

UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Provost's Report

Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee

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ARSA Committee

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Enrollment

The Access and Enrollment Services team attended its first Southern Association for College Admission Counseling conference (SACAC) this past March. Hundreds of high school counselors had an opportunity to learn about the University of the Virgin Islands and its offerings. For an incredibly low cost, UVI was a highlighted sponsor. The UVI logo was promoted next to schools like Duke, University of North Carolina, FAU, and FIU.

Academics

The transfer honors policy was updated for UVI@USM students to align with the number of hours they are required to graduate from UVI. This policy will be reviewed by the Board at the May/June meeting. The policy allows for students in the UVI@USM to earn cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude honors upon graduation. It will also allow for any student participating in UVI articulation agreements that meet the minimum number of credits earned at UVI to earn graduation honors.

Student Focused Activities Highlights

- 181 degrees were conferred in spring 2024 and 54 degrees conferred in fall 2023
- Revisions to the free tuition policy for part-time and UVI Online students is expected to have a positive impact in the upcoming academic year

Fall 2024 Recruitment

Given the nationwide FAFSA challenges, and lack of previous cycle early-funnel data points, it is difficult to predict the enrollment numbers for the upcoming fall. Applications, admitted students, and deposits have increased, but deposits have not been used as a strong marker in past cycles, so that may be a false-positive.

The growth in applications may be attributed to the addition of CommonApp, EAB outreach, and the Ghana recruitment trip. As these are new initiatives, Enrollment Services does not have historical data to project the impact. Notwithstanding, due to some admissions process efficiencies that were recently established, the Admissions Department is ahead of where it was at the same point in April 2023.

Year over Year April Standings	Inquiries	Applicants	Accepts	Deposits	Enrolled
FALL 2024	3	1660	545	73	0
FALL 2023	0	745	475	49	0

Personnel

Effective April 1, 2024, **Ms. Jeanette Ferdinand** was appointed the new Health Services Director for the Division of Student Affairs on the Albert A. Sheen Campus. Ms. Ferdinand is a UVI alumna and is very familiar with the Student Affairs Department where she worked as a student employee during her undergraduate studies.

Two new faculty members, **Ms. Jacqueline Adonis (recently PhD in Creative Leadership for Innovation and Change)** and **Dr. Tina Callwood**, joined the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) staff on the Orville E. Kean this past spring. **Dr. Larken Root** also began his tenure this past spring as an Assistant Professor of Aquaculture in the School of Agriculture on the Albert A. Sheen Campus. **Dr. Teresa Lawrence** was hired as a Senior Adviser in the Office of Research and Graduate Studies this spring. As Senior Adviser, Dr. Lawrence will update and modernize several processes, including the CLIC Program operations.

In January 2024, Access and Enrollment Services welcomed two new team members. **Janeale Gottlieb-George**, a St Thomas native who is based in Baltimore/DC metro, was hired as an part-time Assistant Director of Regional Recruitment. **Alison Foy**, a St Thomas native who is based in Atlanta, was hired as the part-time ACES Administrator.

Outstanding Achievements

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

The UVI Social Work Program, under the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, was ranked #95 among the best graduate schools for social work in 2024 by U.S. News and World Report.

School of Nursing

The faculty of the School of Nursing created the RN to BSN Online Program (2023) and updated the BSN Completion Program (2016). The UVI Curriculum Committee and the School of Nursing faculty accepted the curriculum. The School of Nursing is collaborating with UVI Online to begin the program in the 2024-2025 academic year.

School of Education

After receiving accreditation status in fall 2022, the School of Education submitted its first three annual reports to the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP) and got feedback on each. Every member is afforded the opportunity to update the report's core program statistics (enrollment and completion rates) and notify AAQEP of any program additions or deletions. Secondly, accredited members provide proof of program effectiveness and candidate accomplishment to AAQEP and the public. The public can be reassured by this evidence that all accreditation requirements are still being satisfied and that program quality is either being

maintained or improved. The publicly available first part of the report compiles a standard set of program metrics and proof that candidate performance standards are being fulfilled.

The Little Bucs Inclusive Early Learning Center, under the leadership of Sheryl Tonge-George, was awarded \$68,000 in grant funds for each campus to support operations. The grant included funding for license maintenance from the VI Department of Human Services (DHS), including training and compliance requirements. A parent training was co-hosted by Dean Karen Harris Brown and Director Tonge-George on April 4, 2024, to raise parents' knowledge of developmental standards, particularly kindergarten preparedness.

School of Business

The Entrepreneurship Department was awarded a \$25,000 grant: Entrepreneurship Education Innovation Grant-University of the Virgin Islands from the Howard University & PNC National Center for Entrepreneurship.

School of Agriculture

An agreement was signed by the United States Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service and the University of the Virgin Islands School of Agriculture in March 2024 to further develop the agricultural and conservation recruitment programs between the School of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture/Natural Resource Conservation Service. A grant of \$354,916.80 was awarded for two years to support the development between the two entities.

Division of Student Affairs

The Division of Student Affairs on the Orville E. Kean Campus collaborated with the SGA and UVI Security to successfully launch a "free shuttle" service to downtown Charlotte Amalie and the Tutu Park Mall. This service aims to ease students' transportation challenges. The idea for the service came about during the President's Student Summit. Over 60 students have taken advantage of the new program. The division also hosted the spring 2024 new and transfer student orientation. Approximately sixty-five students attended the sessions. A highlight of the orientation experience was the first-ever tailgate pre-game party held on January 4, 2024, in support of the UVI BUCs home basketball game.

The Albert A. Sheen Campus welcomed its newest students with a comprehensive virtual orientation on Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Seven students attended the online orientation, showing their commitment to their academic futures by remaining engaged throughout the session. This virtual gathering aimed to ensure that all students, regardless of physical location, could receive a consistent and thorough introduction to campus life and academic resources.

The residence life and housing area have partnered with COLY, a SaaS (software as a service) tool that assists in preparing, matching, and supporting individuals living in shared spaces. COLY uses psychometric assessments to evaluate the personality and values of each student, creating a unique

profile that helps to find the best possible roommate match. UVI has been granted a free one-year trial starting in the fall of 2024, enabling both campuses to gather data for all residential students.

Golden Key International Honour Society Induction Ceremony was held on Sunday, April 1, 2024. Twenty-six students were inducted into the society. Dr. Pamela Moolenaar-Wirsiy, Dean of Innovation and Student Success & Interim Vice President of Institutional Advancement was inducted as an honorary member. **Thirty people attended the Ceremony.**

UVI introduced its mascot Bucky at the graduation ceremonies on each campus. A more formal introduction and reveal, with “back story” will occur in the Fall, 2024. This has been developing over the course of two years, with input from many areas on campus including students and staff.



General Activities

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences provided an update on the following Student Focused Activities:

- The Social Work faculty and students participated in the Community Health Fair on February 29, 2024, at the invitation of Senator Ray Fonseca, Chair of the Legislative Committee on Health, Hospitals, and Human Services. Location: St. Thomas, VI.
- The Music area held its Student Recital on April 21, 2024.
- Psychology Student Association (April 24, 2024) hosted an alcohol awareness event. Location: Orville E. Kean Campus
- Art Exhibit hosted on the Albert A. Sheen Campus on April 23, 2024. Artwork for students on the two campuses was displayed.

The Virgin Islands Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VIEPSCoR) participated in the St. Croix Agrifest. Other areas, such as the Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service (VIMAS), Center for Marine and Environmental Services (CMES), Virgin Islands Reef Response (VIRR), and several VI-EPSCoR supporting partners participated in the Agrifest. Over 500 participants were engaged.

VI-EPSCoR also participated in the following activities:

- UVI Afternoon on the Green: Informal Learning (IL), the Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service (VIMAS), Center for Marine and Environmental Services (CMES), College of Science and Math (CSM), and the Masters in Marine Environmental Studies (MMES) program engaged a total of 200 participants.
- Kids Expo: IL attended the “Kids Expo,” hosted by the Virgin Islands Children’s Museum and geared towards providing fun and educational engagement to Virgin Islands youth. Approximately 190 individuals were engaged.
- Community Engagement Center: IL, and other UVI/Non-UVI partners curated a state-of-the-art Community Engagement Space in the new Center for Marine and Environmental Studies (CMES) building on VI-EPSCoR’s Ridge to Reef research themes.
- 2024 Eco Fair: IL participated in the annual “Eco Fair” hosted by the St. Croix Environmental Association (SEA). 245 St. Croix students were engaged.
- 2024 St. John Earth Day Fair: IL and VIMAS engaged 200 St. John youth through interactive exhibits and Ridge to Reef research themes.
- Tiny Forests, USVI: IL’s St. Croix staff worked with the St. Croix Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) and VI-Eco Schools to install and grow the first “Tiny Forest,” which is a small, forested space that is geared towards increasing environmental literacy and food security among schools. 20 CTEC students are engaged.

The School of Business hosted a lecture for the UVI community with guest speaker Dr. Leonard Jackson, Program Director for Hospitality at Kennesaw University. Dr. Jackson’s topic was the *Dimensions of Wellness Tourism*.

The School of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service participated in the 2024 Eco-Fair (Earth Day celebration). Presentations were made to over four hundred students from eight schools, along with homeschoolers. The Earth Day activities took place at the St. George Village Botanical

Garden, where students learned about the earth's natural resources and the importance of managing them.

The Caribbean Green Technology Center (CGTC) organized the 2nd Energy and Sustainability Fair on St. Croix. The event took place in the Energy Village, inside the fairground during the Agriculture Fair. This event is the St. Croix counterpart of the fair that took place on St. Thomas last fall. Approximately five energy companies and one composting company provided information to the public on various solutions to make their home more resilient. Over 100 people stopped by the various booths over three days.

In addition to the energy fair, CGTC also provided testimony to the U.S. Insular Areas before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs on a hearing titled "Energizing the Territories: Promoting Affordable and Reliable Energy Sources." Dr. Guannel's testimony provided information to the committee on the importance of developing solar energy projects in the USVI in addition to traditional power generation projects. Mr. Kyle Fleming, Chair of the WAPA Board, also provided his perspective.

The CGTC is finalizing the Renewable Energy Technology laboratory on St. Croix. CGTC partnered with the RT Park to build a 400kW farm, part of which will be dedicated to teaching. The contract to build the farm, a \$1.2 million project, is finalized and the farm should be online by the end of the calendar year. CGTC managed the RFP process and will manage the farm's construction on behalf of the RTPark.

The CGTC was also the University partner in a series of discussions between the VI Dept of Public Works, Dept. of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers related to redevelopment plans for Savan Gut and Turpentine Run, and for the protection of Airport Road, all on St. Thomas. Future discussions related to St. Croix will take place later this year. CGTC also drafted a report for DPNR on the need to revise setback distance regulations. This prompted a series of discussions between CGTC, DPNR and legislators in both districts. The final report will be published in the summer. Finally, CGTC is working closely with the VI Department of Agriculture and DPNR on the identification of water resources on St. Thomas and St. Croix. This effort also helps to fulfill some of the priorities specified in the Virgin Islands Agriculture Plan.

The Virgin Islands Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (VIUCEDD) participated in several community events as a resource vendor in both the St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix districts. In February 2024, VIUCEDD employees participated in an early intervention training on genetic testing. This workshop focused on genetic contributions within the developmental stages and why genetic testing matters while engaging participants in identifying ways to help families access genetic testing and information. This initiative provided insight into therapeutic childcare or other direct services to individuals with a developmental disability/genetic disability/ sickle cell. Partnering agencies include the Disability Rights Center of the Virgin

Islands, the Sickie Cell Thalassemia Patients Network, and the New York Mid-Atlantic Caribbean Regional Genetics Network (NYMAC) Regional Genetics Network.

The Athletics Department completed its first year of competition in the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC), which will be rebranded to the Historically Black College and University Athletic Conference (HBCUAC) in July 2024. UVI fielded six teams: men's and women's cross country, basketball, and track and field, and competed in the GCAC Championships for each sport. Other reporting events for the Athletics Department include:

- The men's basketball team finished the season with an 8-15 overall record and went 6-10 in conference play. The Buccaneers ended the regular season on a four-game winning streak, including an upset of top-ranked Tougaloo College in the Elridge Blake Sports and Fitness Center on Feb. 17.
- The women's basketball team closed the season with a 3-18 record, with all three wins in conference play. The season's highlight came as a 77-57 rout of Tougaloo in the final home game.
- The men's and women's outdoor track teams competed in one regular season meet at the University of Central Florida in Orlando on March 21-22 and then represented UVI at the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC) Championships in Shreveport, Louisiana on April 18-20.

Grants

Dreves, Amy J. (January 22, 2024). Awarded EPA eXtension PSEFMF grant titled *Wood Boring Destroyers in the Home and Trees – Pocket Guide*, totaling \$18,171.

Dreves, Amy J. (February 13, 2024). A grant subcontract was submitted to the University of Puerto Rico for the FY2024 USDA-NIFA CPPM, Extension Implementation Program (EIP) grant titled *Territories United: IPM programs for USVI and PR*, totaling \$87,000. Awaiting award.

Dreves, Amy J. and other VI/PR stakeholders (e.g., Forest Health and Protect for PR and USVI, USDA Forest Service, NRCS, VIDA, Consultant). (May 10, 2024). *Rapid Preliminary Health Survey, Monitoring, and Inventory of Roystonea Palms on St. Croix* grant. \$50,000. We are awaiting submission.

Hensley, D. A. Awarded *Assessing arsenic and soil salinization risk of Sargassum used in crop growth, agricultural compost, and upland waste piles in the US Virgin Islands* grant. Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension. \$29,990. One year.

Brantley, E., **Guannel, G.**, **Hensley, D. A.**, Knappenberger, T., Vogel, J., Zamora, R. 2024. *Ghuts, Grit, and Gills: Synthesis of Hydrologic, Water Quality, and Ecosystem Data for Climate*

Adaptation Planning. United States Geological Survey Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center. \$150,000. One year (sub-award).

Student Achievements

Student Presentations: International/National

Budd, Kayla. (2024, March 4). *Pathways to marine science and research strategies*. University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, virtual.

Durdall, Allie, K. Grimes, **L. Bloem, K. Halliday**, A. Holevoet, K. Krauss, S. Mueller, **J. Plotkin, J. Silva*** H.A. Stewart, **L. Uzzell***. *GRROE USVI Mangroves: Growing research, restoration, outreach and education of USVI Mangroves*. Mangrove Coast Collaborative Symposium and Capacity Workshop (March 12-14, 2024), Miami, Florida

Henry, Awika O. & Lawrence, Yvonilyn. (April 6 – 9, 2024). *Machine-learning of leaf-derived vegetation indices to predict water content in carrot roots*. Agriculture Research Directors Research Symposium. Nashville, TN.

Hodge, Isaiah; Imhotep Charles and Zimmerman, Thomas W. (April 6 – 9, 2024). *Predicting harvest date for Hibiscus sabdariffa*. Agriculture Research Directors Research Symposium. Nashville, TN.

Hodge, Isaiah and Zimmerman, Thomas W. (February 2 – 4, 2024). *Using Hibiscus Sabdariffa's Floral Bud length to Determine Harvest Date*. Southern Association of Agriculture Science. Atlanta, GA.

Nieboer, Samantha, Dahl-Smith, Sarah and Durand, Torhera. (March 16, 2024). *Food Access and Equity Through a Cultural Lens*. IGNITE by 4-H Conference. Washington DC.

Local

Thesis Defenses-MMES

Budd, Kayla. (2024, April 15). *Effects of Sedimentation and Coral Disease on Coral-Associated Cleaner Gobies in the U.S. Virgin Islands*. Thesis defense presentation, St. Thomas, VI.

Cormack, Alexandra. (2024, April 15). *Microfragmentation as a Tool for Coral Restoration: Investigating Physiological Factors on Post-Microfragmentation Survivorship*. Thesis defense presentation, St. Thomas, VI.

Diana, Olivia. (2024, April 17). *Algae as Accumulators of Microplastics: A Comparison of Methods and Macroalgal Species*. Thesis defense presentation, St. Thomas, VI.

Gibbel, Rebecca. (2024, April 17). *Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease's Effects on Survival of Isolated Coral Symbiodiniaceae*. Thesis defense presentation, St. Thomas, VI.

Harris, Elizabeth. (2024, April 16). *Coral settlement along a shelf gradient and *Porites astreoides* larvae settlement preferences of environmental conditions*. Thesis defense presentation, St. Thomas, VI.

Hollander, Erin. (2024, April 12). *Coral – macroalgal interactions: Temporal and spatial patterns and potential impacts*. Thesis defense presentation, St. Thomas, VI.

Monnier, Natalie. (2024, March 18). *Hawksbill Sea Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) Nesting on West End Beaches of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands: Habitat and Threat Assessment*. Thesis defense presentation, St. Thomas, VI.

Pattengale, Kianna. (2024, April 9). *Reassessing the state of seagrass meadows after 35 years of grazing by green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in St. John, USVI*. Thesis defense presentation, St. Thomas, VI.

Plotkin, Julia. (2024, April 16). *Variation of sediment organic carbon in mangrove forests of the U.S. Virgin Islands*. Thesis defense presentation, St. Thomas, VI.

Rommelfanger, Kaitlin. (2024, April 10). *Investigating The Dynamics of Metals and Nutrients from Degrading Golden Tides on Caribbean Coasts*. Thesis defense presentation, St. Thomas, VI.

Sorace, Sabrina. (2024, March 18). *Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) Hatch Success Trends and Predicted Hatchling Sex Ratios at Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge St. Croix, US Virgin Islands*. Thesis defense presentation, St. Thomas, VI.

Souza, Matthew. (2024, April 12). *The Value of Seagrass Beds of Different Compositions as Food and Shelter for Caribbean Invertebrates*. Thesis defense presentation, St. Thomas, VI.

McCants, Micah and, Paul, Tisean, along with others did a presentation at the *Virgin Islands Youth Ensemble* on January 27, February 3, and 17, 2024. They were accompanied by **Parson, Dion,** and **Holmes, Carlton.**

Monchery, Aimee and Felix, Ryswick Jr. (April 22, 2024). *Performance at the VI Legislature for Awards Ceremony*, accompanied by **Holmes, Carlton.** Location: St. Thomas, VI.

Titre, Maguelie. (March 21, 2024). *Empowering Social Workers—Inspiring Action, Leading Change*. Social Work Month Motivational Speech made to her peers. Location: UVI, St. Thomas, VI.

Publications including Students: Peer reviewed/International

Budd, Kayla A., Paul C. Sikkel, Marilyn E. Brandt, Sophia V. Costa, Tyler B. Smith, and Richard S. Nemeth. "Impacts of stony coral tissue loss disease on the persistence of Caribbean cleaner gobies." *Frontiers in Marine Science* 11 (2024): 1359168.

Student admission to graduate schools and special programs

- **Dazle, Celestial.** Accepted into the Master of Arts program at Columbia University.
- **Eustache, M'Kayla.** Accepted for The Washington Center Internship in Psychology.
- **Hromadkova, Adela.** Secured an internship with the University of Memphis Counseling Center for Summer 2024.

Student employment in their fields

- **Elie, Breanna.** Behavioral Technician with Island Therapy.
- **Moise, Miracle.** Behavioral Technician with Island Therapy.
- **Rivera, Ja'Bre.** Behavioral Technician with Island Therapy
- **Cornelious, C'Anna** - Ritz Carlton
- **Duran, Camila** - Westin Frenchman's Reef
- **Farrington, Shania** - Margaritaville Resort

Other Student Achievements

Santiago, Lamani, UVI Senior student. (April 23, 2024.) Received the *Student Employee of the Year* award at the 2024 Annual Student Engagement Awards Ceremony; also received the *Innovation Award* and *First Class Service Award*, demonstrating outstanding commitment by consistently exceeding the level of performance by creating over 200 illustrations for SOA CES publications.

Taylor Nunley, graduate assistant for athletics administration, was selected to attend the third annual National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Governing and Leadership Academy (GLA), which was held on April 4, 2024, at Park University in Missouri. She was one of 50 NAIA administrators selected to participate and was the only Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC) representative.

Maurice Smith, Jr., men's basketball graduate student, received the Master of Business Administration Award at the 2024 Academic Achievement Awards. He also was the lone

Buccaneer to receive athletic accolades from the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC), earning Second Team All-GCAC honors.

Ashukamayah Phillips, a Freshman on the women's basketball team, was named the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC) Newcomer of the Week on February 19 after scoring a career-high 31 points to help the Lady Buccaneers to a 77-57 win over Tougaloo at the Elridge Blake Sports and Fitness Center to close out the regular season.

Maliqua Kamau, a Senior Information Systems & Technology major, was selected by the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and its partners to participate in The Pitch Competition in Atlanta, Georgia from May 18-23, 2024. The Pitch is a competition for business-minded, creative, and technology-minded students.

Jackiema Flemming was invited to meet with Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris, at an event hosted in Washington, DC, as part of the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through HBCUs.

The Elections Committee of SGA conducted general elections to choose executive and legislative members for the academic year 2024-2025 on the Orville E. Kean Campus. One hundred and two students participated in the online voting process, and the following students were elected as the new officers:

- **Zeidan Bass**, as President,
- **Darrin Connor**, as Vice President,
- **JayCrislie Boon** as Treasurer.

The following students have been elected as senators:

- **Gidal Williams** as Senior Senator
- **Najahde Liburd** as Junior Senator
- **Jenai Brooks** as Junior Senator
- **Eversley Davis** as Sophomore Senator

Communication Students won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Awards in the VI AgriFest Youth Poster Competition.

1st Place: **Edwards, Kyra, Felix, Felisha, Steger, Will, Thomas, Nico, Taylor, Sidney, Munoz, Yari, Thomas, Cheryl, Jarvis, Jaydah, Rosario, Same, Benjamin, Jahmoi**

2nd Place: **Munoz, Yari, Howe, Zee, Carroll, Nathan, Steger, Will, Todman, Indeyah**

3rd Place: **Edwards, Kyra, Felix, Felisha, Steger, Will, Thomas, Nico, Taylor, Sidney, Rosenbloom, Shugga**

Communication Students. (2024). Received awards in various categories in the Student Media Awards Luncheon and was the only college to receive Special Virtual Admittance in the 2024 Southern Regional Press Institute (SRPI) hosted by the media department at SSC. Categories/winners included:

Best Opinion Story, *The Backlash Against Angel Reese and the Need for Inclusive Athletic Environments*, by **Bell, Michael**.

Best News Photography, *A Whale of a Find*, by **Larsen, Sarah**.

Best Communications Campaign, *2023 UVIABJ Journalism Summit*, by **Rosenbloom, Shugga, Felisha Felix, Yari Munoz, Kyra Edwards, William J. Steger, Nico Thomas, Sydney Taylor**.

Best Advertising Campaign, *Cruzian Xmas, Yes Virginia*, by **Felix, Felisha, Edwards, Kyra, Benjamin, Jahmoi, Jarvis, Jadah**.

Curran, Marcus and **Edwards, Kyra**. (February 9, 2024). Provided radio newsfeed for WTJX Radio Show and promoted the Brawlhalla Gaming Tournament on Analyze This with Neville James.

Larsen, Sarah (NSE – Denmark), **Rosenbloom, Shugga** (Remote – France), **Felicia Felix, Devon Pelle, Elijah Salem, Cheryl Hendrickson Thomas, Kaylna Nelson, Calyse Garvey, Kyra Edwards, Nathan Carroll, Jahmoi Benjamin**, and **Jadah Jarvis**. (February 29, 2024). Communication majors/minors participated in Southern Regional Press Institute. Location: Savannah State University, GA.

Munoz, Yari, Steger, Will Jay, Howe, Zee, Todman, Indeyah, Carroll, Nathan, Edwards, Kyra, and Felix, Felicia. (February 11, 2024). Highlighted applications of various software.

Neilsen, Kalyna. (February 10, 2024). Voice-over Dubbing for the UVI Men's Basketball game against Fisk University was run on Caribbean News.

Nielsen, Kalyna. (February 8, 2024). Video clips from the UVI Men's Basketball game against Tougaloo College ran on One Caribbean News.

Rosenbloom, Shugga, Felix, Felicia, Steger, William J., and Thomas, Nico. (February 1-29, 2024). Created and posted video clips of all UVI Women's and Men's Basketball games on social media.

Rosenbloom, Shugga. (February 29, 2024). A Video-clip of the UVI Men's Basketball game against Fisk was aired on One Caribbean News.

Paul, Tisean and **Jones, She'Coy**, along with UVI Music Education Majors, **Elijhaie Brathwaite, Uriel Rogers**, and **Aimee Monchery**. (April 10, 2024). *Performance at Dean's List Awards Ceremony*. Accompanied by: **Parson, Dion** and **Holmes, Carlton**. Location: UVI Sports and Fitness Center, St. Thomas, VI. and **Aimee Monchery**. (April 10, 2024). *Performance at Dean's List Awards Ceremony*. Accompanied by: **Parson, Dion** and **Holmes, Carlton**. Location: UVI Sports and Fitness Center, St. Thomas, VI.

Paul, Tisean McCants, Micah, (April 11, 2024). VI Youth Ensemble performed on St. Croix at the Caribbean Museum Center for The Arts in collaboration with the UVI Music Program, VI Lottery and United Jazz Foundation. Accompanied by **Parson, Dion and Holmes, Carlton**. Location: St. Croix, VI.

Paul, Tisean and **McCants, Micah** along with others. (April 12, 2024). VI Youth Ensemble performed in collaboration with the UVI Music Program, VI Lottery and United Jazz Foundation. Accompanied by: **Dion Parson** and **Holmes, Carlton**. Location: Children's Museum, St. Thomas, VI.

Paul, Tisean and **McCants, Micah**, along with UVI Education Major **Monchery, Aimee**. (April 17, 2024). Performed at the *Human Resources Service Awards Ceremony*, accompanied by **Parson, Dion and Holmes, Carlton**. Location: UVI's Laverne E. Ragster Administration Building, St. Thomas, VI.

Paul, Tisean and **McCants, Micah** and others. (April 27, 2024). The VI Youth Ensemble performed at the St. John School of the Arts in collaboration with the UVI Music Program, VI Lottery and United Jazz Foundation, accompanied by **Parson, Dion** and **Holmes, Carlton**. Location: St. John, VI.

Alumni Achievements

Karli Hollister was hired in February by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation as the Implementation Manager for their new initiative, Mission: Iconic Reefs, an effort to restore the coral reefs of the Florida Keys. The initiative is in collaboration with several state and national organizations.

Mareike Duffing Romero started PhD at the University of the Azores in January.

Bell, Michael (COM Graduate). (April 24, 2024). Selected to host a new series on the Caribbean Review, I AM CX.

Griffin, Addison, alumnus of the first Master of Social Work Cohort, *passed the Association of Social Work Boards Examination and is currently employed as a Clinician at Island Therapy Solutions.*

Scott Eanes MSc, won the prestigious Champions Award, the highest recognition presented to an individual at the 42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium for carrying out outstanding work toward the research and conservation of sea turtles.
<https://stthomassource.com/content/2024/04/15/usvi-hawksbills-take-spotlight-at-international-symposium/>

Scott Eanes published a report on the protection of Hawksbill Sea Turtles in the annual State of the World's Sea Turtles on work with Dr. Paul Jobsis on sea turtle conservation in Brewers Bay, the airport runway and Hawksbill Cove, titled Hawksbill Cove, From Ecological Catastrophe to Conservation Classroom. <https://www.seaturtlestatus.org/articles/2024/2/14/hawksbill-cove-from-ecological-catastrophe-to-conservation-classroom>

Taylor Brunson, MSc. (Class of 2023), was awarded the runner-up for the Archie Carr Best Oral Presentation in Sea Turtle Biology at the 42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium in Pattaya Thailand.

Faculty and Staff Achievements

Peer Reviewed

Francis, Kula. A. & Clarke, Anna. M. (Eds.) (2024). *Women of Color and Hair Bias in the Work Environment*. IGI Global.

Har, Austin Oting. (April 26, 2024). *The World Between Worlds/Ataraxia*. Neuma Records.

Har, Austin Oting. (2024). *Publications:*

- Amplified Magazine (Berlin, Germany): <https://amplified-mag.de/reviews/zwischen-den-welten-austin-oting-hars-neoklassische-reise>
- WMBR, Not Brahms and Liszt (MIT campus, Cambridge, US): <https://alleystoughton.us/not-brahms-and-liszt/#show417>
- Different Noises, Eternal Fusion (London, UK): <https://enlightenment.podbean.com/e/different-noises-36/>
- New Adventures in Sound Art (Ontario, Canada): <https://naisa.ca/naisa-radio/#music-or-noise>

- CITR, 24 Hours of Radio Art (UBC campus, Vancouver, Canada): <https://www.citr.ca/2024/04/18/19-april-2024-broadcast-preview-108377/> <https://www.citr.ca/radio/bepi-crespan-presents/episode/20240419/>
- UVI Voice 2.0, International Feature: <https://uvivoice.org/descriptions-fail-us-music-noise-or-what>

Laser, Andrea; Acar, Sara; **Brown, Karen**, et al., (2024). *Meaningful and engaging experiences in early childhood special education preparation programs*. Journal of Special Education Preparation, 4(1), 68-84, <https://doi.org.10.33043/7959d86z>

Modarress-Fathi, Batoul (2023). *Examining Sustainability Alignment of Suppliers' Selection Criteria Through Industrial Revolutions*. Sustainability. 2023, 15(22), 15930.

Modarress-Fathi, Batoul (2023). *Green Commercial Aviation Supply Chain—A European Path to Environmental Sustainability*. Sustainability. 2023, 15(8) 6574.

Storey, James and Brown, Eric (2023). *The Importance of Leadership and Global Human Resource Perspective: The Case of Executive Management During a Hotel Merger*. Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Cases, Sage Journals.

Ukpe, Emmanuel - Opinion paper on “Trust and Technology: Factors Influencing Human Trust in Technology” submitted to *TREO (Technology Research, Education, and Opinion) * TREO is a special group of the Americas Conference on Information Systems <https://amcis2024.aisconferences.org/submissions/types-of-submissions/>

Valley, Clinton. A. (2024). *Why Are You Here?* Maitland, FL: Xulon Press. This book provides a Christian leadership perspective on one's life purpose and mission.

Local

Dreves, Amy J. (February 2024). *Common Natural Enemies of Plant Pests in the U.S. Virgin Islands – our VI SUPER HEROS!* **Santiago, Lamani** (University of the Virgin Islands undergraduate student – Illustrator). 52nd Annual Agriculture and Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands (Bulletin #36).

Dreves, Amy J. (March 2024). *Day and Night Pollinators of the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico*. University of the Virgin Islands, School of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service; Extension Bulletin UVI-SOA-CES-IPM # 000P2. **Santiago, Lamani** (University of the Virgin Islands undergraduate student – Illustrator).

Dreves, Amy J. (April 2024). *Integrated Pest Management*. University of the Virgin Islands, School of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service; Extension Poster UVI-SOA-CES-IPM # 000P3; **Santiago, Lamani** (University of the Virgin Islands undergraduate student – Illustrator).

Joseph, Samuel and Zimmerman, Thomas W. (2024). *Deflowering Jicama for faster production*. VI AgriFest Bulletin 2024. Pp 55-56.

Richards, Jr., Daryl, Dreves, Amy and Zimmerman, Thomas W. (2024). *Rotenone: An Organic Pesticide produced by Jicama*. VI AgriFest Bulletin 2024. Pp 53-54.

Presentation: Peer Reviewed, National/International

Allen, Carolyn. (February 2024). *Black Women's Experiences with Natural Hairstyle Bias in the Workplace*. National Association of African American Studies Annual Conference. Location: Austin, Texas.

Balderama, E., **Boumedine, M.**, Ravanasamudram U. N (**March 15-16, 2024**). DEDICATE: Data Science Equity-Driven Inquiry to Create Accessible Project-Based Training for Social Impact Education workshop, <https://southbigdatahub.org/dedicate-training-workshop-2024>.

Francis, Kula. A. & Clarke, A. M. (February 15, 2024). *Women of Color and Hair Bias in the Work Environment, Chapter 2 Hair in My Feelings*. National Conference of African American Studies 32nd Annual Conference.
Location: Thompson Conference Center at the University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

Franklin, Enchanté. (March 1, 2024). *International Social Work and Service-Learning Using Servant Leadership as a Framework in a Caribbean Setting*. National Coalition of Black Social Workers Conference 2024.
Location: Nashville, TN.

Franklin, Enchanté. (March 29, 2024). *A Theoretical Framework for International Social Work and Service Learning Abroad*. National Association of Black Social Workers 2024 Convention.
Location: New Orleans, LA.

Hensley, D.A. (January 26, 2024). *Towards sustainable food security in small islands communities: The promise of agroecology*. Oral presentation, Mini-Symposium on Caribbean Agriculture: Nourishing Resilience for Sustainable Food Security, Barranquitas, Puerto Rico.

Nader, Rick (2024) contributing author, Report from a Workshop: “*Strategies for Building Research Capacity at Minority Serving Institutions*” supported by NSF MCB-2236057, Atlanta, GA June 2023

Nader, Rick, McKayle, C., Jackson, D., Pizzaro, N. (2024) Invited Paper: ““Accelerating the pace and relevance of Doctoral Education to embrace rapid global change through Creativity, Leadership and Innovation” presented at Breaking Barriers through Diversity and Inclusivity, February 26-29, 2024, Islamabad, Pakistan, supported by USAID.

Walter, Mary Ann. (2024, February 17). *The persistence of morphou: diachronic awareness and usage of toponyms in Northern Cyprus*. Annual Meeting of the American Name Society (online).

Not Peer Reviewed

Smith, Linda. (March 1, 2024). “The role of women in Cariso formation: Cariso as a tool of resistance on the landscape of the English-speaking Caribbean *The Anguillian*.

National/International

Allen, Carolyn. (April 2024). *Using Artificial Intelligence to Augment and Support the Reorganization of the Social Services Sector*. University College Cayman Islands Social Work Symposium. Location: Cayman Islands (virtual).

Franklin, Enchanté. (2024). *Exploring Interdisciplinary Healthcare Teams and Maternal Health Services in African Regions*. Facilitation of Student Panel Summer 2024 at the 3GC-Pan-Study Abroad. Location: Ghana, Africa.

Franklin, Enchanté. (April 5, 2024). *The Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The Importance of Social Connections and Social Methods to Intervene*. Presentation to Community Health Care Professionals. Location: Online Virtual.

Joseph, Samuel and Zimmerman, Thomas W. (February 24 – March 2, 2024). *Effects of flower bud pruning on Jicama production in the Caribbean*. All African Horticulture Conference, Marrakech, Morocco.

McKayle, Camille (2024) Invited Keynote: “*Leadership for Broadening Participation in STEM: An HBCU perspective*”, presenting at the 2024 CISE-MSI (NSF Computer and Information Science and Engineering-Minority Serving Institutions) Grantee Meeting, Denver, CO May 2024.

Nielsen, Elle. (March 25-29, 2024). *Folkloric Performance Workshops and Caribbean Dance Lecture*. Location: Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee.

Parson, Dion. (January 4 – 12, 2024). Performed at the *28th Festival International de Punto del Est Jazz Festival*. Location: Uruguay.

Parson, Dion. (April 20, 2024). *Drum Workshop*. TD Bank Jazz for Teens Program. Location: New Jersey Performing Arts Center, New Jersey.

Zimmerman, Thomas W. (February 24 – March 2, 2024). “*MIDNITE*”: *Combining Caribbean and African Hibiscus sabdariffa*. All African Horticulture Conference, Marrakech, Morocco.

Local

Allen, Carolyn. (February 2024). *Higher Education: Preparing for the Journey Beyond High School*. Young Ladies Leading to Lead. Location: United States Virgin Islands.

Allen, Carolyn. (April 2024). *Natural Black Hairstyles and Aesthetics*. CLASS Collaborative Initiative Meeting. Location: United States Virgin Islands.

Allen, Carolyn. (April 2024). *The Value of Social Service*. Head Start Division of the Department of Human Services Training Day. Location: St. Thomas, VI.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee. (March 18, 2024) *Natural, Historical, Cultural, and Marine Resources of the Great Pond*. Radio station 101.3 FM talk show interview with the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Coastal Zone Management Division.

Dreves, Amy J. (January 13-14, 2024). *Farming for Success*. The 25th Annual Bordeaux Farmers Rastafari Agriculture and Culture Vegan Food Fair. St. Thomas.

Dreves, Amy J. (April 10, 2024). *BUGS*. UVI Inclusive Childcare Lab & Diagnostic Center, University of the Virgin Islands, Albert A. Sheen Campus on St. Croix.

Dreves, Amy J. (April 17, 2024). *Respect the Invertebrates in our community—Caribbean Center for Boys and Girls*, Frederiksted, St. Croix.

Dreves, Amy J. (April 26, 2024). *The Good, Bad, and the UGLY*. St. Croix Environmental Association (SEA) 31st Annual Eco-Fair at the Botanical Gardens, St. Croix.

Dreves, Amy J. (March-April. 2023). University of the Virgin Islands *Pesticide Safety Education Program* (PSEP) training (7-hour class and examinations). Thirty-two clients took pesticide safety

examinations (21 CORE Pesticide Safety; and 3 Categories: 7 ROW, 3 IISH, 1 Public Health (PH)) to

receive a certified pesticide applicator license for USVI through the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR). One Recertification course was offered to three participants renewing their applicator license after four years on March 7; Twenty-three clients attended the CORE Pesticide Safety course on March 14; Thirteen clients attended Right of Way-Weed Management

(ROW) course on March 28; 4 clients attended the Structural Health Pest course (IISH) on April 11; and two clients are expected to attend the Public Health (PH) course held on April 25.

Holmes, Carlton along with **Paul, Tisean** and **Roger, Uriel**. (March 8, 2024). *Reception Performance*. Location: UVI's 13D Innovative Center, St. Thomas, VI.

Nielsen, Elle. (March 23, 2024). *Guest Speaker Presentation*. Annual Student Art Exhibition for CHANT Youth Art Month. Location: St. Croix, VI

Walker, Sheena. *Teachers Retreat for the All-Saints Cathedral School* Presentation on burnout prevention, cognitive restructuring, and solution-focused action-planning. Location: St. Thomas, VI.

Woods, Yvonne, and **Social Work students**. (March 8, 2024). *Community Conversation: Social Work Licensure, Interstate Compact, and Association of Social Work Board Exam*. National Association of Social Workers-Virgin Islands Chapter. Location: St. Thomas, VI (virtual).

Other Achievements

- The Social Work Department met with representatives at the Department of Human Services on February 7, 2024, to discuss creating a potential pipeline social work program at UVI to fill long-standing vacant social work positions in the agency.
- The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences held the 2nd Annual Young Ladies Learning to Lead competition. Thirteen young ladies attending public, private, and parochial students participated in the conference component. Four young ladies participated in the competition. (February to March 2024)
- The UVI Pre Law Society partnered with the VI Bar Association and VI Department of Justice to host a panel of young VI attorneys to discuss their journey to law school and careers in law on April 5, 2024. Public, parochial, and private school students attended the virtual event.
- The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences partnered with the School of Education and the US District Court to sponsor A Fireside Chat: 70th Anniversary of Brown vs Board of Education on April 10, 2024. Students from the St. Croix Central High School and the St. Croix Educational Complex attended.
- Phi Alpha Honor Society, Delta Iota Omicron Chapter. Participated in the *Week of the Young Child* activities at the Frederiksted Head Start Center, where they read stories to several classes. Location: Frederiksted, St. Croix, VI.
- The Music program hosted students and teachers from Lockhart Junior High School at its *Monthly Musical Afternoons* on February 22, 2024.
- The Music area hosted its Charter Day Concert on March 16, 2024.
- The Social Work Department was featured on the DaVybe Radio program with host Sheldon Turnbull on February 16, 2024, as part of the unit's recruitment efforts.

- The Caribbean Writer hosted the 10th Annual VI Literary Festival and Book Fair Friday, April 12th through Sunday, April 14th.
- The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences sponsored a “Carnival Warm-Up: Afro-Contemporary & Meditative Stretch Class” at the MLB School of Dance on April 20, 2024.
- VI-EPSCoR received the National Science Foundation’s Site Visit report and program recommendations. VI-EPSCoR’s response will be submitted with its year four annual report in May.
- VI-EPSCoR received the External Advisory Board (EAB) annual report and program recommendations. The report and VI-EPSCoR’s response and its year four-year report will be submitted in May.
- VI-EPSCoR completed and received Governor Bryan’s letter of endorsement of a Science and Technology Plan for the territory. The Science and Technology Plan will be submitted with a new National Science Foundation EPSCoR Collaborations for Optimizing Research Ecosystems Research Infrastructure Improvement Program (E-CORE RII), which is due July 9, 2024
- Mrs. Williams participated in the 2024 Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) Leadership Symposium held in Washington, D.C., on April 21-23, 2024. The symposium focused on the importance of well-designed and implemented succession planning activities to ensure the continuity of assistive technology (AT) Act Programs in the event of leadership and key staff turnover. The session guided identifying and addressing skills gaps, creating career development plans for senior roles, conducting long-term planning, and implementing purposeful employee recruitment initiatives for the program. *This activity supports UVI’s strategic goals 2.1, 2.4, 6.2*
- Ms. Khalifa Thomas, the Assistant Director of VIUCEDD, has been accepted into the 2024 cohort of the Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) Leadership Academy at the Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University (GSU).
- Ms. Thomas is one of the 24 participants selected from UCEDDs, LENDs, and the broader community of disability partners across the states and territories. The cohort will participate in an immersive week-long program focused on study, shared experiences, self-evaluation, and skill development.
- Khalifa Thomas has completed the Certificate in Public Administration program from the University of the Virgin Islands. 2