



Philanthropy & You

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

University of the Virgin Islands

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West Residence Hall Features UVI's First Living/Learning Environment

For the first time in the history of the University of the Virgin Islands, students have access to a state-of-the-art learning center located directly in their residence hall.

The Neil Weiss Education and Seminar Suite located in West Hall, UVI's newest residence hall on the St. Thomas campus, is equipped with videoconferencing technology connecting to St. Croix and St. John, high definition projectors, microphones, speakers, Wi-Fi and desks that accommodate the power needs of individual computers.

The Neil Weiss Education and Seminar Suite was made possible through a gift by Neil

Weiss, a career entrepreneur and business man – whose \$250,000 donation was among the contributions that made the construction of West Hall possible.

“Part of our mission is to provide the best learning environments for our students.” - President Dr. David Hall

During the suite's dedication ceremony, Weiss said he supports education because of its power to level the playing field for everyone.

“It has been my contention that only through education can we achieve equality,” Weiss said.

“Part of our mission is to provide the best learning environments for our students,” UVI

President Dr. David Hall said at the ceremony, noting the suite's cutting-edge technology. “This is the type of technology we want to see in all of our classrooms.”

“This is the closest we have been to a living learning community,” said UVI Student Housing Supervisor Sean Georges.

Several classes are being held in the Weiss Suite in the Spring 2013 semester.

Completed in September 2012, West Hall is a four-story, co-ed residential facility with 100 beds, a laundry room, a communal area, a study hall and the Weiss Education Suite.

Students living in West Hall are ecstatic.

“It has advanced technology, is secure, nice, clean and convenient,” said UVI Business Administration freshman Jenna Raymond.

As a business major, West Hall's central location is the biggest attraction for her.

“It is the best place on campus hands down,” said UVI West Hall Resident Assistant Joel Lee, a nursing student in his junior

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Dear Friends,

Much has been touted about the importance of charitable giving and its impact on the health of institutions. That said, UVI President David Hall issued a challenge to our alumni to increase their giving last year. They delivered in a big way! Nearly tripling our rate, we skyrocketed to a 42% alumni giving rate – one of the highest in the country; for that we say THANK YOU! This accomplishment has caught the national news. Look for UVI in the HuffingtonPost.com and the HBCUdigest.com.

We are also excited about the creation of two new fundraising programs: a corporate & foundations office and a major gifts program for Reichhold Center. Read about these new initiatives in this newsletter.

As you know, Buccaneers don't back down from a challenge. This year we are striving for \$3.4 million in donations to the University to enhance student life, academic programs, and faculty research and retention. These areas are fundamental to what makes UVI so special. You can help us achieve this ambitious goal by continuing to generously support UVI. Thank you in advance for your continued commitment!

Onward and Upward,

Dionne V. Jackson
Vice-President for
Institutional Advancement



UVI President Dr. David Hall, second from the left above, thanks Neil Weiss for his contributions as, Vice President of Institutional Advancement Dionne Jackson and Board of Trustees Chairman Alexander A. Moorhead look on.

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year. "It is in close proximity to the upper campus. The view is amazing. Everything is brand new."

Lee is the residential assistant on his floor. His room is right between the Weiss Education Suite and the study hall.

The study hall can accommodate a maximum of 20 students, has Wi-Fi and is spacious enough for group study.

"It is never completely packed," Lee said.

All doors, including the exterior entrance doors, residential rooms, the study hall and the Weiss Education Suite, require key card access and the exterior doors are closed to the public after 7 p.m.

Getting a room in West Hall is not determined by student seniority – freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors are allowed to live in the same environment.

Georges said that construction of West Hall has reduced the demand for housing on campus for the moment. He said the waiting list was 100 and is now less than 20.

Visit www.uvi.edu for more information on how to donate.

Contact us at (340) 693-1040 or (340) 692-4231 with any questions.

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/UVI.edu

Van Beverhoudt - UVI first step on the road to success

Mark van Beverhoudt, a proud Virgin Islands native, aspires to graduate from the University of the Virgin Islands with a master of arts in psychology, acquire a doctorate in clinical or counseling psychology, and become a military counselor before returning to the territory to open his own practice.

Van Beverhoudt always knew that UVI was the first step on his journey to accomplishing these goals.

"Before I entered the University, I was convinced that the well-rounded education I would receive from UVI would prepare me for a bright and promising future," he said.

In 2012, van Beverhoudt was awarded the Tom Joyner Foundation Hercules Scholarship, named after syndicated radio personality Tom Joyner's late father, Hercules L. Joyner.

"I consider it an honor to be known as a Hercules Scholar," he said. "When I was selected to receive the scholarship over others the first thing I felt was humbled and grateful, and of course I

was also extremely happy."

Van Beverhoudt said, "UVI was financially beneficial for me as I had also received another scholarship to attend UVI when I was in high school."

He is a member of the UVI chapter of the International Psychology Honor Society and was formerly the treasurer. Van Beverhoudt is also a volunteer tour guide at the historical museums at Blackbeard's Castle.

He knows that the goals you set don't always happen on the schedule you have planned.

"Though sometimes life does not always play out the way we want it to, hard work, dedication, and the right mindset can overcome all obstacles," van Beverhoudt said. "In order to achieve you must first believe, and the first person that you must convince to believe is yourself."

What truly inspires him are his most beloved role models - his parents Steven and Myrna van Beverhoudt.

"They show me that through hard work and dedication, a great deal can be accomplished," said van Beverhoudt. "I look up



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:
Mark van Beverhoudt

to them both and I respect and love them greatly."

He said that his father started in an entry-level position in government and became the first Virgin Islands Inspector General.

He said his mother is a very experienced and hardworking foreign language educator.

"Throughout my life they have always been there for me," said van Beverhoudt.

He encourages his peers to make education a priority.

"Count your blessings and never take your opportunity for a greater education for granted," van Beverhoudt said. "There are so many people in the Caribbean, not to mention worldwide, that long for the opportunity to receive a higher education, but cannot do this for one reason or the other. Never forget that you are blessed with the gift of an education, so make the most of it."



Gov. John P. de Jongh, Jr., left, greets Dr. and Mrs. Auguste E. Rimpel, Jr. as he arrives at their Martha's Vineyard home on Saturday, July 28, 2012.

In July of 2012, University of the Virgin Islands and VI Government administrators met with influential business leaders at a reception at Martha's Vineyard. The event was hosted by UVI Board Chairman Emeritus Dr. Auguste E. Rimpel, Jr. and his wife, at their Martha's Vineyard home. UVI President Dr. David Hall co-hosted this special reception to cultivate philanthropic support for the University. Gov. John P. de Jongh, Jr. and First Lady Cecile de Jongh were among the special guests in attendance. While at the reception, UVI Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dionne Jackson presented Gov. de Jongh with a special signature UVI tie for his support of the University.

Development on the Rise: *New Directors Poised to Take UVI to New Levels*

The University of the Virgin Islands is forging ahead like never before with two new Development programs aimed at increasing monetary gifts to the institution.

At the end of 2012, UVI hired Reichhold Center for the Arts Director Nissa Copemann and Corporate, Foundation and Government Relations Director Richard Cleaver, who have been added to UVI's Institutional Advancement Component.

Copemann has many plans for Reichhold's future.

"We have a commitment to bringing high quality entertainment to the Virgin Islands," she said. "In my opinion, the Reichhold Center is on the verge of becoming an iconic institution that can be compared to what the Kennedy Center is to Washington, D.C. It is really a matter of time, planning and investment to get it to exactly that place where it needs to be."

Copemann is responsible for setting and implementing Reichhold's aggressive short- and long-term strategic goals. Her duties include fundraising, financial management, programming, marketing, education, facility operations, ticketing, and community and campus relations.

Copemann – hired just in time for Reichhold's 35th anniversary – is not ready to release the details of Reichhold's comprehensive plan but gave a few hints on its direction.

"It incorporates building on the strengths of the past, while embracing the tools of the future," she said enthusiastically.

Copemann said that the Reichhold Center, the audience, the

economy, and the music business have changed, so the way in which things were done when Reichhold first opened has also had to change.

"That has an impact on how we operate and on how we develop programming," Copemann said.

She plans to make coming to Reichhold an experience by improving every detail of a customer's visit, including improved customer service, great sound and shorter lines at the concession.

"We are also thinking of improving the ways we engage our audience, specifically our patrons – the people who through their support help to make Reichhold's work possible," Copemann said.

She said one of the biggest challenges is overcoming the myth that Reichhold is kind of like the leprechaun at the end of rainbow with tons of money hidden away.

"That is not the case," Copemann said. "When you make a gift to Reichhold it is a philanthropic investment to this center and we have to show a return on that investment."

"When you make a gift to Reichhold it is a philanthropic investment to this center and we have to show a return on that investment."

- Nissa Copemann

She added that Reichhold must show that the funds that have been contributed are managed properly and strategically.

The Corporate, Foundation and Government Relations position in the Development Office has been created to increase philanthropic giving to UVI. Cleaver will be responsible for designing, implementing and managing plans for increasing UVI's funding from local, regional, and nationally-based institutional sources.

Cleaver said his main job is



Nissa Copemann



Richard Cleaver

"The more I know about the University as a whole, the more I can do that matchmaking job." - Richard Cleaver

matching the needs of philanthropic groups and organizations to UVI's needs through research and writing multiple proposals.

"The kinds of things that foundations are interested in shifts over time," said Cleaver, adding that many times he has to look carefully for things that are not immediately obvious. "The more I know about the University as a whole, the more I can do that matchmaking job."

Cleaver has experience working

with many private foundations that have been in existence for some time, including the Andy Warhol, Ford, Andrew Mellon, and the Bill and Melinda Gates foundations.

Cleaver is educating private foundations about UVI's needs, strengths and sometimes even its existence.

"Even if we don't get this grant, now they know who we are and what we do and they may come back to us," he said. "If you make a good first impression you are on the list."

The University of the Virgin Islands Reichhold Center for the Arts Foundation Board expanded its members from five to 15 in 2012.

The board members are:

University of the Virgin Islands President,
Dr. David Hall

Chairman
Warren M. Williams, Esq.

University of the Virgin Islands Vice President for Institutional Advancement,
Dionne V. Jackson

Felipe Ayala, Jr.

Pamela Berkowsky

Joanne E. Bozzuto

Adriane Dudley

Julito Francis

Luz Suarez de Highfield

Hugo Hodge, Jr.

Marian P. Prescod

Henry C. Smock

Ruth Thomas

Cornel Williams

Janette P. Woods

Ways to Give to the University

There are many ways to support the University of the Virgin Islands. Most donors make gifts and pledge payments by check, credit card, or automatic bank drafts. Donors can also take advantage of tax savings that come from giving appreciated stocks, shares of mutual funds, or real estate. Donors contribute gifts-in-kind, such as works of art, antique furnishings, or rare books and manuscripts for the library. Regardless of the way you make your gift, the University is committed to using these resources to enhance campus life.

Whether in the form of annual giving, endowment support, or funds for capital projects, outright gifts make an immediate impact on the University. The gift may be designated for any academic program, or left entirely unrestricted to give the University

the greatest flexibility to direct funds where they are needed.

Annual Giving

Annual gifts provide a constant stream of flexible income that can make the difference between a good education and a great one. These funds support increased student aid, the purchase of books, equipment, technology, and academic and athletic programming. UVI's annual giving program raises private gifts on behalf of the University's academic divisions and other areas such as Athletics, University Libraries, the Reichhold Center and Student Affairs.

Endowed Gifts

Benefiting the University community in perpetuity, endowment gifts are invested to generate a steady stream of income for professorships, scholarships, fellowships, lectureships and many

other purposes. Donors may also create unrestricted endowments, which produce resources that can be used where the need is greatest.

Matching Gifts

Many companies encourage their employees to make charitable contributions by matching their philanthropic support. At UVI, donors receive credit for their employers' matching gifts. Matching gifts are quickly becoming an important source of funds for the University. They also are an important way for companies to allow employees to direct a portion of the monies earmarked for charitable contribution. Contact your human resources department to find out if your company will match your contribution to UVI.

For more information contact the University Development Office at: (340) 693-1040.

