



BVI Alumni Chapter Being Re-Born; Involvement Needed

A rebirth of sorts has been happening in the British Virgin Islands as UVI alumni Carolyn O'Neal-Morton, John Lewis, Elton Callwood and Kharid Fraser work to reestablish the BVI Chapter of the UVI Alumni Association. One of the chapter's kick-off events was an Alumni Meet and Greet with UVI President Dr. David Hall. Held at the Moorings Marina Conference Room in Tortola on June 18, the event attracted more than 50 alumni. Acting Chapter President O'Neal-Morton said it felt like a reunion.

"We were able to recapture fond memories of the days at CVI and UVI. It was great since we had alumni from different stages of UVI (in attendance)," O'Neal-Morton said. Linda I. Smith, UVI's director of Annual Giving and Alumni Affairs, said second and third generations of UVI alumni living in the BVI participated in the event. Many alumni there also said that they currently have children attending UVI, Smith noted.

"It is amazing that through my involvement with the chapter I realize how much UVI has and continues to play a pivotal role in the BVI," O'Neal-Morton said. "There are UVI alumni from all sectors of the BVI community – public and private." She hopes to build on the momentum of

the Alumni Meet and Greet.

"Our goal is to get more alumni involved so that we can have a vibrant and effective chapter," O'Neal Morton said. "One of our main objectives will be to spread the word about UVI so that we can increase enrollment from the BVI and be true ambassadors of UVI," she added. "I am confident of President Hall's commitment to us," O'Neal-

Morton continued, thanking the offices of the President, Alumni Affairs and Campus Operations for the support.

Upcoming BVI Chapter events include monthly general meetings, a Dinner-Ball in September and a concert in November.

Smith said that the Alumni Affairs office is working to strengthen or revive all of its alumni chapters. She encourages all UVI alumni and friends to "like" the alumni's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UVIAlumniNetwork to stay up-to-date with all alumni activities.



Carolyn O'Neal Morton

UVI Ushers in a 'New Era' with V.I. Robotic Telescope

Atop a hill in Bonne Resolution, St. Thomas, sits an advanced piece of equipment that allows University of the Virgin Islands students and faculty, along with other researchers, the opportunity to study some of the most distant objects in the universe. The Virgin Islands Robotic Telescope (VIRT) at UVI's Etelman Observatory and Science Center was officially unveiled at a reopening ceremony at the facility on June 19. The VIRT is a fully automated, robotically controlled and queue-driven 0.5m research grade telescope. It is the largest robotically controlled research-grade optical telescope within 3,000 miles of St. Thomas and the most powerful optical telescope ever available in the Caribbean region for use by the general public, said the Observatory's Director Dr. David C. Morris.

The telescope was brought on line in April. Since then,

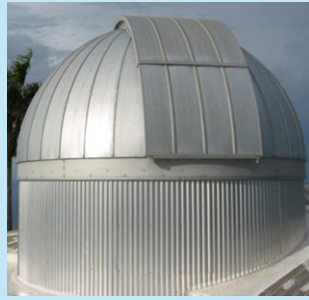
the Observatory has hosted a team of researchers from the Chinese National Academy of Science and National Observatory for a three-day workshop. Lab sessions for UVI's

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Events Calendar

June 28	Climate Change Forum	STJ
June 29	Climate Change Forum	STT
June 30	Climate Change Forum	STX
July 1	Mango Melee	STX
July 3	Emancipation Day - UVI Closed	
July 4	Independence Day - UVI Closed	

Etelman Observatory Continued



Right, the Virgin Islands Robotic Telescope. Top, the retractable dome where the telescope is housed.

astronomy classes are being held at the Observatory. Faculty from the College of Charleston and the Chinese National Observatory are also using the Etelman Observatory for ongoing research with UVI faculty and students.

“A new era of science, scholarship, research, and national and international astronomy collaboration is upon us,” said Dr. Morris, who is also a UVI professor of physics and astronomy.

In addition to UVI students and faculty, the facility will be available to schools, community groups and the general public.

“Imagine looking up at the heavens on a clear night; now imagine being able to look that much more closely. Individual stars, planets and meteor showers will come alive and inspire new generations of students,

families, future scientists and backyard astronomers,” Dr. Morris said.

Harry I. Etelman donated his house and the astronomical observatory he had built within it to the university in 1962. In the early 2000s the Etelman Observatory was renovated, upgraded and converted into an observatory control and science education center. This year, thanks to Celtic Therapeutics and other donors, the renovated observatory is opening its doors to the public with school outreach and general public viewing activities.

For more information about the Etelman Observatory and Science Center call Dr. David Morris at (340) 693-1391, send email to dmorris@uvi.edu or visit astro.uvi.edu.

Mango Melee to be Sweet

Mango Melee and Tropical Fruit Festival will be held from noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 1, at the St. George Village Botanical Garden on St. Croix. Mango Melee is a day for the entire family, with educational workshops, food competitions, mango and tropical fruit tasting, craft vendors, mango eating contests, youth activities, food sales and more. There will be music and workshops on coconut production, nutrition and creations. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages six to 12. Children five and under are admitted free. The UVI Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station are among the event's sponsors.

Dateline UVI is UVI's monthly newsletter produced by the UVI Public Relations Office. Photos by Dr. Jim Neff and courtesy of Carolyn O'Neal-Morton. For more information contact Editor Nanyamka Farrelly at (340) 693-1056 or nfarrel@uvi.edu.

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Dateline: UVI

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