

Alumni Update

Inside this issue:

Tom Joyner Shop be-Cause 2

FUVI Celebrity Golf Classic 2

A Message From the Association President 3

2005 Alumni Recognition Award Breakfast 3

UVI 2005 Graduation Photos 4

Special points of interest:

- Who's Who
- Get Involved
- Alumni Association membership application

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Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2005

Welcome to Alumni Update

Dear Alumni:

Greetings and welcome to *Alumni Update* – your bi-annual alumni newsletter. Aside from alumni news and information, the *Update* will create opportunities for alumni to get involved with the University and their local chapters.

In this issue of the *Update*, you will find a brief article on the new Seasoned Alumni Program (SAP), which is designed to respond to alumni needs with professional development courses in specific areas of interest. Classes have already been held for basic computer training and car maintenance.

One seasoned alum has suggested that we offer health-related classes and possibly a SAP Health Fair. We look forward to hearing more recommendations.

You will also find articles on the Tom Joyner Shop be-Cause event on St. Thomas' Main Street and the Foundation for the University of the Virgin

President
LaVerne E.
Ragster



Islands' Celebrity Golf Classic at St. Croix's Carambola Beach Resort. In June, the Association held its annual Alumni Recognition Award Breakfast. Alumni honorees were Jose Penn, Willis Todman, Joan Thomas and Michael Watson. The dedication and commitment these four individuals show UVI is unwavering. Congratulations to all of you!

I also wish to congratulate the UVI Alumni Association on receiving the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund's Alumni Council Award for Outstanding Achievement in Membership – Small Size. I hope this award will act as a catalyst for those alumni who have not participated in the past to become members and make you

feel proud to be a part of an award-winning association.

When we include our 2005 graduating class, UVI alumni total 6,300 strong. Alumni are important. You are our largest stakeholders and you are our legacy. As UVI alumni, you validate the University's mission and you lend credence to our theme of "specializing in futures." We hope you enjoy the newsletter and thank you for your continued interest and support of UVI.

Sincerely,

LaVerne E. Ragster, Ph.D.
President

P.S. Watch your mail for the release of the UVI 2005 Alumni Directory. It is a great resource for keeping in touch with fellow alumni, and a great tool for professional networking.

Seasoned Alumni Program (SAP)

If you are a seasoned alum and are looking for ways to improve your professional skills, look no further. The UVI Seasoned Alumni Program (SAP) was designed to provide free professional development training for our senior alumni in any area of interest.

The workshops are being held on the St. Thomas and St. Croix campuses. Thus far, there were seven computer workshops that were conducted between islands and three basic car maintenance workshops. Areas cov-

ered in the computer workshops were basic computer skills, computer maintenance, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Internet Usage.

We have been receiving positive feedback from the participants and they can't wait to hear about upcoming seminars for the next fiscal year. One of the SAP participants, Ms. Anna Gabino, expressed that she is enjoying every bit of information she is getting from these trainings. Most of the presenters from these workshops are your fellow alumni. If you are inter-

ested in becoming a presenter and/or would like more information about UVI-SAP, please contact the Alumni Affairs Office at (340) 692-4023.

The UVI SAP was created by Ms. Ardrina Scott-Elliott, and is funded by the University of the Virgin Islands Sponsored Programs Title III Office.

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR ALMA MATER

If you are interested in becoming a member of a UVI Alumni Association Chapter in your area, please complete the membership application and mail it to:

*University of the Virgin Islands
UVI Alumni Association
c/o Alumni Affairs
#2 John Brewer's Bay
St. Thomas, VI 00802-9990*

University of the Virgin Islands

Annual Giving Fund

UVI's Annual Giving Fund supports the ongoing and unforeseen needs of the institution. The money is used to fortify programs of central importance to UVI's mission.

Annual Giving Circles

UVI Partners - \$10,000 or more
Paiewonsky Circle - \$5,000-\$9,999
Founders' Circle - \$1,000-\$4,999
Trustees Circle - \$500-\$999
President's Circle - \$200-\$499

Send Tax-Deductible Contributions To:
Office of Institutional Advancement

#2 John Brewer's Bay
St. Thomas, VI 00802-9990
Call (340) 693-1047 for details.

Alumni Update is published by the University of the Virgin Islands Alumni Affairs Office. This newsletter is to provide news and information pertinent to the UVI Family.

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Tom Joyner—Shop be-Cause

When Tom Joyner's "Fantastic Voyage," aboard Royal Caribbean's Adventure of the Seas, docked at Charlotte Amalie Harbor at 6:30 a.m. on May 30, 2005, staff and volunteers were already on Main Street applying finishing touches to tables and tents in preparation for the Shop be-Cause event. A daylong celebration and shopping event designed to help raise money for UVI.

A joint venture between UVI, The Tom Joyner Foundation and V.I. Tourism Department, the Memorial Day event was scheduled specifically to coincide with the arrival of Joyner's "Fantastic Voyage." Main Street was transformed into a carnival-like atmosphere and cruise ship passengers were treated to live music, mocko jumbies, local food, drink and arts and crafts.

The "Fantastic Voyage" is an annual cruise event to promote awareness and raise money for The Tom Joyner Foundation. The Foundation provides funds directly to support

Historically Black Colleges and University (HBCUs) for the purpose of helping students complete their education. UVI was designated an HBCU in 1986.

The highlight of the event was when Tom Joyner presented a \$15,000 check to UVI. "The Tom Joyner money is less restricted than other monies we receive. These are full-time students who often work and they really need assistance. This is a great program to help get our students through school," said UVI President Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster.

Main Street retailers supported the event by offering special discounts to cruise passengers and pledging to donate a portion of retail sales for the day to UVI.



Tom Joyner at Shop be-Cause with Assistant Commissioner of VI Tourism Monique Sibilly-Hodge, President Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster and Vice President of Institutional Advancement Joseph B. Boschulte.

Full-time students can obtain more information on Tom Joyner Foundation scholarship funds by contacting the University's Office for Institutional Advancement at 340-693-1042.

The nationally syndicated "Tom Joyner Morning Show" is broadcast weekdays from 6 a.m. - 10 a.m. on WWKS-FM "KISS" 101.3.

Classic Volunteers

Why and how did UVI Alumni Jerraine Wynter, Alexander Elizee, Dr. Prospero Lewis, Nestor F. Ramon Jr. and Ycianda Neptune get to hang out with actor Richard Roundtree, actress Tanya Roberts and PGA pro golfer Tim O'Neal to name a few?

The five alumni volunteered to work the Foundation for the University of the Virgin Islands (FUVI) inaugural Celebrity Golf Classic July 14-17, 2005.

The tournament was held on the links of the Carambola Golf Course on St. Croix, where more than 80 golfers, including celebrities from the worlds of sports and entertainment, turned out. The Classic's youth football and golf clinics drew more than 100 participants, with more than 25 youngsters at the golf clinic hosted by PGA tour qualifier

Tim O'Neal and another 85 joining in the football clinic hosted by pro football players on UVI's St. Croix campus.

St. Croix Alumni Chapter President Jerraine Wynter said, "Working the tournament was a great opportunity to meet, greet and welcome guests from off-island. I'm looking forward to volunteering next year." Alumni assisted with the golf tournament registration and coordination of the football clinic.

A Government House reception, press conference, poker night, gala fashion show and parties rounded out a very special weekend. Proceeds from the Golf Classic go to support the Foundation for the University of the Virgin Islands Alumni interested in volunteering for



Volunteers, from left, Diana Roman, Patricia Roman, Ycianda Neptune '05, Wendy Wheeler '05 and Jerraine Wynter '96.

future University events should call Wendy Wheeler at (340) 692-4023 for more information.

A slide show from the
Celebrity Tournament
is available on the
UVI web site: www.uvi.edu

A Message from the Association President

Greetings Fellow Alumni:

As President of the University of the Virgin Islands Alumni Association, I would like to thank you for reading the *Alumni Update*. It is our hope that you will continue to stay linked to the University and the many programs we are planning for alumni to stay connected with our alma mater. This newsletter is a good avenue for me to stay in touch with you and to keep you informed of all upcoming events and issues surrounding the UVI Alumni Association.

With the number of graduates now over 6,000, we look forward to fulfilling the mission of the Alumni Association: to promote, strengthen, and support the important connection between alumni and the University, provide to the members many personal and professional development opportunities through education and association with business professionals, provide a support network for students and alumni, and be active in forecasting/solving community issues.



Deanna Rogers, right, accepts the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Award

Presently, our executive members are working diligently in trying to achieve the mission of the Association by pushing the organization straight to the top with no breaks to stop. This year the UVI Alumni Association received the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund's Alumni Council Award for Outstanding Achievement in Membership – Small Size. In March 2004, the 25th Legislature of the Virgin Islands approved Act No. 6646 Bill No. 25-0093 which

provides an alumnus or alumnae to serve on the UVI Board of Trustees. I am currently serving as your alumni representative to the UVI Board and would like to thank you for the confidence you have in me as your ambassador.

Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to those of who are movers and shakers of the various chapters. We could not have achieved our goals without your continued support. Continue to stay connected to the University whose motto is "specializing in futures."

Please complete the enclosed registration form and become an active member of the UVI Alumni Association Chapter in your area. Return the completed form along with a check or money order payable to: UVI Alumni Association, 2 John Brewer's Bay, St. Thomas, VI 00802-9990. Sincerely,

Deanna Rogers '87
UVI Alumni Association President

Alumni Awards Recognition Breakfast

On June 4, 2005, the St. Thomas/St. John Chapter hosted its third Annual Awards Recognition Breakfast at the Pilgrim's Terrace.

The honorees were Jose Penn, proprietor and chief financial offi-

cer of Penns' Corporation; Joan Thomas, co-owner of Pimpy's Trucking Services; Willis Todmann, acting administrator and chief financial officer of the Government Employees Retirement System; and Michael Watson, proprietor of

Petite Pump Room restaurant.

The honorees were selected based on their entrepreneurial and managerial successes and their continued support to the University of the Virgin Islands.

UVI Alumni Association Membership Application

(Please Print)

Name: _____ ☐ Mr. ☐ Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr.

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____
City State Zip Code

Contact Numbers: _____
Home Work Cellular

I, _____ hereby register as a member of the University of the Virgin Islands Alumni Association's _____ Chapter.
(listed on www.uvi.edu/pub-relations/alumni/chapters.html) and pay the:

- ☐ Annual membership dues of \$35.00 or
☐ Lifetime membership dues of \$500.00 (one time only)

Signature _____ Date _____

Who's Who

1975

Santiago Diaz Santiago

Retired Teacher

St. Croix Central High (26 years)

Education: BA in Secondary Education

Residency: St. Croix

1981, 1994

Roberto Arrindell

Principal

St. Martin Academy

Education: BA in Secondary Education (Mathematics), MAE in Administration & Supervision

Residency: St. Maarten

1983

Dr. Trevor Connor

Dentist

The Office of Dr. Trevor

Connor, D.D.S.

Education: BS in Biology

Residency: Anguilla/St. Thomas

1994

Anecia Sewer

Entrepreneur

Republic Barge Company

Education: BA in Social Work

Residency: St. John

1996

Elton Callwood

Entrepreneur

BVI Standpoint Newspaper

Education: BA in Business

Administration, AA in Business Management

Residency: Tortola (British Virgin Islands)

1996

Imani Marley-Husbands

Special Projects Executive

Assistant/Marketing

Balfour Beatty

Construction Company

Education: BA in English

Residency: Atlanta, GA

2000

Josephine Larsen

Financial Manager

AT&T Business Services

International Controllers

Education: BA in Accounting

Residency: New Jersey

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Alumni Affairs Office Newsletter

University of the Virgin Islands

University of the Virgin Islands
Alumni Affairs Office
#2 John Brewer's Bay
Charlotte Amalie, VI 00802-0991

Place
Stamp
Here

University of the Virgin Islands Graduation 2005

