



# dateline: UVI

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## Students Dive into Summer Science Fun at UVI

Do you know the four types of mangrove trees found in the Virgin Islands? If you don't, ask a participant in the University of the Virgin Islands Summer Science Enrichment Academies (SSEA), who spent an afternoon touring the mangrove lagoon at Benner Bay on St. Thomas' East End.

Through the SSEA, 50 high school students and recent high school graduates from across the territory are spending six weeks on UVI's St. Thomas campus exploring the world of science. Twenty seventh-graders and eighth-graders from throughout the territory are attending the SSEA on UVI's St. Croix campus, learning about the marine environment.

On St. Thomas the students are divided into two groups, one focusing on "Threats to the Environment" and the other focusing on "Measuring the Universe." Along with attending biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, language arts and learning strategies classes, they also take weekly field trips. The first was a visit to the mangrove lagoon.

Gerson N. Cruz, one of the 12 students from St. Croix who is attending the program on St. Thomas, sees the program as a jump-start to a career in chemical engineering and aeronautics. "It deals with science and math and I've learned that I need to excel in science and math to become a chemical engineer," he said.

The younger students on the St. Croix campus are divided into five groups and each group must report on one of five topics. The topics are: "Deep Benthic Organisms and Geothermal Vents: Living Conditions on the Sea Floor;" "Effects of Pollution on Marine Environments: Water Quality and Safeguards;" "Coral Reef Ecology, a Rainforest in the Sea;" "Hurricanes and Their Impacts on Marine Environments;" and "Sea Turtles." They attend classes in physical science, biology, math, learning and communication skills and computers, along with going on field trips and listening to guest speakers.



*Students in UVI's Summer Science Enrichment Academy on the St. Thomas campus kayak and snorkel at the mangrove lagoon at Benner Bay.*

While the focus of the senior group is more on careers, the focus on the junior group is reinforcement of the sciences. "This is the age to grab them and keep them interested in science and math," said Dr. Michelle Peterson, program coordinator on the St. Croix campus.

Many of the students who have participated in the SSEA program during its past 12 years have gone on to pursue careers in medicine and the sciences.

"This is an awesome program," said Program Coordinator Dr. Rosenid Hernandez-Badia. "Besides academics, the students get to meet important people like Delegate Donna Christian-Christensen, who lectured to them on the topic 'community health,'

meet students with similar interests, and get first-hand exposure from the various field trips," she said.

The Summer Science Enrichment Academies are sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the UVI Health Careers Opportunities Program (HCOP), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP).

Other summer programs at the University of the Virgin Islands include: the Virgin Islands Writing Project, Reichhold Center Youth Movie Making Workshop, Upward Bound Summer Program, New Paltz Summer Exchange Program, Aquaponics and Tilapia Aquaculture Short Course and the Family Life Center Summer Program.

### Events Calendar

July 25 Reichhold Business After Hours, STT  
July 28 Mango Melee, STX

## From Toddlers to Teens, 4-H'ers Get Hands-On Training

The University of the Virgin Islands 4-H Summer Program on St. Croix is helping to develop super kids, creative kids, shining stars and young scholars. This summer's program, sponsored by UVI's Cooperative Extension Service, is serving 238 children in the St. Croix community at three different locations. The children meet daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Alexander Henderson School, Ricardo Richards School or UVI.

At the Henderson and Richards schools, the students are divided into groups according to age: Super Kids, 5 to 7-year-olds; Creative Kids, 8 to 11-year-olds; and Shining Stars, 11 to 14-year-olds. The Young Scholars, a special academic program for 11 to 14-year-olds, is held on UVI's campus. Along with daily activities, the students go on field trips and listen to guest presenters.

- The Super Kids are exploring the sense of self, learning about living things, along with latchkey competencies, conflict resolution and interpersonal skills.
- The Creative Kids are exploring the sciences through hands-on activities like raising eggs in an incubator and building a seismograph to measure earthquakes.
- The Shining Stars develop workforce preparedness by learning public speaking skills, interviewing tactics and personal attire.
- The Young Scholars are engaged in a law program taught by professionals, in which the students put together an entire legal case.

The Ricardo Richards location is set up as a "mini society" to introduce the students to entrepreneurship. Divided into groups, each group sets up its own government, establishes a currency, elects officials, and researches and markets services or products it could offer.

Extension Agent and Coordinator Sarah Dahl-Smith, said the 4-H camp provides a fun learning experience for children, evident in the large number applicants, all of which cannot be accommodated. Dahl-Smith is proud of the "solid educational

programs," the camp offers.

On St. Thomas the 4-H Summer Program is held daily at Addelita Cancryn Junior High School.

## Dinner to Honor President Kean



*President Orville Kean, Ph. D.*

The Board of Trustees of the University of the Virgin Islands and the Foundation for the University of the Virgin Islands invite you to "save the date" Saturday, September 28, 2002, for a special tribute to Orville Kean, Ph.D., third president of the University of the Virgin Islands, in honor of his retirement. Those wishing to secure advertisements or messages in a commemorative booklet may call Deborah Hamilton at 693-1042.



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