



UVI Alumni Chronicles

University of the Virgin Islands

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UVI Alumni to Help Recruit New Students

University of the Virgin Islands alumni who have always wanted to share their experience with prospective students now have an opportunity. UVI has created the Dedicated Alumni Recruitment Team (DART) to enhance the University's ability to engage in attracting

to promote and educate persons on programs and student life at the University. "It is our hope that, as a result of this newly formed team, we are able to attract and enroll a greater number of students from each alum's respective location," said Dr. Gibbs.

So far, DART teams have been

sisting of alumni has been brought together for the purpose of sharing the UVI experience with prospective students," said UVI Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Affairs Linda Smith. "Alumni are best in telling their stories of both acquiring a quality education from their alma mater and sharing their UVI experience."

Smith said the alumni recruiters will be highly trained to assist with the admissions process, including completion and submittal of applications, assistance with the subsequent steps that lead to enrollment and providing other recruitment-related initiatives. Each member of DART must complete all training sessions as mandated by the University. Upon completion of training, each member will receive an official certification and letter of acknowledgment from UVI President David Hall. They will then be formally introduced to their community as an official UVI alumni recruiter.

Interested alumni are encouraged to participate in this program by contacting Linda Smith at lsmith@uvi.edu or by calling (340) 692-4023, or UVI Director of Admissions and Recruitment Dr. Xuri Maurice Allen at xallen@uvi.edu or at (340) 693-1224.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

As we celebrated the 50th commencement exercises of our beloved alma mater, we welcomed the Class of 2014 to the UVI alumni family. Congratulations! The month of May was a special time as we remembered our beloved Nathalie Fenton, a dedicated nursing student and the face of the 2012 Annual Fund campaign who, a few weeks before commencement, passed away from breast cancer. Her degree was awarded posthumously on May 18. R.I.P. Nat.

Let us salute Officer 2nd Lt Nadia Nibbs as she shares her inspiring story of beating the odds. And let us applaud the fully-certified Dedicated Alumni Recruitment Team (DART) leaders who have partnered with UVI in our recruitment and alumni efforts throughout the Caribbean. This is an exciting time for UVI, so enjoy!

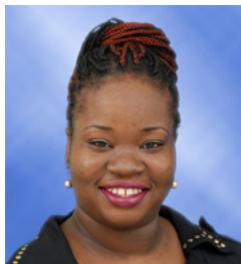
Linda I. Smith '98, '03
Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Affairs
lsmith@live.uvi.edu



Jaedee Caines '10



St. Clair Hodge '10



Aisha J. Weathered '08

new students. Through this program, dedicated UVI alumni will inform prospective students of the benefits of attending their alma mater.

UVI Vice Provost for Access and Enrollment Services Dr. Nicole

created in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua, St. Maarten and Anguilla. They will seek out new students at college fairs and community events. The team leaders are Timothy Hodge, '92 (Anguilla), Marion Byron,

We decided to expand our reach through partnering with dynamic alums, who represent the institution in a vibrant manner.

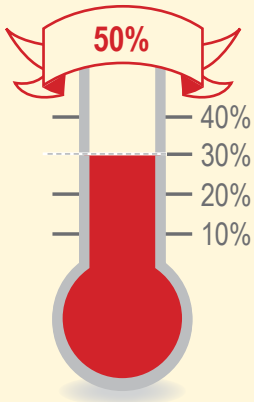
- Dr. Nicole Gibbs

Gibbs said, "We decided to expand our reach through partnering with dynamic alums, who represent the institution in a vibrant manner." The goal of the program is to ensure that UVI fully maximizes opportunities

'91 (Antigua), Jaedee Caines, '10 (Nevis), St. Clair Hodge, '10 (St. Kitts), and Aisha J. Mussington-Weathered, '08 (St. Maarten).

"This is the first time in UVI's history that a recruitment team con-

**“First to 50” Challenge
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Alumni Spotlight: Mother, Student, Soldier: UVI 2014 Graduate Tackles Life’s Challenges

For 2nd Lt. Nadia Nibbs, the road to earning her degrees and becoming a commissioned military officer was a challenge that she relished. “As a young adult, you usually have several courses of action set in place upon entering the world,” she said. “Upon exiting high school, I choose to take a break to explore options to determine what I really wanted to do in life. Life was no rush for me. Yes,

her automated logistical specialist class from the United States Army Quartermaster School in 2009.

In 2010, Nibbs enrolled in the Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program for four years at the University of the Virgin Islands’ Albert A. Sheen Campus on St. Croix. “I chose the ROTC because it offered a challenge,” she said. “I had to juggle being a parent, a contracted

Justice at UVI,” said Nibbs. “However, I was ecstatic to not only be commissioned but to be granted the opportunity in becoming the first officer to be commissioned as a military intelligence officer into the Virgin Islands National Guard.”

She previously earned an Associate of Science degree in business administration from Columbia Southern University (CSU) in November 2011, a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Columbia online in April 2013 and an Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from UVI in May 2013.

She is now pursuing a master’s degree in organizational leadership at CSU online and plans to pursue a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in finance at UVI.

Nibbs said she lives by a quote by “Eat, Pray, Love” author Elizabeth Gilbert that says: “Happiness is the consequence of personal effort. You fight for it, strive for it, insist upon it, and sometimes even travel around the world looking for it. You have to participate relentlessly in the manifestations of your own blessings. And once you have achieved a state of happiness, you must never become lax about maintaining it. You must make a mighty effort to keep swimming upward into that happiness forever, to stay afloat on top of it.”

“I will forever remain hungry for growth, as my mission is not over as yet,” said Nibbs.



2nd Lt. Nadia Nibbs, right, salutes after being commissioned at UVI’s Commencement Ceremony on the Albert A. Sheen Campus on St. Croix.

I had dreams, but I wanted to take my time in finding my place within this world.”

But after the birth of her baby girl, Yennasia Faith Nugent, Nibbs’ pace changed and joining the military became her last string of hope. “My intention was to utilize the guard as a stepping stone,” said Nibbs.

She enlisted in the Virgin Islands Army National Guard (VING) in April of 2009. She completed basic combat training at Fort Jackson, in South Carolina, and finished her advanced individual training at Fort Lee, Virginia. She graduated top of

cadet in the Senior ROTC program at UVI, a full-time student at UVI and Columbia Southern University online, while working full-time for the VING.”

“I chose UVI because it offered me an opportunity to pursue my degree at home, offered me an opportunity in becoming an army officer through the Senior ROTC program at home, and as military personnel, it offered me flexibility towards completing my degree at home,” Nibbs said.

“On the 18th of May 2014, I felt blessed to graduate cum laude with my bachelor’s degree in Criminal



**UVI PROFESSOR
EMERITA**

Dr. Judith Grybowski

UVI Alumni Invited to Plan Celebration for 50 Years of Nursing Education

the health care system in our communities,” said Dr. Grybowski. She was present as UVI’s nursing program took its first steps to becoming a leader of quality nursing education in the Virgin Islands. “On my very first day I accompanied students of nursing to do a clinical day at the Knud Hansen Hospital on St. Thomas and take care of patients,” Dr. Grybowski said. “There was no running water. That precious substance was available only in large, clean waste cans. I said to myself, ‘What have you gotten yourself in for?’”

“It’s about reconnecting, knowing that you have these wonderful memories and that you are where you are because you started out here.”

-Dr. Judith Grybowski

“When we extended our program to St. Croix, we did not have access yet to the third floor of Charles Har-

wood Hospital,” she said. “So Ms. Ione Armstrong (former nursing professor) and I selected an available space adjacent to the library, and our water was provided through a garden hose. We had to go outside to turn the water on and off,” said Grybowski, who taught at UVI for 30 years.

Today, the Associate of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. There have been over 700 nursing graduates over the past 50 years.

Events on both islands are in the early planning stages. The planning committees are coordinating dinners, beach parties and other events.

Class agents to represent each class year from both campuses are needed to assist. “We hope to bring in as many of our alumni and faculty as we possibly can,” she said. “It’s about reconnecting, knowing that you have these wonderful memories and that you are where you are because you started out here.”

Interested class members are asked to contact Dr. Grybowski by email at judithagrybs2@gmail.com, (340) 775-6349 or (843) 822-2258.

The University of the Virgin Islands will commemorate a notable milestone in 2015. The UVI nursing program will celebrate 50 years of nursing education. The College of the Virgin Islands, as UVI was called, began its nursing program in 1965 with 25 students.

Dr. Judith Grybowski, UVI professor emerita, is leading the effort to reunite UVI’s nursing alumni, faculty and friends. Events are being scheduled for May 15-16, 2015, on St. Thomas and May 17-18, 2015, on St. Croix. The theme is “Caring and Making a Difference.”

“We are thrilled to observe the history of the program and the commitment our nursing faculty, students and graduates have made to support



The nursing program was accredited by the National League for Nursing in 1969.

Class of 2014 DONORS

**Class Giving Rate
69.25%**

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To see the complete donor list [click here](#)

**Congratulations
Class of 2014!**

Best of the Best

We asked UVI Alumni on Facebook to identify their favorite UVI event or what they liked to do between classes: This is what they said:

“Read in the library.” – Brenda Harrigan-Walwyn, BA 1989, St. Thomas Campus

“Watching the skilled pilots land and take off at the Airport!” – Janis Richardson-Dias, AA 1982, St. Thomas Campus

“One of my favorite things was Pajama Jam.”
– Tausha Thomas David, BA 2003, St. Thomas Campus

“My favorite event has to be the literary symposium organized by Prof. Gene Emanuel!! I moderated a session and I presented a paper. I recalled Kimbolie Torres and Kimba Enrique were also moderators and presenters at that function. Students, professionals, and writers from Virgin Islands schools and throughout the Caribbean attended!! Great fun and an excellent event!!” – Dalton Carty, BA 2003, St. Thomas Campus.



Where are They Now?

Can you name the alumni in this photo, the year and where this photo was taken?

Did You Know

Did you know that the University of the Virgin Islands' Etelman Observatory has the only fully automated, optical, queue-driven, 0.5m research-grade robotic telescope in the Caribbean region? It is the largest such instrument for at least 1,500 miles in any direction. The structure, complete with astronomical observatory, was donated to the then College of the Virgin Islands in 1962 by Harry Etelman. Work to renovate the observatory began in 1999. Etelman Observatory serves as a center for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education excellence and is a fundamental astrophysics and geophysics research station. The observatory also hosts educational tours and observing sessions for the public. For more information contact Dr. David C. Morris, director of the Etelman Observatory, at (340) 693-1391 or via email at dmorris@uvi.edu.

