



dateline: UVI

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Administration and Conference Center Opens on UVI's St. Thomas Campus

The three-story building on the University of the Virgin Islands' St. Thomas campus overlooking the Cyril E. King Airport to the south, and Brewer's Bay to the west has seen many uses, although its most recent use -- as the Harvey Student Center and campus cafeteria -- may be most familiar. Now the building has yet another use -- that of UVI's new Administration and Conference Center.

Originally constructed in 1938 as the officers' quarters for the St. Thomas Naval Air Station, during the late 1940s the building was transformed into the Trade Winds Hotel and operated as such for about 20 years. In 1962 the building saw its third owner when it became part of the then College of the Virgin Islands. Dormitories and a multi-use cafeteria, recreation area and assembly hall occupied the building. Over the years the dormitories were phased out, leaving the cafeteria and the UVI Bookstore until around 2003 when both were relocated. After lying vacant for four years, the former Harvey Center now has new life -- it houses the St. Thomas campus administrative offices and a new conference center. It is the first time that most UVI administrative offices are under one roof.

UVI President Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster said the consolidation of the major administrative offices in a central location offers the ability to offer UVI's customers responsive and efficient services in keeping with the three basic tenets of VISION 2012 strategic objectives: service, cross functionality and accountability. All relocated offices can be contacted



Top, UVI's St. Thomas Campus refurbished Administration and Conference Center. Bottom, the building as the Harvey Student Center during the 1960s.



at their existing telephone numbers and email addresses.

"We take this opportunity to thank the University Community, and specifically, the offices being relocated, for their patience," Dr. Ragster said. "We also thank everyone for the time and effort put into the preparation for relocation to the new Administration and Conference Center."

The fully restored building is 31,000 square feet, with more than 4,000 square feet of conference and training space. It is equipped for video conferencing and is fully ADA compliant.

The building holds nostalgia for some. "I have a lot of good memories of that building," said St. Tho-

See ACC on next page

Events Calendar

Oct. 25	Bowling Green Visit	STT
Oct. 25-26	SCUP Conference	STT
Oct. 30	Lunch and Learn	STT
Oct. 31	Tech Park Board Meeting	STX
Nov. 1	Liberty Day - UVI Closed	
Nov. 3	Leadership Conference	STT
Nov. 3	Board of Trustees Meeting	STT
Nov. 12	Veterans Day - UVI Closed	
Nov. 17-18	Agriculture Fair	STT
Nov. 29	Reichhold Center Show	STT

ACC Continued

mas Campus Associate Campus Executive Administrator Dr. Doris Battiste. Beginning her illustrious career at UVI in the 1970s, her first appointment was as the assistant to the director of Student Services for Women. “I lived on the third floor, right where Vincent Samuel’s office is now, I believe,” Dr. Battiste said. “All the women’s concerns, outside of academics, I dealt with.”

During that time the Harvey Student Center was a focal point of interaction. “It was the hub,” Dr. Battiste recalls. Students ate at the cafeteria several times a day and all student activities were held there – from political forums, to variety shows to queen competitions. The dormitory rooms were large and considered “sprawling” when compared to the other dorm rooms, Dr. Battiste said. “People at Harvey, during my generation, loved it.” And with Dr. Battiste’s open-door policy, the college was not just a college. “It was one big family,” she remembered. “It was really nice.”

For Junie Violenes, UVI’s St. Thomas campus Student Activities supervisor, memories of the Harvey Student Center during her days as a student were a bit different. Although the Harvey Student Center was the place for all the activities, there was a friendly rivalry between Violenes’ dorm block and that of Harvey. “I was a ‘Rebel,’” Violenes said with pride, referring to the name of her dorm block. The students who lived in the dorms at Harvey were the ‘Force,’ she said. Violenes bragged that during the 1980s the ‘Rebels’ ruled the residence halls, winning most contests. “Every Miss CVI contestant the ‘Rebels’ put out, sporting activities, you name it – the ‘Rebels’ won,” she said.

Administration and Conference Center Occupants

Accounting and Payroll	Financial Aid
Administration and Finance	Human Resources
Admissions	Institutional Research
Auditor	President’s Office
Board of Trustees	Provost
Campus Executive Administrator	Public Relations
Conference Center	Registrar
Constitution 2008 Coordinator	Sponsored Programs/Title III
Enrollment Services	Vice Provost for Public Service

Violenes said the concept of the Administration and Conference Center is a good one. But Violenes said she would have liked to see the building restored to its former days of a dormitory – given that on-campus housing has been at maximum capacity for many years and UVI does not have

enough rooms to accommodate many on-campus housing requests. Violenes said that the space would also have been good for a hotel and restaurant management school. Overall she is pleased. “I love the new conference center,” she said, adding her hopes that it can be utilized for student activities that were discontinued since the cafeteria at Harvey Student Center closed in 2003. The current Dining Pavilion is not large enough to accommodate traditional student activities, she said.

Senior business administration major Janiere Frank said she is pleased with the concept of a one-stop location for administrative business. She noted several things that can be done to make students more comfortable in the building. “I think maybe they haven’t finished setting up,” she said. “But I guess that’s something they will finish.” And the one thing many students were concerned about didn’t turn out so bad for Frank. The walk isn’t too bad, said Frank who lives on-campus.

An Open House for the Administration and Conference Center will be held from noon to 4 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 2. People who wish to attend are asked to RSVP to vabrams2@uvi.edu by Oct. 29.

Dateline: UVI is a production of the UVI Public Relations Office. Contact us by telephone at (340) 693-1056
FAX: (340) 693-1055

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