



# UVI Alumni Chronicles

University of the Virgin Islands

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*Congratulations Alumni, You've Made History!*

## UVI Alumni Donate at Historic Rate

The University of the Virgin Islands celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding this year in grand style. There were Golden Jubilee galas, receptions and inspirational lectures, but it was UVI's alumni that made history.

In celebration of this milestone anniversary, UVI President David Hall issued a challenge to all alumni. He launched the "50 for 50 Challenge" campaign to motivate alumni to increase their contributions to their alma mater by raising the alumni giving rate to 50 percent – which will be a historical first for any Historically Black College or University (HBCU).

Through the "50 for 50 Challenge," UVI's alumni giving rate skyrocketed to a record-setting 42 percent.

*"We are just very appreciative of the response our alums showed to this particular campaign."*

*- President Hall*

Dr. Hall noted that in a three-year period UVI's alumni giving rate went from a low of six percent to a high of 42 percent. "That is a trajectory that you cannot ignore," he said. "It is worth us praising and understanding how rare this really is."

"The result of this arduous challenge would not be possible without the enthusiastic response

and support of our alumni," said UVI Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving Director Linda I. Smith ('93, '03). "Our alumni pride is clear, even in these tough economic times. I thank all of our alumni – near and far, local and abroad – who have contributed."

Dr. Hall was moved by the efforts of UVI's alumni.

"We are just very appreciative of the response our alums showed to this particular campaign," President Hall said, calling the challenge to raise the

alumni giving rate to 50 percent, "a tremendous stretch."

UVI Vice President of Institutional Advancement Dionne Jackson echoed the same sentiments.

"I am extremely proud of this impressive show of alumni support for our institution," said Jackson. "This sends a strong message of alumni satisfaction to prospec-



*University of the Virgin Islands Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving Director Linda Smith (second from the right) is surrounded by UVI Volunteers at a '50 for 50 Challenge' campaign fundraiser in the British Virgin Islands. (from left to right) UVI students Iyanna Jones, Joshua and UVI Queen Ivory Carter assisted with the campaign.*

pective students who are considering attending UVI and to major donors who are contemplating funding university initiatives."

Although UVI's alumni narrowly missed their donation goal, they still accomplished what very few of the 105 HBCU's in the nation have ever accomplished.

President Hall compared UVI's Alumni donations in 2012 to 20 universities with the highest alumni giving rate at a recent UVI Board of Trustees Meeting.

"Of these institutions that are in the top 20, very few of them are above the mark that we've reached," Dr. Hall said.

Vice President Jackson said that President Hall; attorney *continued on next page*



Well done, Buccaneers! Throughout this Golden Jubilee year, thousands of alumni came together and attended celebratory receptions, concerts, ceremonies, and events showcasing institutional pride. University of the Virgin Islands President David Hall's historic "50 for 50 Challenge" has resulted in record-breaking results gaining UVI territorial, national and global recognition. This spirited campaign achieved an alumni participation rate of 42 percent! This challenge showcases alumni pride like that of the 50 for 50 Class Rep Challenge where class leaders from 47 graduation classes came together to bolster the challenge efforts. Congratulations Class of 1979 and leaders attorney R. Oliver David and

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## Alumni Donate at Historic Rate *continued*

Samuel Hall, ('68) the Chair of the "50 for 50 Challenge" Committee; Smith, and the cadre of alumni and student volunteers promoted this challenge with such enthusiasm, that alumni were eager to help the University achieve this goal.

"Our alumni fully embraced the '50 for 50 Challenge,'" she said.



The University of the Virgin Islands' South Atlantic Region Alumni Chapter held a Fourth of July barbecue in Georgia to celebrate UVI's 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee.

UVI alumnus Terrell Alexandre ('12), a graduate student on the Albert A. Sheen Campus on St. Croix, was the first to make a

donation as part of the "50 for 50 Challenge."

Alexandre was extremely pleased to hear of the campaign's success and was hopeful that prospective students would be able to have more scholarship opportunities to attend UVI.

He said that UVI alumni contributions should be more

than monetary.

"It is very important for alumni to encourage prospective students to go to UVI," he said.

Alexandre added that alumni should not make this the last year that they donate at a 42 percent level, but that they needed to keep the momentum going.

Smith thanked all of the alumni for their hard work in meeting this challenge, but noted that UVI's alumni must continue.

"Fellow alumni, we cannot stop here," said Smith. "Our support for our alma mater must continue. We have made history, we have set a record, but our continued support is necessary. UVI will be as strong as its alumni."

Smith said that the campaign continues during 2013 where the team looks forward to claiming the number one slot. To make your gift count today, visit the UVI website at [www.uvi.edu](http://www.uvi.edu) and click on the UVI "Donate Now" button to open a secure giving page.

## Alumni Spotlight: *Golden Jubilee Alumnus' steady stride to success*

In 2012, the University of the Virgin Islands celebrated its 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee and held commencement exercises for the graduating class.

Graduates of the Class of 2012 were propelled into the world for the first time as UVI alumni. For each graduate, the road to professional and personal success begins somewhere. For one member of this class, Recaldo Richardson, it began with a choice to attend the University of the Virgin Islands.

Richardson chose UVI because of its reputation.

"I spoke with numerous individuals and they assured me that it was a great University," said Richardson, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing. He added that it was close to home and it was very affordable.

Richardson's roots lay in the Caribbean. He was born on Tortola, raised on St. Kitts, and

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*Recaldo Richardson*

*continued from pg. 1*

Lily Mae Durante on being the class to raise the highest dollars and gain recognition throughout all campuses for the next year! The historic Class of 2012 did not leave campus without first paying it forward; with a cumulative total class participation rate of 71percent. The challenge continues during FY 2012-13 with the launch of UVI's "First to 50" challenge. Congratulations and well done! Happy, blessed and prosperous New Year!

Linda I. Smith, '98, '03  
Director of Annual Giving  
and Alumni Affairs

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## Best of the Best: *Class Gift Challenge*

The University of the Virgin Islands' 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee brought many opportunities for alumni to show their school spirit. As part of the "50 for 50 Challenge," which began in January 2012, UVI graduating classes competed to see who could raise the most donations through the Class Reps Challenge. The Class of 1979, led by Attorney R. Oliver David, on St. Croix, and Lily Mae Durante,

on St. Thomas, won first place, with the largest total class gift. However, the Golden Jubilee Class of 2012, passionately led by St. Croix representative Desiree Golden, and St. Thomas representative Damian Audain, set a record with the highest class participation in UVI's history—a whopping 71 percent. Here are the top 10 winners based on the amounts raised and giving results.

## Alumni Spotlight: *continued from pg.2*

now lives and works on Tortola. He embraced these roots and enjoyed his time at UVI by keeping busy. He was a member of UVI's Ad Club and was also a member of the St. Kitts-Nevis Association.

He also studied hard and learned many valuable life lessons.

*"I spoke with numerous individuals and they assured me that it was a great University."*

*-Recaldo Richardson*

"Making friends while at school can help to open doors and make vital connections after the journey is over," Richardson said. He added that the more time and effort you put into a task the bigger and more gratifying the reward.

Richardson is currently working as an internal marketing coordinator and brand manager trainee at Roadtown Wholesale

Trading Ltd. He plans to use the knowledge and skills he acquired at UVI to propel himself further up the professional ladder within the company.

Richardson does have some interests outside of work. He is an active member of the Lions Club

and an avid amateur photographer. While at UVI, he discovered a passion for photography. Since graduating, he has continued to hone his skill and plans to someday have his own photography business. Richardson also plans to continue his education and hopes to complete his master's degree sometime in the future.

## Top 10:

Classes with the Largest Gifts

<i>Class Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
1979	\$5,817.00
1968	\$5,582.00
2012	\$5,446.69
1988	\$4,640.00
1985	\$4,598.00
1996	\$4,060.50
1982	\$3,751.00
1980	\$3,521.00
1992	\$3,415.00
1984	\$3,371.00

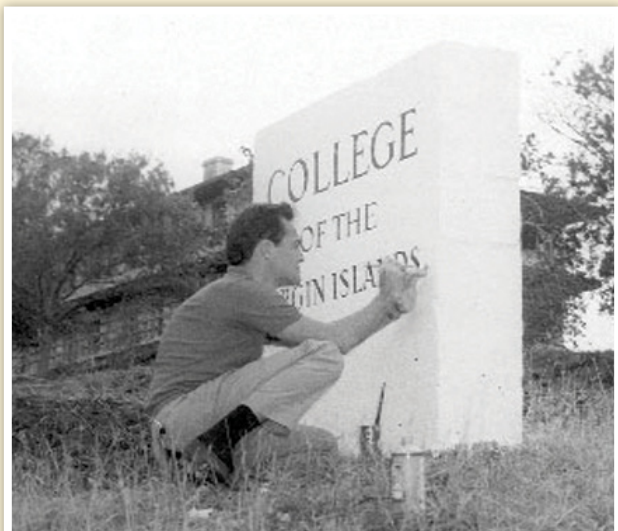
## Top 10:

Classes with the Highest Giving Rate

<i>Year</i>	<i>GR</i>
2012	71%
2011	41%
2004	36%
1998	35%
1967	29%
2007	29%
1965	27%
1992	26%
2002	26%
2005*	25%
2006*	25%

*\*Tied for 10th place*

## Where are They Now?



*This iconic picture taken at the University of the Virgin Islands depicts someone painting a sign. Do you know who is in the photograph and when it was taken? Please send responses with your contact information to [pr@uvi.edu](mailto:pr@uvi.edu).*

## Did You Know

Did you know that in May four UVI students won a total of \$60,000 cash to use start-up funds for their businesses? They received the prizes as winners of the first 13D Student Entrepreneurship Competition. Patricia Rogers took the top prize of \$30,000 for her Virgin Fresh Egg Farm business plan. Ghadeer Taha and Heba Abdallah took the \$20,000 second-place award for their Lab Equipment Rental business. Shoshana Pemberton won third place and \$10,000 for her 360 Skate Center business. A \$5 million gift to UVI from investment strategist and entrepreneur Kiril Sokoloff funds the competition, the endowed Kiril Sokoloff Distinguished Professorship and an Entrepreneurial Speaker Series.

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