



# dateline: UVI

The monthly newsletter of The University of the Virgin Islands

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## September Fest Draws a Crowd

UVI and high school students turned out by the dozens for the annual September Fest held on Sept. 20 in the Sports and Fitness Center on UVI's St. Thomas campus.

Designed to introduce students, alumni, prospective students and the Virgin Islands public to the broad array of opportunities and services offered by UVI and its community partners, the event did not disappoint. An estimated 500 people attended September Fest. At the health fair



*Left: Communication Professor Dr. Alex Randall speaks with a September Fest attendee about UVI's Communication major; Right: Golden Key Honour Society representatives speak about the program with a visitor to their table.*



about 200 people took advantage of the free screenings, which included those for blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose, HIV and visual acuity.

September Fest included a motivational speech by De la Torre

McNeal. Introduced as the "perfect blend of Chris Rock and Dr. Phil," McNeal presented the "The Five P's of College Success." The first P for success is purpose, McNeal said. "I

*September Fest continued on next page*

## UVI Bucs to Grow This Year, Need UVI Support

University of the Virgin Islands student athletes put up a good fight last year in Liga Atlética Interuniversitaria (LAI) competition. Membership in LAI, a Puerto Rico-based university league, required the UVI Buccaneers to step up their game. Now at the start of a new season, UVI Associate Athletic Director Curtis Gilpin said last year's experiences have shaped this year's strategies – which should make UVI athletes more competitive.



*Curtis Gilpin*

"It was really trying and a real test," Gilpin said of the University's first year of play in the league. Described as "an experience for all of us," Gilpin said officials at LAI are collaborating with UVI to raise UVI's level of athletic play. Gilpin is optimistic about the new season. "It's going to get better," he said. "We can only grow from here."

UVI competes in eight LAI sports – basketball, swimming, tennis, cross country, volleyball, beach volleyball, table tennis and track and field.

Members of the UVI Athletic Division are taking a more comprehensive approach to developing student athletes.

"Coaches have been coming together as a group to be more creative in ways to help our students prepare," said Gilpin, who is also the organizer of UVI's Varsity Program. Some of the strategies include more rigorous training for the athletes. Through a partnership with America's Paradise Gym, student athletes are able to weight train at its facilities a few

*Bucs continued on next page*

### Events Calendar

Sept. 21	Marshall Scholarship Visit	STX
Sept. 22	"Julius Caesar" Play	STT
Sept. 23	Research Symposium	STT
Sept. 23	Sea Turtle Seminar	STX
Sept. 29	Mangrove Clean-up	STT
Sept. 30	Tree Pruning Workshop	STT
Oct. 14	World Food Day	STX
Oct. 17	Student Trustee Elections	STT/STX
Oct. 19	UVI Got Talent	STX
Oct. 23	Staff Council Meeting	STT/STX

# Past Choir Members Invited to Grand Reunion

Past and present members of the University of the Virgin Islands/College of the Virgin Islands Concert Choirs are invited to a grand Concert Choir Reunion scheduled for Feb. 27 to March 2, 2008, in the Virgin Islands. Former UVI Music Professor Dr. Gloria Quinlan, formerly Gloria McClellan and affectionately called "Ms. G," is the lead organizer of the effort.

In a letter to alumni, Dr. Quinlan said, "I have missed being at UVI so much and have wanted so badly to see everyone again and make beautiful music once more. . . So here's our chance to get together one more time." A concert will be the grand finale of the reunion. Dr. Quinlan urged former choir members who are interested in participating to let organizers know of their intent as soon as possible.

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## September Fest Continued

find a lot of people doing a good job at a wrong thing because they haven't found their purpose," he said. The second P was potential – which he encouraged students to maximize. "You don't need to call a psychic to determine your future," he said. "Your future is determined by what you do today." McNeal also encouraged the attendees to outperform their paycheck, overcome and lead from pain, and pursue and master passion.

The event also included a career fair, which featured more than 20 businesses, many of which accepted resumes on site. There were two sessions, one from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and then from 5 to 7 p.m., to accommodate as many people as possible. UVI's Student Affairs Component organizes the event.

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## *Under the . . . Sand*



*Kerriise A. Richards, a freshman on UVI's St. Croix campus, is transformed into a UVI Mermaid at Buck Island. The Student Activities Office organized the Buck Island Excursion held on Sept. 15. About 42 students attended the excursion, which offered swimming, snorkeling and other activities.*

## Bucs Continued

times a week, Gilpin said. Gilpin has also sought and received more athletic scholarships to attract more athletes. A program is also being created to allow greater academic support for the athletes.

Because most of the games are played in Puerto Rico, constant travel creates fatigue in the UVI delegation. "We're getting them prepared in terms of the length of the season and the toll it takes on all of us," Gilpin explained.

While the Athletics Division is preparing for a better season, Gilpin said the UVI community also has a role to play. "We need the University's support," Gilpin said, encouraging members of the UVI community to attend home games. "We would like everybody to be behind the students."

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