



UVI VOICE

University of the Virgin Islands • St. Thomas and St. Croix
"Two Campuses, One Voice"

Volume 2, No. 4 • March 2007

An Award-Winning Newspaper

* See p. 2!

Making it right

UVI VOICE has been reporting on UVI class scheduling and registration woes. Here, an update.

By ERIKA R. BARNES

ST. CROIX — A brand-new semester brought long lines to wait in, tuition monies to collect, textbooks to buy, and professors to meet. These elements were pieces of the registration process that appeared to have no end.

The beginning of Spring Semester 2007 got off to a moderate start for the University of the Virgin Islands St. Croix campus. Both positive and negative views were expressed by students as well as faculty members regarding the process for class registration/scheduling and the alternate pin system.

According to several professors and students, major adjustments such as transitioning from one class to another at the last minute made the first day of classes seem endless and strenuous.

Jael Browne, a Computer Information Systems major, said he felt that this issue could be improved.

"Scheduling classes for this semester was better than the last but it still needs work," Browne said.

Dr. David Gould, Associate Professor of English, said he thought videoconference classes seemed to be suffering the most.

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"I was scheduled for videoconference classes that are usually held in a particular room, but I was switched. This was very frustrating," he said.

Gould also went on to mention that the equipment for the videoconference class that he was scheduled to teach was almost obsolete.

Freshman Kurt Alexander, majoring in Microbiology, said, "All is well so far. Compared to Fall of 2006, my first day of classes this semester went very smoothly. I was placed in the right room and all my classes started on time."

"Last semester, one of my videoconference classes did not have

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New vice provost to address registration concerns

By ASLIN LEGER

ST. THOMAS — The University of the Virgin Islands now has a vice provost of Access and Enrollment Services, Dr. Judith Edwin, as of the start of spring 2007, who is armed with plans to change arduous tasks such as the registration process.

After eight years on the mainland, Edwin returns to UVI now working in conjunction with the Center for Advising and Tutorial Services, Admissions and Registrar, Financial aid and Access and Recruitment offices.

Edwin, who left UVI in 1998 as the Director of Enrollment, cites the reason for her departure as being "disappointed with the way things were being done."

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Newly hired Vice Provost Dr. Judith Edwin. Photo by Aslin Leger.



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St. Thomas students packed in to see the premiere. Photo by Toriefa Alexander.

Oh, lawd!

'College Hill' premiere has UVI campus glued to the tube

By TOREIFA ALEXANDER AND ASLIN LEGER

ST. THOMAS — About 150 students gathered in the East Lobby dorm and Student Activities Lounge on St. Thomas at 11 p.m. on March 6 to watch the one-hour premiere of College Hill, filmed on St. Thomas last semester.

Students sat in chairs and some stood in anticipation of the new series premiere. Prior to the start of the show, they talked endlessly about what to expect based on previous College Hill shows.

As the episode began, they watched attentively, continually exploding in laughter, while sipping on free drinks provided by the Student Housing Department.

College Hill is a series on the Black Entertainment Television (BET). On its website, BET boasts itself as "the nation's leading television network providing quality entertainment, music, news and public affairs programming for the African-American audience."

According to Nielsen media research, its network reaches over 80 million households.

The premiere displayed cast members Devon Luis and Idesha Browne of St. Thomas; Andres St. Kitts and Vanessa Hamilton from St. Croix; and Fallon Favors, Krystal Lee, Ja'ron Thompson and Willie McMiller from California, meeting each other for the first time and riding on safari buses and seaplanes showing scenes of St. Thomas.

The off-campus location was a vast

property complete with a pool, jacuzzi, tennis court and extensive view of the St Thomas harbor.

Mixed reactions have been expressed about the show which wrapped up filming in mid-November. Some students said the show contained too much negativity. Others called it merely entertainment.

Not long into the episode, the cast participated in an intense game of "truth or dare" that led to alcohol use and nudity. The episode also displayed the cast going to their first class as well as a night out at a local college hot spot, The Green House.

Joryan Palmer, a senior Finance major, said, "I think that they need to air it at 1 a.m. because it seems to be an x-rated show."

During the show, a local cast member flashed her breasts and another local cast member was so intoxicated she fell asleep in the nude. As a dare, a state-side cast member stripped nude and jumped in the pool after confessing to working at Hooters.

"I was disappointed by the emphasis placed on sexuality, and students pre-

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College Hill at UVI:

What's your reaction?
See our next issue for full coverage and let us know what YOU think:

UVVOICE@gmail.com

**Managing Editors**

Miriam Welderufael (St. Croix)
Aslin Leger (St. Thomas)

Copy Editor

Wendy Bougouneau

Contributors

Toriefa Alexander, Kavita Balkaran, Erika Barnes, Tameka A. Browne, Shannon Burton, Lilli Cox, Sana W. Hamed, Maudiana John-Baptiste, Rachel Mathurin, Jane Meade, Miguelina Valdes

UV(eye) Logo Design

Dara Cooper

**Faculty Adviser,
Graphic Design**

Dr. Robin Sterns

**Submissions deadline
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Contact

UVIVOICE@gmail.com

UVI VOICE
“Two Campuses,
One Voice”

**Calendar of Events**

Events subject to change.

Submit calendar items to

UVIVOICE@gmail.com.

University-Wide

March 16

March 16 Charter Day - UVI's 45th anniversary

April 2-5

April 2-5 Registration of continuing students for Fall 2007 semester

April 6-8

April 6-8 UVI Recess - no classes

April 26

April 26 Last day of classes

April 27-29

April 27-29 Carnival Recess

St. Thomas Campus

March 24

March 24 Miss UVI Ambassorial Competition, Reichhold Center

St. Croix Campus

March 20-21

March 20-21 Annual Health Fair

March 22

March 22 Club X-Perience Day, Counseling/Placement Open House

March 23

March 23 Movie Night, Cafetorium, 7 p.m.

March 25

March 25 Student Leadership Summit

March 31 Spring Ball, St. George Botanical Garden, 9 p.m.

March 31

From the UVI VOICE staff: Student newspaper wins major awards

By MIRIAM WELDERUFAEL, ASLIN LEGER, ERIKA BARNES AND WENDY BOUGOUNEAU

We four students, accompanied by UVI VOICE adviser Dr. Robin Sterns, had the privilege of representing UVI at the 9th annual HBCU National Newspaper Conference, hosted by Florida A&M University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, Florida.

The conference is sponsored by the Black College Communication Association, of which UVI is now a member.

Students from universities across the nation came for the purpose of attending the many workshops on different kinds of journalism, networking with other journalists, discovering current trends in the field of journalism, as well as mastering their craft. Most of all they came with the hope of their school newspaper's winning some of the prestigious awards.

UVI VOICE submitted several articles from 2006 issues, and, to our surprise, emerged victorious by winning two of the most coveted awards!

They were: second place, best news series - investigative or in-depth story, to Mikyla Frederick, Jahnesta Ritter and Amanda Langton, for their series on St. Thomas dorm privacy issues, and second place, editorials (signed opinion pieces) to Amanda Langton, for a series of three columns.

This was the first year that UVI has competed, and since the VOICE is still a new newspaper, taking home two awards was fantastic.

Aside from winning awards, there was a wealth of information being shared. The presenters ranged from novices with as little as one year post-college experience, to veterans with over forty years of experience in the field of journalism.

One session was aimed at teaching students how to write feature stories. Matt Bigg, bureau chief of Reuters, an international news agency, shared his ideas.



From left, St. Croix campus managing editor Miriam Welderufael; St. Thomas campus managing editor Aslin Leger; reporter Erika Barnes; and copy editor Wendy Bougouneau. Photo by Robin Sterns.

“It’s not about knowing everything; it’s about knowing where to find it,” Bigg said.

Bigg has traveled all over the world and lived several places including Africa.

Lucy Morgan, a bureau chief at the St. Petersburg Times and Pulitzer Prize winner, presented the delegates with tips on obtaining and keeping news sources.

There was also a session involving proper procedures and helpful tactics to effectively connect with local campus security.

FAMU Police Chief Calvin Ross said faculty and students should try to establish a better rapport with those people who help protect and serve their campus.

In another engaging session, “Landing Your First Job,” Elizabeth Broadway, a copy editor at the Florida Times-Union, reminded the attendees of the age-old rule of keeping the resumes to one page.

She provided valuable tips on resume writing and encouraged workshop participants to have several tailored resumes to suit different jobs.

One of the most riveting presen-

tations of the entire conference was the viewing the premiere of a PBS documentary called Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes.

Filmmaker Byron Hurt, a lifelong hip-hop fan, explores the stereotypical nature of hip-hop. He realized the majority of hip-hop videos were nearly identical, featuring men in fancy cars throwing money at the camera, while scantily clad women dance provocatively in the background.

Hurt decided to make a film about the gender politics of hip-hop. This film tackles issues of masculinity, sexism, violence and homophobia in today’s hip-hop culture.

Following the film, an animated discussion was held at the School of Journalism and Graphic Communication lecture hall. The film’s editor and co-producer, Sabrina Schmiebt Gordon was present and provided information about the film and some of the challenges associated with producing such a film.

We want to thank President Ragster and Dr. Monique Guillory for making our trip possible. We will continue to make you proud!

St. Croix students have action-packed March, including Charter Day, spring ball

By MAUDIANA JOHN-BAPTISTE

ST. CROIX — In conjunction with UVI Charter Day, March 16, the St. Croix Student Government Association is sponsoring several activities through the month to help celebrate the founding of the University of the Virgin Islands.

One of our major projects is the international flags initiative. In recognition of the diverse population encompassed by the UVI community of students, faculty and staff, the SGA is planning to display the flag of every nationality that is represented on the UVI St. Croix campus.

The flags will be hung in the cafetorium and the SGA will host a “flag jam” to unveil this community engagement and beautification effort.

Please come out on Friday, March 30, at 5 p.m. to the cafetorium to wave your flag and represent where you’re from.

Also scheduled for March is Shadow our Students (SOS) Day, a joint project on both campuses.

On Charter Day, seniors from local high schools will come to campus and be assigned a student to follow throughout the day.

This experience gives prospective UVI students a glimpse into campus life. We hope you will join us and volunteer to host an SOS student for the day. Please call the Student Activities office at 692-4184 for more information.

Representatives from the St. Croix campus have been working with St. Thomas students on the SGA Queen Committee to prepare for the coronation of the new Miss UVI, which will take place on March 24 at the Reichhold Center for the Arts on St. Thomas.

The SGA is working to coordinate special-rate transportation to St. Thomas to accommodate St. Croix students who want to attend.

Of the four candidates, one is currently a St. Croix student while another is from St. Croix but taking classes on St. Thomas.

Either way, the big island is well

represented and we wish all the contestants the best of luck!

The highlight for the month on St. Croix will be our annual Spring Ball, which is scheduled to take place on March 31 at the Botanical Gardens.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of our Spring Ball and our theme acknowledges the occasion of our institutional birthday – “Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, and Paving the Way for the Future.”

This event isn’t just for students, but for everyone in the UVI family. It is certain to be a fun, magical evening.

So for all of the people out there who complain that there’s never anything to do on the St. Croix campus, March is packed with fun and activities.

We hope you find the time to participate and join us as we celebrate UVI’s numerous successes and bright future throughout the month.

Maudiana John-Baptiste is St. Croix SGA president.

New vice provost to address registration woes

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Edwin has set an agenda which includes increasing stagnant enrollment rates and improving the registration process.

"One of the things I want to do is unravel the cumbersome registration process," Edwin said.

"I would like to make functions on Banweb more user friendly, where students can perform for themselves."

Students presently have to retrieve a pin number from a faculty advisor to begin the online registration process every semester. At times, it proves frustrating as Banweb poses technical problems, forcing the student to end up back at the registrar's office.

"Making students more responsible," as Edwin says, "will alleviate the strain on the registrar's office."

In keeping with trends at other universities, at the end of this semester report cards will no longer be mailed, but students will be able to print unofficial copies of their transcripts from Banweb, she said.

UVI President Laverne Ragster cites Edwin's return as "a part of Vision 2012. Her position acknowledges the whole area of support services."

Plans are underway for more availability of classes. But unfortunately for night students, because of more prevalent enrollment of traditional full time students, more classes will be offered during the day, Edwin mentioned.

Videoconferencing between St. Thomas and St. Croix classes has become popular, although many professors and students complain about technological issues consuming too much class time (see related story, p. 4).

Edwin calls the increased use of videoconferencing a "resource issue."

"We are trying to minimize the cost of having two teachers on both campuses teaching the same class to three or four students."

Edwin said there is a need to

"beef up technology" in videoconferencing.

According to an Academic Affairs update released on Feb. 23 by Provost Dr. Al Hassan I. Musah, he said, "I hope [these academic policy changes] will improve efficiency in Academic Affairs and move the essential processes along in a timely manner."

"One of the things I want to do is unravel the cumbersome registration process."

-Dr. Judith Edwin

Edwin said the ultimate goal to have what she calls a "one stop shop" for students at the New Harvey Building on St. Thomas, expected to open by June 2007.

The Registrar, Financial Aid, Access and Enrollment and CATS will be side by side to better serve students, Edwin said.

Computers will occupy the lobby of the Harvey Building for do-it-yourself registering and for making changes. Representatives from the different offices will be there to assist students who might encounter any difficulties.

On St. Croix, additional rooms, which will be used for classrooms and faculty offices, have recently been finished, she said.

Everyone needs to "communicate what's happening," Edwin said.

As a person, Dr. Edwin is known for her expertise and for caring for her community," Ragster said.

"Her position is simply another piece of the puzzle, in our mission for having successful students," she said.

CASE STUDY: A Spring 2007 registration debacle

By ASLIN LEGER

ST. THOMAS — An apparent mix-up between the Humanities Division and Registrar's Office on St. Thomas left students without an Interpersonal Communications class they had registered for.

Dr. Beverly Jensen, communications professor at UVI, said that she learned only 30 minutes before class that she would have 34 students in a class that can only hold approximately 25 students.

Jensen, who started as a visiting assistant professor at UVI during the fall semester of 2006, said she only signed three overloads on top of the 20 students she expected.

Students arrived to Jensen's class and came upon a hallway filled with students. The classroom holds about 25 students.

"There were students standing in the hallway and in the room," Jensen said.

"The only logical thing to do was to inform the students that the class had been overbooked," she said.

As told by her and another student

in the class, Jensen proceeded to write a list of student names and numbers on the board, along with a note to return to the registrar's office.

Dr. Robin Sterns, coordinator of the Communications program, said she wishes Jensen had contacted her. "The class was over-enrolled by just one student when I last checked it," she said. The class was capped at 25 and 26 were registered.

"We had a similar problem with a section on the St. Croix campus where there were more students than seats and no technology for a professor who needs to show slides and films. It took five class meetings, but working with the registrar I was able to get that class moved to a workable room," she said.

No one clarified how the system allowed the students to register past the class capacity.

Another group of students unknowingly registered for a class posted by mistake.

Sterns said that only two Interpersonal Communication sections had been submitted to the registrar's office, but a third section was accidentally

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Banweb's new look

Banweb has already been updated to allow students and advisers better access to more information. Now when you look for classes, you begin by selecting the semester, the campus and a range of classes:

Class Schedule Search		Spring Semester 2007 Mar 02, 2007					
To view a schedule for a specific campus, select the campus from the pull-down list.							
You must choose at least one subject. You may select multiple values using the Shift key (to select consecutive values) and/or Ctrl key (to select non-consecutive values).							
Subject:	Accounting Anthropology Art						
Course Number:							
Title:							
Credit Range:	hours to	hours					
Campus:	All Asynchronous Distance Classes British Virgin Islands - HLS						
Course Level:	All Graduate Post Degree						
Part of Term: Non-dated based classes only							
Start Time:	Hour 00	Minute 00	am/pm am				
End Time:	Hour 00	Minute 00	am/pm am				
Days:	<input type="checkbox"/> Mon	<input type="checkbox"/> Tue	<input type="checkbox"/> Wed	<input type="checkbox"/> Thur	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat	<input type="checkbox"/> Sun
Class Search Reset							

On the list of classes that pops up, you can see much more detail than before, such as where it meets, whether the class is required or not and prerequisites. You can access lab fees and even e-mail the instructor:

Class Schedule Listing		Spring Semester 2007 Mar 02, 2007				
Sections Found						
Prin of Chem-Life Sci II - 13718 - CHE 112 - A						
Associated Term: Spring Semester 2007						
Registration Dates: Oct 17, 2006 to May 05, 2007						
Levels: Undergraduate						
Attributes: Major Requirement						
Instructors: Thomas Gunn Archibald (P)						
St Thomas Campus Campus Lecture/Lab Schedule Type 4.000 Credits View Catalog Entry						
Scheduled Meeting Times						
Type	Time	Days	Where	Date Range	Schedule Type	Instructors
Class	11:00 am - 11:50 am	MWF	Business Building 206	Jan 11, 2007 - May 05, 2007	Lecture/Lab	Thomas G. Archibald (P)
Class	12:00 pm - 12:50 pm	F	Science Building 207	Jan 11, 2007 - May 05, 2007	Lecture/Lab	Thomas G. Archibald (P)
Class	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	F	Science Building 205	Jan 11, 2007 - May 05, 2007	Lecture/Lab	Thomas G. Archibald (P)

Class scheduling/registration woes

Continued from p. 1

a definite room and because of that mishap the class had to be made into an on-line course," he said.

Alternate pin numbers

Regarding the alternate pin process, where students registering for Spring 2007 had to first get a new, second pin number from their adviser, Chief Information Officer Tina Koopmans said this system was implemented to aid in advising.

"It is my understanding that the purpose of the technology was to support the needs of the Academic & Student Services Department," Koopmans said.

Dr. Judith W. Edwin, vice provost of Access & Enrollment Services, confirmed the initial purposes for the system.

According to Edwin, the idea was for each student to seek his or her adviser and obtain guidance in choosing courses, along with obtaining their alternate pin number. If advisers were not available, other options included a visit to the Division office or Registrar.

"The alternate pin system serves as a best practice technique to encourage or make certain each student fol-

lows their paradigm or requirements toward their degree in a systematic way. The idea was to make certain students were advised," she said.

Students say outcomes varied. Sophomore Anna-Mai Christmas said it was a good idea "because many people don't know what classes they should take and that helps them."

Business major Michael Jerome disagreed: "It was difficult because I did not know who my adviser was at first, being a freshman. I already knew what classes I had to take. It was a waste of time."

Edwin called it a "planning tool," designed to help create a relationship between the students and faculty.

"This also got students to speak with their preferred adviser, allowing assistance with their courses. It then assisted us—the administration—in planning courses for students," she said.

The alternate pin was canceled towards the ending of the payment period, so students who had missed early deadlines could still register, Edwin said. She said the process will be in place again for Fall 2007 registration.

'Section V': The pros and cons of videoconferenced classes

BY SHANNON BURTON AND
MIRIAM WELDERUFAEL

This semester saw one of the largest increases of video conference courses offered at UVI.

According to UVI St. Croix Learning Resource and Faculty Technology Services Manager Judith Rogers, the main reason for video conference classes is to share expertise between the campuses because there is a limited amount of resources at the university, but they still want to be able to make all courses available on both campuses.

At first, Erik Pattison, the "IT guy" of the St. Thomas campus, says, videoconferencing actually cost more than hiring more professors, but today videoconferencing actually saves UVI a lot of money and offers students more access to a wider range of courses.

Freshmen engineering major Rose Charles said that she liked having students from St. Thomas and St. Martin in her classes and that she rather take her classes now via video conference instead of having to wait for a professor to offer the course on the St. Croix campus.

Although some students have displayed that they enjoy the video conference classes, other students tend to not think so highly of these courses, associating them with frustrating technical difficulties and a huge loss in the feeling of inclusion if they are on the "remote side," the campus that does not have the professor in the room.

Students and professors alike grumble about the delays caused by power outages, bad weather, and equipment that are not set up in time for class.

Freshmen engineering major Precious Laurent of the St. Croix campus stated that even though she really

"I'm grateful for and appreciate video-conferencing because I can take more classes I want, but I would much prefer the professor to be here in person."

likes her video conference class, technical difficulties take up class time nearly every time they meet.

Pattison says videoconference rooms are set up each morning and that IT staff patrols the rooms to make sure that they are still functioning.

He continued to say they are trying to make more help available by joining forces with the library staff; so if a videoconference room is not set up, students or professors can call or go to the library front desk for assistance.

"We are offering sessions that faculty or any presenters can take so that they can learn how to operate the equipment so that if something hap-



Computer Science professor Dr. Alan F. Lewit teaches a class in St. Croix while students from St. Thomas as well as St. Martin listen in and watch the screen. Photo by Miriam Welerufael.

pens they are able to help themselves and keep going until the technicians can get there," Rogers said.

Media Specialist Giovanni Garcia said, "They [professors] hardly ever show up for the training so when things do go wrong they kind of get panicked and they start calling us to come and try to resolve [problems]."

Not just videoconference professors should feel inclined to learn about technology in the classroom, Pattison says. In this day and age where technology is everywhere, "all instructors must know about technology," he said.

Problems with the hardware is only one aspect of the frustration these courses can have. Students and professors alike express that there is definitely a feeling of detachment between the two campuses when viewing each other through a screen.

Coordinator of Computer Science Dr. Alan F. Lewit, who teaches video conference classes from the St. Croix side, said that the detachment between the two campuses in video conference classes makes it especially difficult when trying to test the students.

"When my students on St. Thomas are taking tests, I don't know what's going on. I can't see them," said Lewit.

Humanities Prof. Gene Emanuel and Dr. Richard Hall, a Science pro-

fessor, both mentioned that they had a hard time "reading" the remote side class and getting them to interact and give feedback.

"It makes me shy," says Nesha Joseph, a UVI student taking a literature videoconference course this semester, "there are sound problems and I can hear the discussion on St. Croix, and I don't want to cut in."

Kristin Melnick, a St. Thomas Communications major, agrees saying "I'm not going to get heard anyway, so I don't talk. I'm grateful for and appreciate videoconferencing because I can take more classes I want, but I would much prefer the professor to be here in person."

Hall mentioned that since the Virgin Islands is such a small community that videoconferencing classes are very important to maintain communication and levels of instruction between the two campuses, but that they are still best reserved for smaller class sizes where interaction can be more easily enforced.

Changes are on the horizon, Pattison says. New equipment is being installed even as this article is being written, since the equipment in some rooms is eight years old.

These new systems will have features that make working the equipment easier; switching from camera mode to computer screen mode will be as easy as pressing one button on the remote.



Jeannette Richards. Photo by Jacqueline Kowalski.

STUDENTS: HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF V-CLASSES

Sit in a place that will make you visible to the other campus. Don't sit off-screen and further alienate yourself.

Make sure that you speak into a microphone at all times in rooms that have individual microphones. Speak clearly in rooms that have only one microphone for the whole room.

If appropriate, ask questions directed to the other campus, especially if the professor is on your side.

Try to avoid talking over or interrupting speakers in your class on either side, because all speakers are projected equally on the sound system. If more than one person is talking, nobody gets heard.

Be sure you know the phone number for the room on the opposite campus, in case you have problems and need to call. Be sure you know how to get into your classroom, if it is kept locked or has a key code.

Source: Erik Pattison

Alum returns to discuss value of student internships

BY RACHEL MATHURIN

ST. CROIX — University of the Virgin Islands alumna Jeannette Richards discussed experiences an undergraduate student in the field of biology has as part of a Science and Math Division workshop on undergraduate internships.

According to the students who attended the talk, Richards encouraged them by saying, "Everything you do in college is assisted by someone, such as your professor or adviser."

"I am certain her work with [St. Croix Biology professor Dr. Stuart] Ketcham helped Richards decide on her major," UVI student Frances C. Gaskin said.

"Richards started her first research experience at UVI on the St. Croix campus. So the lecture helped students to be motivated and to persist in meeting goals, although they meet new challenges," Dr. Velma Tyson, a UVI math professor, said.

In the workshop, Richards also said students should accept minority internships because they help them gain more experience.

The department of Science and Math holds many presentations and workshops to help in the process of being a participant in an internship.

As an undergraduate Biology/Biochemistry student at UVI in the early 1990s, Richards conducted research on the causes of breast cancer,

on the cells in the body's immune system, and on cells in different pathways of the body.

Richards graduated from UVI with a bachelor's degree in biology. After graduation, she worked at the UVI Agricultural Experiment Station conducting experiments involving the transformation of the cells from papayas as well as searching for ways to enhance tropical fruits.

She then earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Ohio State University. Richards now works for Proctor and Gamble.

For more information, contact Tyson at 692-4157, or Jacqueline Kowalski at the Agricultural Experiment Station, 692-4076.

Mixed reaction to 'College Hill' premiere

Continued from p. 1

sented themselves as loose," said Dr. Lonnie Hudspeth, a Business Administration professor.

"The whole world is looking at the show and is getting a representation of the V.I. people and students," he said.

St. Croix campus students' views coincided with their fellow colleagues on St Thomas. Daisy Richards, a freshman Nursing student, said certain aspects were "degrading to Virgin Islanders." Another St. Croix student, Hudson Browne, thought the show was "very wild" and gave the Virgin Islanders a bad name.

Some other people were not as astonished because of the content of previous College Hill shows, which also portrayed mainland college students engaging in similar behavior.

"Everything that occurred was expected to me, said Krystal Messer, St. Croix campus Communication major.

"Some may now view the V.I. as a bad place, but you can't judge a whole society based on four individuals. Our generation is not as conservative as before, so older people may be disgusted, but we have to keep in mind that this is a reality show and ratings are what count. So like every time before, sex will sell," she said.

Scenes of the island were shown as the members were transported to their

home during the six weeks of filming. An aerial picture was shown of the UVI campus along with some classrooms.

"I didn't know St Thomas would look so good on T.V. I have seen previous College Hill shows and it was the same thing. I don't feel shocked or shamed," said Marsha Penn, adjunct professor of Mathematics.

"People are upset because some of the members portraying Virgin Islanders a certain way, but it can happen at any university," said Maria Arroyo, sophomore Engineering student.

"They picked students that will give them the highest ratings. The campus was beautiful. The island was beautiful. People are taking it way too personal," said Trinity Granger, sophomore engineering student.

In a previous issue of the UVI Voice, administrators said their reasons for accepting the BET show at UVI were for exposure and as a means for increasing enrollment. Hudspeth said he does not agree with this.

"There will be a lot of interest in coming here but what caliber of students will we attract? What will we be known for, a party school?" he said.

For more information visit www.bet.com/collegehill.

Miriam Wellerufael contributed to this story.

A case study: Registration debacle

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posted from a previous semester.

Before the error was rectified, 15 students had already registered.

The University Registrar, Robert Fontaine, said that the Humanities division had been put on alert and supposedly found professors to teach the students.

When she could not find a faculty member by Dec. 15 to teach the section, Sterns asked the registrar to cancel the class with Division Chair Dr. Malik Sekou's approval. This was apparently not done, she said.

Students were not notified of this error.

On the first day of class, when Dr. Harkins-Pierre saw students from the extra section that was supposed to be canceled sitting in the classroom, he offered to teach the section, according to Sterns.

Fontaine said students from Jensen's overbooked course were also encouraged to enroll in Harkins-Pierre's course, but there is no certainty that all overbooked students moved on to Harkins-Pierre's class.

This frustrates SGA St. Thomas President Rick S. Grant, who says that this kind of situation puts students in a compromising situation.

"It contradicts the university's motto of putting students first," Grant said.

Grant became involved when several of Jensen's students contacted him about what she did. Once informed, he said that he "went through the line of command, to resolve the situation."

He tried to contact Jensen, but said he got "an unprofessional e-mail" in return three days later.

Harkins-Pierre had no response to the debacle and simply said that she was "happy to teach the class."

"They [the students] have the opportunity to take the same class at the same time," she said.

Aquellah Cantois, a freshman Biology major, showed up to her first day of class to find a sign stating that the section she had registered for had been canceled.

Cantois decided to drop the class and registered with Harkins-Pierre's class which was good for her because "it didn't conflict with her four-year plan."

"I apologize for any misunderstanding this situation may have caused," said Sekou.

"It was fixed and will not happen again" he said.

**What's on YOUR mind?
Tell us and we'll tell everyone!**

UVIVOICE@gmail.com

deadline: March 26, 2007



Opinion

Better than you think

By MIGUELINA VALDES

ST. CROIX — Occasionally we sit down and hear our friends, colleagues and former classmates complain that UVI-St. Croix campus isn't for them.

Once this statement is said, we can simply look into that person's eyes, and then ask the question, "If UVI-St. Croix campus isn't for you, then what is?"

I must honestly say that at the beginning I did not want to come to UVI-St. Croix campus, but as the days passed, once enrolled in UVI, I realized where else would you receive that one-on-one interaction with the professors?

Where else would the professor call you by your first name rather than by a number?

Letter to the editor

Response to "Where are the night courses?" by Monai Greene in the February 2007 issue.

By SANA W. HAMED

I understand where Ms. Greene is coming from. But here on St. Croix it is the very opposite. She is upset about the lack of classes during the night, while I am frustrated that most of the classes are towards the evening.

I have been told that the class times have shifted throughout the years due to the fact that students on St Croix come to classes mostly towards the evening. Most St. Croix students at UVI have a day job and the only time they can attend classes are toward the evening.

I was to take a business course

Students may complain about UVI-STX being boring and not exactly what a college is all about. To all those students I must say that UVI is what you make of it.

Look at the bulletin boards and view the many activities that take place. Take advantage of scholarships. Participate in everything you could possibly participate in. And, most of all, have fun while you're doing it.

Don't sit around or drop out of UVI because you need to or want to experience "college life": you can experience all that you want here at UVI-St. Croix campus.

Remember that there's no other place that is Historically American...Uniquely Caribbean and Globally Interactive."

this semester, but only one course was offered, and it was an evening class. The time gap between this business course and my other classes is too much, so I opted not to take this course this semester.

Ms. Greens states, "graduation is out of reach for some students because they are confined to certain schedules." This cannot be more true. How can I earn my degree if the classes I need are offered at times that are not convenient to my schedule? Education is the most important, but it becomes difficult to pursue a degree when there are scheduling conflicts. And don't even get me started about the number of years it takes to get a degree!

'Bed' event highlights HIV-AIDS awareness

By TAMEKA A. BROWNE

ST. THOMAS — Feb. 4-6, UVI Health Services planned an activity in collaboration with HOPE Inc. and the Student Peer Educators. This day is known around the world as Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

On Sunday evening, two beds were placed in high traffic areas on campus, CA Building and the middle of Upper Campus.

Monday morning students coming to campus noted the beds. On each was a sign stating, "If this is a place you would like to be, sign on me."

The beds stayed in their location through Tuesday. Each day was represented by a different color marker that students could use to sign the bed, to distinguish the signatures for each day.

The purpose of this activity was to see how many students would sign without taking into consideration how many signatures had already been placed on it.

This is analogous to sexual relationships and the belief that many people do not ask about previous sexual partners prior to having sexual contact with someone.

The goal was to emphasize that students need to communicate with their partners and know each other sexual history prior to "getting into the bed."

The result: 80 students signed the



Your name here? Photo by Aslin Leger.

two beds. It shows 80 students might consider having sexual activity without giving thoughts to the consequences of sexual intercourse.

HIV is an acronym for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. This causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). People can be HIV positive without having AIDS, but they can still transmit the virus to others.

As of December 2005 there were a total of 862 reported cases of HIV/AIDS reported in the Virgin Islands, which ranks first in the world with HIV cases per capita and second in the nation with AIDS cases.

Something must be done about this problem. It begins with you. Make a decision to be abstinent or protect yourself for every sexual contact.

Get tested for HIV every three months if you are sexually active. Please encourage your partner to get tested too.

For more information or to arrange testing, contact UVI Health Services at 693-1124.

Celebrated journalist discusses ‘winds of change’ in the new Africa



Journalist and author Charlayne Hunter-Gault with Alfred O. Heath, UVI trustee emeritus and chair of the Foundation for the University of the Virgin Islands. Photos by Nanyamka Farrelly.

By JANE MEADE

ST. CROIX — A tall, elegantly dressed woman entered the crowded theatre, looked at the audience and with a captivating smile said, “Wow!”

Charlayne Hunter-Gault, renowned journalist, stood before a packed crowd of students, professors, board of trustees members and the general community at the Evans Center, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix Campus, on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2007.

“Are you really spending your Valentines evening with me?” she joyfully asked, as her large brown eyes scanned the eagerly awaiting crowd.

She quietly sat with her head tilted to one side as she sipped from a white cup listening to Provost Al Hassan Musah’s introduction.

From her vantage point she observed the mixed group of people viewing the video monitor on the St. Thomas campus and thought, “Is this the auditorium at the Nelson Mandela

Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa?”

The Provost reiterated the purpose of the Alfred O. Heath Distinguish Speakers Series as, “to give you a glimpse into the lives of remarkable people,” making eye contact with Mrs. Hunter-Gault as he spoke.

She quickly gazed into the cup while she turned her head as the constant flow of descriptives echoed off the walls: South Carolina Civil Rights Icon, Woman of Integrity, Dreamer, First African-American graduate of the University of Georgia.

The audience chuckled as he continued, “As CNN chief national correspondent, she introduced saints and sinners with equal emphasis!”

Hunter-Gault proceeded to the podium revealing an eye-catching lime green translucent blouse with a meandering pattern flowing across the chest.

The black and white afro complimented her white pants and lime green shoes. The multicolored scarf illuminated like the tapestry of Africa on which she was about to expound.

“Thank you for that warm introduction,” she declared.

She announced that many of the prominent executives in broadcast journalism seem to think that there is no interest in news of Africa. When Africa is featured, it surrounds only the four D’s—death, disaster, disease and despair, she said.

“They [executives] just don’t get it!” she declared.

“When I come to meetings like these and see the overwhelming turnout of people, it tells me that Africa is still alive in the minds of the people.

“I believe a lot more needs to be done so that Africa can get the help it needs rather than the one-sided coverage,” she said.

As she spoke, her hands were in constant motion causing the light to create a sea of green on her blouse. The green tree-like images on her shirt moved like elephants charging on the African plains, as she spoke of China veraciously pursuing Africa.

She is convinced that America

should be more concerned of this and “position itself so that it can forge relationships with African nations” that will secure America’s international and domestic interests.

As she mentioned “positioning,” her blouse turned a deeper shade of green.

Hunter-Gault gave a description comparing colonial, post-colonial and present-day Africa.

During colonial and post-colonial times, Africa’s nations experienced numerous challenges instituted by people from other countries who tried to “in power rather than empower the people.”

In 1998 there were 14 wars, compared to two being fought today in Africa, she said.

The governments of many of the African nations have identified two strategies — known as “Nepad” and “Peer Review” — to address many of the problems facing these nations.

The New Partnership for African Development (Nepad) outlined some principles which include: more fiscal responsibility, human rights issues, and transparency in government.

Rwanda and South Africa are examples of places that utilized voluntary Peer Review to ensure that women are empowered and that human rights are upheld.

“I believe that these two radical practices are elements that are critical to Africa’s survival,” she said.

She spoke proudly of Nelson Mandela, describing his leadership as “iconic,” and announced that South Africa is showing great signs of progress.

Also, she mentioned the newly elected governments, Liberia’s first woman president, and the overwhelming feeling of hope expressed by Africans as indicators of change.

She characterized the new birth as a “second wind of change that is blowing” across the African continent.

As she uttered these words, her blouse seemed to respond in like manner.

She said she hopes that we will all “embrace Africa as the continent that is the mother of us all.”



Hunter-Gault speaks with UVI VOICE reporter Lilli Cox.

INTERVIEW: Questions and answers with Charlayne Hunter-Gault

By LILLI COX

Q: Tell me a little bit about Brenda Starr, your inspiration to be a journalist.

CHG: I loved Brenda Starr’s life. She was an inspiration because she was out there in the world. My mother only got as far as third grade but she would read the newspapers every day and I would read

the comics. I loved Brenda Starr’s adventuresome spirit. She got to travel all over the world and had wonderful adventures, and I was an only child for about eight years and I wanted to be out there meeting people like Brenda Starr. Early on I was inspired by that and thought *that’s a job I’d like doing*. Even though it was unlikely at those times for a girl, an African American girl, to go to school and become a journalist, my mother instinctively knew that I was going to do it.

Q: UVI has recently revived its student newspaper, the UVI VOICE. What advice would you give to young people who are interested in a career in journalism?

CHG: At this point in their lives, they should just soak up all the education they can get; you know, the English skills to read and write. Journalism isn’t rocket science but you have to be able to write a sentence. You have to understand the world to make writing real—take every opportunity to live and travel around the world; finding the context for the stories is important. A broad liberal arts background is one of the best.

Q: What specific, technical skill has contributed to your success?

CGH: Language skills: reading and writing... I find that language is deteriorating today and it’s sad; people say “I done that” now. I don’t know why it’s happening, but it seems to me increasingly more grammatical mistakes are being made.

Q: In your book, you report the new news out of Africa. Do you feel a sense of optimism; do you think there is any new news for Africa in terms of media representation coming in the future? Where will the media be in 45–50 years?

CGH: <laughing> Well, I’m not in the crystal ball business, but I do say that as African journalists become more empowered, get more resources, get more encouragement and backing by their government, then they will have some of a voice—but that is not without precedent. There was an African writer during Apartheid that had what they called guerrilla typewriters, typewriters that were used even though they were banned... And then you know, the African journalists today

have an energy, and so they are taking steps now to establish their own movement, their own resurgence of their voice in media. In some ways, each year, the representation becomes a more complete voice of the people.

Q: You have covered some of the most difficult issues in modern times. How are you able to focus on the task at hand and not be overwhelmed by it all?

CGH: The hard images—that’s not the only thing that I see; obviously when you see that, the ravages and consequences of war, it’s hard; at the same time you see this determination on the part of even the most oppressed people. There are a lot of times that you don’t quite sleep at night. When I left Rwanda after my first year there, the aspects of the revolt—that was pretty hard to see and made it hard to sleep for a month. That’s pretty hard to take. I guess I’m kind of an optimist by nature, though—but also a realist. I think that there are things to be concerned about, but I think that’s why it’s important to have the media and that’s why

Continued on next page

Administration hosts student forum



Forum participants. Photo by Darryl Jones.

By: ERIKA R. BARNES

ST. CROIX — It was all about students and faculty members on Jan. 24, at the first student forum for the spring semester.

President LaVerne Ragster, St. Croix Campus Executive Administrator Monique Guillory, and Nurse Practitioner Naita Salmon Iles were just a few who attended representing UVI's faculty and staff.

Student Government Association members were also visible for this event, representing the students at the university.

The topic of ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) compliance was discussed.

Wheelchair bound sophomore Robbie Phillips questioned administration about their plans to improve accessibility on campus.

"My issue dealt with wheelchair accessibility. I missed two days of classes because the elevators were out of service," Phillips said.

According to Phillips, administrators responded with assurances that they are up to code.

Phillips then went on to voice another concern about the Business

classes she needs being held so late at night.

"This is an inconvenience for me, personally," she said.

Administrators advised Phillips to speak with Business Division Chair Dr. Paul Simmonds.

"The walkway heading towards the Melvin Evans Center was and still is a very big issue. However, Physical Plant demonstrated their hard work with repairing the bricks. I can see the improvement. This was a 'thumbs up' for me," said Maudiana John-Baptiste, SGA President and Psychology major.

According to Guillory, the next student forum is scheduled for April 3, at 6:30 p.m. Topics include follow-ups on concerns and policies for UVI's Fitness Center as well as other concerns students on the St. Croix Campus may have.

"We—the administration—can only do so much. It's also the students' responsibility to attend. Before students think about the negativity of the university, they should try to articulate concerns, and try to meet with the administrators to address them. Responsibility is a two-way street," she said.

Hunter-Gault UVI VOICE interview

Continued from p. 6

new news is important—because it's the news you don't get, not just the images of war and brutality but the whole picture... if people don't get some sense that there is reason to hope, if all they are getting is a relentlessly negative covered picture of the Continent, then people lose hope, and that would be unfortunate, more than unfortunate.

Q: Much of your work has been concentrated in South Africa, a region that has seen radical political, economic, and social evolution in the last twenty years. There have been numerous parallels drawn between the dismantling of Apartheid and the Civil Rights Movement in the US. How accurate is that comparison?

CHG: I think the struggles are similar, that people make sacrifices that benefit the larger group. It is the struggle against brutality for rights; there were people working in Africa and in America, Mandela, Campbell, and they were organizing marches and using much the same methods. The difference is that in Africa it was a black majority and white minority in power...

Q: How do you feel being a black woman has shaped your experience in Africa?

CHG: I view Africa through the prism of my own experience and there is a con-

fidence when you can do that. Obviously there are some issues, where it wouldn't matter if you were black, white, or yellow, but with issues of race it gives me a perspective that I need; and women—my interest is now focusing on women because they are among the most deprived of any group of people—and issues of poverty and how that shapes the lives of young girls. All these points, they are a part of the new news—getting information out—for example, most of the conflict on the Continent is over and the money used to fund those conflicts is now being funneled into development, of education, of economics. That's new news.

Q: As the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Georgia, how do you view progress with regards to the public education system and the opportunities it provides to minorities in the U.S.?

CGH: There has been a lot of progress on some levels—I've been very gratified to see the young, old, black, and white have an education available to them... but there are a lot of things that have been neglected or are just not working. A person can see it when some students are getting the resources they need to get an education, teacher, books, well maintained schools—and others are not. The U.S. has work to do.



Social Science 100 and Science 100 students competed in Jeopardy on St. Croix, Feb. 14. Score: SSC100 170, SCI 100 -260. Some members of the winning team, from left to right: Hala Said, Jeremy Chassagne, Dexter Hypolite, Nickaya Armantrading, Sana Hamed and Ronelle Paris. Photo by Alisa Collins.

UVI student named ambassador

By TORIEFA ALEXANDER

ST. THOMAS — University of the Virgin Islands student Amarae Blyden-Richards will be a Virgin Island's ambassador in a student-exchange program in Denmark.

Blyden-Richards, a senior marketing major, was announced as ambassador at the Friends of Denmark at the society's meeting Feb. 17.

She was awarded this opportunity based on her winning essay, which highlighted architecture and the use of mahogany furniture in the Virgin Islands.

Applicants to the program were required to write an essay and make a presentation which focused on similarities between Denmark and the Virgin Islands.

This experience will help her on a "personal and professional" level, she said. She has also visited

Valencia, Spain, and Florida International University on study-abroad experiences.

"You must know where you are from to know where you're going," Blyden-Richards said.

In early July, two students from Denmark will come to the Virgin Islands as student ambassadors of Denmark. While on their visit here they will participate in activities that will widen their understanding of Denmark's impact on the Virgin Islands.

Blyden-Richards and a student from St. Croix will return to Denmark with these Danish ambassadors later in July, to learn about Virgin Islands background by connecting with Danish culture.

They will return in August and share their experience with the Virgin Islands community through radio and television.

Ag fair

Continued from p. 8

perimental Station (AES) Biotechnology and Agro-forestry program, said "the objective is to inform the public about the native trees and encourage them to grow native trees."

James Rakocy, AES director and professor of Aquaculture, demonstrated a scale model aquaponics system to the public. This included the healthy growth of mint and watercress without the use of soil. The plants are fed by wastewater from fish production.

He encouraged the public to buy fresh fish and vegetables at the UVI farm store, which is located opposite Educational Complex, across the road. It is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Thursdays.

Stuart Weiss, program leader for Agronomy, said that the Agriculture Fair, "a petting zoo" to many visitors, is only truly appreciated by those who are interested in agriculture. Many people do not see agriculture as a professional job—they probably do not even know what horticulture or agronomy is, he said.

Dr. Ramon Arancibia, Horticulture research specialist, said their objective was to inform the public about different irrigation systems so that they would be able to conserve water.

His department also had posters



UVI student Elizabeth Castro (front right) won a 20-inch TV in a hot game of "Agro Jeopardy" at the Ag Fair. Photo by Miriam Wellerufael.

showing the different diseases they found in vegetable crops. He also had a scale model of an irrigation system.

Kate Lincoln, research specialist for the sustainable farm project, said they sell everything they grow. She said they use the wastewater from the tilapia fish to fertilize vegetable crops, flowers and herbs. The program's objective is sustainability.

The Center for Marine and Environmental Studies on St Croix was also present.

Emily Tyner, research analyst for the Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service, had a great deal of fun educating the patrons about the different organisms found in the ocean.

"Everything you see at the beach has a name," she said.



Campus shuttle trial chugs to success

By ASLIN LEGER

ST. THOMAS — The results are in: most St. Thomas students want a shuttle bus between the lower and upper campus.

During a trial period from Jan. 15 to Feb. 2, students were transported from stops beginning at the Classroom Administration Building to as far as the Business Building on the upper campus.

A survey was distributed to 150 students and the Provost's office has received thus far 119, which LilyMae Durante, Associate Campus Administrator for Operations, calls a "high return."

Most respondents, according to Durante, are in favor of the shuttle.

"I think it was useful, especially on rainy days, when you don't have transportation," Benita Randolph, a sophomore nursing student, said.

The trial period was originally set for two weeks but because of its overwhelming success, it was extended one more week.

"Right now, it is just to find funds for the purchase of a vehicle," Durante said.

St. Croix Ag Fair boasts 'great turnout'



UVI employees and students at the fair. Photo by Sana W. Hamed.

By KAVITA BALKARAN AND SANA W. HAMED

ST. CROIX — From the delicious foods to the numerous booth displays, appealing to our bellies and our brains, the 36th annual Agriculture and Food Fair was a success. The University of the Virgin Islands Co-operative Extension Service jointly sponsored the Agriculture and Food Fair with the Department of Agriculture and Department of Tourism.

The theme for this year's fair was, "Make Things Happen: Revive Agriculture in 2007." It was a great turnout for St. Croix and UVI.

Numerous patrons, young and old alike, drifted in and out of the UVI tent. Some were looking for information to apply to UVI while others viewed the booth displays.

Student nurses took blood pressure and advised their patients on their health issues.

Others bought souvenirs from the UVI bookstore booth.

Situated not too far from the

The university has one of two options: hire individuals or contract a company to provide the shuttle service, "whichever is more feasible," Durante said.

Money is the biggest issue in getting and keeping the service, she said.

It was not all rave reviews because while most students saw the shuttle bus as a benefit, some were discontented with the times it ran.

Shinel Richards, a chemistry major, said that although it was "good," she also adds that "they need to make sure it's more organized and on time."

Durante said she also received various e-mails from students who suggested the need for two shuttle buses because it was not available for some class times.

Ben Hartell, an NSE student from Kentucky, said the shuttle bus is "not cost effective" and "the university could spend the money in better ways, like more back-up generators for classrooms so class isn't disrupted when the power goes out."

According to Durante, if funds are in place, the university expects to get the shuttle service up and started by next fall.



UV(eye): What did you think of the shuttle service?

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY ASLIN LEGER



"I thought it was very useful, especially for late-night classes."

Danna Merrifield
Psychology major
Sophomore



"I would rather just walk."
Lario Lawson
Visual Communications major
Freshman



"The shuttle was a good idea for the UVI campus, considering the way it is set up."
Nesha J. Joseph
English major
Junior



"Some people don't like to walk up the hill, and it's hard when you are carrying groceries or other bags."

Ben Hartell
Economics major (NSE)
Junior



Sports

Basketball standings

With four wins and four losses, the men's team stands in 11th place. On Feb. 3, the women's basketball team played against the University of Scared Heart with a record-breaking 400 supporters, Sauer said.

The University of Puerto Rico-Bayamon is the front runner in the 78-year-old league and also the eight-time defending champ, he said.

UVI is the smallest league member with 2,500 students, competing against larger schools such as the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras with 24,000 students, he said.

New International Student Manual is online

UVI Admissions has created and posted a new International Student Manual. Prospective and current international students can access application and immigration forms; deadlines; eligibility information; transfer procedures; employment information; banking, driver's license and Social Security card information and more. Check it out at http://www.uvi.edu/pub-relations/admissions/Intl_Stud_Manual-1-07.pdf

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