



# UVI Alumni Chronicles

University of the Virgin Islands

WWW.UVI.EDU

## Alumni Remember UVI at 51st Charter Day

As a student attending the University of the Virgin Islands, do you remember your days being carefree or do you remember an endless stream of deadlines and papers? UVI alumnus Kwesi Howard '01, remembers both. Howard was one of three alumni panelist who shared their UVI experiences at UVI's 51st Charter Day ceremony in March. Now a deputy U.S. marshal, Howard was nicely dressed in a suit and tie, at the event held in the Administration and Conference Center. A sharp contrast to the basketball jersey he wore as a member of UVI's basketball team.

Howard said when he entered UVI he had no idea what he wanted to do for a living. "I had terrible study habits," he said. "I would come to class and shoot from the hip. I guess I had good genes. I passed the tests." Howard remembered initially going to a lot of parties and even participating in balloon fights on

campus, but he also remembered that he was challenged with exams and lengthy term papers. "I see challenges as opportunities for growth and UVI will challenge you," said Howard. "When you're challenged you have to learn not to quit." He was soon able to get his act together and make the Dean's List.

*"I learned if you're going to be great you have to strive for greatness. From this place anything is possible."*

The other panelists were Arthur Richards Junior High School Principal Kurt Vialet '87, '92 and UVI Data Specialist Aimee Sanchez '10 who spoke from the Great Hall on St. Croix's Albert A. Sheen Campus, and attorney and UVI Rhodes Scholar Quincy Quinlan '84 who spoke from the St. Thomas campus. The event was video-conferenced between both UVI campuses.

"This place is a tremendous place," said Quinlan. "It allowed

me to spread my wings in a way that I did not think was possible." He said it was at UVI that he was able to achieve sustained excellence. "One of the things I learned at UVI is that opportunity strikes when you least expect it, and you have to be prepared in advance," Quinlan said. Originally from St. Kitts, Quinlan was exposed

*-Quincy Quinlan '84*

to people from the wider Caribbean and the mainland for the first time, and soon learned he had much to do to raise his level of excellence. "I learned if you're going to be great you have to strive for greatness," he said. "From this place anything is possible."

Vialet, a St. Croix native, reminisced about his college days. "My UVI days were perhaps some of my most exciting days in my life," he said. Vialet recalled

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Happy 51st birthday, UVI!

It seems like it was just yesterday we celebrated our golden jubilee.

In May, we welcomed the Class of 2013 with over 300 new graduates to the UVI alumni family!

As we celebrate experiences, passions and career paths, this issue features: four alumni leaders who represented well at our 51st Charter Day celebrations, alumni representative to the UVI Board of Trustees Marthious Clavier '10, and SARC Co-President Imani Marley-Husbands '96. Each will share their unique experiences.

Thank you for sharing your ideas and recommendations on how we can remain connected. Remember, this newsletter is about you.

Enjoy!

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Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Affairs  
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Kwesi Howard, left, and Quincy Quinlan spoke on St. Thomas



Kurt Vialet and Aimee Sanchez spoke on St. Croix

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thinking that he would breeze through UVI as he had high school, but found that UVI had extremely high academic standards. “There was a large population of students from other Caribbean islands including, St. Kitts, Anguilla, St. Martin and Tortola, that were very intelligent. “Those guys were on top of their game,” said Viallet, who attended classes on UVI’s St. Thomas campus. “We realized quickly that we also had to be on top of our game.” He said UVI professors were adamant that he focus on his education and UVI helped to improve his character. “The most important thing that UVI taught me was discipline,” said Viallet.

Memories of UVI’s caring faculty caused Sanchez to breakout in tears. “The professors genuinely care about you as a student and you don’t see that other places,” she said. “It is a community that you feel comfortable in and that helps you grow stronger. UVI can build you up to do great things. Whatever your goal is I am confident that UVI can build you.” Sanchez participated in UVI’s dual degree engineering program that allowed her to spend three years at UVI and two years at Columbia University – earning degrees from both institutions.

UVI’s Charter Day celebration was held to celebrate its charter by the Fourth Legislature of the Virgin Islands on March 16, 1962.



**ALUMNI  
TRUSTEE:**  
*Marthious Clavier*

For the past three years, Marthious Clavier ‘02, ‘09 has served on the UVI Board of Trustees. Clavier, also a UVI employee, will step down from his post as alumni representative at the end of Spring 2013. “I’ve been truly honored to serve as the Alumni Trustee,” he said.

*“The capital campaign is significant because it has the ability to transform this institution as we know it for the better.”*

*–Marthious Clavier*

While on the Board, Clavier made decisions that he hopes will ensure that UVI will flourish today and in the future. During his tenure, he reviewed new and existing University policies and presented them to the board for approval. “This effort was made to ensure that the University maintains best practices in higher education and remains current in its policies,” said Clavier.

There are two accomplishments that he is truly proud of – the approval of the Capital Campaign and the Strategic Plan 2012-2017: Pathways to Greatness. “The capital campaign is significant because it has the ability to transform this institution as we know it for the better,” said Clavier. “I was fortunate to have input in the devel-

## Outgoing UVI Alumni Trustee Reflects on Term

opment of the current strategic plan, which is designed to be a roadmap to lead this fine institution into greatness.”

“I am particularly proud of the role I played in helping to increase the alumni giving rate,” Clavier said, who remembers making numerous calls to prospective alumni donors and in some cases, picking up the contributions.

On many occasions, Clavier had the opportunity to assist alumni that contacted him with a variety of issues. “It gave me a feeling of joy and purpose to

alumni scholarship for the 50th anniversary, but I was unsuccessful in accomplishing this,” he said. “I will continue working with the St. Croix Chapter to try to fulfill this goal, as I believe that scholarships are very important. It can afford someone the opportunity to attain a degree that may not have the financial ability to do so.”

Passing on the torch, Clavier had some advice for the incoming alumni trustee. He suggested that the incoming trustee read all meeting materials and official correspondences. Clavier added, “Though the position is the alumni trustee, the incoming trustee should function as a trustee and thus make decisions on what is best for the University, and not just for one particular stakeholder group.” He also suggested the new trustee get a well-rounded experience. “He or she should attend as many functions at the University as possible,” he said. “In doing this, he or she will have a better chance at being connected to what is happening at the University.” He added, “Above all, the incoming trustee should remember the mission of the University and align their thinking to further the mission.”

Elections for the new alumni trustee will be held in June.

be able to take their concerns directly to the Board chairman or directly to the president,” he said.

Vice President of Institutional Advancement Dionne Jackson remembers Clavier well. “Trustee Clavier served on the Board’s Development Committee; it was a pleasure to work with him in that capacity,” said Jackson. “As a UVI employee and an alumnus, he brought a unique perspective to the table and tirelessly championed Institutional Advancement’s efforts to raise funds and build alumni engagement. The entire team will miss working with him in that role.”

With his term as Board representative ending, Clavier has one task left undone. “As the alumni trustee, I wanted to establish an





**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:**

*Imani Marley-Husbands*

## Alumni Spotlight: *Imani Marley-Husbands*

hard to convince UVI faculty and staff that a sorority would be a positive addition to UVI. She said there was some resistance based on negative images in movies. Husbands said she and her sorority sisters, Salome Lettsome

She was Carnival Committee Boat Race chair, assistant chair for children’s activities for Afternoon on the Green and volunteered her time at the St. Thomas Humane Society/Animal Shelter up until she relocated to Atlanta in 1996.

*“Get involved with and in your home by the sea. Don’t wait until you graduate to start becoming model alumni, start practicing now.” - Imani Marley Husbands*

University of the Virgin Islands South Atlanta Regional Alumni Chapter Co-President Imani Marley-Husbands ‘96 is passionate about her alma mater by the sea. Husbands’ lifetime love for UVI began after she moved to the territory with her husband and enrolled in UVI.

“UVI’s small class sizes were perfect for me and allowed me to really get to know my professors,” she said. “My favorite teachers were Dr. Ededet In-iama, Dr. Rosary Harper, Dr. Vincent Cooper and the late Gene Emanuel.”

One of her most treasured experiences at UVI occurred when she became one of the founding members of the Rho Omicron Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Husbands said she and seven other students worked

‘97 (Francis), Chandra Leslie ‘97 (Petty), Lilleth Babb ‘97, Linnay Babb ‘96 (Franklin), Diane Henry ‘96 (Malone), Iayshia Williams ‘96 and Diahann John-Baptiste ‘98, worked hard to change this image.

“We put in a lot of community service hours around the island and on campus,” she said. They served at the Mega Youth Festival, visited ill children at the hospital, participated in beach cleanups and much more. “It was a loving battle, and in the end, we were embraced by the University and Gov. Roy Schneider declared our chartering day as Alpha Kappa Alpha Day. We are all still close today.”

Husbands has always been actively involved in the community.

“I get sheer joy from helping others, and seeing the look of positivity, and sometimes disbelief, at somebody extending them a sincere kind act,” she said. “If I could bottle that and sell it, there would be no need for depression medication. It is a high within itself.”

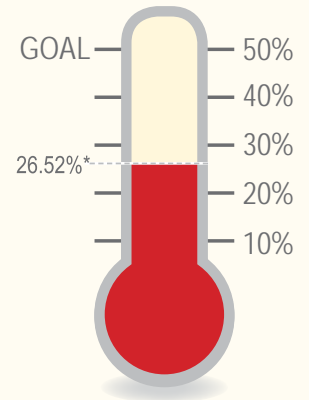
Husbands brings that same joy to the UVI Alumni South Atlanta Regional Chapter. She created “The Tradewinds Alumni Newsletter” to keep everyone connected. “I would advise other alumni leaders to keep sending the emails, notes, cards and words of wisdom to the alumni,” said Husbands. “I know sometimes there are small numbers of individuals that respond, but making the connection with just one, honestly, makes the effort worth it. Besides, you never know who you are helping, or have uplifted, just by caring.”

Her advice to all alumni is simple. “Get involved with and in your home by the sea,” said Husbands. “Don’t wait until you graduate to start becoming model alumni, start practicing now.”



Annette Lemonn (left), Austin Boynes, Pearl Boynes ‘75, Imani Marley Husbands ‘96, UVI President Emeritus LaVerne Ragster, Attorney Tracy Lettsome ‘91, Bernice Moore ‘86, Angelina DeWindt – Smith ‘76 and former UVI Vice President of Institutional Advancement Joseph Boschulte.

### “First to 50” Challenge



\*Current Alumni Giving Rate as of May 24, 2013

Dear UVI Alumni,  
*Congratulations!* UVI alumni have reached the halfway mark in giving, but we need your continued support to reach our goal. Donate to your alma mater today.



# Best of the Best

We asked UVI Alumni on Facebook to identify their favorite professor. This is what they said:

*Dr. Dion E. Phillips by far. He was ... my sociology professor. He was knowledgeable, astute, a good communicator, never forced attendance, but you knew that you didn't want to miss his classes because there was so much to learn. Never felt threatened if you questioned his views. Just a good professor. One of CVII UVI's best!!!!!"* – Andrea Bussue, BA 1986, St. Thomas Campus

*"Professor Gene K. Emanuel... Humanities. ..knowledgeable, well versed... Didn't just lecture for the entire class. He had a unique way of teaching that his students wanted to be involved. May his soul rest in eternal peace."* – Pettie Stevens

*"Professor Esdaille. He took his time to teach and went step by step with you. He made sure no one was left behind and took his time to teach."* – Yolande Joseph, BA 2013, St. Thomas Campus

*"It's a tie between Gene Emanuel and Lynn Rosenthal. That's VI History and Computer Science respectively. Emanuel's teaching method was... unorthodox, but I learned a lot. Rosenthal's class taught me several life lessons in addition to the material."* – Hector A. Squiabro, BA 1999 and AS 2006, St. Thomas Campus



## Where are They Now?

*Can you name the alumni in the above photo, their attending years and where they are now?*

## Did You Know

Did you know that the University of the Virgin Islands now has its own radio station? WUVI 1090 AM has been on air since December 2012. The student-run station airs news, music and live events, along with national and student-produced talk shows. WUVI can also be heard online at <http://wuvi.am/>.

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AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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