



dateline: UVI

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Holiday Parties Jump Start Season's Spirit



At the St. Thomas campus party (left to right) Professor Sharon Simmons with Reichhold Center's Cindy Rollins and Pamela Sanes.

The UVI family got into the holiday spirit early this year with holiday parties during the first week of December on each island. The St. Croix campus Holiday Party kicked off first, on Dec. 4, at Bogey's at the Cane Bay Reef Club. More than 80 people from the UVI community danced to the sounds of the Rhythmix band. There was plenty dancing, plenty food and plenty laughter. To spice things up Miriam Osborne-Elliott, Counseling and Placement supervisor, rendered a carol.

On St. Thomas UVI employees let down their hair and kicked up their heels to the tunes of the Starlites band, at the Dec. 7 party at the Reichhold Center. More than 100 people attended. Dinner was catered by Lillian's Caribbean Grill. The cozy setting was conducive for meeting and mingling.

Other parties will be held in various departments and divisions throughout the season.

UVI Teams to Battle with Big Dawgs at Basketball Tourney

Attention basketball fans. The fun didn't end with Paradise Jam. Come see UVI's men's and women's basketball teams go head to head against NCAA Division II and III college teams in the Sunsational Tournament. The games began on Dec. 16 and continue through Jan. 2 at the Sports and Fitness Center on UVI's St. Thomas campus.

"It's a good experience for them," UVI Athletic Director Peter Sauer said of the tournament. It is designed to provide the UVI teams with competitive play before going into the ODI League in January. Sauer explained that the invited teams have already played up to nine games and have a head start over the UVI teams.

"Were hoping that (playing

Friday, Dec. 17 Berea (Ky.) College vs. UVI — 8 p.m. Women
Saturday, Dec. 18 Wheeling (W.Va) vs. UVI — 7 p.m. Women
Sunday, Dec. 19 V.I. Junior National vs. Berea College 6 p.m. Women
Monday, Dec. 20 Berea (Ky.) College vs. UVI 8:00 p.m. Women
Wednesday, Dec. 29 UVI vs. Scranton — 4 p.m. Women Messiah vs. Randolph-Macon — 6 p.m. Women UVI vs. Mary Washington — 8 p.m. Men
Thursday, Dec. 30 Salem State vs. Mary Washington — 5 p.m. Men Scranton vs. Salem State — 7 p.m. Women UVI vs. Randolph-Macon — 9 p.m. Women
Friday - Dec. 31 Messiah vs. UVI — 5 p.m. Women
Sunday, Jan. 2, 2005 UVI vs. Salem State — 6 p.m. Women UVI vs. Salem State — 8 p.m. Men

against competitive teams) gives us the advantage when we go into our league," Sauer said. UVI will host a total of 10 teams.

In the opening game the Lady Bucs took on the Wheeling Jesuit women's team from West Virginia.

The next game is scheduled for Dec. 17 when the Lady Bucs will take on the Berea College women's team.

Most of the games will feature the Lady Bucs, which claimed its first ODI championship in 2003. The men's team will play a total of three games.

Admission to all games is free for UVI students with student ID's and \$2 for the general public.

See tournament schedule in box.

Events Calendar

Dec. 17-Jan. 2	Sunsational Games	STT	Jan. 11	Ecosystem Seminar	STT/STX
Dec. 24-Jan. 9	UVI Closed	STT/STX	Jan. 13	Semester Begins	STT/STX

Paradise Jam Jams on National TV



A University of Kentucky player drives past a Rutgers player in the St. John Division of the Paradise Jam women's tournament. Rutgers won the title, defeating Kentucky 75-60. In the St. Thomas Division of the women's tournament, North Carolina State beat Louisville 54-49 to win that crown. In the men's division, the Arkansas Razorbacks defeated Eastern Michigan 82-64 to claim the championship. Fox College Sports broadcasted the championship games in the men's and women's divisions live. The network reaches 40 million homes in the United States. Other schools that participated in the tournament included Hampton, Nebraska, Oregon State, Troy University, Winthrop and Austin Peay. It was the fifth year that UVI hosted Paradise Jam.

Input Sought for Strategic Planning

Now is the time for UVI faculty, staff, students and alumni to help chart the future course of the University. A series of meetings to seek creative input for its next strategic plan, Strategic Plan 2006-2012, are being planned.

Over the next six months, the University community will be invited to participate in a creative thinking process focused on where UVI wants to be by 2012 – its 50th year anniversary.

Dr. Deborah C. Fontaine, special assistant to the president and chair of UVI's Strategic Planning Steering Committee, will take the lead in coordinating Strategic Plan 2006-2012's development.

Dr. Fontaine will coordinate a series of meetings involving UVI faculty, staff, students, alumni, trustees and key external stakeholders, to discuss the mission, vision, values and strategic direction of the institution.

UVI President Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster is optimistic about the process. "These are truly exciting times, with great challenges and even greater opportunities," Dr. Ragster said.

For information about UVI's strategic planning process call Dr. Deborah Fontaine at 693-1003.

Two youngsters pet rabbits at the 22 Annual St. Thomas/St. John Agriculture and Food Fair held on Nov. 20 and 21, on the grounds of the UVI Reichhold Center for the Arts. About 50 vendors selling everything from cooked food, fruits and vegetables, nursery plants and arts and crafts were part of the two-day fair themed "Agriculture Galore in 2004."



Ag Fair Fun

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