

Philanthropy & You

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

University of the Virgin Islands

WWW.UVI.EDU

Males Across the Territory 'Man Up'

VI Departments of Lottery and Human Services Make it Possible



Actors perform "Real Men Talking" at the 2nd Annual Man Up Male Empowerment Conference.

UVI President Dr. David Hall knows that bright, strong, committed young men will make a difference in the territory. He also knows that having an education is a key to making that difference. Early in his tenure as president Dr. Hall formed the UVI Male Initiative. It seeks to attract more young men to the University, and to promote the success of male students at UVI and in the larger Virgin Islands community. The signature product of the Male Initiative is the Man Up Male Empowerment Conference. Now in its second year, the conference brings thousands of young men from middle and senior high schools to the University's

campuses for a day of motivation and enlightenment.

"We know that college will make your life better," Dr. Hall said at the 2nd Annual Man Up Conference in February 2012. "Our message is that college is within your reach," he said. "You are at home. This University belongs to you." The theme of this year's conference was "Realize Your Potential – Celebrating Responsible Manhood."

The enormous task of preparing an impactful program and hosting young men in seventh through twelfth grades at the University takes considerable resources. This year an evening session was added for adult males and families.

"The Man Up Conference is quite an undertaking. It requires the coordination of some 10-12 subcommittees," said Dr. Haldane Davies, special assistant to the president. "The financial support of the Virgin Islands Lottery's Youth Enrichment Initiative Program in 2011 and this year from the VI Department of Human Services gave us the extra boost to move forward," Dr. Davies said.

VI Lottery Executive Director Conrad Francois said after meeting with Dr. Hall it was clear why the conference



Students on St. Croix react to the Man Up Male Empowerment Conference.

needed to take place. "President Hall clearly recognizes the issues that are facing our young men within our community and the sense of urgency needed to be taken to address the need for these young men to transition successfully from lower level *continued on next page*



Throughout the country, charitable giving is becoming increasingly critical for the financial health and long-term stability of organizations. The same is true for this University. That is why we are so deeply grateful for the support that is given to UVI. As the only accredited higher educational institution in the Territory, UVI meets the educational needs of the local population and prevents the brain drain that has plagued our community.

Even in this most difficult economic period of our generation, UVI remains committed to fulfilling its promise to provide quality education and doing its part to cultivate an educated class in the Virgin Islands and the region.

To continue its role as an educational resource, we need your continued support. If you've given a gift to UVI, please renew your commitment today. If you've never made a contribution to this institution, this is the time to do so. Your support will make the difference as UVI continues on its "Pathway to Greatness."

Onward and Upward,

Dionne V. Jackson
Vice-President for
Institutional Advancement



A Central High School student asks questions of Marlon Smith, director of the "Real Men Talking" multimedia stage play that was part of the conference.

grade school to high school and from there on to a college campus or at least a trade school," Francois said.

The VI Lottery takes interest in seeing young people succeed, Francois said. "We are about more than just gaming. We view philanthropy as good citizenship."

As the Administrator of the Division of Family Assistance at the VI Department of Human Services, Lennox Zamore knows all too well the void created by the absence of responsible fathers and males. "The absence of fathers in homes and males in institutions of learning and work is alarming," Zamore said. "We have to pull all stops to address and remedy the problem."

Zamore said the Department of Human Services has a

federal and local mandate under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to promote and support the

formation and maintenance of two-parent families "The conference cuts across almost all the issues affecting males today. It is the most poignant attempt to reach young males that I know of," Zamore said.

"The addition of the evening session for fathers and families was effective, and together with coordinated private and public sector efforts we are making a difference," he added.

"It was our hope that businesses within the Territory and private individuals alike would recognize this initiative as one that could benefit greatly from combined resources that address the community's needs," Francois said.

"The conference cuts across almost all the issues affecting males today. It is the most poignant attempt to reach young males that I know of."

-Lennox Zamore

Ways to Give to the University

There are many ways to support the University of the Virgin Islands. Most donors make gifts and pledge payments by check, credit card, or automatic bank drafts. Others take advantage of tax savings that come from giving appreciated stocks, shares of mutual funds, or real estate. Donors contribute gifts-in-kind, such as works of art, antique furnishings, or rare books and manuscripts for the library. Regardless of the way you make your gift, the University is committed to using these resources to enhance campus life.

Whether in the form of annual giving, endowment support, or funds for capital projects, outright gifts make an immediate impact on the University. The gift may be designated for any academic program, or left entirely unrestricted to give the University the greatest flexibility to direct funds where they are needed.

Annual Giving

Annual gifts provide a constant stream of flexible income that can make the difference between a good education and a great one. These funds support increased student aid, the purchase of books, equipment, technology, and academic and athletic programming. UVI's annual giving pro-

gram raises private gifts on behalf of the University's academic divisions and other areas such as Athletics, University Libraries, the Reichhold Center and Student Affairs.

Endowed Gifts

Benefiting the University community in perpetuity, endowment gifts are invested to generate a steady stream of income for professorships, scholarships, fellowships, lectureships and many other purposes. Donors may also create unrestricted endowments, which produce resources that can be used where the need is greatest.

Matching Gifts

Many companies encourage their employees to make charitable contributions by matching their philanthropic support. At UVI, donors receive credit for their employers' matching gifts. Matching gifts are quickly becoming an important source of funds for the University. They also are an important way for companies to allow employees to direct a portion of the monies earmarked for charitable contribution. Contact your human resources department to find out if your company will match your contribution to UVI.

*For more information contact the University Development Office at:
(340) 693-1040.*

Innovative and UVICELL Create 'SAT Master'

De'Moi Lettsome calls himself an "SAT master" and "a connoisseur of SATs." The Charlotte Amalie High School senior said his confidence in taking and mastering the SATs comes from the preparation he has received from participating in the Innovative SAT Prep Program. A collaboration between Innovative and the University of the Virgin Islands - Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning Center (UVICELL), the Saturday program provides 40 public high school students in the U.S. Virgin Islands with instruction and materials to prepare them for the SAT.

On Feb. 14, Innovative presented UVICELL with a \$26,600 check to fund the 2012 installment of the program. Now in its eighth year, the three-year program assists college bound students in preparing for the SAT college entrance examination.

The program is unique in that it tracks the progress of students from their freshman through senior years. Using a variety of educational tools and mock exams, the program assists students in reducing testing anxiety, building confidence and improving their test-taking ability. This SAT prep program increased overall SAT scores about 10 percent each year. More than 300 students have participated since its inception.



De'Moi Lettsome

"Innovative is committed to education, literacy and programs that augment our educational system," said Innovative's Vice President of Public Relations and Governmental Affairs Jennifer Matarangas-King. "We are very proud that we have been able to fund such a successful program," she said. "One of the things we take pride in is the entire educational cycle. This is the only way to ensure that we have a well-educated workforce and a good community."

UVICELL Director Ilene Garner expressed her delight at Innovative's continued support of the program. "We recognize that we're facing some tough economic times where critical programs are being scaled back or eliminated," Garner said. "We have a number of students and parents who depend on this program to help secure scholarships and gain access to higher education," continued Garner.

UVI's Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dionne V. Jackson thanked Innovative for its continued support of UVI. "It really speaks volumes about Innovative's com-



Center: Innovative's Vice President of Public Relations and Governmental Affairs Jennifer Matarangas-King presents a check to UVI's Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dionne V. Jackson, left, and UVICELL Director Ilene Garner.

"One of the things we take pride in is the entire educational cycle. This is the only way to ensure that we have a well-educated workforce and a good community." -Jennifer Matarangas-King

mitment to the people of the territory," Jackson said.

As a community partner, Innovative pays attention to the needs of community and participates in the process of making it better, Matarangas-King said. The company supports many educational initiatives including a scholarship program that provides 12 UVI students with \$2,000 scholarships. Innovative also supports UVI's Reichhold Center for the Arts.

"I enjoy doing this," Matarangas-King said. "It's great when you can hear people say 'I was part of a program and it helped me.' It's not just about writing checks. It's about being engaged," she added. "Every way we can make a difference we try to."



Kirwin Hodge Creates a Recipe for Success

UVI Psychology major Kirwin Hodge has discovered what it takes for perpetual academic success: working hard to keep his grades high and continually seeking scholarships. Doing those two things, in that particular order, has landed Hodge several scholarships.

“I try to make sure that my grades are up to standard,” Hodge said. For the Spring 2011 semester he excelled by earning a perfect grade point average (GPA) of 4.0.

Hodge, one of the Golden Eagle Financial Scholarship recipients for 2011, said his scholarship has not only helped him to stay in college, but to excel in his academics. “If I didn’t get scholarships

my grades would be affected,” Hodge said, affirming that he would have to get a job. Diverting his attention and energy away from his academics by working outside of school would consequently result in lower grades, he noted. If his grades were low, he would not qualify for scholarships.

“I’ve seen a lot of good students, but their grades drop because they are fatigued from working,” Hodge commented. He is grateful that the Golden Eagle Financial Scholarship has allowed him to focus on one thing – his academics.

Golden Eagle Financial, LLP (GEF) recognizes the need to provide scholarships for deserving students.

“Scholarships provide a direct vehicle to positively impact the educational outcomes of students attending the University,” said GEF’s Chief Operating Officer Yasmine Haynes. “I have encountered high school seniors who weren’t even thinking about college because ‘it cost too much;’ however, once they know of all their options, including scholarship opportunities at UVI as well as schools on the mainland, the possibility of attending college is more attainable.”

Without the worry of where his next tuition payment is coming from, Hodge obsesses on his grades, knowing that his next scholarship very well depends on his



Kirwin Hodge

maintaining a high GPA. That has created a lifecycle of success.

“Golden Eagle Financial, LLLP is committed to supporting and enhancing education in the Virgin Islands,” Haynes said. “We have to prepare our young men and women to enter the workforce (locally and abroad) and a college education provides a competitive advantage. GEF is proud to be a supporter of the University of the Virgin Islands.”

