



Philanthropy & You

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

University of the Virgin Islands

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Turning Pain into Purpose: The Jason Carroll Memorial Scholarship

Jason Carroll's parents laughed fondly as they recalled memories of their son. By the age of 12 he was taking aviation lessons and already had a determination to succeed. "When he learned that whoever got the highest grade would get to

Memorial Scholarship Fund has annually awarded a one-year scholarship to an incoming freshman. Scholarship applicants must compose a 1,000-word essay on how to end gun violence in the territory. Mrs. Carroll said it gets students

men in our community," said 2007-2008 recipient Jamilya Christopher. Not able to qualify for federal student aid, Christopher said the scholarship has been her only source of financial assistance. To her surprise, the Carrolls have provided a portion of her tuition every year since she first received the scholarship.

"The Carrolls' commitment is a one-year scholarship to an incoming freshman," said Mitchell Neaves, UVI's director of Major Gifts. "What they have done is go above and beyond to give additional funding to past recipients once extra funds are available," Neaves said.

It's no exaggeration that the Carrolls have become like family to the students who receive scholarships in their son's name. "Kirwin, Jamilya, Kristell, we talk for hours on end," Judge Carroll said. The Carrolls' giving goes beyond the financial. "They are really passionate," noted Neaves. "They are interested in the students' progress and always ask how they are doing. Their only request is that students can get through, do right and be a symbol against gun violence," Neaves said. "It's really impressive the way they have approached this."

"We took the wrong that happened and turned it around to something good," Mrs. Carroll said. "We feel so honored to be able to help young people fulfill their destinies," Judge Carroll added.



Judge James & Mrs. Celia Carroll



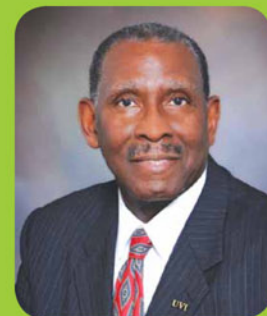
Jason Carroll

fly the plane, he jumped at it," his mother Celia Carroll recalled. "He made sure he got the highest grade so that he could fly that plane," she said with a knowing laugh. "People would always say he was so respectful," his father, V.I. Superior Court Judge James Carroll III, remembered. "I always felt good when that came back to me."

It has been 11 years since the promising University of the Virgin Islands student was cut down in his prime – killed on St. Thomas in a senseless act of violence. The Carrolls have turned their pain into purpose and memorialized Jason with a scholarship in his name at UVI. Since 2005, the Jason Carroll

to seriously think about violence in the community and possible solutions. Judge Carroll added that it also allows applicants to make a personal commitment toward ending violence. Recipients often become involved in the Annual Walk/Run Against Gun Violence, the scholarship's main fund-raiser, and other projects of Mrs. Carroll's Mothers Against Guns organization. Kirwin Hodge, the scholarship's only male recipient, said he is proud to be connected with the intent of the Jason Carroll Memorial Scholarship.

"When I saw the topic, first off I thought that it was a relevant topic that's really affecting the young



Welcome to the debut edition of Philanthropy and You!

We thank you for your support of the University of the Virgin Islands. We want to keep you informed about how the money you contribute is being used to fulfill dreams. This is about you – your contributions, your sacrifice, your caring, your philanthropy. You make wonderful things happen at UVI. On behalf of our Board of Trustees, my cabinet, faculty, staff and the student body, I thank YOU.

Sincerely,

David Hall, President
University of the
Virgin Islands



Kiril Sokoloff

Historic Gift to UVI to Create a New Generation of Entrepreneurs

Kiril Sokoloff has the same mission for the U.S. Virgin Islands as he has for the rest of the world – to make it a better place. When his asset allocation and investment research firm, 13D Research, relocated to the U.S. Virgin Islands as a tenant of the University of the Virgin Islands Research and Technology Park, Sokoloff found someone with a similar mission – UVI’s President Dr. David Hall.

“I knew that one day I would contribute to that mission,” Sokoloff said at a press conference in May. “That day has now come,” Sokoloff said, as he pledged \$5 million to the University. Sokoloff’s gift is one of the largest donations ever received from a single donor in the University’s history. It will endow two initiatives at UVI – the Kiril Sokoloff Distinguished Professorship in Entrepreneurship in the

School of Business and the 13D Entrepreneurship Student Competition.

“Trying to make the world a better place is really the only purpose of being here on earth. You have to find opportunities that can make an impact,” Sokoloff said. “It’s never just one person. I’m really a small part of this vision,” he later said.

The Kiril Sokoloff Distinguished Professorship will be the first endowed chair at the University of the Virgin Islands. The professorship will enable UVI to recruit a nationally known expert in the field of entrepreneurship. The 13D Entrepreneurship Competition will be a year-long educational experience designed to encourage UVI undergraduate and graduate students to explore and develop their ideas and business plans, and focus their energies to contribute to the production of tomorrow’s leading companies. Several awards in cash

or business start-up services will be provided to winning teams. It is anticipated that students will utilize cash awards received to support their continuing education, and as seed money in the start up of new businesses.

“We intend to make entrepreneurialism a campus-wide initiative,” said UVI Provost Dr. Karl Wright. “We are poised to educate a new generation of Caribbean entrepreneurs.”

Dr. Hall called the gift a “game-changer.” “This strategic investment in the entrepreneurial spirit of the University and our students has the potential to transform the economic conditions of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Caribbean region,” he said at the press conference. “This is more than a gift of \$5 million,” he added. “This is an act of faith by a man of faith and tremendous vision. This day and this gift move us further down the road to greatness.”

