



# dateline: UVI

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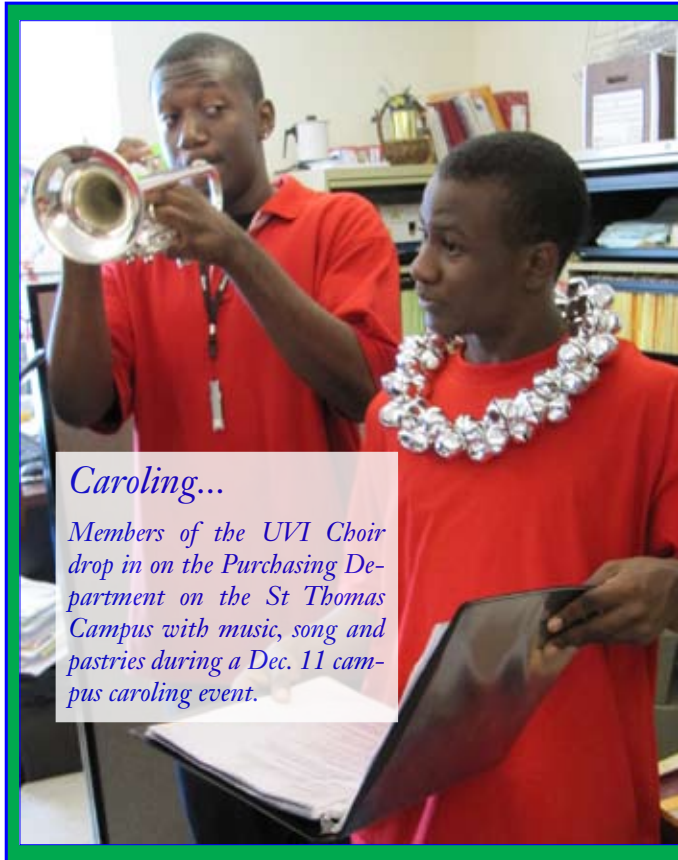
## Golden Key Opens Virgin Islands Season of Charity

Student members of the SUVI Golden Key International Honour Society have welcomed the season of giving.

Honor society members said their faculty advisors provided the inspiration for a Thanksgiving clothing drive benefitting the people of Haiti. Advisors also encouraged support of a Salvation Army toy drive on St. Thomas.

Advisor Andrea Hamm said, "All of the donations were generously given from students, faculty and staff. So far we have 10 barrels of clothing and we had a generous donation from Mia's Fashions, a local business."

Golden Key Vice President Ernest Smithens also thanked Berle Williams from the Central 7th Day Adventist Church of St. Croix for adding to clothing donations. He credited Business



*Caroling...  
Members of the UVI Choir drop in on the Purchasing Department on the St Thomas Campus with music, song and pastries during a Dec. 11 campus caroling event.*

Administration Professor Dr. Solomon Kabuka for help in reaching a professor in Port-Au-Prince to accept the donations.

Hamm and Smithens say barrels will be prepared for shipment after the UVI holiday recess.

Society President Kwesi Williams said he's pleased with the support being given to the St. Thomas toy drive. "They give out teddy bears to the children and it was brought to our attention by one of our advisors, Dr. Patricia Hawkins-Pierre," Williams said.

Golden Key leaders also expressed satisfaction with the way society members joined in. "One of my major concerns is to make a difference and the way to do that

is by coming together," Smithens said.

Smithens and Williams also thanked society members Kurt Alexander, Troi Williams, Keroma Pollock, Nicola Maduro, Triola Browne, Jadee Caines, Chelcy Angol, Dacil Heyliger, Keri Weeks, Campbell Douglas, Erica Haliday, Jo-Anne Neale and Derron Ambrose for their volunteer efforts.



*Ring in holiday cheer on Dec. 12 at the Holiday Gala at Divi Carina Bay Resort; from left, Yvonne Lawrence (HR - STT), Nereida Washington (Campus Administrator - STX), and Linda I. Smith (Alumni Affairs-Annual Giving - STX).*

### Events Calendar

Dec. 21-Jan. 3	University Holiday Recess	STT/STX
Dec. 24-Jan. 3	Crucian Christmas Festival	STX
Jan. 4	Faculty/Staff Return	STT/STX
Jan. 5	English Placement Test	STT/STX
Jan. 6	Three Kings Day (Holiday)	STT/STX
Jan. 11	Start Spring '10 Semester	STT/STX
Jan. 15	Soweto Choir (Reichhold)	STT

## UVI Sophomore Wins Title of St. Croix Festival Queen

An 18-year-old sophomore from the UVI St. Croix campus has been crowned the 2009-2010 Miss St. Croix Crucian Christmas Festival Queen. The new queen, Marcellina Ventura, said she wants to use her new notoriety to keep festival goers, all motorists and pedestrians, safe.

Ventura won her title Dec. 12 during a pageant at Island Center, competing against two other contestants. She captured the titles of Festival Queen, Miss Intellect, Best Cultural Costume and Miss Popularity.

At the end of the contest she was crowned by her predecessor, 2008-2009 Festival Queen Sheniqua Robinson, who is also a student at UVI. The new queen said she was pleased with her win and proud to represent her home island. "I love St. Croix. I'm very passionate

about the island," she said.

She also said the best part of the competition, for her, was the public presentation. Ventura spoke out about the dangers of drunk driving, which became a personal topic after the death of her best friend in a St. Croix traffic accident one year ago.

One day after her victory the new festival queen was back in study mode. When she returned to the classroom, she said both teachers and students cheered her on. "I had an exam the very next day and a lot of my classmates congratulated me. They were very supportive," she said.

Ventura, who hopes to major in criminal justice, is the latest UVI student to win the title of St. Croix festival queen. Members of the Crucian Christmas Festival Queen Committee also named Robinson, Angela Martinez and Francilla Francis among their previous UVI royalty.



*UVI Sophomore Marcellina Ventura, Miss St. Croix 2009-2010. Photo: STX Festival Committee*



*Year-end celebrations on St. Croix and St. Thomas included well wishes for Mavis Gilchrist. Gilchrist, second from left, was feted at events on both islands to mark the end of 32 years of service to the UVI Financial Aid and other offices.*

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