



dateline: UVI

The monthly newsletter of The University of the Virgin Islands

March 30, 2004 vol x, number 3

UVI: Still Making an Impact 42 Years Later

It was 42 years ago that a group of Virgin Islanders signed the charter to establish a college in the Virgin Islands and “the territory has not been the same since that day,” said UVI President Dr. LaVerne Ragster at the official Charter Day ceremony held on March 16 to celebrate the University’s anniversary.

“I’m standing before you today with a feeling of great joy and a sense of awe,” Dr. Ragster said as she chronicled the history of the then College of the Virgin Islands which is now the University of the Virgin Islands.

While her predecessors focused on attaining accreditation, developing programs and building facilities, President Ragster said that UVI’s new mantra for the next century is strategic planning. The University will be more focused on its impact and how close it comes to meeting goals. Some of those goals include administrative efficiency, developing approaches to meeting financial needs and becoming a mature learning establishment.

“Our responsibilities continue to be great,” Dr. Ragster told the audience gathered at the Chase Auditorium on the St. Thomas campus and the Evans Center Theater on the St. Croix campus, “and the pay-off is abso-



lutely outstanding.”

That pay-off has already and continues to have an effect on the territory. UVI has graduated 5,700 students and has, in some way or another, touched the lives of most. “How long does it take to be good, do good and make an impact” Dr. Eustace Esdaille, a UVI Business Division Chairman and presenter asked at the ceremony. “It doesn’t take too long at all,” he answered, noting that UVI, still in its infancy compared to other universities, has had a great impact on the people of the Virgin Islands.

Other Charter Week events included Afternoon on the Green, a Nursing lecture featuring retired nurse Laura Moorhead White, a colloquium, a student debate, a film screening and a 5K walk/run. The Alfred O. Heath Distinguished Speakers Forum was established this year in honor of the long-time UVI supporter. It featured a lecture by the Honorable Ronald V. Dellums, a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. The new informational kiosk on the St. Thomas campus was also unveiled during Charter Week.

President Ragster urged everyone to continue working together to help

shape the “vehicle of people development” we know as UVI.



Top: Dr. Alfred O. Heath embraces Laura Moorhead White, the featured speaker at the 5th Bennie and Martha Benjamin Lecture Series. The Alfred O. Heath Distinguished Speakers Forum was established this year in honor of Dr. Heath, a long-time UVI supporter. Middle: Raymond Lutz crosses the finish line at the 5K Queen Mary Walk-Run. Bottom: UVI President Dr. LaVerne Ragster cuts the ribbon to the new informational kiosk on the St. Thomas campus.

Events Calendar

March 30-April 3	Humanities Festival	STT,STX	April 3	UVI Day at Sunny Isle	STX
March 30	ADA Workshop	STT	April 4	Golden Key Induction	STT
April 2	Career Day	STT	April 4	CPA Exam Seminar	STT
April 3	Alumni Walk-a-Thon	STT	April 16-19	Little Theater Play	STT

Afternoon on the Green Fun

People turned out in droves to attend UVI's annual *Afternoon on the Green*, despite sporadic rain that saturated the ground at the Herman E. Moore Golf Course. Clockwise, the marine touching pool was a big attraction with children; Peas Soup, a band made up of students, had attendees swaying to their music; St. Croix campus Student Activities Supervisor Clint Ferris serves up homemade ice cream; Cherilyn Brownne, a member of the UVI Institutional Advancement staff, dishes up a treat.



Energy Scholarship Established at UVI

In the next three years a lucky UVI student will have the opportunity to attend a U.S. Department of Energy Laboratory for one semester of study courtesy of the Vincent D. George Scholarship, established at UVI during Virgin Islands Energy Week. The endowed scholarship is named in honor of a deceased Energy Office employee who was an ardent supporter of energy conservation education.

At a ceremony held on March 12, officials from the Planning and Natural Resources Department Energy Office presented UVI President Dr. LaVerne Ragster with a \$15,000 check as the first installment of a \$40,000 endowed scholarship. Of the \$15,000, \$10,000 was donated by the Energy Office and \$5,000 by an anonymous donor. The Energy Office will make annual contributions to the fund over the next 10 years.



UVI President Dr. LaVerne Ragster, left, poses with Virginia and Reginald George, the parents of Vincent D. George; UVI Vice President for Institutional Advancement Joseph Boschulte; V.I. Energy Office Director Victor Somme III; and DPNR Executive Assistant Commissioner Claudette Lewis.

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FAX: (340) 693-1055

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