



dateline: UVI

The monthly newsletter of The University of the Virgin Islands

April 26, 2001 vol. vii, number 3

UVI Debaters Win Arguments and Accolades

Winning arguments is a skill that members of the UVI debate teams on St. Croix and St. Thomas have mastered. In the 12 years since the Caribbean Intercollegiate Debate and Public Speaking Association was founded at UVI, the University's

debate teams have traveled far and wide exhibiting their talents and challenging teams from other universities in the region. The Caribbean Intercollegiate Debate and Public



Members of the UVI St. Thomas Campus Debate Society who traveled to Barbados are left to right: Sharyn Niles, Martha Joseph and Viola Joseph. (Keicha Brooks is not pictured.)

Speaking Association is made up of college debate teams from the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guyana, Trinidad, Barbados, Bahamas, Jamaica and Puerto Rico. Last year, the 10th Annual Caribbean Intercollegiate Debates were held on UVI's St. Croix campus.

Communications Professor Lucia Dimeo is the faculty advisor to the UVI St. Croix Campus Debate Society. The St. Croix team held one debate in November 2000 and two debates during the 2001 spring semester, which were conducted in the Student Activities Center on the St. Croix campus. The last debate, in February, argued the moot, "Be it resolved that Hip-Hop music has a negative effect on today's youth." The St. Croix team split to allow its members to argue opposing viewpoints.

"You have to research well, you have to feel confident about what you are saying," Dimeo said. "Often after the debates, the audience finds out that the debaters really felt totally opposite to the position they upheld. I am always thrilled to see how the students rise to the occasion."

On April 4, four members of UVI's St. Thomas campus Debate Society traveled to the Cave Hill, Barbados campus of the University of the West Indies to participate in the 11th Annual Caribbean Intercollegiate Debates. UVI team members Sharyn Niles, Martha Joseph, Viola Joseph and Keicha Brooks won their debate against the University of Puerto Rico team by opposing UPR's contention that the Caribbean "has failed its sons". UVI team member Sharon Niles was also victorious — claiming the title of "best speaker" in three of the four debates in which the UVI team competed.

English Professor Gene Emanuel, who is faculty advisor to the St. Thomas campus Debate Society, said UVI's win against UPR was significant, based on the makeup of the St. Thomas team. Sharyn and Keicha are sophomores, Martha is a junior and Viola is a senior.

"We did not have a full senior team and we still won," Emanuel said. "We were debating against senior debaters who had been on the circuit for the past three years."

Upward Bounders Are College Bound

Each year, staff of the Upward Bound program on UVI's St. Thomas and St. Croix campuses watch young people they have nurtured, taught, corrected and supervised take their first steps toward successful college careers.

Upward Bound is a college preparatory program that is open to low-income high school students or to high school students who are potentially the first in their families to attend college.

"We are a college-bound program and our goal is to get them into college - to see that they graduate and that they are successful," Vanessa Ayala-Berg, assistant director of the Upward Bound program, said from her St. Croix office.

During the academic year, about 70 Upward Bound students participate in weekly and after-school tutorial sessions in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, geography, chemistry, physics and language arts to supplement their high school classes. Students from public and private high schools participate in the program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

(Upward Bound continued on Page 2)

Events Calendar

May

12-13

"Starfest 7" at the Reichhold Center for the Arts, St. Thomas

19, 20

Commencement - St. Thomas, St. Croix campuses

Upward Bounders . . .

The Upward Bound summer residency program on St.



(L to R) Travis Vanterpool, Rydel Williams and Ira Hobson of Charlotte Amalie High School enjoyed a trip to Coral World with Dalia Charlemagne and Kai Barnes of Central High School on St. Croix.

Thomas further prepares students for college life with core curriculum classes in the morning, tutorial and enrichment sessions in the afternoon and the experience of living on campus in UVI's residence halls. Although the students who participate in the sum-

mer residency program are high school students, several are challenged to reach their full academic potential by taking one college-level course during the summer. Students from St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas take part in the Upward Bound summer residency program on UVI's St. Thomas campus.

Rosalia Rohan, the director of Upward Bound, has worked with the program for 23 years.

"Words can't describe how rewarding it is," she said. "You are able to be a very important part of their lives and watch them when they blossom into successful individuals." According to Rohan, 75 to 80 percent of Upward Bounders are honor-roll students and more than 90 percent go on to college. "It's a well-kept secret," she said.

Thirty Upward Bound graduates are enrolled in full-time programs at UVI. Once they're enrolled, the Upward Bound counseling component doesn't stop.

"They still have us here as a support system," Rohan said.

UVI Hosts International Cultural Events

The University of the Virgin Islands hosted two events as part of its international outreach to world cultures. The first of these – a series of free Japanese Cultural activities – took place during the week of March 22 through the 28th. The second event, the 12th Triennial Symposium of African and Caribbean Art, sponsored by the Arts Council of the African Studies Association (ACASA), is taking place from April 24 through April 29.

The week of Japanese cultural activities took place on both UVI campuses, sponsored by the Consulate General of Japan in New York, the Japan Foundation and the University of the Virgin Islands. The cultural activities included a Japanese stamp art exhibit, two recently released Japanese films and an Ikebana exhibition — the art of Japanese flower arranging.

Several Japanese dignitaries visited the territory for the events. In attendance from the Consulate General of Japan's New York office were the Honorable Joji (George) Hisaeda, deputy consul, Shingo Okazaki, consul, and Yukiko Abe, vice



Nobue Miyauchi amazed audiences with her use of everyday, household items and her appreciation of common local flowers and plants.

Japan, conducted the Ikebana exhibitions on St. Thomas and St. Croix, which were very well attended.

consul. Also in attendance were S u m i t o m o Horiuchi, director of the Japan Foundation's New York Office. World renowned Ikebana artist and teacher Nobue Miyauchi, from

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