

UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Provost's Report

Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee

Kendra L. Harris, PhD

ARSA Committee

February 18, 2025

Table of Contents

Enrollment	3
Operational Strategies	4
Personnel	4
Notable Unit Achievements: Academic and Student Success/Innovation (Athletics and Student Affairs) ..	5
Community Engagement	10
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS.....	14
Alumni Achievements	19
Grants, Donations & Special Projects Funded	20
FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP	21
Research and Publications	21
Peer Reviewed	21
Other	28

Enrollment

Institutional Research and Planning
St. Thomas Campus ~ Tel.: (340) 693-1010 ~ Fax: (340) 693-1011
Argos Report

Preliminary Spring Semester 2025 vs. Spring Semester 2024 Enrollment All Schools

Prepared: 2/10/2025

Preliminary Spring Semester 2025, as of 2025-02-09						Preliminary Spring Semester 2024, as of 2024-02-09					Percent of Increase or Decrease				
Headcount	STT	STX	SXM	ONL	Total	STT	STX	SXM	ONL	Total	STT	STX	SXM	ONL	Total
Doctorate															
Full-Time Students	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	-100%	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	-100%
Part-Time Students	72	0	0	0	72	72	0	0	0	72	0%	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	0%
Total	72	0	0	0	72	73	0	0	0	73	-1%	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	-1%
Graduate															
Full-Time Students	28	19	0	0	47	29	13	0	1	43	-3%	46%	Cannot	-100%	9%
Part-Time Students	36	8	4	41	89	59	9	0	31	99	-39%	-11%	Cannot	32%	-10%
Total	64	27	4	41	136	88	22	0	32	142	-27%	23%	Cannot	28%	-4%
Undergraduate															
Full-Time Students	548	348	1	9	906	547	339	0	1	887	0%	3%	Cannot	800%	2%
Part-Time Students	240	238	34	103	615	228	177	22	94	521	5%	34%	55%	10%	18%
Total	788	586	35	112	1,521	775	516	22	95	1,408	2%	14%	59%	18%	8%
Certificate															
Full-Time Students	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot
Part-Time Students	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	0	11	20	-100%	-100%	Cannot	10%	-100%
Total	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	0	11	20	-100%	-100%	Cannot	18%	-100%
Grand Total	924	613	39	153	1,729	939	544	22	138	1,643	-2%	13%	77%	11%	5%
FTE															
Doctorate	29	0	0	0	29	32	0	0	0	32	-10%	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	-10%
Graduate	49	28	1	24	102	57	21	0	19	97	-14%	34%	Cannot	23%	5%
Undergraduate	770	538	18	65	1,391	767	487	10	49	1,312	0%	11%	82%	34%	6%
Certificate	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	6	10	-100%	-100%	Cannot	-100%	-100%
Total	848	566	19	89	1,522	856	508	10	74	1,451	-1%	12%	96%	31%	6%
Credit Hour Production															
Doctorate															
Full-Time Students	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	9	-100%	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	-100%
Part-Time Students	258	0	0	0	258	278	0	0	0	278	-7%	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	-7%
Total	258	0	0	0	258	287	0	0	0	287	-10%	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	-10%
Graduate															
Full-Time Students	292	212	0	0	504	291	145	0	9	445	0%	46%	Cannot	-100%	13%
Part-Time Students	150	43	12	212	417	223	45	0	163	431	-33%	-4%	Cannot	30%	-3%
Total	442	255	12	212	921	514	190	0	172	876	-14%	34%	Cannot	23%	5%
Undergraduate															
Full-Time Students	7,565	4,727	13	111	12,416	7,574	4,553	0	12	12,139	0%	4%	Cannot	825%	2%
Part-Time Students	1,679	1,730	200	673	4,282	1,628	1,287	117	573	3,605	3%	34%	71%	17%	19%
Total	9,244	6,457	213	784	16,698	9,202	5,840	117	585	15,744	0%	11%	82%	34%	6%
Certificate															
Full-Time Students	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot	Cannot
Part-Time Students	0	0	0	0	0	15	28	0	77	120	-100%	-100%	Cannot	-100%	-100%
Total	0	0	0	0	0	15	28	0	77	120	-100%	-100%	Cannot	-100%	-100%
Grand Total	9,944	6,712	225	996	17,877	10,018	6,058	117	834	17,027	-1%	11%	92%	19%	5%

A comparison YTD snapshot of enrollment in Spring 2024 and Spring 2025 observed a 5% increase in overall enrollment. However, there were also areas that showed a decline in enrollment. The largest percentage decrease occurred with graduate students on the OEK Campus. The total difference between graduate enrollment in Spring 2025 and Spring 2024 equals six students. The Office of Enrollment Services is currently collaborating with the deans on identifying these students and working on a communication plan to re-engage and re-enroll these students at UVI.

Approximately 100 students attended the Fall Open House on October 25, 2024. A total of 83

students applied for graduation in Fall 2024. The certification process for Fall 2024 graduates was completed on December 11, 2024. As of January 2025, Admissions reported 1,982 applications with 1,161 applications being accepted. The Registrar's Office processed a total of 155 transcript requests during the month of October 2024.

Operational Strategies

The academic component has instituted a strategic focus on enrollment, retention, and graduation with the deans. In that regard, deans have been instructed to incorporate metrics in their respective annual performance evaluation goals that reflect the goals of the university. As an example, deans were informed that President George has set a 7% year-over-year enrollment increase goal. Hence an enrollment goal is to be part of each dean's annual performance evaluation.

Given that deans and academic units are only a part of the equation for enrollment growth, the admissions area, guided by the interim associate provost, along with the deans have been requested to work in partnership to facilitate enrollment growth. In that regard, the interim associate provost, as well as the dean of the Graduate School have been tasked with executing strategic initiatives that facilitate increased enrollment.

Strategies for enrollment growth include a recruitment focus on Florida and Washington, DC (areas outside of the territory that have been identified for great recruitment potential). The admissions area is partnering with the School of Agriculture to hire a recruitment officer to augment recruitment activities, especially as it relates to travel to geographic areas identified as ones with high potential for UVI recruitment.

UVI will be utilizing a new admissions/application software for its graduate programs. This software also serves to place UVI in a universe of options for potential students as they search for graduate programs based on parameters (e.g., HBCU, social work). In addition, the dean of the Graduate School has scheduled a virtual information session on graduate programs offered at UVI.

Proven techniques for strengthening retention will also be used. This will involve an increased focus on providing early warning messages to students. These warnings will include those that are administered in the first couple of weeks of a semester, as well as those administered mid-semester.

Work has begun on ensuring that academic units utilize quantifying metrics for determining student learning outcomes. Furthermore, the articulation of those outcomes needs to demonstrate results and the operationalization of those results. This initiative is driven in part by past regional accreditation notes that have expressed that learning outcomes need to have more content.

Personnel

The School of Nursing welcomed Ms. Elion George to their team as the administrative specialist. The School of Nursing also welcomed two new part-time faculty, Ms. Samantha Duval and Dr.

Khalilah McCants. Dr. Suzette Lettsome was appointed as the academic program chair. Dr. Evan Berkowitz joined the College of Science and Mathematics as an assistant professor of physics on the Albert A. Sheen Campus. In the School of Agriculture, Dr. Md Mazharul Islam was hired as the new assistant professor of horticulture. Eduardo Febres, animal science major, was hired to work on developing a new hair sheep breed under AES Hatch Capacity Funding Grant.

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

ACADEMICS

School of Graduate Studies

The Division of Student Affairs on the Albert A. Sheen Campus in collaboration with Rick Nader, Vice, Provost of Graduate Studies hosted a Graduate Student Welcome Reception & Karaoke at the Leatherback Brewing Co. on September 6, 2024.

School of Business

The Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Board of Commissioners for the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) convened on November 18, 2024, to review the University of the Virgin Islands' business program. ACBSP has approved the reaffirmation of accreditation for the School of Business. The Board's communication regarding the reaffirmation noted that reaffirmation solidifies the school's commitment to excellence in business education and underscores its adherence to the high standards set by ACBSP. This significant milestone reflects the hard work and dedication of the business school's faculty, staff, and students, as well as the ongoing support of the university community. The accreditation not only validates the quality of its programs but also enhances the value of the degrees earned by its students. The reaffirmation is valid for a 10-year period, with the next reaffirmation report due in July 2034.

Collaboration with UVI-Cell Culinary Program - The HTM program collaborated with UVI Cell to restructure the Culinary Arts Program and the Wild Sage restaurant. The new Culinary Arts Program has a pathway for its students to earn bachelor's degrees in hospitality and tourism management.

College of Science and Mathematics

Marilyn Brandt, Allie Durdall, and Kristin Wilson Grimes were announced as 2024 National Science Foundation-Every Page Foundation Ocean Decade Champions. They were selected as one of 22 women science leaders who received a monetary award to support leadership activities, networking opportunities, technical and communications training, and cross-disciplinary and intercultural scientific endeavors. To learn more about this honor please click here: [Supporting women in ocean sciences | NSF - National Science Foundation](#)

The 25th Annual Fall Student Research Symposium was held on the OEK Campus on September 15, 2024, by the College of Science and Mathematics' Emerging Caribbean Scientists Program. Thirty undergraduate students from UVI's AAS and OEK Campuses presented posters about their research conducted at UVI and at summer programs around the United States. A wide range of topics were covered in the research programs, such as biology, chemistry, astronomy, environmental science, marine science, and social science. The UVI community and the general public attended the Symposium, which was judged by UVI faculty, staff, and graduate students.

The Master's in Marine and Environmental Science (MMES) program hosted a faculty and staff workshop in collaboration with the Securing STEM Islands Pathways project on September 24, 2024. The workshop, which included about 30 participants, consisted of an interactive presentation by external evaluators from Catalyst Consulting Group on their report focused on MMES alumni experiences, prioritization of report recommendations, small group break outs to make recommendations actionable, large group share-outs, and next steps. Post workshop, a task force has been created to implement the results of the workshop.

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

In the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, fourteen STT SROTC Cadets and eight STX SROTC Cadets attended a Training Camp at Camp Santiago in Puerto Rico (Oct 31 – Nov 3, 2024). The Communications area held Open Houses on both the OEK and AAS Campuses on November 14th and 15th, respectively. The English area held Creative Arts Showcases on both the OEK and AAS Campuses on November 15, 2024, where approximately 20 – 30 students attended on each campus. The social work area held the Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society Induction Ceremony on both the OEK and AAS Campuses on Sunday, November 24, 2024, where a total of six (6) students were inducted.

School of Nursing

Dr. Suzette Lettsome, Assistant Professor of Nursing, was installed as the President of the Virgin Islands State Nurses Association (VISNA) on November 1, 2024. Dean Lisa Lewis was accepted into UCSF Executive Leadership in Academic Health Centers Program for the 2024-2025 academic year.

The University of the Virgin Islands received a sub-award under NCI grant no. 1P20CA294096. This is a three-year award for an exploratory P20 research center. The primary institution is the University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center (UPRCCC). There are three Principal Investigators: Dr. Ana Patricia Ortiz, contact PI (UPRCCC), Dr. Pablo Mendez-Lazaro (UPR Medical Sciences Campus), and Dr. Noreen Michael (UVI).

The P20 Center, CARIB-CARES [Caribbean Climate Change Adaptation, Cancer, and Health Disparities Research Center] will work collaboratively to assess the impact of multi-hazard climate

change-related stressors on the cancer control continuum across the U.S. Caribbean territories, Puerto Rico (PR) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI).

This is a three-year direct award to UPRCCC includes a subaward to UVI in the amount of \$969,559.00, with \$614,711 representing direct costs and \$354,848 representing indirect costs. Funds are dispersed by the funding year. The official subaward agreement for Year 1 is for the period September 20, 2024, through August 31, 2025. The total amount of the Year 1 subaward is \$297,554. The name of the P20 research center is: Caribbean Climate Change Adaptation, Cancer, and Health Disparities Research Center (CARIB-CARES). Total direct costs: \$190,343; Indirect costs: \$107,211.

School of Education

The School of Education was instrumental in the development of a new Virgin Islands Board of Education certification policy that positively impacts UVI teacher candidates. Dean Karen Brown proposed a policy to the VI Board of Education that would permit UVI teacher education candidates to earn special teacher certification while completing their student teaching/school internship experience. This policy change was added to the VI Code and became effective in the 2024-2025 school year. This is an additional attempt to address the teacher shortage crisis.

STUDENT SUCCESS

The Center for Student Success reported that the term-to-term progression rate from Fall 2024 to Spring 2025 is 82%, which is up 77% from Spring 2024 to Fall 2024. The average cumulative GPA from Fall 2023 was 2.69, and the average cumulative GPA from Fall 2024 was 2.89, which represents an increase of 7.4%. The average earned credits by term from Fall 2023 to Fall 2024 increased by 17.4%.

Performance Summary	Start Term	End Term	Percent Change
	Fall Semester 2023	Fall Semester 2024	
Average Cumulative GPA	2.69	2.89	+7.4%
Average Term GPA	2.53	2.67	+5.5%

Progress Summary	Start Term	End Term	Percent Change
	Fall Semester 2023	Fall Semester 2024	
Average Attempted Credits by Term	10.55	10.92	+3.5%
Average Earned Credits by Term	7.76	9.11	+17.4%
Average Credit Completion Percentage	70.5%	76.8%	+6.3%

ATHLETICS

Cross Country: The men's and women's cross-country teams competed at the Ave Maria Invitational in Ave Maria, Florida on October 5, 2024, and ran in the 2024 HBCU Athletic Conference Championships on October 18, 2024. The men finished 9th of the 11 teams participating, while the women had four runners compete, but did not score.

The Homecoming basketball games, held on October 31, 2024, featured a Halloween theme and the originally scheduled Trunk-or-Treat moved inside the UVI Sports and Fitness Center due to rainy conditions. Hundreds of community members attended the trick-or-treat with their kids. The basketball teams played exhibition games against the VI Senior Women's National Team and The BVI All-Stars.

The Buccaneer basketball team defeated the VI Elite Pros 115-76 on Friday, November 8 in front of a crowd of 863 fans. Newcomer Amayoa'ah Phillips scored a team-high 26 points.

On November 15, 2024, long-time Athletics Department staff member Donna Williams-Andrews was inducted into the Paradise Jam Hall of Fame for her hard work and dedication for the entire 25 years of the Paradise Jam Tournament.

The UVI basketball teams competed in the HBCU Athletic Conference Crossover in Wilberforce, Ohio from December 13-17, 2024. The men won two of four games, defeating Fisk University and host Wilberforce University, while the women lost their four games.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Albert A. Sheen Campus

Facility improvements in residence life included the purchase of 49 new beds for dorms in need. The department is also working on securing IT support to fix the TV in the lobby and courtyard and plans to pressure wash and paint the benches in the courtyard. Efforts are underway to develop a more structured visitation policy and on-call strategy for residential staff.

During HBCU Week, The Office of Career Services & Student Employment hosted an Employment Fair on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at the Cafeteria & Student Activities Terrace from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. This initiative was a collaboration between the Office of Career

Services, Division of Personnel, Department of Labor Youth & Apprenticeship program and the School of Agriculture. The purpose of this event was to connect student job seekers with potential employers, providing opportunities for networking, professional development, and career advancement while fostering community engagement. Approximately (23) students and staff participated.

The University of the Virgin Islands Albert A. Sheen Campus selected two (2) TMCF scholars to represent the campus at the 24th Annual Thurgood Marshall Leadership Institute Conference. Kyra Edwards, a senior accounting major and TMCF Yard Student Ambassador, and Ja'liyah Fanis, a senior accounting major, represented the AAS Campus. The conference was held in Washington, DC from September 10-14, 2024. The conference provided the latest trends and strategies to assist students as they continue their college education and prepares them to enter today's competitive marketplace. TMCF scholars had the opportunity to attend an array of professional development workshops, networking events, and participate in interviews with Fortune 500 companies. This experience is intended to energize student leaders with the skills and tools needed for effective leadership, spark personal growth, and positively impact the students and the university campus.

The division also focused on fostering inclusivity and social engagement. The Friday Night Lights: Rainbow Party on October 11, 2024, provided LGBTQ+ students with a space to celebrate identity and build connections, with 30-40 students participating. The Walk for Silence: Wear Purple Day on October 17, 2024, honored Domestic Violence Awareness Month, bringing together 20-30 students to stand in solidarity with survivors.

The Essentials Needs Pantry & Professional Clothing Closet Meet & Greet & Power Panel was held on Thursday, November 14, 2024, from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm. The goal of the Networking, Power Panel, Essential Needs Pantry Relaunch, and Professional Clothing Closet Distribution event was to provide UVI students with an opportunity to engage and network with career professionals through thought provoking conversations, access to essential resources, free distributions of food, personal care items, and professional attire. Additionally, a Thurgood Marshall College Fund representative engaged with students to provide academic and career support opportunities through scholarships, internships, and immersion programs. Approximately 42 students participated in this initiative.

The Office of Career Services & Student Employment invited UVI students to attend the 2024 Governor's Workforce Summit, which was held on October 8, 2024, at the Caribbean Cinemas on St. Croix from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. The objectives of the summit included bringing together industry leaders, local experts, and stakeholders to address workforce challenges, explore innovative solutions, and prepare a skilled, well-trained workforce for the future, providing students with valuable networking opportunities, career insight, and the chance to engage in discussion on key topics that will enhance their professional development. Approximately (9) UVI students attended.

Orville E. Kean Campus

- **Transfer Students:** UVI welcomed approximately 200 incoming new and transfer students for fall 2024 through orientation programs that included campus tours, academic advising, networking events, and mandatory "Life as a Buccaneer" online orientation courses.
- **Danish Student Exchange Program:** Three UVI students participated in a semester-long exchange program at Aalborg University in Denmark. The program provided them with international exposure, cross-cultural learning experiences, and opportunities to engage in academic collaborations with Danish students and faculty.
- **Memorial Event for Kareem Pinney:** The Division of Student Affairs hosted an event aimed at providing a space for students to mourn the passing of a student lost to gun violence. Hosted by the Dean of Students, the event brought together students, faculty, and family members to reflect on the life of Kareem Pinney, a first-year student who aspired to play on the UVI men's basketball team.
- **Student Government Association ("SGA"):** SGA worked with UVI Security and the Dean of Students Office to provide shuttle services for students wanting to go into the community to shop for essentials. The bi-weekly shuttle service offers students the convenience of going into town. Approximately 20 students use the service each time.

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 Business

UVI School of Business, in collaboration with the Mid-Isle Rotary Club, hosted the Fall 2024 Entrepreneurship Seminar event on Friday, November 15, 2024, on St. Croix. The event began at 8:00 am and ended at 12:30 pm. The seminar hosted 120 high school students from St. Croix Central High School and St. Croix Educational Complex. This was the largest group that attended since the event's inception. This outreach effort proved successful since many of the students (high school seniors) have begun the application process to attend UVI in Fall 2025.

APEX Accelerator:

On November 13, 2024, the Virgin Islands APEX Accelerator (VI APEX) program hosted its Government and Business Innovation Summit at the UVI 13D Innovation and Research Center on the OEK Campus. The summit, led by Frank Dixon, State Director of VI APEX, highlighted the program's mission and the support it provides to over 200 business clients. These clients have secured various certifications, registrations, and contract awards, totaling approximately \$55 million in 2023-2024. The event brought together a diverse group of senior-level speakers from business, government (federal and local), policymakers, chambers, associations, and higher education, who shared valuable insights on contracting opportunities, the state of business at all levels of government and industry, while offering strategies for economic development.

Noted Speakers:

- Hon. Albert Bryan Jr., Gov. US Virgin Islands
- Representative (Stacy Plaskett Office's, US Congresswoman, Virgin Islands)
- Lisa Alejandro, Commissioner, VI Department of Property & Procurement
- Major General Kodjo S Knox-Limbacker, VI National Guard
- Mr. Farooq Mitha, DoD Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP)
- Mr. Khalil Mac, DoD OSBP Deputy Director / APEX Accelerator
- Dr. Safiya George, President, University of the Virgin Islands
- Mr. John Woods, President, St Thomas & St John Chamber of Commerce
- Eric Sonnier, Executive Director, Research & Technology Park
- Small Business Administration Procurement Center, Area 1
- Representatives from: US Navy, Army Core of Engineers

School of Education

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

School of Nursing

BSN students participated in several community health activities:

1. President Safiya George's Welcome Receptions
2. (OEK): Blood pressure screenings for attendees, September 25, 2024
3. (AAS): Blood pressure screenings for attendees, September 27, 2024

4. World Mental Health Day (OEK Campus), October 10, 2024: Performed blood pressure checks, glucose checks, height and weight for BMI results
5. Women's Coalition of St. Croix (AAS Campus), October 16, 2024
6. Domestic Violence Walk, October 17, 2024
7. Careers in Healthcare Fair (OEK Campus) at Schneider Regional Medical Center, October 17, 2024
8. UVI Fall Open House participation (OEK Campus) October 25, 2024: Dean Lewis and Professor Chaney met with over 70 high school students to discuss the School of Nursing program and careers in nursing
9. UVI Fall Open House participation (AAS Campus) November 20, 2024: Dean Lewis, Administrative Specialist Simmonds, and UVI student, Abigail Charles, met with 120 high school students to discuss the School of Nursing program and careers in nursing.

College of Science and Mathematics

A group of six high school juniors and seniors interested in marine and environmental science, along with their teacher, visited the UVI campus on October 21, 2024. MMES Coordinator, *Sophia McKenzie*, and MMES alumna, *Moriah Sevier*, spent the morning introducing opportunities at UVI, the MacLean Marine Science Center, research, and programs.

The College of Science and Mathematics participated in outreach events to territorial high school students sponsored by Access and Enrollment Services. Five faculty and staff participated in the October 25, 2024, event on the OEK Campus with about 50 high school students in attendance. Another five faculty and staff participated in the November 20, 2024, event on the AAS Campus with about 40 high school students attending.

Caribbean Green Technology Center ("CGTC")

In November, the Caribbean Green Technology Center ("CGTC") hosted the Territorial Agriculture Plan consultants in a tour of the agriculture infrastructure on St. Thomas. CGTC hosted the 5th USVI Human Trafficking Conference, in partnership with the VI Child and Youth Task Force.

VI-EPSCoR's Informal Learning (IL):

The Informational Learning area assisted in organizing and coordinating the following events:

- Annual International Coastal Cleanup hosted by the Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service (VIMAS).
- Completed the initial preparation of the new Community Engagement and Outreach space (permanent name to be determined) alongside VIMAS and other partners at UVI's Marine Science Center.

VI-EPSCoR's Youth/k-12 Outreach included the following activities:

- St. Croix Community Engagement Specialist engaged 10 schools on the island of St. Croix through Informal Learning’s “Adopt a Classroom” and “Tiny Forests” programs.
- Several Tiny Forests sites have begun producing fruits and herbs that students will begin utilizing for meals and class projects.
- The Informational Learning area assisted VIMAS in hosting an educator from the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration, with the goal of facilitating an Oceanography workshop for Virgin Islands teachers. Educators from both the STT/STJ, and STX districts participated in this event.
- Presented at the National EPSCoR Conference held in Omaha, Nebraska.
- Contributed to a book chapter titled “Letting go” and doing ethically and culturally responsive ethnographic research in an intervention program for aspiring marine and geoscientists in the anticipated, *Mapping Ethnography* book for the Studies in Educational Ethnography book series.

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

The Social Work Club sponsored a Senior Support Drive to collect items for donation to the Queen Louise Home (STT) and the Herbert Grigg Home (STX) in December 2024. The Music program hosted the Annual Pre-Holiday Concert on November 23, 2024.

School of Agriculture

In October 2024, the AES Horticulture program offered proposal writing technical assistance to St. Croix Science Teachers Association for a \$6,000 grant from the Judith Towle Environmental Studies Fund, which is managed by the VI Community Foundation. The grant request has been successful and awarded this past November.

The School of Agriculture also conducted a number of outreach activities during the Fall 2024 reporting period, which included the following:

1. **Farm-to-Table** Conducted a Farm-to-Table workshop on November 8, 2024, on how to use locally grown leafy vegetables and fruits to prepare healthy meals. Sixty-five participants learned meal-prep ideas for healthy eating and time management. They also learned how to make a variety of tasty and healthy smoothies, and how to prepare a vegetarian stir-fry. In addition, they talked about the nutritional components of pumpkin, zucchini, and mushrooms.
2. **How to grow in small spaces** A presentation was done in the UVI School of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Services Demonstration Garden on how to grow effectively with a limited amount of space. Participants learned what intercropping is and how to do it. They explored the different containers that can be used to plant crops. They also discussed compost basics, and which crops grow better based on the time of the year.

3. **Millner Bowsky Elementary School's "Harvest Festival"** The Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) program in conjunction with the Family and Consumer Science program took part in the Millner Bowsky Elementary School's "Harvest Festival". The ANR program conducted a presentation on ways to plant crops without a yard. The students, teachers, and parents were very interested in learning how to grow crops without yard space. Some of the techniques shown were growing vertically in shipping pallets on porches and attaching planting containers to an outside wall. The staff also discussed the variety of career paths in agriculture and informed attendees of the current academic programs at the UVI School of Agriculture. At the same festival, Ms. Willie taught the children how to make healthy smoothies.

Family and Consumer Sciences Cooperative Extension Services

The University of the Virgin Islands Family and Consumer Sciences Cooperative Extension Services program actively engaged the community through several initiatives in November 2024. The initiatives focused on educational outreach to local schools and engaged over 400 students. These visits aimed to enhance students' knowledge about nutrition, financial literacy, and sustainable living practices.

Additionally, the program participated in the Department of Agriculture's Local Fair, November 23-24, 2024, on St. Thomas. The event provided an excellent platform for connecting with the community, showcasing agriculture programs, and promoting local agriculture.

On November 24, 2024, the 4-H Health Ambassadors program conducted one of their annual community service initiatives 'Raise for Cans' at The Market supermarket. 4-H Health Ambassadors were at the entrance of The Market to solicit shoppers to donate food items. All the items collected were used to create 25 Thanksgiving baskets that were given to deserving families.

Communications and Technology Program

The Cooperative Extension Service conducted MS Excel Workshops from November 12 - 15, 2024, and November 19 - 21, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00pm. MS Excel is a very useful application when creating budgets, analyzing data, and for several other useful mathematical calculations. Participants learned how to enter data, select cells, format cells using MS Excel functions, insert formulas, and create charts. Thirteen individuals participated in the Beginners and the Intermediate MS Excel workshops.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

School of Nursing

Two nursing students are employed in their field and are working in the UVI Health Services Center.

School of Business

Kyra F. Edwards, Accounting Major – Named as White House Initiative on HBCU Scholar

Briahna L. Thomas, Marketing Major - President –Student Government Association (Albert A. Sheen Campus)

National Society of Minorities in Hospitality (NSMH) Conference - Eleven (11) students enrolled in the Hospitality and Tourism Management program of the School of Business, were sponsored to attend the 2024 National Society of Minorities in Hospitality (NSMH) Regional Conference held in Savannah, GA, October 31- November 2, 2024. The students were accompanied by Dr. Jim Storey, a member of the hospitality and tourism faculty.

The conference, consisting of seminars and other discussion sessions, enabled students to explore internship and mentorship opportunities offered by industry executives attending the conference, in addition to networking with other HTM program students from institutions throughout the south-east region.

College of Science and Mathematics

Thirteen UVI students participated in ABRCMS (Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Students) November 13-17, 2024, in Pittsburgh, PA:

- One student, **Abigail Rose**, won a best poster award.
- Eleven students had their abstracts accepted in a competitive review process and presented their work at the conference (their presentations are listed below): **Annadelle Brown, Mia Bruno, Akilah Hodge, Alonzo Moore, Leyonna Ravariere, La’Quan Reid, Maura Monee Richardson, Abigail Rose, Darnilla Samuel, Aaliah Saret & Zorah Williams.**
- Thirteen students (including those listed above plus **Brenique Dawson** and **Danesha Derima**) attended the conference, along with two professors: **Aletha Baumann & Andrew Seeber.**
- The student participants represent four STEM majors: Biology, Chemistry, Marine Biology, & Psychology.
- Conference participation was paid for by UVI’s NIH-funded URISE research training grant.

Six URISE and non-URISE students, **Alonzo Moore, Maura Richardson, Danesha Derima, Calida Ambrose, Gidal Williams, and Asimian Edmead** attended the MIT Biology Department’s Quantitative Methods Workshop in Boston, MA during the first week of January over the holiday break. This is a seven-day intensive workshop designed to introduce students to quantitative tools and programming languages used to analyze experimental data in biology and neuroscience.

Student Publications

Peer Reviewed.

Brayan Vilanova-Cuevas, Christopher M. DeRito, Isabella Ritchie, Alizee Zimmerman, David Marancik, Stacey M. Williams, James S Evans, **Marilyn Brandt, Moriah Sevier, Samuel Gittens Jr, Kayla Budd, Sarah VonHoene**, Matthew Warham, William C. Sharp, Gabriel A. Delgado, Alwin Hylkema, Kimani Kitson-Walters, Tom Wijers, Christina A Kellogg, Jean-Pascal Quod, Mya Breitbart, Ian Hewson (accepted) Investigating the influence of *Diadematidae scuticociliatosis* on host microbiome composition. Accepted to *mSystems*

Brunson, T., Blicow, K., McGregor, A., Matley, J., & Jobsis, P. (2024). Influence of Environmental and Biological Factors on the Space Use and Movement Behavior of Juvenile Caribbean Green Sea Turtles. *Herpetologica*, 80(4), 333-346

Goad, Miranda, Thompson, Tara, Briggs, Zachary, Durdall, Allie, Wilson Grimes, Kristin, Corte, Guilherme. (2025) [Extreme climatic events and urbanization impacts on sandy beach ecosystems: a field experiment before and after Hurricane Lee](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12237-024-01478-w). *Estuaries and Coasts* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12237-024-01478-w>

Hewson I, **Brandt M, Budd K**, Breitbart M, DeRito C, **Gittens Jr. S**, Henson MW, Hylkema A, **Sevier M, Souza M**, Vilanova-Cuevas B, **Von Hoene S** (2024) Viral metagenomic investigation of two Caribbean echinoderms, *Diadema antillarum* (Echinoidea) and *Holothuria floridana* (Holothuria). *PeerJ* 12:e18321 <http://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.18321>.

Legernes, Michele, Nemeth, Richard S., & Legare, Bryan (2024). Movements, foraging and habitat selection of southern stingrays (*Hypanus americanus*) in a tropical ecosystem altered by an invasive seagrass. *Estuarine Coastal and Shelf Science*, 108958. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecss.2024.108958>

Michael, J. A., & Jobsis, P. (2024). Observations at a green sea turtle, *Chelonia mydas*, cleaning station identify three cleaning fish symbionts. *Marine Biodiversity*, 54(4), 58.

Student Presentations

PHD CLIC Program- Christian, J. (2024). Honoring the Legacy: Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings and the Evolution of Culturally Responsive Education. 33rd NAME Conference, Association for Multicultural Education (NAME), Anaheim, California, November 13th-17th, 2024.

Awika, Henry O. and Yvonilyn Lawrence (2024). *Deep learning of leaf and flower spectra to predict the dominant interior and exterior colors of watermelon fruit*. ASA/CSSA/SSSA Nov. 10-13, 2024, San Antonio, Texas.

Awika, Henry O., Johnson Southwell, Millan Philbert, Markeymah Cargile, Naseem McIntosh and Donna Gonzalez (2024). *Blue wavelengths may offer an alternative non-*

destructive color-scanning based quantitation for dissolved solids in sweetcorn. ASA/CSSA/SSSA Nov. 10-13, 2024, San Antonio, Texas.

Awika, Henry O., Naseem McIntosh, Johnson Southwell, Jessica Ewer, Lawrence Yvonilyn, Gonzalez, Donna, and Markeymah Cargile (2024). *Determining how colored shade houses affect the ambient temperature and influence fruit development and sweetness in watermelon (Citrullus lanatus).* ASA/CSSA/SSSA Nov. 10-13, 2024, San Antonio, Texas.

Badai, Amanda. (November 8, 2024). *Testing Antibiotic Dosages and Application Effectiveness to Treat Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease.* VI-EPSCoR 2024 Annual Conference: Creating an Impactful Virgin Islands Research Ecosystem. University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, VI.

Bideau, Shamoy. (November 12, 2024, 2024). *Unlocking Porites porites Growth Potential: Testing Nursery Rearing Techniques and Fragment Size in for Coral Restoration.* Master of Science Thesis Defense, University of the Virgin Islands.

Bloem, Laura. (November 8, 2024). *Community Perceptions of Mangroves in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Implications for Mangrove Restoration Efforts.* VI-EPSCoR 2024 Annual Conference: Creating an Impactful Virgin Islands Research Ecosystem. University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, VI.

Bideau, Shamoy. (November 12, 2024, 2024). *Unlocking Porites porites Growth Potential: Testing Nursery Rearing Techniques and Fragment Size in for Coral Restoration.* Master of Science Thesis Defense, University of the Virgin Islands.

Buchanan, Joleen (November 2024) *Beach Access in Paradise: Investigation of Environmental and Social Barriers to Coastal Resilience in the USVI*, poster presentation, Annual EPSCoR Conference, St. Thomas, USVI

Coble, Avery. (November 6, 2024, 2024). *Understanding white coral diseases within the U.S. Virgin Islands and exploring possible mitigation treatments.* Master of Science Thesis Defense, University of the Virgin Islands.

Dawson, Brenique (November 2024) *Equity in access to public spaces and implications for public health in the Virgin Islands*, poster presentation, Annual EPSCoR Conference, St. Thomas, USVI

Edmead, Asimian, Guannel G., Beck, N. (2024). *Spatial and Temporal Variation of Cell Phone Reception in the U.S. Virgin Islands.* Spectrum X Annual Conference, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

Gregory, Zachary. (November 6, 2024, 2024). *Using Artificial Intelligence to Examine Mesophotic Coral Distributions in the U.S. Virgin Islands.* Master of Science Thesis Defense, University of the Virgin Islands.

Gretta, Abigail. (November 8, 2024). *Nutrient Remineralization by Ramicrusta: Implications for Coral-Algal Interactions on Caribbean Reefs*. VI-EPSCoR 2024 Annual Conference: Creating an Impactful Virgin Islands Research Ecosystem. University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, VI.

Hollander, Erin. (December 10, 2024). *The effect of coral - macroalgal interactions on restoration* [conference presentation]. Reef Futures Symposium. Riviera Maya, Mexico.

Hutchinson, Sarai. (September 28, 2024). *Academic Journey*. 3rd annual meeting of the Central New York (CNY) Louis Stokes Advancing Minority Participation (LSAMP). Ithica, New York.

Joshua Soll, Doug Wilson, Travis Hamlin. (September 10, 2024). *Automated Detection and Classification of Low-Frequency Whale Acoustics Using Pam-Equipped Slocum Gliders in the USVI and Puerto Rico*. Underwater Glider User Group Workshop. Ann Arbor, MI.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JHqECHZmAGblLFMhvnrm2YbPbG4V9pyK/view>

Maxin, Stefanie. (November 8, 2024). *The sound of science: Description of a spawning-associated sound produced by yellowtail parrotfish (Sparisoma rubripinne)*. VI-EPSCoR 2024 Annual Conference: Creating an Impactful Virgin Islands Research Ecosystem. University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, VI.

McGregor, Andrew and Johnson, Corinne E. (November 8, 2024). *Site Fidelity of Juvenile Hawksbill and Green Turtles to Neritic Habitats in Brewers Bay and Hawksbill Cove, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.* VI-EPSCoR 2024 Annual Conference: Creating an Impactful Virgin Islands Research Ecosystem. University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, VI.

Miele Madison. (November 8, 2024). *Assessing the movement patterns, foraging behavior, and bioturbation of southern stingrays (Hypanus americanus) in response to the presence of the non-native Halophila stipulacea*. VI-EPSCoR 2024 Annual Conference: Creating an Impactful Virgin Islands Research Ecosystem. University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, VI.

Miele, Madison. (September 16, 2024). *Assessing the movement patterns, foraging behavior, and bioturbation of southern stingrays (Hypanus americanus) in response to the presence of the invasive Halophila stipulacea*. Master of Science Thesis Defense, University of the Virgin Islands.

O'Neill, Gregory. (October 28, 2024). *Diet, Growth, and Foraging Behaviour of Juvenile Yellowtail Snapper in Invasive and Native Seagrass Habitats*. Master of Science Thesis Defense, University of the Virgin Islands.

Price, Zoe.A., Abigail L. Gretta, Sarai A. Hutchinson, Jesse K. Joy, Spencer W. Parr, Cole J. Sheeley, LeeAnn A. Sheets, Joshua Soll, Courtney H. Tierney, Veronica G. Williamson,

R.J. Platenburg and *Marianne S. Moore*. (October 2024) *Modeling bat habitat suitability on a small Caribbean island*. 52nd Annual North American Symposium on Bat Research. Guadalajara, Mexico.

Sheeley, Cole, Doug Wilson, Travis Hamlin, Tyler Smith (September 10, 2024). *Gliders Used to Investigate Ocean Variability at Mesophotic Coral Reefs of the US Virgin Islands*. Underwater Glider User Group Workshop. Ann Arbor, MI. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JHqECHZmAGblLFMhvnrm2YbPbG4V9pyK/view>

Santiago, Lamani, Febres, Eduardo II, & Jackson, Adeana. (UVI students employed by SOA-CES in the Integrated Pest Management (IPM), created agricultural games (crosswords, matching pests with damage, 64 playing cards, and coloring pages) for the 2025 Agriculture and Food Fair.

Sheeley, Cole. (November 8, 2024). *Using Gliders to investigate the oceanic variability impacting mesophotic reefs of the US Virgin Islands*. VI-EPSCoR 2024 Annual Conference: Creating an Impactful Virgin Islands Research Ecosystem. University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, VI.

Shelby, Adeline. (October 30, 2024). *A response assessment of reciprocally outplanted Orbicella annularis along nearshore and offshore reefs in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands*. Master of Science Thesis Defense, University of the Virgin Islands.

Strobel, Davis. (November 6, 2024, 2024). *Investigating Coral Resilience and Restoration Strategies in the Face of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease in St. Thomas, USVI*. Master of Science Thesis Defense, University of the Virgin Islands.

Santiago, Lamani, Febres, Eduardo II, & Jackson, Adeana. (UVI students employed by SOA-CES in the Integrated Pest Management (IPM), created agricultural games (crosswords, matching pests with damage, 64 playing cards, and coloring pages) for the 2025 Agriculture and Food Fair.

Uzzel, Lila. (November 8, 2024). *Mangrove and Coral Natural Recovery After Two Consecutive Category Five Hurricanes*. VI-EPSCoR 2024 Annual Conference: Creating an Impactful Virgin Islands Research Ecosystem. University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, VI.

Alumni Achievements

The Psychology Student Association invited former UVI psychology graduate, Armando Jamil, who is now a Project Connect VI Case Manager, to present on The Dangers of Substance Misuse and Use on College Campuses. The presentation was available to students on both the OEK and AAS Campuses.

Cruz, Julie. (October 2024). Completed an Online Certification Course in Change Management from Cornell University

Grants, Donations & Special Projects Funded

The Research and Economic Development Department provided the following table with a list of grants:

AWARD \$/FUNDING AMENDMENT \$ RECEIVED 1ST QUARTER OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024																
University of the Virgin Islands Caribbean Green Technology Center Safety in Paradise	Quarrel, Gregory	College of Science & Mathematics	COTC	Department of Labor	UM Prime	Federal	25775C5000096-01-01	Award		1-Oct-24	7-Jan-25	10/1/2024	9/09/2025	\$94,000	\$	\$94,000
CESU Coral Reef Restoration and Disease Treatment at Virgin Islands National Park and Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument	Brandt, Marilyn	College of Science & Mathematics	QMES	Department of Interior	UM Prime	Federal	P23ACD1937-03	Award		1-Sep-24	7-Jan-25	9/1/2023	3/01/2026	\$909,108	\$93,630	\$902,638
Establishing Trees Using Active and Passive Irrigation on Acid Sates	Zimmerman, Thomas	Agricultural Programs/ SOA	AES	USDA	UM Prime	Federal	N26MSCFR00X0057	Award		10/1/2024	12/13/2024	10/1/2024	9/09/2026	\$10,291	0	\$10,291
Renewable Resources Extension Act Program in the U.S. Virgin Islands	Crossman, Stanford	Agricultural Programs/ SOA	CES	USDA	UM Prime	Federal	N26RREAF00X0065	Award		10/1/2024	12/13/2024	1-Oct-24	30-Sep-26	\$2,970	\$	\$2,970
Hatch Multi-state Research Projects in the US Virgin Islands	Zimmerman, Thomas	Agricultural Programs/ SOA	AES	USDA	UM Prime	Federal	N26MFP00X0019	Award		1-Oct-24	12-Dec-25	10/1/2023	9/09/2025	\$38,775	\$	\$38,775
Community Health Worker Program	Michael, Norman	School of Nursing	CERC	MDOH	UM Prime	VI Territory	0003DOHT25	Award		4-Dec-24	12-Dec-24	12/4/2024	12/5/2026	\$100,000	\$	\$100,000
CCRC-ORRDE USVMangroves	Wilson-Grimes, Kristin	College of Science & Mathematics	QMES	UMDPNR	UM Prime	VI Territory	SA TPPA025-003	Award		1-Oct-24	11-Dec-24	10/1/2024	9/09/2029	\$1,853,916	\$292,095	\$2,446,000
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program in the United States Virgin Islands	Crossman, Stanford	Agricultural Programs/ SOA	AES	USDA NIFA	UM Prime	Federal	N26EFNEP00X0046	Award		1-Oct-24	9-Dec-24	10/1/2024	9/09/2029	\$22,730	\$	\$22,730
In the US Virgin Islands	Adamu, Uman	Agricultural Programs/ SOA	AES	USDA NIFA	UM Prime	Federal	N26HFP00X00305	Award		1-Oct-24	9-Dec-24	10/1/2024	9/09/2025	\$448,606	\$	\$448,606
VI Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program (VIBWQM)	Jobais, Paul	College of Science & Mathematics	QMES	DPNR	UM Prime	Federal	0001PNRT24	Award		1-Oct-24	6-Dec-24	10/1/2024	9/09/2026	\$418,270	\$100,630	\$518,900
Smith Lever	Crossman, Stanford	Agricultural Programs/ SOA	CES	USDA NIFA	UM Prime	Federal	N26SLB00X0030	Award		1-Oct-24	6-Dec-24	10/1/2024	9/09/2025	\$476,233	\$	\$476,233
Collaborative Research: Implementation Grant: Navigating Home	Grimes, Kristin	College of Science & Mathematics	QMES	NSF	UM Prime	Federal	2228177	Award		1-Nov-24	3-Dec-24	11/1/2024	10/1/2027	\$941,696	\$146,998	\$1,088,654
Using Shoreline Database for the Virgin Islands	Quarrel, Gregory	College of Science & Mathematics	COTC	VTBMA	UM Prime	VI Territory	HM0P-4335-0008	Award		23-Nov-24	2-Dec-24	1/3/2024	3/01/2025	\$180,641	\$	\$180,641
3-MUREP P19007, The NASA/UM Pre-College Engineering Summer Institute	Latesky, Stanley	College of Science & Mathematics	Physics	NASA	UM Prime	Federal	80N5SC23M0091	Award		1-Jul-24	26-Nov-24	7/8/2023	6/09/2028	\$65,616	\$19,380	\$84,998
Puerto Rico Sea Grant Omnibus 2024-2028	Jobais, Paul	College of Science & Mathematics	QMES	UPR	Subawardee	Federal Sub-K	NA240APX417Q0161-T1-01	Award		1-Feb-24	26-Nov-24	2/1/2024	1/01/2025	\$24,440	\$12,051	\$106,500
SB Center: SpectrumK - An NSF Spectrum Innovation Center	Morris, David	College of Science & Mathematics	Physics	Univ. of Notre Dame	Subawardee	Federal Sub-K	204333UM	Award		1-Sep-24	22-Nov-24	9/1/2024	8/01/2025	\$24,698	\$11,942	\$36,500
Collaborative Research: Caribbean through-flow water mass transformation processes	Wilson, Doug	College of Science & Mathematics	QMES	NSF	UM Prime	Federal	2421923	Award		1-Dec-24	22-Nov-24	12/1/2024	11/30/2027	\$197,187	\$12,209	\$199,276
Divided by Water, United by Need: IPM Programs in US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico	Dewees, Amy	Agricultural Programs/ SOA	CES	Univ. of PR Mayaguez Campus	Subawardee	Private/Foundation		Award		1-Sep-24	24-Oct-24	9/09/2024	8/01/2025	\$20,471	\$	\$20,471
Improving Engagement Methods for Coastal Resilience and Reducing Climate Risk: Bridging Learning Networks From the Urban Northeast (CC-RUN) to the US Caribbean (CC-UN)	Weddell, Kim	Other	VI EPSCOR	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Subawardee	Federal Sub-K	11619-GR	Amendment		1-Sep-24	5-Nov-24	9/1/2024	8/01/2025	\$26,498	\$18,019	\$44,517
National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Technical Support	Jobais, Paul	College of Science & Mathematics	QMES	NIOAA	UM Prime	Federal	SA C2MP20241010	Award		26-Oct-24	4-Nov-24	10/25/2024	9/09/2025	\$38,000	\$	\$38,000
Rural Opaid Technical Assistance Regional Centers (not a)	Michael, Norman	School of Nursing	CERC	Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc.	Subawardee	Federal Sub-K	3H70TB95599-0251	Award		30-Sep-24	4-Nov-24	9/09/2024	9/09/2024	\$41,467	\$2,098	\$44,255
Developing the skills and potential impact of the ongoing research on coral at New Carons Bank National Marine Sanctuary to inform the management (W24-HC-B-0595-1)	Brandt, Marilyn	College of Science & Mathematics	QMES	USAR ADMNOAA	Subawardee	Federal Sub-K	20240C3674	Award		1-Aug-24	30-Oct-24	8/1/2024	7/01/2026	\$12,308	\$3,692	\$19,000
Passive Acoustic Monitoring for Marine Mammal Stock Assessments using Gliders in the Caribbean Filling a MMS Operational Gap	Wilson, Doug	College of Science & Mathematics	QMES	University of Miami NOAA	Subawardee	Federal Sub-K	0300001044	Amendment		1-Sep-24	23-Oct-24	9/1/2024	9/09/2025	\$217,632	\$3,119	\$220,751
Modeling Nearshore Wave Environment	Quarrel, Gregory	College of Science & Mathematics	COTC	VI DPNR	UM Prime	VI Territory	SA C2MP20231006	Award		9-Oct-24	21-Oct-24	10/9/2024	10/6/2025	\$69,799	\$40,187	\$99,988
International Co-Development Collaboration to Advance and Scale Adaptation and Resilience Efforts in the Caribbean Region	Quarrel, Gregory	College of Science & Mathematics	COTC	Northeastern Univ/Dept of Commerce	Subawardee	Federal Sub-K	NA240APX401C0001-T1-01 / NA240ARW401C0001	Award		1-Feb-24	14-Oct-24	2/1/2024	1/01/2026	\$75,187	\$47,897	\$123,084
Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement (IPA) University of the Virgin Islands Caribbean Green Technology Center Safety in Paradise	McKays, Camille	Other	Private	NSF	UM Prime	Federal		Award		21-Oct-24	16-Oct-24	10/1/2024	10/20/2025	\$251,201	\$	\$251,201
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING - INNOVATION AND CREATIVELY LEARNING IN THE ST. THOMAS- ST. JOHN	Moolenaar-Winslow, Pamela	School of Education	Education	VI Dept of Education	UM Prime	VI Territory	25775C5000096-01-00	Award		1-Oct-24	3-Oct-24	10/1/2024	9/09/2025	\$91,000	\$	\$91,000
The Caribbean Climate Change Adaptation, Cancer, and Health Disparities Research Center	Michael, Norman	School of Nursing	CERC	UPR Comp. Cancer Center	Subawardee	Federal Sub-K	IP20CA04089-01	Award		20-Sep-24	8-Nov-24	9/09/2024	8/01/2025	\$180,243	\$107,211	\$292,554
TOTAL \$3,212,471																

The College of Science and Mathematics' Process Technology (PRT) program received a donation from Ocean Point Terminals in the amount of \$130,000 on October 16, 2024. This was part of Ocean Point Terminals' annual commitment to the PRT Program in support of training, education,

and workforce development programs at UVI. Students from the program engage in internships with the company and graduates go on to successful careers with local and international companies.

In the School of Business, Dr. Nelson Pizarro secured a \$5,000 grant from the Department of Energy to integrate problem-solving related to energy into the curriculum.

Donor Funding: the School of Nursing received a donation of \$92,000 from Mr. Philip Arcidi, which represented an increase of \$10,000 from the prior year's donation.

The School of Education was awarded \$31,320 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.

Root, Larken T., Roberts, Shanta (November 25, 2024) A grant was submitted to the NOAA Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Competition titled: Promoting aquaculture production by identifying community preferences for commercially viable seafood products in the US Virgin Islands totaling \$356,480.00 for two years.

Root, Larken T. (September 3, 2024) Awarded School of Agriculture internal research grant titled "Assessing potential aquaculture opportunities in the U.S. Virgin Islands through documented success in aquaculture production in the Caribbean." totaling \$17,094 for one year.

Dr. Doug Wilson (CMES) proposal, Caribbean through-flow water mass transformation processes, was funded by the National Science Foundation starting December 1, 2024. \$199,376.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP

Research and Publications

CLIC PhD Program

Hendrickson, K. A., & Blackmon, A. T. (2024). Humanizing Stem Education, Valuing Cultures Of Care Through Conscious Values Based Leadership. *Innovative Higher Education*, 1-21.

Sul, D. A. (2024). Situating culturally specific assessment development within the disjuncture-response dialectic. In W. P. Fisher Jr. & L. Pendrill (Eds.), *Models, Measurement, and Metrology Extending the SI: Trust and Quality Assured Knowledge Infrastructures* (pp. 475–500). De Gruyter. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111036496-015>

Sul, D. A., & Domínguez, D. G. (2024). Culturally responsive evaluation with Latinx communities through culturally specific assessment: Building the Latinx immigration trauma assessment. *New Directions for Evaluation*, 2024(181), 103–112. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ev.20593>

Peer Reviewed

Bates, A., **Guannel, Gregory** & Quinones, L. A. P. (2024). *Hurricanes make headlines, but chronic utility failure drives energy (in)security in the U.S. Virgin Islands*. *Energy Policy*, 195, 114320. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2024.114320>

Blinchow, K. M., Haynie, A. C., Semmens, B. X. (2024). *Disparities between sustainability of country-level seafood production and consumption*. Plos ONE.

Bowen, D., Cummings, L., & **Monrose Mills, N.** (2024). The Role of Agency for STEM Teachers in the USVI Post Hurricane. In S. Fraser-Burgess, J. De Four-Babb, V. Knight, M. Oluseyi, A. Albert, I. Salami (Eds.) *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Caribbean and African Studies in Education* (pp. 161-171). Bloomsbury Handbooks.

Brown, Karen H. & Dorsey, Andre'a. (2024). Reflections of an integrative framework for supporting growth mindset & success in STEM: An Afro-Caribbean Diaspora perspective. *Caribbean Journal of Psychology*. (In Press)

Dorsey, Andre'a. (2024). "Community engagement as a catalyst for culturally responsive approaches to education reform" in *Leading the transition toward culturally responsive – sustaining schools* (Ed Stein, K). Information Age Publishing (IAP). (In Press).

Dorsey, Andre'a. (2024). Embodied creative leadership: A lifeworld perspective of university presidents for student preparedness as creative leaders. *Journal of Negro Education*. (In Press)

Lancellotti, B.V., **Hensley, D.A.** (2024). *Controls on nitrogen export to an ephemeral stream network of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands*. *Journal of Environmental Quality* <https://doi.org/10.1002/jeq2.20667>

Lancellotti, B.V., **Hensley, D.A.** (2024). *Controls on nitrogen export to an ephemeral stream network of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands*. *Journal of Environmental Quality* <https://doi.org/10.1002/jeq2.20667>

Smith, Linda. (June 2024). A recollection of Granny, Cousin Mealie, Father Ronald, Cousin Daisy and the silent revolution: An Anguillian story. *International Journal of Humanities and Art*.

Not Peer Reviewed

Engerman, Kimarie, Keenan, E.A., Kurochkin, D., & Shabliy, E. (2024). *Sustainable Energy Development: Technology and Investment*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Guannel, Gregory, Price, Z., Buchanan, J., Beck, N., & Dawson, B. (2024). *Beaches of the USVI: Preliminary Observations of Hazard Impacts and Implications for Setback Distances*.

Caribbean Green Technology Center, University of the Virgin Islands. A report prepared for the USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources.

Walter, M.A. (Autumn 2024). The linguist's view on hot skull. *Babel: The Language Magazine* 48.

Walter, M.A. (Spring 2025). Favorite linguistics books: Whistled Languages. *Babel: The Language Magazine* 50. (One of 50 Linguists worldwide who were invited to contribute to this issue for the publication's 50th Anniversary)

Local Publication

Rios, Andrea (December 2024) Basic Knowledge About Hoof Trimming in Sheep and Goats. School of Agriculture Communication Office.

Presentation

Peer Reviewed: National/International.

Allen, X. M. (2024, October 9-11). I, too, school counsel, America: The status of Black male school counselors [Conference presentation]. 2024 Annual Conference of the Virginia School Counselor Association, Hampton, VA, United States.

Blackmon, Angelicque Tucker, Retland, N., & **Jaeger, Elizabeth.** (November 7–9, 2024). Culturally specific assessment (CSA) for leadership: Harnessing HBCU leaders' experiences to transform STEM higher education [Posterpresentation]. AAC&U 2024 Transforming STEM Higher Education Conference, Arlington, VA.

Blinco, Kayla M. Cheramie, Jenna. **Nemeth, Richard** (November 2024). Comparisons of habitat use and spawning migration behavior of yellowtail parrotfish (*Sparisoma rubripinne*) across a sedimentation gradient in Reef Bay, St. John, USVI. Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Conference

Blanchette, Denise and **Honore, Sharon.** (October 2024). Creating a network of oral history research in the Virgin Islands. Oral History Association Conference in Cincinnati, OH.

Brown, Alicia. (November 2024). Spanish-language origin discourse markers across languages in bilingual Spanish/Basque. New Ways of Analysing Variation (NWAV) Conference in Miami, FL.

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

Brown, Karen. H., Bortz, Melissa, & Cornish-Raley, Nathan. (October 24, 2024). Words that shape lives: How the language of disability defines power and transforms culture. (invited)

Clarke, Anna M., & Kates, J. (2024). New Field Director Session 2: Administering and Supervising. Field Education Institute, CSWE 70th Annual Program Meeting. October 24-27, 2024. Kansas City, MO.

Davis-Kahina, Chenzira. (October 2024. Sovereign resilience: Maroons legacy and AfraFuturist Innovations in the Caribbean. Islands in Between Conference. Tortola, BVI.

Engerman, Kimarie, Blackmon, Angelique Tucker, & **Jaeger, Elizabet.** (November 7–9, 2024). The role of women leaders at historically black colleges and universities in broadening participation in STEM [Poster presentation]. AAC&U 2024 Transforming STEM Higher Education Conference, Arlington, VA

Lewis, Lisa M. (October 18, 2024). *Faith in Action: Empowering Hearts and Managing Hypertension through Faith-Based Intervention*. Caribbean Studies Association Grenada 50/50 Academic Conference. Grenada, WI.

Mckenzie, Sophia. (November 10, 2024). *Master of Marine and Environmental Science Program Application Workshop*. American Association for the Advancement of Science S-STEM Scholars and PI Meeting. Chicago, IL.

McKenzie, Sophia, Zoe Price, Joshua Soll, Cole Sheeley, LeeAnn Sheets, Courtney Tierney attended the National Science Foundation Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Scholars and PI meeting in Chicago, Illinois November 8-10, 2024.

Olinger, Lauren K., Strangman, Wendy K., McMurray, Steven E., Mead, Ralph N., Pawlik, Joseph R. (2025). *The giant barrel sponge Xestospongia muta takes up dissolved organic matter from benthic cyanobacterial mats*. Organic Geochemistry.

Thomas, Shamika. (2024, November 3-6). *Strategy in Focus: Dialogue Across the AUCD Network to Advance Meaningful Collaborations* [Conference presentation]. Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) 2024 Conference.

Vondriska, Clayton. (2024). *Effects of Ocean Acidification on a Common Ectoparasite of Coral Reef Fish*. NOAA OA Week 2024. Virtual.

Vondriska, Clayton. Strickler, JR, Sikkell, PC. (2025). *Beyond the Y-Maze: Olfaction in Host-Finding in a Common External Parasite of Coral Reef Fishes*. International Symposium of Fish Parasites 2025. Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán, Mérida, México.

Vondriska, Clayton. Titus, BM, Froehlich, CYM, Baker, R, Caves, EM. (2024). *Stable isotopes disentangle niche partitioning and co-occurrence in a multi-species marine mutualism*. *Oikos*

Walter, Benjamin. Friedman, Greg. Gadish, Nir. Koytcheff, Robin. Sinha, Dev. (Jan 2025). *Milnor invariants through intersection theory and bar constructions*. Joint Mathematical Meetings, Special Session on Concordance and Cobordism in Low Dimensions. Seattle, WA.

Not Peer Reviewed

Har, Austin Oting. (September 2024). shared a co-authored publication about his opera with his collaborators at Australian universities. The Publisher was Leonardo, which is a leading international peer-reviewed journal on the use of contemporary science and technology in the arts, music, and the application and influence of arts and humanities on science and technology. https://doi.org/10.1162/leon_a_02602

Har, Austin Oting. (September 2024). A co-authored composition on AI computer music has been accepted for the Australasian Computer Music Conference. <https://computermusic.org.au/conferences/acmc2024/>

Har, Austin Oting. (October 2024). Made two (2) presentations and one (1) performance while at his UC Berkley Residency. <https://cnmat.berkeley.edu/events/austin-oting-har-cnmat-730pm>
<https://events.berkeley.edu/music/event/267725-composition-colloquium-austin-oting-har>
<https://www.berkeleyside.org/2024/10/17/around-berkeley-kalas-dia-de-muertos-art-workshop-laughter-yoga-harvest-festival> <https://www.cnmat.berkeley.edu/news/austin-oting-har-residency-october-14-19> <https://vimeo.com/1021297785?share=copy>
<https://vimeo.com/1021297668?share=copy> <https://vimeo.com/1021218658>

Local

Brown, Karen. (January 29, 2025). *Bridging Brain Development Research and Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP) for Infants and Toddlers*. VI Department of Human Services Infant Toddler Conference. Early Connections: Building Quality Foundations for Infant-Toddler Development. St. Croix, USVI. (invited)

Blinco, Kayla M. Cheramie, Jenna. **Nemeth, Richard** (November 2024). Comparisons of habitat use and spawning migration behavior of yellowtail parrotfish (*Sparisoma rubripinne*) across a sedimentation gradient in Reef Bay, St. John, USVI. Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Conference.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee (2024 September 4) Krause Lagoon Ecosystem: A presentation to a biology class (12 grade) at St. Croix Educational Complex to learn about the natural and cultural history of the south shore Krause Lagoon.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee (2024 September 5) *Virgin Islands Oral History*: A guest lecturer to a UVI humanity class on the oral and traditional history of the Virgin Islands natural and cultural resources.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee (2024 September 6) *Cane Garden Bay Ecosystem*: Tour presentation to teachers, students, and parents.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee (2024 September 24) *St. Croix Maroon History*: A guest lecture to a UVI humanity class on the hardship of maroons in the Danish West Indies.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee (2024 October 4) *Federal & Local Police Officer Training Cultural Sensitivity of the U.S. Virgin Islands*: To federal, local police, and other law enforcement officers about the natural, cultural, and history of the Danish and early American rule of the U. S. Virgin Islands. This included native food, music, usages of plants, historic landmarks, etc.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee (2024 October 11) *Wills Bay Ecosystem*: Tour presentation to UVI students (new students) on the natural, marine, and terrestrial environment of Wills Bay ecosystem with 25 students in attendance.

Davis, Kenneth Olasee (2024 October 16) *Virgin Islands Natural & Cultural History*: A guest lecture to graduate and undergraduate students from Sea Education Association. (a private, nonprofit educational organization, which operates two sailing ships traveling throughout the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, based in Cape Cod in the oceanographic research community of Wood Hole, Massachusetts).

Davis, Kenneth Olasee (2024 December 12) *Natural, cultural, historical, and Marine Environment of the Virgin Islands*: Tour presentation to a local company to Grape Tree Bay ridge and Goat Hill.

Dreves, Amy J. (September 17-18, 2024). The University of the Virgin Islands (SOA-CES-IPM program) united with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and DPNR personnel and toured 5 schools and 3 farmers to provide feedback on structural health pest conditions of the schools and worker protection status of the farms visited. "IPM School Plans" are being developed for the schools.

Dreves, Amy J. (October 12, 2024). Respect the Invertebrates in our Community and Learn to identify the top 6 insect orders and create a collection. Held at the Caribbean Center for Boys and Girls, Frederiksted, St. Croix.

Dorsey, Andre'a. (October 22, 2024). College Series Workshops, Superior Court Rising Stars Youth Steel Program. (invited)

Hamilton, Dara. (November 2024). Participated in a Panel Discussion at the Governor's 2024 Workforce Development Summit, on the topic of Selfcare and Self-Development: Building a Foundation for Success and Wellbeing.

McSween-Missole, V. (2024) Analysis of Self- identified Institutional Values among High Research Capacity HBCUs. International Conference on Social and Education Sciences (IConSES) 2024. Oct 20, 2024 [Oral Presentation]

McSween-Missole, V. (2024). Analysis of Self-identified institutional values among high research capacity HBCUs. In V. Akerson, O. Akman, & M. L. Ciddi (Eds.), Proceedings of IConSES 2024--International Conference on Social and Education Sciences (pp. 121 -132),

Prince, Angelina. (November 2024). Presented as a Keynote Speaker for the Women's Empowerment Conference on Mental Health Awareness and the Modern Woman.

Prince, Angelina. (November 2024). Presented at the American Federation of Teachers Conference on the topic of Socio-Emotional Learning in the School Environment.

Vondriska, Clayton. (2024) *Beyond the Y-Maze: Implementation of a Novel Aquatic Olfactometer for Chemosensory Research in Small Organisms*. Emerging Caribbean Scientists Seminar Series. University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, USVI.

Walter, Benjamin. (Dec 2024) *Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Arena; Opportunities, Challenges, and Ethical Considerations*. VI Office of the Territorial Public Defender yearly staff training event. Buccaneer, St. Croix, USVI.

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

Local Publication

Rios, Andrea (December 2024) Basic Knowledge About Hoof Trimming in Sheep and Goats. School of Agriculture Communication Office.

National/International.

Blackmon, A.T., Retland, N., & **Jaeger, E.** (2024, November 7–9). Culturally Specific Assessment (CSA) for Leadership: Harnessing HBCU Leaders' Experiences to Transform STEM Higher Education [Poster presentation]. AAC&U 2024 Transforming STEM Higher Education Conference, Arlington, VA.

Blanchette, Denise and **Honore, Sharon**. (Oct 2024). Attended and presented a Panel Discussion, “Creating a Network of Oral History Research in the Virgin Islands,” at the Oral History Association Conference in Cincinnati, OH.

Brown, Alicia. (Nov 2024). Attended and made a presentation entitled, “Spanish-language origin discourse markers across languages in bilingual Spanish/Basque,” at the New Ways of Analysing Variation (NWA) Conference in Miami, FL.

Davis-Kahina, Chenzira. (Oct 24 – 26, 2024). Made an Academic Presentation entitled, “Sovereign Resilience: Maroons Legacy and AfroFuturist Innovations in the Caribbean,” at the Islands-in-Between Conference aka the Eastern Caribbean Islands Culture Conference, which is collaboratively organized by the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras, the University of the West Indies-Cave Hill, Barbados, and UVI’s partnering institution H. Laverty Stoutt Community College on Tortola, British Virgin Islands. This research presentation is pending publication in 2025.

Other

Blanchette, Denise. (Nov 2024). Performed in the Caribbean Community Theatre’s Done to Death Play on STX.

Gréaux-Levons, Dian. (Nov 8, 2024). Completed two International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) Specialty Certifications in Meeting and Event Planning, and Technology Applications.

Walker, Sheena. (Nov 2024). Completed a Ketamine Assisted Psychotherapy Workshop for Mental Health Providers which was sponsored by Holistic Wellness and Psychiatry

VI-EPSCoR submitted in September and was approved by the NSF PO the NSF Campus Cyberinfrastructure project Final and Outcomes report.

VI-EPSCoR hosted a successful Annual Conference on November 7 & 8, 2024, at the ACC on the OEK campus. NSF EPSCoR Section Head, Dr. Sandra Richardson and NSF PO, Dr. Andrea Johnson attended along with VI-EPSCoR Advisory Board Members and Government Committee members such as Senator President Novelle E. Francis, VIEconomic Development Commissioner, Wayne Biggs, RTPark Director, Eric Sonnier, and UVI President, Dr. Safiya George.

UVI School of Nursing offered two workshops during this quarter: December 3, 2024: Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) Review Course offered to School of Nursing faculty and nurse educators from partners Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital and Schneider Regional Medical Center
January 9, 2025: Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) Data Review Workshop with School of Nursing faculty.