



dateline: UVI

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UVI's Accreditation Reaffirmed for 10 More Years

Accreditation for the University of the Virgin Islands has been reaffirmed. At a Nov. 15 meeting the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted to reaffirm accreditation of UVI until the year 2017.

"I must publicly thank all of the members of the University community for their diligence and hard work during the reaffirmation process and congratulate the members of the institution for the many commendations that were received from Middle States," UVI President Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster said in a statement to the University community.

"The process of going through reaffirmation of accreditation fits into the University's efforts to continue to fulfill its mission at the highest level," Dr. Ragster said. "We are poised to take the opportunity that this reaffirmation process has given us to continue our efforts towards fulfilling VISION 2012 and our mission," she continued.

The Evaluation Team's final report noted a number of commendations. These included commendations for:

- transforming UVI's mission into an outcomes driven statement with an increased focus on the learners to

be served;

- using University resources to create a welcoming and pleasant environment;
- forming a partnership with Florida International University and Global Crossing leading to a plan for connection to Internet2;
- increased retention of science majors, noteworthy faculty productivity and increased use of technology to support academic endeavors;
- faculty focus on the natural and social environments of the Caribbean region as a core to the general education program; and,
- the broad participation evident in the development of the general education curriculum.

Although accreditation has been reaffirmed, the University must comply with several measures and fulfill the following Middle States Commission requests:

- 1) A progress letter due April, 1, 2008, documenting the development and implementation of a faculty handbook that includes policies related to promotion and tenure (Standard 10)
- 2) a monitoring report, due March 1, 2009, documenting (a) steps taken to strengthen shared governance (Standard 4), (b) progress in the implementation of the new administrative structure and reorganization (Standard 5), and (c) steps taken to improve communication to all campus constituencies regarding shared governance and the new administrative structure (Standards 4 and 5). A visit may follow submission of the monitoring report
- 3) an early staff visit to discuss the Commission's expectations for reporting.
- 4) the completion of a Periodic Review Report, which is due June 1, 2012.

UVI has been accredited since 1971. Accreditation continues to be of the utmost importance to the University.

Sharing Holiday Cheer!



Photo by Dale Morton

UVI Professor of Public Administration Dr. Sunday Odezah, left, shares a laugh with SBDC Business Counselor Mary Joe Williams at the St. Thomas campus holiday party on Dec. 16. The party was held in the Administration and Conference Center. The St. Croix campus holiday party was held on Dec. 8, at the Palms at Pelican Cove.

Events Calendar

Dec. 21-Jan. 2	Year End Recess UVI Closed
Jan. 4	Festival Children's Parade STX
Jan. 7	Three Kings Day UVI Closed
Jan. 8	New Student Orientation STT/STX
Jan. 12	Kassav at Reichhold Center STT
Jan. 14	Spring Classes Begin STT/STX

Woodworks in Action



Michael Delvisco, top, speaks with students about woodworking at the Second Annual Virgin Islands Woodworkers Expo held Dec. 7-9 on the UVI St. Croix campus. Bottom, items made by woodworker Carol Spanner. The expo alternates between St. Thomas and St. Croix each year.



**Happy
Holidays**

UVI Alumna Publishes Book

UVI alumna Henrita Barber takes readers on a very personal and reflective look at life in her new book, *Musings of an Island Girl: A Collection of Articles on Life, Love & Family – Originally Published in the Virgin Islands Daily News 1999-2006*, published by Author House.

In one of the articles, the national award-winning “Six Generations Raised in a Closed Circle of Love,” Barber chronicles her family’s history over 160 years starting from the mid-1800s in the British Virgin Islands. In the more nostalgic “Savan – My Home of Heart,” she reminisces about her childhood in “paradise,” growing up on St. Thomas in the 1950s and ’60s prior to the tourism boom. “Everybody knew each other back then,” she says. “It was the perfect example of a village raising the child.”

Musings of an Island Girl compiles a myriad of topics relevant to everyday life, including the passing of time, desperation, love, gaining respect for women, middle-age blues, overcoming fear, mental illness and a dab of politics. Barber highlights the heartbreaking experience of losing a loved one, discovering family history and connections, the impact of Sept. 11 and the difficulty of raising a son with a developmental disability and few available resources. Barber also shares over 35 personal photographs with readers, some dating back to the early 1900s.

Barber is a recent retiree from the Virgin Islands Department of Education and the mother of two grown children. She is also a church pianist and volunteers her time with the mentally ill.

More information about *Musings of an Island Girl* can be found at www.musingsofanilandgirl.com.

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