The University Libraries were named in honor of the late Governors Ralph M. Paiewonsky and Melvin H. Evans.

As the ninth Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Paiewonsky was instrumental in “upgrading the educational system” throughout the territory. “To meet the need for higher education in the Virgin Islands, Governor Paiewonsky supported plans for a local college. Under his administration the College of the Virgin Islands was established in 1962, and by 1972 the four year liberal arts college was designated a Land Grant College. It is now known as the University of the Virgin Islands.”*

Evans made his mark in Virgin Islands history as the 1st elected Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands. He also was the first Virgin Islander named ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago. Evans was a skillful physician and contributed to the V.I. Health Department.

To find out more information about these prestigious Governors and other notable Virgin Islanders, check out the popular publication entitled “Profiles of Outstanding Virgin Islanders” by Ruth Moolenaar, 1992.

*excerpt taken from the Profiles of Outstanding Virgin Islanders.
The University of the Virgin Islands Libraries’ Special Collections are a rare and unique compilation of works that exemplify a diverse people, culture, and heritage throughout the islands.

♦ Caribbean Collection

The Caribbean Collections consist of materials covering a broad range of topics that pertain to the civilization, history and literature of the Caribbean region.

Materials for inclusion are collected from the English, French, Hispanic and Dutch speaking Caribbean islands which feature literature of local Virgin Islanders and other notable Caribbean writers abroad. The focal point of the collection is to highlight the social, economic, political, cultural and topical issues in the region.

♦ Melchior Center for the Recent History of the Virgin Islands

The Ariel Melchior, Sr. Recent History Center (Melchior Center) Special Collection is located in the St. Thomas campus library. It includes books, papers, pictures and other material about the recent history of the Virgin Islands from the 1900s to the present.

♦ Ralph D. DeChabert Collection

The Ralph D. DeChabert Special Collection is located in the St. Croix campus library. It includes books, government documents, microfilm and microfiche which focus, first, on the history and culture of the Islands and second, more generally on the broader Caribbean.

♦ University Archives Coming Soon!

The University Archives will serve as a repository for rare historical records and documents that encompass the operations, publications, manuscripts, policies and all other activities of the University of the Virgin Islands.

Noteworthy UVI Libraries Resources

St. Thomas

♦ Description of the UVI Archive of Virgin Islands’ Rocks by Roy A. Watlington, 1989.

♦ Disaster and Disruption in 1867: hurricane, earthquake and tsunami in the Danish West Indies, a collection of accounts and reports by Roy A, Watlington, Shirley H. Lincoln, 1997.

♦ Militarization in the Non-Hispanic Caribbean by Alma H. Young, Dion E. Philips, 1986.


St. Croix

♦ Agricultural Resurgence in the United States Virgin Islands by Klaus de Albuquerque, 1983.


♦ 50 years of the ballot: a political history of Trinidad and Tobago by George John & Owen Baptiste, 1991.