Forty-Sixth Annual

Commencement

ST. THOMAS CAMPUS
Saturday, the Fifteenth of May
Two Thousand and Ten
Seven O’Clock in the Evening
Sports and Fitness Center
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

ST. CROIX CAMPUS
Sunday, the Sixteenth of May
Two Thousand and Ten
Half after Four O’Clock in the Afternoon
Campus Grounds
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands
Randall Robinson

Social Justice Advocate, Author, Educator

Randall Robinson, an internationally respected social justice advocate and author, is also a professor of law at Penn State University. In 1979, he established TransAfrica, the mandate of which is to promote enlightened, progressive U.S. policies towards Africa and the Caribbean. While president of that organization, he frequently testified before the House and Senate on U.S. policies toward Africa and the Caribbean.

He also led the “Free South Africa Movement” – the nation-wide campaign to end apartheid in South Africa. His 1994 campaign to end military rule in Haiti included a 27-day hunger strike that caused the United States government to lead the successful multinational operation that, in 1994, returned to power Haiti’s first democratically elected – but violently overthrown – government.

Through his writings, congressional testimony, television appearances and civil disobedience campaigns, Mr. Robinson was actively involved in efforts to expose the brutality of the Mengistu regime in Ethiopia and the corruption in Nigeria during that country’s era of military dictatorships. He also fought to thwart U.S. attempts to end the Caribbean’s access to the European banana market.

Mr. Robinson resigned from TransAfrica in 2001.

He is a best-selling author whose works include “Defending the Spirit – A Black Life in America,” “The Debt – What America Owe to Blacks,” “The Reckoning – What Blacks Owe to Each Other,” “Quitting America – The Departure of a Black Man from his Native Land,” and “An Unbroken Agony – Haiti, from Revolution to the Kidnapping of a President.” He is a graduate of Harvard Law School. Some 19 universities have bestowed honorary Ph.D.s upon him in recognition of the international impact of his social justice advocacy. He is the recipient of numerous awards. Among the institutions that have honored him are the United Nations, the Congressional Black Caucus, Harvard University, Essence Magazine, ABC-News Person of the Week, the Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violent Change, the NAACP and Ebony Magazine.

Mr. Robinson has shared his views and policy recommendations on “Nightline,” CNN, the “Today Show,” C-Span, “The Tavis Smiley Show,” “Charlie Rose,” and other leading American television programs. He resides with his wife Hazel in St. Kitts, where he continues to write.
The University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) was chartered on March 16, 1962, as the College of the Virgin Islands (CVI) – a publicly funded, coeducational, liberal arts institution – by Act No. 862 of the Fourth Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands. According to that law, UVI’s cornerstone objective is to provide for “...the stimulation and utilization of the intellectual resources of the people of the Virgin Islands and the development of a center of higher learning whereby and wherefrom the benefits of culture and education may be extended throughout the Virgin Islands."

The first campus opened on St. Thomas in July 1963, on 175 acres donated by the federal government. The first Board of Trustees took office in August 1963. In 1964, the college founded a second campus on St. Croix, on 130 acres also donated by the federal government.

CVI began by offering only associate of arts degrees. It now offers numerous associate and baccalaureate degrees, including an associate's degree in process technology. UVI also offers six master's degree programs, an education specialist's degree program, and certificate workforce training courses through the UVI Community Engagement and Life-long Learning Center.

In 1972, the College of the Virgin Islands was awarded land grant status by the U.S. Congress. This allowed for the establishment of an Agricultural Experiment Station and a Cooperative Extension Service. Since then, many other programs and services have been added. These include the Reichhold Center for the Arts, the Eastern Caribbean Center, the William P. MacLean Marine Science Center and the UVI Sports & Fitness Center, among others.

In 1986, the College of the Virgin Islands was renamed the University of the Virgin Islands to reflect the growth and diversification of its academic curricula, community and regional services, and research programs. That same year, the U.S. Congress named UVI one of America’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). It is the only HBCU outside the continental U.S., and the first to offer an undergraduate degree in marine biology.

Dr. David Hall began his tenure as president of the University of the Virgin Islands on August 1, 2009. Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster was named the fourth president of the University of the Virgin Islands in 2002, succeeding Dr. Orville Kean who had served since 1980. Dr. Kean succeeded Dr. Arthur A. Richard, who became president in 1980. Lawrence C. Wanlass served as the first president of the College of the Virgin Islands from 1963 until 1980.

Today, UVI enrolls approximately 2,600 full-time and part-time students on its two campuses. It continues to offer a high-quality, affordable liberal arts education in a culturally diverse environment. The University boasts more than 5,500 alumni who have gone on to excel as doctors, lawyers, judges, university and government administrators, teachers and other professionals. Among the many accomplished UVI alumni are two Rhodes scholars, the winner of a Pulitzer Prize for Journalism and the Premier of Nevis.

UVI holds active membership in many higher education associations, including the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association. The University is also an active member of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the American Association of University Women, the American Council on Education, the Association of Caribbean Information Systems and the Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes.

Cooperative agreements between the University of the Virgin Islands and many other leading universities allow UVI students to receive degrees not offered on the UVI campuses. The Boston University School of Medicine cooperative agreement allows UVI students, after meeting certain qualifications, to be accepted provisionally into the medical school at the end of their sophomore year. These students spend two summers and their senior year at Boston University, graduate with a bachelor of science degree from the University of the Virgin Islands, and then proceed to complete medical school at Boston University.

Students in St. Martin and the British Virgin Islands earn bachelor’s degrees via cohort programs the University of the Virgin Islands has established with the University of St. Martin and H. Lavity Stoutt Community College in Tortola. Additionally, there are less formalized transfer programs in pre-engineering, pre-pharmacy and pre-medical technology for students who wish to begin their studies in these fields at the University of the Virgin Islands before transferring to a specialized institution to complete their degrees.

The National Student Exchange (NSE) program operates on both the St. Thomas and St. Croix campuses. Each semester approximately 25 students from the U.S. mainland enroll through NSE. In addition, UVI continues to admit students via memoranda of understanding with the State University of New York at New Paltz, the College of Charleston, Emory University, Savannah State University (social work completion), Columbia University and Washington University in St. Louis (engineering), UNINTER (Universidad Internacional de Cuernavaca, Mexico) and the UNICA Caribbean Exchange Program.

The University of the Virgin Islands is increasingly being recognized as a leading American institution of higher learning in the Caribbean.
PROGRAM - St. Thomas Campus

Alexander Randall, Ed.D., Visiting Associate Professor of Communications

COMMENCEMENT MARSHAL

*PROCÉSSIONAL........................................................................................................... “Pomp and Circumstance” (Elgar) University Jazz Ensemble
Martin Lamkin, Director

*INVOCATION ............................................................................................................ Dacil Heyliger, Class of 2010

*NATIONAL ANTHEM .................................................................................................... “Star Spangled Banner” (Key) University Jazz Ensemble

*VIRGIN ISLANDS MARCH ......................................................................................... “Virgin Islands March” (Adams) University Jazz Ensemble

WELCOME .................................................................................................................... David Hall, S.J.D., President

KEYNOTE ADDRESS .................................................................................................... Randall Robinson, J.D. Professor of Law, Penn State University

MUSICAL SELECTION ................................................................................................. “Let Us Walk In Peace” (Patsy Ford Simms) University Concert Choir
Lorna C. Young-Wright, D.M.A

ADDRESS .................................................................................................................... Jaedee S.K. Caines, Class of 2010

REMARKS .................................................................................................................... Alexander A. Moorhead Chairman, UVI Board of Trustees

The Honorable Louis Patrick Hill
President of the 28th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

The Honorable Donna M. Christensen
Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress

The Honorable John P. deJongh, Jr.
Governor, United States Virgin Islands

MUSICAL SELECTION ................................................................................................. “In a Sentimental Mood” (D. Ellington) University Jazz Ensemble featuring Ashena DeSouza, Steel Pan

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES ................................................................................. Al Hassan I. Musah, Ph.D., Provost

CONFERRING OF DEGREES
Master of Arts in Education • Master of Business Administration • Master of Public Administration
Master of Science in Marine and Environmental Science
Bachelor of Science • Bachelor of Arts • Associate of Science • Associate of Arts • Associate of Applied Science

INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ................................................................ Henry H. Smith, Ph.D. Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement

*ALMA MATER ........................................................................................................... “Alma Mater by the Sea” (LaMotta) University Jazz Ensemble

*BENEDICTION ........................................................................................................... Re’Neesha Thomas, Class of 2010

*RECESSIONAL ......................................................................................................... “March in F/Blues March” (G. Holst/B. Golson) University Jazz Ensemble

*Audience is requested to stand.

Every effort is made to ensure that this program is accurate; circumstances beyond our control may have resulted in unintentional errors.
ST. THOMAS CAMPUS

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Candidates for Master of Business Administration Degree

Pamela V. Berkeley
Kimblea Kareema Dawson
Kevenmay A. Douglas
Cecile Y. Fahie
Willa Fils
Allyson R. Gregory
William E.C. Mike
Monifa Jamila Potter
Ravi Vashi Ramnani
Simina Van Clief

Candidates for Bachelor of Arts Degree

Jyrell R. Amaro
Sherell Shantaye' Anthony
Roberto C. Arrindell
Jermaine L. Baptiste
Genecea T. Bassue
Daniassa N. Benjamin
Carolyn L. Brewley
Shakeemia A. Browne
Triola T. Browne
Cordell A. Buchanan
Dawn A. Callwood
Marilyn Michelle Callwood
Avon J. Cannonier
Kyle K. Coker
Joycelyn A. Connor
Joselita M. Daniel
Dyan A. Defrietas
Dujon J. DeSuza
Bimar Disashi
Kevin A. Donovan
Julie Chez Drigo
Te’Wanna T. Eddy
Tracy D. Evans
Eugene D. Farrell

Candidates for Associate of Arts Degree

Sherell Shantaye’ Anthony
Youlando Semon Belle
Laurel Amanda Boula
Shyvonne L. Bridgewater
Kyza Asward Callwood
Patricia Esdale

Candidates for Master of Arts in Education Degree

Andrea O. Bridgewater
Joycelyn Marie Bryan

Candidates for Bachelor of Arts Degree

Candidates for Associate of Arts Degree

ST. THOMAS CAMPUS

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Candidates for Master of Arts in Education Degree

Lourdes Ma Rita D. Aguila
Kernis A. Akers
Racquel E. Benjamin
Rebecca Brahm
Susan Heartburg Edwards

Candidates for Bachelor of Arts Degree

Andrew O. Bridgewater
Joycelyn Marie Bryan

Candidates for Associate of Arts Degree

Shirlin M. Brown
Cheryl Leona Hodge Eddy

****summa cum laude  **magna cum laude    *cum laude    ^ Fall Semester 2009 Graduate
## ST. THOMAS CAMPUS

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

#### Candidates for Master of Public Administration Degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Advisor 1</th>
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<th>Advisor 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trisha D. Baker-James</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shoran Denise Caines-Sasso</td>
<td>Kemba Martin-Morgan</td>
<td>Monique M. Richardson-Blake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luvia C. Blijden</td>
<td></td>
<td>Leo L. Gardner, Jr.</td>
<td>Abena M. McLean</td>
<td>Karen Cecilia Warner-Gonzalez</td>
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</table>

#### Candidates for Bachelor of Arts Degree

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<th>Degree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natisha Alexander</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ashena K. DeSouza</td>
<td>Davriel M. Huggins</td>
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<td>Alan K. Browne</td>
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<td>Campbell O. Douglas</td>
<td>Karen H. Isaac</td>
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<td>Nicole M. Burke</td>
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<td>David Paul Dudemaine</td>
<td>Siovolin V. Jones</td>
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<td>Charissie S. Burroughs</td>
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<td>Paula A. Duke</td>
<td>Marah Joseph</td>
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<td>Desiree D. Burton</td>
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<td>Janelle R. Lake</td>
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<td>Jaedee S.K. Caines</td>
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<td>Leonale A. Furet</td>
<td>Michall J. LaRochelle</td>
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<td>Michael L. Charles</td>
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<td>Robyn G. Glasgow</td>
<td>Zoe M. Mathis</td>
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<td>Denise Christopher</td>
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<td>Ava B. Gumbs</td>
<td>Kathleen Pascal</td>
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<td>Teejah T. Daley</td>
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#### Candidates for Associate of Arts Degree

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<tr>
<td>Megan M. Anderson</td>
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<td>Stephen D. Persaud</td>
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<td>Lois L. Browne</td>
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<td>Sheneila L. Popson</td>
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<td>Natasha Caines</td>
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<td>Corleen K. McTavous</td>
<td>Benita Randolph</td>
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<td>Samantha V. Duval</td>
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<td>Faridah Mumin</td>
<td>Shalini Riley</td>
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### SCHOOL OF NURSING

#### Candidates for Bachelor of Science Degree

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<td>Faridah Mumin</td>
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<td>Princess-Onesha O. Stuard</td>
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### COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

#### Candidates for Master of Science in Marine and Environmental Science Degree

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<tr>
<td>Allan Joseph Bright</td>
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<td>Shoran Denise Caines-Sasso</td>
<td>Kemba Martin-Morgan</td>
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<td>Ian Lundgren</td>
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<td>Abena M. McLean</td>
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#### Candidates for Bachelor of Arts Degree

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<td>Patricia A. Benjamin</td>
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<td>Aleta M. Brown</td>
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<td>Tiffany A. Bernier</td>
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<td>Nakela M. Williams</td>
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#### Candidates for Bachelor of Science Degree

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<tr>
<td>Rifa H. Abdullah</td>
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<td>Phyon K. Christopher</td>
<td>Lindaouson G.I. Hazell</td>
<td>Aimee M. Sanchez</td>
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<td>Kurt H. Alexander</td>
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<td>Al’Lima L. de Lugo</td>
<td>Artisha R. Hector</td>
<td>Kiara D. Scatliffe</td>
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<td>Joselyn N. Allen</td>
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<td>Mahogany J. Ambrose</td>
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<td>Kiah A. Hodge</td>
<td>Nikita R. Thompson</td>
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<td>Trevil L. Baker</td>
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<td>Ferlicia Fergusson</td>
<td>Tafara N. Hyndman</td>
<td>Jonathan L. Toussaint</td>
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<td>Chalaine A. Barry</td>
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<td>Sayvi R. George</td>
<td>Glenfield A. Jarvis, Jr.</td>
<td>Cherissre S. Tyrell-Boateng</td>
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<td>Everard A. Bellot</td>
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<td>Kaif S. Gumbs</td>
<td>Elisha D. Jno-Baptiste, ***</td>
<td>Crystal M. Vanterpool</td>
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<td>Angela A. Boateng</td>
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<td>Jaurel L. Harley</td>
<td>Sherikha C. Lewis</td>
<td>Ophelia J. Wadsworth</td>
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<td>Neisa Cazaubon</td>
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<td>Kelvin D. Harry</td>
<td>Zakenya Z. Ross</td>
<td>Janel D. Webster</td>
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<td>Clarissa J. Chapman</td>
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#### Candidates for Associate of Science

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<td>Glenfield A. Jarvis, Jr.</td>
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***summa cum laude               **magna cum laude       *cum laude               ^ Fall Semester 2009 Graduate
ST. CROIX CAMPUS

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Candidates for Master of Business Administration Degree

Amy A. Augustin
Brian W. Dore

Candidates for Bachelor of Arts Degree

Sylvester L. Allen Jr. *
Nickaya I. Armantrading **
Marva Michelle Austria
Danisha Natasha Benjamin *
Santiago Camacho Jr. *
Scott J. Cave *
Claudia D. Charles
Esteban Christian
Carl K. Christopher
Esther Menerva Clifford *
Mark A. Corneiro

Victoria F. Cornelius
Ivinia P. Douglas
Rozana L. Felicier
Anita J. Gibbs-Forde
Timothy W. Gilbride **
Abimbola I. Gomez
Jenella Y. Gordon
Kareema NaTasha Huggins
Kelly-Ann M. Joseph
Ziel G. La-Force **
Franklin Orr

Derval A. Prince II *
Irene Jerris Ramos *
Rosetta A. Romain ***
Joel Alan Sinanan *
Charmin L. Springer
Marva Swanson
Denise M. Tita-Walcott
Andrew Charles Warlington III *
Renako S. Wells ***

Candidates for Associate of Arts Degree

Scott J. Cave ^
Mallar Douglas ^
Lana L. Liburd

Ellsworth E. London
Viviana V. Matthew-James ^
Derval A. Prince II ^

Bernhardt Simmonds
Catherine B. Simon ^
Sharmane Cindy Simon ^

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Candidates for Master of Arts in Education Degree

Marcella Clara Combie
Ellen Cyrille-Charles
Bruce A. Graham
Alexandra B. Hinkson ^

Annette Susan Jones
Juel Patricia Mills
Shanda Rammarine-Cebedo

Maria V. Rios-Johansen
Stefanie Miriam Lois Samuel
Margaret Vidal

Candidates for Bachelor of Arts Degree

Marlen Jiménez *
Leoba John Baptiste-Pelle

Miguelina V. Neptune **
Kim Vanessa Phillip

Akela L. Richards
Leana Timothy ***

Candidates for Associate of Arts Degree

Nichole C. Durgadeen *

Rosanna E. LaFond

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Candidates for Master of Public Administration Degree

Michelle M. Albany-Crispin
Samuel J. Baptiste *
Barbara Elizabeth Jackson-McIntosh

Candidates for Bachelor of Arts Degree

Shanet S. Alexander ***
Adrienne A.M.D. Anthony
Erika Rochelle Barnes
Vanessa J. Battiste

Laura Bodley
Shareece A. Cannonier **
Rasheeda T. Clarke
Sana Mohammed Hamed **

Justina Esther Joseph **
Raheem Mohammed **
Junia N. Shillingford
Liza Amanda Weber *

Candidate for Associate of Applied Science Degree

Rochelle F. Elizee

***summa cum laude **magna cum laude *cum laude ^ Fall Semester 2009 Graduate
ST. CROIX CAMPUS

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Candidates for Associate of Science Degree

E'jaaz A. Abdulkabir
Kelley A. Aldridge Goodson
Claudina Jones Antoine
Ryan Leon Ellsworth

Kinara A. Gresham
Haven A. Halk
Neysha E. Jagrup
Charisma V. Julian

Monique O. Lake-Appleton
April M. Leonard
Jeannie Mathurin
Eldorana Weeks

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Candidates for Bachelor of Arts Degree

Zina M. Dore *

Wendell W. Grouby Jr.
Wynante St. Jean

Candidates for Bachelor of Science Degree

Kurt H. Alexander **
Angela Akua Amoanimaa Boateng **
Anna-Mai F. Christmas
Phyon K. Christopher
Sara Rebeca Danaher *

Lystra Annic Edwards
Naliah Jessica Elliott
Love R. Felix ^
Howard Anthony Forbes Jr. **

Dana C. McDougal
Gabriel Jesus Rivera
Alfonso Rodriguez Jr.
Roger O. Simon

Candidates for Bachelor of Science Degree

Shem E. Bramble
Claudia Celestine ^
Janel M. Chitolie
Ivosson A. Dyer

Farresha L. Farrell
Chenelle R. Hendricks
Travis I. Matthew

Carlyle A. Maynard
Sharleen Nestor
Dwayne Nesbitt ^

Candidates for Associate of Science Degree

Carice C. Glasgow
Medwo K. Paul ^

RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS - ROTC - COMMISSIONING

Candidate for Second Lieutenant

Cadet Roger O. Simon

Order of Commissioning Ceremony

Introduction/Oath of Office ................................................................. Lieutenant Colonel Jose Plaza
Battalion Commander, Professor of Military Science, University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez

Pinning ............................................................................................................ Myrtle Rogers
Cadet Simon’s Mother

First Salute as an Officer ............................................................................ Master Sergeant Eugene Farrell
Associate Professor of Military Science, University of the Virgin Islands

***summa cum laude       **magna cum laude  *cum laude  ^ Fall Semester 2009 Graduate
PROGRAM - St. Croix Campus

Denis Griffith, Ed.D., Associate Professor of Education - COMMENCEMENT MARSHAL
Aletha Baumann, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology - COMMENCEMENT CO-MARSHAL

*PROCESSIONAL........................................................................................................... “Pomp and Circumstance” (Elgar)
St. Croix Educational Complex Concert Band

*INVOCATION ........................................................................................................... Shareece A. Cannonier, Class of 2010

*NATIONAL ANTHEM ............................................................................................................ “Star Spangled Banner” (Key)
St. Croix Educational Complex Concert Band

*VIRGIN ISLANDS MARCH ............................................................................................... “Virgin Islands March” (Adams)
St. Croix Educational Complex Concert Band

WELCOME .............................................................................................................................. David Hall, S.J.D., President

KEYNOTE ADDRESS ............................................................................................................. Randall Robinson, J.D.
Professor of Law, Penn State University

ADDRESS .................................................................................................................... Carmie K. Thompson, Class of 2010

REMARKS ...................................................................................................................................... Alexander A. Moorhead
Chairman, UVI Board of Trustees

The Honorable Louis Patrick Hill
President of the 28th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

The Honorable Donna M. Christensen
Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress

The Honorable John P. deJongh, Jr.
Governor, United States Virgin Islands

MUSICAL SELECTION ............................................................................................................................................. “Rocky”
Arranged by Robert W. Smith
St. Croix Educational Complex Concert Band

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES ................................................................................. Al Hassan I. Musah, Ph.D., Provost

CONFERRING OF DEGREES
Master of Arts in Education • Master of Business Administration • Master of Public Administration
Bachelor of Science • Bachelor of Arts • Associate of Applied Science
Associate of Science • Associate of Arts

INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ........................................................................... Henry H. Smith, Ph.D.
Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement

*ALMA MATER ........................................................................................................... “Alma Mater by the Sea” (LaMotta)

*BENEDICTION ........................................................................................................ Ann-Merrie A. Hendrickson, Class of 2010

*RECESSIONAL ........................................................................................................... “Ceremonial Procession” (Elgar)
St. Croix Educational Complex Concert Band

*Audience is requested to stand.

Every effort is made to ensure that this program is accurate; circumstances beyond our control may have resulted in unintentional errors
It is with a great sense of pride that I salute you, members of the University of the Virgin Islands’ Class of 2010. I am thrilled to be celebrating this auspicious and momentous occasion with you, your family members, and friends at this my first commencement as the 5th President of the University of the Virgin Islands. At this 46th annual commencement, I see all around me success stories that have a firm foundation in personal sacrifice, hard work, commitment to excellence, and dreams and aspirations that have been nurtured and cultivated for many years.

Your achievement of this significant milestone in your educational journey is a resounding testimony that the University is fulfilling its mission and that we have prepared a cadre of persons who are poised to contribute to the educational, social and economic growth and development of the Territory. I challenge you to use the knowledge and insights that you have gained at UVI to make a unique contribution to the community in which you decide to make your home.

Remember, you are and will always be ambassadors for the University of the Virgin Islands. On behalf of the UVI faculty and staff, I salute you on your accomplishments and wish you Godspeed.

David Hall, S.J.D.
President
University of the Virgin Islands Board of Trustees

The Honorable John P. deJongh, Jr.
Honorary Chairman
Governor of the Virgin Islands

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Student Representative 2009-2010
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Mr. S. Donald Sussman
St. John, Virgin Islands

Mr. Edward E. Thomas
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Dr. Yvonne E. L. Thraen
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Rev. Dr. Wesley S. Williams, Jr.
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Mr. Sinclair L. Wilkinson
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
Alma Mater By the Sea
Words and Music by Wilbur “Bill” LaMotta

Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater
Beside the blue Caribbean calm
Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater
‘neath sunny skies and whispering palm

Proud we are to tread thy ways
Loud and true we voice our praise
Open door each portal
‘mid sand and sea and golden days

Long the ties that will endure
Strong in heart and memory
Faithfully we’ll always honor
Our Alma Mater by the sea

Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater
For guiding stars so brightly shown
Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater
How wide the bound’ries we have flown

Sing we now of bright tomorrows
Yesterday we never knew
Walking down the halls of wisdom
The towering heights are all in view

Here to us on islands famed
Dear to us thy name will be
University of the Virgin Islands
Our Alma Mater by the sea.

Academic Regalia

The wearing of caps, gowns and hoods at graduation exercises is one of the oldest and most democratic of collegiate customs. It originated in the Middle Ages when the first universities were founded as clerical institutions. Besides distinguishing the wearers from laymen, the costume served a very practical purpose in the unheated churches and cloisters of the time. It often added grace to the individuals and impressiveness to the ceremonies in which they took part. Its chief virtue, however, was that it eliminated undemocratic differences in dress which might otherwise have marred an essentially democratic occasion.

Under the intercollegiate system adopted in 1893, the Oxford cap or “mortarboard” is worn for all degrees, but the doctor is entitled to a gold tassel and optional velvet cap. The sleeve of the master’s gown is distinguished from the bachelor’s by a half-moon cut at the end. The doctor’s gown has faced-down fronts, and round bell sleeves with bars of velvet. The master’s degree hood is longer than the bachelor’s and the doctor’s is longer than the master’s. All hoods are lined with silk showing the official colors of the institution that conferred the degree.

The bachelor’s and master’s degree candidates at the University of the Virgin Islands wear hoods lined with Caribbean blue and white, the school colors. The bachelor’s degree hoods are trimmed with white velvet to signify liberal arts, and with golden yellow velvet to signify science. UVI master’s candidate hoods are also lined with velvet — light blue for education, drab to represent business, and peacock blue to indicate public administration.

According to the Academic Costume Code, at most U.S. institutions the color of velvet trim indicates the following academic disciplines: agriculture/maize; economics/copper; engineering/orange; fine arts/brown; home economics/maroon; law/purple; library science/lemon; music/pink; nursing/apricot; philosophy/dark blue; physical education/sage green; public health/salmon pink; science/golden yellow; social science/cream; social work/citron; speech/silver gray.