



dateline: UVI

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'A Way to Think About What You're Thinking About'

A UVI Physics professor and a visiting graduate student used a scientific concept to explain the creative process. Their efforts were recently applauded by a group that's known for asking the question: "What's the big idea?"

Prof. Don Drost and Buffalo State College student Stavros Michailidis appeared before the recent 11th European Conference on Creativity and Innovation. Their presentation, called, "Make it Happen with Momentum," was so popular it became one of five sessions offered as an encore presentation.

Prof. Drost said before he and Michailidis took their work to Belgium, they tested it with a group of Science 100 students on St. Thomas. First they taught the formula for momentum. Then they set up a demonstration with sporting equipment. The students were then told what they had learned could be applied to any idea or problem using a diagnostic tool called a momentum matrix.

Pick a problem, they were told, classify it against a set of eight criteria, apply the matrix and make the needed adjustments – problem solved.

"The product of the exercise is a metacognitive framework," Michailidis said, "a way to think about what you're



Buffalo State College grad student Stavros Michailidis, left, and UVI Physics Professor Don Drost display the work that impressed creativity experts during a recent conference in Belgium.

thinking about."

After the successful presentation, Prof. Drost wrote his students. "I did send an e-mail to all of our students from Brussels and told them that Stavros and I have represented UVI and the Virgin Islands well, being chosen as one of the top five workshops, and I've received numerous e-mails back from students who have thanked us for doing a good job," the professor said.

The conference, sponsored by the European Association for Creativity and Innovation, was held Oct. 28-30. The theme was "Think. Create. Innovate."

UVI President Joins in Presentation to High School Boys

UVI President Dr. David Hall recently told a room of mostly young male students on St. Croix to dream big, plan for college, and change the world. He made these remarks at a forum held Nov. 12 on the St. Croix Campus.

Several dozen public high school seniors sat in on the presentation, featuring remarks by Dr. Hall, UVI Accounting Professor Ricardo Caldwell and elected officials. Together they spoke about the challenges facing young men growing up in a society of changing values.

Dr. Hall asked the group to think about what it takes to be a man. He also asked the students to consider some facts of life about young men of color, at heightened risk for their lives and their futures.

He also pointed out that young black males are under-



represented on many college campuses, including UVI. The President urged them to think about what they could do to encourage other young men to add a college education to their dreams.

UVI President Dr. David Hall wants more men to attend college. He is seen here at UVI's Fall Science Symposium.

Events Calendar

Dec. 4	EPSCoR Conference	STX
Dec. 5	UVI Christmas Concert	STT
Dec. 5-6	STT-STJ Agriculture Fair	STT
Dec. 21-Jan. 3	University Holiday Recess	STT/STX
Dec. 24-Jan. 3	Crucian Christmas Festival	STX

Stormy Day Sets Scene for Conservation Talk

Monday, Nov. 16, began as a great day for ducks, umbrella sales, and people attending the Comprehensive Land and Sea Conference on the UVI St. Thomas campus. An inch and a half of rain had fallen on the island in less than an hour, limiting visibility, bringing flash floods and shortening the workday for many. It also provided a perfect backdrop for a talk on storm water management.

“Too perfect,” said conference leader Barry



Barry Devine and Sharon Coldren.

Devine, former chief scientist for UVI’s Conservation Data Center. Inclement weather kept about a third of the participants from showing up. But for those who braved the rain, he said, it was a teachable moment.

UVI-based scientists, environmentalists, graduate students and engineers were among those hearing what’s been done to keep topsoil from washing off Virgin Islands hillsides into the local marine environment. Participants included federal highway engineers who are currently in the territory working on road projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Devine said he hoped participants left the day-long seminar with a better understanding of the interactions between land and sea. “They are all one system,” he said.

Included in the topics was a discussion about mitigation efforts taking place on St. John under the direction of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Environmental planning engineer Joseph Mina described some of the work he’s been doing on the EPA-CARE project over the past few weeks. Mina said he designed two roadside bio filtration systems that are, “just a hole in the ground that the water gathers in before it goes away,” he said.

There were also recommendations made about the proper use and maintenance of silt fencing. Mina said he has also spoken with VI Public Works officials about flood control projects and local flooding problem spots.

The seminar, held at UVI’s Administration and Conference Center, was sponsored by the Coral Bay Community Council and the Virgin Islands Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VI-EPSCoR).



UVI Director of Alumni Affairs Linda I. Smith ('98, '03), right, interviews alumna Delaun Mercer ('97), at the annual Bucs Alumni Reunion held Nov. 22, at Brewers Bay Beach on the St. Thomas campus. Mercer was visiting from Pawtucket, R.I. Her uncle, Clarence A. Nibbs ('92), with the Bucs pennant, also attended.

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