



Philanthropy & You

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

University of the Virgin Islands

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VICA & Reichhold Center Celebrate 50 Years of Nurturing Arts in the VI

When the international jazz sensation Arturo Sandoval came to the Virgin Islands last year to perform at the Reichhold Center for the Arts, he took time out first to meet with music students from Ivanna Eudora Kean and Charlotte Amalie High Schools. The star was so impressed with one young saxophonist, he invited the student to play at his show.

It wasn't the first time a visiting artist gave local talent desirable exposure, according to Reichhold's director, Denise Humphrey. Nor was it the first time such a major talent shared his expertise with novice musicians. Thanks to the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts (VICA) much of the territory's youth have not only had the opportunity to attend world-class per-

“The council has been one of our strongest supporters,” said Humphrey, who has been with the Reichhold for 22 years in various capacities. When she started, VICA was already actively engaged, advising Reichhold staff on federal grant opportunities. “VICA can identify any specialty grants that are out there,” Humphrey said, and the center continues to rely on its guidance. But the cooperation goes well beyond that.

A decade ago, the council increased its involvement and began co-sponsoring special performances at the Reichhold. It also provides regular Arts in Education “residency” opportunities for local students to meet and interact with some of the international stars that grace the stage, like the one with

Planning Commission.

That year and the next, VICA and the Reichhold worked together on “Playing Ring” and “In the Yard,” a multifaceted tribute to V.I. traditions, featuring old-fashioned children’s games, the quadrille, story-telling, folk music and the maypole.

“We did the research with VICA to find the culture-bearers,” Humphrey said. “VICA played a vital role in making that happen.”

It will happen again in the 2016-17 season when “Playing Ring: Tea Meeting” is presented on March 25.

The Reichhold Center and VICA partnered to bring native son and internationally acclaimed dancer Homer Hans Bryant and the Bryant Youth Professional Dance Company to the Reichhold stage on Nov. 26.

One of the first recipients of a VICA grant for studies, Bryant has enjoyed a breathtaking career. He was a principal dancer with the Dance Theatre of Harlem, before starting his own company. His credits also include work with the Chicago City Ballet, Canada’s Cirque Du Soleil, and the blockbuster film, “The Wiz.”

The last time he was at Reichhold was in 1994, and Kelch said VICA has been getting a lot of calls asking for a return performance. So as Kelch and Humphrey were talking plans for the current season, Kelch recalled, “I said, ‘Denise, we need to get Homer here.’”



The UVI Development Office is extremely pleased to present to you the Spring 2017 edition of Philanthropy and You. We share this snapshot of the University as a periodic highlight reel of the impact private philanthropic support has on our programs and students.

In 2016 over \$134,000 in funding received supported scholarships. Over \$30,000 supported areas of greatest need, which funds the immediate needs of faculty and students. You directly contributed to the University exceeding \$1.3M in private funds last year; however there are many other programs requiring private support. The University recently launched a student study abroad program allowing students, alumni and faculty the opportunity to have immersive experiences throughout the world. The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences is enhancing the UVI Honors initiative, which provides an aggressive curriculum for students. UVI is doing more for our students and faculty because of your philanthropic support received. Thank you.

As you read through these stories, I want you to dream big. As you dream of the future of UVI, help us to continue to advance innovation and creativity



The Bryant Youth Professionals perform at the Reichhold Center.

formances, they have met many of the entertainers close-up.

The student workshops coordinated by VICA are just one part of a long-standing collaboration between it and the Reichhold.

Sandoval.

“Our first collaboration was Step Afrika!” (in 2007) said Tasida H. Kelch, acting director of VICA. That performance was a joint initiative of Reichhold, VICA and the Law Enforcement

continued from cover

Humphrey said the idea resonated, especially since this is VICA's golden anniversary.

"We wanted to be able to show our gratitude to the council for 50 years supporting art in the Virgin Islands," she said.

VICA's mission includes promoting the arts as well as supporting them, and so its Arts in Education program is very important, Kelch said. The council frequently provides free student tickets to performances as well as sponsoring workshops for student groups. VICA arranges and pays for the necessary transportation, handles the logistics, and coordinates with the schools.

Besides the formal collaborative efforts, Kelch and Humphrey say their two organizations help one another in ad hoc situations.

When VICA recently discovered some unexpected grant money for attending a conference, Kelch said the decision of how to use it was easy: "We need to send someone from Reichhold Center."

"We help them out as best we can, as well," Humphrey said. That includes providing a venue for the annual VICA-supported Poetry Out Loud contest and even providing judges for the competition.

It's a partnership bound by mutual respect and shared goals – with the V.I. public as the beneficiary.



Homer Hans Bryant works with the Bryant Youth Professionals to instruct students as part of the Artist in Resident Program.

In the Boiler Plant of the Ivory Tower, Students Acquire Good Jobs

In a few short years, buttressed by local private industry, the Process Technology program at the University of the Virgin Islands has prepared more than 100 students to step out of the classroom and into skilled, well-paying jobs in power production, water and wastewater treatment, pharmaceuticals, rum distilleries and similar industries.

"We always strive wherever we are to give back to our communities," said Lauren Thomas, director of marketing for Seven Seas Water Corporation, a major donor to the program.

Besides, she added, "It makes sense to train local people for local jobs because we don't want to bring in people" to fill them. Seven Seas manages potable water production for the public water supply on St. Thomas and St. Croix.

Those sentiments are echoed by Erica Johnson, communication and corporate relations director for Diageo, USVI, also a corporate sponsor.

"We believe that the program is an excellent source for growing talent in the territory with a core skill," Johnson said. "Process technology skills are core to manufacturing operations, ours and many others."

There's a history of corporate support for the program, which graduated its first students in 2004. It was largely designed and funded initially by Hess Oil Virgin Islands Corporation (HOVENSA) which hired many of the early graduates for jobs in the oil refinery industry. When HOVENSA closed, other companies stepped up to fill the gap.

Seven Seas got involved in 2012. Since then it has donated nearly



UVI professor works with process technology students.

\$30,000, enough to fund scholarships for eight students who are in or have completed the program, and to award two more for the 2016-17 school year. The company also established an internship and hired several graduates.

Diageo, USVI, makers of Captain Morgan Rum, started contributing to the Process Technology program in 2015, soon after it began operations in the territory. It has already sponsored four student interns.

Both companies also have considerable interests elsewhere and have made it clear that UVI graduates are welcome to apply for positions outside of the territory too. In addition to its presence in the Virgin Islands, Seven Seas has operations in several other islands, including Tortola, the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos, as well as small plants in Saudi Arabia and in Chile. Diageo, USVI is affiliated with the international company, one of the world's largest liquor producers and distributors.

Meanwhile, several graduates have been employed within the ter-

ritory at other entities, notably the V.I. Water and Power Authority, the V.I. Waste Management Authority, and Cruzan Rum.

A two-year course of study, the Process Technology Program offers an Associate of Applied Science Degree that prepares men and women for technical careers. It also confers credits that can be applied toward a more advanced engineering degree.

Process technicians have the knowledge and skill to start up, operate, shut down, analyze and trouble-shoot a wide range of industrial processes. The UVI program includes courses in safety, health and environment, statistics, computer and technical and communication skills, as well as such fundamentals as mathematics, chemistry and English.

There are some 700,000 process technology jobs nationwide, according to the American Chemical Society. Opportunities in the industry are expected to expand even more in the next decade because an estimated 80 percent of those currently employed are older workers who will be retiring.



Student Spotlight: Jeanna Sujanani

Growing up in a single parent household on St. Thomas, Jeanna Sujanani always knew that schooling was important. Her mother hadn't had the opportunity to pursue higher education, but she taught her children its importance. By the time Sujanani started high school, she had made up her mind she would one day

I'm a people person, I like diversity. I like exploring. I like to go for everything in my reach.

earn a college degree.

She is now in her sophomore year at the University of the Virgin Islands.

"I want to live a successful life, and that requires a college education," she said.

But it isn't quite as simple as that. Despite her achievements at Charlotte Amalie High School (CAHS) – she took dual-credit courses at UVI in her senior year and was ranked third in her class – her ambitions might remain dreams if not for the scholarships and grants she has been awarded.

"It would be extremely difficult without them," she said. "It would probably not be possible to go to school had I not received these scholarships."

She said she chose UVI because it has a good reputation and offers the courses she wants but also because it is "financially accommodating."

Major assistance came in the form of the Jason Carroll Memorial Scholarship for her freshman year. Established in 2005 by James and Celia Carroll, the scholarship honors their son, who was the victim of senseless gun violence in May 2000, just after completing his freshman year at UVI.

Applicants for the scholarship write a 1,000 word essay about how to reduce violence in the territory and are encouraged to make a personal commitment against violence.

Sujanani took her commitment seriously, getting involved with planning and promoting the annual Walk/Run Against Gun Violence on St. Thomas, which serves both to raise awareness and to raise funds for the scholarship.

"I was heavily devoted," she said. "It was my duty."

She also was awarded an Innovative scholarship for her first year of college. For the 2016-17 academic year, she is the recipient of a \$1,500 grant from UVI and a \$5,000 federal Pell grant.

which the skills apply, the principles and foundation will be important," Johnson said. "They should support smooth transitions to similar or derivative processes."

She's pursuing a degree in accounting and aiming eventually to become a Certified Public Accountant.

"The rewards are many" in the field, she said. "I see myself working for a good accounting firm whether that's here or somewhere else."

Her options are enhanced because she is bilingual. Having been educated in English, she's more comfortable writing it, but she's equally at home speaking English or Spanish.

She was in the Spanish Club at CAHS, as well as the Rotary Interact Club. At UVI she joined the Accounting and Business Professionals Association.

This summer she's teaching life skills to high school students as part of a mentoring program sponsored by the UVI clubs Brothers with a Cause and Sisters with a Purpose. She is able to share with them a couple of things she learned in her early days at college - the importance of time management and the need to communicate with classroom professors.

"I'm also an artist," she said. She spent three years training at the School of Visual Arts and Careers, and this summer she volunteered at sevenminuseven alternative art collective, teaching art classes. She works primarily in oils, acrylics and mixed media, recently won a grant for art supplies, and has already sold one of her works.

"I'm a people person," Sujanani said. "I like diversity. I like exploring. I like to go for everything in my reach."

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in the Caribbean. In addition to an immediate gift, you can include UVI in the planning of your estate. Your investment in UVI reaps rewards for our communities.



Mitchell Neaves
Vice-President for
Institutional Advancement



continued from page 2

So the program is expected to remain viable for the foreseeable future, even as industries change.

"Even with an evolution in our distillation process or other work to

Nartel Green Scholarship, a Gift to the Future

For 30 years, educator and community activist Nartel Green made her home on St. Croix, where she established a reputation as a professional and caring school guidance counselor and a champion of anyone in need. Not even death could make her forget the countless numbers of island youth whose lives she touched - or her mission to open the world to them.

She made sure to leave a legacy of opportunity behind her.

This year, that gift will benefit a student at the University of the Virgin Islands with a one-year scholarship.

“This was part of her will,” Green’s sister, Jean Patton, explained. “Nartel was not a wealthy woman (but) she cared deeply about people, and about opportunity for black people ... She was sensitive to injustice ... She was especially supportive of women’s issues, and she liked young people. It just made sense to do what she did.”

The M. Nartel Green Endowed Scholarship is funded by a bequest of \$24,000. In its first year, it will provide \$1,250 for the scholarship recipient, but as the endowment investment grows, so will the award. The scholarship is open to an African American female, in her sophomore year or above, in any field of study.

It is a one-year award, but recipients may re-apply for subsequent years.

The remembrance booklet published for Green’s memorial gives eloquent testimony to her presence on St. Croix, where, in the words of former Gov. Charles Turnbull, “she worked to improve the status of the society by providing educational opportunities for our students.”

Over the years, she served as a counselor at several public schools on the island, including Central High School, where she mentored students and was instrumental in helping underprivileged youth get assistance to attend college.

Colleagues and friends also remember her as someone who spoke out against inequality and injustice and involved herself in social and cultural issues.

A charter member of the American Counseling Association of the Virgin Islands, Green was respected as a professional, and a pioneer in the field in the Virgin Islands.

She was active in a number of organizations, including the African Family Union, Phi Delta Kappa sorority, and the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research (CAFRA).

In the memorial booklet celebrating Green’s life, Margaret Gill, then chairwoman of CAFRA, lauded her for her “endurance, hard work,

style and creativity in service to the regional women’s movement.” On behalf of the African Family Union, Margo Oyake thanked Green for her service and support. She noted that Green joined the group soon after it was started, in 1994, and was active in supporting all of its activities, including African Liberation Day celebrations.

Before settling in St. Croix, Green had proved herself a citizen of the world. She served in the Peace Corps in Brazil, lived in Spain, in Africa and in South America, and traveled widely in Europe and throughout the Caribbean. She even made a trip to Cuba while it was still closed to most Americans. Much of her travel was in the cause of social justice.

Family and friends found it most

fitting that her last act, before being struck by sudden, fatal illness, was to attend an AIDS conference in the Dominican Republic.

Patton said she and her other sisters all looked up to Green, who was the eldest. Her first name was “Mary” but she never used it.

“Nartel is a more interesting name and it suits her,” Patton said. “She had a flair for life and she had an energy. She tended to be a leader.”

She also thought ahead and planned for a way to continue her life’s work of helping others. Now her generosity of spirit will reach into the future.



Nartel Green