

### **Jasmine Star Buttolph (BA in Psychology, 2005)**

I am so proud to be a UVI alumna. I remember in 2005 when I graduated, we were only the second group of folks to graduate with the degree on St. Croix. I think we were less than 10! I know that the program has grown, and the foundations are still with me today.

UVI's psychology program gave me a strong behavioral and statistical base to launch my career in public health and data science. Without the skills I learned, I would not be equipped to do many of the complex analyses I conduct regularly. I would also not have the behavioral science background to understand the implications of the work. Through UVI, I was connected with the Virgin Islands Department of Health where I was exposed to epidemiology and was encouraged to pursue my goal to serve as a public health Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco. After two and half years in Morocco, I earned my Master's in Public Health from Columbia University in the City of New York.

Following graduation, I was employed by New York University as a clinical trials director in Kenya. Developed and implemented gender-specific combination HIV prevention intervention in a mobile health delivery modality in western Kenya. Being from the Virgin Islands and being educated in the VI has made me a more effective advocate for global programs, particularly in Sub Saharan Africa where the cultural context is similar the Virgin Islands. I currently direct a data analytics unit or think tank for the federal government's program for global HIV programming called PEPFAR. I am detailed to the U.S. Department of State by Peace Corps.