



# dateline: UVI

The monthly newsletter of The University of the Virgin Islands

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## Inauguration Watches Draw Dozens

It was standing room only in the Dining Pavilion on UVI's St. Thomas campus for the viewing of the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Students, employees and members of the community gathered in front of the large screen TV to witness the nation's first African-American president take his oath of office.

The air was filled with anticipation, then the crowd erupted into cheers as cameras panned in on Obama entering the Capitol Building. Attendees stood as Obama said his oath, bursting into applause and cheers when he had finished.

Many wore t-shirts that bore Obama's name or likeness and Obama pins that were distributed by the Student Activities Office.

President Obama's rise as leader of the United States meant similar things to UVI students. "It means a lot, not only because he's African American," said freshman Ciara Joseph, but also because of "his thoughts, his purpose, the ideas he has for changing America."



Top: UVI students and employees, and members of the community gather at the St. Thomas campus' Dining Pavilion to view the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Bottom: Students applaud at the Inauguration ceremony.



Freshman Shantee Seive-wright remained in the Dining Pavilion watching inaugural proceedings after most spectators had left. She was taking notes for an English class assignment. She said that Obama's presidency represented freedom. "I feel we'll be included this time," she said.

Senior finance major Adlah Donastorg III said the 2008 presidential election sparked his interest in national politics. "I have high expectations for him," Donastorg said of the new president. "Hopefully he can live up to them."

Jamalie Thomas, a sophomore accounting major, said President Obama's inauguration was the first one that he has watched. Thomas was amazed at the turnout. "The number of people there for (the inauguration of) one person is just unbelievable," he said. Thomas said he was touched by the reaction of people who lived through segregation and also lived

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### Events Calendar

Jan. 29	Wellness Center Groundbreaking	STT	Feb. 10	Public Relations Workshop	STX
Jan. 29	Financial Literacy Workshops	STX	Feb. 11	Institutional Advancement Forum	STJ
Jan. 29	Financial Literacy Workshops	STT	Feb. 12	Institutional Advancement Forum	STX
Jan. 31	Playing Ring at Reichhold Center	STT	Feb. 13	Public Relations Workshop	STT
Feb. 4-5	Thurgood Marshall Conference	STT	Feb. 14-16	USVI Agriculture Fair	STX
Feb. 6	Climate Workshop	STT	Feb. 17	Institutional Advancement Forum	STT
Feb. 7	Mario at Reichhold Center	STT			

## UVI Presidential Search Yields Two Finalists

Two presidential candidates were introduced to the University community on Jan. 27, 28 and 29. Dr. Calvin Jamison and Dr. David Hall, the finalists to replace UVI President LaVerne E. Ragster, were selected after an extensive national search process. The UVI Board of Trustees will meet on Jan. 30 and 31 to interview the two candidates and hopes to name the new president in early February.



*Dr. Calvin Jamison*



*Dr. David Hall*

Hall holds both doctorate of juridical science and LL.M. degrees from Harvard Law School, a J.D. and M.A. from the University of Oklahoma and a B.A. from Kansas State University.

The presidential search was conducted by a 15-member Search Committee appointed by the UVI Board of Trustees. It included a broad representation from UVI and the Virgin

Islands community.

Isaacson Miller, a national executive search firm, was retained by the Board to assist the Search Committee in recruiting and screening candidates for the position. The search process included the review of over 70 applications received in response to local and national advertisements as well as the search firm's contact with over 300 leaders in higher education on the U.S. mainland and the Caribbean.

Dr. Ragster will step down on June 30, after seven years as president of UVI.

Dr. Jamison is presently the vice president for Business Affairs at the University of Texas at Dallas, and is a clinical professor in the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences. He has over 25 years of experience in higher education, corporate America and local government. Dr. Jamison holds B.S., M.A. and Ed.D degrees from Virginia Tech.

Dr. Hall is currently a Professor of Law at Northeastern University School of Law and has had a career as an administrator in the law school and the university. Dr.

### *Prepared for Emergency*

*St. Croix's Acting Campus Executive Administrator Nereida Washington, right, and St. Thomas Acting Campus Executive Administrator Lilly Mae Durante strategize at a Jan. 16 emergency drill on UVI's St. Croix campus. An explosion and fire with injuries were simulated. The drill was designed to test the effectiveness of the St. Croix campus emergency response procedures. Once the drill was completed, HOVENSA Fire Chief Bob Miller said the drill had served its purpose.*



### Inauguration Continued

to witness the historic inauguration. "He's setting the standard high for what we can be," Thomas said, "and he's just so cool, he's just so smooth."

Inauguration Watch stations were also set up on the St. Thomas campus at the Student Activities Center and the Health Services Office and on the St. Croix campus at the Cafetorium.

*dateline:* UVI is a production of the UVI Public Relations Office. Contact us by telephone at 340-693-1056 or by fax at 340-693-1055.

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