



dateline: UVI

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25th St. Thomas/St. John AgFair Celebrates Farmers



Afreekan Southwell of the St. Thomas/St. John Woodworkers Society, which took First Place in the Arts and Crafts competition.

The message was clear at the 25th St. Thomas/St. John Agriculture and Food Fair – agriculture is a viable industry in the Virgin Islands and it needs the community’s support.

Now in its 25th year, the fair was held Nov. 17 and 18 on the grounds of the University of the Virgin Islands Reichhold

support was the first of several things Dr. Petersen said needs to happen in order for agriculture to regain its prominence in the territory. Training young people in the industry was the second. Dr. Petersen said his department is in current talks with officials from vocational education to revive agriculture in the schools. The third thing, Dr. Petersen said, is to approach agriculture as a business.

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Dwayne Petersen

UVI Elects Two New Trustees



Dr. Ededet Iniama

Two from the University of the Virgin Islands joined the UVI Board of Trustees for the 2007-2008 term. UVI Professor of Social Sciences Dr. Ededet Iniama was elected to serve as faculty trustee. UVI social sciences major Dwayne Petersen was elected to serve as the student trustee.

Dr. Iniama and Petersen are both voting members of the Board.

Petersen hopes to bring student issues to the forefront. He also plans to enlighten students about the Board’s role. Petersen said he is approachable and will be as transparent to students as the rules of the Board allow. “I have a lot of love for this University,” Petersen said. “I promise, to the students, to represent them to the best of my ability.”

Dr. Iniama is a tenured professor who has taught at UVI

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Center for the Arts.

“All of us need to be advocates and supporters of agriculture at all times,” Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Louis E. Petersen, Jr., said at the opening ceremony. The community’s

UVI Students Sweep VI Idol

UVI student Shayla Cruz performs at the first ever VI Idol competition. Cruz and the duo BV (Brandon Varlack) and Drastic (Art Philip), also UVI students, tied for the event’s first place win. Both received prizes of \$2,500 cash and a record deal with the contest’s promoter LP Records. The competition was held ‘American Idol’ style over several weeks. The finale was judged by music industry professionals.



Photo courtesy of LP Records

Events Calendar

Nov. 16-25	Paradise Jam	STT
Nov. 29	Benson at Reichhold	STT
Dec. 7-9	Woodworkers’ Expo	STX
Dec. 8	MOMIX at Reichhold	STT

Paradise Jam Brings NCAA Play to UVI's Sports & Fitness Center

The Eighth Annual U.S. Virgin Islands Paradise Jam opened Nov. 16 at the University of the Virgin Islands Sports and Fitness Center on St. Thomas.

This two-week tournament brings 18 men's and women's college basketball teams to St. Thomas for a chance for early season competition.

The men's games started with eight NCAA Division I basketball teams. Men's games began Nov. 16, with championship games scheduled for Nov. 19. The 2007 men's teams are; Baylor, Charlotte, Georgia Tech, Illinois-Chicago, Monmouth, Notre Dame, Wichita State and Winthrop.

Ten highly ranked NCAA Division I women's teams will participate in this year's competition. The women's games



Erik Heikkila of UVI's Athletics Department hangs the Paradise Jam banner in front of the UVI Sports and Fitness Center where tournament play will be held.

begin Nov. 22, with championship games scheduled for Nov. 25. The 2007 teams are: Connecticut, Duke, Old Dominion, Purdue, Stanford, Temple, Indiana, Texas A&M, Wake Forest and Wichita State.

Paradise Jam is earning accolades around the collegiate basketball community.

Tickets are \$10 for V.I. residents and \$5 for UVI students and VI youth 5-17 years old; and \$25 for non-VI residents. Tickets are available at Modern Music in Havensight and the UVI Bookstore.

For more information visit the Paradise Jam link on the UVI website www.uvi.edu or contact Paradise Jam Tournament Director Jennifer Ashby at (425) 776-2775 or email info@basketballtravelers.com.

AgFair cont'd

Gov. John P. deJongh, Jr. affirmed his commitment to agriculture. The appreciation of our land and resources, and the security of our food supply are important, he said. "I have to admit, I am by no means a farmer," the governor said, "but I do like what they produce." He encouraged fairgoers to support the fair participants. "The individuals that are here are not just selling things, this is their passion," he said.

Recognized at the fair were Crop Farmer of the Year Lucien "Jambie" Samuel and Livestock Farmer of the Year Gary Pemberton.

The St. Thomas/St. John Agriculture and Food Fair is organized by the Agriculture Department, UVI's Cooperative Extension Service and a committee of community members.

Trustees Continued

for more than 20 years.

Dr. Iniaya and Petersen attended their first Board meeting in November.

The UVI Board of Trustees is the legally chartered governing body of UVI and is the policy making body with oversight and fiduciary responsibilities as outlined in the "Bylaws" of UVI.

The Board meets formally three times a year.

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