

UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Provost's Report

Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee

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Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

ARSA Committee

June 5, 2025

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Enrollment

The following is a snapshot of projected enrollment for the Fall 2026 term. Key trends from Admissions, Financial Aid, and Registrar data are provided below to assist in Enrollment planning.

II. Admissions Summary

| Row Labels | Complete-ready for review | Decision made | Incomplete-items missing | Grand Total |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Certificate Student | | | 18 | 18 |
| Certificate Program | | | 18 | 18 |
| Doctorate Level (PhD) | | | 6 | 6 |
| New Applicant | | | 6 | 6 |
| Graduate | | 18 | 45 | 63 |
| New Applicant | | 18 | 45 | 63 |
| Undergraduate | 52 | 1596 | 960 | 2608 |
| New Applicant | 51 | 1544 | 905 | 2500 |
| New Transfer | 1 | 33 | 53 | 87 |
| Prematriculant | | 1 | | 1 |
| Special Student (NSE Students) | | 18 | 2 | 20 |
| Grand Total | 52 | 1614 | 1029 | 2695 |

| Row Labels | Complete-ready for review | Decision made | Incomplete- items missing | Grand Total |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Certificate Student | | | 18 | 18 |
| Certificate Program | | | 18 | 18 |
| In Try Resident - US/Perm | | | 4 | 4 |
| International | | | 3 | 3 |
| Out of Try Resident-US/Perm | | | 11 | 11 |
| Doctorate Level (PhD) | | | 6 | 6 |
| New Applicant | | | 6 | 6 |
| In Try Resident - UG/GR Stud | | | 1 | 1 |
| In Try Resident - US/Perm | | | 3 | 3 |
| International | | | 1 | 1 |
| Out of Try Resident-US/Perm | | | 1 | 1 |
| Graduate | 18 | | 45 | 63 |
| New Applicant | 18 | | 45 | 63 |
| In Try Resident - US/Perm | | 5 | 8 | 13 |
| International | | 1 | 13 | 14 |
| Out of Try Resident-US/Perm | | 12 | 24 | 36 |
| Undergraduate | 52 | 1596 | 960 | 2608 |
| New Applicant | 51 | 1544 | 905 | 2500 |
| In Try Resident - US/Perm | 48 | 202 | 116 | 366 |
| International | | 7 | 160 | 167 |
| Out of Try Resident-US/Perm | 2 | 1335 | 629 | 1966 |
| Undeclared | 1 | | | 1 |
| New Transfer | 1 | 33 | 53 | 87 |
| In Try Resident - US/Perm | | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| International | | 12 | 11 | 23 |
| Out of Try Resident-US/Perm | 1 | 13 | 40 | 54 |
| Rematriculant | | 1 | | 1 |
| In Try Resident - US/Perm | | 1 | | 1 |
| Special Student | 18 | | 2 | 20 |
| In Try Resident - US/Perm | | 17 | 2 | 19 |
| Out of Try Resident-US/Perm | | 1 | | 1 |
| Grand Total | 52 | 1614 | 1029 | 2695 |

| GradCAS Applicants as of 05.28.2025 | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Schools/Colleges | Complete and Ready to Review | Incomplete | Rejected | University Acceptance | Wait Listed | Grand Total |
| College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences | 5 | 3 | | 2 | | 10 |
| College of Science and Mathematics | | | 16 | 12 | 11 | 39 |
| School of Education | 1 | 4 | | | | 5 |
| School of Graduate Studies | 1 | 11 | | 6 | | 18 |
| Grand Total | 7 | 18 | 16 | 20 | 11 | 72 |

| Count of Business CAS App | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| School | Complete and Ready to Review | Incomplete | University Acceptance | Grand Total |
| School of Business | 1 | 8 | 2 | 11 |
| Grand Total | 1 | 8 | 2 | 11 |

Operational Strategies

1. The provost retreat for academic affairs was held on March 3, 2025. Sessions during the retreat included team building, sensitivity training, and how to reduce stress. In addition, there was a demonstration on generating learning outcomes that incorporate metrics, the measurement activity, actual outcomes, and follow-up to the outcomes.
2. Vice-President Moolenaar-Wirsiy and Ms. Wendy Fedler conducted a session during one of the academic affairs' monthly meetings, on identifying (or revisiting) the predictive analytics tools that are provided in BucsConnect. The leadership team was encouraged to ensure that these tools are used during faculty academic advising with students.
3. The Faculty Institute was conducted May 13, 2025. Vice-President Sharlene Harris was invited to provide an update on the strategic planning process and to enable UVI's faculty to provide input on peer and aspirant university lists.
4. The Faculty Institute was also utilized for providing the status of the development of the

revised General Education Curriculum, thus facilitating the continuing of the last part of the progression needed in the process to solidify the new curriculum.

5. The Faculty Institute was a platform for reinforcing the importance of retention and the actions needed for retention, as a priority. The outcome of that session was the identification of the need to improve upon placement testing logistics (e.g., students are placed in classes without test results being known). In addition, faculty expressed that our students truly have some socio-economic and perhaps emotional challenges that become barriers to their ability to properly function as students, and that we should identify ways to assist them with those challenges.

6. Additionally, faculty were instructed to ensure that they use UVI branded materials when conducting presentations, demonstrations or exhibitions the community. The provost's office is considering purchasing UVI branded items (e.g., conference banners, tablecloth).

7. Interim Provost, Kendra Harris, and Interim Dean, Paul Flemming, were invited by Neville James to be on his WTJX show, "Analyze This." During the interview, Drs. K. Harris and P. Flemming spoke about UVI's programs, activities, and accomplishments. Mr. James pointed out that UVI has transformed from a "fall back" university to a targeted destination for education. At the end of the segment (extended by Mr. James), Mr. James, without prompting, requested that Dr. Harris provide him with an estimate on the cost of building an all-purpose center on the St. Croix campus. Mr. James promised to do his best to solicit support from the V.I Legislature to obtain funding for this project.

Personnel

- The School of Nursing welcomed Ms. LeeAnn Knight as a new part-time faculty member.
- Mr. Samuel Joseph has been appointed Interim Assistant Director for Fiscal and Personnel Affairs/EEO Office.
- In the Center for Excellence in Leadership and Learning, Ms. Jahmila Matthew has joined as Program Specialist I on the Orville E. Kean Campus.
- Ms. Samantha Harlow has been hired as the Administrative Assistant for the Caribbean Green Technology Center.
- **Dr. Evan Berkowitz** joined the College of Science and Mathematics in January as an Assistant Professor of Physics on the AAS Campus. He is a computational physicist working on questions related to strongly-coupled quantum systems.

Notable Unit Achievements: Academic and Student Success/Innovation (Athletics and Student Affairs)

ACADEMICS

School of Agriculture

In order to advocate for Research and Extension, Farm Bill, and Research Facilities Act appropriations for FY 2025 and 2026 in the U.S. Congress, representatives from the School of Agriculture's CARET (Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching) as well as Dr. Usman Adamu, Dean and Director, attended the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities Annual Meeting/Conference of the Council and the Board of Agricultural Assembly (BAA) in Washington, DC, from February 23–26, 2025. Ms. Benita Martin, who represents the St. Thomas/St. Jones farming community, and Mr. Charles Burton, who represents the St. Croix farming community, are the two School of Agriculture CARET representatives.

During the conference, the School of Agriculture delegation, together with the UVI President, Dr. Safiya George, met with Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett to solicit her support in the U.S. Congress for continued financing of Research and Extension in all land-grant institutions, including UVI. Additionally, the group met with Mr. GT Thompson, the Chair of the House Agriculture Committee.

At the CASE Tissue Culture Facility ribbon-cutting ceremony, the College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE) in Jamaica acknowledged the School of Agriculture. Stafford Crossman and Dr. Thomas Zimmerman represented the School of Agriculture, which received a plaque at the event. Technical support from the School of Agriculture was crucial in the design and setup of the lab, as well as in the training of the CASE personnel at the CASE Tissue Culture Facility and the School of Agriculture AES Biotechnology Lab.

School of Business

The Hospitality and Tourism Management program successfully submitted a competitive bid to host the 26th Conference of the Academy of African Business and Development in May 2026, with the theme "Rejuvenating a Sustainable African-Caribbean Collaboration for Development," thanks to the assistance of Interim Provost Kendra Harris and Interim Dean Paul Flemming of the School of Business.

The School of Business joined CARMA, the Consortium for the Advancement of Research Methods and Analysis (<http://carmattu.com>), at the initiative of Dr. Nathan Kobina Austin. CARMA is an interdisciplinary consortium that was founded in 1997 and is currently sponsored by Texas Tech University's Rawls College of Business. Its goal is to educate academics, graduate students, and professionals on the latest advancements in a variety of statistical and research methodologies. It hosts a monthly Webcast Lecture Series featuring invited lecturers from around

the world that present a range of contemporary research techniques and analysis that academic scholars will find most helpful.

College of Science and Mathematics

Auburn University sent a delegation to the College of Science and Mathematics to talk about potential joint ventures. The dean of Auburn's College of Science and Mathematics, Dr. Ed Thomas, Jr., led the five-member delegation. They visited with UVI faculty members to talk about academics and research in the fields of physics, mathematics, computer sciences, data science, marine science, and biomedical science.

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Dr. Elizabeth Jaeger and Dr. Anna Clarke visited USM (University of St. Maarten) to expand the partnership with the Social Work Program.

School of Nursing

- January 9, 2025: Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) Data Review Workshop with School of Nursing faculty
- 37 newly enrolled BSN students (January 2025): OEK (16 students) and AAS (21 students)
- New Scholarship Launch: Partnership with the Virgin Islands Board of Nurse Licensure (VIBNL) and AeroMD to provide financial support to six nursing students per year.
 - Award Details: \$6,000 annually per student, aimed at alleviating financial barriers to nursing education.
- UVI School of Nursing approved for American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) member (April 2025). AACN membership is important for the following reasons:
 - Elevates Visibility: Enhances the national and international profile of UVI School of Nursing within the nursing education community.
 - Access to Resources: Provides faculty and administrators with access to cutting-edge resources for curriculum development, accreditation guidance, and policy updates.
 - Professional Development: Offers opportunities for faculty and students to participate in leadership programs, webinars, and workshops.
 - Networking and Collaboration: Connects UVI with other AACN member schools, fostering partnerships and collaborative research initiatives.
 - Advocacy and Policy Influence: Positions UVI to contribute to and benefit from AACN's advocacy efforts, influencing nursing education policy at the national level.
 - Educational Excellence: Aligns UVI with AACN's standards for nursing education, reinforcing a commitment to academic and clinical excellence.

School of Education

Governor Bryan and U.S. Department of Education Administrator John Ladd signed a certificate to launch the VI teacher apprenticeship program on January 14, 2025. There is a "work-based" component to the Teacher Registered Apprenticeship program. This program was created in November 2021 by the US Department of Labor (DOL) as a nationwide response to the teacher shortage issue in the US and its territories. The program was designed to attract new teachers and provide them with an extra, creative approach to teacher education. After being accepted into the program, students will finish their Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education coursework at UVI.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed by the Virgin Islands Department of Education and the School of Education to offer the last courses for the Education Specialist (EdS) degree in School Psychology. The contract's total value is \$87,890.00.

Members of the UVI School of Education team include Dr. Demetria Lambert, Assistant Professor; Dr. Andre'a Dorsey, Assistant Professor; and Dr. Karen Brown, Dean and Professor.

UVI Online

UVI Online's May term started with 106 students: 6 New, 72 continuing undergraduate, 28 continuing graduate students.

This is significant because the application link on UVI Online website has been dysfunctional for a while. The term started with 108 students. Only two students dropped out since the start – thanks due to the engagement and outreach from the academic advisor (Ms. Wendy Fedler) and of course the rock star faculty of UVI Online.

School of Education and School of Business have submitted a request to offer three programs on the UVI online platform.

School of Education – BA Elementary Education, BA Inclusive Early Childhood Education
School of Business – Certificate in Entrepreneurship

Fiscal and resource impacts need to be reflected in the upcoming budget.

UVI Center for Excellence in Leadership and Learning (UVI CELL)

The UVI St. John Community Resource and Development Center (CRDC) grand opening took place on February 11, 2025. Located in the St. John Marketplace, 2nd Floor, Suite 201 and 201B, the space includes an administrative office and community gathering area, as well as a separate classroom and computer lab. UVI CELL partnered with the Small Business Development Center,

the Apex Accelerator Program, the VI Department of Education State Office for Adult, Career and Technical Education, the VI Workforce Development Board and the American Job Center to bring the office vision to life. The space is available for youth and community programs.

STUDENT SUCCESS

- The term-to-term progression rate from Fall 2024 to Spring 2025 is 82%, which is up from 77% from Spring 2024 to Fall 2024.
- The average cumulative GPA from Spring 2024 was 2.76, and the average cumulative GPA Spring 2025 was 2.75 representing a negligible decrease of 0.3%.
- The average earned credits by term from Spring 2024 (7.6) to Spring 2025 (7.1) decreased slightly by 7%.

To remedy these slight decreases in academic performance, academic support services offered by the Center for Student Success, (during the timeframe indicated) faculty and staff at UVI contributions include:

- The amount of advising appointments from Feb – April 2024 (1,262) to Feb – April 2025 (2,064)....the same time period last year has increased 63%.
- Mandatory advising for 1st and 2nd year students;
- 24/7 virtual (and synchronous) tutoring services (called Brainfuse);
- “Handoff” emails from CSS advisors connecting rising juniors to their faculty advisor, so that they create an advising relationship early. This has been automated using Bucs Connect'.
- Intrusive advising for high support need students (as identified by predictive analytics in Bucs Connect).

INNOVATION

On April 4, 2025, the 2nd Annual Business Leadership Lecture was held with Pablo Holman with over 125 participants. It was held at the UVI 13D Research and Strategy Innovation Center. (Kiril Sokolof was in attendance.)

ATHLETICS

The UVI track and field teams competed in two meets in April. The men's and women's teams participated in meets at Embry-Riddle University in Daytona Beach, Florida (April 3-5) and the HBCU Athletic Conference Championships in Shreveport, Louisiana (April 10-12). At the conference championships, the Buccaneers got top-10 finishes from Mark Hayes-Ayala (5th – 5,000 meters), Ruby Brahane (6th – Shotput), and Shirmoy O'Garro (10th – Javelin).

The Athletics Department had several events in March 2025:

- Successfully completed events:
 - Ky-Mani Marley Concert (in partnership with the Reichold Center/President's Office)
 - Pickleball Social (in partnership with Dr. Moolenaar-Wirsiy and OEK Student Affairs)
 - Investiture Ceremony (in partnership with the Reichold Center/President's Office)
 - Gary Owen Comedy Show (venue rental by Chattabox Comedy Series/Muse VI)
 - VIPD Training (3/25 & 3/27)
 - UVI ROTC Ball (3/29)

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Albert A. Sheen Campus

- The Office of the Dean of Students facilitated *Spring 2025 New & Transfer Student Orientation* on January 10, 2025, with 22 students participating in community-building activities, a scavenger hunt, and presentations from key university departments. President George attended the full event. Following orientation, the Buccaneer Welcome Reception provided students with an opportunity to engage with academic representatives and receive their Buccaneer medals, reinforcing their connection to UVI.
- **Counseling & Career Services:** Hosted Mental Health First Aid training (13 attendees), career session for 8 students, and engaged in NSE onboarding and legislative testimony drafting.
- **Residence Life and Student Housing:** Led successful “Maroonage in AyAy” hike, released Fall 2025 Housing Application, and secured \$250,000 from Home Depot’s Retool your School Campus Improvement Grant.
- **Student Engagement** (Lion’Ess): Executed WOW Wednesdays, Spring Olympics, and supported Mr. & Ms. UVI program.
- **Wellness Events:** Avg. satisfaction ratings: 4.1–5.0; 80%+ of participants rated events as engaging and worthwhile.
- **Career Services:** 9 hires; 13 training attendees; 32 TMCF event participants; 89+ attended Presidential Meeting.
- **Residence Life:** 3 events with 40+ attendees; strong qualitative feedback.
- **Student Engagement:** 4 events, ~59 attendees, 85% satisfaction, 90% success rate.
- **Essential Needs Pantry:** For the month of March, approximately 31 students participated in the Essential Needs Pantry. Items were purchased from The Market to assist students with pantry items.

Food services/cafeteria has been approved by Dept. of Health to resume operations. A plan of action with hiring a cafeteria manager and kitchen coordinator is underway.

Orville E. Kean Campus

Residence Life and Student Housing

- The Office of Residence Life and Student Housing facilitated a number of programs aimed at educating and sensitizing students as well as building community on campus. Activities included:
 - Clothesline Project for Sexual Awareness Month – a visual display of t-shirts designed by students were installed on the upper and lower campus. The t-shirt designs depicted words of empowerment and encouragement for survivors of sexual assault/violence. Fifty-five (55) students participated in this activity.
 - Growing a Culture of Consent – The Gardening Community partnered with Counseling Services and Residence Life to host this educational activity focused on promoting awareness of consent. Students painted flowerpots and planted herbs. Eighteen (18) students participated in this activity.
 - Eighty-eight (88) room reservations for fall semester were processed; Fifty-eight (58) new applications were received.
- Hosted Beyond the Sheets Health Panel Discussion featuring Dr. Hilary Woodson, focused on Women's Sexual Health
- Students participated in **Spring Olympics**, hosted on the AAS Campus. The OEK Campus retained the championship trophy in the friendly inter-campus competition.
- The 2nd Mister and 45th Miss UVI Ambassadorial Competition was held on April 20, 2025. Asha Hyndman emerged as the winner of the Miss UVI competition and Rayhun Sabur was crowned Mister UVI.
- SGA Elections were held from April 21-23, 2025. The new leadership will begin their term in the fall semester. The new officers are:
 - President – Jenai Brooks
 - Vice President – Trevincia Browne
 - Sophomore Senator(s) - Denice Demming & Micah Crawford
 - Junior Senator(s) - Kaleesha Ray
 - Senior Senator(s) - Shugga Rosenbloom & Kayla Metayer
 - BOT Student Representative – Mitchell Turnbull

Counseling & Disability Services

- Collaborated with student organizations and other units to host a series of educational activities on campus
- Facilitated several mental health trainings on and off-campus
- Seven UVI students were placed through the NSE program. All are on home pay:
 - Kalyn George – Florida A & M University – Fall 2025
 - Kali Merrifield – Monclair State University – Fall 2025
 - Ife-Oluwa Omo-are – Bowie State University – Fall 2025
 - K'Niya Rawlins – California State University, Chico – All year
 - Jadynn Sibilly – Bowie State University – Fall 2025

- Kamaria Wilkinson – Bowie State University – Fall 2025
- Eusavio Williams – Florida State University – Fall 2025
- Incoming Students:
 - 4 all year; 2 on host pay and 2 on home pay
 - 18 students will join us for Fall 2025 – 6 host pay and 12 home pay
 - 33 students expected for Spring 2026 (11 host pay and 22 home pay)
 - OEK Campus received recognition for accepting the 2nd highest number of incoming students at the NSE conference.

Office of the Dean of Students:

- Hosted the 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Fun Festival on the Herman E. Moore Golf Course. Over 100 students participated in this activity. Approximately 30 were commuter students.

Food Services:

- For the month of April, students were able to access meals after hours through the “Grab n’ Go” initiative.
- The hours of operation extended by one hour to facilitate Grab n’ Go.
- Purchased cereal station, which will allow students to have access to cereal throughout the day. Currently, conducting an assessment to determine which cereal is more popular and accessible.
- Added Taco Tuesday, fast food Fridays & sandwich night (Saturday) to the weekly menu.
- Posting weekly menu on MyCampus

The Division of Student Success and Innovation remains committed to enhancing the student experience through leadership development, community engagement, health and wellness, and academic support. Over the past few months, the division has strengthened collaborations across departments, expanded essential student services, and implemented programs that foster a sense of belonging and personal growth. Moving forward, the division will continue to build on these successes, ensuring that students have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive at UVI.

Community Engagement

School of Graduate Studies

The School of Graduate Studies, with the assistance of Dr. Kula Francis, Program Director of the MPA program, participated in the Agrifest on February 15-17, 2025. At the Agrifest, the School of Graduate Studies hosted a graduate information table that offered resources and guidance for prospective and current graduate students. The table featured brochures, program details, and

representatives who answered questions about graduate life, admissions, and available support services. The table also included information on the Virgin Islands Academic & Cultural Awards Endowment (VIACAE) Scholarship.

School of Business

The School of Business Entrepreneurship Department:

Entrepreneurship Departments (Dr. Nelson Pizarro): The 13D Competition concluded successfully, with four winners awarded a total of \$25,000 in cash prizes. The funds are intended to support local small businesses, either to launch new ventures or to enhance existing operations.

The Entrepreneurship Department organized and hosted the 13D Guest Speaker Series. Pablos Holman, a World-renowned hacker, inventor, problem-solver, technologist futurist, was the guest speaker who gave advice and shared knowledge.

Dr. Nathan Austin held the Hospitality and Tourism Management Advisory Committee Meeting at the United States Virgin Islands Hotel and Tourism Association Conference Hall, St. Thomas, USVI.

School of Education

The VI University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (VIUCEDD) team organized community-based continuing education (CEU) training workshops in February and March 2025: (1) *Online Safety: A Guide to Cybersecurity and Online Protection* and (2) *Diabetes Medication Management*. Mr. Gerard Evelyn, the Assistive Technology Assistant of VIUCEDD in St. Croix, co-hosts a radio broadcast show called *Reflections* on Thursday mornings from 10:00 am-12:00 pm on WSTX 970 AM Radio Station.

(VIUCEDD) organized three community events and training workshops in April.

The Food and Nutrition Workshop, held on April 2, 2025, in partnership with the School of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Program, provided information and resources to the Independent Living Center's members regarding affordable, healthful options, waste prevention strategies, and assistive technology use. Approximately thirteen people with disabilities attended the event.

VIUCEDD held its 15th Autism Conference on April 8, 2025, in St. Thomas, and April 10, 2025, on St. Croix, in honor of Autism Acceptance Month. "Beyond the Spectrum: Understanding Autism and Celebrating Differences" was this year's topic.

On April 2, 2025, on St. Croix, and April 10, 2025, on St. Thomas, VIUCEDD trained and demonstrated the Voyager Emergency Radio and the Talking Sense Blood Pressure monitor to members of the Independent Living Center in honor of Assistive Technology Awareness Month. About thirty participants from both districts received devices.

School of Nursing

Orville E. Kean Campus BSN students conducted biometric screenings for event attendees, providing vital health assessments and promoting community wellness.

College of Science and Mathematics

Three College of Science and Mathematics faculty members participated in the St. Croix Central High School for 2025 Career Awareness Fair on February 18, 2025. Dr. Peterson, Dr. Henry, and Professor Kentopp presented information especially focused on CSM opportunities related to technology- Process Technology, Renewable Energy Technology, and Applied Computer Technology.

With a stand showcasing CGTC's activities and opportunities inside CSM, CSM had a strong presence at Agrifest. The event was supported by a diverse group of teachers and staff. On the OEK Campus, CSM was well-represented at Afternoon on the Green. Younger kids participated in activities led by math teachers, chemistry students, and sea turtle club members. Four Science 100 students collaborated with Michele Guannel's environmental science students to gauge the adults' comprehension of sea turtle strandings. The MMES students' ongoing research endeavor was on exhibit.

Michele Guannel is leading an undergraduate education research project funded by VI-EPSCoR that involves 60 first-year UVI students working on community-engaged projects. Through UVI-community involvement in two first-year classes, Science 100 and Social Science 100, on the OEK Campus. This intervention seeks to improve student retention. Thirty-six (36) students, or 40% of the OEK Science 100 class, are working on projects including raising awareness of healthcare hurdles and medical issues, organizing community clean-ups, and enhancing preparedness and awareness for natural disasters, among other things. Kierra Enrique, a sophomore studying psychology and criminal justice, assisted in providing guidance to these Science 100 students. Molly Perry's deployment of projects in Social Science 100 (45 percent of the class, or 25 out of 55 students) as integrated first-year curricula complements these initiatives.

Professors Walter and Benjamin led Pi Day Celebration at the St. Croix Central High School. They created a display and activities engaging high school students with knot and link theory ("Knot Just π "). Professors Squillace, Joseph and Marcel-Lewis also attended in support of National Math Honor Society at SCEC and their Pi Day Celebration.

At Complex Educational High School in St. Croix, Dr. Squillace volunteers every two weeks in Ms. Ganton's classroom, which has ten students. Since the AP Calculus exam includes a built-in Desmos graphing calculator, Dr. Squillace gives Desmos tutorials and goes over AP Calculus questions with the class.

During April, CMES faculty and staff, led by *Dr. Kristin Wilson Grimes* and in collaboration with DPNR, hosted the last annual Great Mangrove Cleanup event of the year at Vessup Bay on St. Thomas. Previous events were held at Coral Bay on St. John and at Altona Lagoon on St. Croix. Participants included 208 community volunteers who removed 14,556 lbs. of trash and hurricane debris. These events have been held annually since 2018.

(https://www.uvi.edu/news/2025/25_063_pounds_of_trash_removed_from_vi_shorelines.html).

CMES faculty and staff, including *Dr. Kristin Wilson Grimes* and *Dr. Marilyn Brandt*, also collaborated with DPNR on activities for Coral Reef Week 2025 from April 12-20. On April 15, 2025, a Restoration Brainstorm Workshop was held at the UVI Innovation Center with a focus on corals and mangroves. Participants included high school and UVI students. Coral Nursery Tours were hosted at the MSC on April 15-16, 2026, with numerous school groups and community members in attendance. The team also provided activities at Reef Fest at Magens Bay on April 19, 2025.

The Etelman Observatory Team (*Gendre, Orange, Latesky, Chanes*) hosted a high school field trip at the Etelman Observatory on April 29, 2025 (9 students + 4 supporting adults), despite the very challenging conditions of the access road. The team is assessing the visit to be able to offer other similar outreach events in the future.

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

- The UVI Dance Program. (February 3 – 7, 2025). Held its 3rd Annual Collaborative 4-Day Workshop, with the modern dance class under the tutelage of Mrs. Essi Gaston-Edwards at the St. Croix Educational Complex High School with (12) participating students.
- UVI Dance Program. (March 1, 2025). Hosted their first *Each One, Teach One Collaborative Workshop* with the St. Croix Central High School Dance Program with 15 participating students.

School of Agriculture

An Earth Day observation presentation was made to Diageo employees on solar cooking as a practical and impactful renewable energy solution. The session covered how solar ovens help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote environmental sustainability, and lower cooking costs compared to gas or electricity. Participants also explored the nutritional benefits of low-heat cooking, which preserves essential vitamins and nutrients.

Cooperative Extension Service (CES) staff participated in the Earth Day observation at the St. George Botanical Garden by leading walks describing how plants, animals, and historical buildings and ruins relative to Earth Day and the management of the earth natural resources.

An Eco-Fair presentation to St. Croix elementary school students explored the importance of sustainable food systems, learning how buying local and seasonal foods benefits the environment and provides greater nutritional value compared to imported food. The students participated in a

food game to compare nutrients across the five food groups and discussed the nutrients in different foods.

In celebrating the 2025 Week of the Young Child, the 4-H/Family and Consumer Sciences Program promoted the benefits of good nutrition and wellness among young students to support early childhood development, by collaborating with the Virgin Islands Department of Education to highlight the importance of fostering healthy habits. The presentations encouraged balanced eating habits from an early age by emphasizing eating fresh fruits, vegetables, and other food items that are considered beneficial for health and well-being. Providing nutritious smoothies was used to introduce children to healthier alternatives to sugary snacks and drinks.

The 4-H Family and Consumer Sciences Program partnered with the Virgin Islands Diabetes Center to educate selected diabetic patients in St. Thomas and St. Croix on healthy food preparation and informed nutrition choices. Through a targeted food demonstration, participants learned practical strategies for managing diabetes, including balanced meals, using herbs and spices instead of added salt or sugar, and shopping for affordable, locally available ingredients. The interactive session featured a cooking demonstration of Coconut Salmon, Quinoa, and Green Salad, helping participants understand the nutritional value of each ingredient while building lifelong skills for healthier eating.

Pesticide safety education was conducted in various categories including CORE Pesticide Safety/IPM training, Industrial and Institutional Structural Health, and recertification training for certified pesticide applicators and people interested in becoming certified. Certified applicator exams were also administered.

Different irrigation techniques were demonstrated to a group of conservation apprentices and a youth led VI Farm Force under the umbrella of VI Women in Ag Association and a Vermont Conservation District.

In collaboration with a local high school and the Virgin Islands Department of Labor, six (6) senior high school students successfully completed a 12-week internship in agricultural with hands-in research under the Animal Science, Biotechnology and Horticulture Programs.

Dr. Henry Awika in conjunction with **Johnson Southwell** and **Theran Blackwood** demonstrated different irrigation techniques to a group of conservation apprentices and a youth led VI Farm Force under the umbrella of the VI Women in Agriculture Association and a Vermont Conservation District.

Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) staff actively contributed skills, labor, and time (totalling approximately 100 person-hours) in all events leading to and during the 53rd Annual Ag & Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands (Feb. 2025).

UVI CELL

EmpowerU' Youth Summit (formerly 'Man Up'), was held across the territory. The summit engages students ages 12-18 and includes panel discussions and breakout sessions to prepare youth for post-secondary education and workforce transitions and supports mental health awareness and social well-being. The St. Croix session was on February 8, St. Thomas on March 1 and St. John on March 15. This program is generously funded by EDC beneficiary, Digital Lending Innovation, LLC.

Feb 19-21, 2025, UVI CELL hosted three members of The Recovery Innovation Coordinator and Center of Excellence (RICCE Democratic Training Institute of Puerto Rico on all 3 islands, as they offered a free nonprofit workshop titled "Tools for Grant Award Implementation: Turning Awards into Achievements". CELL partnered with RICCE again on March 27 to offer nonprofit professionals a free online workshop titled "Win the Procurement Process – Ensuring Compliance and Excellence."

March 17, 2025, Dr. Latashia Edwards was a featured panelist at the Non-Profit and Faith-Based Gun Violence Intervention Conference held at Government House on St. Croix. Hosted by Clergy For Safe Cities, the Virgin Islands Office to Prevent Gun Violence, the Virgin Islands Police Department, and UVI CELL. This event brought together key stakeholders to discuss solutions and strategies for preventing gun violence and promoting safety.

The next Cohort of the Certified Public Manager program will launch in August 2025. The MOA is in development. In addition to forty GVI employees served through the contract, UVI CELL will have 10-20 tuition-based seats available for the general public, across all three islands.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

The Office of the Provost held the Dean's List and Academic Achievement Awards reception for students who excelled in the spring and fall semesters of 2024. The reception for the Orville E. Kean Campus was held on Sunday, April 6, 2025, in the Eldridge W. Blake Sports and Fitness Center, and the reception for the Albert A. Sheen Campus was held on Sunday, April 13, 2025, in the Great Hall.

The Dean's list recognizes full-time undergraduate students carrying 12 or more degree credits, who have earned a grade point average of 3.2 or higher for the semester, while being enrolled in credit earning classes. Students are also recognized for outstanding achievements in their respective schools and colleges.

School of Graduate Studies

The following nine students defended their dissertations:

Jessica Cassick, Juan Christian, Samantha Cooprider, Latricia C. Davis, Tanya Knudsen, Gary Molloy, Christa-Ann Molloy, Marakie Tesfaye and Cherie Wheatley.

Dissertation Topics

Cassick, J. (2025). A Statistical Analysis of Longitudinal Trends in DV: A Creative and Innovative Intervention. University of the Virgin Islands.

Christian, J. (2025). A Mixed Methods Study Assessing the Perceptions of School Leaders on Culturally Responsive Leadership in the U.S. Virgin Islands

Cooprider, S. (2025). The Human Resources Paradox: A Phenomenological Analysis of the Experience of Power from HR Women Leaders within Tech. University of the Virgin Islands.

Davis, L. (2025). Breaking Barriers, Weaving Narratives: Women's Resilience In The Journey To Executive leadership. University of the Virgin Islands.

Knudsen, T. (2025). Creative Problem Solving in Participatory Action Research (PAR). University of the Virgin Islands.

Molloy, G. (2025). A Critical Documentary Analysis of Workforce Development Policies In The United States With Particular Reference To The United States Virgin Islands: An Expanding Vision. University of the Virgin Islands.

Molly, C. (2025). Students' and Educators' Perceptions of Eighth Grade Student Diligence and Diligence Support and Their Impact on Mathematics Achievement in Selected United States Virgin Islands Public Schools. University of the Virgin Islands.

Tesfaye, M. (2025). A Phenomenological Exploration of Women's Toilet Experience: Accessibility and Bio-Cultural Stigma. University of the Virgin Islands.

Wheatley, C. (2025). An Interpretative Phenomenological Exploration of the Baby Boomer Population to Determine the Essence of Their Lived Experience Through COVID-19 and the effects of Their Developmental Growth Mindset and Fixed Mindset Regarding Digital Adoption. University of the Virgin Islands.

School of Nursing

- Cardiovascular Research Empowerment Workforce Summer Research Program – University of Miami Miller School of Medicine:
- Keziah Wattley, Class of 2026 (OEK): One of two BSN students selected for the first time to this competitive research program
- Uchenna Ferris, Class of 2026 (OEK): One of two BSN students selected for the first time to this competitive research program.
- Cleveland Clinic Summer Externship – Ohio:

- Jasmine Roberts, Class of 2026 (AAS): First UVI nursing student to be accepted into this prestigious clinical externship, gaining advanced clinical exposure and mentorship.

School of Business

The School of Business hosted two student engagement sessions on both the Albert A. Sheen and Orville E. Kean Campuses. The meetings, held on February 14, 2025, and March 14, 2025, respectively, provided students with an opportunity to engage with the SOB faculty and voice their concerns about any challenges they experience with their academic career. The OEK students also gained insight from two professionals from the Westin Hotel. The guest speakers shared their own personal experiences and offered valuable perspectives on working in the hotel industry and offered advice about potential career opportunities.

Additionally, a Future Business Leaders of America – Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL) chapter has been established on the Orville E. Kean Campus under the leadership of *Dr. Kyza Callwood*. The first interest meeting was held on Friday, March 28, 2025, and additional outreach efforts are ongoing.

In March 2025, the four winners from the Fall 2024 Buccaneers Concept Competition were awarded a total of \$1,650 in cash prizes.

Students achieved their ServSafe Food Handler Certification through the National Restaurant Association. (3/2025)

Students achieved their American Hotel and Lodging Front Desk Certification through the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute.

Dr. James Storey traveled with 3 HTM students to the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality conference in Reston VA from February 13, 2025, to February 16, 2025. HTM students who attended – Lia Hodge, Zahrah Williams, Jahleyah Cumberbatch.

The School of Business hosted 100 ninth-grade students from IEKHS for an enriching campus experience at UVI. During their visit, they toured the Innovation Center, explored key campus facilities, and participated in a presentation titled "Why Attend College." The event aimed to expose students to higher education opportunities, inspire academic ambition, and provide insights into college life. This initiative, organized by the SOB Outreach and Promotion Committee, was led by *Drs. Renel Smith and Nathan Austin*, with support from *Prof. Steve Clincy*, Mrs. Deanna Blyden-Allen, and Ms. Coleen Smith.

College of Science and Mathematics

LeeAnn Sheets completed and acquired a certificate in Advanced Leadership through the National Society of Leadership and Success

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Neishalee Perez (Psychology major) was selected to participate in the Pathways to Psychological Sciences Program at The University of California-Riverside. It is an eight-week intensive summer research and training experience funded through the UC-HBCU Initiative.

School of Agriculture

Febres II, Eduardo, Jackson, Adeana, and Santiago, Lamani . (February 15-17). Three UVI students, employed by SOA-CES IPM unit, created Agricultural games (insect crossword puzzles, matching pests with damage, 64 playing Pest, Damage, Insect Mouthpart cards, and 4 coloring pages) for the Agriculture and Food Fair display.

Santiago, Lamani. (April 2-6, 2025). Attended the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Science (MANNRS).39th Annual Training Conference and Career Expo in Memphis, TN.

Student Publications

Brayan Vilanova-Cuevas, Christopher M. DeRito, Isabella T. Ritchie, Christina A. Kellogg, James S. Evans, Alizee Zimmerman, Stacey M. Williams, Marilyn Brandt, **Moriah Sevier, Samuel Gittens Jr., Kayla A. Budd**, Matthew Warham, William C. Sharp, Gabriel A. Delgado, Alwin Hylkema, Kimani Kitson-Walters, Jean-Pascal Quod, Mya Breitbart, Ian Hewson (2025). *Investigating the influence of Diadematidae scuticociliatosis on host microbiome composition.* American Society for Microbiology.

Student Presentations

De Grande, Tiana, **Hillbrand, Paul.** (February 5, 2025). *The Impact of Egg Orientation During Nest Relocations on Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) Nest Success.* Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Network's 2025 Meeting. Hilton Head Island, SC. Poster Presentation.

Hillbrand, Paul. (February 5, 2025). *Temporal utilization of BOEM wind energy properties along the East Coast by post-nesting loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) sea turtles.* Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Network's 2025 Meeting. Hilton Head Island, SC. Oral Presentation.

Phillips, Emma, **Hillbrand, Paul**. (February 5, 2025). *What Horizon? The Effect of Light Pollution on Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) Hatchlings on Bald Head Island, NC*. Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Network's 2025 Meeting. Hilton Head Island, SC. Poster Presentation.

Grants, Donations & Special Projects Funded

On March 4th, 2025, CSM faculty submitted a grant proposal to the NSF requesting continued S-STEM scholarships for graduate students in the Masters in Marine and Environmental Science (MMES) Program. If awarded, the majority of funds will go directly towards supporting students who are financially needy. Support will include scholarships, professional development opportunities, travel support, and research funds. The award will also support educational research to uncover effectiveness of the MMES Program in training environmental science leaders. Research will include, but not be limited to, comparisons between the original MMES thesis track and the new Professional Science Masters track.

Funding Opportunity - NSF 25-514: NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program (S-STEM); Proposal Title: "S-STEM: Cultivating Environmental Science Leadership in the United States Virgin Islands" Moore, M.S. (PI), Guannel, M.L. (co-PI), and Romano, S.L. (co-PI). Requested active period: October 2025 – September 2031. Amount requested: \$1,999,820.

The School of Education was awarded \$31,320.00 to provide the Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) certificate program courses to nine teachers in the VI Department of Education, St. Croix District.

The Virgin Islands University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (VIUCEDD) submitted a funding application to the Human Services Research Institute for the Grassroots Project, which focuses on disability advocacy and systems change. The proposal received funding approval from the Administration for Community Living (ACL). The proposed amount is \$30,000.

Second Quarter Grant Awards Summary is listed below:

| Second Quarter Awards Summary | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Division | # Awarded | Federal | Federal Subcontract | VI Territory | Private/Foundation | Total Awarded |
| College of Science & Mathematics | 7 | \$ 1,051,638.0 | \$ 114,577.0 | \$ - | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 1,191,215.00 |
| CGTC | 1 | \$ 84,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 84,000 |
| Mathematics | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Biology | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Chemistry | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Computer Science | 1 | \$ - | \$ 85,937 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 85,937 |
| CMES | 4 | \$ 882,638 | \$ 28,640 | \$ - | \$ 25,000 | \$ 936,278 |
| Pyhsics | 1 | \$ 85,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 85,000 |
| College of Liberal Arts & Social Science | 2 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 649,597.00 | \$ 649,597.00 |
| Communication | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Criminal Justice | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| English | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Humanities | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Music Education | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Psychology | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Public Administration | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Social Services | 2 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 649,597 | \$ 649,597 |
| Social Work | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| VICCC | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| School of Education | 3 | \$ 117,890 | \$ - | \$ 31,320 | \$ - | \$ 149,210 |
| Education | 2 | \$ 87,890 | \$ - | \$ 31,320 | \$ - | \$ 119,210 |
| VIUCEDD | 1 | \$ 30,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 30,000 |
| School of Business | 1 | \$ 171,111 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 171,111 |
| Business | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| SBDC | 1 | \$ 171,111 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 171,111 |
| PTAC | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| School of Nursing | 1 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 122,872 | \$ - | \$ 122,872 |
| Nursing | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| CERC | 1 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 122,872 | \$ - | \$ 122,872 |
| Agricultural Programs | 6 | \$ 2,260,473 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 2,260,473 |
| SOA | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| AES | 4 | \$ 1,739,067 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,739,067 |
| CES | 2 | \$ 521,406 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 521,406 |
| Other | 4 | \$ - | \$ 160,000 | \$ 349,895 | \$ - | \$ 509,895 |
| Center for Student Success | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| CELL | 3 | \$ - | \$ 52,000 | \$ 349,895 | \$ - | \$ 401,895 |
| ECC | 1 | \$ - | \$ 108,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 108,000 |
| EPSCoR | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Provost | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| President | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| IS&IA | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| VPRGS | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Other | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Total | 24 | \$ 3,601,112 | \$ 274,577 | \$ 504,087 | \$ 674,597 | \$ 5,054,373 |

Grants Terminated

NSF CASL 2309124 Terminated: 5/2/2025 PI: M. McKayle (Engerman)

Title: Broadening Participation Research Center: Center for the Advancement of STEM Leadership

Award years

remaining:

| | Year |
|--------------|--------------|
| \$ 630,102 | 3 |
| | Year |
| \$ 642,056 | 4 |
| | Year |
| \$ 654,262 | 5 |
| \$ 1,926,420 | Total |

Information received from Administration and Finance:

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| \$ 1,209,208 | Obligated to date |
| \$ 801,880 | spent/expenditure |
| \$ 6,499 | encumbered |

| | |
|------------|------------|
| \$ 400,829 | remaining |
| \$ 400,829 | Loss funds |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| NSF 2233701 | Terminated | 4/18/2025 | PI: K. Wilson-Grimes | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Title: Collaborative Research: Implementation C-Coast: Changing the Culture of our Occupations to Achieve Systemic Transformation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Award years remaining: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| \$ 23,103 | Year 3 | 2025-2026 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| \$ 23,700 | Year 4 | 2026-2027 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| \$ 46,803 | Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|---------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| USDA 23-DG-11330180-004 | Terminated: | April 3, 2025 | PI: M. Peterman | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Title: ENABLING CLIMATE SMART DECISIONS FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY IN THE UNITED STATES CARIBBEAN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Award original project ended and was in No Cost Extension to complete final work and billing. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | |
|--|------------|----------|-----------------|
| NIH U-Rise 5T34GM149392-03 | Terminated | 4/2/2025 | PI: A. Stanford |
| Title: U-RISEat the University of the Virgin Islands | | | |
| Award years remaining: | | | |
| | | | |
| \$ 446,273 | Year 3 | | |
| \$ 446,273 | Year 4 | | |
| \$ 446,273 | Year 5 | | |
| \$ 1,338,819 | | | |

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP

School of Agriculture

Dr. Henry Awika was appointed to serve a one-year term on the eLife Global South Committee on Open Science. The committee promotes visibility and impactful research by scientists in Global South regions. Dr. Awika is one of 13 international members contributing to this initiative.

Dreves, Amy J. (April 22, 2025). Selected as a Graduate Committee Member for Ms. **Raquel Hill**, a graduate student, Doctor of Plant Medicine (DPM) program at University of Florida (UFL). Ms. Hill defended her final oral PhD exam on April 22, 2025. Amy Dreves mentored Raquel Hill for two undergraduate senior seminar presentations in 2020 and 2021. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Biology at UVI and became an intern for the CES-IPM program in summer 2024 to meet her PhD requirements at UFL.

David Hensley completed PhD dissertation (Auburn University) entitled: *Soil Hydrological Studies for Water Resource Conservation and Management in the Virgin Islands* on 22 April 2025. Research carried out at UVI-SOA. <https://etd.auburn.edu/handle/10415/9695>

Dr. Md Mazharul Islam attended workshops on Innovation, Policy, and Practice for Sustainable Agricultural Productivity Growth and An Overview of Controlled Environment Agriculture Cropping Systems

Dr. Andrea Rios hosted Charluz M. Arocho Rosario, Ph.D. from the USDA ARS Cattle Fever Tick Research Laboratory for a seminar on *Tick Identification and Collection Methods* on February 21, 2025.

Dr. Larken Root hosted a researcher from University of New Hampshire and conducted several meetings with local stakeholders to discuss establishing research collaboration.

Dr. Thomas Zimmerman, Samuel Joseph, and Kalunda Cuffy attended the 2025 National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference (NERAOC) in Reno, Nevada. NERAOC brings together administrative professionals from land-grant institutions across the U.S. to discuss effective strategies in research and extension operations, including compliance,

budgeting, HR, and grants management. Attendees returned with actionable insights on enhancing administrative processes and promoting inter-departmental collaboration in support of AES research and outreach.

School of Business

Ukpe, Emmanuel (2025). *Diversity toward Unity and Sustainable Growth in Nigeria: Fostering Inclusivity for a Prosperous Future*. Asian Business Research Journal, 10(4), 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.55220/25766759.331>. (4/2025)

College of Science and Mathematics

Dr. **Bernard Castillo II** has been appointed to the American Chemical Society Examination Committee for the Second Term General Chemistry (GC27S). This committee is responsible for developing a national standardized General Chemistry test.

Research and Publications

Peer Reviewed

Blackmon, Angelique Tucker, David Sul, Elizabeth Jaeger, and **Robert Stoltz**. “Critical Reflections Validating a Culturally Specific Rubric-Based Assessment.” Paper presented at the CREA VIII 8th International Conference: *Relational Responsibilities in Cultural Response Evaluation and Assessment*, April 8–11, 2025.

Bowen, Diana & George, Carissa. (2025, April 23-27). *A Curriculum Analysis of Texts in a Developmental Mathematics Course at a Caribbean University*. American Educational Research Association (AREA) Conference, San Diego, CA.

Sinilkov, Petar; Berkowitz, Evan; Luu, Thomas; and Rodekamp, Marcel (2025). *Search for Stable States in Two-Body Excitations of the Hubbard Model on the Honeycomb Lattice*. PoS(LATTICE2025)075 [doi:10.22323/1.466.0075](https://doi.org/10.22323/1.466.0075) [arXiv:2502.04015](https://arxiv.org/abs/2502.04015).

Sul, David, Angelique Tucker Blackmon, Kimarie Engerman, Elizabeth Jaeger, and **Robert Stoltz**. 2025. “Knowing Self, Leading Community: HBCU Assessment Developers Reflect on their Journey towards Assessment Autonomy.” Paper presented in the symposium *Relational Responsibilities in HBCU-Specific Assessment: Development of the CASL Soul of HBCU STEM Leadership Assessment* at the CREA VIII 8th International Conference: *Relational Responsibilities in Cultural Response Evaluation and Assessment*, April 8–11.

Not Peer Reviewed

Dahl-Smith, Sarah. (2025). *4-H: Beyond ready to create the next generation of youth leaders*. 53rd Agriculture and Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Bulletin 37, 56-57.

Dahl-Smith, Sarah. (2025). *4-H: Beyond ready to create the next generation of youth leaders.* 53rd Agriculture and Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Bulletin 37, 56-57.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee. (2025). *The history and potential of tropical fruits as an industry in the U.S. Virgin Islands.* 53rd Agriculture and Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands Bulletin, 37, 33-36.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee. (2025). *The protection of prime agricultural land in the U.S. Virgin Islands.* 53rd Agriculture and Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Bulletin 37, 42-44.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee. (2025). *The history and potential of tropical fruits as an industry in the U.S. Virgin Islands.* 53rd Agriculture and Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands Bulletin, 37, 33-36.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee. (2025). *The protection of prime agricultural land in the U.S. Virgin Islands.* 53rd Agriculture and Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Bulletin 37, 42-44.

Dreves, Amy J. (2025). *Unhealthy soils lead to Plant pest problems.* 53rd Annual Agriculture and Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands Bulletin, 37, 50-55. **Santiago, Lamani** (Illustrator)

Dreves, Amy J. (2025). *Unhealthy soils lead to Plant pest problems.* 53rd Annual Agriculture and Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands Bulletin, 37, 50-55. **Santiago, Lamani** (Illustrator)

Hensley, David, Knappenberger, Thorsten, **Lancellotti, Brittany**, Brantley, Eve, Shaw, Joey, Dobre, Mariana, and Lindner, James. (2025). *Runoff generation in ephemeral streams of the Virgin Islands: The case of Salt River, St. Croix.* Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies 56:102372. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejrh.2025.102372>

Joseph, Samuel S., Zimmerman, Thomas W. (2025). *Effects of flower bud pruning on jicama production in the Caribbean.* Acta Horticulturae, 1422: 159–162.

<https://doi.org/10.17660/ActaHortic.2025.1422.19>

Joseph, S.S., Zimmerman, W.T. (2025). *Effects of flower bud pruning on jicama production in the Caribbean.* Acta Horticulturae, 1422: 159–162.

<https://doi.org/10.17660/ActaHortic.2025.1422.19>

Mueller, D.S., Iles, L.C., Pilcher, C., Sisson, A.J., Magarey, R., Adams, R., Almodovar, W.I., Alston, D., Beauzay, P., Bessin, R., Bish, M., Burrows, M., Calixto, A., Chandran, R., Colquhoun, J.B., Concklin, M., **Dreves, Amy J**, Ellsworth, P.C., Esker, P.D, Zebelo, S. (In Press). *Integrated Pest Management (IPM): State/Territorial infrastructure status after 50 years of federal support (1973-2023).* Journal of Integrated Pest Management. (Accepted with corrections, January. 2025).

Shoy, Carol. (2025). *From soil to soul: An inspiring journey into agriculture for high school students.* 53rd Agriculture and Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Bulletin 37, 37-38.

Smith, Kiwanee , P. Gokuldass , **N. Orange, B. Gendre**, D. Morris, T. Lombardi, F. George, D. Smith, **R. Querrard**, and **C. Watson**. February, March 2025. Four transient object observation. GCN reports by Etelman Observatory.

Sul, David A., Angelique Tucker Blackmon, **Elizabeth Jaeger, Kimarie Engerman**, and **Robert Stoltz**. In press. “Minimizing Measurement Disjuncture through Culturally Specific Assessment Design: Constructing the Soul of HBCU STEM Leadership An Assessment Framework.” *Journal of Educational Measurement*.

Temmen, Finn; Berkowitz, Evan; Kennedy, Anthony; Luu, Thomas; Ostmeyer, Johann; Yu, Xinhao. *Fully ergodic simulations using radial updates*. [arXiv:2504.01575](https://arxiv.org/abs/2504.01575), under review in Phys. Rev. B.

Zimmerman, Thomas W. (2025). ‘Midnite’: combining Caribbean and African *Hibiscus sabdariffa*. *Acta Horticulturae*, 1422: 163–166.

<https://doi.org/10.17660/ActaHortic.2025.1422.20>

Zimmerman, W. T. (2025). ‘Midnite’: combining Caribbean and African *Hibiscus sabdariffa*. *Acta Horticulturae*, 1422: 163–166. <https://doi.org/10.17660/ActaHortic.2025.1422.20>

National/International

Adonis, Jacqueline. (2025). Had two of her poems, *Gold, Oil, Diamond* and *Story the Ocean tells Me* accepted for publication in The Caribbean Writer, Vol. 39.

Allen, Carolyn and **Adonis, Jacqueline**. (2025). Manuscript entitled, *The Embassy for Ending the Digital Divide: Integrating Artificial Intelligence into Curriculum at a Caribbean University* has been accepted for publication by the JUCCI (Journal of the University College of the Cayman Islands) in their upcoming issue focused on AI and Education with Special Reference to the Caribbean.

Har, Austin Oting. (December 30, 2024). Had a haiku poem published in the UK poetry journal hedgerow. <https://hedgerowhaiku.com>

Har, Austin Oting. (January 26, 2025). Had a haiku poem accepted in the US poetry journal tsuridōrō. <https://tsuridoro.org/issue-26-march-april-2025>

Har, Austin Oting. (February 21, 2025). Signed the contract for publication of his article, *Ma and Traditional Japanese Aesthetics in Spatial Music and Sonic Art*, in the peer-reviewed journal Organised Sound (Cambridge University Press). This should be published in April. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/organised-sound>

Har, Austin Oting. (January 2, 2025). Had two compositions, *The World Between Worlds* and *Ataraxia* awarded an Honorable Mention in the Best of 2024 list by Avant Music News, one of the

top magazines for avant-garde music: <https://avantmusicnews.com/2025/01/02/avant-music-news-best-of-2024-part-ihonorable-mentions/>

Har, Austin Oting. (January 15, 2025). Research article, *Renga For White Noise: A Transmediation of Japanese Poetry for Telematic Performance and AI Collaboration*, was selected for presentation at SEAMUS (Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States) at the National Conference at Purdue University in March, the leading conference for electroacoustic music in the US.https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Society_for_ElectroAcoustic_Music_in_the_United_States

Walter, Mary Ann. (Spring 2025). One of 50 former journal contributors invited to publish this book review for the publication's 50th anniversary issue. *Whistled languages: A worldwide inquiry into human whistled speech*. 50 fantastic linguistics books. Babel: The Language Magazine.

Wenner, Mark. (March 2025). Paper entitled, *Fiscal Performance in Small Island States*, has been accepted for presentation at the CSA (Caribbean Studies Association) Annual Meeting. St. Maarten.

Local

Harkins-Pierre, Patricia. (2025). Short story, *After the Honeymoon* has been accepted for publication in The Caribbean Writer, Vol. 39.

Harkins-Pierre, Patricia. (2025). Two Poems, *Dry Days* and *The Hearts of Hummingbirds*, will be published in The Caribbean Writer, Vol. 39.

Harkins-Pierre, Patricia. (April 2025). Will be launching her new book, *Kadesha and the Flying Squirrel*, which is her Sabbatical Project.

Wenner, Mark. (2025). Poem, *Caribbean Secrets*, has been accepted for publication in the Caribbean Writer, Vol. 39.

Wenner, Mark. (2025). Short story, *Rosa, what is your story?* was accepted for publication in the Caribbean Writer, Vol. 39.

Part-time Art Instructors **David, Danica, Sofer, Shira and Edwards, Susan.** (April 29, 2025). Organized an Art Presentation for the UVI community. OEK and AAS Campuses.

Presentations

Peer Reviewed

Austin, Nathan Together with co-authors Dr. Fidelis Quansah and Patrick Anim, Dr. Nathan Kobina Austin had a paper titled "The Antecedents of Consumer Online Shopping Behavior among Ghanaian Youth: A Cross-Sectional Study", accepted for presentation at the 25th Annual Conference of the National Business and Economics Society (NBES). The conference will be held

from March 5-8, 2025, at the Westin Frenchman's Reef Resort and Spa in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands (3/2025)

Engerman, Kimarie., & Blackmon, Angelique Tucker. (2025, April 11). Broadening STEM participation: Relational responsibilities of mid-career women leaders at HBCUs [Conference symposium presentation]. Eighth International Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA) Conference, Chicago, IL.

Jaeger, Elizabeth. (2025, April 10). Reflections on the liberatory praxis of assessment: A journey towards assessment autonomy [Conference symposium presentation]. Eighth International Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA) Conference, Chicago, IL.

Kadir, Anthazia. (2025, April 11). Guided by relational responsibility: Transformative STEM leadership towards engaged participation – An HBCU perspective [Conference presentation]. Eighth International Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA) Conference, Chicago, IL.

National/International

Dreves, Amy J. (March 4, 2025). *4-D USVI Farming for Success*. 11th International Integrated Pest Management Conference in San Diego CA. (USDA-NIFA-CPPM-EIP 2021-2024 grant funded) at SERA3 meeting (Southern Region Information Exchange Group for IPM),

Pizarro, Nelson (2025). *Leveraging General Systems Theory for Opportunity Recognition. Proceedings of the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship Conference, Las Vegas, NV (3/2025)*

Richards, A.D. Jr. & Zimmerman, W.T. (January 31, 2025). *Impact of Jicama & Paper Mulch on Weevil Populations in Sweetpotato*. National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group, Irving, TX, January 30 – 31.

Richards, A.D. Jr. & Zimmerman, W.T (February 1, 2025). *Influence of Water-Soluble Fertilizer on Petunia Organogenesis*. Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists, Irving, TX, January 31 – February 2, 2025.

Richards, Daryl A. Jr. and Thomas W. Zimmerman. (February 1, 2025) *Influence of Water-Soluble Fertilizer on Petunia Organogenesis*. Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists. Irving, Texas, January 31st- February 2nd, 2025.

Ukpe, Emmanuel (2025) *Sustainable City- Unity in Diversity: Advancing Sustainable Growth.* – Conference Proceeding: @ Wessex Institute, Ashurst Lodge, Ashurst, Southampton UK.
<https://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2025>.

Ulusoy, Emre (2025) *Technology-driven Cooperativism for Food Prosumption: A Conceptual Exploration, submitted to the Association for Consumer Research Conference. Washington, D.C. (will take place on October, 2025) (3/2025)*

Vondriska, Clayton, Strickler, Johann R, Sikkel, Paul C (2025) *Beyond the Y-Maze: Olfaction in Host-Finding in a Common External Fish Parasite of Coral Reef Fishes.* International Symposium of Fish Parasites 2025. Mérida, México.

Not Peer Reviewed

Berkowitz, Evan (30 January 2025) *Understanding Fundamental Symmetries with Lattice QCD,* University of Tennessee Knoxville Physics Department Colloquium.

Guannel, Greg (March 2025) High Heat in the USVI, 2nd U.S. Caribbean Heat Summit, University of Puerto-Rico

Guannel, Greg (March 2025) Water Resources and Hazard Mitigation in the USVI, Virgin Islands Water Data Synthesis Workshop, St. Croix

Guannel, Greg (February 2025) Panelist on session titled “Unheard Realities: *Centering and Elevating Perspectives of Climate Leadership from Island Communities and Rural Voices*”, 3rd Higher Education Climate Leadership Summit, Washington D.C.

Local

Awika OH & Ewer J (2025). *Establishment Radish: Choose how to Break-even and Profit.* Agrifest: 53rd Annual Ag & Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands. 53 29-32.

David Hensley successfully defended dissertation research. Dissertation title: *Soil Hydrological Studies for Water Resource Conservation and Management in the Virgin Islands.* Institution: Auburn University, Alabama. The dissertation presentation took place on AAS campus, approximately 45 attendees from UVI and the community.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee. (March 2025). Historical data collection on streams flow and land use pattern changes in the U.S. Virgin Islands. *Ghuts, Grit, and Gills: Synthesis of Hydrologic, Water*

Quality, and Ecosystem Data for Climate Adaptation Planning Data Synthesis Workshop, Carambola Beach Resort, St. Croix, March 18-21.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee. (March 2025). Served as panellist and conducted a hike of Magen's Bay watershed while describing the historical, cultural, botanical, geological, sociological and conservation management of Magen's Bay Archaeological site. UVI OEK Campus, March 25-27.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee. (March). *Historical data collection on streams flow and land use pattern changes in the U.S. Virgin Islands.* Ghuts, Grit, and Gills: Synthesis of Hydrologic, Water Quality, and Ecosystem Data for Climate Adaptation Planning Data Synthesis Workshop, Carambola Beach Resort, St. Croix, March 18-21.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee. (March). Served as panellist and conducted a hike of Magen's Bay watershed while describing the historical, cultural, botanical, geological, sociological and conservation management of Magen's Bay Archaeological site. 2025 Caribbean Conservation Community of Practice meeting March 25-27, at the UVI OEK Campus.

Dreves, Amy J. (February 28, 2025). *New DPNR-USVI Pesticide Regulations and Pesticide Safety Technicians and Handlers' Training.* Presented to Pest Control Clients in the USVI.

Dreves, Amy J. (March 19, 2025). New DPNR-USVI Pesticide Regulation, and Pesticide Safety Technicians and Handler's Training. (Co-presenter, Nevlin Williams, Pesticide Program, Department of Planning & Natural Resources (DPNR), Division of Environmental Protection).

Dreves, Amy J. (March 28, 2025). Pesticide safety education program (PSEP) training to VI-Certified Pesticide Applicators with expiring licenses.

Dreves, Amy J. (February 28). *New DPNR-USVI Pesticide Regulations and Pesticide Safety Technicians and Handlers' Training.* Presented to Pest Control Clients in the USVI.

Dreves, Amy J. (March 4). *4-D USVI Farming for Success.* 11th International Integrated Pest Management Conference in San Diego CA. (USDA-NIFA-CPPM-EIP 2021-2024 grant funded) at SERA3 meeting (Southern Region Information Exchange Group for IPM),

Dreves, Amy J. (March 19). *New DPNR-USVI Pesticide Regulation, and Pesticide Safety Technicians and Handler's Training.* (Co-presenter, Nevlin Williams, Pesticide Program, Department of Planning & Natural Resources (DPNR), Division of Environmental Protection). Presentation to pest control clients.

Dreves, Amy J. and Lamani Santiago. (April). *Munching on Leaves – Pest, Damage Signs and Plant Damage*. Presented at the St. Croix Environmental Association Annual Eco Fair, St. George Botanical Gardens.

Rios, Andrea. 2025. *The Connection Between Sheep and Global Warming*. (2025). *Establishment Radish: Choose how to Break-even and Profit*. Agrifest: 53rd Annual Ag & Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands. 53: 45-49.

Dr. Andrea Rios attended and presented at a Small Ruminant Seminar at the University of Puerto Rico. She delivered two workshops: *Heat Stress and Small Ruminants* on 10 April 2025 and *Lamb Management from Birth to Weaning* on 11 April 2025.

Forbes, Vanessa (April 15) *The Importance of Conserving Water for Sustainability*. Presentation at the St. Croix Environmental Association Annual Eco Fair, St. George Botanical Garden.

Forbes, Vanessa (April 23) *Using Renewables for Local Food Supply and Sustainability*. Earth Day Presentation at Diageo, St. Croix USVI.

Other

Blanchette, Denise. (2025). Facilitating an oral history project between the Arab American Museum in Dearborn Michigan and the VI Puerto Rican Friendship Alliance on St. Croix. They have already completed two oral histories of Palestinian Virgin Islanders whose families have been on St. Croix for over 40 years.

Har, Austin Oting. (February 28, 2025). Served as a paper reviewer for the International Conference for New Interfaces for Musical Expression, the leading conference for the development of new musical instruments: <https://nime2025.org/>

Jaeger, Elizabeth. (2025). Presented Opening Remarks at the celebration of the opening and launch of the UVI St. John CRDC (Community Resource & Development Center), which is spearheaded by UVI Cell. Comments were quoted in the St. Thomas Source.

<https://stthomassource.com/content/2025/02/11/uvi-cell-center-reopens-on-st-john/>

Miller-Smith, Monica. (April 2025). Accepted to present Partnering for Inclusive and Equitable Searches in Education at the National Partnership for Education Access 16th Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA.

Walter, Mary Ann. (January 9, 2025). Voting participant (one of 20) at the American Name Society's Annual Name of the Year Meeting.

Walter, Mary Ann (Site coordinator) and **Blanchette, Denise**. (January 23, 2025). North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad. UVI – AAS Campus (competition site). Held 5 info/practice sessions for students and teachers of 3 local high schools and online. There were 15 registered student participants (up from 13 last year).

Walter, Mary Ann. (January 2025). Served on the National Science Foundation (NSF) Review Panel.

Walter, Mary Ann. (January 2025). Served as reviewer for submissions to the Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, USA

Wenner, Mark. (March 3, 2025). Presented Testimony to the 36th VI Legislature Committee of the Whole on Cost-of-Living Factors in the USVI for 6 hours.

Woods, Yvonne. (2025). Appointed to the Baccalaureate Social Work (PAC-D) Program Directors Program Accreditation and Curriculum Development Association Committee, which is dedicated to the promotion of excellence in Baccalaureate Social Work Education.

Woods, Yvonne. (2025). Co-facilitated three workshops through her position as president of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Virgin Islands Chapter, in association with NASW Florida Chapter. The workshops/training provided mandatory Continuing Education (CE) credits for social workers in the territory toward professional licensing renewal. Workshops are as follows:

Understanding the Cultural Dynamics of Domestic Violence by Dr. Clema S. Lewis of the Woman's Coalition of St. Croix. January 31, 2025.

Ethics in Clinical Social Work Practice by Carol Edwards, EdD, LCSW, MSW. January 13, 2025.

Examining Barriers to Effective Intercultural Competence in Social Work Practice by Dr. Arlene Garcia, EdD, LCSW and Jessica Halliday, Certified Social Worker. December 13, 2024.

School of Graduate Studies was invited as a guest on “Analyze This with Neville James” on WTJX 93.1 on Tuesday May 6, 2025, to discuss UVI’s graduate programs, specifically the CLIC PhD program. The interim Dean of Graduate Studies was joined by Drs. Gary and Christ-Ann Molloy, shared their dissertation research and experiences in the CLIC program.

[Tuesday, May 6, 2025 - Part 1 | Analyze This with Neville James](#)

UVI Online Faculty Advisory committee has been initiated under the leadership of Dr. Clinton Valley. The committee has started discussions which will continue through the summer. The formal appointment and approval of the committee will take place in the Fall semester.

A proposal for revisions for tuition, fees and compensation (faculty and course designer) has been submitted to Dr. Vanterpool. The proposal is being presented for approval by relevant entities at UVI.