



dateline: UVI

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Bucs Lose First Few Games, Optimistic for Future

The highly anticipated UVI Buccaneers volleyball season home opener ended in disappointment on Sept. 15 as both the women's and men's teams lost all matches to Polytechnica University. Still, the potential for athletics at UVI seems exceedingly high.

In June, the University of the Virgin Islands joined Puerto Rico's Intercollegiate Athletic League (LAI). The largest and most prestigious Puerto Rico intercollegiate sports league, it has 20 member-schools, including four which are provisional NCAA Division II programs. Along with volleyball, UVI will participate in beach volleyball, basketball, track and field, tennis and cross-country running.

While the Lady Bucs struggled through all sets during the first home game, the men's team started to fight back during the second set of their play. The moderate sized crowd came alive as Devon Luis and Brandon Varlack took charge for the Buccaneers. The scores came close, but UVI was unable to take a lead and the men's team also lost the three sets. The Lady Bucs again sputtered the following night, losing to a



Devon Luis, right, delivers a shot during UVI's season opener home game on Sept. 15 at the Sports and Fitness Center on the St. Thomas campus.

more powerful Metropolitan University.

"It's going to be a rough and long season with my girls," Lady Bucs Head Coach Curtis Gilpin said on a radio talk show following his team's two losses. Gilpin explained that his team is made up mostly of freshman and sophomore players, who right now may not have much experience, but will be a force to reckon with in a few years.

"These girls will win some games ... it's just that they didn't win this weekend."

The UVI Buccaneers volleyball teams continued LAI play on Sept. 22 and 23 as they took on the University of Puerto Rico (UPR)-Rio Piedras, UPR-Cayey and Sacred Heart Univer-

sity. The Lady Bucs lost all sets and now stand 0-5, while the men's team stands 0-4 after losing all sets also.

Things heat up again for the next home contest scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30, at UVI's Sports and Fitness Center when the Buccaneers will take on UPR-Carolina. The complete volleyball schedule is available on the UVI website www.uvi.edu in the "Latest Links" drop down menu.

Taxi, Tour Certification Offered

The tourism industry has a new partner in the University of the Virgin Islands. The UVI Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning Center is offering a certification program designed to enhance visitors' experiences and ensure repeat business. The program will focus on Virgin Islands history, culture and points of interest. It is offered in five modules – customer service, history and culture, points of interest, presentation skills and the certification exam. Each module is two hours long.

Tour guides, tour bus drivers, hotel concierges, flight professionals, restaurant workers and taxi drivers are some of the professionals who can benefit from certification. The program will be offered on St. Thomas from 6-8 p.m. on Thursdays from Oct. 19 to Nov. 16. For more information call Debra Stevens at the UVI-CELL at 693-1108.

Events Calendar

Sept. 26	Golden Key Info. Session	STX
Sept. 26	Tree Pruning Workshop	STJ
Sept. 27	Ancient Medicine Lecture	STX
Sept. 28	September Fest	STT
Sept. 28	Voter Registration	STT
Sept. 28	Business After Hours	STT
Sept. 30	LAI Volleyball Match	STT
Sept. 30	P.R. Symphony Orchestra	STT
Sept. 30	Stress Release Party	STX
Oct. 1	Tree Pruning Workshop	STT
Oct. 5	Student Exchange Session	STT
Oct. 5-6	Health Disparities Institute	STT
Oct. 9-13	Alumni Phonathon	STX/STT
Oct. 14	Kids Circus	STT



Five Years Later . . . Sept. 11 Remembered

UVI President Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster leads a group of UVI students and employees in reflection at a memorial to commemorate the September 11th terrorist attacks of 2001. The memorial was held in front of the commemorative lignum vitae tree on UVI's St. Thomas campus. A memorial was also held on the St. Croix campus.

Health Institute to Examine Health Care Gaps in the V.I.

The Nursing Division of the University of the Virgin Islands will examine the role the Virgin Islands' diverse culture plays in health disparities at an institute titled "Cultural Diversity and Health Disparities in the U.S. Virgin Islands: Challenges for the Health Care System." The two-day institute will be held on Oct. 5 and 6 at the Palms Court Harborview Hotel on St. Thomas.

Health disparities refer to the inequality of health care across racial and ethnic groups. The goals of the institute are to: identify the impact of demographic changes and culture diversification of the U.S. Virgin Islands population on territorial health care needs and outcomes; review the territorial health care system before and after 1960 population changes; and analyze variables that may assist policy makers and program specialists in designing interventions to address territorial health disparities that impact all U.S. Virgin Islands population sub-groups.

"Health disparities are not just about the disease, they are also about prevention, timely diagnosis and access," said UVI Nursing Division Chairwoman Dr. Gloria Callwood. "We're focusing not on disease entities, but on the health system and how that has impacted the people of the Virgin Islands." It involves issues about appropriate and culturally sensitive care,

she added. "We have not systematically looked at this. This is the time to look at as many variables as possible that determine health outcomes."

The registration fee for the two-day institute includes all materials, lunches and breaks. A late registration fee of \$30 will be accepted until Sept. 29 or until the limited number of seats are filled.

This will be the second annual institute sponsored by the UVI Caribbean Export Center for Research and Education in Health Disparities. The Center was established with a portion of a three-year, \$1.1 million grant UVI received from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in September 2004. The grant funds came from the NIH's National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

To register, or for more information, contact Export Center Program Coordinator Julia Hardwick at 693-1172 or send e-mail to jhardwi@uvi.edu.

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FAX: (340) 693-1055

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

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