



**UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
AND THE VI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PRESENT**

# **MAN UP**

**REALIZE YOUR POTENTIAL**

**A MALE EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE 2011**



**University of the Virgin Islands**

**FEB. 8th**

**SPORTS AND FITNESS CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
ST. THOMAS CAMPUS**

**FEB. 10th**

**CAMPUS GROUNDS  
UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
ST. CROIX CAMPUS**

The University of the Virgin Islands and the Virgin Islands Department of Education extend a hearty “thank you” to the following supporters of the Male Empowerment Conference, without whom this historic community endeavor could not have taken place:

## **Underwriters**

### **Youth Enrichment Initiative**

*A Community Support Program funded by the Virgin Islands Lottery.*

Virgin Islands Department of Human Services, Division of Family Assistance



Together we are one



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# Program

## **UVI Male Empowerment Conference 2011 Man-Up: Realize Your Potential**

### **Tools and Resources for Males on the Journey toward a Successful Life**

**February 8, 2011 [St. Thomas, UVI Sports and Fitness Center]**

**February 10, 2011 [St. Croix, UVI Grounds]**

#### AGENDA

9:30am-10:00am	Welcome - Brothers With A Cause  Invocation  Welcome - Dr. David Hall President, University of the Virgin Islands  Remarks - V.I. Dept. of Education  Remarks - V.I Lottery
10:00am - 10:20am	Entertainment by Rock City
10:25am - 11:05am	Keynote Presentation: Dr. Farrah Gray
11:05am - 11:15am	Question / Answer Session
10:15am - 11:30am	Breakout Group Discussion
11:30am - 12:00am	Panel Discussion / Town Hall Meeting
12:00noon - 12:40pm	Lunch/Entertainment by Rock City
12:40pm - 12:50pm	Presentation: UVI Recruitment – Dr. Xuri Maurice Allen
12:50pm - 1:10pm	Athletic Speaker Presentation - Linval Joseph
1:10pm - 1:20pm	Question/Answer Session
1:20pm - 1:40pm	Picker-Upper
1:40pm - 2:10pm	Spiritual Speaker Presentation – Pastor Dexter Skepple
2:10pm - 2:20pm	Question/Answer Session
2:20pm - 2:35pm	Breakout Group Discussion
2:35pm - 3:05pm	Panel Discussion / Town Hall Meeting
3:05pm - 3:25pm	Evaluations
3:25pm - 4:00pm	Closing Remarks – Dr. David Hall President, University of the Virgin Islands



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Dear Conference Participants:

It is a very special honor to welcome you to this historic and life transforming experience. On behalf of the Trustees, faculty, students and staff of the University of the Virgin Islands, we are delighted to have you spend a day on our campus. This event is more than a gathering of young boys and adult men. This is a sacred assembly that will challenge each of us to create a brighter future for ourselves and those around us. The theme, “Man Up: Realizing your Potential,” is a powerful message which we hope you will fully embrace. You can “man up” only if you use the skills, talents and gifts that you have been given. You “man-up” when you choose peace over violence and academic success over mediocrity. This theme is a reminder to each of you, that your manhood is a test of your intellectual, spiritual and emotional power, and not of your physical strength.

The vision for this conference existed long before I became President. I deeply believe that Virgin Islanders have been praying and yearning for an opportunity to say to the young men of this community, “You are our best hope for a brighter future.” I heard those cries within my soul, and asked this University community to chase this dream with me and they did. Words cannot explain how proud this University is to host this conference, in collaboration with the Virgin Islands Department of Education. This University exists so that young men and women can chase and fulfill their dreams.

I have witnessed the scores of hours and ideas that so many members of this University have put into making this a special day for each one of you. I want to thank those who gave of themselves to make today possible. I know that all they ask is that you do not take any of this for granted. Most importantly, do not take your future for granted. You will become the type of person you desire when you choose to make great choices with your time, mind and companions.

May this experience be the start of a new chapter in your book of life. We all look forward to reading the other chapters as your life unfolds. I am confident that if you listen to and absorb the wisdom of those gathered here today, that your life will change and the story you share with the world will be a best seller. So please enjoy every moment of this experience. I hope that you will leave here a stronger and wiser person with a deeper determination to pursue your dreams. If that dream is to pursue a college education, we hope you will consider UVI. We have a seat with your name on it, and we are inviting you to claim that seat. There is a place in the UVI heart for you, and we want you to join us as we strive to become a “great university.”

Sincerely,

David Hall  
President



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Office of the Commissioner  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE EDUCATION COMMISSIONER

It is a distinct pleasure for me to offer greetings to the young men participating in the Male Empowerment Conference, *“Man-up: Realize your Potential-Tools and Resources for Males on the Journey toward a Successful Life.”* I would also like to welcome the guest speakers.

Today more than ever, successful strategies and interventions are needed to encourage our high school junior and senior males to stay on the academic track. The Department of Education recognizes and supports the effort to assertively address the need for adolescent males to meet positive and productive role models. We are making strides to ensure that our male students remain in school and seek constructive and life building activities. The Department is making dropout prevention and school completion a priority. In partnership with the Regional Educational Laboratory - Northeast and Islands, the VIDE hosted a Policy Change Symposium focusing on keeping students in school by expanding efforts to increase high school completion. This Dropout Symposium centered on six research-based recommendations and effective practices that can prevent students from dropping out and brought together scores of practitioners, policy makers, and even students to share perspectives and recommendations for the Virgin Islands. Another VIDE and UVI collaboration, a mentoring program for high school male students with the newly formed group Brothers with a Cause has been initiated. VIDE is also collaborating with the Department of Labor in the implementation of the Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) program. A program designed to increase the likelihood that students who enter the 9th grade will graduate in four years and thus reduce the number of dropouts. Through the implementation of these programs and today’s Male Empowerment Symposium, the territory hopes to realize a significant decrease in the rate of school dropouts.

The implications of this symposium are tremendous! On behalf of the VI Department of Education Leadership and Staff, I offer congratulations and commend the University, the Virgin Islands Lottery, and the Virgin Islands Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VI-EPCOR) on this milestone. Your continued efforts to promote reach and mentor adolescent males throughout our schools and community are impacting and will change the landscape of today’s young people in the territory. Best wishes for an engaging and enlightening conference!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "La Verne Terry".

La Verne Terry, E.D.

## Farrah Gray

American businessman and motivational speaker Farrah Gray was named one of the most influential Black men in America by the National Urban League's Urban Influence Magazine. Ebony Magazine has recognized him as an entrepreneurial icon, business mogul and best-selling author.

Raised in the impoverished projects on the south side of Chicago, Gray defied the odds and became a self-made millionaire by the age of 14. He was born in 1984 and began his entrepreneurial, personal and civic development at the age of six by selling home-made body lotion door-to-door. Gray soon added his own hand-painted rocks to his offerings, which he sold as bookends and paperweights. At age seven, he was carrying business cards reading "21st Century CEO." At eight, Gray co-founded the Urban Neighborhood Enterprise Economic Club in Chicago, the forerunner of the New Early Entrepreneur Wonders organization which worked to develop legal ways for "at-risk" youth to acquire income.



Between the ages of 12 and 16, Gray founded and operated several business ventures. As a pre-teen, Gray reached 12 million listeners and viewers as co-host of "Backstage Live," a syndicated television and radio simulcast in Las Vegas.

He established Farr-Out Foods, a food retailer targeting a young clientele in New York. Farr-Out Foods' sales tallied \$1.5 million within its first year. Gray eventually negotiated the sale of the company at the age of 15 for more than \$1 million.

At the age of 21, Gray received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Allen University. In his rise from poverty to national and international prominence as an entrepreneurial icon and preeminent power speaker, Dr. Gray has inspired millions around the world. At the age of 26, he has achieved more than many achieve in a lifetime.

Gray is also a syndicated columnist with the National Newspaper Publishers Association, reaching more than 15 million readers. Gray's latest books are "Get Real, Get Rich" and "The Truth Shall Make You Rich." His first book "Reallionaire" was named the best-selling nonfiction paperback by Essence Magazine in 2005.

Gray has created the non-profit Farrah Gray Foundation which offers programs and initiatives focused on inner-city, community-based entrepreneurship education. It also provides scholarships and grant assistance for students from at-risk backgrounds to attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The Farrah Gray Foundation also works with the Kauffman Foundation to support entrepreneurship programs in inner-city schools across the country.

## Rock City

No strangers to the music scene, R. City has been working behind the scenes for years, penning songs for superstars like Akon, Usher, Mario, Sean Kingston, Rodney Jerkins, Nicole Scherzinger and the Pussycat Dolls, Jesse McCartney, Macy Gray, Ashlee Simpson and Enrique Iglesias. Now ready to bring their own talents to the forefront, the versatile duo is in the midst of a campaign to launch their upcoming album – "Wake The Neighbors."



Hailing from St. Thomas, R. City (comprised of brothers Theron a/k/a Da Spokesman and Timothy a/k/a Don't Talk Much) has created a sound that blends Caribbean twangs of consciousness, street struggles and island life coupled with hip-hop/pop appeal. The duo started honing their craft at an early age and was winning local talent shows by the age of 10, using their prize money to pay the family's household bills.

After achieving incredible local success in the Virgin Islands, R. City landed in Atlanta where the duo began writing songs for other artists. They quickly placed their first song, "The Rain" for Akon and in a short time have amassed a staggering number of tunes for renowned artists. "We built a lot of relationships, got cool with a lot of people, networked and found ourselves in a lot of doors we never thought we were going to enter," says Timothy.

The brothers bring together two completely different types of energy that blend to create a unique genre-bending musical experience. "We're night and day but we mesh perfectly together," says Theron, the soulful Yin to his brother Timothy's Hip-Hop flavored Yang. The fact that their music is different isn't lost on the siblings and their success derives from years of hard work.

"Trust me; nobody is going to outwork us. We are constantly focused on our work. So when people are in the club partying, we work. When they sleep, we work. When they work, we work. So at the end of the day, we are going to get more work done than anybody," says Timothy.

## Linval Joseph

St. Croix native Linval Joseph has enjoyed a successful career in the National Football League since signing with the New York Giants as a defensive tackle in 2010. Joseph was born in 1988, the son of Ernestine Johnson.

Joseph moved to Florida when he was 10 and attended Santa Fe High School in Gainesville, where he lettered four years in football. Off the gridiron, Joseph lettered three years as a member of the school's track team, where he excelled in shot put and discus events. He was twice named All-State in Class AAA and was ranked 44th among the nation's high school defensive tackles. Joseph captured the Florida State Weightlifting Championship as a junior with a 415-pound bench press and a 320-pound clean jerk.

In 2007, Joseph enrolled in East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., as a communications major. He continued his athletic career as a member of the ECU Pirates football squad, where he played in 13 games (starting four) during his first year and was named to the Freshman All-Conference USA team. As a sophomore, Joseph played in 14 games at nose guard, taking over the position full-time during the season's final five games. By his junior year, Joseph was recognized as one of the strongest players in college football. He earned All-American third-team and All-Conference USA first-team honors in 2009.

When the East Carolina coaching staff announced plans to move on to the University of South Florida, Joseph also decided it was time to move on. Shortly after the Pirates returned from play in the Liberty Bowl, Joseph announced that he was foregoing his senior season at ECU and applied for early entry to the 2010 NFL Draft. He was selected in round two of the pick by the Giants, who signed him for a four-year, multi-million dollar contract.

A popular NFL video showing the 6' 4", 230-pound Joseph working out during the league's 2010 scouting season has garnered nearly 10,000 views online.

## Dexter Skepple

Dexter Skepple is known for getting things done and driving results—through collaboration, partnerships, and relationships. With an enthusiastic and genuinely friendly attitude, he radiates a sincere passion for delivering value and benefits to everyone with whom he comes in contact.

A pilot by training, he earned his B.S. in Aviation at the University of Texas (now Texas A&M) in 1993, and spent five years as a full-time professional pilot, before making the life-changing decision that he could make a larger, positive impact on more people if he moved into full-time ministry.

Skepple founded Speak the Word Ministries on St. Croix in 1998. The ministry quickly accelerated, and over the next 10 years expanded far beyond the scope of a traditional church. The ministry is now very active in Haiti. Pastor Skepple travels to Haiti on a regular basis and started a school that has more than 200 students.

In addition to managing full-time ministry, Pastor Skepple, an internationally trained pilot, has continued his aviation career—flying throughout Southeast Asia and the Philippines. As he is always searching for innovative ways to contribute to his community, he recently launched a new air ambulance service, called AirMed Caribbean. Skepple is the Vice-President of the operation and is dedicated to offering excellent service to the people of the Virgin Islands.

Pastor Skepple has always had a passion for seeing men succeed. Whether young or old, he has poured endless amounts of his time and resources into mentoring, counseling and motivating men to reach their full potential. Born and raised on St. Croix, he saw a need for direction, purpose and discipline in the lives of our men. In 2003, he launched the Boys to Men program—a non-profit, 501 (c) 3 program. He designed it to focus on building long-lasting, loyal relationships between mentors and the young men of our community. Pastor Skepple also conducts marriage seminars throughout the Caribbean, educating and counseling men on being responsible leaders in their homes and in their communities. He has been successfully married for over 17 years to his lovely wife, Terry.

Throughout his life, Skepple has repeatedly proved his ability to lead through diverse and challenging situations. As a pastor, administrator, entrepreneur and family advocate, he is an excellent agent of change and has a documented track record of accomplishments that include the turnaround of chaotic and struggling operations; start-up and management of a thriving, non-denominational ministry; and creation and launch of a landmark mentoring program for young men.

Today, Pastor Skepple resides on St. Croix, where his ministry is located, with his family. As he has top-notch qualifications working within our community, it is challenging to put his skills in a "box." But what is absolutely clear is that he adds a great deal of value to any environment where he is placed.





# University of the Virgin Islands

## School of Business

**Dean: Charles Williams**

The School of Business strives to be the premier learner-centered English-speaking institution in the Eastern Caribbean providing high quality graduate and undergraduate business education responsive to the needs of students, employers, the community, and the region.

Our mission is to facilitate business education to a diverse population of students, with a major focus on the territory of the United States Virgin Islands and the Caribbean region, providing students with the skills to succeed in a global environment. We are dedicated to the cultivation of leadership, intellectual query and discovery, social responsibility and lifelong professional development and growth through excellent teaching, scholarship and responsive community service.

**AA degrees in Accounting, Business Management, Computer Information Systems, and Hotel and Restaurant Management**

**BA degrees in Accounting and Business Administration (Accounting, Computer Information Systems, Finance, Management and Marketing concentrations)**

**MBA - Master of Business Administration degrees**

## School of Education

**Dean: P. Rudolph Mattai**

The Elementary Education program provides a solid base for graduate study consisting of: broad preparation in the liberal arts with concentrated study in one selected area professional preparation-- including field experiences-- for highly effective teaching in multi cultural settings The 36-credit Master of Arts in Education degree provides core study for all students and a choice of concentration (15 credits) from among teaching, educational administration and supervision, and guidance and counseling.

**BA degrees in Elementary Education and Inclusive Early Childhood Education**

**AA degree in Inclusive Early Childhood Education (Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and English concentrations)**

**MA - Master of Arts in Education degrees in Teaching, Educational Administration and Supervision and Guidance and Counseling**

## School of Nursing

**Dean: Cheryl Franklin**

The School of Nursing, in a learner-focused and multi-cultural environment, prepares its graduates to enter the humanistic profession of nursing which serves the client by facilitating optimal health or a dignified and peaceful death through the implementation of various roles. The graduate employs empirically based processes and theoretical formulations that guide understanding and interpretation of the client's needs, behaviors and outcomes. The School is committed to preparing graduates who demonstrate competence, critical thinking skills, commitment to societal and individual betterment and professionalism while upholding an ethical code of conduct.

**AS degree in Nursing**

**BS degree in Nursing**

**RN to BS in Nursing Program**



## **College of Science & Math**

**Dean: Camille McKayle Stolz**

The College of Science and Mathematics offers baccalaureate degrees in Biology, Marine Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Applied Mathematics, and Mathematics; and associate degrees in Physics, Computer Science, and Process Technology. The division also offers two graduate programs: the Master of Science in Marine and Environmental Science and the Master of Arts in Mathematics for Secondary Teachers. Our academic programs emphasize critical thinking, problem solving, written and spoken communication and other skills tailored to help the students succeed.

**AAS degree in Process Technology**

**AS degrees in Computer Science and Physics**

**BA degrees in Biology, Chemistry, Marine Biology and Mathematics**

**BS degrees in Applied Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Marine Biology and Mathematics**

**Masters degrees in Mathematics for Secondary Teachers, and Marine and Environmental Science**

## **College of Liberal Arts & Social Science**

**Dean: George Lord**

Consistent with the mission of the University of the Virgin Islands, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences seeks to produce students who are self-directed problem solvers with the ability to apply critical thinking skills. In the Liberal Arts component, although many courses offered in the areas of French, Spanish, Art, Theatre and Philosophy, four B.A. majors are offered: English, Communication, Music Education and Humanities. Social Sciences offers majors in Social Sciences, Psychology, Social Work and Criminal Justice. In addition the college offers Masters degrees in Public Administration and Counseling Psychology.

**AA degree in Police Science and Administration**

**BA degrees in Communication, English, Humanities, Music Education, Psychology, Social Sciences, Social Work, and Speech Communication and Theatre**

**MPA - Master of Public Administration**

**MAP - Master of Arts in Psychology**

# Brothers With a Cause

Male students at the University of the Virgin Islands who are members of Brothers With a Cause have pledged to be responsible for themselves and their fellow brothers to meet the needs of males enrolled at the University of the Virgin Islands. Whether it is helping male students to take full advantage of the time they spend engaged in studies or whether it is helping male students to fully understand their responsibilities, rights and privileges as men, future leaders and citizens of their respective communities, the members of Brothers With a Cause are committed to the educational, cultural, social, spiritual and intellectual development of their membership.

## Goal

The goal of the Brothers With a Cause Association is to increase the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of young men within the UVI service area through strategic intervention at the K-12 and higher education levels.

## Vision

To improve academic achievement through brotherhood, support and intervention services, leadership, community service, and character development.

## Mission

To facilitate the development and delivery of quality programs that promote mental, physical, social, and spiritual enhancement for male students at UVI and the community that they represent.

## Common Themes

- Change the message with regard to how manhood is defined
- Foster greater male student involvement at the University and in the community
- Use athletics in a more strategic way
- Improve tutorial and academic support services
- Create a greater sense of brotherhood at the University level

## Key Result Areas (or Areas of Focus)

- Peer tutoring and other supplemental academic services
- Mentoring
- Personal financial management
- Community outreach
- Goals, core values, and aspirations
- Athletic activities and camps
- Public relations
- Cultural, academic, spiritual, and social experiences
- Band club and music production
- Reading and public speaking

# Thinking about going to college?



## ADVANTAGES OF UVI

- Fully accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
- Affordable cost of obtaining quality education and training
- Val / Sal Scholarship offered to all Virgin Islands Public & Private High School Graduates \$55,400 for 4 years.
- Basic enrichment courses for individuals who are not recent high school graduates
- Culturally rich and diverse student body
- One-on-one interaction with faculty
- Modern sports and fitness center
- Ongoing professional development and skill building seminars

## DEGREE PROGRAMS

### UNDERGRADUATE

- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Bachelor of Arts
- Criminal Justice
- Bachelor of Science
- Criminal Justice
- Associate in Applied Science in Criminal Justice
- Computer Information Systems
- Computer Science
- Education
- Music Education
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Marine Biology
- Physics
- Nursing
- Mathematics
- Humanities
- Communications
- English
- Psychology
- Process Technology
- Social Science

### GRADUATE

- Public Administration
- Education
- Marine & Environmental Science
- Mathematics & Math Education
- Business Administration
- Masters in Psychology

## EASY ADMISSIONS PROCESS

- Submit an application on or before April 30 for the Fall Semester or October 30 for the Spring Semester
- Send official high school / college transcript(s) to the admissions office
- Submit official GED verification, if applicable
- Take the appropriate standardized tests:
  - MPA & MBA applicants: GMAT
  - MMES: GRE
  - MAP: GRE Psychology
- Submit official certified copies of the GCE / CXC / CAPE results, if applicable
- Submit a certified check or money order for \$25.00 (US)

# University of the Virgin Islands

[www.uvi.edu](http://www.uvi.edu)

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### St. Thomas Admissions

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Voice: (340) 693-1160 Fax: (340) 693-1167

### St. Croix Admissions

RR 1 Box 10,000, Kingshill, St. Croix VI 00850  
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Visit us on the web at: [www.uvi.edu](http://www.uvi.edu)

# Why UVI?



UVI provides me

**opportunity**

“The University of the Virgin Islands offers special programs, like engineering, where I can get a bachelor’s degree from UVI and an engineering degree from Columbia University. Who wouldn’t want to get two degrees for the price of one?”

University of the Virgin Islands



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