



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**REPORTING PERIOD: OCTOBER 15, 2017 TO FEBRUARY 20, 2018**

The President's Report for this reporting period is organized into two sections. Part I provides highlights of new and ongoing presidential initiatives and institutional accomplishments since the last report. Part II highlights major accomplishments within the framework of *Pathways to Greatness*, the University's current strategic plan.

This framework has been adopted to ensure that all Components and Departments across the University are focused on areas that the University has determined are critical to our future success. I continue to be extremely impressed with the productivity and commitment of our University's students, faculty, staff and administrators.

**PART I: PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

I am honored to share with the Board of Trustees highlights of the University's activities and achievements for the reporting period. This section contains some of the major achievements of the University. These accomplishments speak to the commitment and resilience of our students, faculty, staff and administrators.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Three students who attended the annual Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) Leadership Institute Conference in Washington, D.C., from October 20-24, 2017 received the following job placement opportunities.
  - **Rohsaan Francis**, an alumnus of The Washington Center, was offered a full-time job at Merrill Edge.
  - **Jeanna Sujanani** was offered two paid internship opportunities: a summer accounting internship with Georgia Pacific in Atlanta, Georgia and a fall accounting internship with Caterpillar in Peoria, Illinois. Both internships offer the possibility of a full-time opportunity after graduation.
  - **Kaunda Williams**, the St. Thomas Campus TMCF Student Ambassador, received an interview from Microsoft.
  
- **Lauren Arnold** (senior) spent 10 weeks from July to August 2017 at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) in Washington, D.C. Arnold applied to the NASA OSSI (One Stop Shopping Initiative) internship and was accepted to work on exoplanets in Maryland. Arnold credited much of her success at NASA to her mentor, Dr. Knicole Colón, under whose tutelage she was able to carry out her project, titled, "Characterizing Thermal Emission from Hot Jupiters." Arnold identified how the thermal emission signals vary between exoplanets with different masses and temperatures to explore the diversity of exoplanet atmospheres, to identify which planets could be labeled as "candidate planets" if it has a similar atmosphere as ours. Arnold has had her work in the observing campaign using the Maunakea telescope published.
  
- **Sujanani, Jeanna** was awarded an internship at the headquarters of Caterpillar in Peoria, Illinois for Fall 2018. Caterpillar is the world's leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, diesel and natural gas engines, industrial gas turbines and diesel-electric locomotives.
  
- **Ms. Che-Raina Warner**, the former Miss UVI/NBCA 2016-2017, participated in the Annual National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame weekend in Atlanta in September/October. Ms. Warner served as the Miss NBCA 2016-2017 and relinquished her title at the competition. Ms. Warner was the second UVI campus queen to capture the title of Miss NBCA. During her tenure, she volunteered her services and participated in various university affiliated events including the Fall Open House, SGA Installation Ceremony, Deans List Reception, the Academic Awards, and the Paradise Jam parade in addition to many other HBCU initiatives abroad.
  
- On the Albert A. Sheen Campus, the Office of Student Activities hosted the Third Annual Mister Incredible Competition on December 1, 2017. The overarching goal of the Mister Incredible contest is to empower males attending UVI to continue their pursuit of higher education. Participants are taught leadership and networking skills and strategies for developing self-confidence. Five students participated in the competition. **Amali Krigger**, a senior computer

science major, was crowned Mr. Incredible. Mr. Krigger also won Best Professional Wear, Best Talent, and Mr. Popularity.

- The 2017 UVI Hackfest was held simultaneously on both the St. Thomas and St. Croix's Albert A. Sheen Campus on November 17 and 18 under the theme, "Disaster Hack!" Twenty students demonstrated their resilience and creativity as they participated in the annual hackathon. Teams created phone app concepts for use before, during, and/or after a disaster. This year's hack made full use of technology. Both hack sites were video linked, which allowed students from both campuses to see the live presentations simultaneously. Mr. Lean Hughes, CEO and founder of NEARix, the sponsor of the hackathon, linked in from Florida during the entire hackathon.
  - The "Best Hack" winner from St. Croix was the team of **Kedisha Charles** and **Ajani Gordon**, who created "Hurricane Busters" – an app that would alert you to important information after the storm. Current curfew hours, location of today's MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) or tarp distributions would all be in the palm of your hand. The app uses mesh interface that allows messages to be passed along a network of Bluetooth connected phones when Wi-Fi signals are low or non-existent.
  - The "Best Hack" on St. Thomas also focused on post-disaster communications when mobile and Wi-Fi signals are weak or non-existent. Team c-net, **Eliakin del Rosario** and **Ajodie Dasent**, created an app that would allow users to send and receive messages leveraging the radio transmitting and receiving capability that your smart phone has built into it. Their app turns on this phone feature and allows the user to send and receive messages.
  - "Gamestorm," created by **Amali Krigger** and **Candace Mootoo**, would allow you to play multi-player games on your phone with people within your phone's Bluetooth range. They earned "Most Innovative" hack for their effort.
  - "Blu," one of the most innovative hacks, was designed and created by **Gerald Bellot** and **Joy Grant** using block-chain technology (the same one used to validate bitcoin transactions) to authenticate messages. It passes along a Bluetooth network of phones, thus assuring your sent message is only seen by the intended receiver.
  - The Alleviator's (**Duryan Cozier, Jamilla Connor, Ira Francis, and David Jeffers**) app would allow you to do an emotional self-assessment or perform one for your children. If your assessment score indicated you could use some trauma-related counseling, the app would connect you to the local appropriate service provider that specialized in your area of need.
  - The "ReDS" (Resource Distribution System) app, created by **Jesus Arista**, would allow federal, local, and private agencies to coordinate the distribution of goods and services, prioritizing those most in need.

Many individuals and groups contributed to the 2017 UVI Hackfest: The UVI's Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship Club (UVIDEA) Club, the Library/Information Technology Services (ITS) staff, the Cafeteria, the judges (academics and professions from both the Economic Development Authority and the Small Business Development Center), the team coaches from the School of Business and the College of Science and Math, and most importantly, the coaching and financial support provided by NEARiX and their staff. This past year, doing two simultaneous events on both campuses required extra efforts from a number of people: leadership was provided by Dr. Timothy Faley, with special assistance by Dr. Tom Lombardi, Professor John Munro, and Mr. Elroy Richard.

## **PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS** (Student names are **bolded**. Faculty names are *italicized*.)

- **Breton, Hairol** and *Stolz, Robert* “The White Plague: a Glimpse into the Future.” Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). November, 2017. Poster Presentation. This poster won an award at the conference.
- **Courtien, Carolyn; Egan, Katharyn; Ewen, Kristin; Gutting, Alex; Halliday, Akacia; Jensen, Amelie; Johansen, Lora; Smith, Deborah; Smith, Vernita; Stone, Tucker.** “The Effect of Staghorn Coral (*Acropora cervicornis*) Restoration on Fish Biodiversity in St. Thomas, USVI.” Poster session presented at: 25th NSF EPSCoR National Conference, November 2017 Missoula, Montana.
- **Ferguson, Sojourna;** *de la Cueva, Ana; Kirsch, Kathrin; and Layne, Matthew;* “Isolation and Characterization of Activated Stromal Cells in Breast Cancer.” Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). November, 2017. Poster Presentation.
- **Francis, Jamisha** and *Lehmler, Hans-Joachim Ph.D.* “Disposition of Neurotoxic Pcb 136 and its Metabolites in Cyp1a Knockout Mice.” Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). November, 2017. Poster Presentation.
- **Groves, Sarah H.;** *Holstein, Dan; Enochs, I.C.; Kolodziej, G.; Manzello, D. P.; Brandt, Marilyn; Smith, Tyler B.* “Growth rates of Porites Asteroids and Orbicella Franksi in Mesophotic Habitats surrounding St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands.” Coral Reefs (In press).
- **Heidmann, Sarah** “Migration of Mutton Snapper (*Lutjanus analis*) between Home Range Areas and Spawning Aggregation Sites in the US Virgin Islands.” Conference Presentation. Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, November 2017, Merida, Mexico.
- **Jensen, Amelie;** *Wilson Grimes, Kristin; Smith, E. M.; Brandt, Marilyn* “Variability in blue carbon storage in seagrass habitats of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.” Oral presentation presented at the 24th Biennial Conference of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation, November, 2017, Providence, RI.

- **Julien, Julia;** Lerner, Itamar Ph.D., and Gluck, Mark Ph.D. “Examining the Effect of Naps on Temporal Integration of Memories.” Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). November, 2017. Poster Presentation.
- **Lee, Deidre** and *Brathwaite, Antonio* “Structural Trends of Gas-Phase Metal Cation-Acetylene Complexes Investigated via Infrared Spectroscopy.” Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). November, 2017. Poster Presentation. This poster won an award at the conference.
- **Lewis, Shantae;** Loftus, Matthew Ph.D., and Dean Kedes, M.D., Ph.D. “Mutagenesis of the Alpha-2 And Alpha-3 Helices of RRV ORF52.” Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). November, 2017. Poster Presentation.
- **Natta, Shanaliz;** Clapp, Phillip; and Jaspers, Ilona Ph.D. “Common E-cigarette Flavorings Activate the Nrf2 Antioxidant Pathway in Airway Epithelial Cells.” Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). November, 2017. Poster Presentation.
- **Ravariere, Erlin;** *Castillo, Bernard* and *Taylor, Marcia* “Moisture Content and Antioxidant Activities in Algae.” Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). November, 2017. Poster Presentation.
- **Smith, Cassia;** *Stolz, Robert* and *Jossart, Jonathan* “Machine Learning Approach for the Prediction of Dissolved Oxygen Concentration.” Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). November, 2017. Poster Presentation.
- **Smith, Bashiri** and *Boumedine, Marc*. “Weak Passwords Increase System Vulnerabilities: A Comparison of Basic Cracking Algorithms.” Annual Computer Security Applications Conference, Orlando, 2017. Poster presentation.
- **Smith, Jair; Tirado Jr, Roberto; McClean, K’Mari; Polydore, Arl;** and *Lewis, Jason*. “Is Your Home Spying on You? The Potential of Smart Home Devices to Serve as Evidence in Criminal Cases.” Annual Computer Security Applications Conference, Orlando, 2017. Poster presentation.
- **Walters, D’Shanique; Liburd, Keryl; Blake, Nadia;** Campbell, Andrew; Sikkell, Paul & *Robinson, Jennilee* “Isolation of Apicomplexan Blood Parasites from Caribbean Stegastes Damsel Fishes.” American Society for Cell Biology/European Molecular Biology Organization Annual Meeting, December 2017, Philadelphia, PA. Poster Presentation.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

- **Fredericks, Ayanna** (Psychology BA ‘15) – graduated October 2017 with Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

## **FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP**

### **PRESENTATIONS (FACULTY AND STAFF)**

- *Bowers, Janette* awarded certification as an HIV Specialist by the American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM) through a certification examination. She was invited by the National Committee for AAHIVM to serve on the committee representing Nurse Practitioners.
- *Combie, Valerie* presented at the National Writing Project Annual Meeting on November 16, 2017, in St. Louis, Missouri.
- *Gendre, Bruce and Morris, David* 2017. "From a computer controlled telescope to a robotic observatory: The history of the VIRT," Fourth Robotic Telescope Workshop, Huelvå, Spain, October 2017. Oral presentation.
- *Parson, Dion* performed at the following key events with:
  - Jon Faddis and the Triumph of Trumpets - "Celebrating Dizzy at 100" for Dizzy Gillespie at Jazz at Lincoln Center Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola New York, NY, October 19-22, 2017.
  - Jon Faddis and the Triumph of Trumpets - "Celebrating Dizzy at 100" at The Performing Arts Center at SUNY Purchase College, Pepsico Theater for Jazz Westchester, NY, November 4, 2017.
  - Elio Villafranca and the Jass Syncopators at Vermont Jazz Center, VT, November 2017.
  - Ron Blake (Professor at Julliard, NYC), Reuben Rogers, Victor Provost (Artist in Residence for the Public School System and Professor at George Mason University), Steve Turre, Myron Walden, Marc Cary (Professor at Julliard, NYC), Gerald Cannon, Paul West, Adam Burmbaun and VI Youth Ensemble Members: Joshua Farrell and Eljaih Brathwaite at the "Brothers in Arms Hurricane Relief Concert," Smoke Jazz Club New York, NY, November 6, 2017.
- *Zimmerman, Tom* presented on "Breeding a Better Purple Sweet Potato" in September 2017 at the University of Guam.

### **PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS ACCEPTED**

- Abbott, B.; Abbott, R.; Abbott, T.D et al. (including *Gendre, Bruce; Cucchiara, Antonino; Staff, Jan; Morris, David; Smith, David*), "Multi-messenger Observations of a Binary Neutron Star Merger," *Astrophysical Journal* 848, 12 (2017) Print.

- Amati, L.; O'Brien, P.; Goetz, D., *Gendre, Bruce*; et al., "The Transient High Energy Sky and Early Universe Surveyor (THESEUS)," NASA Yellow Book for the THESEUS mission (2017) Print.
- Andreoni, I.; Ackley, K.; Cooke, J.; et al. (including *Gendre, Bruce; Cucchiara, Antonino; Staff, Jan; Morris David; Smith, David*), "Follow Up of GW170817 and Its Electromagnetic Counterpart by Australian-Led Observing Programmes," Publications of the Astronomical Society of Australia 34, 69 (2017) Print.
- Bongaerts, P.; *Smith, Tyler*, "Beyond the Deep Reef Refuge Hypothesis: A Conceptual Framework to Characterize Persistence at Depth." In: Loya Y, Puglise KA, Bridge T (eds) Coral Reefs of the World: Mesophotic Coral Ecosystems. Springer; Peer Reviewed, Book Chapter, 2018.
- Dereli, H.; Boer, M.; *Gendre, Bruce*; Amati, L.; Dichiara, S.; *Orange, Norton Brice*, "A Study of GRBs with Low-luminosity Afterglows," Astrophysical Journal 850, 117 (2017) Print.
- Garza, C.; Harris, L.; Hatch<sup>3</sup>, M.; Parrish<sup>4</sup>, J.; Posselt<sup>5</sup>, J.; Alvarez<sup>2</sup>, J.; Davidson<sup>2</sup>, E.; Eckert, G.; *Wilson, Grimes; Kristen, J.*; Garcia, R.; Haacker, C.; Horner-Devine, A.; Johnson, J.; Lemus, M.; Martin, S.; Menezes, A.; Prakash, L.; Thompson, P.; Vitousek (in review), "A New Framework for Improving Diversity in the Geosciences: Community-Based, Place-Based Science in a Virtuous Exchange"; Peer Reviewed, December 20, 2017.
- *Groves, Sarah*; Holstein, DM; Enochs, IC; Kolodziej, G.; Manzello, DP; *Brandt, Marilyn; Smith, Tyler* (in press), "Growth rates of Porites Astreoides and Orbicella Franksi in Mesophotic Habitats Surrounding St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands." Coral Reefs; Peer Reviewed, Coral Reefs, 2018.
- Holstein, DM; *Groves, Sarah; Smith, Tyler* "Coral Reefs of the World: Mesophotic Coral Ecosystems." Ecosystem Services. In: Loya Y, Puglise KA, Bridge T (eds) Coral Reefs of the World: Mesophotic Coral Ecosystems. Springer; Peer Reviewed, Book Chapter, In Revision.
- Loeffler, CR; Robertson, A.; Quintana, Flores; Silander, MC; *Smith, Tyler*; Olsen, D. (submitted) "Ciguatera Prevalence in Four Commercial Fish Species Along an Oceanic Exposure Gradient in the U.S. Virgin Islands." Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry; Peer Reviewed, August 29, 2017.
- Morgan, M.; Daley, B.; Hilgemann, L. and *Zimmerman, Tom* (2017). published "A Reforestation Profile of the U.S. Virgin Islands," Tree Planters' Notes 60(2): 4-18.
- Pian, E.; D'Avanzo, P.; Benetti, S.; *Gendre, Bruce*; et al., "Spectroscopic Identification of R-process Nucleosynthesis in a Double Neutron-star Merger," Nature 551, 67 (2017) Print.
- Pinckney, J.; Tomas, C.; Greenfield, D.; *Reale-Munroe, Kyoch.; Castillo, Bernard*; Hillis-Starr, Z.; Van Meerssche, E.; Zimmerlin, M. "Seasonal Changes in Phytoplankton Community Structure

in a Bioluminescent Lagoon, St. Croix, USVI. Aquatic Microbial Ecology. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3354/ame01865>

- *Randall, Alexander* (2017). *Opening the Doors, A Witness to Madness*. Lambert Academic Publishing.
- *Randall, Alexander* (2017). *Dream Sharing and Shared Metaphors in a Short Term Community*. Lambert Academic Publishing.
- *Rossignol, Rosslyn* (2017). *My Ghost Has a Name: Memoir of a Murder*. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press.
- *Smith, Tyler; Brandt, Marilyn; Brandtneris, VW; Ennis, RS; Groves, SH; Habtes, Sennai; Holstein, DM; Kadison, E; Nemeth, RS* (2018). "Mesophotic Coral Ecosystems of the United States Virgin Islands." In: Loya Y, Puglise KA, Bridge T (eds) *Coral Reefs of the World: Mesophotic Coral Ecosystems*. Springer; Peer Reviewed, Book Chapter, 2018.
- *Smith, Tyler; Holstein, DM* "Coral Reefs of the World: Mesophotic Coral Ecosystems." Disturbance In: Loya Y, Puglise KA, Bridge T (eds) *Coral Reefs of the World: Mesophotic Coral Ecosystems*. Springer; Peer Reviewed, Book Chapter, In Revision.
- Tanaka, K. E. I., Tan; J. C.; *Staff, Jan.*; Zhang, Y., "Outflow-confined H II Regions. II. The Early Break-out Phase," *The Astrophysical Journal*, 2017, 849, 133.
- *Zimmerman, Tom* and **Bideau, S.** presented on "Using Scarification to Enhance Seed Germination Rate in Sweet Potato" at the American Society for Horticultural Science, Hawaii September 19-22, 2017.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

- *Randall, Alexander* is a regular editorial contributor for the *Daily News*. He produced the following editorials this period:
  - *Can't We Recycle our Debris?* November 8, 2017
  - *Getting Relief Supplies Faster*, Virgin Islands Daily News, Oct 30, 2017
  - *Storm Survivors Time Line – the Days of Our Storms*, Virgin Islands Daily News, October 4 2017

## GRANTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDED

- The Water Ambassador Program received a two-year Distance Education Grant from the USDA for \$168,786. The distance education project involves youth interns at the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) who will work with other young people across St. Croix in the program. Participants will build projects related to solar pumps, installing weather stations and conducting both water and soil quality testing.
- UVI-CES has been awarded a \$32,500 grant from a private donor to conduct post-hurricane dialogues with survey participants.
- *Cucchiara, Antonino* (PI): Department of Defense - HBCU-UP: "UVI Astrophysics Education and Research Advancement Project", \$142,600.
- *Morris, David* (PI) and *Cucchiara, Antonino* (Science PI): NASA EPSCoR "UVIBurstCube: Developing a flight-ready prototype Gamma-Ray Burst detection satellite at the University of the Virgin Islands," \$749,996.
- *Jarvis Jr., Glenfield* and *Guannel, Greg*. "Creating the Foundation of a Sustainable Campus through Advanced Energy Monitoring and Equipment Upgrades." Department of Interior Office of Insular Affairs. \$594,680.
- *Randall, Alexander* secured a donation of \$10,000 from the Prior Family Foundation to support live broadcasts of academic and intellectual content on WUVI.
- *Weiss, Stuart* received a two-year grant from the USDA-NIFA Resident Instruction Grants Program for Institutes of Higher Education in Insular Areas - Agriculture and Food Sciences Facilities and Equipment titled "University of the Virgin Islands, Agricultural Experiment Station Rainwater Harvesting, Storage, and Micro-Irrigation for Water Self-Sufficiency" for \$144,750.
- *Zimmerman, Tom* received a two-year grant from the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIF) Resident Instruction Grants Program for Institutes of Higher Education in Insular Areas titled "Engaging Pre-Baccalaureate Students in Educational Agricultural Research" for \$144,661.

## **SIGNIFICANT INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**



### **UVI CAMPUS SCREENING OF ACCLAIMED NATIONAL HBCU DOCUMENTARY**

UVI hosted a pre-screening event on February 19 of "Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities." This thought provoking 90-minute documentary was written, directed and produced by award-winning documentary filmmaker Stanley Nelson of Firelight Media. The film is the first and only feature documentary and multi-platform project to research, gather, and share a rich mosaic of stories that relay the history and legacy of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Through never before seen or heard media – including archival photos, letters, diaries, film footage and memorable first-hand testimonials, "Tell Them We Are Rising" brings into sharp focus the pivotal role that HBCUs have played in American history, culture, and national identity and illuminates the critical considerations these institutions are facing for their future survival.

The documentary aired on the University's campuses before packed audiences including students, employees, alumni and community members. UVI had the distinct privilege of being one of the HBCUs to screen the documentary prior to its national premiere later that same evening on the acclaimed PBS series, Independent Lens. After the documentary screening, the University hosted dynamic conversations via videoconference between both campuses about the history and role of HBCUs in American history, past and current educational inequities in the U.S. with specific attention on access to higher education, and reflections on UVI's unique history and mission — particularly as the only HBCU outside of the continental U.S. Joining the UVI event online from New York was Ms. Carol Bash, the producer responsible for the rich archival content of the documentary. In conjunction with the campus screening of the documentary and its national debut, President David Hall penned an editorial entitled "UVI Is Rising" about the resilience of the University community after facing two unprecedented category five storms. The editorial was promoted by Firelight Media and featured in the local media and nationally in the Op Ed in The Undeclared. The Undeclared is a subsidiary to ESPN, and covers Black news, culture and sports.

The University's open dialogue was streamed live on social media on UVI's and WTJX's Facebook pages. Using the #HBCURising, UVI's audience led the national live Twitter Chat creating additional excitement and national interest in the film and UVI. The hashtag trended second in the nation the evening of the campus screening and premiere. The campus event was a collaborative effort of UVI, WTJX-PBS and Firelight Media.

## **UVI ONLINE LAUNCHES**

The University of the Virgin Islands, in collaboration with Level Playing Field, will offer fifteen degrees in an online format. The degree offerings will include the following:

- Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Engineering Management Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Applied Computing
- Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering Technology
- Associate of Science in Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology
- Associate of Science in Applied Computing
- Associate of Arts in Engineering Management Technology
- Bachelor of Arts in Management
- Master of Business Administration Degree
- Bachelor of Arts in Accounting
- Bachelor of Arts in Financial Planning
- Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice
- Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice
- Master of Arts in Leadership

In special session on December 19, 2017, the Board of Trustees approved UVI to offer online degrees. Various graduate and undergraduate degrees and their general education requirements will be available online in the Territory, nationally and internationally. The online programs will commence in March 2018 and will have monthly start dates. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education previously approved UVI's request to offer online degrees in 2017. The University is also authorized to offer online degrees in all 50 States and the District of Columbia, through its membership in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements.

## **ACADEMIC LEADER IN RESILIENCE AND REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS**

In light of the progress and impact the University has made post Hurricanes Irma and Maria, President David Hall was invited to serve as a guest panel speaker at the 2018 Higher Education Climate Leadership Summit on February 4 -6, 2018 in Arizona. The summit is the largest national gathering of higher education presidents, chancellors, trustees, and other senior leaders committed to accelerating climate solutions. One of the goals of the summit is to provide tools and resources to help leaders build broader and deeper levels of climate action impact both on and off campuses. President Hall's session focused on exploring the strategic opportunities and challenges for climate solutions in the area of water and food systems by connecting campus priorities with local community needs. Group discussions were also centered on how other regional climate resilience can inform actions of higher education institutions.

Joining President Hall on the panel were Rita Hartung Cheng, President, Northern Arizona University and Dianne Harrison, President, California State University, Northridge.

UVI had the opportunity to showcase how the university is creating new climate solutions through innovative research, and advancing leadership in sustainability, climate mitigation, and infrastructure resilience on our campuses, in the Territory and region. The information shared at the summit highlighted a number of measures that UVI is actively involved in and leading in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

### **SAVED THE FALL 2017 SEMESTER FOR UNIVERSITY OF ST. MARTIN**

Following the passage of Hurricane Irma, the University of the Virgin Islands responded to a request from the Board of Directors of the University of St. Martin (USM) to assist that institution with salvaging the Fall 2017 semester for its students. Although UVI was also at the time undergoing challenges from the passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the University (Provost McKayle, the deans of colleges and schools, and other UVI personnel) rose to the occasion and quickly developed a blended approach to meet the academic needs of the students. Part-time faculty were screened and hired, and some courses were taught by UVI faculty through an online approach. UVI honored the USM tuition rate for the semester and approximately 70 students were able to register and complete their courses. The academic credits earned will be transferred to USM upon the request of the students. The cost of the exercise is being covered by the students and USM. This effort was separate and apart from the UVI at USM Initiative although on-the-ground support was provided by Mrs. Marva Sam, the UVI at USM Coordinator.

### **END OF SEASON SUCCESS FOR UVI BUCS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM**

The UVI Bucs Men's Basketball season for 2017-2018 began on October 26, 2017 in West Palm Beach, Florida. The UVI Classic, the first tournament to open the UVI basketball season, had to change locations to Florida because of the unavailability of the Sports and Fitness Center on the St. Thomas Campus. It was the first time that the season opener was not at home, and that the entire season consisted entirely of away games. Due to the impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria on the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, The Liga Atletica Interuniversitaria (LAI) allowed each institution to determine in which sports it would participate based on their budget and capabilities. The Men's Basketball program opted not to participate in LAI this season. The Bucs team however participated in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

The Men's Basketball program began the Fall semester with a roster of 18 players. Two players did not return when classes resumed in the Fall. The team played 20 games this season. After a slow start, they won four of their last five games. The team also participated in several community activities during the Fall semester including a motivational talk at BCB Middle School and free basketball camps.

## UVI RISE HURRICANE RELIEF FUNDRAISERS

In an effort to continue to provide ongoing support to students and employees who have been impacted by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, President Hall has been hosting fundraisers on the mainland to benefit the University's hurricane relief efforts. The events have been successful and continue to shine a spotlight on the acute needs in the Virgin Islands and what the University is doing to recover. Due to the generosity of various individuals and organizations, the UVI Rise Relief Fund has raised to date over \$167,000.

- **Atlanta, GA** – President Hall visited with alumni and friends of the University in Atlanta in November to share the progress of the institution since the storms impacted operations throughout the Fall 2017 semester. The event brought much needed exposure to the University and the initiatives being undertaken by the UVI Rise Relief Fund. During his visit, President Hall had the opportunity to speak at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church. Ebenezer Baptist Church is the spiritual home of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the home of over 6,000 members under the direction of Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock. The church dedicated its 'In As Much' offering to the UVI Rise Relief Fund.
- **Boston, MA** – In collaboration with UVI, on December 16, 2017, Sandra King, a marketing strategist for STKing Associates LLC, organized the fundraiser to benefit the University's relief efforts to support its employees and students. Northeastern University President Joseph E. Aoun's office sponsored the event at the school's Alumni Center on Columbus Avenue. They also collaborated with General Electric vice president Mo Cowan and Keith Motley, the former head of UMass Boston.

The event featured an auction of sports memorabilia and other items. The Red Sox donated an autographed David Price jersey, and the Celtics committed to providing an Al Horford jersey. Several local businesses, including Oleana Restaurant, Sofra Cafe and Bakery, Karma Coffee, and La Campana Restaurant donated items for auction. STKing Associates provided two Celtics game tickets. The event was featured in the *Boston Globe* publication. During the Boston visit, President Hall was invited to make a presentation at the St. Paul AME Church which resulted in the church collecting an outreach offering to support the UVI Relief Fund.

- **Washington, DC** – The University will host on February 24, 2018 its next fundraiser at the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) headquarters. The Co-Chairs for the special event are Dr. Harry Williams, CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF); Rev. Dr. Wesley Williams, Trustee of the University of the Virgin Islands; Mr. Ian Tomlinson, President and Co-Founder of Omni Systems, Inc.; Dr. Mildred Garcia, President of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU); Mr. Peter McPherson, President of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU); Dr. Rick Legon, President of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB); and Dr. Lezli Baskerville, President of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO).

The success of the above events has led to events being planned in Miami, FL and New York City in the coming months.

### **UVI RISE HURRICANE RELIEF CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES**

Through the UVI Rise Relief Fund, various distributions occurred on both campuses widely benefitting students and employees. Through these distributions, individuals received food, water, clothing, batteries, various cleaning and home supplies, medicine and related items, flashlights/lanterns, toiletries, pet food, baby food, pampers and other infant supplies, insect repellent, mosquito spray, tarpaulins, coolers, solar showers, portable gas stoves, propane gas, water purification kits and many other essential items needed after the storms to assist with recovery efforts. In addition, to ensure that all employees had a warm meal for Thanksgiving, UVI hosted a free luncheon on campus. The UVI Rise Relief Fund has also supported dislocated employees and students and the purchase of generators and furniture.

Other ways the Fund has benefitted students include tuition support, housing assistance and purchase of textbooks, other school supplies and laptops. Due to the shift in the academic calendar, a number of students remained on campus in the residence halls and the University provided free meals. As part of the push to ensure that students who were interested in continuing their academic journey in the current Spring 2018 semester, the University embarked on a purposeful campaign reaching out to all full-time students reminding them that if they had financial challenges impeding their ability to continue in the Spring semester, to inform the University so that some support can be provided. In addition, the mandatory purge date this semester was delayed to ensure that students had additional time to address their financial needs and could seek assistance to do so.

While the needs of employees and students are great and exceed that of the current UVI Rise Relief Fund, the University has continued to exhibit a caring attitude and supportive spirit even months after the storms. This support for employees have included flextime to deal with ongoing issues in the recovery process. Our Faculty also remain supportive of students and continue to foster a willingness to work with them to ensure their academic success. The University has also made available the Libraries and computer labs to support students' technology needs, given the connectivity challenges still being experienced in the community.

### **UVI ABSORBS EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM INCREASE**

The Legislature of the Virgin Islands approved an increase to health insurance premiums for plan year 2017-18, on September 5, 2017. The health insurance premium increase for UVI participants amounts to +5.3%. Given the challenges facing employees in the aftermath of the storms, the University absorbed the entire increase. This is the third year that costs for health insurance premiums remain unchanged for UVI plan participants.

## **UVI PERSEVERES DESPITE DIFFICULT SEMESTER**

Through the creativity, resilience and dedication of our faculty, staff and administrators, we were able to resume classes within a month after the first hurricane arrived. This was done in the midst of the stark reality that neither campus had permanent power, island-wide curfews were in existence, and that all night classes had to be cancelled due to the lack of lighting on campus and the curfew. This tragedy created a laboratory for us to demonstrate our “academic resiliency.” Faculty members transformed some traditional classes to an online format, while others recorded their lectures and classes so that students who missed class due to current circumstances would still be able to obtain the information. The principle of “hold harmless” guided our perspective to how students should be treated in the midst of this major uncertainty. Students were given the right to withdraw without penalties, and faculty members were asked to be flexible and creative in how they conducted their classes and engaged our students. They would not lower their standards, but raise their patience and increase their passion. Faculty members and staff were being asked to embrace this academic resiliency spirit at a time when many of them had either lost their homes, electricity, transportation and precious belongings.

Approximately 350 of our 2,400 students withdrew during the Fall 2017 semester, but the vast majority remained and completed the semester. The experience was not perfect, especially with the continuing recovery process having numerous setbacks, but we rose above this horrendous challenge with dignity and pride and successfully completed the semester.

## **FACILITIES ASSESSMENT AND RECOVERY PROCESS**

The University executed a contract with The Bourne Group, an architectural/engineering firm, to assess all damages to structures, prepare cost estimates for repairs and establish budgets, prepare scope of work and construction drawings for designated structures, and provide related expertise and consultation services to the University. The firm commenced its detailed assessment of the campus facilities on February 5, 2018 and is projected to complete this phase March 5, 2018 at which time a report will be prepared for presentation to the University community at a town hall meeting. The second phase of the process, preparation of scope of work, is projected to take sixty (60) days.

A number of facilities have been selected for priority consideration, some of which will be fast-tracked through the process consistent with the goal of addressing those facilities that have a direct and immediate impact on students and have revenue implications. The facilities in this group, not necessarily in priority order, include West Hall Residence Hall, Rouppe House (Student Affairs), Faculty West Housing, School of Business, MacLean Marine Science Center, Caribbean Green Technology Center/GEOCAS, Quarters B, Nursing Classroom Building, President's Guest House and Reichhold Center for the Arts.

## **EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY PARTIES WITH A TWIST**

Despite the Fall 2017 semester challenges, thanks to the hard work and creativity of various individuals, UVI committed to celebrating each other and this wonderful University at the end of the year with campus holiday parties. The event on St. Croix occurred on Sunday, December 10th on campus at the North West Wing area. This year's focus was a triumph of life over destruction, and the spirit of joy over discord in a traditional Tea Party mode. The event on St. Thomas occurred on Thursday, December 21st in the Administration & Conference Center (ACC) Building first floor conference room and patio. The party featured Cool Session Brass and UVI Jazz Ensemble with Music Director Dion Parson and Ms. Lorna Freeman in the spirit of music and dancing to end a challenging but successful year. All employees were invited and one guest could accompany them free of charge. Both successful events were not as grand as they have been in the past, but the spirit of joy and togetherness were felt by all in attendance.

## **PRESIDENT'S APPRECIATION AWARD**

One of the major accomplishments during this reporting period has been the development, approval and implementation of 15 online degrees. This is the most strategic development in the University that has the potential to address ongoing educational and revenue concerns or challenges in the Territory and nationally. This has been a team effort led by Provost Camille McKayle but has included the tireless and creative work of various individuals. Because of the important and meaningful contribution to this significant achievement, the President's Appreciation Award period goes to the following individuals:

- Charmaine Smith
- Cheryl Roberts
- Dannica Thomas
- Desha Brathwaite
- Dr. Ameeta Jadav
- Dr. Camille McKayle
- Dr. Kimarie Engerman
- Dr. Lucy Reuben
- Dr. Sandra Romano
- Dr. Stuart Ketcham
- Erik Pattison
- Monifa Potter
- Sharlene Harris

## **PART II: PATHWAYS TO GREATNESS INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **AREA OF FOCUS #1: ACADEMIC QUALITY AND EXCELLENCE**

- The Ph.D. Program welcomed 38 students as part of its second cohort. The students come from a wide range of professional backgrounds and are geographically located within the Virgin Islands, Eastern Caribbean Islands, the US Mainland and the Pacific Islands. They will graduate in 2020. The first cohort has maintained a high level of retention. Of the fifty students enrolled in Fall 2016, 46 are continuing in the program. Recruitment for the third cohort is ongoing.
- The School of Education submitted a proposal for the Secondary Teaching Certificate to the Curriculum Committee, which was approved at its last meeting.
- One of the major goals for this year is the development of the University's new strategic plan. The present plan, "Pathways to Greatness," expires in September 2018, and we are required to have a new plan to guide the future direction of UVI. The hurricanes have slowed our work in regards to this critical initiative, but it is still achievable. In order to collaboratively launch the planning process, we hosted Strategic Planning Town Hall meetings on both campuses, December 13-14, 2017. The goal for the first meeting was to share with the community the planning time frame, a proposed theme, and the broad focus areas. The names of the members of the Planning Task Force who will oversee this important process were introduced. The PTF is co-chaired by Dr. Stuart Ketcham, Faculty Chair and Ms. Sharlene Harris, Interim Vice President for Information Services and Institutional Assessment. A consultant has been identified to facilitate campus workshops focused on innovation scheduled for March 6-7, 2018.
- The Office of Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) in the Information and Technology Services (ITS) Department led the following initiatives:
  - IRP completed the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Fall collection. IRP collaborated with Indiana University for Postsecondary Research to administer the 2018 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and the 2018 Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE). The NSSE will be administered during the spring Semester to undergraduate first-year and senior students. The FSSE will be administered to full-time faculty during the month of April. Data and reports will be released starting in summer 2018, with the institutional report and downloadable data files delivered in August, downloadable Major Field Report delivered in October, and Annual Results delivered in November.
  - IRP and ITS staff created a program for the automatic generation of data for completion of the Title III reports to the U.S. Department of Education. The program automates

collection of data on UVI bachelors' degree graduates who enroll in graduate schools out of the Territory.

- IRP administered the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE) to all entering new freshmen during the first two weeks of Fall 2017 semester. BCSSE provided each respondent an advisor report. The BCSSE will continue to be administered to all new freshmen at the beginning of each Fall semester to support major and academic advising.

## **AREA OF FOCUS #2: STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESS**

- At the start of the Fall 2017 semester, sixteen students were participating in the Dual Credit Program. After the passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, thirteen students remained in the program and three students left the Territory. Of the thirteen students, nine are on the Albert A. Sheen Campus and four are on the St. Thomas Campus. The Dual Credit program is a joint initiative between the University and the Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) to provide public high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to gain college credit while completing high school requirements.
- On the St. Thomas Campus, the Student Government Association (SGA) Installation Ceremony was held on November 2, 2017, in the Ralph E. Paiewonsky Library. Fourteen SGA elected, including the student representative to the UVI Board of Trustees, were installed into office. On the Albert A. Sheen Campus, the Student Government Association hosted its Special and Freshman Elections on October 17<sup>th</sup> to complete its Cabinet. Four executive members, seven Senators and Council members, and five committee chairpersons were installed into office at a ceremony on October 18, 2017. Senator Positive T.A. Nelson, addressed the new officers and discussed the importance of their leadership in the current environment.

## **AREA OF FOCUS #3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND GLOBALIZATION**

- Faculty and staff from the Agricultural Experimental Station (AES) harvested fruit and vegetable crops from the field plots to send to St. Thomas and St. John as part of the relief efforts after Hurricane Irma. Approximately 1,230 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, including sweet potatoes, avocado, breadfruit, carambola and green bananas, were donated to the hurricane relief and recovery effort. The Biotechnology and Agroforestry program donated sweet potatoes to the Queen Louise Home, My Brothers Table, The Light House, and Herbert Grigg Home for the Elderly.
- Representatives from the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) on the St. Thomas Campus appeared on the WSTA radio show to discuss mold and household furnishings. The presentation led to an appearance before the Rotary Club of St. Thomas and was later featured on Addie Ottley's Morning Show.

- The Cooperative Extension Service (CES) provided the Magen's Bay Authority with technical support to help restore the park's vegetation after the hurricanes. Royal Caribbean Cruise Line donated the principal funding for the project. Over 530 plants have been planted throughout areas of the park near the beach and sheds.
- The Eastern Caribbean Center (ECC) completed the following activities:
  - ECC conducted a systematic mapping of 21,300 Virgin Islands housing units in selected estates for the purpose of sampling households. This endeavor was remarkably different from previous mappings due to the introduction of an innovative method for collecting digital geographic information by hand-held electronic devices in the field. Overall, 35 temporary fieldworkers mapped the housing units. This mapped framework provides for the random selection of housing units in a scientific survey in a timely and more cost effective way.
  - The final processing of the Virgin Islands Household Income and Expenditure Survey, funded with \$240,000 by the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), commenced in August. Approximately 2,500 households were probabilistically selected to provide information on daily expenditures over a two-week period. This data is now being used to update the cost of living in the Virgin Islands since the last survey of 2005.
  - ECC completed the final report of the 2015 Parents Satisfaction Survey conducted on behalf of the Virgin Islands' State Office of Special Education (SOSE). ECC gave public presentations of the findings in both St. Croix and St. Thomas to about 45 parents, and delivered 40 copies of the detailed report to the State Director for SOSE. ECC has been conducting this annual survey for the past 10 years.
- In conjunction with the Virgin Islands Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VI-EPSCoR), *The Caribbean Writer* launched a creative writing workshop to gauge the community's sentiments titled "Response Recovery Resilience." The workshop coordinators were *Nicolas C. Drayton*, Assistant Director/Creative Thinking Facilitator, VI-EPSCoR, and *Alscess Lewis-Brown*, Editor, *The Caribbean Writer*. Other presenters and facilitators included the eminent author and scientist Roger Pulwarty. The activity ran for four consecutive weekends, beginning on November 10th on the Albert A. Sheen Campus.
- VI-EPSCoR facilitated "Just Add Science" activities as part of the Christmas Tree Lighting event at Yacht Haven Grande (December 1, 2017) and the Winter on the Waterfront event (December 16, 2017). The activities targeted both adults and youths. There were discussions on marine debris and demonstrations on how to make a birdfeeder from recycled plastic bottles.
- In collaboration with the Department of Sports Parks and Recreation and Caribbean Cinemas, VI-EPSCoR hosted post-hurricanes recreational and science educational activities for out-of-school elementary school students. Students viewed videos on hurricanes and participated in activities and discussions surrounding hurricanes. Approximately 20 students benefitted from the outreach.

- The Virgin Islands Small Business Development Center (SBDC) facilitated the below activities:
  - In conjunction with the Small Business Administration (SBA), SBDC staff provided assistance to the Territory's small businesses that were impacted by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. SBDC provided information about disaster loans, answered questions, and assisted businesses in completing the SBA disaster loan application during the period of October to December 2017.
  - SBDC participated in 103.5 FM's "VI in the Morning" and partnered with WUVI student radio to promote its small business disaster recovery series, "Life after Two Cat 5 Hurricanes ... The New Normal" on December 5, 2017.
  - The Center's training for attendees and clients reached 167 during this reporting period. SBDC, in collaboration with SBA, UVI-CELL (Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning Center), the Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands, and Virgin Islands Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc., provided a dozen training seminars and informational events to the small business community in the Virgin Islands.
  - The SBDC Service Center on St. Croix participated in the Chamber of Commerce's "Business Recovery Information Session" presented by the SBA and FEMA on October 18, 2017. SBDC also hosted the SBA Business Recovery Center at both the St. Croix and St. Thomas service centers.
- The Golden Key International Honour Society on the Albert A. Sheen Campus, through their SPARK-A Change initiative, hosted an activity for children at the Queen Louise Home for Children on December 23, 2017. This community outreach program featured activities for children based on their age and mental abilities.
- The Public Relations Office in collaboration with the Reichhold Center for the Arts marketing team launched promotions to support the Spring 2018 enrollment efforts. The enrollment promotions included social media ads, radio appearances and print ads in the local media.
- The UVI website (<http://www.uvi.edu>) received 524,255 page hits with 425,912 unique page views for the period of October 1, 2017 and January 31, 2018. During this period, the registration and class schedules webpage received the most traffic with 26,972 hits. The average person spent 2 minutes on the webpage viewing our registration guidelines and selecting Spring 2017 courses. For the 2017 calendar year, UVI's website received 1,995,654 page views.
- The Public Relations Office continues to engage stakeholders via UVI's social media: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#). UVI has received an increase in the number of likes/and or followers on all our social media platforms for the reporting period. Please see below table.

### Social Media Platform Overview

Social Media	Likes or Followers	Percentage Increase
Facebook	5,172	12 %
Twitter	1,679	13%
Instagram	961	10%
Linked In	6,866	5.2%

- The Public Relations Office (PRO) generated 19 news releases and 180 local news mentions between October 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017. For the month of January 2018, the PRO Office generated two news releases, five Bulletin Boards, and five ads. There were 75 news clippings during this time period.
- As part of the UVI Alumni thank-a-thon, over 2,000 calls were placed thanking alumni for their valued support between Thanksgiving to the end of January 2018.
- The Reichhold Center for the Arts (RCA) staff provided technical assistance support for the Superior Court Rising Stars Youth Steel Orchestra Annual Christmas Concert. This concert is typically held at the RCA each December. This season, it was held in Emancipations Gardens due to the current condition of the Center.

### **AREA OF FOCUS # 4: MODERN AND SAFE UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT**

- The Libraries announced the availability of BlueCloud Commerce, which allows customers to pay fees and fines online with credit or debit cards. This eliminates the need for continued visits to the Cashiers' office to pay and then return to Information and Technology Services (ITS) for account holds to be removed. This improved process also limits the handling of cash.
- The Libraries' schedules were expanded to accommodate the continued challenges the University community may be experiencing accessing technology off campus. With hours into the evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, faculty, staff and students have many options to access the Internet, campus network and other technology.
- The Banner 9 system was released to users for testing with plans to go live in September 2018. Banner's new functionality removes the reliance on java plugins and will be accessible from all browsers, including mobiles. As java is deemed unstable, Banner is currently available only on Internet Explorer. Though the restriction of Banner access on-campus or through a VPN (virtual private network) will remain, it will be much easier for functional users of the database to access.
- Restoration work on both campuses continue:

- St. Thomas Campus: With the assistance of external cleaning professionals, the Water & Power Authority (WAPA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Grade All Heavy Equipment, Air Force contingency and other agencies, work has been ongoing. To date, visible signs of restoration are seen and experienced such as: ceiling tiles are being replaced; most of the debris has been removed from and around the campus; leaks on the domestic water system have been fully repaired and the system is functional; faculty spaces are being addressed; temporary repairs on and around campus including roofs are being conducted.

The University examined all the options available for the total reconstruction/permanent work in the final restoration phase. It was determined that an Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firm would be in the best interest of the University. The engagement of the A&E firm would ensure that the reconstruction and needed assessments would be expedited in a professional manner, in accordance with the International Building Code and by certified professionals qualified in their discipline. The Administration continues to focus on the prioritized areas and safety initiatives for its faculty, staff, students and campus users.

- Albert A. Sheen Campus: A vendor was selected to complete the repairs of approximately 600 linear feet of wooden railings in the Melvin Evans Center by the outdoor staircases on the 500-, 600-, 700-, 800- and 900-levels. The repairs were needed due to the wind damage sustained by the railings during Hurricane Maria. The contractor prepared and painted the railings during the holiday recess.

Temporary emergency protective measures were needed on St. Croix to mitigate safety concerns on campus. Approximately twenty-two light posts in the parking lots and on Palm Drive were damaged by Hurricane Maria, creating a safety concern in the parking lots and on the primary access road to and from the campus. Two RL4 Terex Light Towers were purchased with a capacity to illuminate approximately 6 to 7 acres each. The towers are located in the Melvin Evans Center parking lots and on Palm Drive.

Progress on the fencing repairs on the Outdoor Tennis and Basketball Courts have commenced. The damaged fencing prevented use of the outdoor courts for both instructional and recreational purposes. Repairs are expected to be completed in February 2018, pending availability of additional fencing supplies on island.

Ceiling repairs on the second-floor residential suites at the Delta M. Jackson Dorsch Complex were completed on November 10, 2017. A total of 34 rooms needed to be refurbished post-hurricane. The contractor released suites for occupancy as they were completed, which facilitated a timely return to regular operations so that the residence hall could maximize occupancy levels. This facilitated an ongoing process to improve residential conditions and assist local students returning to living on campus.

- The Office of Compliance and Campus Operations on the Albert A. Sheen Campus collaborated with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assist with the evaluation and remediation efforts of hurricane sustained damages impacting teaching and research laboratories on campus.
- From November 3-20, 2017, an EPA team led the evaluation and packing of all chemicals to be disposed. A total of 787 items, weighing about 5,700 lbs. were disposed by EPA from teaching labs in the College of Science and Mathematics, and research labs in the Agricultural Experiment Station, Research Extension Center and the Sheep Barn.
- The Medical School Classroom Building incurred significant damage from wind and water intrusion to the interior and exterior of the site to include equipment. The University is currently in negotiations with the insurance carrier. The project, however, is moving forward. UVI is in the process of installing the final plaster finish on the exterior with the approved color scheme. Rooftops Construction has started the installation of the Thermoplastic Polyolefin (TPO) membrane installation which upon completion will secure a water tight roof. The doors and windows which are in stock will be installed upon completion of the installation of the final exterior finish. The primary focus as we proceed will be to have the facility exterior finished and roof completed and all penetrations closed, i.e., windows and doors. The focus on the interior will work in conjunction with closure and settlement of our insurance claim.
- The Medical School Simulation Center construction of the core and shell building began on January 25, 2018. This included site work and mobilization, footing layout, delivery of forming materials, footing rebar and the cistern slab was poured. The one-story 21,332 square foot structure, will consist of surgical skills labs, simulation rooms, a 50-seat lecture hall, conference space, a dining hall and administrative offices. The state-of-the art spaces will provide an active learning environment for medical students, visiting physicians and other healthcare professionals interested in continuing education. The conference room and lecture hall will feature smart classroom technology.
- Despite the many challenges the St. Thomas Campus Security Department encountered during this quarter, the department received positive recognition from various internal and external constituency groups. The Campus Security Department demonstrated the strength of the unit by successfully providing security and other support services prior to, during and immediately following Hurricanes Maria and Irma. Additionally, the unit continues to meet Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) requirements.

## **AREA OF FOCUS #5: ORGANIZATIONAL AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

- The Human Resources Team participated and help facilitated several hurricane relief initiatives on campus in September, October, November, and December 2017. Some of these initiatives included:
  - Identified the whereabouts of employees after each storm;
  - Assisted with the distribution of hurricane relief supplies and food donated by former NBA Player Tim Duncan and former Mayor of New York Michael Bloomberg;
  - Facilitated the distribution of supplies donated by the American Red Cross; hurricane relief buckets, food, diapers (children and adults), cleaning supplies and other hurricane relief items;
  - Organized and facilitated the distribution of hurricane relief items donated by Senator Janelle Sarauw;
  - Assisted with the distribution of hurricane relief supplies donated by the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas;
  - Facilitated the distribution of free lunch tickets to all full-time and part time employees.
  - Organized the distribution of tarpaulins from FEMA (STX);
- The Human Resources Team was responsible for the processing and distribution of emergency loans and hurricane relief funds to employees. Approximately 137 employees applied for and received loans of \$750. In addition, all full-time employees who participated in the two retirement programs received a check for \$100 prior to the holiday recess.
- The VI Port Authority resumed an abbreviated “A New Year, A New Me” wellness program effective January 22, 2018 through May 25, 2018 on St. Thomas only. Free classes which were offered prior to Hurricanes Irma and Maria were suspended until further notice. Participants who wish to attend classes must pay a fee depending on their past participation in the program. The Director of Facilities and Campus Operations, UVI St. Croix campus, has agreed to host the program at the tennis court and would contact the facilitators of the program once repairs to the court are completed.

## **AREA OF FOCUS #6: FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND GROWTH**

- For Fiscal Year 2018, the hurricanes interrupted the Virgin Islands Government Budget Process. As a result, the Legislature was unable to pass the required appropriation to establish the budget for FY2018. In Fiscal Year 2017, the University's Operating Budget was appropriated at \$32,246,750 as authorized by Act No. 7920 (Bill No. 31-0427), therefore, as provided by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, the FY2017 budget was rolled over into FY2018. However, the Office of Management and Budget notified the University via a memorandum dated September 29, 2017 that the allotment ceiling level was reduced by 12.5% or \$4,030,844. This reduction has

lowered the University's allotment level to \$28,215,906. Thus, the University's allotment of \$2,351,325.50 is requested from the Department of Finance each month. As of January 19, 2018, the University has received a total of \$9,405,302 in allotments from the V.I. Government for Fiscal Year 2018. This represents 100% of the \$9,405,302 requested for the fiscal year through January 2018.

- The Annual Fund has raised over \$912,000 from 348 donors during the first quarter with sixteen of them contributing over \$10,000. Several other prospects and foundations are currently considering the impact they can have on the rebuilding efforts of the University. Areas of the University receiving substantial gifts this quarter include: School of Nursing, School of Business, UVI Rise Relief Fund, Scholarships, and the Process Technology Program.
- The Reichhold Center for the Arts (RCA) was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts to support hurricane recovery efforts and special projects which have a specific goal of addressing the performing arts community in the Virgin Islands. There have been substantive discussions occurring throughout the performing and cultural arts community to develop strategies to preserve programs which continue to promote these initiatives in the aftermath of the storms. RCA was among a small number of grantees to receive this special grant award.
- The Development Office hosted 14 donors and prospects on the Bolongo Bay Heavenly Days Catamaran for the hurricane recovery cruise on December 7, 2017. The 2-hour sunset cruise of the St. Thomas Waterfront provided community leaders with an opportunity to have a meaningful evening with colleagues and sharing of their hurricane and recovery experience. Our guests commented on how the catamaran cruise was the first relaxing activity which took their minds away from the entire hurricane experience. President Hall shared a heartfelt thank you to the community leader's efforts during and after the storms.
- The FY 2017 Financial Audit began with the preparations, walkthrough and submission of reports to the newly contracted audit firm DELOITTE. The process was interrupted by the passage of the hurricanes. The firm voided the contract and the audit is now pending. The audited financial statements are slated for completion March 31, 2018. Accountants are also preparing for the onset of the FY 2017 Financial and A-133 Single Audit.