

UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

# Provost's Report

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Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee

**Camille McKayle, PhD**

ARSA Committee

February 5, 2024

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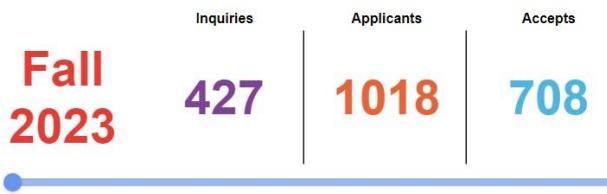
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## Enrollment

### Spring 2024 Enrollment

ENROLLMENT, CURRENT SEMESTER: 202401 VERSUS ENROLLMENT PREVIOUS SEMESTER: 202301

CAMPUS LEVEL	A.A.S. Campus		O.E.K. Campus			Online Campus			St. Martin Campus			Total		
	Term	% change	Cur. Term.	Comp. Term	% change	Cur. Term.	Comp. Term	% change	Cur. Term.	Comp. Term	% change	Cur. Term.	Comp. Term	% change
□ Certificate	8	-25.00%	2	6	-66.67%	11		-	6	-100.00%	19	20	-5.00%	
□ Certificate Program	7	-28.57%	2	2	0.00%	11		-	6	-100.00%	18	15	20.00%	
□ Continuing				3	-100.00%							3	-100.00%	
□ Non-degree seeking	1	0.00%		1	-100.00%						1	2	-50.00%	
□ Doctorate			74	87	-14.94%						74	87	-14.94%	
□ Doctorate			74	86	-13.95%						74	86	-13.95%	
□ New Graduate				1	-100.00%							1	-100.00%	
□ Graduate	18	22.22%	86	77	11.69%	27	17	58.82%				135	112	20.54%
□ 6						1		-			1			-
□ Certificate Program						1		-			1			-
□ Continuing	16	31.25%	80	75	6.67%	17	16	6.25%				118	107	10.28%
□ New Graduate	1	0.00%	4	1	300.00%	8	1	700.00%				13	3	333.33%
□ Non-degree seeking	1	-100.00%	2	1	100.00%						2	2	0.00%	
□ Undergraduate	504	2.98%	783	744	5.24%	101	75	34.67%	22	18	22.22%	1425	1341	6.26%
□ Certificate Program			5	1	400.00%	14		-	1		-	20	1	1900.00%
□ Continuing	426	8.22%	674	650	3.69%	73	63	15.87%	13	13	0.00%	1221	1152	5.99%
□ Doctorate			2		-						2			-
□ Dual Credit	1	300.00%									4	1	300.00%	
In Try	1	300.00%									4	1	300.00%	
□ New Freshman	22	-22.73%	28	27	3.70%	7	3	133.33%				52	52	0.00%
In Try	21	-19.05%	25	24	4.17%	4	3	33.33%				46	48	-4.17%
Total	530	3.21%	945	914	3.39%	139	92	51.09%	22	24	-8.33%	1653	1560	5.96%



Application submissions for Fall 2024 are higher compared to last Fall's submissions. Access and Enrollment Services (ACES) is in the process of completing the application acceptance. For the Fall semester, ACES will be focusing on updating pages on its website, starting with Advancement

and Admissions. ACES plans to launch a virtual tour experience by the end of the Spring semester. The ACES team will also work on building new communication plans for prospective students and improving the application experience.

## Personnel

In October 2023, **Shaquille Richardson** was hired as Director of Sports Information and Facilities for the Athletics Department. Mr. Richardson oversees the department's media requests, website administration, social media strategy and execution, and gameday facilities management at the Elridge Blake Sports & Fitness Center. He joined UVI after working as a teacher for the Department of Education in the Virgin Islands from 2017 to 2023. In addition, he has extensive expertise in sports media, having worked as a journalist, analyst, and statistician for Livewire Sports, a St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.-based sports media company, since 2019.

## Unit Achievements and Activities

### Academic Units

All graduates from the School of Nursing, Albert A. Sheen Class of 2023, passed the NCLEX-RN examination on the first sitting as of December 2023

Ten students in the Bachelor of Science Nursing program traveled to Bradford, Massachusetts, from October 22, 2023, to November 1, 2023, to complete clinical rotations at the Whitter Rehabilitation Hospital. Mr. Brian Costa and Mrs. Patricia Burks, Assistant Professors, escorted the students. Greenleaf VI provided funding for this project through the Office of Institutional Advancement. The Office of the Provost and the School of Nursing faculty facilitated this endeavor's success.

After receiving accreditation, the School of Education sent its first annual reports to the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP). The academic unit created three quality assurance reports (QARs) and self-studies and presented them to the accrediting authority in three reports. The teacher education program report was prepared under the leadership of the Dean, Dr. Karen Brown. Program directors, **Dr. Xuri Allen and Dr. Clinton Valley**, oversaw the development of the reports for their respective graduate programs in School Counseling and Educational Leadership.

In August and September of 2023, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences' Caribbean Writer Press had several successes. The 175th Anniversary Emancipation Committee approached the Caribbean Writer Press to advise them on publication for their "Call for Papers." The press was commissioned to publish the call's outcome, an assortment of academic papers, essays, poetry, and fiction. Additionally, poet Daisy Holder-Lafond has requested that the Caribbean Writer Press publish her book of poems, "We Who Owned Nothing," which focuses on the history and culture

of the Virgin Islands. The Caribbean Writer Press was invited in September 2023 to write a creative article about the climb on Maroon Ridge. Olassee Davis of the School of Agriculture led the trip.

The College of Science and Mathematics approved a new minor in Biology that is now under review by the University's Curriculum Committee. The minor will allow students in related fields, such as chemistry and psychology, to complement their learning.

On November 7, 2023, the School of Business held a hybrid meeting to relaunch its advisory committee program. In-person attendees included the president of the U.S. Virgin Islands Hotel and Tourism Association, the general manager of the Ritz-Cartou St. Thomas, and FDIC officials. Virtual attendees included the Director of the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue, Merck's Global Diversity and Inclusion Center of Excellence vice president, the SEC representative, and the dean of Howard University's School of Business.

## Athletics

On October 21, 2023, the UVI Men's and Women's cross-country teams wrapped up their seasons by participating in their first-ever Gulf Coast Athletic Conference championship competition. The men's team finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall, led by **Nasir Watson**, who finished the 8K race in 35: 17.5. **Ariana Renault**, competing for the ladies, finished the 6K race in 11th place with a time of 29:15.45, narrowly missing the podium.

On November 3, 2023, the Athletics Department hosted its first Buccaneer Madness event. The basketball teams were introduced to the public and played in scrimmages. There were three-point shooting and dunk contests, interactive games with fans for prizes, and other giveaways for attendees. Over 200 people attended the fun-filled event.

Between November and December 2023, eight home basketball games were held, including six for the men's team and two for the women's team. The men played an exhibition game during the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Paradise Jam.

## VI EPSCoR

The National Science Foundation (NSF) was invited and sponsored by VI-EPSCoR for a workshop on the Virgin Islands Reef Resilience Study (VIRRS) on September 27–29 and November 3–4, 2023. The workshop's objectives were to define resilience, identify critical factors, develop metrics for assessing resilience, and specify conservation goals for USVI reefs. Fifty-one topic area experts were invited to the session, which was attended by invitation only.

On December 7, 2023, VI-EPSCoR conducted a Governance Committee meeting and presented the first draft of the Science and Technology Plan for review and feedback by the committee.

## Eastern Caribbean Center

In order to examine data gathered in 2022–2023 from visitors arriving in the USVI on cruise ships and flights during the low and high tourist seasons, the Eastern Caribbean Center (ECC) signed a contract with the Bureau of Economic Research.

The ECC appeared on NPR Analyze This and WSTA Pass it On, two popular radio talk shows, to discuss USVI's most recent demographic and housing statistics. The ECC theoretical archetype of the migrating VI population (paper in process) was also discussed.

## Other

The UVI Passport to the World Travel Learning Program traveled to Panama and Colombia. Understanding the Panama Canal's function and the impact of Caribbean people was the main goal of the initiative. Ten undergraduate students were among the party of 27 who visited the Mira Flores Locks in Panama to get a close-up look at the facility. In addition, they went to the Afro-Antillean Museum to discover more about the links that bind Panama to the Caribbean region and had an opportunity to interact with members of the Embera people, an indigenous community that lives semi-nomadically. The party traveled to Boquillas in Cartagena, Colombia, which is mostly an Afro-Colombian neighborhood. One of the visit's activities was a mangrove excursion.

## Grants, Donations, and Special Projects Funded

The Eastern Caribbean Center applied for and received the Street Addressing Initiative contract from the Lt. Governor's Office with sub-contractor Spatial Focus for \$1,999,089. Currently, contracts are being negotiated with VI Housing Finance Authority and the Department of Property and Procurement.

*Dr. Deshona Williams Liburd Audain* received a NIH AIM-AHEAD Hub Specific grant for over \$84,000. The grant provides funding to build a network of expertise within the biomedical and university domains and increase the training of medical professionals on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in the biomedical industry in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

*Henry O. Awika* (PI). Improving cucurbit production in protected structures in the U.S. Virgin Islands. USDA-AMS through the VI Department of Agriculture. November 2023 through September 2026. \$74,463.

*Samuel Joseph* (P.I.), *Thomas W. Zimmerman* (co-PI). Propagation of Java Plum (*Syzygium cumini*). USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) through the VI. Department of Agriculture. November 2023 through September 2026. \$49,997.

*Thomas W. Zimmerman* (P.I.), *Samuel Joseph* (co-PI). On-Farm Intercropping Sweetpotatoes with Jicama to Control Weevils. USDA-AMS through the VI. Department of Agriculture. November 2023 through September 2026. \$50,003.

## Donations

The Master of Social Work Program received a \$10,000 donation from Celebrity Financial in support of scholarships for students pursuing degrees in MSW.

On October 10, 2023, the VI University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities hosted a press release and photoshoot to celebrate a philanthropic donation from FirstBank in the amount of \$4,995. The donation provided direct funding for the Assistive Technology Re-Use Loan Program, which allowed VIUCEDD to purchase medical equipment for persons with mobility disabilities across the Territory. The Re-Use program provides a "loan closet" of assistive mobility devices, including wheelchairs, walkers, and canes, that can be borrowed for short or long-term periods.

University of the Virgin Islands. (2023, October 10). *First Bank Donates Medical Equipment to VIUCEDD to Assist Disabled Community*. [Press release].

[https://www.uvi.edu/2023/23\\_101\\_firstbank\\_donates\\_medical\\_equipment.html](https://www.uvi.edu/2023/23_101_firstbank_donates_medical_equipment.html)

The School of Agriculture donated the following:

- 66.5 lbs. of bell peppers to four charities in St Croix: Herbert Grigg Home, 14.8 lbs.; Collective Collaboration, 15.6 lbs.; Queen Louise Home for Children, 21.5 lbs.; My Brother's Table, 14.6 lbs.
- Five sheep to three charities: one to The Village, one to My Brothers Table, three to The Caribbean Collaborative Inc.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The UVI Music Program held their Charter Day Concert in the Prior Jollek Hall at the Antilles School. The concert was directed by **Dionne Donadelle** (UVI Concert Band), **Francis Callwood** (UVI Concert Choir), **Le'Roi Simmonds** (UVI Steel Pan Ensemble), and **Dion Parson** (UVI Jazz Combo).

The Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center (VICCC) arranged and participated in meetings to discuss ongoing projects in the Virgin Islands, including digital archives and museums. Stakeholders included the Smith Center, the Emory Center for Digital Scholarship, the Virgin Islands Studies Collective, the National Museum of African American History, and private individuals.

Durin Fall, the Virgin Islands University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (VIUCEDD) offered nine (9) CEUs of training on Disability Employment Policies and Reasonable Accommodations, Aging in Place Training Series: Fall Prevention and Assistive Technology for the Bathroom, and the Florida Virgin Islands Deaf Blind Collaborative, all related to digital accessibility. Florida Virgin Islands Deaf Blind Collaborative, Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands, and the University of the Virgin Islands were among the partner agencies. Approximately 123 individuals in the community, including advocates, family members, and people with disabilities, were served.

The VIUCEDD participated in several community events in the U.S. Virgin Islands, including the UVI World Mental Health Festival in St. Thomas, and the WAPA Employee Wellness Day Fair in the St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix districts, the 2nd Annual Virgin Islands Diabetes Center for Excellence Health Fair in St. Croix, and the White Cane Awareness Day Walk on St. Croix. These events allowed VIUCEDD to promote its services, disseminate information/promotional material, and demonstrate assistive technology devices for individuals with disabilities.

The Women's and Men's Basketball teams completed community service on November 22, 2023, when they assisted in Feeding Caribbean's "Hoops Against Hunger" initiative sponsored by the Ritz Carlton St. Thomas. They distributed food to unhoused and needy individuals in downtown Charlotte Amalie.

The 2023 World Food Day observance, co-sponsored by the V.I. Department of Agriculture, was held on Sunday, October 15 on the grounds of the AAS Campus. The theme, selected by the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, was "Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind."

The Cooperative Extension Services conducted three Basic Computer Training Courses from September through November 2023. The Basic Computer Training Course is designed to increase participants' knowledge and usage of computers. One of the goals of this course is to bridge the digital divide in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Program conducted tours, field trips, and historical, cultural, natural, coastal, agricultural, environmental, and ethnobotanical presentations for students, parents, educators, summer programs, NGOs, private companies, faculty, students, and the public. Locations included East Salt River Bay National Historical Park & Ecological Preserve, Sion Farm and Estate Thomas, Annaly Bay, Caledonia Valley Tropical Moist Forest, Estate Windsor Forest, Caledonia Valley Tropical Moist Forest, and Estate Clairmont & Windsor Forest. There was a total of 174 attendees at these events.

The ANR Program collaborated with the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources by sharing local historical knowledge in workshops and town hall meetings on developing a Comprehensive Land & Water Use Plan.

The 4-H Healthy Habits Program engaged 246 4th graders enrolled in public schools to complete 8-plus hours of nutrition and healthy living programming.

The 2023 IGNITE by 4-H Lead 2 Change Project, “GROW It and Done!” achieved the following objectives: conducted training and orientation for five (5) community partners (24 youths and eight adults attended); a SOA student was a presenter on “Plants 101”; teen delegates presented their Lead 2 Change Project at World Food Day and presented five (5) community partners with token gardening boxes representing the official launch of “GROW It and Done!”

The 4-H Family and Consumer Sciences Program conducted four-holiday baking workshops on December 6 and December 7, featuring sweet bread and fruit cake at the Albert A. Sheen Campus, with approximately 25 adults and three youths in attendance.

*Davis, Kenneth Olasee* Presented to the St. Croix Rotary Club November 2023 on Hardships of Maroons in the Danish West Indies.

UVI School of Business faculty **Dr. Barbara Flemming** and **Dr. Nelso Pizarro** collaborated with Mr. Stanford Joines, representing the Rotary Mid-Isle organization on the annual Entrepreneurship Seminar event, which occurred on Friday, October 27, 2023, in EVC 401 (Little Theater) at the University of the Virgin Islands.

The Entrepreneurship Seminar began with an introduction by Mr. Stanford Joines, President, Rotary Mid-Isle. The remarks followed this and were welcomed by the School of Business Dean, **Dr. Kendra Harris**, and **Dr. Barbara Flemming**, Associate Professor of Management. Other presentations included different entrepreneurs located on St. Croix. They represented many businesses, including personal care, clothing and beverages, solar installation, photography and graphics, and pharmaceutical companies. Additionally, Governor Albert Bryan’s representative, Ms. Sana Joseph Smith, delivered the address on his behalf. **Dr. Nelson Pizarro**, the Kiril Sokoloff Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation and Special Assistant to The President, gave the keynote address. Upon the conclusion of the lunch break, the university’s staff led a persuasive recruitment presentation that won the hearts of many high school students who attended this event. Overall, eighty (80) high school students participated in the seminar.

**Janet Pointer, RN, Kaylan Banjoko** (nursing student), and **Meah Moss** (nursing student) held a VIDOH Blood Glucose event for sixty-three patients on December 1, 2023, at the Tutu Park Mall.

VI-EPSCoR hosted its third annual Ridge to Reef conference, Communicating *Science into Action*, on November 16-17, 2023. The conference focused on how to communicate scientific research into action. The conference showcased how data and science are shared and how that information can directly support natural resource management and policy development and indirectly inform local teachers as they inspire students toward STEM and environmental awareness. In attendance were 112 community participants, eight external advisory board members, and two external evaluators participants.

The Eastern Caribbean Center presented to the VI Department of Education Special Education teachers, administrators, support staff, students, and parents on the findings from the most recent Parent Satisfaction Survey. ECC has been measuring parental satisfaction of parents of students receiving special education services since 2007.

The Informal Learning (I.L.) Youth Engagement/STEM Enrichment Component of VI EPSCoR held the following Community Outreach events:

### **Community Engagement/Citizen Science**

- Participation in the "International Day of Play ", an annual family-oriented event hosted by the Virgin Islands Children's Museum (VICM). EPSCoR, in collaboration with the Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service (VIMAS) and the DPNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, engaged 75 participants.
- Participation in the Governor's Youth Workforce Development Summit in both districts. In total, 550 students across the Territory were engaged.

### **Youth/k-12 Outreach**

- Worked with the St. Croix Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) to integrate "Tiny Forests" lessons and concepts into a place-based curriculum used by the vocational school's agricultural teacher. The launch of the first Tiny Forest at CTEC, in conjunction with several community partners, resulted in a total of 25 native/heritage trees being planted at CTEC.
- Coordinated two field trips for a Marine Biology teacher and her students to various sites, such as the VI Waste Management Authority Wastewater Treatment Facility and Southgate to learn first-hand about the industry's impact on St. Croix's watersheds via desalination.

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS**

The Student Affairs Division on the Albert A. Sheen and Orville E. Kean campuses hosted various events and activities during the reporting period. Activities included:

- Meet & Greet Social for the Dean of Students on the Albert A. Sheen Campus
- Coffee House Discussions
- Hispanic Heritage Happy Hour and online Trivia Giveaway
- The Hunting Ground Documentary
- Ice Cream Social
- Zumba
- Karaoke
- Just because it's Monday
- Movie Night: For Colored Girls
- Clubs & Organizations Day
- Ice Cream Social
- Smoothie Social

- Ice Pop Social
- Pumpkin Carving
- Carve, Sip 'N' Scare
- Soft Launch: Karaoke Night

**Red Ribbon Week Event-**

- Plant a Promise
- Drug-Free Bingo
- Drug-Free Jeopardy
- Non-Alcoholic Fear Pong
- Coloring Station
- VIPD K-9 Unit Presentation

**Escalation Training-** In preparation for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in February 2024, Counseling Services collaborated with the Student Housing and Residential Life Office to have three resident assistants complete the escalation training to become certified facilitators. **Maura Monee Richardson, Jaresia Elliott-Hendrickson, and Zidane Byron** earned their certification.

In celebration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Office of the Dean of Students hosted a week of events as the University paid tribute to those battling with this deadly disease, as well as those who won and lost the fight to cancer under the theme “Working together to find a Cure.”

- Pink Mix and Mingle Social
- Walk for a Cause
- Pedal for Pink
- Swing for a Cure

Miss NBCA (National Black Colleges Association) Hall of Fame Competition: **Ms. Eunisha Lawrence** competed in the Miss NBCA Hall of Fame competition, which was held in Atlanta, GA. She participated in several preliminary rounds, vying for the championship against other HBCU queens. Ms. Lawrence did not win the championship but did an excellent job representing UVI. The AAS Campus will host the pageant to choose the next Miss UVI on March 16, 2024.

**Counseling Services**

**eCheckup to Go-** Alcohol and Sexual Violence Courses- In recognition of Campus Safety Month, students were encouraged to complete these courses. Five students completed the alcohol course, and three students completed the sexual violence course.

**Suicide Awareness Day Pop-Up Event-** In recognition of Suicide Prevention Week, Counseling Services held a Lunch & Learn Pop-Up Event on September 15, 2023. The presenters were Zulima Webster and Taylor Perry from the Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health. Information was shared about suicides and the 988 Lifeline. Fifteen people participated.

## **Mental Health Awareness Training Program (MHAT)**

### **Mental Health First Aid Training**

**Training Overview:** MHFA is a course that teaches participants how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training provides skills needed to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis.

- Patricia Towal conducted a Blended Adult Mental Health First Aid training on Saturday, October 7, 2023, for UVI faculty, staff, and students. Sixteen individuals attended.
- Patricia Towal and Dr. David Cannonier conducted a Blended Adult Mental Health First Aid training on Saturday, November 18, 2023, for UVI faculty, staff, and students. Twelve individuals attended.
- Dr. David Cannonier and Nurse Tabitha Urgent conducted a Blended Adult Mental Health First Aid training for the Virgin Islands community on Tuesday, November 21, 2023. Nineteen individuals attended.

### **Question, Persuade, and Refer Training**

**Course Overview:** Persons trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help.

- Twenty-eight people completed the QPR course and were certified. This included UVI staff, faculty, and students.

### **Outreach and Engagement Activities**

- The MHAT program had a table at the Student Affairs World Mental Health Day event on October 10, 2023. The program provided attendees with information regarding the MHFA and QPR training, as well as information regarding stress and stress management.
- The MHAT program participated in Student Affairs at UVI's OEK campus Red Ribbon Week Event on October 24, 2023. The MHAT Program promotes the importance of living a drug-free and responsible drinking lifestyle.
- The MHAT program held its annual 7-in-7 Suicide Prevention Week event (Sept. 10th- September 16). Ten individuals completed the training during that week.

## **National Student Exchange Program**

**Incoming NSE Semester Events-** The NSE Coordinator, Dahlia Stridiron-Felix, implemented the following activities for the NSE students.

- NSE Cooking Class/Beach- The students participated in a cooking class at 4 Elements on Water Island. They made a local vegetarian curry dish. The students also participated in an environmental art class. Thirteen students participated.
- Half-day Sail to Buck Island- The NSE students participated in a half-day sail to Buck Island. Fifteen students participated.

- Eat & Paint Cultural Event- The NSE students painted local marine and environmental pictures on coasters. Ten students participated.

## 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 activities represent the departments' broad activities.

- Residential Life Arts Community Field Trip – October 1, 2023 –
- Halloween Tie-Dye Get Together – October 21, 2023 -
- Residential Life Gardening Community Plant a Promise Table – October 24, 2023
- Residential Gardening Community Annual Pumpkin Carving Competition – November 4, 2023 –
- The Ultimate Universal Wet Fete – November 4, 2023 – Staff Advisor: Shirmara, Residence Life Hall Coordinator.
- Buccaneer Madness Pep Rally – November 10, 2023 –
- Roadblock After Party – November 10, 2023 -
- Afternoon Game Day – November 11, 2023 –

## STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

*(Student names are bolded; faculty and staff names are italicized)*

### Conference Presentations:

**Awika, Henry O., Yvonilyn Lawrence, Jessica Ewer, Thomas Zimmerman, Johnson Southwell and Donna Gonzalez** (2023). Spectrometric estimation of total flavonoids, anthocyanin, and fiber in the leaf and root tissues of radish (*Raphanus sativus L.*) under different irrigation regimens. ASA/CSSA/SSSA. November 1, 2023. St. Louis, MO.

**Awika, Henry O., Yvonilyn Lawrence and Donna Gonzalez** (2023). Machine-learning of Leaf derived vegetation indices that can predict the content of water, flavonoids, and carotenoids in carrot roots. ASA/CSSA/SSSA. November 1, 2023. St. Louis, MO.

### Other Student Activities

The Emerging Caribbean Scientists Steering Committee organized and held the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research Symposium on Sunday, September 17, 2023. There were 34 undergraduate research presentations. Graduate students in the MMES program, UVI faculty, and staff served as presentation judges. The three best presentations were from **Mia Bruno** (junior biology major, first place), **Akilah Hodge** (senior biology & psychology; second place), and **Abigail Rose** (sophomore chemistry, third place). Please find booklet: [https://www.uvi.edu/research/emerging-caribbean-scientists-programs/Symposium\\_Booklet\\_2023.pdf](https://www.uvi.edu/research/emerging-caribbean-scientists-programs/Symposium_Booklet_2023.pdf). Booklet is also included with the support materials for the meetings.

*Ayophia Stalliard (lead), Trevesia Queeley Richardson, Dr. Marissa Johnson Rogers, and Sheldon Henry* (student researcher) participated in Georgia Tech SOUTH BD HUB SMART-DART: Supporting minority & regional training in Data & A.I. for Researchers of Tomorrow program in Atlanta, GA, September 13-16, 2023.

ECC Student Researcher, **Sheldon Henry**, submitted an abstract and poster on Changes in Migration Patterns between the USVI and the U.S. Mainland from 2012 to 2020, co-authored by *Dr Lawanda Cummings and Resa Berkley*.

Local media company Vivid Streaming recognized and interviewed top-performing UVI basketball student-athletes every Wednesday during their morning shows near Crown Mountain studio. The following student-athletes have appeared on the show since the start of the season in November: **Naythan Shaw-Clark, JerMikal “Jalen” Monroe, Kashay Bass, Maurice Smith, and Ashukamayah Phillips**.

Junior women's basketball player **Jordan Carter** was named GCAC Newcomer of the Week on December 12, 2023, after performing in conference games at Southern University at New Orleans and Dillard University. She appeared on the conference's weekly podcast, “The 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter,” on December 17, 2023, to discuss her performance and receiving the award.

**Raquel Hill** graduated from UVI with a B.S. in biology in 2020. She was mentored on two senior projects by *Amy Jo Dreves (School of Agriculture)*. She completed her Master of Plant Pathology in Fall 2023 at the University of Florida.

**Lamani Santiago**, a senior student, created all the illustrations for *Amy Jo Dreves* and **Laura Martin** peer-reviewed publication titled, “How to Store Pesticide Products in Tropical Environments” University of the Virgin Islands, School of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service; Extension Bulletin UVI-SOA-CES-IPM # 000b4.

**Lamani Santiago**, a senior student, created all the illustrations for *Amy Jo Dreves* and **Laura Martin** peer-reviewed publication titled “Reasons Why a Pesticide Product is Not Working, University of the Virgin Islands, School of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service; Extension Bulletin UVI-SOA-CES-IPM # 000b5.

**Lawrenz, W., Bryan, S., Stevens, E., Wilson, Z., Mathurin, D., Greene, A., Carlos, S., and Ehinmowo, O.** 2023. “Building stronger communities: The social impact of Agricultural Cooperatives.” 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Agriculture and Food Fair of the USVI. 2024 (AGRIFEST).

## FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP

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

### National and International Publications (peer reviewed)

*Bowen, Diana, Cummings, Lawanda, & Monroe Mills, Nadia* (2023). The Role of Agency for K12 STEM Teachers in the United States Virgin Islands Post Hurricane. Handbook of Caribbean and African Studies in Education: Bloomsbury Publishing.

*Ehinmowo, Olubukola.*, Harrison, C., and Olutumise, A. I. 2023. Effect of Pandemic and Lockdown on the performance and operations of farmers' markets in Southern, Nigeria: *International Journal of Business and Emerging Markets*, DOI: 10.1505/IJEM.2025.10059114. Paper was accepted for publication.

*Flemming, Paul & Flemming, Barbara.* (2023). The Paradox of Economic Development and the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the U.S. Virgin Islands Economy: A Caribbean Prospective through the reflective lenses of Stakeholders. *International Research Journal of Economics and Management Studies (IRJEMS)*, 2(3), 445-456. Doi:10.56472/25835238/IRJEMS-V2I3P158

*Lancellotti, Brittany, Hensley, David.* 2023. Detection of heavy metals and VOCs in streambed sediment indicates anthropogenic impact on intermittent streams of the U.S. Virgin Islands. *Scientific Reports* 13:17238. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-44455-2>

*McSween, Verleen.* (2023) Quality Improvement: Evaluation of an integrative approach to STEM workforce preparation in a biomedical science course. [The manuscript was submitted to the International Journal on Social and Education Sciences on November 14, 2023].

*Storey, James and Brown, Eric* (2023). The Importance of Leadership and a Global Human Resource Perspective: The Case of Executive Management During a Hotel Merger. *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Cases*, online 12/29/2023. <https://doi.org/10.1177/21649987231217865>

*Ukpe, Emmanuel and Flemming, Paul.* (2023) Managerial Framework for Digital Transformation of SMEs in the Developing Countries. *International Journal of Humanities Social Science and Management (IJHSSM)* Volume 3, Issue 6, Nov.-Dec. 2023, pp: 217-226

### National and International Presentations

Bennett, E. R., Castro, Waddell, Kim, Guannel, Michele, Lancellotti, Brittany, Hensley, David., Metcalfe, C.D., and Yargeau, V. 2023. Contaminants of emerging concern in coastal waters in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Poster presentation, Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North American Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY, 12-16 November 2023.

*Brown, Karen* (2023, November 18). Celebrating 10 Years of ASHA-PAHO Capacity Building Collaboration in Latin America and the Caribbean. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention. Boston, MA

*Carrera-Martínez, R., Gómez-Andújar, N., Hernandez-Natera, M., Cruz-Rivera, E., Hensley, David, González, G., and Schoville, S. D.* 2023. Evolution and diversity of trigasterid earthworms from the Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands archipelagoes. Oral presentation, International Oligochaeta Taxonomy Meeting, Spain, 11-15 December 2023.

*Cummings, Lawanda, Johnson Rogers, Marissa., Bellew, Ayishih., Williams Liburd Audain, Deshona., Queeley Richardson, T., Henry, S.I.,* (2023). Uncuffing the USVI Economic Landscape from the Colonial Understanding. Caribbean Studies Association Conference (CSA), St Croix, USVI.

*Ehinmowo, O. Olubukola., Olutumise, A. I., Crossman, Stafford., Ng'ombe, J. N., and Aturamu, O. A.* 2023. A Budgetary Analysis of Food Crop Performance in the United States Virgin Islands (1978 – 2017). Paper presentation, Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

*Harris, Kendra.* (2023 – November 15-17). Global Insights: Cultural Implications of Business Education in the U.S. Virgin Islands [Conference Presentation]. ACBSP Women's Leadership 2023 Conference, New Orleans, LA.

*Hensley, David, Knappenberger, T., and Lancellotti, Brittany* 2023. Understanding ephemeral streams in the Virgin Islands. Oral presentation, American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA, 11-15 December 2023.

*Lancellotti, Brittany, and Hensley, David.* 2023. Freshwater data scarcity in the U.S. Virgin Islands: Implications of limited intermittent stream monitoring. Oral presentation, American Geophysical Union, San Francisco, CA, 11-15 December 2023.

*McSween, Verleen.* (2023) An integrative approach to STEM workforce preparation in a biomedical science course. American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U): 2023 Transforming STEM Higher Education Conference, Nov 2-4, 2023.

*Thomas, Shamika.* (2023, October 25). International Perspectives on Disability Inclusion and Accessibility in the Workplace [Webinar]. Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology Disability, Inclusion, and Accessibility Ad Hoc Committee of Florida International University Webinar Series. Miami, Florida. <https://lnkd.in/e6uJgVUe>

## Other Publications

*Valley, Clinton A.* (December 2023). *Why are you here?* Maitland, FL: Xulon Press.

## Local Publications and Presentations

*Boykins-Winrow, Carollyn.* 2024. Amaranth's Potential as an Important Feed Component in Various Animal Diets. Agriculture: Our Future and so much more in 2024. Agriculture & Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands (Agrifest). University of the Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service.

*Dreves, Amy Jo.* (October 2021). Agricultural Production - Pest Management. Presented at Sejah Farms Bush Cook, Chef Cook (approx. 250 participants).

*Dreves, Amy Jo.* (November 2023). Essentials of Pest Management Practices, Identification, Pesticide Use. Presented to the Vegetable Crops Production Training Program at the Bureau of Corrections (BOC) in St. Croix. (14 participants).

*Dreves, Amy Jo.* (December 2023). Navigating Pesticide Product Labels and Proper Use of PPE to Avoid Hazards. Presented at the UVISOACES Farm Safety workshop (15 participants).

*Edwards, Nishika and McSween, Verleen.* (November 2023) Interview Protocol Development. The Research Pipeline Training Series. Hosted by UVI Eastern Caribbean Center and NSF Virgin Islands Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VI- EPSCoR).

*Ewer, Jessica.* Okra Production in the U.S. Virgin Islands. World Food Day, October 15, 2023, St. Croix, VI.

*James, Annette.* 2024. Soil Erosion and Conservation. Agriculture: Our Future and so much more in 2024. Agriculture & Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands (AGRIFEST). University of the Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service.

*McSween, Verleen.* (2023) An integrative approach to STEM workforce preparation in a biomedical science course. 2023 Virgin Islands Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VI- EPSCoR) Annual Conference (Nov 16-17, 2023).

## Other Activities

*Ayishih Bellew* (Statistician) was a trainer for the 9-week South Big Data Innovation Hub SMART-DART (Supporting minority & regional training in Data & A.I. for Researchers of Tomorrow) program hosted by Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA. The training started with an in-person training on September 13-16, 2023. She provided training in Open Science, Accessibility, Data Ethics, and Machine Learning. Two UVI teams participated in the SMART-DART training. Team 1 includes *Dr. Verleen McSween* (lead), *Dr. Deshona Williams Liburd Audain*, *Resa Berkeley*, and *Dr. Lawanda Cummings*. Team 2 comprises *Ayopha Stalliard* (lead), *Trevesia Queeley Richardson*, *Dr. Marissa Johnson Rogers*, and **Sheldon Henry** (student researcher). (lead), *Trevesia Queeley Richardson*, *Dr. Marissa Johnson Rogers*, and **Sheldon Henry** (student researcher).

*Deshona Williams Liburd Audain, Ph.D., ECC researcher*, successfully defended her dissertation and has received her doctorate in Health Psychology from Walden University.

*Dr. Xuri Maurice Allen* completed six months of service to NACADA: The Global Community for Academic Advising as a Reviewer for *The Handbook of Career Advising* (Hughey, Nelson, Damminger, & McCalla-Wriggins, 2009/2019), a seminal text in career advising and development.

The Communication unit produced a Holiday Special, an adaptation of "Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Clause", with a little VI twist. The 6-minute video aired on ABC and CBS networks at the News Breaks (11:00 A.M., 1:00 P.M., 7:00 P.M., and midnight).

*"Is there a Santa Claus?"*

*UVIABJ and UVIVOICE 2 0! [Video].*

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edMck57d09E&t=7s>

The St. Croix Avis recently featured Mr. Gerard Evelyn, VIUCEDD's Assistive Technology Assistant, who happens to be visually impaired, for his leadership in the White Cane Awareness Day walk. This event was held to raise awareness of the importance of white canes as a mobility aid for individuals with visual impairments. Mr. Evelyn's participation and leadership in this event demonstrate his commitment to the cause and his ability to serve as an inspiring role model for the visually impaired community.

EPSCoR's video highlighting UVI's sea turtle research in Grenada was accepted into two film festivals.

*Dan Mele (VI EPSCoR)* was a finalist out of over 300 applicants to the Jackson Wild Media Lab. He was invited to join the crew team, where he is now during this presentation. Dan Mele was accepted into the International League of Conservation Photographers emerging fellowship. One of Dan Mele's photographs of Dr. Robin Smith's coral spawning research won the Judge's Choice award in the conservation category in the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA) Showcase competition.

The Eastern Caribbean Center team launched the 2023 Virgin Islands Community Survey after a data stall since 2018. Temporary staff have been recruited, trained, and hired for data collection from October 2023 to February 2024. A media campaign was launched with flyers, brochures, and an informational video shared through various social media platforms: <https://youtu.be/JgFKPEuPfOQ>