



# dateline: UVI

The monthly newsletter of The University of the Virgin Islands

September 29, 2010 vol xvi, number 9

## UVI Wellness Center Opens on St. Thomas Campus



*Mervin Ford, second from left, leads an aerobics class in the aerobics and dance studio of UVI's St. Thomas campus Wellness Center during the center's grand opening on Sept. 24. Right, exercise bikes are positioned near large windows in the center's fitness equipment room.*



UVI students, employees and alumni on the St. Thomas campus now have a place to develop their physical wellness with the opening of the new Wellness Center. The 6,250 square-foot building, located southwest of the Sports and Fitness Center, boasts a mirrored aerobics and dance studio with a sprung wood floor, a fitness equipment room with weight training and cardiovascular equipment, and men's and women's locker rooms.

The grand opening for the new building was held on Sept. 24. UVI administrators, board members, staff and students, along with dignitaries and the general public, gathered under a large white tent in the center's parking lot and praised the center's potential to improve lives.

Calling it a "wonderful and joyous day in the life of this University," UVI President Dr. David Hall thanked those who lead the University before him for their vision, fundraising efforts and leadership, which made the center a reality.

"This facility is part of a long line of construction that has occurred on this campus as a way of sending the message that we are committed to providing our students, staff and faculty with the best facilities possible," Dr. Hall said. He told the audience to "never lose sight of the concept of wellness."

"Wholeness, healing, taking care of the whole person is a fundamental part of the vision of UVI. We want that for our employees, we want that for our students," he said.

Student athlete Alvaro de Lugo III expressed gratitude, on behalf of students, for the facility. "We will be able to maximize our full athletic potential and to perform at a higher level," he said. "It gives us the competitive edge that we need to accomplish our goals, and to become successful in our leagues and in our athletic careers."

The Wellness Center cost \$2.62 million and was built

*See Wellness Center on Next Page*

## Miss UVI Vies in National Pageant



*Miss UVI Jonesia Smith prepares for the "Queen's Tea" segment of the Competition of Black College Queens, held annually by the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. It features queens from Historically Black Colleges and Universities from across the nation. The competition, held on Sept. 25, in Atlanta, was one of the events held during the Annual Hall of Fame Weekend. Miss Howard University won the pageant for the second consecutive year.*

### Events Calendar

Sept. 30	'The Caribbean Writer' Launch	STX
Oct. 4-5	Voices that Count Forum	STX
Oct. 7-8	Voices that Count Forum	STT
Oct. 21-22	Health Disparities Institute	STT

## *Ready to Lead: UVI Student Government Installed*



*Left: Student Government Association members on the St. Croix campus were installed in a ceremony on Sept. 29. Attending were, left to right, sophomore Senator Richard Motta, Senior Senator Sana Hamed, Junior Senator Shamoi Garcia, Treasurer Necola Charles, Atty. Genevieve Whitaker keynote speaker, Secretary Donna Archer, Freshman Senator Lawrence Bethel, President Malkia Morton, Freshman Senator Gabriel Lawrence and Vice President Sieja Mike.*

*Right: Student Government Association members on the St. Thomas campus were installed in a ceremony on Sept. 28. Attending were, left to right, top row, Junior Senators Michael Celestine and Dimitri Maduro, Vice President Merl Eustache, Freshman Senator Raydiance Granger, Treasurer Davin Francis and President Charlesworth McCarthy, bottom row, Sophomore Senators Chenelle Kuntz and Zuri Baker. Not pictured are Senior Senators Randel Thompson and Ismael Rosado, Jr., and Freshman Senators Brittany Robinson and Raynard Malone.*



## Wellness Center Continued

with funds from a variety of sources. The Department of the Interior provided \$1,047,000 for the project. The Foundation for the University of the Virgin Islands provided \$400,000 and UVI provided \$815,000.

Anthony Babauta, the US Department of the Interior assistant secretary for Insular Affairs, said that UVI has “exceeded expectations” each time it has received Department of Interior funding for special projects. He said the Wellness Center closes the gap between the University and the community.

Gov. John P. deJongh Jr. said the Wellness center represents “vision, partnership and leadership” and the “importance of this University in the community.”

UVI’s athletic teams, dance team, and specific physical education and health courses will utilize the Wellness Center. Beginning on Oct. 4, the center will be open from 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. An array of fitness classes will subsequently be offered.

The center’s ground breaking ceremony was held on Jan. 30, 2009.

For more information call UVI Wellness Center Coordinator Amy Gurlea at 340-690-0064.

*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.

*dateline:* UVI

2 John Brewer’s Bay  
St. Thomas, VI 00802