



The University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) is a public land-grant university “dedicated to the success of its students and committed to enhancing the lives of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the wider Caribbean through excellent teaching, innovative research and responsive community service.” The University was chartered by the Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands in 1962 as the College of the Virgin Islands. The college opened its doors

with several associate’s degree programs in 1963, and began offering bachelor’s degrees in the liberal arts and education in 1967.

In 1972, the U.S. Congress enacted legislation giving the College land-grant status, which enabled it to establish an Agricultural Experiment Station and a Cooperative Extension Service. In 1986, the College was renamed the University of the Virgin Islands and in that same year, the US. Congress named UVI one of America’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

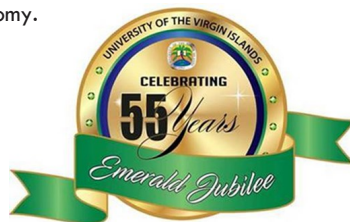
Today, UVI is a co-educational public university with nearly 2,500 students on campuses on St. Thomas and St. Croix, and an Academic Center on St. John. The University also offers undergraduate and graduate education and business courses to University of St. Martin (USM) students. The agreement, titled UVI at USM, is part of a strategic effort to expand opportunities for more individuals to have access to a UVI program of study and degree.

UVI grants associate’s, bachelor’s and master’s degrees in approximately 50 program areas through five colleges and schools:

- College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
- College of Science and Mathematics
- School of Business
- School of Education
- School of Nursing

In the Fall of 2016, UVI began offering its first ever Ph.D. program in Creative Leadership for Innovation and Change.

In 2017, UVI joins the entire Virgin Islands community in commemoration of the 100-year anniversary of the Territory’s relationship with the United States. UVI will also be celebrating 55 years of providing opportunities for higher education and lifelong learning to residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands and other Eastern Caribbean states; conducting research aimed at finding solutions to some of the Territory’s and the region’s most pressing problems; developing and delivering a wide range of community services; enriching the region’s cultural life; and supporting the growth of the Territory’s and the region’s economy.



2017 Student Convocation

With featured honored guest

**THE HONORABLE SONIA SOTOMAYOR
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT**



Collection of the United States Supreme Court

David Hall, SJD
President

Henry C. Smock, Esq.
Board Chairman

February 9, 2017



THE HONORABLE SONIA SOTOMAYOR
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE,
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice, was born in Bronx, New York, on June 25, 1954. She earned a B.A. in 1976 from Princeton University, graduating summa cum laude and receiving the university's highest academic honor. In 1979, she earned a J.D. from Yale Law School where she served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal.

She served as Assistant District Attorney in the New York County District Attorney's Office from 1979–1984. She then litigated international commercial matters in New York City at Pavia & Harcourt, where she served as an associate and then partner from 1984–1992. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated her to the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, and she served in that role from 1992–1998. She served as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1998–2009.

President Barack Obama nominated her as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court on May 26, 2009, and she assumed this role August 8, 2009.

STUDENT CONVOCATION PROGRAM

MASTER OF CEREMONY

Camille McKayle, PhD
Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

OFFICIAL WELCOME

Henry C. Smock, Esq.
Chairman of the Board, University of the Virgin Islands

STUDENT GREETINGS

DeWein Pelle
President, Student Government Association (SGA) - St. Thomas Campus



INTRODUCTION OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SONIA SOTOMAYOR

David Hall, SJD
President - University of the Virgin Islands

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH STUDENTS

Justice Sonia Sotomayor, JD

MUSICAL SELECTION

Virgin Islands Youth Ensemble
Dion Parson & UVI's Mentoring Through the Arts of Music



AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREE

CLOSING REMARKS

Jeanette Ferdinand
President, SGA - Albert A. Sheen Campus, St. Croix



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

The Honorable Wilma A. Lewis
Chief Judge, District Court of the Virgin Islands
St. Croix Division