



dateline: UVI

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Water is Key at World Food Day Events

An ironic shower of rain began to fall as Dr. Henry Smith stepped up to the podium. Dr. Smith, UVI's vice provost for research and public service and director of the Water Resources Research Institute, gave the keynote address on the theme "Water: Source of Food Security," at the World Food Day events on October 20 at the University of the Virgin Islands St. Croix campus. He noted that the global demand for fresh water will increase by 50 percent in 20 years. Water, Smith said, directly affects food production. "It is more precious than oil, for it has no substitute."

In her remarks, UVI President Dr. LaVerne Ragster said that the theme is especially important for the territory because water is a major limiting source for us. "Food security is not a minor thing when we are sitting on four small islands in the middle of the Caribbean in the Atlantic."

St. Croix Chancellor Jennifer Jackson said that the World Food Day activities were "another occasion that symbolizes the University's commitment to this community." She stressed that everyone has a role to play in securing our food supply. "We must do our part to make sure that no one in the Virgin Islands goes hungry," Jackson said.



Some of the various items on sale at World Food Day, held on October 20 on UVI's St. Croix campus. Shown are two of the three featured crops - hot peppers and citrus. The other featured crop was poultry.

With food, drinks and other goodies on sale, no one should have left the event hungry. Several food vendors sold everything from shish kabob to sour sop juice. Also on sale were local jams and preserves, pastry and candy. Farmers also sold fresh produce. And to increase food security, more than 6,000 tomato, cucumber and hot pepper seedlings were given out to attendees.

The event was festive, with members of the community sampling food, attending workshops and socializing. World

Food Day was sponsored by UVI's Cooperative extension Service in partnership with the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Coming Soon: Elections!



Photo by Clint Ferris

With a general election in the Virgin Islands scheduled for November 5, UVI's Student Activities Offices, in conjunction with the Virgin Islands Election System, held voter registrations on both campuses. A demonstration of the voting machine was held on the St. Croix campus.

Events Calendar

- Oct. 31 Crisis in Paradise Forum, STT
- Nov. 2 PR Symphony Orchestra, STT
- Nov. 11 Excursion to Virgin Gorda, STT
- Nov. 15-16, 22-24 Little Theater Play, STT
- Nov. 17-20 NASA Awareness Days, STT, STX
- Nov. 22-30 Paradise Jam Tournament, STT
- Nov. 23-24 Agriculture Fair, STT

UVI Students Share Food and Culture



A member of UVI's British Virgin Islands Association prepares a Johnny cake for frying at the "Taste of Friendship" held on October 14 on the St. Thomas campus. The Johnny cakes were fried traditionally on a coal pot. Students, staff, faculty and community members came out to enjoy the event.

The Taste of Friendship held on October 14 on UVI's St. Thomas campus was a flavorful event that featured food from different nations and brought together students with various cultural backgrounds. The Taste of Friendship is part of the Student Government Association's "Celebration of Diversity and Common Heritage" that was designed to promote understanding and respect of individual diversity.

Numerous Caribbean nations were represented through national dishes and table displays. Featured were akee and saltfish, jerk chicken, and cassava bammi from the Jamaican Association; potato pudding, broccoli casserole and Johnny cakes from the British Virgin Islands Association and jawbone breakers from the St. Kitts/Nevis Association. Students representing the U.S. Virgin Islands served red grout with cream and gooseberry ice cream. A UVI staff member rep-

resenting the southern United States served "sleeping cows" and smothered hot dogs.

UVI students, staff, faculty and administrators along with community members milled about sampling food and grooving to pumping Caribbean music that was being played.

Dorothy Elskoe, a local tradition bearer, demonstrated the preparation of pick up saltfish and jawbone candy.

The event also included a choreographed dance presentation of Celia Cruz's "Carnaval" and a Capoeira (an African Brazilian martial arts and dance form) demonstration.

The next event in the diversity and heritage celebration is planned for January 2003.

Outstanding RPS Employees Recognized

The University of the Virgin Islands' Research and Public Service (RPS) Recognition Award Ceremony was held on September 20 at the Annual RPS Retreat. This award is given to RPS employees for quality and excellence in performance that goes above and beyond what is expected.

The winners were Toni Thomas of the Cooperative Extension Service, Christy Loomis of the Eastern Caribbean Center's Conservation Data Center and Mary Joe Williams of the Small Business Development Center.

Other nominees for the 2002 Recognition Award were the aquaculture program and Dr. Robert Godfrey of the Agricultural Experiment Station, and Clarice Clarke and Christine Henry of the Cooperative Extension Service.

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FAX: (340) 693-1055

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2 John Brewer's Bay
St. Thomas, VI 00802