

Preserve, promote and prosper

University commemorates St. Croix's maroon legacy

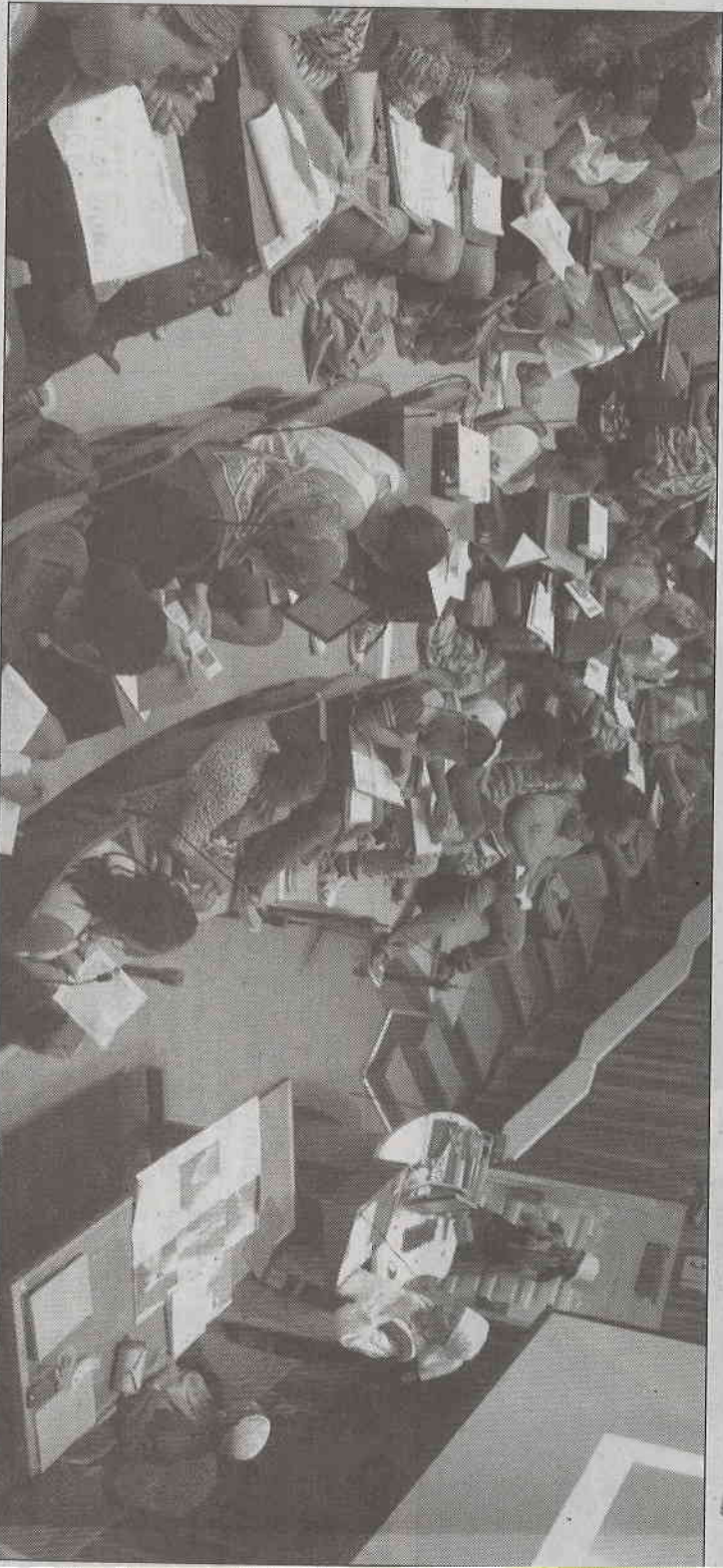
TOM EADER
Bureau Chief

ST. CROIX — College students and private citizens learned about the potential St. Croix has to capitalize from its historic legacies if Congress designates the island as a National Heritage Area during Maroon Commemoration 2015 Monday at the University of the Virgin Islands.

The program, sponsored by UVI and the VI Caribbean Cultural Center, featured a keynote presentation by Claudette Young Hinds, president of St. Croix Unified for Community, Culture, Environment and Economic Development or **SUCCEED**.

The program included reflections on the legacy of St. Croix's maroons, enslaved Africans who resisted their captors and fled to the island's northwestern forest in pursuit of freedom.

SUCCEED hosted the inaugural Maroon Commemorative Ceremony and Symposium in 2012, which was followed with a biennial commemoration in 2014. The event in 2014 was held at UVI and included a round-table discussion on



Students from the University of the Virgin Islands, representatives from various organizations and private citizens attend Maroon Commemoration 2015 Monday in the Melvin Evans theater at UVI on St. Croix that was conducted by Chenzira Davis Kahina, VI Caribbean Cultural Center director, second from right, and Claudette Young Hinds, president of St. Croix Unified for Community, Culture, Environment and Economic Development, right.

Tom Eader

maroon legacy, cultural heritage and cultural wellness.

Hinds said UVI organized Monday's program to commemorate the maroon legacy during the "off-year" between SUCCEED's biennial event.

"My focus this time was connecting legacy to economics," Hinds said, noting her presentation was titled, "Culture, Heritage and Maroon Legacy: Prospects for Economic Development."

As a means for economic development on St. Croix that is tied to culture and heritage, Hinds discussed the possibility of St. Croix being designated by Congress as a National Heritage Area.

"The National Heritage Area is one way that we at SUCCEED can put the financial and technical assistance in the hands of the people of St. Croix to reflect their history," she said.

The island has all the elements necessary to "preserve, promote and prosper," Hinds said, adding that designation as a NHA will allow St. Croix to apply for \$1 million a year in federal funds to be distributed among local businesses that focus on culture, heritage, history and archaeology.

"It's got to be telling our story," she told The Avis following her presentation, adding SUCCEED would determine which businesses are eligible to receive the money.

Hinds held up her bamboo pocketbook and pointed out her tie-dyed dress, noting both were made by local crafters who could benefit from the federal money the island stands to receive pending NHA status.

"We have people who are producing wonderful projects and the National Heritage Area will allow us to support them to do more of

that," she said.

During her presentation she stressed to the audience the importance of "preserving, promoting and prospering from the cultural and environmental richness of St. Croix."

"We've been living this, we believe it, we know it makes sense," she told the attendees.

In addition to UVI students from the Virgin Islands/Caribbean history class and the interpersonal communications class, the commemoration was attended by representatives from the VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources, St. Croix Chamber of Commerce, St. Croix Foundation, Caribbean Museum Center of the Arts, private citizens and supporters of VICCC and SUCCEED.

Hinds said the designation of St. Croix as a NHA will require the

introduction of legislation in Congress, which was previously done by former Delegate to Congress Donna Christensen. Hinds said, however, that the legislation would have to be reintroduced by Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett.

Olaese Davis, UVI assistant professor of natural resources, suggested for all the students in attendance to write a letter to Plaskett expressing their support for the designation of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area. Chenzira Davis Kahina, VICCC director, echoed his suggestion.

"Sometimes we forget the importance of your voice," she told the students.

Kahina, who is also director for UVI's Center for the Study of Spirituality and Professionalism, stressed the importance of cultural heritage education. She noted

UVI offers a minor degree program in Caribbean Cultural Studies.

"We need the students to be more proactive in research, in preservation, in publication and economic development because this is their legacy," she said.

The commemoration program included an introduction by Miss St. Croix Anumaat Kahina, who discussed the importance of knowing about the maroon heritage. It featured a special tribute to David Hamilton Jackson, a Virgin Islands labor leader and lawyer who founded the territory's first free-press newspaper. Jackson would have celebrated his 131st birthday on Monday.

The program concluded with a musical selection by jazz trumpeter Hasani Arthur, a resident of Brooklyn who has family ties to St. Croix.

Maj. Glenda Mathurin-Lee earns lieutenant colonel rank

MARKIDA SCOTLAND

ST. CROIX — VI National Guard Maj. Glenda Mathurin-Lee knew without a doubt Tuesday that her later father, Joseph Mathurin, would be proud of her.

Mathurin-Lee was promoted that day to the rank of lieutenant colonel at the Joint Force Headquarters in Estate Bethlehem.

"My father would have been proud today," Mathurin-Lee said.

"He's not here and I do miss him. He always used to tease me — 'when are you going to make colonel?'"

Mathurin-Lee, according to VING, has 27 years of military service. Her Air Force career began in 1988 as an enlisted airman and was commissioned in 2002 as an officer. She currently serves as the VING director of Personnel.

During remarks, she said the

years haven't been easy but she always has and will continue to do her best for the organization.

"It's not what I did in the past, it's about what I'll do ahead and there's much work ahead," Mathurin-Lee said.

Lt. Col. Mathurin-Lee also thanked God, her family and the organization, saying that she loved them in that order of priority.

RANK, PAGE 4



Markida Scotland
Lt. Col. Glenda Mathurin-Lee was pinned by Adj. Gen. Deborah Howell and her husband Neville Lee at her promotional ceremony on Tuesday at the Brigadier General Gerard James Sr. Joint Force Headquarters in Estate Bethlehem.

From 0630-1500 **guy's** From 0630-1500 **gals**

THE SCORE IS NOW GUYS 9 / GALS 6 CAN THE GALS TIE IT UP???

Weight in both days: 1500-1700 **CHRISTIANIFIED BOARDWALK**

General Public Welcome At Volga Hall!

Atwards Bingham Monday, October, 5th 1800-anti

At Cheeseburgers in America's Paradise Restaurant



CONGRESSWOMAN
STACEY E. PLASKETT

Service Academy Seminar
Hosted by Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett

Congresswoman Plaskett's Service Academy Seminar is open to all high school students interested in attending the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy or the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Admission experts, graduates and local service members will be available to answer questions and to get students started with the admission process.

ST THOMAS:
Friday, October 2nd
5:00 to 8:00 pm
UVA/ACC Conference Center
First Floor Conference Room

ST. CROIX:
Saturday, October 3rd
12:30 to 2:30 pm
UVI Great Hall

For more information please contact your local district office:

9100 Port of Sale Mall
St. Thomas
Tel: (340) 774-4408

60 King Street
Frederiksted St. Croix
Tel: (340) 778-5900

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IPOS.
Yahoo was among the stronger stocks on Tuesday.
The stock rose 66 cents, or 2.4 percent, to \$28.26 after the company said that it still planned to

Newborn girl plunges to her death,
NEW YORK (AP) — A woman who apparently hid her pregnancy from her boyfriend, gave birth in his home and then tossed her newborn daughter out a seventh-story window to her death was arrested Tuesday on murder and manslaughter charges, police said.

The price of oil rose on expectations that the Energy Department will report a slowdown in U.S. crude production when it releases its monthly petroleum supply

Police officers said they found Jennifer Berry's infant daughter attached in a courtyard of her boyfriend's Bronx apartment building on Monday afternoon. They had responded to the building after receiving an emergency

0.8 percent.
Gold fell \$4.90 to \$1,126.80 a ounce. Silver dropped 3.5 cents to \$14.57 an ounce and copper was unchanged at \$2.25 per pound

mother arrested
call that an infant had fallen from a window.
An autopsy revealed the infant died of blunt force injuries, chief medical examiner Dr. Barbara Sampson said Tuesday. The baby's death was ruled a homicide, meaning she had been born alive.
Berry, who is 33 years old and lives in nearby Yonkers, was held Tuesday in police custody pending her arraignment. It couldn't be contacted. It was unclear whether she had an attorney.

Envios De Valores Doble AA
Ms. Esperanza

Feliz Mes de la Herencia Hispanica
Commemora tu Herencia!

Berry's boyfriend told police she was in another room when the baby was born and when the girl plunged from the window. He said investigators he didn't recall either event had occurred and no idea his girlfriend was pregnant, officials said.

It was unclear how much time elapsed between the baby's fall from the window and her fall from the window, said.

The city's Administration for Children's Services is investigating the circumstances that led to the baby's death, a spokesman said. Authorities said privacy laws inhibited the agency from commenting on whether child welfare investigators had interacted with the family before.