five UVI alumnae in the fields of academia, business, aviation, medicine and ministry mostly agreed that the roles of women have changed for the better in those professions over the last half-century. The presenters were retired U.S. Army Colonel Caroline Adams-Fawkes ('88, '96, '99), the first female Virgin Islands pilot for the VI. National Guard; UVI Professor of Education Dr. Rita Howard ('73); UVI Trustee and Assistant Chief Executive Officer of the Economic Development Authority Jennifer Nugent-Hill ('79, '87); gynecologist Dr. Anne O. Treasure ('86); and pastor Dr. Lucia Woods ('73).

The panelists agreed that women have always been prevalent in the fields of business and education. "Because I saw women in the Virgin Islands running businesses, that's what I knew," said Nugent-Hill, naming Ann Abramson and Annie deChabert as business women whose work inspired her.

Dr. Howard said that there are more women than men in the field of education, even in leadership roles. "We've pretty much dominated in the educational area," she said, calling on men to join the legions of women educators.

The medical field, Dr. Treasure said, has seen an increase in women physicians. "Fifty years ago only 10 percent of physicians were women," Dr. Treasure said. Sixty percent of medical school graduates are now females, she added.

The roles of women in the areas of ministry and aviation have not changed much over the last 50 years, the panelists said.

"It was unheard of for women to serve in leadership roles in the church," Dr. Woods said. As women gradually take on leadership roles, they are not always welcomed with open arms. "I have received a lot of resistance, mainly here in the Caribbean," the pastor added.



Pastor Dr. Lucia Woods speaks at the forum.

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India.Arie Wows the Reichhold

In what has been described as a “phenomenal experience” singer and songwriter India.Arie performed her popular hits and songs from her soon-to-be-released album “Open Door,” on March 17, as one of the most highly anticipated artists of UVI’s Reichhold Center for the Arts season. Displaying a range of talent India.Arie sang, danced and played



India.Arie invites Kenya Eugene, a singer from St. Croix who opened the show, to perform with her.

the flute for almost two hours for a delighted audience. Kenya Eugene of St. Croix opened the show.

As part of UVI’s Golden Jubilee 50th Anniversary, the current and past UVI presidents selected performances they wanted to be part of the Reichhold’s season. India.Arie was selected by President David Hall, who likened the “song-bird” to UVI. Dr. Hall said in his introduction

that like UVI, she has touched the lives of many around the world while remaining authentic.

India.Arie seemed just as impressed with the audience as they were with her. After her performance, India.Arie sent a few tweets to her 138,046 fol-



Grammy Award-winning singer India.Arie performs at UVI’s Reichhold Center for the Arts.

lowers on the social networking site Twitter. “Thank you St Thomas and the University of the Virgin Islands for a BEAUTIFUL evening. The Show Felt AMAZING!” one tweet said. “Thank you Dr. David Hall for THE SINGLE BEST INTRODUCTION EVER!” said another. “And thank all the organizers and crew and the Reichhold center for EVERYTHING. I love u all. Hope to see u next year.”

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Dr. Rita Howard, Jennifer Nugent-Hill and Col. Caroline Adams-Fawkes share a laugh at UVI’s 2nd Annual Women’s Leadership Forum.

“Aviation is still a male dominated field,” Col. Adams-Fawkes said, recounting many of the obstacles she had to overcome. Col. Adams-Fawkes gave some grim statistics. She said that only four percent of the pilots of the commercial carrier American Airlines are female and only two percent of those are captains.

The forum was videoconferenced between the St. Thomas and St. Croix campuses in a format where moderator Dara Cooper posed questions to the panelists. One of the questions focused on a statistic that showed that both females and males preferred male bosses and asked the reason why.

“I really do not believe that leadership is gender specific,”

Dr. Howard said. Good leadership depends on a person’s professional qualities, not their gender, she added.

Dr. Woods said because we live in a male-dominated society people have been programmed to think male leadership is better. For example, she said, a large number of people still picture nurses as women and doctors as men. “The minds have been so programmed. We have to deprogram the mindset,” she said. “Women have to recognize their worth.”

Nugent-Hill had a different take on the question. “Really and truly we are fearful of each other,” she said. Because many women fear and distrust each other, that keeps women from being accepting of female supervisors, she said.

Adams-Fawkes, who had a 32-year military career, said she wasn’t exposed to female supervisors because in her career she didn’t have any.

Dr. Treasure said that in today’s economy, people are less focused on their supervisor’s gender and happy to be employed.

The panelists were also individually asked specific questions related to their careers. For the “Myth or Reality” segment, they were read statements and each had to hold up a placard indicating if the statement was a myth or reality in their lives.

Former Choir Members Unite from Across the Region



Almost 100 former members of the University of the Virgin Islands Choir reunited for a historic performance at the Reichhold Center for the Arts on March 3. Thoroughly impressed by the performance, radio and television personality Atbniel “Addie” Otley said it was just like the performances at New York’s famed Carnegie Hall. UVI alumni came from St. Kitts, Nevis, Tortola,

St. Croix, Antigua, Anguilla, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, Georgia and Texas to perform with The Golden Jubilee Reunion Choir. The performance was a tribute to UVI President Emeritus Dr. Arthur A. Richards. DVDs of the performance are on sale at the UVI St. Thomas Campus Bookstore. For more information call the Bookstore at (340) 693-1561.

Native Son Edward Blyden Venerated at Heath Lecture

To understand the valor of Edward Wilmot Blyden, one would have to imagine the times in which he lived. Born a free man in the pre-emancipation Danish West Indies, Blyden never understood the concept of enslavement. He received an education, had friends of different races and was determined to become a minister. As a teenager he left St. Thomas for Rutgers University in New Jersey to study theology. There Blyden was faced with the harsh reality of racism – he was not admitted to the institution because of his race. Instead of returning to St. Thomas, Blyden repatriated to Liberia, West Africa, where he spent the rest of his life as a champion of the

black race, asserting the equality of African people.

Dr. Hollis Lynch, the world’s leading scholar on the life and times of Edward Wilmot Blyden, memorialized Blyden at UVI’s Alfred O. Heath Distinguished Lecture Series in March. In recognition of the centennial of Blyden’s death, the

series presented “A Symposium on the Life and Accomplishments of Edward Wilmot Blyden.”

Dr. Lynch said that Blyden became a man of many firsts – Liberia’s first ambassador to England and France, one of the first professors at the University of Liberia and the first black to have his work published in an American literary journal. Blyden wrote many works that challenged the notion of white supremacy. He penned what Dr. Lynch called, “the most famous book published by a black man in the 19th century.” The book “Islam, Christianity and the Negro Race” drew astonishment and disbelief among the masses, who did not believe that it was written by a black man, Dr. Lynch said.

Blyden traveled throughout Africa, Europe and the United States declaring that African has no superior among the races, Dr. Lynch said. As a minister, Blyden encouraged new converts to Christianity to keep their African names, wear their traditional clothes and maintain their African traditions, which



Isa Blyden



Dr. Hollis Lynch

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Ivory Carter Wins Miss UVI Title

Ivory Carter won the hearts of the audience and the votes of the judges at the Miss UVI Ambassadorial Competition on March 31, earning the title of Miss UVI. The 21-year-old junior from UVI's Albert A. Sheen Campus on St. Croix also won the Best Ambassadorial Presentation and Miss Congeniality segments.

The first runner-up title was cinched by Raynise Nesbitt, an 18-year-old sophomore. Nesbitt also won Best Talent, Miss Popularity and Miss Photogenic segments, and tied with 21-year-old sophomore Najuma Dunn for Best Business Wear. The Best Evening Wear segment was captured by Latoya Rouse, a 26-year-old junior.

As Miss UVI, Carter will serve as a goodwill ambassador for the University, participating in UVI's recruitment efforts, representing the University locally and abroad, and maintaining a highly visible role on UVI's campuses. In addition to one full year of UVI tuition, including room and board, she will receive jewelry and a luggage set.



The newly crowned Miss UVI Ivory Carter, seated, is surrounded by her court. From left to right, Latoya Rouse, first runner-up Raynise Nesbitt and Najuma Dunn.

All-Female Group Forms at UVI



Charter members and charter associate members were recently inducted into UVI's all-female group Sisters With Purpose St. Thomas campus chapter top, and Albert A. Sheen Campus chapter on St. Croix, bottom.

Learning Takes Place Year-Round at UVI, Summer Programs for Everyone

Students who want to earn college credits in a short period of time have the opportunity to take classes during UVI's Summer Sessions 2012. UVI offers two summer sessions running from May 14 to July 27. Summer Session I will be held from May 14 to June 18. Summer Session II will be held from June 21 to July 27. Online reregistration for Summer Sessions will be on-going until May 12. In-person registration will be held on May 13 and 14.

The University also offers a host of other summer programs for UVI students, grade school students and the general public. This year's offerings include:

Coral Week Discovery Week – This program is for students ages 15-19 who are interested in coastal, marine and environmental science, natural resource management and conservation. (St. Thomas)

SAT Prep Program – The UVI-CELL/Innovative SAT Prep program is designed for high school students who would like to build SAT test-taking confidence, lower their anxiety and improve their test-taking ability. (St. Thomas and St. Croix)

Summer School Credit Recovery Program – This online program features courses in high school mathematics, science and language arts for students who would like to complete their high school diplomas. (St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix)

Mathematics Behind the Science Bridge Program – This residential Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics college preparation program is for students who will enter college as freshmen in the Fall or students already attending UVI who have successfully completed MAT 024. (St. Thomas)

Summer Undergraduate Research Experience – This research program is open to UVI students majoring in sci-

Record Crowds Spend Afternoon at UVI



Hundreds of people attended UVI's annual Afternoon on the Green on Sunday, March 11. Many sampled dozens of dishes, native drinks and pastries contributed by the community. From above, members of the Paradise Volkswagen Club make their way on the green to display the vintage vehicles; bottom right, long-time event supporter Sonia Castro serves up a slice of red velvet cake under the pastry tent named in her honor; Bottom left, children learn about corals in the Academic Tent.



ence, mathematics or engineering interested in conducting interdisciplinary research with a faculty member. (St. Thomas and St. Croix)

Summer Sophomore Research Institute – This residential program is open to sophomores and juniors who would like to work with faculty on a research project. (St. Thomas and St. Croix)

Summer Institute for Future Global Leaders – This multi-discipline program and its activities equip students with a broad knowledge and functional skills necessary to assume future leadership roles in a global and dynamic environment. (St. Thomas)

Upward Bound Summer Program – This residential program provides fundamental support to high school students in their preparation for college entrance. (St. Thomas and St. Croix)

4-H Summer Academy – This program is for children

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Charter Day *Continued from page 1*



Ruth Davis

1961. During his inaugural address Gov. Paiewonsky said, “with aid from Washington we can create and develop a college or university to serve the need of the Virgin Islands and its neighbors.” Gov. Paiewonsky remained an integral part of the institution, shepherding its growth as a member of the UVI Board of Trustees. He spent the last day of his life chairing a meeting at UVI. Bernard Paiewonsky said that his father would be proud of what the University has accomplished and how it has served the territory and the world.

Charter Day keynote speaker, retired U.S. Ambassador Ruth Davis, said the University must continue to push forward. The career ambassador challenged UVI to “broaden its influence in the international realm and to emphasize the development of students who are internationally focused and prepared to support and lead the 20th century diplomacy of the United States of America.” Davis said UVI must not be left behind in an opportunity to compete in a global world.

Maynard said there is “not a moment of regret” about his decision some half-century ago to receive a college education at the institution. He is one of the legendary 13 that were in the college’s first graduating class in 1965. He was also on hand to celebrate with the University at the Golden Jubilee Charter Day Ceremony.

Following the ceremony, the Ralph M. Paiewonsky Library on the St. Thomas campus was rededicated in Gov. Paiewonsky’s honor.

Dateline UVI is UVI’s monthly newsletter produced by the UVI Public Relations Office. Photos by Kevin Dixon, Lario Duzanson, Gary Metz, Dale Morton and Carolyn O’Neal-Morton. For more information contact Editor Nanyamka Farrelly at (340) 693-1056 or nfarrel@uvi.edu.

Summer Programs

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between the ages of 5 to 14. It is focused on the three mission mandates of the 4-H program: science, engineering and technology, healthy living and citizenship. (St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix)

Summer Bridge Program – This program is for non-traditional students who would like to transition into a university setting. (St. Thomas and St. Croix)

Information on UVI’s Summer Sessions is available from the Academics tab under Current Students on the UVI website www.uvi.edu.

Information on UVI’s summer programs is available from the Community tab of the UVI website www.uvi.edu.



<http://weareuvi.blogspot.com>



Alfred O. Heath Lecture Series

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Dr. Nemata Blyden

was contrary to what was taught at the time. He also united Muslims and Christians.

For his work, Blyden is known as the father of Pan-Africanism. “He was obsessed with this Pan-African mission,” said Dr. Lynch, a professor emeritus of Columbia University. When Blyden was offered entry into Oxford University, he declined the opportunity, saying that his duties to his race were too pressing for him to stop his work, Dr. Lynch said. Blyden later regarded his appointment as the president of the University of Liberia as the “most crucial” in his career, Dr. Lynch said.

“He was one of the most versatile and accomplished men of the 19th century,” Dr. Lynch said, calling Blyden “an oracle on both sides of the Atlantic.”

Blyden’s great-granddaughters Isa Blyden and Dr. Nemata Blyden also made presentations, among which was a video excerpt by Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Malique Smith Takes First Place in Annual Race



Runners prepare to cross the finish line at the 11th Annual UVI Queen Mary 5K Walk/Run on St. Croix. The course takes participants from the Albert A. Sheen Campus to Sunshine Mall and back. Malique Smith, a 14-year-old Educational Complex freshman, won the race. Billy Boblke came in second place. It was a head-to-head race with both Smith and Boblke clocking 17:58. Smith won by a few inches. More than 60 people participated in the March 23 event.

Thousands of Young Men 'Man Up' at Second Conference

Students on St. Croix react at the 2nd Annual Man-Up Male Empowerment Conference held in February. Thousands of male students from middle and high schools throughout the territory attended the event held on St. Thomas and St. Croix. The conference was started in 2011 to address rising community concern about violent crime and a downward trend in the number of black males enrolled in colleges and universities. This year's theme was "MAN-UP: Realize your Potential – Celebrating Responsible Manhood." The conference was delivered utilizing a multimedia stage play, "Real Men Talking." The play depicted five African American men talking about accountability, sex, relationships, self-esteem, incarceration, the falsehood of the streets, insecurities, fatherhood, mentoring and history, just to name a few.

