



dateline: UVI

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UVI communications student Lorna Jno-Lewis edits digital video while Fernando Bryan, a junior at All Saints Cathedral School, looks on.

SOS Brings Hundreds to UVI

Inspired by the hit medical television drama series "House," Darren Maharaj wants to become a nurse. The Ivanna Eudora Kean High School senior was not intimidated being the only male among 20 or so other females at a Rap Session for potential nursing majors at the University of the Virgin Islands.

"I'm the type of person that likes to be on my feet, so nursing has a special interest," he said. "Plus they're going to need more male nurses anyway," Maharaj reasoned. In the meanwhile he is taking as many science classes as possible, to prepare him for a career in nursing or possibly physical therapy.

SOS continued on next page

Sea Turtle Expert at UVI Helps Rescue Hawksbill



Kemit-Amon Lewis

Within the first month on the job, Kemit-Amon Lewis got to do exactly what he studied at Savannah State University. A Marine Advisor at the University of the Virgin Islands, he was the first sea turtle biologist called when a hawksbill turtle was found injured off the coast of St. Croix. The turtle, which had been hit by a boat, had injuries that prevented it from diving for food. Its

left front flipper was almost amputated and its upper shell had deep propeller wounds. After being rescued, with the help of

Sea Turtle continued on next page

Maloney Crowned Miss UVI



Photo by Dale Morton

Miss UVI Sharifa Maloney

University of the Virgin Islands business administration major Sharifa Maloney was crowned Miss UVI at the Ambassadorial Pageant held March 24, at UVI's Reichhold Center for the Arts.

Maloney raked in the awards, winning the titles of Most Eloquent/Intellectual Speaker, Best Ambassadorial Presentation, Best Talent and Best Evening Wear.

A student on UVI's St. Thomas campus, she hails from Trinidad and Tobago.

Janeisha John, who is enrolled on UVI's St. Croix campus, was named first runner-up. The other competitors for the title were Zahra Spencer who won the Miss Popularity and Miss Congeniality titles and Shamika Thomas who won the Most Photogenic title. The pageant was sponsored by the UVI Student Government Association.

Maloney will represent UVI at various functions during her reign and receive a full tuition and room and board for one academic year. She will also participate in the UVI Carnival Troupe.

Events Calendar

April 19	Law Fair	STX
April 19	Employee Health Screening	STT
April 20	Down at the Corner	STX
April 22	Student Academic Awards	STT
April 22	2007 Class Meeting	STX
April 22	Student Music Recital	STT
April 27	Carnival Children's Parade	STT
April 28	Carnival Adult's Parade	STT
May 12	Ailey II at Reichhold Center	STT
May 14	Commencement	STT
May 15	Commencement	STX

SOS Continued

Maharaj was one of 400 high school students at UVI for the Shadow Our Students (SOS) Program, a student driven recruitment initiative held March 28 on both campuses. A major part of the day-long activity was the shadow program – where each high school student attended class with a UVI student pursuing the major of interest to the high school student.

In Dr. Alex Randall's Advance Broadcast class, the 10 or so high school students got to see UVI students edit digital video using Adobe Premier Pro software. "This is a revolutionary field," Dr. Randall said. "A lot of things going on in communications change day by day as new technology is created." UVI is making those new technologies available to its students, he said.

Linked via videoconferencing technology to the St. Thomas classroom were the students on the St. Croix campus. Dr. Robin Sterns, a communications professor on St. Croix, joined them.

"We're really excited in communications and broadcast at UVI," Dr. Sterns said. "Students are going to be able to gradu-

Sea Turtle Continued

Lewis and other local experts, the turtle was taken to Coral World to recuperate. Given the name Zada, the turtle was released from Coral World and returned to the shores of St. Croix on March 28.

When he isn't out rescuing sea turtles, Lewis focuses on disseminating information about the territory's marine environment to the community in his position at UVI. He is currently working on a "Respect Your Elders" coral preservation campaign. But the Central High School class of 2000 graduate is also on a personal campaign to get more students in the Virgin Islands interested in careers in marine biology. He hopes his work will pique the curiosity of students "just so they know it is an option. Local people can and do study marine biology."

It was a summer job at the Department of Planning and Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife that prompted Lewis to focus his marine biology studies at Savannah State

ate from UVI and walk into CNN in Atlanta and say 'hire me, I already know how to use the stuff you all use.'"

Shaheeda Rickson, a junior at All Saints Cathedral School, said she wants to pursue a career in travel journalism, but attending the Advance Broadcast class got her thinking about video journalism.

The SOS Program ended with a brief lecture by motivational speaker Tobias Brown. Brown, an honor graduate of Central State University, explained how he went from having a 1.2 cumulative grade point average to graduating in the top one percent of his class. His approach was to find out why the same people keep coming in top of the class each time. He came up with five points to follow: prioritize, set goals, communicate with professors, chart your own progress and exercise the discipline of time management.

Organizers of the SOS Program, including the Student Government Associations, touted it as a resounding success.

on sea turtles. When he saw six-foot leatherback turtles visit Sandy Point on St. Croix to lay eggs, he pursued the animals as a point of study, writing one thesis on "Sea Turtle Interaction with Commercial Fishing Gear," and another on "Abundance, Distribution and Condition of Green Sea Turtles Around St. Croix and St. Thomas."

Lewis earned both Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in marine biology from Savannah State and attended a 2004 Sea Turtle Symposium in Costa Rica. Also an advance scuba diver, Lewis hopes his story will help inspire others to a career in marine biology

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