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World Food Day Activities Attract Thousands

Central High Team Named 'Youth Super Chef'

An event designed to draw attention to the plight of world hunger attracted thousands of people to the University of the Virgin Islands St. Croix campus. World Food Day activities on Nov. 2 brought about 3,000 people to the campus.

"This year, more than ever, world food security is at a critical stage," said Clarice Clarke, public information specialist for UVI's Cooperative Extension Service (CES). "The challenges of climate change, the price of food and the rising demand for biofuels produced from food crops has an impact on the poor," she said at the opening ceremony of the World Food Day activity.

This year's featured agricultural products were sorrel, sweet corn and lamb. Activities included the first-time "Youth Super Chef" competition, educational workshops and a food drive.

For the "Youth Super Chef" competition, teams from participating schools prepared dishes made from the featured agricultural products in front of a live audience. The food was judged on presentation, taste and originality.

The Central High School team won in the Senior High category and the Elena Christian Junior High School team



Top: Central High School "Youth Super Chef" team competes at World Food Day activities. Bottom: Vegetable seedlings are distributed.



won in the Junior High category. The winning teams received trophies and Kitchenaid sets. There were a total of six teams.

The Kids Can Make a Difference food drive collected 2,800 pounds of non-perishable food items for the Haiti Relief Effort and local food banks. Twelve hundred of the items were given to St. Croix Rotary West for shipment to Haiti and the rest were distributed to My Brothers Table and the LightHouse on St. Croix.

In addition to the activities, attendees had the opportunity to tour Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) facilities, purchase fruits, vegetables and other agricultural products, purchase food and receive vegetable seedlings. A total of 1,200 vegetable seedlings were distributed.

"World Food Day was a wonderful opportunity for members of the community to visit the campus, attend educational workshops, and sample dishes made from our featured crops such as

sorrel drink, sorrel sorbet, corn bread, corn casserole, sorrel sauce and stewed lamb," Clarke said.

World Food Day is sponsored by UVI's AES, CES and the V.I. Department of Agriculture.

Events Calendar

Nov. 17	Environmental Workshops	STX	Nov. 22	Upward Bound Breakfast Sale	STX
Nov 19-22	GIS Conference	STT	Nov. 22	Free Snorkel Clinic	STX
Nov. 20	SGA Guest Lecture	STT	Nov. 23	Student Music Recital	STT
Nov. 20	Incentive Awards Ceremony	STT	Nov. 26	UVI-SC Town Hall Meeting	STT/STX
Nov. 19	UVI-SC Town Hall Meeting	STT/STX	Dec. 6	Christmas Concert	STT
Nov. 21	Incentive Awards Ceremony	STX	Dec. 13	Holiday Gala	STX
Nov. 22-23	STT/STJ Agriculture Fair	STT	Dec. 14	Holiday Dinner	STT

UVI Students and Administrator to go to Obama's Inauguration

Seven University of the Virgin Islands students will get the highly coveted opportunity to attend the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama. The inauguration is expected to attract more than one million people to Washington, D.C. Most hotels are already booked ahead of the Jan. 20 event and people across the country are clamoring for tickets to attend.

"I am excited about the opportunity to witness history in the making when our first black president takes his oath of office," said Wayne Petersen, a student who will attend. Golden Key Honour Society members on both UVI campuses were invited by the Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference (PYIC). The five-day conference provides outstanding students from across the nation who participate with a deeper understanding of the history behind the electoral process and the traditions surrounding the presidential inauguration. Golden Key members from the St. Croix campus will attend.

The inaugural scholars will witness the inauguration and experience the inaugural parade, as President Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and their families make their way down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol Building to the White House. They will also attend a black-tie gala inaugural ball.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for us to witness first-hand the inauguration of our 44th president, who happens to be African American," said Nickaya Armantranding. "It's so fortunate for us to be able to participate."

"I am honored and blessed to be part of this historic event," said Leana Timothy. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will forever cherish and as a prospective elementary teacher, my students will definitely benefit from my experience."

Other students who will attend are Melina Moore, Diane DaCosta, Renako Wells and Sharmane Simon.

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Kool Ruler



Rick Grant won the title of "Mr. Kool" at a competition of the same name held on Nov. 8, on the St. Thomas campus. Donald Gibson was named the first runner up. The two competed against two others - Nicholas Buckley and Wendel Grouby - for the title. They competed in introduction, speech, beachwear, talent and Mr. Kool wear. Event chairperson Jadee

Caines said the competition went very well. "People wanted to see something different and that's what they got," Caines said.

In addition to UVI student participation, St. Croix Campus Associate Campus Executive Administrator Miriam Osborne Elliott was selected by the conference committee to serve as a PYIC faculty advisor. In that capacity she will facilitate group meetings, prepare students for each day's activities and present educational content for the program.

As a founding member of the St. Croix chapter of the Golden Key Honour Society, Osborne Elliott said she is proud to be able to facilitate the students' participation. "I look forward to seeing the outcome of this investment in our students and who they will become as a result of this pivotal point in history," she said.

The students are currently raising funds to assist with the cost of airfare, winter clothing and hotel rooms. The UVI Institutional Advancement Office provided funds for the students' conference registration.

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