



dateline: UVI

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UVI Employee Named Farmer of the Year

The University of the Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service (CES), which each year organizes UVI's participation in the USVI Agricultural and Food Fair on St. Croix, has co-sponsored the event since its inception. So it was a great honor when one of UVI's own was given one of the fair's top awards — farmer of the year. Aberra Bulbulla, a research analyst at UVI's Agricultural Experiment Station, was named Produce Farmer of the Year at the official opening ceremony of the 32nd annual Agricultural and Food Fair on February 15.

Bulbulla, who has been farming for eight years, said he felt "great" about winning the award.

At his four-acre farm in Mountain Estate, Bulbulla grows 30 different varieties of fruit trees and plants.

"I still want to plant more, but I'm running out of space," Bulbulla said.



Aberra Bulbulla, a research analyst at UVI's Agricultural Experiment Station on the St. Croix campus, was named Produce Farmer of the Year at the 32nd annual USVI Agricultural and Food Fair.

Agriculture on St. Croix, if developed properly, could boost the economic situation on that island and lessen the territory's need for imported produce, Bulbulla said. He is looking forward to the next two years when his farm will be in full production and he will be able to "harvest every day all year round."

Some of UVI's many offerings were showcased, including many displays from the Research and Public Service component, like crops and animals from the Agricultural Experiment Station, literature on the Small Business Development Center and books from the Research Publications Unit. Also on hand were representatives from Health Services who provided various health screenings and a representative from Recruitment and Admissions who provided information and literature to potential students.

Harrigan Wins Miss UVI Title



*Alba Harrigan
Miss UVI 2003-2004*

In an enchanting evening of pageantry, Alba Harrigan was crowned Miss University of the Virgin Islands on Saturday, February 15, at the Island Center on St. Croix. Harrigan, a sophomore psychology major attending UVI's St. Thomas campus, also won the titles of "Miss Congeniality," "Best Ambassadorial Presentation," "Best Talent," "Best Evening Wear" and "Miss Intellect."

The first runner up was Demelza Lawrence. The second runner up was Michael Lake, who was also

named "Miss Photogenic." Keischa Brooks, the third runner up, was named "Miss Popularity."

This year marked the first time that the competition was held on St. Croix.

Events Calendar

Feb. 26	VIMAS Seminar, STT
March 9	Afternoon on the Green, STT
March 12	Public Forum, STT, STX
March 14	Faculty Colloquia, STT, STX
March 15	Cultural Extravaganza, STT
March 16	Presidential Inauguration, STT
March 24-26	Volleyball Tournament, STT

Financial Aid Office Opens Resource Centers



UVI Student Jacob Hood navigates the Federal Student Aid website with help from Financial Aid Administrative Assistant Mary Myers at the opening of the Financial Aid Resource Center on the St. Thomas campus.

The University of the Virgin Islands Financial Aid Office held its first annual Financial Aid Awareness initiative from February 3-7 on both campuses. The week of activities began with the grand opening of the Financial Aid Resource Centers, which are equipped with computers providing internet access for students to electronically apply for financial aid. Students who do not have access to the internet may visit the resource center on the St. Thomas campus on the second floor of Roupe House or on the St. Croix campus in the Financial Aid office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the resource centers students may fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), make corrections to their applications, check on the status of their applications and conduct scholarship searches.

UVI's Director of Financial Aid Mavis Gilchrist explained that the U.S. Department of Education is promoting electronic processing in hopes of totally phasing out paper processing within the next few years. "Everything we do with the U.S. Department of Education is electronic and they're trying to filter it down to the students," Gilchrist said.

Ardrina Scott-Elliott, financial aid supervisor on the St. Thomas campus, said that responses to electronic processing are more immediate than paper processing. When the FAFSA

is completed and signed electronically students can expect a response in three to five working days, as compared to the four weeks paper processing takes, she said.

To complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid log on to www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students may also search for financial aid information by logging on to www.studentaid.ed.gov and click on funding. For more information call the Financial Aid Office at **693-1090** or **692-4193**.

Presidential Installation Scheduled for March 16



President LaVerne Ragster

Dr. LaVerne Ragster will be installed as the fourth president of the University of the Virgin Islands on Sunday, March 16, at the Reichhold Center for the Arts on the St. Thomas campus.

There will be a week of events leading up to the installation, beginning with Afternoon on the Green on Sunday, March 9, on the St. Thomas campus golf course. For a complete list of inaugural activities log on to the

UVI Inaugural Web Page at www.uvi.edu or directly at <http://www.uvi.edu/pub-relations/inaugural/index.html>.

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