



dateline: UVI

The monthly newsletter of The University of the Virgin Islands

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Agriculture Still Strong in the Territory Opportunities Exist for Young People



Emus were a favorite attraction at the V.I. Agriculture and Food Fair held February 14-16 on St. Croix. Emus are the national bird of Australia.

If the crowd alone was any indication, the thousands who turned out en masse for Agrifest 2004 on St. Croix confirmed that agriculture is alive and well in the territory. The annual agricultural showcase sponsored by the V.I. Department of Agriculture and the UVI Cooperative Extension Service (UVI-CES) is a big hit with those who look forward to the sumptuous food, produce, petting zoo, games and rides for children. Agrifest 2004 served to highlight the interest that exists in agriculture as a way of life.

In an effort to prepare the young people of the territory for careers in agricultural science the VI Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. (VI RC&D) and UVI-CES are offering eight young people the opportunity to attend the Summer 2004 Sustainable Agriculture Training Institute. The intensive, eight-week program will be held from June 7 through July 30 at Alcorn State University in Mississippi.

Applicants must be USVI residents between 18 and 22 years of age who have completed the 12th grade or a GED program and have an interest in studying agricultural science at the post secondary level. The application deadline is March 19.

For applications, the complete list of requirements and more information call UVI-CES at 693-1080 or VI RC&D at 692-9632 ext. 101.

Celebrate Afternoon on the Green on March 14

Do you think that you make the best conch in butter sauce? Now is your chance to prove it to the world; at UVI's Afternoon on the Green - St. Thomas' premiere food, family and fun event. Afternoon on the Green will be held from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 14, on the Herman E. Moore Golf Course. The theme for this year's event is "Cuisines Galore for 2004."

As usual, Afternoon on the Green will feature food prepared by members of the community. Samples of the delicious food will be sold by the University to raise funds. The committee continues to solicit prepared dishes from members of the community. It is the perfect opportunity for community members to share their special dishes with everyone. Food is entered and judged in the following categories: pastries/sweets, breads, soups, side dishes, main dishes/meats/poultry, vegetables/casseroles, seafood and drinks.

There will be much more than food. Things are going to be extra special for this year's 15th anniversary. Peas Soup band, made up of UVI students, will make their public debut at the event. Westline Productions will also provide music. There will be an improved kid's corner with an array of activities for children, a homemade ice cream demonstration

and a display from each of UVI's academic divisions. UVI's recruitment office will be on hand to accept admission applications and discuss student opportunities at UVI.

To contribute a cooked dish or for more information call UVI's Institutional Advancement Office at 693-1040.

Events Calendar

March 2	Carnival Troupe Drive	STT
March 3	Carnival Troupe Food Sale	STT
March 3	Foreign Language Week	STT
March 4	Tax Seminar	STT
March 5	Open House	STT
March 7	Senior Music Recital	STT
March 9	Quick Books Seminar	STX
March 9	Staff Council Meeting	STT,STX
March 14	Afternoon on the Green	STT
March 19	Queen Mary Walk/Run	STX
March 20	UVI Day at the Mall	STT
March 27	Spring Ball	STX

Tree Enthusiast Visits Territory, Marvels at Baobabs



UVI Provost Dr. Gwen-Marie Moolenaar stands with historian, author and tree enthusiast Thomas Pakenham, center, and UVI Professor and USVI Big Trees Coordinator Dr. Robert Nicholls. Pakenham, the author of "Meetings With Remarkable Trees," and "Remarkable Big Trees of the World," visited the V.I. to see the territory's baobab, kapok and other noteworthy trees. He presented a copy of each of his books to UVI. Pakenham learned about Virgin Islands trees through his participation in UVI's "Remarkable Big Trees of the US Virgin Islands" project, led by Dr. Nicholls. Pakenham's forthcoming book will be about baobab trees of the world and may include some from the Virgin Islands. Dr. Nicholls is pictured holding a seed from a baobab tree from St. Croix, which has more baobab trees than any island in the Caribbean. He is working on a project to recognize specific trees throughout the territory as historic landmarks.

Carnival Troupe Seeks Participants

After several award-winning St. Thomas Carnival Parade entries, UVI's Community Engagement Committee is preparing for a repeat – and wants you to be part of it. The committee is seeking participants for UVI's adult's parade entry "Knowledge, Culture and More for Carnival 2004." UVI's troupe will portray civilizations that have contributed to the development of knowledge in the region. This will be displayed in three sections of costumes and a float symbolizing intellect.

- The African section will portray Nubia or Kush, which is thought to be the cradle of civilization. The first part of this section will pay homage to the Dogon nation of ancient Mali . . . whose ceremonial costumes will lead the African section. Following the ceremonial costumes will be troupe members in flowing, traditional white vestments — symbolizing the African scholars at the ancient university in the legendary city of Timbuktu.
- The Greco-Roman section will feature male gladiators and female troupe members in togas. Ancient Greek and Roman societies contributed much to the

intellectual, artistic and socio-political development of mankind.

- The Taino Indians, descendants of the Arawaks, were skilled at agriculture and hunting, and were also accomplished sailors, fishermen, canoe makers and navigators. This troupe section will depict male and female Tainos, who inhabited Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands when Christopher Columbus arrived in the New World.

UVI students, staff, faculty, alumni, supporters and friends are encouraged to join. Costume prices range from \$100-\$120. UVI's own Peas Soup student band will provide the music. See the costumes at UVI's website: www.uvi.edu. To sign up or for more information call the St. Thomas Campus Chancellor's Office at 693-1140.

dateline: **UVI** is a production of the UVI Public Relations Office. Contact us by telephone at (340) 693-1056
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