

Forty-Ninth Annual

# Commencement



## **ST. THOMAS**

Saturday, the Eleventh of May  
Two Thousand and Thirteen  
Seven O'Clock in the Evening  
Sports and Fitness Center  
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

## **ST. CROIX**

Sunday, the Twelfth of May  
Two Thousand and Thirteen  
Half after Four O'Clock in the Afternoon  
Campus Grounds  
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

## President's Message

The University of the Virgin Islands is on the pathway to greatness. This academic jewel has provided 50 years of higher education opportunities for residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands as well as persons from neighboring Caribbean islands, students from the U.S. mainland, and those hailing from as far away as India. Today is an auspicious day for each of us. I am particularly moved by the passion and compassion of so many of our students, faculty and staff.

We are moving confidently into the second 50 years of UVI's delivery of higher education opportunities in the region. And, truly, what better way to start this portion of our journey, than to honor individuals who represent achievement at the highest level of their professions. First, Ambassador Terence A. Todman, one of the remarkable sons of the soil, will be awarded an honorary degree in recognition of his stellar career as an Ambassador. Also recognized and honored at this year's Commencement Ceremonies will be George F. Tyson who has devoted his professional life to bringing the history of the Territory, and more particularly, that of St. Croix, to life in a way that all Virgin Islanders can truly understand their roots. Finally, we are indeed privileged to have former U.S. Congressman, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and President of the NAACP, Kweisi Mfume, deliver our Keynote Address. He will also be awarded an honorary degree.



*David Hall, S.J.D.*

To the members of the Class of 2013, I salute you. We have gathered on this day to celebrate the culmination of years of hard work, sacrifice and commitment to educational advancement that your presence signals. As members of the Class of 2013, you are a very special Class. Some of you started this journey four years ago at the same time that I became President, and thus we have seen this institution change in front of our eyes. You are also part of a new beginning of achievement for UVI. We officially closed out our Golden Jubilee celebration and are beginning to make an indelible mark on the future of this Territory, region, and across the globe. Because of you and your potential to impact the communities, islands and nations within which you will reside through the advanced degrees that you will pursue, the professions in which you excel, and the contributions you will make to your communities, we will see UVI's greatness extend well beyond our "halls of wisdom." Indeed, your greatest contribution is what you do in the world, what you achieve, the type of person you become and the legacy you leave behind.

Section IIA of our 2012-2017 strategic plan, Pathways to Greatness, indicates that we will produce graduates who are academically excellent, globally sensitive, entrepreneurially focused, emotionally and spiritually balanced, and committed to serving the world. Although this is a goal in our current strategic plan, I know that many of you have been acquiring these qualities during your years of study here at UVI. I challenge each of you to keep focused on academic excellence. In a world that is shrinking because technology brings us all so close together, global sensitivity is essential. Our current economic reality demands that you cultivate your entrepreneurial skills and talents. And though the career success of its graduates is one of the ways in which the greatness of an institution is measured, I urge you to aspire to professional success while being emotionally and spiritually balanced and while making time to serve your community and the world.

When you leave these Commencement Ceremonies, keep before you the words of the keynote speaker and the examples of achievement and professionalism that our honorees exemplify. Let their professional accomplishments serve to motivate you to aspire to greatness and in so doing, you can and will leave your mark on this world. When you touch one life, you have impacted the future.

Remember that you will always be ambassadors for the University of the Virgin Islands. On behalf of the UVI faculty and staff, I salute you on your accomplishments and wish you Godspeed.

*David Hall*  
David Hall, S.J.D., President

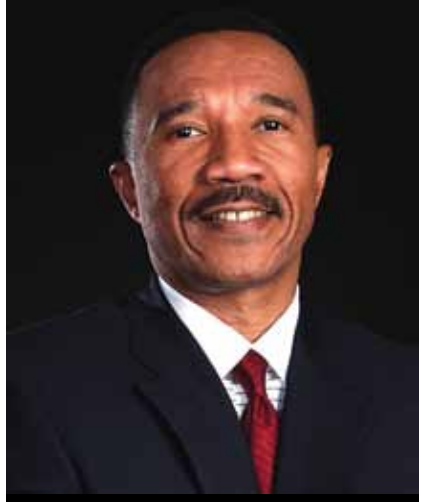
## Keynote Speaker - Honorary Doctorate

**Kweisi Mfume - Statesman, Commentator, Corporate Adviser, Activist, Orator, Author**

Kweisi Mfume was born, raised and educated in Baltimore and it was there that he followed his dreams to impact society and shape a more humane public policy. He graduated from Morgan State University and later returned there as an adjunct professor, teaching courses in Political Science and Communications. In 1984, he earned a Master's degree in Liberal Arts and a concentration in International Studies.

By the age of 31, Mfume had won his first election to the Baltimore City Council. During his seven years of service, he led the efforts to diversify city government, improve community safety, enhance business development and divest city funds from the then-apartheid government of South Africa.

In 1986, he was elected to the U.S. Congress, a seat that he was to hold for the next decade. Mfume was active with a broad array of committee obligations and consistently advocated landmark minority business and civil rights legislation. He successfully co-sponsored and helped to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act, strengthened the Equal Credit Opportunity Law and co-authored and successfully amended the Civil Rights Bill of 1991. He also sponsored legislative initiatives banning assault weapons and establishing stalking as a federal crime. Mfume has served as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Caucus' Chair of the Task Force on Affirmative Action and was appointed by the House Democratic Caucus as Vice-Chairman for Communications.



*The Honorable Kweisi Mfume*

Mfume left his Congressional seat to become President and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in February of 1996. During his nine years of service, he raised the national profile of the NAACP while helping to restore its prominence among the nation's civil rights organizations. He is widely credited with helping to raise more than \$100 million dollars in outside contributions for the organization while at the same time creating its national Corporate Diversity Project and establishing 75 new college-based chapters. He also helped secure the NAACP's official United Nations Status as a Non-Governmental Organization.

Mfume served as a national surrogate speaker for the "Obama for America" Presidential campaign in 2008. He recently served as interim Executive Director of the National Medical Association to help oversee the positioning of the nation's oldest African American Medical Association and its physicians in preparation for the implementation of the 2010 Affordable Health Care Act.

Mfume sits on the National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institute's of Health. He serves on the Morgan State University Board of Regents, the National Advisory Council of Boy Scouts of America, the American Society of Association Executives and the Association of Former Members of Congress. He is a member of Gamma Boulé Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and the Order of the Prince Hall Masons.

Mfume recently completed 12 years of service on the Johns Hopkins University Board of Trustees and was formerly a member of several boards and organizations including: the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, People for the American Way, the Meyerhof Scholars Advisory Board of the University of Maryland, the Senior Advisory Committee of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, the African American Advisory Board of PepsiCo, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Maryland and the Continuity of Government Commission.

For the last 12 years Mfume has lectured across the nation. He also has an extensive background in broadcasting that includes 13 years in radio, including hosting the nationally syndicated and NBC/Hearst TV special "The Remarkable Journey." He is the recipient of the NAACP Image Award and the 2005 Telly Award for the television documentary "Ticket to Freedom." Mfume is the recipient of ten honorary doctorate degrees and hundreds of other awards, proclamations, and citations. His best-selling autobiography is entitled, "No Free Ride."

## UVI HISTORY

The University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) was chartered on March 16, 1962, as the College of the Virgin Islands (CVI) – a publicly funded, coeducational, liberal arts institution – by Act No. 862 of the Fourth Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands. According to that law, UVI's cornerstone objective is to provide for “....the stimulation and utilization of the intellectual resources of the people of the Virgin Islands and the development of a center of higher learning whereby and wherefrom the benefits of culture and education may be extended throughout the Virgin Islands.”

The first campus opened on St. Thomas in July 1963, on 175 acres donated by the federal government. The first Board of Trustees took office in August 1963. In 1964, the college founded a campus on St. Croix, on 130 acres also donated by the federal government. At a ceremony on March 24, 2011, the St. Croix campus was named in honor of the late Albert A. Sheen, Sr. Also in March of 2011, UVI opened the St. John Academic Center in Cruz Bay, with interactive classrooms and computer facilities.

CVI began by offering only associate of arts degrees. UVI now offers numerous associate and baccalaureate degrees, including an associate's degree in process technology. UVI also offers six master's degree programs, an education specialist's degree program, and certificate workforce training courses through the UVI Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning Center.

In 1972, the College of the Virgin Islands was awarded Land-Grant status by the U.S. Congress. This allowed for the establishment of an Agricultural Experiment Station and a Cooperative Extension Service. Since then, many other programs and services have been added. These include the Reichhold Center for the Arts, the Eastern Caribbean Center, the William P. MacLean Marine Science Center and the UVI Sports & Fitness Center, among others.

In 1986, the College of the Virgin Islands was renamed the University of the Virgin Islands, reflecting the growth and diversification of its academic curricula, community and regional services, and research programs. That same year, the U.S. Congress named UVI one of America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). It is the only HBCU outside the continental U.S., and the first to offer an undergraduate degree in marine biology.

Dr. David Hall began his tenure as president of the University of the Virgin Islands on August 1, 2009. He succeeded Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster, who was named president in 2002. Dr. Orville Kean was named president in 1990, succeeding Dr. Arthur A. Richards, who became president in 1980. Lawrence C. Wanlass served as the first president of the College of the Virgin Islands from 1963 until 1980.

Today, UVI enrolls approximately 2,500 full-

time and part-time students on its two campuses. It continues to offer a high-quality, affordable liberal arts education in a culturally diverse environment. The University boasts more than 10,000 alumni who have gone on to excel as doctors, lawyers, judges, university and government administrators, teachers and other professionals. Among the many accomplished alumni are two Rhodes Scholars, the winner of a Pulitzer Prize for Journalism and the Premier of Nevis.

UVI holds active membership in many higher education associations, including the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association. The University is also an active member of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the American Association of University Women, the American Council on Education, the Association of Caribbean Information Systems and the Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes.

Cooperative agreements between the University of the Virgin Islands and many other leading universities allow UVI students to receive degrees not offered on the UVI campuses. The Boston University School of Medicine cooperative agreement allows qualified UVI students to be accepted provisionally into the medical school at the end of their sophomore year. These students spend two summers and their senior year at Boston University, graduate with a bachelor of science degree from the University of the Virgin Islands, and then proceed to complete medical school at Boston University.

UVI has established relationships with the University of St. Martin, H. Lavity Stoutt Community College in Tortola, Clarence Fitzroy Bryant State College in St. Kitts and Dominica State College, as well as other colleges in the Caribbean. Additionally, there are transfer programs in pre-engineering, pre-pharmacy and pre-medical technology for students who wish to begin their studies in these fields at the University of the Virgin Islands before transferring to a specialized institution to complete their degrees.

The National Student Exchange (NSE) program operates on UVI's campuses on St. Thomas and St. Croix. Each semester approximately 25 students from the U.S. mainland enroll through NSE. In addition, UVI continues to admit students via memoranda of understanding with the State University of New York at New Paltz, the College of Charleston, Emory University, Savannah State University (social work completion), Columbia University and Washington University in St. Louis (engineering), UNINTER (Universidad Internacional de Cuernavaca, Mexico) and the UNICA Caribbean Exchange Program.

The University of the Virgin Islands is increasingly being recognized as a leading American institution of higher learning in the Caribbean.

## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

### Regalia

The wearing of caps, gowns and hoods at graduation exercises is one of the oldest and most democratic of collegiate customs. It originated in the Middle Ages when the first universities were founded as clerical institutions. Besides distinguishing the wearers from laymen, the costume served a very practical purpose in the unheated churches and cloisters of the time. It often added grace to the individuals and impressiveness to the ceremonies in which they took part. Its chief virtue, however, was that it eliminated undemocratic differences in dress which might otherwise have marred an essentially democratic occasion.

Under the intercollegiate system adopted in 1893, the Oxford cap or "mortarboard" is worn for all degrees, but the doctor is entitled to a gold tassel and optional velvet cap. The sleeve of the master's gown is distinguished from the bachelor's by a half-moon cut at the end. The doctor's gown has faced-down fronts, and round bell sleeves with bars of velvet. The master's degree hood is longer than the bachelor's and the doctor's is longer than the master's. All hoods are lined with silk showing the official colors of the institution that conferred the degree.

The bachelor's and master's degree candidates at the University of the Virgin Islands wear hoods lined with Caribbean blue and white, the school colors. The bachelor's degree hoods are trimmed with white velvet to signify liberal arts, and with golden yellow velvet to signify science. UVI master's candidate hoods are also trimmed with velvet – light blue for education, drab to represent business, and peacock blue to indicate public administration.

### The Mace

The mace of the University of the Virgin Islands is the symbol both of presidential responsibilities and authority. Carved on the island of St. Croix from the wood of a local mahogany tree, one of God's most enduring symbols of life, the mace says that the responsibilities of the president are without end. It also says that the president cannot discharge

### Honors

#### Summa Cum Laude

Summa Cum Laude – "With Highest Praise" – an honor added to a diploma or degree for work that is considered to be of the highest quality.

Grade Point Average - 3.75 - 4.0

#### Magna Cum Laude

Magna Cum Laude – "With Great Praise" – an honor added to a diploma or degree for work considered to be of much higher quality than average.

Grade Point Average – 3.50 - 3.74

#### Cum Laude

Cum Laude – "With Praise" – an honor added to a diploma or degree for work that is above average.

Grade Point Average – 3.25 - 3.49

According to the Academic Costume Code, at most U.S. institutions the color of velvet trim indicates the following academic disciplines: agriculture/maize; economics/copper; engineering/orange; fine arts/brown; home economics/maroon; law/purple; library science/lemon; music/pink; nursing/apricot; philosophy/dark blue; physical education/sage green; public health/salmon pink; science/golden yellow; social science/cream; social work/citron; speech/silver gray.

those responsibilities without authority.

The mace is a three-foot long mahogany cylinder 1.5 inches in diameter topped by a four-inch mahogany ball into which a sterling silver reproduction of the University logo is set. The sterling silver logo was crafted on the island of St. Thomas.

# PROGRAM - St. Thomas Campus

Rita J. Howard, Ph.D., Professor of Education  
COMMENCEMENT MARSHAL

*PROCESSIONAL .....	“Pomp and Circumstance” (Elgar) University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band, LeRoy Trotman, Ph.D.
*INVOCATION .....	Leslyn Tonge, Class of 2013
*NATIONAL ANTHEM .....	“Star Spangled Banner” (Key) University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band
*VIRGIN ISLANDS MARCH .....	“Virgin Islands March” (Adams) University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band
MUSICAL SELECTION .....	“Moondust” (Henderson) University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band
WELCOME .....	David Hall, S.J.D., President
KEYNOTE ADDRESS .....	The Honorable Kweisi Mfume Business and Political Leader
AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES .....	President Hall
MUSICAL SELECTION .....	“Why We Sing” (Gilpin) University Concert Choir, Lorna C. Young-Wright, D.M.A
ADDRESS .....	Linda Ritter, Class of 2013
REMARKS .....	Alexander A. Moorhead Chairman, UVI Board of Trustees  The Honorable Shawn-Michael Malone President of the 30th Legislature of the Virgin Islands  The Honorable Donna M. Christensen Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress  The Honorable John P. deJongh, Jr. Governor, United States Virgin Islands
MUSICAL SELECTION .....	“Canto” (McBeth) University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES .....	Camille A. McKayle, Ph.D., Interim Provost
CONFERRING OF DEGREES	
Master of Arts in Education • Master of Business Administration • Master of Public Administration Master of Arts in Psychology • Master of Marine and Environmental Sciences Bachelor of Arts • Bachelor of Science Associate of Arts • Associate of Applied Science • Associate of Science	
INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION .....	Dionne V. Jackson Vice President for Institutional Advancement
*ALMA MATER .....	“Alma Mater by the Sea” (LaMotta) University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band and Choir
*BENEDICTION .....	Anya Stuart, Class of 2013
*RECESSIONAL .....	“Ceremonial Procession” (Elgar) University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band

\*Audience is requested to stand.

Every effort is made to ensure that this program is accurate; circumstances beyond our control may have resulted in unintentional errors.

# PROGRAM - Albert A. Sheen Campus - St. Croix

Gabriel Ogunmokun, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Business  
COMMENCEMENT MARSHAL

Conrad Spencer, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Mathematics  
COMMENCEMENT CO-MARSHAL

*PROCESSIONAL .....	“Pomp and Circumstance” (Elgar) University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band, Valrica Bryson
*INVOCATION .....	Ana M. Montanez, Class of 2013
*NATIONAL ANTHEM .....	“Star Spangled Banner” (Key) University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band
*VIRGIN ISLANDS MARCH .....	“Virgin Islands March” (Adams) University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band
WELCOME .....	David Hall, S.J.D., President
KEYNOTE ADDRESS .....	The Honorable Kweisi Mfume Business and Political Leader
AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES .....	President Hall
MUSICAL SELECTION .....	UVI Voices of Inspiration Community Choir, Josephine Thomas-Lewis
ADDRESS .....	Charnele M. Burton, Class of 2013
REMARKS .....	Alexander A. Moorhead Chairman, UVI Board of Trustees
	The Honorable Shawn-Michael Malone President of the 30th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
	The Honorable Donna M. Christensen Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress
	The Honorable John P. deJongh, Jr. Governor, United States Virgin Islands
MUSICAL SELECTION .....	University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES .....	Camille A. McKayle, Ph.D., Interim Provost
CONFERRING OF DEGREES	
Master of Arts in Education • Master of Public Administration • Master of Arts in Psychology Bachelor of Arts • Bachelor of Science Associate of Arts • Associate of Applied Science • Associate of Science	
INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION .....	Dionne V. Jackson Vice President for Institutional Advancement
COMMISSIONING CEREMONY .....	Major William Velazquez-Rivera Senior Military Science Instructor
*ALMA MATER .....	“Alma Mater by the Sea” (LaMotta) University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band
*BENEDICTION .....	Virginia K. Charles, Class of 2013
*RECESSIONAL .....	“Ceremonial Procession” (Elgar) University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band

\*Audience is requested to stand.

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## Honorary Doctorate

### The Honorable Terence A. Todman

Terence A. Todman, an International Consultant, is a retired U.S. Foreign Service Officer who holds the personal rank of Career Ambassador, a life-time title. He was Ambassador to Argentina (1989-93), Ambassador to Denmark (1983-89), Ambassador to Spain (1978-83), Ambassador to Costa Rica (1975-77), Ambassador to Guinea (1972-75) and Ambassador to Chad (1969-72). In 1977-78 he was Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. He retired from the U.S. Foreign Service in 1993.

Earlier in his career, Ambassador Todman served as Director of the Office of East African Affairs in the Department of State (1968-69), Deputy Chief of Mission and Charge d'Affaires in Lome, Togo (1965-68); Political Officer in Tunis, Tunisia (1961-64); Arabic Language and Area Specialist training in Beirut, Lebanon (1960-61); Political Officer in New Delhi, India (1957-59); Advisor to U.S. Delegations to the United Nations General Assembly and U.S. Representative on various United Nations Trusteeship Council committees (1954-57); U.S. Government Intern on the U.N. Secretariat (1954) and Desk Officer for India-Ceylon Nepal Affairs (1952-54). He served in the U.S. Army (1945-49) including a two-year tour as a commissioned officer in Japan.

Since his retirement, Ambassador Todman has served on Foreign Service Selection Boards to consider and recommend the promotion of the most senior Foreign Service Officers. He served on the Accountability Review Board which investigated the terrorist bombings of U.S. embassies in East Africa. In 2003 he was Special Envoy of the Organization of American States to promote dialog in Haiti. He served for four years as Advisor to the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands. He was a National Co-Chairman of the Ralph J. Bunche Centenary Commemoration Committee.

Ambassador Todman is on the Board of Directors of the National Endowment for Democracy, the Phelps Stokes Fund, the Constituency for Africa, the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, the American Academy of Diplomacy and the Atlantic Council of the U.S. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs, the American Foreign Service Association, the Association of Black American Ambassadors, the Black Professionals in International Affairs, the Thursday Luncheon Group and the Ambassadors Club.

Ambassador Todman has received the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, the National Public Service Award, the Public Diplomacy Award, the Department of State Superior Service Honor Award, the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award and the Department of State Director General's Cup. A special ceremony was held in his honor in Statuary Hall in the U.S. Congress. He has been decorated by the governments of Argentina, Chad, Denmark, Spain and the U.S. Virgin Islands. He has been inducted into the Hall of Fame of the U.S. Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia

Ambassador Todman was born and raised in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. He received a B.A. Summa Cum Laude from Inter-American University, Puerto Rico, an M.P.A. from Syracuse University in New York and has done further graduate studies at American University in Washington, D.C. He holds honorary doctorate degrees from Colgate, Syracuse, Morgan State and Boston Universities. He served for more than 20 years on the Board of Trustees of the University of the Virgin Islands and has been a member of Advisory Boards of Duke, Georgetown and Syracuse Universities.

Ambassador Todman is married to the former Doris Weston of St. Thomas, V.I. Their four children – Terence, Jr., Patricia, Kathryn and Michael – are pursuing their own careers.



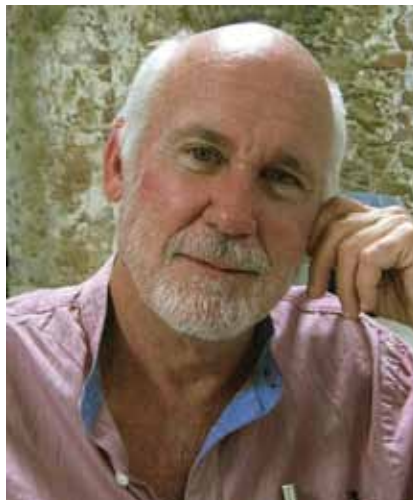
*The Honorable Terence A. Todman*



## Honorary Doctorate

### George F. Tyson

George F. Tyson is a public historian, who is recognized as a leading authority on Virgin Islands history. He has authored or co-authored numerous publications, including: "Toussaint L'Ouverture" (1973); "The Carolina Black Corps: Legacy of the American Revolution 1783-1798" (1976); "The Enighed Estate and Ruin of St. John: An Historical Survey" (1976); "Powder, Profits and Privateers: A Documentary History of the Virgin Islands During the Era of the American Revolution" (1977); "A Guide to Manuscripts in United States and West Indian Repositories Relating to the British West Indies During the Era of the American Revolution" (1978); "Robert Mackay Hughes and the Origins of Independence Sentiment on St. Thomas, 1870-1875" (1981); "The St. Thomas Harbor" (1985); "The Homestead Program on St. Croix" (1991); "On The Periphery of the Peripheries: The Cotton Plantations of St. Croix, Danish West Indies 1735-1815" (1992); "The Kamina Folk: Slavery and Slave Life in the Danish West Indies" (1994); "The Danish Slave Trade and Its Abolition" (1994); "Our Side: Caribbean Immigrants and the Transition to Free Labor on St. Croix 1849-1879" (1995); "Bondsmen and Freedmen in the Danish West Indies: Scholarly Perspectives" (1997); "In Search of Truth and Justice: The Writings of Ralph de Chabert 1916-1922" (2009); "Negotiating Enslavement: Perspectives on Slavery in the Danish West Indies" (2009); "Bethlehem: The History of a Crucian Sugar Plantation 1734-1966" (2011); and "Maritime Marronage From St. Croix to Puerto Rico 1734-1848" (2012).



*George F. Tyson*

In addition to writing and lecturing, Tyson is a cultural resource specialist, who has authored over seventy historical background studies for plantation and urban properties in the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as historic site inventories, museum reports and heritage tourism studies for the Virgin Islands and various Caribbean countries. In that capacity, he has held consultancies with government agencies, UNESCO, the OAS, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Museums Association of the Caribbean, the Island Resources Foundation and cultural resource management firms.

Having received his Master's degree in History from Columbia University in 1966, Tyson took up residence in the Virgin Islands. He lived on St. Thomas until 1992, and then moved to St. Croix, where he currently resides. In addition to teaching History at the University of the Virgin Islands, and working for many years as a Research Associate with the Island Resources Foundation, he has served as President of the St. Thomas Historical Trust, Executive Director of the St. Croix Landmarks Society, President of the Society of Virgin Islands Historians, Board Member the St. John Historical Society, Board Member of SUCCEED, Board Member of the Museums Association of the Caribbean, Advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and member of the Advisory Board to UNESCO's Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Program.

Currently, Tyson is Director of the St. Croix African Roots Project, a collaboration of Danish and American scholars engaged in documenting and studying the demographic characteristics, individual biographies and family histories of enslaved and free Crucians of African ancestry during the period of Danish rule (1734-1917). One major outcome of this project has been The St. Croix Population Database 1734-1917, consisting of nearly two million biographical records compiled from a vast array of historical documents archived in Denmark, the U.S. and the Virgin Islands. This still-evolving, educational resource, which is available online and at libraries on St. Croix, enables Virgin Islanders to reconstruct their history from an indigenous perspective and to trace their family roots back to African ancestors and to African homelands.

## President's Cabinet

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for Administration and Finance

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Dr. Haldane Davies  
Special Assistant to the President

## UVI Schools & Colleges

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Aubrey D. Washington, CPA  
Interim Dean

School of Education  
Linda V. Thomas, Ph.D.  
Interim Dean

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences  
Simon B. Jones-Hendrickson, Ph.D.  
Interim Dean

School of Nursing  
Cheryl P. Franklin, D.N.S.  
Dean

College of Science and Mathematics  
Sandra L. Romano, Ph.D.  
Interim Dean

## Commencement Committee

### St. Croix

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Laurel Hecker  
Anyha Lord-Jerris

Khalid Matthew – Student  
Gabriel Ogunmokun  
Diana Shepp  
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Riise Thurland  
Nereida Washington  
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Theodore Glasford  
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Tracie Wells-Clarke  
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*\* Alumni Association President*

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Orville E. Kean, Ph.D.

Arthur A. Richards, Ph.D. (deceased)

LaVerne E. Ragster, Ph.D.

## Alma Mater By the Sea

*Words and Music by Wilbur "Bill" LaMotta*

Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater  
Beside the blue Caribbean calm  
Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater  
'neath sunny skies and whisp'ring palm

Proud we are to tread thy ways  
Loud and true we voice our praise  
Open door thy every portal  
'mid sand and sea and golden days

Long the ties that will endure  
Strong in heart and memory  
Faithfully we'll always honor  
Our Alma Mater by the sea

Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater  
For guiding stars so brightly shown  
Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater  
How wide the bound'ries we have flown

Sing we now of bright tomorrows  
Yesterday we never knew  
Walking down thy halls of wisdom  
The towerin' heights are all in view

Here to us on islands famed  
Dear to us thy name will be  
University of the Virgin Islands  
Our Alma Mater by the sea.

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