

UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Provost's Report

Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee

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ARSA Committee

September 24, 2024

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Enrollment

Preliminary Fall Semester 2024 vs. Fall Semester 2023 Enrollment
All Schools
Prepared: 9/10/2024

	Preliminary Fall Semester 2024, as of 2024-09-09					Preliminary Fall Semester 2023, as of 2023-09-09					Percent of Increase or Decrease				
Headcount	STT	STX	SXM	ONL	Total	STT	STX	SXM	ONL	Total	STT	STX	SXM	ONL	Total
Doctorate															
Full-Time Students	3	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	4	-25%	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	-25%
Part-Time Students	68	0	0	0	68	83	2	0	0	85	-18%	-100%	Cannot	Cannot	-20%
Total	71	0	0	0	71	87	2	0	0	89	-18%	-100%	Cannot	Cannot	-20%
Graduate															
Full-Time Students	38	18	0	1	57	39	16	0	2	57	-3%	13%	Cannot	-50%	0%
Part-Time Students	49	13	4	28	94	45	16	0	25	86	9%	-19%	Cannot	12%	9%
Total	87	31	4	29	151	84	32	0	27	143	4%	-3%	Cannot	7%	6%
Undergraduate															
Full-Time Students	606	402	1	7	1,016	647	369	1	5	1,022	-6%	9%	0%	40%	-1%
Part-Time Students	288	224	31	110	653	213	218	13	74	518	35%	3%	138%	49%	26%
Total	894	626	32	117	1,669	860	587	14	79	1,540	4%	7%	129%	48%	8%
Certificate															
Full-Time Students	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot
Part-Time Students	2	2	0	1	5	6	5	0	0	11	-67%	-60%	Cannot	49%	-55%
Total	3	2	0	1	6	6	5	0	0	11	-50%	-60%	Cannot	48%	-45%
Grand Total	1,055	659	36	147	1,897	1,037	626	14	106	1,783	2%	5%	157%	39%	6%
FTE															
Doctorate	33	0	0	0	33	39	2	0	0	41	-17%	-100%	Cannot	Cannot	-20%
Graduate	69	31	1	16	118	65	30	0	14	109	6%	5%	Cannot	15%	8%
Undergraduate	844	574	14	65	1,497	862	534	8	41	1,445	-2%	7%	74%	58%	4%
Certificate	2	1	0	0	4	3	2	0	0	5	-26%	-52%	Cannot	Cannot	-29%
Total	948	606	16	81	1,651	967	565	8	55	1,600	-1%	7%	91%	47%	4%
Credit Hour Production															
Doctorate															
Full-Time Students	30	0	0	0	30	40	0	0	0	40	-25%	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	-25%
Part-Time Students	264	0	0	0	264	313	14	0	0	327	-16%	-100%	Cannot	Cannot	-19%
Total	294	0	0	0	294	353	14	0	0	367	-17%	-100%	Cannot	Cannot	-20%
Graduate															
Full-Time Students	414	209	0	9	632	409	181	0	18	608	1%	15%	Cannot	-50%	4%
Part-Time Students	209	69	12	138	428	177	85	0	110	372	18%	-19%	Cannot	25%	15%
Total	623	278	12	147	1,060	586	266	0	128	980	6%	5%	Cannot	15%	8%
Undergraduate															
Full-Time Students	8,302	5,369	13	89	13,773	8,873	4,973	12	65	13,923	-6%	8%	8%	37%	-1%
Part-Time Students	1,831	1,519	158	686	4,194	1,475	1,435	86	425	3,421	24%	6%	84%	61%	23%
Total	10,133	6,888	171	775	17,967	10,348	6,408	98	490	17,344	-2%	7%	74%	58%	4%
Certificate															
Full-Time Students	13	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot
Part-Time Students	13	13	0	5	31	35	27	0	0	62	-63%	-52%	Cannot	Cannot	-50%
Total	26	13	0	5	44	35	27	0	0	62	-26%	-52%	Cannot	Cannot	-29%
Grand Total	11,076	7,179	183	927	19,365	11,322	6,715	98	618	18,753	-2%	7%	87%	50%	3%

The Fall enrollment currently reflects a 6% overall headcount growth, with the largest percentage increases in the UVI Online program (39%) and UVI@USM (157%). The cohort at the University of St. Martin shows an increase in the number of students participating in programs from the School of Education.

Personnel

The University of the Virgin Islands welcomed Dr. Lisa Lewis as the new Dean for the School of Nursing, following Dr. Beverley Lansiquot's retirement from UVI. Dr. Lewis joins UVI from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, where she served as the Senior Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Professor. Prior to Rutgers, she served on the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, where she was the Inaugural Calvin Bland Fellow, Associate Professor, and Associate Dean for Equity and Inclusion. She also served as the Faculty Director of Penn's College Houses and Academic Services, providing leadership for Penn's 13 college houses and its 5,600 undergraduate residents. Dr. Lewis received her PhD in Nursing with a minor in Women's Studies from the University of Missouri-Columbia; MA in Nursing Education from New York University, and BSN from Syracuse University.

In the area of Access and Enrollment Services, Dr. Nigel Edwards will join the University's leadership team as the Interim Vice Provost for Enrollment Management on the Orville E. Kean Campus effective October 1. Dr. Edwards replaces Louis Gaubatz, who recently separated from the institution to pursue other interests. Dr. Edwards has more than 25 years of experience in higher education and has served previously at Florida A&M University as Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management. Dr. Edwards will be supported by Dr. Edward Alexander, Interim Associate Provost for Enrollment Management on the Albert A. Sheen Campus, who will also be joining the University on October 1. Dr. Alexander has over 10 years of leadership experience in higher education and has served most recently as an Enrollment Management Strategist.

The Athletics Department welcomed Kevin Sheppard, interim Men's Head Basketball Coach; Stephanie Cooper, Women's Head Basketball Coach and Instructor in the School of Education; and Anna Orfanidis, Athletics Trainer. Along with Dale Joseph, Head Coach for Track and Field and Cross Country, the Athletics Department has the core support for the teams that will be fielded for NAIA competition this year.

This past Fall, the University welcomed 13 new full-time faculty members from various disciplines and across several schools and colleges (Appendix A).

Notable Unit Achievements: Academic and Athletics

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

- The Caribbean Writer (TCW) has published the latest edition of the journal, Volume 38, under the theme: *Legacies: Reckoning and Resilience*.
- Under the auspices of The Caribbean Writer and CLASS, the Virgin Islands Literary Festival and Book Fair (VI LitFest) was initiated into the Global Association of Literary Festivals, a conglomerate of more than 100 festivals connected through the power of literature, promoting appreciation of different cultures, facilitating understanding, and building bridges across countries and communities.

- The ROTC Program awarded two (2) scholarships to UVI students with a value of \$68,000. Additionally, the program increased the enrolment from 15 students to 25 students during this period.

As part of the Military History course offered through ROTC, UVI hosted Puerto Rico instructors and students as part of a shared program of instruction between ROTC at the Puerto Rico universities and UVI. Additionally, UVI students participated in classes at Camp Santiago, in Salinas, Puerto Rico where they conducted group projects with Puerto Rico students and challenged themselves through events like Rappelling and physical fitness challenges.

The School of Business Entrepreneurship Department

- Launched the Certificate in Entrepreneurship program;
- Awarded a \$25,000 grant from Howard University and the PNC Center for Entrepreneurship; and
- Awarded a \$350,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

College of Science and Mathematics

Training for students in UVI Process Technology Associate of Applied Science Program will now include Virtual Reality (VR) field simulated technology. Assistant Professor of Process Technology, Dr. **Victoria Henry**, with funding from Cruzan Rum and the assistance of the Office of Institutional Advancement, worked with industry experts and part-time instructors (**Bobby Ferris, Alvin Clement, and Meridith Prince**) for over two years to design the simulated plant for the VR simulation. Honeywell engineers delivered 11 VR headsets to UVI in August. Different industries have been using this training tool but according to Honeywell engineer, Wasim Shaikh, UVI is the first university to have standalone VR field simulated headsets from Honeywell.

School of Nursing

Virgin Islands Board of Nursing National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) pass rates July 1, 2023, to September 30, 2023:

- OEK campus - 100%
- AAS campus - 80%
- Summer study abroad experiences for Nursing students:
 - 18 (9 OEK, 9 AAS) NURS 420 C (Nursing Care of Adults II Clinical) students gained in-depth clinical experiences at Whittier Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston, MA this past summer.

School of Education

The School of Education was instrumental in the development of a new Virgin Islands Board of Education certification policy that positively impacts UVI teacher candidates. Dean Karen Brown

proposed to the VI Board of Education and VI Department of Education administrators a policy that would permit UVI teacher education candidates completing their student teaching/school internship experience to simultaneously be employed **as teachers of record prior to earning the bachelor's degree** in their respective education majors. These UVI students would **be paid the beginning teacher's salary, rather than a paraprofessional hourly rate**. They would receive the support of their university supervisor and an assigned VIDE mentor teacher. The new policy took effect in August 2024 with the start of the new school and academic year.

Athletics

- Director of Athletics, Dr. Karen Carty, was featured on *Sports Illustrated's* HBCU Legends website and in the *SITI Girl Magazine*. Dr. Carty was also named the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC) Athletics Director of the Year as announced by GCAC Commissioner Dr. Kiki Baker Barnes at the league's year-end business meeting June 17-19 in Little Rock, AR. The AD of the Year and other GCAC distinguished member awards are given annually and are voted on by the respective GCAC council members.
- UVI was recognized as a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Champions of Character® Five-Star Institution for the 2023-24 academic year. The University earned bronze status after missing the mark to qualify for 2022-2023.
- There was an increase in the number of home basketball games from five in the previous season to 25 this past season, due largely to GCAC membership. The games drew 8,000 fans during the season. Additionally, the Department of Athletics introduced promotional theme nights for basketball games to celebrate local culture, and recognize and celebrate community members, alumni, and cancer survivors in an overall effort to engage the campus and local community.

Community Engagement

VI-EPSCoR's Informal Learning (IL):

- During Summer 2024, a total of 141 K-12 students were engaged by IL and its partners. Of those, 56 participated in the Junior Ocean Explorers (JOE), and the Youth Ocean Explorers (YOE) across the St. Thomas//St. John and St. Croix districts.
- The remaining student participants were engaged through collaborative efforts with the St. Croix Boys and Girls Club.

The Caribbean Green Technology Center, CGTC, worked closely with the Governor of the USVI, VITEMA and the USVI Office of Disaster Recovery to officially adopt the USVI Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan. The adoption of the plan allows the USVI to receive disaster assistance from the federal government as well as mitigation assistance.

CGTC also organized in July a *Heat Awareness and Mitigation* training on St. Croix and on St. Thomas, in partnership with Georgia Tech. This training was geared towards private industry and government agencies.

The second annual **UVI NASA Pre-engineering Summer Academy** took place from June 23-29 on the OEK campus. It is an 8-day residential pre-college experience with 16 high school students from across all three islands. Students learned about physics, chemistry, and land use. They took part in drone fieldwork observations, learned about water resources in the USVI, and met with local and federal agency partners to learn about career and college pathways to their respective agencies. Students also took part in a climate conference to learn about the connections between health and climate impacts in the USVI. The academy concluded with student participation in a block coding-based Sphero obstacle course and joust challenge. The 8-day program was supported by CSM staff and faculty including Dario Carbone, Stan Latesky, Christina Chanes, and Marshall Parsons. Four UVI students and one recent Howard University graduate also supported the program.

VI-EPSCoR's Formal Learning/Workforce Development:

Teacher Professional Development – Virgin Islands Institute for STEM Education Research and Practice (VI-ISERP) offered summer professional development for teachers in the Territory:

- 88 Teachers attended the STEM Institute's 2024 Summer Teacher Workshop, virtual sessions held June 17-21, 2024.
- 48 teachers attended the STEM Institute's 2024 Summer Teacher Workshop held on both campuses; in-person sessions held on June 24-28, 2024.
- Partnered with BirdSleuth (<https://archive.informalscience.org/birdsleuth>) and three St. Thomas VI-ISERP teachers attended training on June 13-14, 2024. BirdSleuth is an inquiry-based science curriculum that engages students in scientific study and real data collection through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's citizen science projects.

The University of the Virgin Islands Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (VIUCEDD) team organized five continuing education (CEU) training/workshop events. Two workshops concentrated on the relationship between nutrition and both mental and physical well-being, specifically for individuals with limited mobility. The other workshop presentations focused on equal employment opportunity, hurricane preparedness, and a guide to maintaining independence.

On July 26, 2024, VIUCEDD and the Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands (DRCVI) convened a territorial panel discussion to mark the 34th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The event featured a panel of prominent advocates from the US Virgin Islands who highlighted the initiatives and services offered by their respective organizations. Among the panelists, VIUCEDD staff presented on various facets of the ADA, focusing on broad-ranging assistive technology programs, alternative financing options for cash loans, the durable medical equipment reuse program, and the iCanConnect initiative. Notably, the ceremonial reading of the Virgin Islands ADA Proclamation was conducted by the Honorable Governor Albert Bryan at the event.

The five-week **School of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service (CES)** Summer Program was conducted from June 10 to July 11. There was a significant increase in the number of participants enrolled compared to 2023 when the program was reintroduced, (129, total; 68 on St.

Croix and 61 on St. Thomas). The ages ranged from 5-14. The focus areas were agriculture, food and nutrition, STEAM, and entrepreneurship. The program had a positive effect on the students, and as a result, they were engaged in learning about agriculture, and the 4-H concepts. The program included partnerships with the V.I. Department of Labor (Labor Investing for Tomorrow, and Summer Youth Work Experience Program), UVI RTPark and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Another successful UVI AgDiscovery Program was conducted by the School of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station on the UVI Albert A. Sheen Campus from July 14-26, 2023. The residential program was sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture Animal Health Inspection Service, International Services (USDA/APHIS). Fifty-eight applications were received from which 20 were selected to attend: including three local applicants, (two from St. Croix and one from St. Thomas). Other participants were from Puerto Rico and the U.S. The program counselors included SOA students and a 2019 AgDiscovery alum. The partners included local farmers. The participants were divided into four teams. Each team was engaged in addressing an issue that is impacting the Virgin Islands. The issues were climate change, agriculture education in schools, agriculture and the environment, and engaging the community to achieve food security.

The Expanded Foods and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) interacted with 423 youth (182 St. Croix and 241 St. Thomas) in its summer program and other program initiatives including: 4-H Health Ambassadors; V.I. Department of Education; Helping Children Work (Estate Grove Place); V.I. Department of Agriculture; and Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Student Affairs Division on the Albert A. Sheen and Orville E. Kean campuses housed various on campus activities in the residence halls during the summer.

In celebration of Pride Month 2024, the Office of the Dean of Students on the Albert A. Sheen campus embraced these values by hosting and supporting the events planned by the St. Croix Pride and One Luv Inc., to celebrate and support the LGBTQIA+ community. This year's theme was Celebrating Diversity, Inclusion, and Acceptance. Activities included:

- **Pride Parade & Health Fair Block Party**
- **Popsicle Social hosted by Student Affairs in collaboration with Spectrum**
- **A Pride Forum hosted by One Luv Inc.**
- **Drag Show & Beach Party hosted by St. Croix Pride**

The Office of Career Services worked directly with fourteen students eligible to apply for the 2024 Thurgood Marshall Leadership Institute Conference. Approximately ten students confirmed submitting applications for the 2024 TMCF Leadership Institute Conference. A total of four

students confirmed receiving an invitation for an online interview. Overall, two students were selected to attend the 2024 TMCFLI Conference. The students are Kyra Edwards, a Junior Accounting student, and Ja'lyyah Fanis, a Senior Accounting student. Kyra Edwards was selected as the 2024-2025 TMCFLYard Ambassador & Influencer and served as a volunteer for the 2024 DevCon Conference in Atlanta, GA from June 18 –24, 2024. DevCon is a new initiative created by TMCFL to enhance the professional aspirations of freshmen and sophomore students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) who possess essential business qualities such as determination, mental fortitude, and emotional resilience, making them valuable additions to organizations.

Five students participated in the summer program at the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars. The students who participated are:

- Indeyah Todamn
- Layla Richman
- Zeidan Bass
- M'Kayla Eustache
- Kimal Thomas

They represent the OEK and AAS campuses and the UVI Online program.

Fall 2024 Orientation Overview - New and transfer student orientation took place from August 10-16 on the Orville E. Kean Campus and drew roughly 190 students. The New Student Convocation took place on August 19, with UVI Alum Christopher MacDonald (class of 2021) as the featured speaker. Over 150 students attended the event, which took place in the Ralph M. Paiewonsky Library. On the Albert A. Sheen Campus, the Fall 2024 New and Transfer Student Orientation was held from August 15-17. This year the event transitioned from a one-day orientation format to a three-day event, which was met with positive feedback. The New Student Convocation & Presidential Scoop was a memorable event, with 46 new students participating in the ceremony.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Adult Training- sponsored by SAMSHA grant

Patricia Towal LPC and Dahlia Stridiron-Felix, both UVI Counselors, conducted a virtual training for fourteen (14) students and others. These trainings are held several times per year for individuals not necessarily trained in professional helping roles to support people with mental health challenges in much the same way as CPR is offered to non-medical people.

Dahlia Stridiron-Felix and **Patricia Towal** led an Adult Mental Health First Aid training program on May 16 for UVI faculty, staff, students, and potential resident assistants. Fourteen people received training. On May 26, there was a session for community members.

National Student Exchange Program

NSE Outgoing & Incoming Students Report – Fall 2024

- o Two outgoing students from the AAS Campus are on exchange in Fall 2024. One is at Florida International University studying Business Management. The other student is at the University of Hawaii at Manoa studying English. Both are placed for the academic year. There are five incoming students on exchange at the AAS Campus this Fall. Locations/states represented are Canada, Indiana, New Hampshire, Texas, and Wyoming. Majors represented are Psychology, Hospitality and Hotel Management & Eco Gastronomy, Social Work, Environment and Natural Resources & Earth System Sciences, and Agriculture Business. All are expected to exchange in the Fall only.
- o In the Spring, there are nine students expected from Iowa, Idaho, Georgia, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Arkansas, New Jersey, Oregon, and Minnesota. UVI's OEK Campus welcomed twenty-three students as part of the NSE program. The students are from the following schools:
 - o University of Alaska Anchorage
 - o Northern Arizona University
 - o University of Nebraska-Omaha
 - o South Dakota State University
 - o University of New Mexico
 - o Western Colorado University (4)
 - o University of Idaho (3)
 - o University of Wisconsin- Superior
 - o **Western** Kentucky University
 - o Rocky Mountain College (4)
 - o University of Montana
 - o University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire (2)
 - o University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point
 - o University of New Hampshire

Three outgoing UVI students from the OEK Campus are on exchange as part of the NSE program this Fall. They are:

- o Hunter Simpson – Thomas Jefferson University
- o Nayelie Fernandez – University of Puerto Rico
- o Anaya Herbert – Bowie State University

Residence Life

The Office of Residence Life and Student Housing engaged in several passive and active strategies to achieve its goals during the semester. These activities aimed to bring students together and build a community of learners. The following sample activities represent the departments' broad initiatives:

- Botanical Gardens Field Trip – Sunday, August 11, 2024
- Success Coach & Student Government Association Training Sessions

- Wellness, Self-Care & Stress Management Workshop
- Effective Communication Workshop
- Goal Setting Workshop
- Clubs & Organization Day – August 21, 2024
- Summer Fun Day in collaboration with University Bound
- Week of Welcome 2024 activities included -
 - Student Affairs Resource Day
 - Trivia Tuesday
 - Student Engagement Fair
 - Tips and Treats
 - Popcorn Social

Student Leadership Training (AAS)

The Office of Student Life | Activities on the AAS Campus hosted Student Leadership Training Sessions from August 7-13. The Leadership Training Sessions were an intensive week-long program designed to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to become effective leaders in UVI and the wider community.

Occupancy

This Fall semester, Residence Life and Student Housing on the AAS Campus currently houses approximately **37** students, **17** of which are returning students, **14** new students, **5** National Student Exchange participants, and **1** out-of-territory student. Two hundred and ninety-two students were welcomed into the residence halls on the OEK Campus. These numbers include graduate students. The OEK Campus is exploring ways to house more full-time graduate students in the future.

HEALTH SERVICES

On August 29, the Health Services AAS Campus hosted the first of many Health Snack Pop-Ups. Approximately 43 yogurts, primarily to students, but did have a few faculty and staff who stopped by to participate in our event.

Health Services successfully established an ongoing collaboration with the Virgin Islands Department of Health Community Health Clinic (VIDOH CHC) on the island of St. Croix, led by Dr. Maritza DeCosta. The collaboration began on July 22 and is ongoing. This collaboration assisted UVI students with obtaining prompt appointments to update their admission health requirements. With this collaboration, 25+ students were assisted with scheduling appointments to update their health requirements. Through VIDOH CHC, students were able to update their UVI health requirements with and without having current health insurance coverage at a low cost.

Health Services assisted with the 2024 VI WAPA Employee Wellness Fair on May 22 at the 13D Innovation Center and conducted Health Screening: BP/FSBG/Cholesterol testing for 105 individuals.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

- o **Hromadkova, Adeka.** (Summer 2024). Secured an internship with the University of Memphis Counseling Center.
- o **Hodge, Akilah,** (Summer 2024). Psychology minor, participated in a summer research program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C.
- **Baptiste, Wilah-Marie.** (April 5th, 2024). Served as moderator for a "What Do Lawyers Do?" Roundtable with a panel of Attorneys which was hosted by the Pre-Law Society along with the VI Bar Association Young Lawyers division.
- **The ENG 300 Students** under the directorship of **Walter, Mary-Ann**, created Wikipedia articles on STEM professionals from under-represented groups, as a class project. The articles are now publicly available online and have already received over 4000 page views as of May 2024. Additionally, one of our students, Reem Mohamad, was profiled on the Wiki Edu blog for her participation. <https://wikiedu.org/blog/2024/06/18/virgin-islands-student-seeks-to-inspire-others-with-new-wikipedia-article/>
- **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 to be held in Atlanta Georgia from May 18-23, 2024. The Pitch is a competition for students that are business-minded, creative, and technology minded. The group won first place, and each group member was awarded \$5,000.00.
- **Darin Connor**, Psychology Major, was presented an award of \$1000 at the Thurgood Marshall College Fund DevCon 2024 event in Atlanta for excellence and academic achievement.

School of Nursing

Two nursing students are employed in their field and working in the UVI Health Services Center. Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Induction Member – Jeanette Ferdinand

Two students from the AAS Campus were selected to participate in the student summit component of the HBCU Business Deans Roundtable annual conference. The conference was held in Princeton, NJ, hosted by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Junior accounting major, **Petreen Gordon** and senior accounting major, **Ja’Liyah Fanis** represented UVI at the student summit. The student summit was attended by approximately 85 students, representing 40 HBCUs.

College of Science and Mathematics

All 13 UVI URISE trainees engaged in summer research during 2024. Eleven of the thirteen travelled off-island for research or research training. UVI URISE and UVI’s ECS Honors Fund funded summer travel for eight of the 11 who travelled. All 13 presented their summer research at their host institution.

- **Annadelle Brown**, a junior BS Biology major, conducted research this summer at Indiana University Bloomington on microRNA expression levels in mice livers.
- **Mia Bruno**, a senior BS Biology major, researched the Poly-3-hydroxybutyrate pathway at Michigan State University.

- **Brenique Dawson**, a junior BS Chemistry major, studied mental/physical health and beach accessibility at UVI's CGTC.
- **Danisha Derima**, a senior BS Psychology major, researched the effects of racism on aging at Boston University.
- **Akilah Hodge**, a senior BS Biology and Psychology major, studied pathogen-specific responses in blood cells at the Department of Defense.
- **Alonzo Moore**, a sophomore Biology major, researched the long-term effects of Metformin on comorbidities via the Department of Health on St. Thomas. He also received 2 weeks of research training in Miami.
- **Leyonna Ravariere**, a sophomore BS Biology major, researched biomedical markers and hypertension via the Department of Health on St. Thomas.
- **La'Quan Reid**, a senior BS Biology major, studied Sorafenib resistance in liver cancer at George Washington University.
- **Maura Richardson**, a junior BS Marine Biology major, researched gene mutations in zebrafish at the Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology.
- **Abigail Rose**, a junior BS Chemistry major, researched liquid crystal patterns at Kent State University.
- **Darnilla Samuel**, a junior BS Chemistry major, studied lipases and lysolipids in coral thermal tolerance at Michigan State University.
- **Aaliah Saret**, a junior BS Chemistry major, researched smectic liquid crystal elastomers for lithium-ion batteries at Kent State University.
- **Zorah Williams**, a senior BS Biology major, researched environmental contamination and zoonotic infections at the University of Arizona.

The SEAS Islands Alliance supported nine UVI undergraduates and recent graduates in 6-week summer internships with territorial partners:

- Grimes Lab (mentors: *Kristin Grimes, Sierrah Mueller, Allie Durdall, Kaitlin Rommelfanger*): **Denny Gonzalez, Jonicia Cardin**
- Brandt Lab (mentors, *Marilyn Brandt, Sonora Meiling*): **Kadejsha Tonge**
- Junior and Youth Ocean Explorers (mentors: *Howard Forbes Jr., Jendahye Antoine, Jarvon Stout*): **Nijai Nisbett, Elisa Webbe**
- DPNR (mentor: Kitty Edwards): **Hiba Hussein**
- DPNR (mentor: Courtney Tierney*): **Gidal Williams**
- VI Children's Museum (mentor: Amber McCammon): **Zhoriarna George**
- TNC (mentor: Jessica Ward, Alex Gutting, Javier Soler): **Na'Kia Armstrong**

VI-EPSCoR-supported undergraduate research intern, **Kierra Enrique**, conducted education research with *Michele Guannel, Elizabeth Jaeger*, and *Molly Perry*, from May-August 2024.

CGTC worked with various students over the summer to train them in various research techniques. Mr. Asimian Edmead worked on mapping the quality of cell phone coverage, Ms. Brenique Dawson worked on beach accessibility and beach sediment size sorting, Mr. Kaj Gerard worked on an update of the hurricanes roof damage assessment using 2022 imagery.

Eighteen individuals matriculated in the Master of Marine and Environmental Science program this August. Six of the students are of ancestral Caribbean descent and five of those students are UVI graduates. The majority of the incoming cohort is comprised of first-generation college students (55.6%, or 10 out of 18). Notably, all five UVI graduates are also first-generation students, similar to much of the undergraduate student body of UVI. All 2024 cohort are from an underrepresented minority group in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics field.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Bryan, Rysa. (Spring 2021). Applied to five graduate programs and was accepted by all. She will be studying International Disaster Psychology at the University of Denver.

Baly-Stanford, Alexandria. (Spring 2019). Awarded a law degree in European Law from Maastricht University in June 2024 and earned an ECPC-B Certificate as a Professional Data Protection Officer from the European Centre on Privacy and Cybersecurity (ECPC) at Maastricht University in the Netherlands. She was also recently accepted to a Master of Law – LLM, Law and Technology Program at Tilburg University.

Jonique George, 2016 BS Biology, earned her PhD in the Biomolecular Pharmacology program studying Alzheimer's disease at Boston University in May 2024.

Sophia McKenzie, MMES alumna, was accepted into the Ph.D. program for Creative Leadership for Innovation and Change this summer and began in August 2024.

Brunson, Taylor- MMES 2023 – DPNR Coral Reef Initiative Coordinator

Taylor Hobbs – MMES 2023- CMES Research Assistant

Paul Hillbrand, MMES alumnus, was promoted to Sea Turtle Biologist at Bald Head Island Conservancy in Bald Head Island, North Carolina.

Elizabeth Harris, MMES alumnus, was hired at Coral World Ocean and Reef Initiative in May as a Coral Conservationist working in the indoor aquarium focusing on spawning.

Jonathan Brown, MMES alumnus, was promoted to Habitat Resource Specialist at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, Restoration, Habitat Conservation Office.

Sabrina Sorace – MMES 2024 – Field technician for the Sandy Point Sea Turtle Project, St Croix

Natalie Monnier – MMES 2024 – Field technician for the Sandy Point Sea Turtle Project, St Croix.

Kaitlin Rommelfanger – MMES 2024 – Mangrove lab technician for the Dr. Grimes at UVI's

Center for Marine and Environmental Studies.

Madysen Miller, MMES alumni, was promoted from a contract affiliate to a federal employee Program Analyst at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Research International Activities Office on August 12, 2024.

Grants, Donations & Special Projects Funded

Point Blue Conservation and Ocean Kind- *Application of robotics and artificial intelligence to the conservation of Caribbean coral reef ecosystems* – 2024- 2026 PI's Drs. **Tyler Smith**, Co-PI's Grant Ballard, **Richard Nemeth** (Total: \$824,761; UVI: \$667,242)

NOAA Advances in Science, *“International Collaborative Co-Development in the U.S. Virgin Islands to Advance and Scale Adaptation and Resilience Efforts in the Caribbean Region”* 2024-2026 PI Dr. Steve Flynn (Northeastern University), Co-PI Drs. **Greg Guannel** and **Kim Waddell**

Department of Defense, Office of Naval Research, *Waves and Circulation at Steep Rocky Cliffs and Sharp Points: Observations and Modeling* 2024 – 2027 PI Dr. **Paul Jobsis** (total \$449,964).

National Science Foundation (NSF) award made to University of The Virgin Islands with an intended total amount of \$350,000.00. This project, entitled "Collaborative Research: EPIIC: Partnering to Advance And Drive Innovation on Sustainability and the Environment (PARADISE)" is under the direction of Richard Nader. The three-year award starts Sep. 01, 2024.

McKayle, Camille A., HBCU Research and Collaboration Exchange, NSF funded collaborative grant. Collaborating institutions: North Carolina Central University, Winston-Salem State University, Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, Fisk University and UVI. Total UVI Award: \$193,142. Awarded September, 2024.

Dreves, Amy J., and Wanda Almodovar (Univ. of Puerto Rico), et. al. (February 13, 2024). A USDA-NIFA CPPM-Extension Implementation Program (EIP) FY2024-2027 grant subcontract with University of Puerto Rico titled, *TERRITORIES UNITED: IPM PROGRAMS FOR USVI AND PR*, totaling \$87,000 was submitted to granting agency. Awaiting acceptance of the grant award in September 2024.

Hensley, David. “Developing a water-storage assessment tool for small agricultural ponds in the U.S. Virgin Islands.” United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service. \$156,506. 3 years.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP

(Student names are bolded; faculty and staff names are italicized and bolded; first name; last name)

Dr. Aaron Rapp participated in NIH's pilot program titled Engagement and Access for Research-Active Institutions (EARA) during the Summer of 2024, which was led by the NIH Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity. The EARA is focused on fostering bilateral engagement and

communication between faculty at Research Active Institutions (RAIs) and Program Officers at NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices.

Dr. Nadia Mills was selected to participate in the 2024 cohort of the NSF Modern Meta-Analysis Research Institute held in Washington DC, June 9-13, 2024.

CMES Director, Dr. **Paul Jobsis**, has been elected as President of the US Southeast Region Sea Turtle Network for a two-year term January 2025 – 2027.

Research and Publications

Peer Reviewed

Clarke, Anna M., Shannon-Ramsey, V., & Stevenson, A. P. (2024). *Social Workers' Experiences Navigating Barriers for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care in the US Virgin Islands*. Child & Youth Services, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0145935X.2024.2353795>

Engerman, Kimarie, Blackmon, Angelique Tucker., McKayle, Camille A., & Jaeger, Elizabeth. (2024). *Examining Women Leaders' Role in Broadening Participation in STEM at HBCUs*. In A Cross-Cultural Examination of Women in Higher Education and the Workplace (pp. 197-213). IGI Global. <https://www.igi-global.com/chapter/examining-women-leaders-role-in-broadening-participation-in-stem-at-hbcus/348680>

Budd* KA, Sikkal PC, Brandt ME, Costa SV, Smith TB, Nemeth RS (2024) Impacts of stony coral tissue loss disease on the persistence of a keystone reef fish species. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 11:1359168. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2024.1359168.

Vaughn, K.*, Willette, D., Durdall, A., Costa, S.*, Brandt, M., Grimes, Wilson, K. (2024). Sediment carbon storage in subtidal beds of the invasive seagrass *Halophila stipulacea* along an extreme water depth gradient, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. *Aquatic Botany* v 194. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquabot.2024.103778>.

Slattery, M., Lesser, M.P., Rocha, L. A., Spalding, H. L., Smith, T. B. (2024). Function and stability of mesophotic coral reefs, *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2024.01.011>

Slattery M, Lesser MP, Rocha LA, Spalding HL, Smith TB (2024) The role of mesophotic reefs in coral ecosystems. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2024.01.011>

Brunson, Taylor, Bincow Kayla M., McGregor Andrew, Matley Jordan, Jobsis Paul. (2024) *Influence of environmental and biological factors on the space use and movement behavior of juvenile Caribbean green sea turtles*. *Herpetologica*. (in press)

Budd KA, Sikkal PC, Brandt ME, Costa SV, Smith TB, Nemeth RS (2024) Impacts of stony coral tissue loss disease on the persistence of Caribbean cleaner gobies. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 11: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2024.1359168>

Costa Sophia V., Demian Willette, Sennai Habtes, Kayla Budd, **Elizabeth Kadison**, Kelsey Vaughn, **Richard S. Nemeth** (2024) Impact of invasive seagrass *Halophila stipulacea* on life history characteristics of juvenile snapper. Bulletin of Marine Science. doi.org/10.5343/bms.2023.0151

Grove LJW, Blondeau J, Swanson DW, Heidmann SL, Smith SG, Brandtneris VW, **Smith TB** (2024) Expansion of an established fishery-independent survey into the U.S. Virgin Islands' upper mesophotic zone: feasibility and management implications. Bulletin of Marine Science <https://doi.org/10.5343/bms.2023.0013>

Heidmann SL, **Olinger LK**, Brandtneris VW, Ennis RS, Blondeau J, Grove LJW, **Smith TB** (2024) Depth and structure as environmental drivers of fish communities across a shallow to mesophotic gradient in the northern US Virgin Islands. Bulletin of Marine Science <https://doi.org/10.5343/bms.2023.0022>

Legernes, Michelle, **Richard S. Nemeth**, Bryan Legare (2024) Movements and habitat selection of southern stingrays (*Hypanus americanus*) in a tropical ecosystem altered by an invasive seagrass (*Halophila stipulacea*). *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science* (accepted)

Michael, Jessica A., and **Paul Jobsis**. "Observations at a green sea turtle, *Chelonia mydas*, cleaning station identify three cleaning fish symbionts." *Marine Biodiversity* 54.4 (2024): 1-6.

Moore, Marianne. Dwyer, J.M., Lewis, J.S. (2024) *Trade-offs in habitat use and occupancy of bats across the gradient of urbanization and seasons*. Ecosphere.

Moore, Marianne. Pannkuk, E.L., Bansal, S., Kumar, K., Suman, S., Howell, D., Kath, J.A., Kurta, A., Reeder, D.M., and Field, K.A. (2024) *White adipose tissue remodeling in Little Brown Myotis (Myotis lucifugus) with white-nose syndrome*. Metabolomics.

Parr, Adam (2024, June, Vol 13(2)) *Semi-bounded Hypergroup Joins*, Palestine Journal of Mathematics

Slattery M, Lesser MP, Rocha LA, Spalding HL, **Smith TB** (2024) The role of mesophotic reefs in coral ecosystems. Trends in Ecology and Evolution <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2024.01.011>

Walter, Ben. (2024, May 30) *On the homotopy theory of equivariant colored operads* (Review). AMS Mathematical Reviews.

Dreves, Amy J. and **Santiago, Lamani**. (UVI student – illustrator). (June 5, 2024). *TROPICAL FLOWERS AND POLLINATORS IN THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS AND PUERTO RICO – 44-page education and coloring book*. EXTENSION BOOKLET: SOA-CES-IPM Extension Booklet, 000BK, English version. Also produced in the Spanish language

National/International Conference

Holmes, Carlton. (July 23, 2024). Published Studio Recording Composition - Song for Mio & Sho.

Holmes, Carlton. (July 23, 2024). Published Studio Recording Compositions – Tai Chi Sword Form, Broadsword, Fighting Demonstration, Closing Theme, Exit Music.

Holmes, Carlton. (July 24, 2024). Published Studio Recording Compositions - I Don't Remember, Angela, and Brazili.

Oting Har, Austin. (July 14, 2024). Haiku poem was published in Seashores (Fishing Cat Press) - one of the top journals in Ireland for haiku.

Oting Har, Austin. (July 31, 2024). Haiku poem was published in Presence (one of the top UK journals for haiku).

Braithwaite-Hall, M., Hutcheson, S. P., Campbell, M. H., Dunstan, J., Guthman, S., Rayner, C., Khan, K., **Walker, S., & Hamilton, D.** (2024). Psychology in the English-speaking Caribbean: Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Trinidad and Tobago, US Virgin Islands. In M. Bullock, N. N. Stevens, D. Wedding, & T. Clinton (Eds.), *The handbook of international psychology* (2nd ed.). Routledge. ISBN: 9781138925120.

Walter, Mary Ann. (2024). Gidecen/Gidecek min/Gidecek misin? Where Turkish Cypriots think dialect variation is going. In *Heritage Languages and Variation*, edited by Natalia Pavlou, Constantina Fotiou and Kleanthes Grohmann.

Walter, Mary Ann. (2024). Book review of *The Nameplate: Jewelry, Culture, and Identity* by Marcel Rosa Salas and Isabel Atiyah Flower.

Walter, Mary Ann. (2024). Mary Ann Walter gives us the linguist's view on Hot Skull (Linguists at the Movies: Screen Test). *Babel: The Language Magazine*.

Awika, Henry O., Southwell Johnson, Philbert Millan, and Gonzalez Donna (July 2024). *Alternative non-destructive color-scanning for sweetness in sweetcorn*. 57th Caribbean Food Crops Society (CFCS). Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Awika, Henry O., Donna Gonzalez and Southwell Johnson (July 2024). *Sweetcorn productivity under semi-protected shade house*. 57th CFCS 2024. Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Dreves, Amy J., Wanda Almodovar, and Santiago, Lamani. (UVI student – illustrator). (July 16, 2024). *4D FARMING FOR SUCCESS – US Virgin Islands*. CFCS conference. Dominican Republic. Poster Presentation. Received the best poster presentation of the conference!

Charles, Imhotep R. and Zimmerman, Thomas W. (July 16, 2024). *Air layer propagation of Java Plum (Syzygium cumini)*. CFCS. Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Hensley, David A., and Knappenberger, Thorsten. (July 16, 2024). *Simulated water balance of mulch covers under plantain production: Interception, runoff, and deep drainage*. CFCS. Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Hensley, David A., Knappenberger, Thorsten. (June 17, 2024). *Managing the twin climate agricultural impacts of drought and flood in tropical Caribbean watersheds*. AgroCampus Research Symposium, Università degli Studi di Padova. Padua, Italy.

Rios, Andrea, Del Cid Correla, J., Fuentevilla, E., Limesand, S., & Diaz, D. (2024, July 15-19). *The role of maternal heat stress on colostrum composition and milk production on pregnant ewes*. 57th Annual Meeting CFCS. Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Smart, Raheem, Joseph, Samuel and Zimmerman, Thomas W. (July 16, 2024). *Influence of pruning on pitaya production in the USVI*. 57th CFCS. Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Zimmerman, Thomas W. (July 15, 2024). *“Festival”: Combining Caribbean and African sorrel*. CFCS. Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Local

Sekou, Malik. (February 22, 2024). *A Time to Look Forward*. Virgin Islands Daily News, p. 11.

Sekou, Malik. (March 19, 2024). *History shows St. Thomas was a haven of nationalism, reform*. Virgin Islands Daily News, p. 1.

Wenner, Mark & Wenner, Gemma. (March 22, 2024). *Haiti in Crisis Again: What Does It Mean for the Virgin Islands*. St. Thomas Source Virgin Islands.

<https://stthomassource.com/content/2024/03/22/op-ed-haiti-in-crisis-again-what-does-it-mean-for-the-v-i/>

Wenner, Mark. (May 28, 2024). *We Have Tried All Else; It is Time to Privatize WAPA*. Virgin Islands Daily News. https://www.virginislandsdailynews.com/opinion/weve-tried-all-else-it-s-time-to-privatize-wapa/article_82eb21eb-c568-5523-848f-df6c520d8c15.html

Wenner, Mark. (Oct. 19, 2023). *Good governance is critical to public service delivery and economic growth*. Virgin Islands Daily News

Kenneth Olasee Davis (May 2, 2024). *History of Marine Biology in the United States Virgin Islands- The Krause Lagoon*. St. Croix Educational Complex 12th grade students.

David Hensley hosted the Virgin Islands Water Data Workshop Stakeholders Planning meeting. 18 attendees from various local and federal groups contributing data for Water Data Workshop to be held in 2025. 23 May 2024.

David Hensley participated in Science Saturday (with Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources) – a livestreamed event discussing soil and water research. 8 June 2024. Approximately 80 virtual attendees.

Other Presentations and Writings

Student Presentations:

Evans, Imani. (2024, January 18). *Clear the road: The path to liberation for LGBTQIA peoples in St. Croix* [Conference session]. Beyond Homophobia: “Place Matters.” Location: University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Kingston, Jamaica.

Seeber, Andrew & Evans, Imani. (2023, October 25). *Together we can break the cycle of violence: A focus on the LGBTQIA+ community* [Panel]. Location: Women’s Coalition of St. Croix (Virtual Forum).

Buchanan, Joleen, Roberts, Micheal, Alexander, Lilian, Todman, Makayla, Byron, Zidane, (July 30, 2024) *Understanding Readmittance Rates of Diabetic Patients Through Machine Learning.* UVI Biomedical Building Opening Event. St. Thomas, USVI.

Courtney Tierney. (7 August 2024). *Introduction to invasive pulse corals.* Oral presentation at U.S. Caribbean pulse coral workshop in La Parguera, Puerto Rico.

Zoe Price. (21 June 2024). *Shoreline Characterization in the USVI: Findings and Implications for Policy.* Poster presentation at the Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System General Assembly Meeting in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Madyson Miller. (26 June 2024). Women in ocean science ambassador program and youth engagement in the STEM field. Oral presentation (virtual). United Nations Committee on Sustainable Development during Annual World Oceans Month.

Bowers, Janet (June 2024). *Nurse Practitioner Practice in the United States Virgin Islands.* American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) National Conference. Nashville, TN.

National

Brown, Karen, Leko, Melinda (August 6, 2024). *Recruiting, Retaining, and Graduating Diverse Scholars.* U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), Personnel Development Program (PDP) Program Area Meeting. Arlington, Virginia.

National/International

Valley, Clinton, (May 9, 2024). *Academics.* North Caribbean Conference. Christiansted, St. Croix.

Not Peer-Reviewed: National/International

Guannel, Michele, Hunt, Deanna, Francis, George, Brown, Lovynette, Espinosa, Cheilinet, Powell, Kahlifah, and Hutcheson, Lucy. (2024). *Student-directed experiential learning in the United States Virgin Islands: Resiliencing through disaster.* Annual Conference of the National Association of African American Studies & Affiliates. Austin, TX, United States.

Mills, Nadia M. *Beyond the numbers: Math anxiety increases while performance increases for undergraduate students in a mathematics foundation course.* ECR NSF PI Meeting, Washington DC, May 29, 2024.

Moore, Marianne. Pannkuk, E.L., Bansal, S., Kumar, K., Suman, S., Howell, D., Kath, J.A., Kurta, A., Reeder, D.M., and Field, K.A. (2024) *White adipose tissue remodeling in Little Brown Myotis (Myotis lucifugus) with white-nose syndrome.* White-Nose Syndrome National Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

Moore, Marianne. Hutcherson H.K., J. Kahawahi, H. Kitchel, H. Tamayo, A.L. McIntire. (2024) *Cold, dry, and alone: Quantifying hibernation traits in dryland bats of the Southwest.* 56th Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona Chapter of the Wildlife Society, New Mexico Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and Arizona and New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Flagstaff, AZ, United States.

Rapp, Aaron, Zhang, Ling, Nduaguba, Sabina, Mahbubul (Shaon), Hasan, (2024, Aug 5) *Impact of Endocrine System Failures in Long COVID Diagnoses: Analyzing the Effects of Diabetes, Hypo or Hyperthyroidism, and Adrenal Insufficiency,* AIM-AHEAD AI for Health Equity Symposium (AIHES) in Atlanta, Georgia, United States. *This research was, in part, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Agreement NO. 1OT2OD032581-01 Not Peer-Reviewed; Local*

Cox, Ronadh and Guannel, Greg. Understanding Our Coasts: Observations of Changes and Impacts in the USVI, Public Lecture on St. Croix

Jobsis, Paul. *Past, Current, and Future Sea Turtle Research at the University of or the Virgin Islands* USVI Sea Turtle Meeting, Hosted by USVI Division of Fish and Wildlife, St Croix Aug 26-28, 2024.

Nemeth, Richard S. (2024, May 21) Sustainable management of fish spawning aggregations. STINAPA Bonaire, Netherland Antilles

Walter, Ben. (2024, June 11) *Infinitesimal Calculations in Fundamental Groups.* Algebraic Structures in Topology 2024. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Hill, Raquel (Univ. of FL doctoral candidate, UVI alumna; SOA 2024 Summer Intern) and **Dreves, Amy J.** (June 20, 2024). *DASHBOARD PLANT PROBLEM DIAGNOSTICS: FUNGUS, BACTERIA, VIRUS, OH MY!* Dreves' Farmers First IPM Talk 3 - 2024series. Location: US Virgin Islands.

Hill, Raquel (Univ. of FL doctoral candidate, UVI alumna, SOA 2024 Summer Intern and **Dreves, Amy J.** (July 11, 2024). *TAKE A CLOSER LOOK: HANDS-ON, WALK-IN PLANT PROBLEM DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC*. Dreves' Farmers First IPM Talk 4 - 2024 series. Location: US Virgin Islands.

Jackson, Adeana. (May-August 2024). Prepared specialized insect displays for dragonflies, true bugs, grasshoppers, and monarchs of the USVI.

Special Recognition Award at the 57th Caribbean Food Crops Society July 2024, Dominican Republic for outstanding poster and presentation titled: *Alternative non-destructive color-scanning for sweetness in sweetcorn* by **Henry O. Awika, Southwell Johnson, Philbert Millan, and Donna Gonzalez.**

John-Baptiste, SaVaughna D., Hensley, David A., and Pichardo, Nicholas. (July 16, 2024). *Allelopathic effects of Leucaena leucocephala litter on germination and growth of four crop plants in the Virgin Islands*. 57th Caribbean Food Crops Society. Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Other

The UVI Passport to the World Travel-Learning Program hosted two exciting programs which took students to the United Arab Emirates, specifically Dubai and Abu Dhabi from May 17-28. Nine undergraduate and three graduate students participated in the 10-day program focused on technology and architecture. From June 5-18, students, staff, faculty, alumni, and friends of UVI participated in the UVI Passport to the World Travel Learning Program to Kenya, East Africa.

Dr. Xuri Maurice Allen was a member of the US Virgin Islands School Counselor Association (USVI SCA) delegation that attended the annual national conference of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), held July 13-16 in Kansas City, Missouri. Chartered in February 2024 as the 52nd branch of the national association, the USVI SCA was officially and publicly recognized during the conference, and for the first time, as ASCA's newest branch. *Dr. Allen played a major role in the establishment of USVI SCA; is a charter member; and serves on its advisory board.*

Mr. Gerard Evelyn, who serves as the Assistive Technology Assistant at VIUCEDD in St. Croix, has recently been appointed to the Board for Independent Living. Mr. Evelyn, who is visually impaired, is known for self-advocacy and dedication to empowering individuals with disabilities. Ms. Khalifa Thomas, the Assistant Director of VIUCEDD, successfully completed the 2024 Association of University Centers on Disability's (AUCD) Leadership Academy at the Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University (GSU). The Leadership Academy is designed to enhance the skills of current and emerging leaders from disability networks to build coalitions to improve systems of support and services. Participants receive support from a diverse cohort of learners, academy faculty, and local coaches for the year following program completion. The academy focused on the exploration of shared values and commitments to civil and human rights, assessments of personal and leadership strengths, skills in building partnerships to achieve collective impact and establishing personal and professional leadership goals.

Ms. Thomas was one of the 24 participants selected from UCEDDs, LENDs, and the wider community of disability partners across the states and territories. The cohort participated in an immersive week-long program focused on study, shared experiences, self-evaluation, and skill development. The AUCD Leadership Academy took place in Atlanta, Georgia from June 2-7.

APPENDIX A:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	RANK/DISCIPLINE	SCHOOL/COLLEGE	CAMPUS
Miller-Smith	Monica	Instructor of Communication	College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences	OEK
Brown	Alicia	Assistant Professor of Spanish	College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences	OEK
McCurdy	Matthew	Assistant Professor of Mathematics	College of Science and Mathematics	OEK
Sitaula	Sarita	Assistant Professor of Chemistry	College of Science and Mathematics	OEK
Ward	Shamar	Assistant Professor of Computer Sci.	College of Science and Mathematics	AAS
Burzynski	Gregory	Assistant Professor of Biology	College of Science and Mathematics	AAS
Vondriska	Clayton	Instructor of Biology	College of Science and Mathematics	OEK
Gendre	Bruce	Associate Professor of Physics	College of Science and Mathematics	OEK
Ulusoy	Emre	Associate Professor of Marketing	School of Business	OEK
Lambert	Demetria	Assistant Professor of Education	School of Education	OEK
Cooper	Stephanie	WBB Head Coach/PE Instructor	School of Education	OEK
Martin	Marie	Assistant Professor of Nursing	School of Nursing	AAS
Bryan	Candace	Assistant Professor of Nursing	School of Nursing	OEK