



dateline: UVI

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Graduates Reminded to be Thankful

The message at commencement was one of thanksgiving. Guest speaker Dr. Thelma Thompson began her speech at the St. Thomas campus commencement by asking the almost 300 graduates to repeat "I thank you today and will always thank you, UVI."

Dr. Thompson, president of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, said that in today's electronic age people often forget to say thank you. "No one achieves anything by himself or herself. Always there is another helping," Dr. Thompson said, reminding the graduates to thank those who have supported them throughout the years.

"Let us focus on what we have," Dr. Thompson said, listing the superior qualities of UVI. She encouraged the gradu-



Graduates at the St. Thomas campus Commencement Ceremony turn their tassels after their degrees were conferred.

ates to take with them the ideals of UVI. "Today you receive the UVI stamp of approval. Be sure to value it." She gave the graduates a charge to focus on solutions to problems. "As you take your place in this world, there is unfinished work to do," she said citing world hunger, health disparities and diseases.

But while she encouraged the graduates to go on to conquer the world, they should be true to themselves, said Thompson, who also spoke at the St. Croix campus ceremony. "Despite the hard work that

lies ahead of you, it's important that you laugh, that you smile."

UVI awarded a total of 324 degrees at ceremonies held in May, 199 on the St. Thomas campus and 125 on the St. Croix campus.



Photo by Dale Morton

Carnival Win

A UVI student, left, performs with the UVI Carnival Troupe in the Adult's Parade. The troupe won third place in the 'Troupe 50 to 100' category. The troupe depicted UVI's theme "45 years of Lighting the Path to Discovery" by depicting various forms of flames and fire. UVI's 4-H Troupe won the Junior King of the Band and Junior Queen of the Band titles.

Employees of the Year

Selected at Service Awards



Muriel Smith



Kenneth Davis

It was a double celebration for Muriel "Peggy" Smith at UVI's Service Awards on April 18. She came expecting to be recognized, among others, for her 10 years of service to the

See Service Awards on next page

Events Calendar

May 30	Grant Writing Seminar	STT
June 2	Alumni Breakfast	STT
June 8-9	Healthcare Conference	STT
June 9	Tempo Concert	STT
June 22	Summer Session II Begins	STT/STX

Top Student Employees Recognized at Ceremonies

Most of their work is concentrated in the classroom, labs, library and computer labs, but dozens of University of the Virgin Islands students also work in offices as student employees. Those employees were recognized for their service at Student Employee Award Ceremonies on both campuses in April.



Donella Shillingford



Diane Francis

said Francis' supervisor and Reichhold's Marketing Manager Karen Gutloff. "If I'm not there, we know the Reichhold Center is OK because Diane is there," Gutloff added. "I don't know what I'm going to do when she graduates."

"When my student employee does not show up or is unable to come to work there is a big void in my office," said Dr. Doris Battiste, associate campus executive administrator on St. Thomas. She told students that their contributions are valuable and urged them to continue their exemplary work.

The ceremony's highlight was the announcement of the Student Employee of the Year, which was kept secret until that point. Senior communications major Diane Francis, who works with the marketing manager at the Reichhold Center for the Arts, was named Student Employee of the Year for the St. Thomas campus.

"I'm so excited for Diane because it's deserving for her,"

On UVI's St. Croix campus sophomore biology major Donella Shillingford won the title of Student Employee of the Year. She has been a student worker in Academic Services for a year and a half. According to her work history, Shillingford has proven to be reliable, coming in to work on short notice. "She is a self starter who needs little supervision, able to work under pressure without being overwhelmed, a professional who deals with various types of situations," the document states.

Also distributed on the St. Thomas campus were the "Lighter Side Awards" which recognized students' punctuality, initiative, creativity, reliability and other attributes with awards like the "Early Bird," "Out on a Limb," "Out of the Box," and "I Can Count on You."

Service Awards Continued

University. But she was also named Employee of the Year for UVI's St. Thomas campus. Nominated and selected by peers, the winners of Employee of the Year are kept secret until the Service Awards. On the St. Croix campus Kenneth "Olasee" Davis won the Employee of the Year honor at the April 17 ceremony.

Employees of the Year are selected based on their ability to perform beyond the call of duty, exemplifying professionalism and dedication to excellent service, demonstrating support of activities of the department and/or UVI, being a team player and developing an original idea that positively affects

the University.

Davis is an extension specialist at the Cooperative Extension Service. Smith is UVI's director of accounting.

The Annual UVI Service Awards recognize retirees and employees in five-year increments for their years of service. A total of 131 employees were recognized at the ceremonies.

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