

# Sixtieth Annual Commencement



ST. THOMAS  
Thursday, the Ninth of May  
Two Thousand and Twenty-Four  
One O'clock in the Afternoon  
Elridge W. Blake Sports and Fitness Center  
Orville E. Kean Campus  
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

ST. CROIX  
Friday, the Tenth of May  
Two Thousand and Twenty-Four  
One O'clock in the Afternoon  
Albert A. Sheen Campus  
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

## President's Message

Good afternoon Graduates, Esteemed Faculty, Families, and Guests:

On this joyous occasion of the University of the Virgin Islands' Commencement, we gather to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our 2024 graduating class. This is a moment in time like no other for you, your family, and friends, and also for me as President.

To the graduates, today marks a significant milestone in your academic journey. You have shown resilience, perseverance, and dedication in reaching this momentous day. I know some of your stories of triumph and creativity and I applaud each of you for staying committed to your dreams. As we taught you, you inspired us.

As you stand on the threshold of new beginnings, remember the knowledge you have gained here and the experiences that have shaped you, and indirectly shaped the lives of those around you.

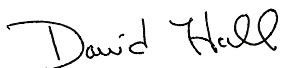
The University of the Virgin Islands has equipped you with not just academic knowledge but also the skills and values to navigate the world beyond these walls. As you embark on your next chapter, remember the lessons learned, the friendships made, and the challenges you've overcome.

It is now your turn to make your mark on the world, to lead with integrity, to innovate with creativity, and to serve with compassion. Whether you participate in the "Passport to the World" program or not, your experience here and your degree gives you a passport to the world and an obligation to make it a better place. Carry the spirit of the U.S. Virgin Islands with you wherever you go, and let it guide you in all your future endeavors.

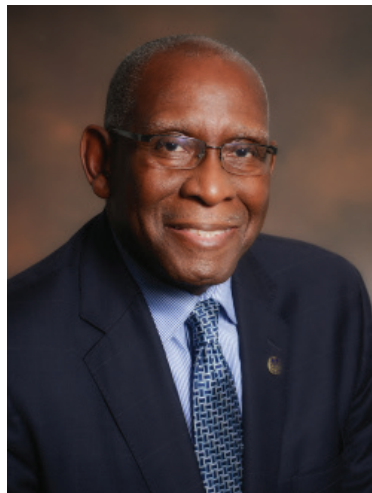
As you step into the future, embrace change with courage, pursue your passions with conviction, and always remember the transformative power of education. Be inspired by the model of our Commencement speaker and our honorees. Congratulations, graduates of the University of the Virgin Islands. The world awaits your brilliance and your contributions.

You may forget this day in a few years, but the memory of my last UVI Commencement as President will be etched in my heart and mind forever.

Sincerely,



**David Hall, S.J.D., President**



**David Hall, S.J.D.**

# Keynote Speaker: Keisha Lance Bottoms

Fearless and Brilliant Leader, Eloquent Spokesperson for Justice, A Reservoir of Inspiration

Keisha Lance Bottoms served as the 60th Mayor of Atlanta, and the senior advisor and director of the White House Office of Public Engagement. She is a visionary leader in bringing equitable outcomes to the forefront of government and commerce. Keisha became the first Mayor in Atlanta's history to have served in all three branches of government, having previously served as a Judge and a City Council member.

Sworn in on January 2, 2018, Keisha served as Mayor during one of the most challenging times in the history of Atlanta. In the midst of a global pandemic and a racial justice movement, Keisha became a leading spokesperson regarding the challenges and opportunities facing cities and leaders across America.

While navigating these unprecedented challenges, the Bottoms Administration was able to remain focused on the resilience of Atlanta, negotiating and closing the largest real estate transaction in the history of Atlanta, and one of the largest in the Southeast United States, delivering millions of dollars in community benefits to people across the city.

Bottoms took proactive measures to deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the City and its agencies. As a result, during one of the worst economic downturns the world has ever faced, the Bottoms Administration delivered four years of balanced budgets, without resorting to property tax increases, layoffs, or furloughs of City employees. The City's reserves remain at a near high of \$181M, far exceeding the requirements of the City Charter.

Shaped by a childhood and professional career that highlighted the inequalities amongst Americans, Keisha led her Administration in undertaking several major initiatives that would seek to eradicate systemic issues facing Atlanta, while creating a model for all cities to follow.

During her tenure as the leader of Atlanta, Keisha spearheaded a series of transformative initiatives aimed at addressing systemic inequalities and establishing Atlanta as a model for inclusive growth and development. Her Administration successfully attracted nine Fortune 500 companies to establish their global or regional headquarters in the city, resulting in an astounding \$11 billion boost to Atlanta's economic output and securing \$4.5 billion in capital investment. Keisha ensured that these developments included unprecedented levels of community benefits, such as affordable housing requirements, funding for an affordable housing trust fund, technical school training programs, and city-wide savings accounts for public school children, all designed to uplift Atlanta's most vulnerable residents.

Keisha's leadership also focused on criminal justice reform and community safety. She made the bold decision to close the City Jail to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees, eliminate cash bail bonds for non-violent offenders, and transform the jail into a diversion center prioritizing human services over incarceration. Additionally, she removed Atlanta Police Department members from joint operations with the U.S. Department of Justice due to their refusal to allow officers to wear body cameras, a move that ultimately led to a federal policy change. Keisha's Administration also added over 7,000 units of affordable housing, financed infrastructure projects totaling \$3.59 billion, created new offices to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion, and established government transparency through the Office of the Inspector General and the launch of Atlanta's Open Checkbook. Furthermore, she opened new police precincts, fire stations, EMS facilities, and @Promise Centers to ensure access to critical services for all residents, while also ensuring that historical inequities, such as the Atlanta Child Murders and the preservation of the Chattahoochee Brick Company land, were respectfully remembered.

Keisha's steadfast leadership and equity-focused philosophy have led to numerous accolades and leadership positions, including having served as the Chair of the Community Development and Housing Committee and the Census Task Force for the United States Conference of Mayors and as a Trustee for the African American Mayor's Association. She was also selected to Chair the Platform Committee for the 2020 Democratic National Convention and serves as the DNC's Vice Chair of Civic Engagement and Voter Protection.

Tracing her family's roots to a slave plantation in Georgia, it was Keisha's highest honor to be named 2020 Georgian of the Year by Georgia Trend Magazine. She also was named one of Glamour Magazine's Women of the Year and was named a member of Ebony Magazine's prestigious Power 100 List. She has also been honored as a BET 100 Entertainer and Innovator of the Year and was named the Smart Cities Dive's 2020 Leader of the Year. Keisha was also the recipient of the Distinguished Civil Rights Advocate Award presented by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law in recognition of her equity-driven leadership to help guide and protect marginalized communities.

Keisha is the daughter of R&B icon Major Lance and Sylvia Robinson. She and her husband Derek are parents to four children.



Keisha Lance Bottoms

## UVI HISTORY

The University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) was chartered on March 16, 1962, as the College of the Virgin Islands (CVI) – a publicly funded, coeducational, liberal arts institution – by Act No. 852 of the Fourth Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands. According to that law, UVI’s cornerstone objective is to provide for “.... the stimulation and utilization of the intellectual resources of the people of the Virgin Islands and the development of a center of higher learning whereby and wherefrom the benefits of culture and education may be extended throughout the Virgin Islands.”

The first campus opened on St. Thomas in July 1963, on 175 acres donated by the federal government. The first Board of Trustees took office in August 1963. In 1964, the college founded a campus on St. Croix, on 130 acres also donated by the federal government. At a ceremony on March 24, 2011, the St. Croix campus was named in honor of the late Albert A. Sheen, Sr. Also in March of 2011, UVI opened the St. John Academic Center in Cruz Bay, with interactive classrooms and computer facilities. In 2015, UVI entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of St. Martin (USM) to establish an extension campus of UVI to be located on the campus of USM and to be called “UVI at USM” to offer quality academic and career education that will provide students from St. Maarten/ St. Martin and other locations across the region and around the world the opportunity to build a solid foundation to enter the workforce in their homeland, across the wider Caribbean or abroad.

UVI offers 46 degree programs including 37 undergraduate degrees and nine graduate degrees through six schools and colleges: Agriculture, Business, Education, Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Nursing, and Science and Mathematics. Six new degree programs began in Fall 2016: PhD in Creative Leadership for Innovation & Change, now housed under the School of Graduate Studies, BBA in Accounting, BBA in Management, BBA in Marketing, Master of Accounting, and Executive Master of Business Administration. In Spring 2018, UVI launched its new Online Division and offers 15 online degree programs nationwide. Four undergraduate certificates are also available: Entrepreneurship, Music Industry, Psychology, and Teaching English as a Second Language. In addition, there are four special programs: Honors Program, Secondary Teacher Preparation Program, Early Medical School Selection Program at Boston University School of Medicine, and Senior Reserve Officers Training Corps (SROTC). Classes are offered in the fall, spring, and summer. Academic advising and learning assistance including tutoring and supplemental instruction are available in UVI’s Center for Student Success.

In 1972, the College of the Virgin Islands was awarded land grant status by the U.S. Congress. This allowed for the establishment of an Agricultural Experiment Station and a Cooperative Extension Service. Since then, many other programs and services have been added. These include the Reichhold Center for the Arts, the Eastern Caribbean Center, the William P. MacLean Marine Science Center and the UVI Sports & Fitness Center, among others.

In 1986, the College of the Virgin Islands was renamed the University of the Virgin Islands to reflect the growth and diversification of its academic curricula, community and regional services, and research programs. That same year, the U.S. Congress named UVI one of America’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). It is the only HBCU outside the continental U.S., and the first to offer an undergraduate degree in marine biology.

Dr. David Hall began his tenure as president of the University of the Virgin Islands on August 1, 2009. He succeeded Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster, who was named president in 2002.

Dr. Orville Kean was named president in 1990, succeeding Dr. Arthur A. Richards, who became president in 1980. Lawrence C. Wanlass served as the first president of the College of the Virgin Islands from 1963 until 1980.

## UVI HISTORY

Today, UVI enrolls approximately 2,500 full-time and part-time students on its two campuses. It continues to offer a high-quality, affordable liberal arts education in a culturally diverse environment. The University boasts more than 10,400 alumni who have gone on to excel as doctors, lawyers, judges, university and government administrators, teachers and other professionals including the present governor of the US Virgin Islands, Albert Bryan Jr. Among the many accomplished alumni are two Rhodes Scholars, the winner of a Pulitzer Prize for Journalism and the Premier of Nevis.

The National Student Exchange (NSE) program operates on both the St. Thomas and St. Croix campuses. Each semester approximately 25 students from the U.S. mainland enroll through NSE. In addition, UVI continues to admit students via memoranda of understanding with the State University of New York at New Paltz, the College of Charleston, Emory University, Savannah State University (social work completion), Columbia University and Washington University in St. Louis (engineering), UNINTER (Universidad Internacional de Cuernavaca, Mexico) and the UNICA Caribbean Exchange Program.

The University of the Virgin Islands is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation. Because of its dedication to educational excellence and improvement through peer evaluation and accreditation, UVI schools also hold accreditation with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN), the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). UVI also has Community Engagement Classification status from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This prestigious national designation is an evidence-based documentation of deep community engagement and the University's commitment to improving teaching and learning, producing research that makes a difference in communities, and revitalizing its civic and academic missions.

UVI also has Memoranda of Understanding with several other institutions, including The Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica; Buffalo State University; Fielding Graduate University; Nantong University; Yangzhou University; Anguilla Community College; H. Lavity Stoutt Community College; T. A. Marryshow Community College; Sir Arthur Lewis Community College; University of Puerto Rico System; St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College; and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Existing Memoranda of Understanding continues with the University of St. Martin; Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College; Nevis Sixth Form College; and Dominica State College. Additionally, there are transfer programs in pre-engineering, pre-pharmacy and pre-medical technology for students who wish to begin their studies in these fields at the University of the Virgin Islands before transferring to a specialized institution to complete their degrees.

In 2021, the St. Thomas Campus was named the Orville E. Kean Campus, in honor of UVI's third president of the same name.

In 2022, the Administration and Conference Center was renamed the LaVerne E. Ragster Administration and Conference Center in honor of UVI's fourth president of the same name.

## Ph.D. in Creative Leadership for Innovation and Change

The University of the Virgin Islands' first Ph.D. program launched in Fall 2016. Fifty doctoral candidates were a part of the first cohort who embarked on their journey to earn their Ph.D. in Creative Leadership for Innovation and Change. The candidates were a diverse group of life-long Virgin Islanders, U.S. mainlanders and international students from around the Caribbean and beyond.

UVI President David Hall and the Board of Trustees had already determined that the creation of a Ph.D. program was inevitable for the University; but in what area? After attending a powerful conference on creative leadership, Dr. Hall became convinced that – given the territory's need for a new generation of strong and insightful leaders who possessed the skills to drive positive social and economic change – creative leadership would be the perfect interdisciplinary field for UVI's first Ph.D. program in which not just one, but all departments could participate.

Dr. Hall met with UVI Provost Dr. Camille McKayle, who received the idea with great enthusiasm. She then recruited Dr. James Maddirala, associate provost for global, graduate and academic affairs, who gladly stepped up to become the primary architect of the program. Together, Dr. McKayle and Dr. Maddirala reached out to other institutions, eventually finding partners in Buffalo State University and Fielding Graduate University for the first Ph.D. of its kind.

A substantial portion of the degree requirements for UVI's doctoral program is completed at a distance, but residencies are required each semester. The program is unique in that traditional classrooms and lectures have been replaced with flexible workstations and master practitioners who will work with adult learners as peers. During the weeklong residency sessions, students will connect with the game-changers of a global world to jointly explore possible futures and exciting ideas.

The Ph.D. program, accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, will prepare learners in the field of leadership by offering an extensive study of relevant leadership knowledge.

### **Ph.D in Creative Leadership for Innovation and Change**

Specialization Tracks:

The Ph.D. in Creative Leadership for Innovation and Change requires that all admitted students enroll in an approved specialization track.

- Creativity and Leadership for Change (CLC) Track
  - Graduates receive a Ph.D. from the University of the Virgin Islands and a graduate certificate from Buffalo State University.
- Organizational Development and Leadership (ODL) Track
  - Graduates receive a Ph.D. from the University of the Virgin Islands and a graduate certificate from Fielding Graduate University.
- Educational/Academic Leadership for Change (ELC) Track
  - Graduates receive a Ph.D. from the University of the Virgin Islands.

## College of the Virgin Islands Class of 1974 Celebrating 50th Anniversary

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE**

College of the Virgin Islands

Michelle Adams • Joyce Basilus • Ilva Benjamin<sup>†</sup> • Edward Benko<sup>†</sup> • Audrey Bradshaw • Alison Brown • Donald Brown • Laura Brown • Willie Brown • Stephanie Brun • Marie-Louise Burnett-Stern • Janice Carrington • Sandra Carty • Marguerite Casey • Stanley Chalon • Cedric Charles • Joyce Chinnery • Sebulita Christopher • Lucia Cid-George • Kay Collings • Clement Daniel • Sue Davenport • Valerie Delemos • Francisco Depusoir • Earl DeWindt • Frederick Douglas • Kathleen Dyer • Christian Farrelly • Erma Freeman • Rona Freeman<sup>†</sup> • Mildred George<sup>†</sup> • Berecia Gibbs • Anita Gordon-Plaskett • Mary Griles<sup>†</sup> • Aubrey Hart • Basil Henry • Lydia Hernandez<sup>†</sup> • Laurel Hewitt-Sewer • Kenneth Hobson • Christine Hodge • Virginia Hodges • Valencio Jackson • Cleone Jacobs<sup>†</sup> • Asta James<sup>†</sup> • Janice Jeppesen • Shirley Joseph<sup>†</sup> • Gilbert Laban • Alwyn LaPlace • Florella Lawrence • Patricia Lee<sup>†</sup> • Prospero Lewis • Alda Lockhart • Loretta Lynch • Ursula Mahoney<sup>†</sup> • Denise Mandeville • Sharon Marcelli • Beverly McGee • Razalin Mills • Hugh Mitchell-Tapping<sup>†</sup> • Gwendolyn Molloy • Lorma Molloy<sup>†</sup> • Julio Monell • Leonard Moody<sup>†</sup> • Karina Morton • Herma Nibbs • Cecil Niles • Barbara Olive<sup>†</sup> • Mary Palmer • Kristin Paquin • Norris Parker • Miriam Parrist<sup>†</sup> • Clifford Powell • Sylvia Probasco • Peter Radix • Charles Rawlins<sup>†</sup> • Teofilo Rivera-Almestica • Rosalia Rohan • Raymond Ross • Kenneth Sackey • Maria Sanes • William Schouten • Lyle Seales<sup>†</sup> • Sylvia Simmonds • Annie Smith • Harold Smith<sup>†</sup> • Wycliffe Smith • Loretta Smith-Hawkins • Rosstain Sterling • Hamilton Stoddard<sup>†</sup> • Melrose Treasure • Muriel Wallace • Arlene Ware<sup>†</sup> • Louise White • Arthur Williams<sup>†</sup> • Fitzroy Williams • Ivan Williams<sup>†</sup> • Ivy Williams • Juanita Williams • Eszart Wynter

### **ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE**

College of the Virgin Islands

Harriette Alfred • Ferdinand Barreiro • Denise Bennerson • Marva Callwood • Alberto Donastorg • Faith Edwards • Janis Esannason • Eleanor Estrada • Acia Francis<sup>†</sup> • Myrvin Garnett • Maritza Godwin • James Gordon • Mary Green<sup>†</sup> • Nimrod Hennemann • Rita Johannes<sup>†</sup> • Daryl Lynch • Edward Magras<sup>†</sup> • Shirley Malcolm • Sulaiman Mohammed • Alister Munroe • Lenore Parker • Judith Peets • Sybil Rhymer • Marilyn Richardson<sup>†</sup> • Barbara Sackey • Leonora Seales • Elwin Smith • Mark Stevenson • Noreen Stout • Lauren Strano • Jens Todman • Isabelle Williams<sup>†</sup>

**Legend: † = Deceased**

# PROGRAM - Orville E. Kean Campus - St. Thomas

**Aaron Rapp, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Mathematics  
COMMENCEMENT MARSHAL**

- \*PROCESSIONAL**.....“Pomp and Circumstance” (Elgar)  
UVI Concert Band, Dionne R. Donadelle
- \*INVOCATION**.....Ishara Jendayi, Class of 2024
- \*NATIONAL ANTHEM**.....“Star Spangled Banner” (Key)  
UVI Concert Band, Dionne R. Donadelle
- \*VIRGIN ISLANDS MARCH**.....”Virgin Islands March”(Adams)  
UVI Concert Band, Dionne R. Donadelle
- OFFICIAL WELCOME**.....David Hall, S.J.D., President
- KEYNOTE ADDRESS**.....Keisha Lance Bottoms
- AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES**.....President Hall
- 2024 HONOREES**.....Keisha Lance Bottoms, Theron Thomas and Timothy Thomas
- MUSICAL SELECTION**.....What a Wonderful World (B. Thiele and G. Weiss)  
Arranged by Robert Longfield  
UVI Concert Band, Dionne R. Donadelle
- ADDRESS**.....Jackeima Flemming, Class of 2024
- MUSICAL SELECTION**..... “Bless Me” (Kirk Franklin & Maverick City Music)  
Featuring Omari Auguste, Music Education Major  
UVI Concert Choir, Dionne R. Donadelle
- REMARKS**.....Henry C. Smock, Esq.  
Chairman, UVI Board of Trustees  
The Honorable Novelle E. Francis, Jr.  
President of the 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands  
The Honorable Stacey Plaskett  
Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress  
The Honorable Albert Bryan Jr.  
Governor, United States Virgin Islands
- MUSICAL SELECTION**.....Incredible in Rock City  
Arranged by Dionne R. Donadelle and Kayla S. Fontaine, Music Education Major  
UVI Concert Band, Dionne R. Donadelle
- PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES**.....Camille A. McKayle, Ph.D., Provost

## CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Doctor of Philosophy in Creative Leadership for Innovation and Change • Master of Business Administration • Master of Arts Accounting • Master of Arts Educational Leadership • Master of Arts Organizational Leadership • Master of Arts in Psychology • Master of Public Administration • Master of Social Work • Master of Marine and Environmental Sciences • Bachelor of Arts • Bachelor of Business Administration • Bachelor of Science • Associate of Applied Science • Associate of Science • Associate of Arts

- INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**.....Pamela Moolenaar-Wirsy Ph.D.  
(Interim) Vice President for Institutional Advancement
- \*ALMA MATER**.....“Alma Mater by the Sea” (LaMotta)  
UVI Harmonic Voices
- \*BENEDICTION**.....Nalani Figueroa, Class of 2024
- \*RECESSIONAL**.....“Ceremonial Procession” (Elgar)  
UVI Concert Band, Dionne R. Donadelle

\*Audience is required to stand.

Every effort is made to ensure that this program is accurate; circumstances beyond our control may have resulted in unintentional errors.



## ORVILLE E. KEAN CAMPUS – ST. THOMAS

### Ph.D. in Creative Leadership for Innovation and Change

#### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Jacqueline C. Adonis  
Una C. Dyer  
Christina N. Lee  
Chinwe O. Osaze  
Eugene Ravenell  
Felicita Saldana Richards  
Shawn K. Richards

### SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

#### Master of Accounting

##### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Earlyn P. Casimir  
Shainia Fevrier

##### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Sharice A. Francis  
Shieda D. James  
Matika S. John Pierre  
Hakim A. Potter  
Teshema T. Richards

#### Master of Business Administration

##### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Kahina N. Brannigan  
Jamila A. Felix  
Desiree A. Fleming  
Jahmila M. Matthew

##### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Michael J. Hawley  
Shona A. Hendrickson

#### Bachelor of Arts

##### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Enecia Brown  
Shanelle Nerissia Brown\*\*  
Jahsheniqe C. Letang\*\*  
Kieyanna S. Smith

##### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Shirlita R. Burnham  
Yudis P. Castillo Rodriguez  
Brandon A. A. Chambers\*  
Antonia T. Nisbett\*\*  
Radiance Peets\*  
Kaniel Isaiah Richardson\*\*  
Karrisah S. Schuster

Candace A. Smith\*\*  
Jonelle T. Smith  
Kai T. Vincent-Richardson

#### Bachelor of Business Administration

##### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Kisha M. Coulanges\*\*  
Ty-Shana Jada Maximea\*\*  
Ceara L. Roberts\*  
Paul M O. Smith\*  
DeVaughn R. Taylor  
Omar M. Thuneibat  
Kenecia Tiara Vanterpool\*

##### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Ayanna Casimir  
Neta Christopher  
Shamiana J. Crosse\*\*\*  
Celestial J. Dazle\*\*\*  
Camila M. Duran\*  
De'Janae Lauren Estrill\*  
Shania Mehkae Farrington  
Sabina M. Ferrol  
Lennard E. Finley  
Jackeima N. Flemming\*\*\*  
Kadel R. Hodge  
Anjali A. James  
Maliqqa Rashida Kamau\*  
Tatianna Khadoo  
Caryl Lockhart\*  
Charissa M Smith\*  
Tzipporah Z. Ward\*\*  
Dai'sha D. Webster\*  
Mekeda Nefertari Williams  
Ryan J. Williams

#### Associate of Arts

##### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Neta Christopher

### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

#### Master of Arts Education Leadership

##### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Darlene M. Richardson-Paul

##### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Ginjah Battiste

Sandra C. Douglas  
Sherell G. Smith  
Elisa Monie'e Thomas  
ChaResa White

#### Master of Arts Leadership

##### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Shinnel S. Charles

#### Bachelor of Arts

##### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Wandy F. C. Francis  
Ishara Nykila Monira Jendayi\*\*\*  
Mekisha Joseph

##### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Carmen C. Berkel\*\*\*  
Charles-Constant H. Rollan\*\*

#### Associate of Arts

Maguerita K. Lettsome

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

#### Master of Arts Psychology

##### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Lynnette Gumbs

#### Master of Public Administration

##### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Sherlon Adolphus Audain

##### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Omaira A. Rachid

#### Master of Social Work

##### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Tesha M. Tyson

#### Bachelor of Science

##### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Tawfiq B. Abdul Muhsen\*  
Elisabeth R. Leerdam\*  
Kayla Marie Williams\*\*

\*\*\**summa cum laude*    \*\**magna cum laude*    \**cum laude*

<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	<i>"With the Highest Praise" - an honor added to a diploma or degree for work that is considered to be of the highest quality. Grade Point Average - 3.75 - 4.0</i>
<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	<i>With Great Praise" - an honor added to a diploma or degree for work considered to be of much higher quality than average. Grade Point Average - 3.50 - 3.74</i>
<i>Cum Laude</i>	<i>With Praise" - an honor added to a diploma or degree for work that is above average. Grade Point Average - 3.25 - 3.49</i>

Please note that this is not an official listing of graduates. The names of students listed originate from applications for graduation. For official verification of graduates please contact University Registrar Office. We apologize for any inconvenience. St. Thomas: (340) 693-1160 | St. Croix: (340) 692-4103

## ORVILLE E. KEAN CAMPUS – ST. THOMAS

### Bachelor of Arts

#### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Ackeem Elvin Alexander  
Seronai E. Carty  
Allegra Christopher\*  
A'daasha Y. Davis\*  
Keicia C. Dawson\*\*  
Nalani R.K. Figueroa  
Shomauri J. Gumbs\*\*  
Jenelle Angela Harrigan\*  
Cheryl Hendricks-Thomas\*  
She'coy S. Jones\*  
Eunisha Esther Lawrence  
Staniqua H. Mason\*  
Miracle D. Moise  
Yari A. Munoz  
Beryl Elizabeth Nelson\*\*\*  
Nayeli O'Shaughnessy \*\*\*  
Alex J. Rivera\*\*  
Jabre S. Rivera  
Jemina J. Rouse  
William Steger

### Associate of Applied Science

#### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Kayah J. Henderson

### SCHOOL OF NURSING

### Bachelor of Science

#### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Terika M. Creque  
Desiree Perez

#### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Nouzie Aubin  
Tanisha T. Augustine  
Lovette Samantha Beazer\*  
Narilla A. Chalwell\*  
Mirisa C. Clendinen Richardson\*  
Demore Alberto Cole\*  
Love Joy Dadulo Richards\*  
Shenique S. Davis\*  
Rhonda Fleming  
Eryn C. L. Francavilla  
Gianna J. Greene  
Tyler T. James  
Ty'elle P. Jeppesen  
Ana C. John  
Tiffany A. Khadoo\*\*

Sheneice A. McKelly  
Nejah O. Ottley  
Stephanie C. Payne  
Anna Bianca Saliot\*\*\*  
Chris Juan Skerrit\*

### COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

### Master of Marine and Environmental Science

#### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Taylor Hobbs  
Sierrah R. Mueller

#### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Kayla Ann Budd  
Alexandra A. Cormack  
Olivia Nicole Diana  
Rebecca E. Gibbel  
Zachary Gregory  
Elizabeth N. Harris  
Erin N.R. Hollander  
Andrew J. McGregor  
Natalie K. Monnier  
Kianna F. Pattengale  
Julia Plotkin  
Kaitlin Rommelfanger  
Sabrina C. Sorace  
Matthew Francis Souza  
Davis Strobel

### Bachelor of Science

#### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Zachary David Briggs\*\*  
Kimon Eloi  
Miranda T. Goad\*\*\*  
Tione H. Grant\*  
Xiaoyu Rovanique Harris\*\*  
Theannah C. Hector  
Princess J. James  
Ellaina A. Wyllis\*\*

#### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Alina Adrien Nuel\*\*\*  
Calida A. Ambrose  
Shneideur Bredy  
Elisha L. Brumant  
Savannah R. Carroll\*\*\*  
Makayda S. Foy-Gustave

Tamia Kailyn Grant  
Dishon Jonas Heyliger\*  
Laesha J. K. Hobson  
Marya Hussein\*\*  
Cedricia L. Jeffers  
Dhakiya E. N. Liburd\*\*  
Tramoi J. Martin  
Ky Alphonso Odlum\*  
Se-An S. Rawlins\*  
Serena Nicolette Shillingford\*\*\*  
Shanya Treniece Taylor\*\*  
Stephanie Thomas\*\*  
Jahreem R. Thompson  
Lawrence A. White  
Malvern E. Williams Jr.

### Bachelor of Arts

#### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Ahmad Bahjat Abdul Muhsen  
Asanté Ambo  
NaOmi Tafara Marie Cagan  
Te-Nae' Tameka George  
Angelique B. Lettsome-Samuel

### Associate of Science

#### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Deon Reu-El St Jules

#### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Elisha L. Brumant  
Tamia Kailyn Grant  
K'Dani N. Paul  
Ryan E. Querrard  
Malvern E. Williams Jr.

\*\*\**summa cum laude*    \*\**magna cum laude*    \**cum laude*

*Summa Cum Laude*

*"With the Highest Praise" - an honor added to a diploma or degree for work that is considered to be of the highest quality. Grade Point Average - 3.75 - 4.0*

*Magna Cum Laude*

*With Great Praise" - an honor added to a diploma or degree for work considered to be of much higher quality than average. Grade Point Average - 3.50 - 3.74*

*Cum Laude*

*With Praise" - an honor added to a diploma or degree for work that is above average. Grade Point Average - 3.25 - 3.49*

Please note that this is not an official listing of graduates. The names of students listed originate from applications for graduation. For official verification of graduates please contact University Registrar Office. We apologize for any inconvenience. St. Thomas: (340) 693-1160 | St. Croix: (340) 692-4103

# PROGRAM - Albert A. Sheen Campus - St. Croix

**Janette Bowers, DNP, Associate Professor of Nursing  
COMMENCEMENT MARSHAL**

- \*PROCESSIONAL**.....“Pomp and Circumstance” (Elgar)  
UVI Concert Band, Dr. Erick C. Willie
- \*INVOCATION**.....Ashly Ravarie, Class of 2024
- \*NATIONAL ANTHEM**.....“Star Spangled Banner” (Key)  
UVI Concert Band
- \*VIRGIN ISLANDS MARCH**.....“Virgin Islands March” (Adams)  
UVI Concert Band
- OFFICIAL WELCOME**.....David Hall, S.J.D., President
- KEYNOTE ADDRESS**.....Keisha Lance Bottoms
- AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES**.....President Hall
- 2024 HONOREES**.....Keisha Lance Bottoms and Caroline Fawkes
- MUSICAL SELECTION**.....Voices of Inspiration Concert Choir  
Josephine Thomas-Lewis
- ADDRESS**.....Nadeje Barber, Class of 2024
- REMARKS**.....Oran C. Roebuck  
Vice Chair, UVI Board of Trustees
- The Honorable Novelle E. Francis, Jr.  
President of the 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
- The Honorable Stacey Plaskett  
Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress
- The Honorable Albert Bryan Jr.  
Governor, United States Virgin Islands
- MUSICAL SELECTION**.....UVI Concert Band, Dr. Erick C. Willie
- PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES**.....Camille A. McKayle, Ph.D., Provost

## CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Doctor of Philosophy in Creative Leadership for Innovation and Change • Master of Business Administration • Master of Arts Educational Leadership • Master of Arts Organizational Leadership • Master of Arts in Psychology • Master of Public Administration • Master of Social Work • Bachelor of Arts • Bachelor of Business Administration • Bachelor of Science • Associate of Applied Science • Associate of Science

- INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**.....Pamela Moolenaar-Wirsy, Ph.D.  
(Interim) Vice President for Institutional Advancement
- \*ALMA MATER**.....“Alma Mater by the Sea” (LaMotta)  
Voices of Inspiration Concert Choir
- \*BENEDICTION**.....Osje Wilson, Class of 2024
- \*RECESSIONAL**.....“Ceremonial Procession” (Elgar)  
UVI Concert Band, Dr. Erick C. Willie

\*Audience is required to stand.

Every effort is made to ensure that this program is accurate; circumstances beyond our control may have resulted in unintentional errors.

## ALBERT A. SHEEN CAMPUS – ST. CROIX

### Ph.D. in Creative Leadership for Innovation and Change

**SPRING SEMESTER 2024**  
Danny Philip

### SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

#### Master of Business Administration

**FALL SEMESTER 2023**

Shanda M. Albert

**SPRING SEMESTER 2024**

Kwame M Beaupierre  
Anika K. Morris  
Cachet Williams

#### Bachelor of Business Administration

**FALL SEMESTER 2023**

Daniel Delva  
Earlein M. Peterson  
Devaughn Taylor

**SPRING SEMESTER 2024**

Abdallah M. Abdallah\*\*  
Nadege Barber  
Dahlia Ferrol\*\*  
Tia Hughes\*  
Leah E. Jules  
Arlenys J. Montas\*  
Sierra Simmiolkjier\*\*  
Leiya Martinez Velazques\*  
Osje D. Wilson  
Candace A. Smith\*\*

### Bachelor of Arts

**FALL SEMESTER 2023**

Ashley Wattlely\*

**SPRING SEMESTER 2024**

Janelle T Boodoosingh  
Alissa N. Joseph

### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

#### Master of Arts Education Leadership

**SPRING SEMESTER 2024**

Anyha Lord-Jerris  
Laurel A. Hecker

#### Master of Arts Organizational Leadership

**SPRING SEMESTER 2024**

Leandra Reanne Kent  
Akilah N. Simmonds

### Bachelor of Arts

**SPRING SEMESTER 2024**

Doreen M. Davis\*\*\*  
Jayar A. Greenidge\*  
Hannah Taylor Wisdom\*

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

#### Master of Arts of Psychology

**SPRING SEMESTER 2024**

Mario F. Capriola  
Rebecca K. Martin

### Master of Public Administration

**FALL SEMESTER 2023**

Veronique S. Joseph

**SPRING SEMESTER 2024**

Velma M. Edwards

### Master of Social Work

**SPRING SEMESTER 2024**

Rheitzla R. Javois  
Maliesha N. Williams

### Bachelor of Science

**FALL SEMESTER 2023**

Bianca Alexis\*

**SPRING SEMESTER 2024**

Indica S. Este

### Bachelor of Arts

**FALL SEMESTER 2023**

Arlene V. JnBaptiste\*  
Omari Auguste

**SPRING SEMESTER 2024**

Jahlea Escobar  
Rahkiyah N. Felix\*\*\*  
Oswald C. Marsh\*  
Tijiera A. Matthew\*\*

### SCHOOL OF NURSING

#### Bachelor of Science

**FALL SEMESTER 2023**

Ramatou Maiga

**SPRING SEMESTER 2024**

Christine J. Gorge  
Tyler H. Hurtault  
Chaniyah Jacques\*  
Tamille Joseph  
Careema Lionel  
Naomi S. Papin  
Ashly A. Ravariere\*  
Teneyah T. Toussaint

\*\*\**summa cum laude*    \*\**magna cum laude*    \**cum laude*

*Summa Cum Laude*

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## ALBERT A. SHEEN CAMPUS – ST. CROIX

### COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

#### Bachelor of Science

##### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Shaynoah J. Bedford\*\*  
Sheneka D. Patrick  
Akyem D.M. Prince  
Shimeeka E. Stanley

##### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Suenietah E. Boodosingh  
Luke Kazim Kent Bullock\*\*\*  
Sulaiman Donaie\*\*\*  
Melissa Ferreras\*\*\*  
Jamila George  
Adriel R. Granger  
Ray O. Mathurin  
Emanuel Ramos  
Jedell Titus

#### Associate of Science

##### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Elisha Q. Rogers

##### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Rahim N. Donaie  
Melissa Ferreras  
Jamila George  
Adriel R. Granger  
Darren N. Paul

#### Associate of Applied Science

##### FALL SEMESTER 2023

Ky-mani Romney

##### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Jaheem N. Baptiste  
Kalid Bruce  
Desaun Dariah  
Jeremiah Douglas  
Dahlia Ferrol  
Afifa Gordon

\*\*\**summa cum laude*    \*\**magna cum laude*    \**cum laude*

*Summa Cum Laude*

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# Theron and Timothy Thomas

Musical Geniuses, Talented Innovators and Brilliant Seeds from Virgin Islands Soil

## Doctor of Humane Letters

Hailing from St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Theron and Timothy Thomas are the dynamic sibling duo known as “R. City” (short for “Rock City” and formerly Planet VI). Their music, a vibrant fusion of Caribbean influences with hip-hop, rap, and R&B, echoes their journey from a small island to international acclaim. Born into a musically inclined family, the Thomas brothers, who were raised in humble beginnings in Oswald Harris Courts, were winning local talent shows by the age of ten.



Theron Thomas Timothy Thomas

From a young age, they honed their craft, driven by a shared passion for music and storytelling.

R. City was formed in 1987, initially gaining recognition in the Virgin Islands. Primarily known as a songwriting and record production team, the duo amassed numerous credits for prominent music industry artists prior to signing with Kemosabe Records, an imprint of RCA Records in 2014. The following year, their single “Locked Away” (featuring Adam Levine from Maroon 5) peaked at number six on the Billboard Hot 100 and preceded the release of their debut studio album, *What Dreams Are Made Of* (2015).

Prior, the duo signed with Akon’s KonLive Distribution, an imprint of Geffen Records in 2007, having received their first commercial songwriting credit. Due to the long-term delay of their scheduled debut album for the label, “Wake the Neighbors,” they released a mixtape series followed by their 2008 debut single, “Losin’ It” which failed to chart. The duo parted ways with KonLive in 2011 and continued songwriting work. Since signing with Kemosabe, they often collaborate with its founder—Dr. Luke—to jointly co-write songs of which he produced.

While releasing solo material, R. City wrote and produced for various artists including Sean Kingston (“Take You There”), Miley Cyrus (“We Can’t Stop”), Nicki Minaj (“Only”), Rihanna (“Pour It Up”), Akon, Lizzo, Janet Jackson, Beyoncé, Justin Timberlake, Tyla, Doja Cat, Saweeti and more. The duo has also contributed to numerous Grammy Award-nominated albums, including Rihanna’s *Unapologetic* (which won Best Urban Contemporary Album), Jennifer Hudson’s self-titled album (which won Best R&B Album), and Ariana Grande’s *My Everything* (which was nominated for Best Pop Vocal Album). Theron won the Grammy Award for Songwriter of the Year, Non-Classical for his songwriting work throughout 2023 at the 66th Annual Grammy Awards.

Beyond their professional achievements, Theron and Timothy, who were presented with the U.S. Virgin Islands Keys to the City by the U.S. Virgin Islands Legislature in 2016, remain deeply connected to their roots in the Virgin Islands and champion the Territory’s beauty and uniqueness wherever they go. They continue to use their platform to promote the islands as a cultural and artistic hub, showcasing the talent and creativity that the Virgin Islands has to offer on a global scale.

# Caroline F. Fawkes

Military Trailblazer, Woman of Excellence and Unwavering Dedication to Public Service

## Doctor of Humane Letters

Caroline Felicia Fawkes (nee Adams) was born in Frederiksted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands to Ruby and Ferdinand Adams. She is the second of four (siblings: Cleone, Clement and Catherine). She graduated from St. Croix Central High School in June 1979 and shortly thereafter joined the Virgin Islands National Guard. After Military Basic Training, she was selected to attend the Teletype Operator Course, 72E Military Occupational. In pursuit of her aspiration to be an aviator, Mrs. Fawkes attended the first-ever officer candidate school in the Virgin Islands and graduated as a second lieutenant in August 1982.



Caroline F. Fawkes

In June 1985, Mrs. Fawkes attended Helicopter (Rotary Wing) Flight School at Fort Rucker, Alabama, attaining a significant milestone as the first female Virgin Islander to earn the status of pilot. Her remarkable accomplishments in aviation were not limited to helicopters; she expanded her skills by attending Fixed Wing School and graduated as an Airplane (Fixed Wing) pilot in 1992. In 1997, she earned her Airline Transport Pilot License.

She is the first and only female State Army Aviation Officer within the National Guard (1986-2002), and the first and only female within the Armed Forces to pilot the C-23B Sherpa Aircraft (1992-2002). She obtained the Master Aviator Wings for over sixteen years and 4,000 Accident-Free flight hours. She was the tenth African American female to attend and graduate from flight school. She faced many challenges which she had to overcome, most of which she plans to describe in her memoir which will be published in a few years.

Mrs. Fawkes retired from the military in 2012 as a Colonel, after thirty-two years of exemplary and distinguished service. She held a diverse range of officer assignments culminating as Director of the Joint Visitor's Bureau and Director of Plans and Operations for Joint Task Force Guantanamo in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Her highest military awards are the Legion of Merit and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal signed by Barack Obama, first black President of the United States. Her achievements were lauded by the 19th Legislature of the Virgin Islands through a Bill introduced in 1993 by Former Senator Adelbert M. Bryan, establishing a scholarship in her name for individuals interested in pursuing an aviation degree.

Mrs. Fawkes was appointed as Supervisor of the Elections System of the Virgin Islands in 2013. She is charged with administering elections and voter registration in the territory. She has championed numerous progressive and innovative upgrades – such as Early Voting in 2014, this process has continued to grow each election cycle and Voting Centers in 2020, which means a voter can go to any Voting Center in their District. The Elections System celebrated sixty years (February 20, 2023) under her visionary leadership with programs and initiatives which have documented and digitally preserved the political milestones of the electoral process in the USVI and to date serves as the best and only depository of its kind in the VI recording the system's history.

In July 2023, Mrs. Fawkes was voted by the Virgin Islands community as a Virgin Islands Living Legend in commemoration of the 175th Emancipation Celebration. She received the most votes territorially.

On October 14, 2023, the Virgin Islands National Guard celebrated fifty (50) years and honored Colonel Fawkes as one of the Honorees.

Mrs. Fawkes holds lifetime membership in the Virgin Islands National Guard Association, Army Aviation Association, The Ninety Nines International Association of Women Pilots, Helicopter Pilots Association International and the American Legion where she serves as Post Commander of Bromley Berkeley American Legion Post 133. She has been a Legionnaire for over 14 years and is a 2013 graduate of the American Legion National College.

She has served in many nonprofits and is currently the Chairwoman of the Frederiksted Health Clinic, where she has been a Board of Director Member for over thirteen years. She served as a Trustee of Our Town Frederiksted for three years and is now currently a member. She is a member of the VI Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Inc. and the St. Croix Island Paradise Chapter of the Ninety-Nines. She attends the Faith Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Mrs. Caroline F. Fawkes is married to Mr. Avery A. Fawkes.

Her life motto, "Obstacles Are Only Opportunities In Disguise," reflects her positive and determined outlook for life's experiences. She has always been about service. Her legacy stands as a testament to dedication, determination, and the indelible mark of success she has left particularly for women in the military and aviation landscape of her native home, the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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#### **School of Business**

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#### **School of Education**

Karen Brown, Ph.D.

#### **College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences**

Kimarie Engerman, Ph.D.

#### **School of Nursing**

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#### **College of Science and Mathematics**

Sandra L. Romano, Ph.D.



# University of the Virgin Islands Board of Trustees

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## Class of 2024 Officers

### **St. Croix**

Abdallah Abdallah  
President

Osje Wilson  
Vice President

Nadege Barber  
Secretary/Treasurer

Class Adjectives - M.V.P. - Meticulous, Valiant, Persistent

### **St. Thomas**

Tatianna Khadoo  
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Treasurer

Dhakiya Liburd  
Secretary

Shamiana Crosse  
Public Relations

Class Adjectives - Resilient, Innovative, Determined

## The Mace

The mace of the University of the Virgin Islands is the symbol both of presidential responsibilities and authority. Carved on the island of St. Croix from the wood of a local mahogany tree, one of God's most enduring symbols of life, the mace says that the responsibilities of the president are without end. It also says that the president cannot discharge those responsibilities without authority. The mace is a 3-foot-long mahogany cylinder 1.5 inches in diameter topped by a four-inch mahogany ball into which a sterling silver reproduction of the University logo is set. The sterling silver logo was crafted on the island of St. Thomas.

## Academic Regalia

The wearing of caps, gowns and hoods at graduation exercises is one of the oldest and most democratic of collegiate customs. It originated in the Middle Ages when the first universities were founded as clerical institutions. Besides distinguishing the wearers from laymen, the costume served a very practical purpose in the unheated churches and cloisters of the time. It often added grace to the individuals and impressiveness to the ceremonies in which they took part. Its chief virtue, however, was that it eliminated undemocratic differences in dress which might otherwise have marred an essentially democratic occasion.

Under the intercollegiate system adopted in 1893, the Oxford cap or "mortarboard" is worn for all degrees, but the doctor is entitled to a gold tassel and optional velvet cap. The sleeve of the master's gown is distinguished from the bachelor's by a half-moon cut at the end. The doctor's gown has faced-down fronts, and round bell sleeves with bars of velvet. The master's degree hood is longer than the bachelor's and the doctor's is longer than the master's. All hoods are lined with silk showing the official colors of the institution that conferred the degree.

The doctoral, bachelor's and master's degree candidates at the University of the Virgin Islands wear hoods lined with Caribbean blue and white, the school colors. The hoods are also trimmed with the various colors outlined below to signify the degrees earned and areas of study. According to the Academic Costume Code, at most U.S. institutions the color of velvet trim indicates the following academic disciplines: agriculture/maize; economics/copper; education/light blue; engineering/orange; fine arts/brown; home economics/maroon; law/purple; library science/lemon; music/pink; nursing/apricot; philosophy/dark blue; physical education/sage green; public administration/peacock blue; public health/salmon pink; science/golden yellow; social science/cream; social work/citron; speech/silver gray.

## Alma Mater By the Sea

Words & Music by Wilbur "Bill" LaMotta

Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater  
Beside the blue Caribbean calm  
Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater  
'neath sunny skies and whisp'ring palm

Proud we are to tread thy ways  
Loud and true we voice our praise  
Open door thy every portal  
'mid sand and sea and golden days

Long the ties that will endure  
Strong in heart and memory  
Faithfully we'll always honor  
Our Alma Mater by the sea

Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater  
For guiding stars so brightly shown  
Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater  
How wide the bound'ries we have flown

Sing we now of bright tomorrows  
Yesterday we never knew  
Walking down thy halls of wisdom  
The towerin' heights are all in view

Here to us on islands famed  
Dear to us thy name will be  
University of the Virgin Islands  
Our Alma Mater by the sea.