



# dateline: UVI

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## The Sky is the Limit for Teenage Pilot

Eusineca Smith said that her son Granville T. Smith Jr. never missed the sound of an airplane. As a toddler he would crane his neck upward in fascination at the flying objects, she said. Now 17 years old, the University of the Virgin Islands student is about to embark on his maiden Caribbean voyage – flying a total of 1,680 miles and visiting 10 islands in five days.



*Granville T. Smith Jr., a certified pilot and student at UVI poses near an airplane. The 17-year-old will begin his maiden Caribbean voyage aboard a twin engine Aztec Piper on Aug. 27.*

The trip is seven years in the making. Theo, as Granville T. Smith Jr. is affectionately called, had his first exposure to airplane flying when his older brother bought him a computerized flight simulator when he was eight years old. He began taking flying classes at Ace Flight Center when he was 10 years old. In August 2006 he took his first solo flight. Theo said he is ready for his upcoming journey.

“I’m not scared. I like to fly,” Theo said. “I am anxious though.” His mother said she is confident about her son’s safe return. “The way I look at it, whichever way my children are bent to, I help them out and leave everything up to the Lord,” Smith said. “I feel good about it,” she said. Theo’s fearlessness has added to her confidence.

The certified pilot will be accompanied by his father and an airplane mechanic. They will leave St. Thomas on Aug. 27, and head to Aruba. That flight will have the longest consecutive flying time – at about three hours. From Aruba the

trio will go to Trinidad, Grenada, Carriacou, Dominica, Guadeloupe, St. Kitts, Antigua, Anguilla, Tortola and finally back to St. Thomas. In preparation, Theo said he has been studying the airports of each of his destinations – runway dimensions, facilities and services offered. He has also been reading the manuals for the twin engine Piper Aztec he will fly.

At each stop Theo will be greeted by representatives from the tourism department on that island, his mother said. A welcome is also being planned on St.

Thomas for his return.

The maiden Caribbean flight is just another step to Theo’s vision of owning a corporate airline based in the Virgin Islands. He plans to study aviation at Florida Memorial University upon graduation from the Tutu Church of God Academy in 2008. Meanwhile Theo has accumulated 10 credits at UVI where he has been taking music classes for the past two years. He is also a musician for the Young Ambassadors Choir of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

The entire trip will cost more than \$15,000. His family is recruiting sponsorships and donations from the community to defray the cost. For more information about Theo’s maiden Caribbean voyage or to make a donation call Ace Flight Center at 776-4141.

## National Researchers

*UVI biology major Gaetan Gentius, left, and marine biology major Jacinthia Greaux, right, aboard the Research Vessel Bellows at the Dry Tortugas National Park.*



## Events Calendar

Aug. 12-17	Orientation Week	STT/STX
Aug. 16	Fall Convocation	STT/STX
Aug. 16-17	Late Registration	STT/STX
Aug. 17	Faculty Convocation	STT/STX
Aug. 20	Fall Classes Begin	STT/STX
Aug. 24	Solar Energy Film	STX
Aug. 25	Illustrator Workshop	STT
Sept. 3	Labor Day-UVI Closed	

## Reichhold Unveils 10 Performances for 2007-08 Season

The University of the Virgin Islands Reichhold Center for the Arts unveiled its 2007-2008 season line-up with the backdrop of calypso, food and community at the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours on Aug. 9. P'Your Passion provided entertainment as crowds gathered to meet, mingle and await the list of upcoming performances. The season includes lots of dance, some R&B, two instrumentalists, zouk and reggae.

The season opens with **Break!** the urban funk spectacular, on Oct. 6. It features a look of hip-hop dancing over the past 30 years. **Playing Ring**, which celebrates indigenous Caribbean music and dance, returns for the third year. The Morgan State University Choir, named "The Best College Choir in the U.S." by Reader's Digest, will perform on St. Thomas and St. Croix. Here is a list of the Reichhold Center's 2007-2008 performances:

- Oct. 6, 2007 — **Break!** - This theatrical dance production features break dancers combining hard-hitting music with back flips, spins and gravity-defying leaps. **Break!** charts the rise of Hip-Hop dancing over the last 30 years.
- Oct. 20, 2007 — **Maze Featuring Frankie Beverly** - Acclaimed for the energy and excitement of their live performances, **Maze Featuring Frankie Beverly** has released a steady stream of number one R&B hits over 30 years, including "Joy and Pain," "I Can't Get Over You," and "Golden Time of Day."
- Nov. 17, 2007 — **George Benson** - Benson has established himself as one of the greatest guitarists in jazz. His lyrics spawned such hits as "The Greatest Love of All" and "Give Me the Night."
- Dec. 8, 2007 — **MOMIX** - is a company of dancer/illusionists. For more than 20 years **MOMIX** has been celebrated for its ability to conjure up a world of surrealistic images using props, light, shadow, humor and the human body.
- Jan. 12, 2008 — **Kassav** - From the shores of Martinique and Guadeloupe to the bright lights of Paris and the vibrant streets of New York, **Kassav** traverses the globe as ambassadors of Caribbean zouk music.
- Feb. 2, 2008 — **Playing Ring** - Reichhold Center continues its series of original productions celebrating music and dance indigenous to the Caribbean. This third installment of **Playing Ring** features scratch bands from the Virgin Islands, as well as St. Lucia and Dominica.
- Feb. 16, 2008 — **Chris Botti** - Jazz trumpeter **Chris Botti** is known as one of the nation's most compelling jazz artists. **Botti's** CDs, featuring such guest artists as **Sting**, **Gladys Knight** and **Jill Scott** have soared to the top of the jazz charts.
- March 15, 2008 — **Beres Hammond** - A singer, songwriter and producer, **Hammond** has been part of every facet of reggae music, including ska and dancehall. **Hammond's** soulful voice was made to profess such songs as "Putting up a Resistance," "Tempted to Touch" and "Rockaway."
- March 28 and 29 — **The Morgan State University Choir** - is one of the nation's most prestigious university choral ensembles. The choir has a unique brand of gospel, classical and contemporary popular music.
- May 10, 2008 — **Golden Dragon Acrobats** - The **Golden Dragon Acrobats**, direct from Hebei, China, represent the best of a time honored tradition that began more than twenty seven centuries ago.
- May 17, 2008 — **Complexions Dance Company** - Former **Alvin Ailey** principal dancers **Dwight Rhoden** and **Desmond Richardson** created this dance company that represents cultural diversity with innovative flair.

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