



# dateline: UVI

The monthly newsletter of The University of the Virgin Islands

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## UVI Bids Farewell to President Ragster

As a farewell thank you to UVI President Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster, employees on UVI's St. Thomas campus hosted a surprise luncheon in her honor on July 17. The out-going president was caught off-guard when she opened the door to the Administration and Conference Center's conference room packed with UVI employees saying "surprise" in unison as they jumped to their feet in applause.



Left: UVI President Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster reacts as she enters the room at a surprise farewell luncheon held in her honor. Right: Dr. Ragster receives a standing ovation as she makes her way to her seat.



its highest position, said she has "enjoyed every minute of it."

"It's worth being a part of this big team," Dr. Ragster said. "I'm not going away forever," she reminded the crowd. "I'll still be around." Dr. Ragster encouraged UVI employees to "keep doing what you do to make the University the best place it can be."

After lunch the floor was open for brief remarks from well-wishers. Dr. Ragster was also presented with a 3-foot card bearing signatures and tributes from employees.

Dr. Ragster served as UVI's president for seven years. Her appointment ends on July 31, after which she will be on sabbatical leave for a year.

"I've been at this school for 30 years and there are very few times I've been surprised," Dr. Ragster said, after taking the podium. In brief remarks, the leader, who started her career at the then College of the Virgin Islands as a professor and worked her way up the ladder to hold

## Summer Sports Clinic Develops Student Athletes

It was an overcast day and 14 students of the UVI Multi-Sport Summer Clinic were on the soccer field learning the basics of soccer. Coach Alvin Joseph strategically placed cones on the field and prepared the students for drills.



Coach Alvin Joseph, center and pointing, explains a drill to Adrien Voigt.

"We want to work on passing and controlling," Joseph said. Some of the students in the clinic were already soccer players, while others would have to be taught the basics, he said.

Adrien Voigt was one of the stu-

dents who came to the clinic with playing experience. Voigt, who lives in Florida, has played on a soccer team for three years. Ellerni Petersen, on the other hand, never played soccer before joining the clinic. "My parents put me in it, but now that I'm here I'm trying to learn a little something," said Petersen, who has been playing volleyball for three years and has also started to play softball. The 10th grader said soccer "seems kind of fun."

Joseph, a soccer player and coach, is a member of the New Vibes Sports Club. He said that while basketball and softball seem to be the most popular sports in the Virgin Islands, soccer is one of the largest spectator sports in the world. More children in the Virgin Islands should get involved in the sport, and from an early age, he said. He noted the US

### Events Calendar

Aug. 5	Pre-Retirement Workshop	STT
Aug. 8	Alumni Breakfast	STT
Aug. 9-14	New Student Orientation	STT/STX
Aug. 17	Fall Semester Begins	STT/STX

See Sports Clinic on Next Page

## Alumni Breakfast Set for August

The UVI Alumni Association St. Thomas/St. John Chapter will honor alumni at the chapter's Annual Alumni Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Aug. 8. The event was rescheduled from July.

Alumni Donnie Dorsett ('00), Jean Forde ('85), Dr. Henry Smith ('76), Winston Smith ('90) and Terrence Thomas ('88) will be honored for their work and contribution to the University and the community at large. Tickets for the breakfast - \$35 per person - are available at the UVI Bookstore or from chapter officers: Pamela Toussaint, Helen Hart, Michelle Johnson and Chapter President Jackie Sprauve.

Proceeds go to the chapter's scholarship fund which supports incoming freshman students at UVI. The continued support of chapter members is greatly appreciated. Sprauve said the event promises to be a "trip down memory lane." For more information call 693-1040.

## Sports Clinic Continued

Soccer National Team, saying that the Virgin Islands can develop talent to field a team. "We can have the same thing down here, it's just about getting them into it," Joseph said. In addition to the basics, he also teaches the students conditioning and fitness.

Soccer was one of the three sports offered at the summer clinic. Volleyball and basketball were also offered. The clinic boasted some high-profile coaches from the mainland. Head coach Stephen Burns and assistant coach Nate Hinton of Columbia College in Columbia, S.C. headed the basketball clinic. Head coach Jill Stephens and assistant coach April Lowe of Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Fla., headed the volleyball clinic.

"The UVI Multi-Sport Summer Clinic provides a

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## Wellness Work



*Workers and heavy machinery prepare the grounds at the future site of the Wellness Center on UVI's St. Thomas Campus. The Wellness Center will be a 6,000 sq. ft. building constructed along the southwest side of the existing UVI Sports and Fitness Center. It will include a dance studio, an aerobics area, a cardiovascular equipment area, a weightroom and locker-rooms. The project is estimated to cost \$2.1 million. Ground was broken in January.*

great place for the student athletes of the Virgin Islands community to increase their level of sporting skills," said Jerry Smith, UVI's assistant athletic director and trainer. The clinics also offer academic enrichment in science and mathematics.

The Multi-Sport Summer Clinic was only one of UVI's summer offerings for children. The St. Thomas campus also hosted the Summer Business Residency Program and the Summer Band and Opera Camp. The St. Croix campus hosted the 4-H Summer Program. Upward Bound summer programs were held on both campuses.

*dateline:* UVI is a production of the UVI Public Relations Office. Contact us by telephone at 340-693-1056 or by fax at 340-693-1055.