



dateline: UVI

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Author and activist Randall Robinson chats with President LaVerne Ragster, left and Deborah Fontaine, President's Office chief of staff, before his lecture.

Ignorance is Dangerous Speaker Says

When distinctive author and activist Randall Robinson lectured at the University of the Virgin Islands during Charter Week he heaped a great responsibility on UVI's President Dr. Laverne Ragster. "You are in a very advantageous position," he told her. As the president of a university Dr. Ragster has the power to shape minds and therefore bring about change, he said. The founder and former president of TransAfrica, the organization that initiated the movement to change U.S. foreign policy in apartheid South Africa, was the featured speaker in the Alfred O. Heath Distinguished Speakers Series.

In his speech titled "Race and the Making of U.S. Foreign Policy," Robinson spoke about everything from politics to AIDS, prisons, education, and the need for each of us to effect change.

"We have to encourage in our young people a sort of inquisitiveness," Robinson said. "Everything merits debate and question." He learned that lesson as a college student, when after doing a report, his professor asked if the book's author was Protestant or Catholic. It was the first time that Robinson had questioned the biases of influential people.

"Education is the business of causing young people to think and to think critically. For that thinking is liberating," he said. "The key to all liberation starts all in here," he said pointing to his head. "Once you are liberated here, there is nothing that is not possible." He likened ignorance to a disease that must be cured, and peppered his speech with the phrase "what you don't know will kill you," telling the audience of little known facts that have the ability to shape perception.

Robinson Lecture continued on next page

Compensation Plan Approved

The University of the Virgin Islands Board of Trustees approved the Fiscal Year 2006 Compensation Adjustment Proposal for UVI employees at its quarterly meeting held March 11 on the St. Croix campus. The proposal was drafted by members of the UVI Compensation Committee, which is made up of UVI employees who represented faculty, professional staff, regular staff and administration.

"This proposal was a strong one because all of us paid attention to the details and the important elements that needed to be part of it. For that I say thank you," UVI President LaVerne Ragster said in a March 13 telephone message to employees following the board's approval. Dr. Ragster extended her gratitude to the leaders and members of the Compensation Committee for their hard work and attention.

The compensation adjustment plan is comprised of three phases: Phase I involves a base salary increase of 1.5 percent for full-time employees for each full year of service starting October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2005, plus an across-the-board adjustment of \$2000, and a 15 percent increase in the rate paid to part-time faculty. Phase I is expected to be implemented by April 14, 2006.

"I'm glad that the board approved it," said St. Croix campus Student Activities Supervisor Clint Ferris, who represented

Compensation continued on next page

Events Calendar

March 30	Dookhan Lecture	STT
March 30	Motivational Speaker	STT
March 30	Theatre Colloquium	STT
March 30	Freshmen Meeting	STT
March 31	Dookhan Lecture	STX
March 31	TJF Talent Show	STX
April 1	Spring Ball	STX
April 1-4	Little Theatre Play	STT
April 1-8	Humanities Festival	STX/STT
April 3-6	Career Week	STX
April 5	Career Fair	STX
April 5	Financial Seminar	STT
April 7	TJF Basketball Jam	STT

UVI to Bring the Energy for Carnival



Water female



Fire female



Water male



Sun female



Wind female



Fire male

Join the UVI Carnival troupe today. Costumes depict the four forms of energy: water, sun, wind and fire. Costumes range from \$65 to \$75 for students and \$115 to \$125 for the general community. Sign up in the Student Activities Centers on both campuses, and at Info Tech (Penha House) on the St. Thomas campus. A \$20 deposit is due by April 7. For more information call 693-1672 or e-mail shakimastutt@hotmail.com.

Robinson Lecture Continued

Robinson encouraged everyone to hold politicians accountable. "Responsibilities of democracies don't end when you cast a vote; it begins there," he said. "Democracy requires participation. Participation requires information. Ignorance is dangerous in a democracy."

The Alfred O. Heath Distinguished Speakers Series is the University's way of recognizing and celebrating the outstanding person and accomplished citizen that is Dr. Alfred O. Heath. The lecture was part of a week of activities to celebrate the 44th Charter Day of the University.

Compensation Continued

UVI professional staff on the Compensation Committee. "This is just the beginning. This is a small step towards a larger solution," Ferris continued. He said that the University still needs a compensation system that is proactive rather than reactive. "There are long-term fixes that we have to put in place."

By June 2006 a study will be presented to the Board outlining Phase II of the Proposal, which will address internal equity and market salary analyses. Phase III will be committed to presenting a proposal on a performance incentive plan by September 2006.

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"Phase I will be implemented by April, but there's still much to do," Dr. Ragster said in the recorded message. "I hope that this level of contribution and effort will continue as we develop phases II and III."

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