

Sixty-Second Annual

Commencement



ST. THOMAS

Thursday, the Fourteenth of May
Two Thousand and Twenty-Six
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 Fifteenth of May
Two Thousand and Twenty-Six
One O'clock in the Afternoon
Island Center of the Performing Arts
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

President's Message

Commencement at the University of the Virgin Islands is a defining moment that reflects the rhythm, resilience, and richness of our Caribbean spirit. It is where tradition meets transformation; where years of perseverance, sacrifice, and growth converge into a single, powerful milestone. Today, we celebrate not only your achievement, but the strength of your families, communities, and culture that have supported you along the way.

Class of 2026, you have reached this moment by embodying the powerful themes you have chosen to define your journey; on St. Thomas, **A.R.C.: Ambitious. Resilient. Committed**, and on St. Croix, **A.C.E.: Ambitious. Courageous. Empowered**. Together, these words reflect the full measure of who you are: driven in your aspirations, steadfast through challenges, bold in your courage, and grounded in a deep sense of purpose. These are not simply themes; they are lived experiences, evident in every obstacle you have overcome, every goal you have pursued, and every step that has brought you to this defining moment.



Safiya George, Ph.D.

As you cross this stage, know that you are not simply earning a degree, you are stepping into your responsibility as leaders, innovators, and contributors to a world that needs your voice and your vision. You carry with you the legacy of UVI and the promise of what is yet to come.

As you move forward, I offer you this charge: leave your thumbprint wherever you go. Make your mark in ways that inspire, uplift, and empower others. Let your presence create opportunity. Let your work reflect excellence. Let your character speak before you do. Whether in boardrooms, classrooms, communities, or across continents, ensure that your impact is both meaningful and lasting.

Stay grounded in your values, even as your horizons expand. Do not fear setbacks, they are often the catalysts for your greatest breakthroughs. Carry your Caribbean HBCU identity with pride, and let it be a source of strength, creativity, and connection in all that you do.

Class of 2026, you are ready. You are equipped. And you are needed. Congratulations on this extraordinary achievement. I am incredibly proud of you, and I look forward to witnessing the indelible mark you will leave on the world.

With Care,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Safiya George', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Safiya George, Ph.D., APRN BC, FAAN, FAANP, FNAP
President

Keynote Speaker: Adam O'Neal

Award-Winning Soca Artist & Celebrated VI Cultural Icon

Doctor of Humane Letters

Adam O'Neal, affectionately known as "Adam O," is an internationally acclaimed Virgin Islands singer, songwriter, producer, entrepreneur, and cultural ambassador whose talent, creativity, and influence have transcended borders, helping to elevate local music and culture on the global stage. Raised in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, with deep roots in the British Virgin Islands, O'Neal has distinguished himself through his dynamic performances, innovative artistry, and distinctive cross-genre sound that resonates with audiences. Through his music, leadership, and community engagement, he has emerged as a dynamic symbol of Virgin Islands talent, creativity, and cultural impact, inspiring audiences regionally and internationally.



Adam O'Neal

O'Neal's journey reflects a powerful combination of discipline, service, and creative excellence. He is a graduate of the Aviation Institute of Maintenance, where he earned his FAA-certified Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) license. He went on to serve honorably in the United States Marine Corps for ten years, attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6). During his military service, he completed two deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, working as an aviation helicopter mechanic on the UH-1N Huey and AH-1W Cobra aircraft with Squadron HMLA-167. He credits his military experience with instilling the resilience, leadership, and discipline that have shaped his successful transition into the entertainment industry.

A lifelong passion for music—first cultivated in church through singing and playing the drums—has evolved into a globally recognized career. As an artist, O'Neal is known for blending Soca with Kompa, Zouk, Afro-Caribbean rhythms, and R&B influences, creating a distinctive sound that resonates across cultures. His catalog includes widely recognized tracks such as "Warming Up," "She Ready," "Stress Bout Dat," and "Wine & Dip," with "Warming Up" alone surpassing 6 million streams. Collectively, his work has garnered over 18 million streams across platforms and more than 14 million views on YouTube.

His performance highlights include opening for Tessanne Chin at Hard Rock Live Orlando, performing at the private residence of cricket legend Brian Lara, and becoming the first artist to perform with a live band at Government House in Christiansted, St. Croix.

O'Neal has also collaborated with leading artists and producers including Nailah Blackman, Travis World, DJ Private Ryan, DJ Mac, Nadia Batson and Crash Dummy.

Keynote Speaker: Adam O'Neal

Award-Winning Soca Artist & Celebrated VI Cultural Icon

Doctor of Humane Letters

His work on the WYFL riddim places him alongside major artists such as Vybz Kartel, Mavado, Skeng, and Nigy Boy.

Throughout his career, O'Neal has earned numerous honors recognizing both his musical excellence and cultural influence. In 2025, he was awarded the Virgin Islands Icon Award—one of the Territory's highest cultural distinctions—alongside accolades such as the Trailblazer Award, CIBC (Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce) National Music Festival Award for Musica Performance, Stage Award for Performer of the Year, and the 2024 British Virgin Islands Road March Award for Musical Performance, Stage Award for Performer of the Year, and the 2024 British Virgin Islands Road March.

Beyond his artistry, O'Neal is a visionary entrepreneur and creative leader. Through his company, Adam O Entertainment, O'Neal manages his publishing, overseeing copyrights, bookings, and commercial services. He has also served as a brand ambassador for Viya (now BRAVA) and Stoli Vodka through the West Indies Company and continues to expand his influence across entertainment and digital media. In addition to being a singer and songwriter, he also directs most of his visual content.

Equally important is his dedication to community and philanthropy. O'Neal has supported initiatives such as the Albert Bryan Jr. Golf Classic benefiting Jobs for America's Graduates and has contributed to the Boys & Girls Club of St. Croix through proceeds from his performances and creative work. He remains deeply committed to youth empowerment, mentorship, and cultural preservation.

O'Neal's journey reflects purpose in motion—rooted in the Virgin Islands, strengthened through service, and expressed on the global stage. He embodies discipline, creativity, and cultural pride, and his influence continues to grow across audiences and borders. As a cultural ambassador, he carries the spirit of the Territory while remaining grounded in the community that shaped him. His path reflects a commitment to excellence and to using his gifts with intention. In doing so, he inspires the next generation to pursue their passions and lead with purpose. His story serves as a powerful example of what can be achieved through dedication, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to one's purpose.

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. The center closed in 2017 due to Hurricanes Irma and Maria, and the UVI St. John Community Resource & Development Center opened in 2025 as an extension of UVI and UVI CELL. 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 Elridge W. Blake 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. Safiya George began her tenure as president of the University of the Virgin Islands on August 1, 2024, becoming the first alumni president to take the helm at UVI. She succeeds Dr. David Hall, who was named president on August 1, 2009.

UVI HISTORY

Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster 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. Today, UVI enrolls approximately 2,000 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 launched its first Ph.D. program in Fall 2016, marking a significant milestone in the institution's academic evolution. Fifty doctoral candidates joined the inaugural cohort to pursue the Ph.D. in Creative Leadership for Innovation and Change—a program designed to develop forward-thinking leaders equipped to drive positive social and economic transformation. The cohort represented a broad range of backgrounds, including lifelong Virgin Islanders, U.S. mainlanders, and international students from across the Caribbean and beyond. The idea for the program grew out of a recognized need for innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to leadership. Creative leadership emerged as an ideal focus area—one that could unite diverse academic disciplines and respond to the Territory's and region's call for capable, visionary change-makers. Early academic leadership at the University collaborated with institutional partners and experts in the field to shape the curriculum. Working alongside colleagues from Buffalo State University and Fielding Graduate University, UVI developed a unique and collaborative program structure—one that balances rigorous academic engagement with real-world application. The program combines online coursework with in-person residencies held each semester. These residencies allow students to work with global thought leaders and master practitioners, providing opportunities for immersive learning, idea exchange, and collaborative exploration of complex challenges. Instead of traditional classrooms, the program utilizes flexible, dynamic workspaces that support adult learners in co-creating knowledge with faculty and peers. Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the Ph.D. in Creative Leadership for Innovation and Change prepares students through an extensive interdisciplinary curriculum focused on relevant and transformative leadership practices.

Specialization Tracks:

All admitted students select an approved specialization track as part of the program:

- **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.
- **Educational/Academic Leadership for Change (ELC) Track**
 - Graduates receive a Ph.D. from the University of the Virgin Islands a graduate certificate from the University of the Virgin Islands.
- **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.
- **Organizational Leadership for Change (OLC) Track**
 - Graduates receive a Ph.D. from the University of the Virgin Islands a graduate certificate from the University of the Virgin Islands.

College of the Virgin Islands Class of 1976

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary

MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

College of the Virgin Islands

Madonia H. Blake † • Angel Boschulte • Elizabeth Bradshaw • Evadney Hodge • Corine D. King • Jean L. Olney • Kulwant K. Padda • Claretta J. Varner • Valaria Wheatley

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

College of the Virgin Islands

Raymond C. Andrews • Janet M. Archer • Maria E. Ayala † • Augustus J. Beaupierre • Joanne M. Blyden • Charles M. Bonanno • Ralf H. Boulon, jr., • Antonia T. Brathwaite • Loretta T. Brathwaite † • Sherril L. Brown † • Alscess G. Brown • Buston L. Browne • Joseph C. Caines • Robert E. Chen • Elsie E. Chinnery • Freddie Clarke • John B. Coughlin • Vernon A. Daniels • Donna M. De Chabert • Jacqueline G. Dennis • Hedy A. Deuschle • Judith R. Doran • Janis A. Esannason • Rubina M. Estrill • Daphne D. Fleming • Leandre E. Francis • Frederica W. Graneau • Iona R. Greenaway † • Shirley M. Groomes • Michael D. Hardin • Carol M. Henneman • Diane P. Heskey • Nurbert A. Hughes • Dean W. Hulse • Alvincent Hutson • Valentine L. Ible • Anastasie V. Jackson • Carol A. Jacobs • Cordell A. Jacobs • Laurent D. Javois • Lynn S. John • Norman H. John-Baptiste • Naomi H. Joseph • Claina Letang • Patricia A. Malcolm • Alvina M. Martin • Hertica Y. Martin • Marla L. Matthew • Cleave A. McBean, Sr. • Leila McFarlane • Lanis I. Merchant • Rudolph A. Milligan † • Ira R. Mills † • Sulaiman K. Mohammed • Laura Moolenaar † • Bilal S. Muhammad • Bianca L. Mussenden † • Iris M. O'Donoghue • Erica I. Peets • Cledy P. Penn • Lenamay J. Pereira • Linda M. Radix • Paul T. Radix • James A. Richards † • Eryle A. Rohlsen, Jr. † • Melsada C. Romney † • Vin G. Samuel • Winifred N. Saunders • Dorothy M. Schooler • Henry H. Smith • Laurie H. Soto • Lauren C. Thomas • Peter A. Thomas • Bentley Thomas • Francis Tobienne • Jennifer A. Turnbull • Louis A. Turnbull • Yvonne A. Vanterpool † • Irene V. Walcott • Jackwrel A. Wallace † • Keith M. Williams • Gregory E. Willocks • Robert L. Wilson

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

College of the Virgin Islands

• Bryce A. Sebastien •

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE

College of the Virgin Islands

Linnell Abraham • Elizabeth L. Ball • Eleanore G. Bennett • Pearl D. Christian † • Robert L. Cobb • Erminie Cobb • Josephine Corriette • Angelina M. De Windt-Smith • Leornice Donovan • Rita E. Durant • Cheryl D. Fleming • Rose M. Gordon • James F. Greene II • Arlene E. Hardy • Harold Hodge • Browlia M. Kelly-Saunders • Arlene E. Lake • Josephine V. Richards • Veronica L. Richardson • Marietta B. Roberts • Judith V. Rogers • Adria R. Sibilly • Erika E. Smith • Francis Tobienne, Sr. † • Debra L. Tonachel • Ellen A. Washington

† = Deceased

PROGRAM - Orville E. Kean Campus - St. Thomas

**Andre'a J. Dorsey, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Education and Leadership Studies
COMMENCEMENT MARSHAL**

***PROCESSIONAL**“Pomp and Circumstance” (Elgar)
UVI Concert Band, Dionne R. Donadelle

***INVOCATION**.....Trevincia Browne, Class of 2026

***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 WELCOMESafiya George, Ph.D., President

KEYNOTE ADDRESS.....Adam O’Neal

AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREE.....President George

2026 HONOREE.....Adam O’Neal

MUSICAL SELECTION.....“Celebrate Fire”
Arranged by Dionne R. Donadelle
Featuring 2026 Graduates M'Kayla Eustache and Kayla Metayer
UVI Concert Band, Dionne R. Donadelle

ADDRESS.....Zeidan Bass, Class of 2026

REMARKS.....Henry C. Smock, Esq.
Chair, UVI Board of Trustees

The Honorable Stacey E. Plaskett, Esq.
Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress

The Honorable Milton Potter
President of the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

The Honorable Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Acting Governor of the United States Virgin Islands

MUSICAL SELECTION....."I Sing Because I’m Happy" (Martin and Gabriel)
Arranged by Rollo Dilworth
UVI Concert Choir, Neomi Toussaint-Williams

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES.....Lora Bailey, Ph.D., Provost

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

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

INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.....Ivo Philbert
Vice President for Institutional Advancement (Interim)

CLOSING REMARKS.....President George

***ALMA MATER**.....“Alma Mater by the Sea” (LaMotta)
Arranged by Francis Callwood
UVI Concert Choir and UVI Concert Band

***BENEDICTION**.....Hilary Roberts, Class of 2026

***RECESSIONAL**.....“A Beacon of Light ” (Roszell)
UVI Concert Band, Dionne R. Donadelle

*Audience is required to stand.

Every effort is made to ensure 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

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Nicole S. Barker

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Kia A. Glimps-Smith
Tanya Knudsen
Eion Maison
Michealrose A. Ravalier
Shamika K. Thomas

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

Bachelor of Science

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

EliYah Stevens

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Master of Accounting

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Najae D. Harris

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Ramiz Jean Mali Hurtault

Master of Business Administration

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Nadia V. Moorehead
Dakarai K. Potter

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Tatianna E.S. Khadoo
Catsanada E.S. Liburd-Davis
Caryl Lockhart
Bianca M. Maduro
Christopher E. McDonald
Osje D. Wilson

Bachelor of Arts

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Kayla Browne
Athniel Thomas
Shomari Young

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Duranee Birmingham*
Onika A. Bloice
K'Lah A. Jacobs
Omar Mike***
Lluvia P. F. Munoz Morillo**
Mashama Consuilo Powell
Andra Rogers
Fern Darnall Ryan-Francis***
Gene T. Serrano**
Moesha A. Stanley**
Mitchell S. Turnbull*
Alana E. Urena
Eveth Webster-Violet***

Bachelor of Business Administration

FALL SEMESTER 2025

N'Kaila C. Battiste
Jaycrislie A. Boon**
C'Anna N. Cornelius
Lennycia Lillian Finley
Kayla Metayer*
D'nique R. Potter*
Deshana A. Jada Thompson
Jaiel W. Wyllis**

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Kashay K. Bass
Trevincia T. Browne**
Makayla D. Herbert Browne*
Eversley S. Davis**
Oliver Delos-Santos Perez**
Jalil N. Langston
Calvin C. Ledee*
Nicholas P. Magras
Ashley Pichardo-Portes*
Empress-Atiyah H.M. Potter*
Tremain Richardson**
Kitori M. Thomas
Nasir A. Watson
Rae'sheeda B. White*

Associate of Applied Science

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Lucrecia Edmee-Jn Baptiste
Shamara Garnett
Otensia Peets-Allamby
Monifa Potter
Neville Williams

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Moriex M. Webster

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Master of Arts Educational Leadership

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Keoshia C. Brown
Jeniah E. Norris
Tanika Jahnelle Phillips

Education Specialist School Psychology

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Jannelle C. Benjamin
Aquisha A. Peets
Antonique K. Warner
Tiana E. Wilson

Master of Arts Organizational Leadership

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Angela E. Blake

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Shirlita R. Burnham
Gina Secares Cajocson
Alester S. Carty
Hollis Richardson
James Primus Thornton

Bachelor of Arts

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Alexis A. Doway*
Elijah D. Hood**
Antonia A. Joseph Philips***
Monnicia D. Martin*
Sigorney Sahia Robinson***
Shadira Thomas**
Khoyia Keshone Webbe

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Master of Arts Psychology

***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) 692-4098

ORVILLE E. KEAN CAMPUS – ST. THOMAS

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Tyra McCray
Jahmira Rogers
Kyan E. Walters

Master of Social Work

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Magualie M. Titre

Master of Public Administration

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Taylor M. Nunley

Bachelor of Science

FALL SEMESTER 2025

M'Kayla J. Eustache

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Omia N. Chalwell***
T'Nesha J. Martin
Daniel E. Paulius***
Gabriel L. Reed

Bachelor of Arts

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Miguel A. Bougouneau*
Rickel T. Dupigny**
Ronell Alena Hansen
Shahiba E. Mitchell-Mark
Chrystine K. Payne
Gimel H. Pinto

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Loren J. Baptiste*
Wilah-Marie P. Baptiste
Jamisha N. Belange*
Shenoy T. Brookes
Briana N. Burgin**
Renesha S. Daley
Brittney Frederick*
Vashanyah J. Glasford
Teague J. Hewlett**
Janee C. L. Joseph
Trinity J. Kedar*
Ashawn-Taedo A. Phillips
Shani A. Richardson***
Akeba K. Z. Shillingford*
Desteny A. Sweeney
Sydney A. Taylor
MiChille A. Turnbull †

Associate of Applied Science

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Nygell E. Petersen

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Bachelor of Science

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Abigail Albelo Lorenzo
Antonea Angol*
Makeba A. Baron*
Nylani K. Bernier*
Uchenna S. Ferris**
Mona S. Graham*
Ashlee Sh'Neya Henry
Ajahni I. Jeffers
Jasmin Samantha Johnson
Jenai E. Richards
A'ejah Am'unique Rojas*
Christina R. Tavernier
Keziah Careema Wattley**
Juleen L. Williams*

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Master of Marine and Environmental Science

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Laura M. Bloem
Sarai A. N. Hutchinson
Corinne Johnson
Naomi D. Scott
Joshua Soll
Lila L. Uzzell
Veronica G. Williamson

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Amanda Badai
Emma J. Dlutkowski
Hannah T. Ferraro
Abigail Lewine
Spencer W. Parr
LeeAnn Sheets
Madeline Talnagi

Professional Science Masters

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Shelby M. Adkins
Taquanna C. Baron

Helen M. Holt
Kahlifah K. Powell
Daizy A. Prieto-Murillo

Bachelor of Science

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Kyle K. Davis
Mohammad N. Qoed
Hilary A. Roberts
Faika S. Salem***
Kadejsha Tonge*

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Lilian Alexander**
Megan E. Anthony***
Waniya Baig***
Zeidan D. Bass
Treston E. Benjamin
Brandon S. Boodram
Dariely Bort-Santana
Aushaun J. Brown***
Elijah X. Callwood
Brenique D. Dawson
Dericia M. A. Dorius
Kianno T. J. Fraser*
Ne'Kye O. George
Aiden A. Glasford*
Denny A. Gonzalez**
Lorely Granados**
Jashorn Qadir Hodge
Kimi-Lee A. Knight**
Kali A. Mills*
Esosa E. Osaro
Maura Monee Richardson
Michael G. Roberts*
Abigail A. Rose***
Aisha K. Sabur
Darnilla Kur Samuel***
Aaliah Heart A. Saret**
Jhamori Elijah Sargeant
Khaleel M. Smith*
Tara Nichole Thompson*
KhaySaun I. Vanterpool

Bachelor of Arts

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Asha Hyndman

Associate of Science

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Brenique D. Dawson
Denny A. Gonzalez

***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.

† = Deceased

We apologize for any inconvenience. St. Thomas: (340) 693-1160 | St. Croix: (340) 692-4098

PROGRAM - Albert A. Sheen Campus - St. Croix

Meria J. Marcel-Lewis, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
COMMENCEMENT MARSHAL

***PROCESSIONAL**“Pomp and Circumstance” (Elgar)
UVI Concert Band, Erick C. Willie, Ph.D.

***INVOCATION**.....Bethel Quezada, Class of 2026

***NATIONAL ANTHEM**.....“Star Spangled Banner” (Key)
UVI Concert Band, Erick C. Willie, Ph.D.

***VIRGIN ISLANDS MARCH**.....“Virgin Islands March” (Adams)
UVI Concert Band, Erick C. Willie, Ph.D.

OFFICIAL WELCOMESafiya George, Ph.D., President

KEYNOTE ADDRESS.....Adam O’Neal

AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREE.....President George

2026 HONOREE.....Rena Brodhurst

MUSICAL SELECTION.....UVI Voices of Inspiration Concert Choir
Josephine Thomas-Lewis

ADDRESS.....SaVaughna John-Baptiste, Class of 2026

REMARKS.....Henry C. Smock, Esq.
Chair, UVI Board of Trustees

The Honorable Stacey E. Plaskett, Esq.
Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress

The Honorable Milton Potter
President of the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

The Honorable Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor of the United States Virgin Islands

The Honorable Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor of the United States Virgin Islands

MUSICAL SELECTION.....UVI Concert Band
Erick C. Willie, Ph.D.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES.....Lora Bailey, Ph.D., Provost

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

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

INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.....Ivo Philbert
Vice President for Institutional Advancement (Interim)

CLOSING REMARKS.....President George

***ALMA MATER**.....“Alma Mater by the Sea” (LaMotta)
UVI Voices of Inspiration Concert Choir

***BENEDICTION**.....Kerlyn Constable, Class of 2026

***RECESSIONAL**.....“Ceremonial Procession” (Elgar)
UVI Concert Band, Erick C. Willie, Ph.D.

*Audience is required to stand.

Every effort is made to ensure 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 2026

Joseph Bess
Gerene Joseph

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

Bachelor of Science

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Edna Alfred

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

SaVaughna D. John-Baptiste
Sumayah Bryan
Keturah M. Nelson

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Master of Accounting

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Marlene Boynes

Master of Business Administration

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Michael Bell

Bachelor of Arts

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Kayla Browne
Shakeja Clarke
Jabari Fleming

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Jordan Brodhurst**
Creg C. D. Brown
Shellyna John
Shania LaTouche

Bachelor of Business Administration

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Kerlyn Constable
Reann H. Joseph*

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Jahleyah M. Cumberbatch**
Shantelle S. Esprit
Petreen T. C. Gordon*
Maelen J. Hodge-Philogene
Grace K. Kabbah
Kailar A. S. Mills*
Bethel M. Quezada
Keshyra A. Quinn
Jamisha A. White
Zahrah C. Williams

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Master of Arts Educational Leadership

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Marisska Richards

Education Specialist School Psychology

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Rashida K. Lester

Master of Arts Organizational Leadership

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Ayanda Daniels

Bachelor of Arts

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Arlene C. Ashe*
Denae N. Bell*
Nashanta M. Lindsey-Farrell
Jah-Reema J. Pryce***

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Master of Arts Psychology

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Deja M. Charles
Rifkah Deane

Master of Public Administration

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Neoshia Poleon

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Tannea J. Chelcher
Rahkiyah N. Felix

Master of Social Work

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Nakisha L. Bermudez-Joseph
Julie George-Deterville
Zaria K. Jeffers
Damalia K. Simmonds

Bachelor of Science

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Ria Lang**

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Benaiah Pethuel Francis
Alondra A. Henry*
Neishalee Perez*

Bachelor of Arts

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Empress D. J. Heywood**
Rickel T. Dupigny **

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Dione Bannis *
Shaneah Brandy***
Maria J. Brown*
Genesis Y. Carrion
Meagan E. Dissinger
Maricela Edwards ***
Shaneya Forbes
Kevrae U. Hendrickson
Ifa Inuka
Kendalisse Languedoc
Yvonilyn Lawrence**
Tyron Joshua B. Orendain*
Vashti E. Parris
Larissa Serrano*
Anjeness N. Williams**
Te'Anna M. Williams*

***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

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ALBERT A. SHEEN CAMPUS – ST. CROIX

Associate of Arts

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Walidah Henley

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Bachelor of Science

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Samira Abed*
Letisha M. Ayala*
M’Kaila C. Caines**
Ayana S. Jones*
Lakesha Laudat
Jacinta T. Mark**
Aliya A. Messer
Analjah M. Peters*
Earlein M. Peterson*
Alicia U. Peterson*
Jasmine M. Roberts***
Weena Woodrup**

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Bachelor of Science

FALL SEMESTER 2025

N’Bari Alexander★
Dazonte Mathurin

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Steven Baker
Genaro J. Fores
Milraen Hodge-Grande**
Darren Paul
Sonaai S Oscar***
Chaenelle Ravariere
Eli Prince Richard
Adonai J. Smith

Bachelor of Arts

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Salim Shulterbrandt

Associate in Applied Science

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Ze’Shea Graham
Raheem Smart

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Rosean E. Christopher
Ahijah N. John
Nathan B. John
Rodney A. Ramcharan 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

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★ Indicates students commissioned into the United States Army

Rena Brodhurst

Doctor of Humane Letters

For more than four decades, Rena Brodhurst carried forward a profound responsibility—to inform, to uplift, and to give voice to a community whose stories deserved to be told. As publisher and editor of *The St. Croix Avis* — the longest continuously published newspaper in the history of the U.S. Virgin Islands—she advanced a multigenerational legacy defined by courage, conviction, and an unwavering commitment to the principles of free speech and a free press. Through periods of profound crisis and transformation, her leadership elevated the newspaper beyond a publication into a trusted civic institution and a mirror of community life.



Rena Brodhurst

Brodhurst, also an editor, took over the helm of *The St. Croix Avis* six years after her father, Canute A. Brodhurst Sr., passed away in 1980. She served on the Board of Directors after he died.

A graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Management, Brodhurst later became Publisher and Editor of the daily newspaper, carrying forward a proud family legacy and shaping its continued presence in the Virgin Islands.

Brodhurst frequently acknowledges that her leadership and sense of purpose were deeply rooted in the example set by her parents, Canute A. Brodhurst Sr. and Maria E. Pinder. She often speaks of the wisdom they instilled and the strength of their prayers as guiding forces that inspired her daily commitment to serving the community. Her father, who led *The St. Croix Avis* for 40 years prior to his passing, established a standard of integrity and service that Brodhurst carried forward with distinction.

Across a combined 84 years of stewardship, father and daughter remained steadfast in their commitment to the principles of free speech and a free press—values deemed so vital by the Founding Fathers that they were enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Over the years, Brodhurst shepherded *The St. Croix Avis* through the devastating hurricane Hugo in 1989, eight governors, economic booms and busts, and all the many large and small historical events over her 44-year tenure.

After the cataclysmic disaster wrought by Hurricane Hugo, Brodhurst had the opportunity to meet with Hess Oil Refinery owner, Leon Hess. During that meeting, he asked her, “Do you ever want to help?” At first it seemed like an out of the blue, strange question. She replied yes, and he inquired about the orphanage on St. Croix. From that moment forward, Brodhurst and Hess formed a partnership that would raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the home. Those funds were catapulted higher due to the all-inclusive generosity of combined matching contributions garnered from the remarkable Crucian community via *The St. Croix Avis*. Those funds ended up helping untold numbers of parentless children living at the Queen Louise Home for Children.

Rena Brodhurst

Doctor of Humane Letters

In retrospect, Mr. Hess' question wasn't strange at all, it was a profound lesson on raising the next generation—that often takes a village.

Brodhurst is widely recognized as an astute businesswoman and a dedicated community advocate, contributing meaningfully to a range of educational and cultural initiatives. Her support included sponsorship of the Virgin Islands Department of Energy's KidWind Challenge, the Crucian-Rican All Ah We Tramp, and Breakfast with Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights, as well as various student enrichment programs. She also supported the University of the Virgin Islands' Caribbean Writer through the Canute A. Brodhurst Prize for Short Fiction, reflecting her enduring commitment to education, the arts, and community development.

The elder Brodhurst was a steadfast advocate for free speech and freedom of the press, demonstrating a willingness to defend these principles at great personal risk. In 1944, Brodhurst's father was sentenced to ten days' imprisonment after a judge objected to an article published in *The St. Croix Avis*. His conviction was subsequently overturned in 1945 when he prevailed on appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in the landmark case *People of the Virgin Islands vs. Brodhurst*, 148 F.2d 636 (3d Cir. 1945).

In 2016, Chief District Court Judge Wilma Lewis invited Brodhurst to address newly naturalized U.S. citizens on the First Amendment rights they are afforded, as well as her family's role in advancing those freedoms in the Virgin Islands. Reflecting on this legacy, she stated, "This is why *The St. Croix Avis* gladly makes the Caribbean Writer's Canute A. Brodhurst Prize available to authors who carry on the fine tradition of excellence in writing."

In 2014, *The St. Croix Avis*, a then member of the Associated Press and American Newspaper Publishers Association, won a Sunshine Award from the Society of Professional Journalists Florida Association in the breaking news category. The second-place award was for its in-depth series on the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center entitled "St. Croix Hospital in Crisis." The award winning series was authored by Brodhurst's daughter, Britney Knight.

The publication of *The St. Croix Avis*' final edition in January 2024 marked the conclusion of an extraordinary 180-year legacy. Through her decades of leadership, Brodhurst sustained the newspaper's role as a trusted voice and enduring record of the Virgin Islands, affirming journalism as both a public trust and a vital force for accountability, collective memory, and progress. In doing so, her contributions leave a lasting imprint, reflecting a lifetime of dedicated service to the Virgin Islands and an unwavering commitment to the principles of a free press.

Brodhurst is the mother of two adult children, Britney Knight and Lasiba Knight, and resides on St. Croix.

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† = Deceased

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St. Croix

Te'Anna Williams
President

Bethel Quezada
Vice President

Grace Kabbah
Treasurer

Denae Bell
Secretary

Class Adjectives - (ACE) Ambitious. Courageous. Empowered.

St. Thomas

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President

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Vice President

Duranee Birmingham
Treasurer

Maura Monee Richardson
Secretary

Kayla Metayer & Shani Richardson
Public Relations

Class Adjectives - (ARC) Ambitious. Resilient. Committed.

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.