



# dateline: UVI

The monthly newsletter of The University of the Virgin Islands

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## UVI Gets its First Electric Vehicle

Students, faculty and staff on SUVI's Albert A. Sheen Campus on St. Croix may have already seen him – Bubble Buddy. The 4P Electro Bubble Buddy is UVI's first electric vehicle. Observing the efficiency of the fuel-powered utility cart used by the Physical Plant department, Associate Campus Executive Administrator Nereida Washington envisioned something similar for the Security Department.

"Security does a lot of commuting on campus – between buildings, patrolling campus and unlocking doors," Washington said. "I said if this (utility cart) is so efficient for the Custodial area, then it can



*Left to right: Security Officer Celestine Cuffy and Security Department Supervisor Ralph Cook, patrol the Albert A. Sheen Campus on St. Croix in UVI's first electric vehicle.*

be efficient for Security." But instead of just purchasing any utility cart, Washington sought an environmentally friendly alternative, aligned with the goals of UVI's "Going Green" initiative. She initiated the purchase of the institution's first electric car, for use by the Security Department, based on that model.

"There are no emissions from electric vehicles as there are with gas and diesel vehicles, which is better for our environment," Washington said. "In addition, we also expect cost savings will

be generated over the vehicle's useful life from the low

*See Electric Vehicle on next page*

## Golden Key Honors Four



*Left to right: Makijab Crabbe, Cornel Williams, Sharon Esdaille (on behalf of Dr. Eustace L. Esdaille), Edward Thomas, Mary Joe Williams and Fabeanne Collins.*

Four members of the Virgin Islands community were recognized by the University of the Virgin Islands Golden Key Honour Society St. Thomas chapter at a reception on Nov. 13. Dr. Eustace L. Esdaille, Edward Thomas, Mary Joe Williams and Cornel Williams were selected as Golden Key honorary members for exemplifying the qualities and values of the organization and for being active in the areas of scholarship, leadership and service. They will be officially inducted in April.

Dr. Esdaille is a UVI professor and director of the Center for Student Success. Edward Thomas is the for-

mer president of the West Indian Company Limited and a member of the UVI Board of Trustees. Mary Joe Williams is a training coordinator and business counselor at the VI Small Business Development Center. Cornel Williams is the president of International Capital and Management Company.

"This event was an opportunity for prospective and current Golden Key members as well as prospective

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### *Events Calendar*

Nov. 30-Dec. 1	VIUCEDD Training	STT/STX
Nov. 30	RTPark Board Meeting	STX
Dec. 1	Book Signing	STX
Dec. 1	Holiday Children's Show	STT
Dec. 2-4	Woodworkers Expo	STX
Dec. 5-10	Final Exams	STT/STX
Dec. 5 & 8	Holiday Baking Workshop	STT
Dec. 10	Holiday Gala	STX
Dec. 11	Holiday Gala	STT

## **Thank You!**

*UVI said thank you to hundreds of its donors this November with the first ever Thank-a-Thon, conducted by the Office of Alumni Affairs. Volunteers called donors who have contributed to the UVI annual fund over the past ten years and thanked them for their support. Pictured above, Dr. Nancy Morgan, a UVI professor, thanks a donor.*



## **Golden Key Continued**

and current honorary members to meet each other and build a strong network,” said Chapter President Makijah Crabbe.

Crabbe, who took the role of president this semester, has been leading the chapter in a variety of efforts. A Holiday Drive to collect toys, socks, clothing and underwear for children ages 5 to 13 years old is ongoing until Dec. 2. During the semester, members of Golden Key have volunteered in a variety of events, including the St. Thomas/St. John Agriculture and Food Fair, Project Homeless Connect, Red Ribbon Week, Fall Fest and Hispanic Heritage Month.

Crabbe is looking forward to the Scholars’ Social planned for next semester. It will unite honor society members from high schools and junior high schools throughout St. Thomas for a day on the campus.

To be eligible for Golden Key membership, students must have a grade point average of at least 3.3. For more information, call Chapter Advisor and Counseling Supervisor Dahlia Stridiron at 693-1136.

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## **Electric Vehicle Continued**

maintenance cost and savings on electric versus the gas expenses.”

According to UVI’s Energy Manager Courtney Mayes, the Bubble Buddy saves the equivalent of \$30 per tank of gas. One tank of gas for the traditional Security Department vehicle costs about \$53, Mayes explained. The Bubble Buddy is charged by about \$20 worth of electricity, she said. The electric vehicle costs approximately \$30 per 300 miles to operate. That savings doesn’t include the use of the solar panel with which it is equipped.

“We don’t know what additional saving the solar panel will give us at this time,” Mayes said. “But ideally, if it stays in the sun, we don’t have to charge it at all.”

Washington said the electric vehicle has been positive for the campus in many ways. The open air design of the vehicle allows security personnel more interaction with people around campus. “It sends a different message from driving around in an SUV with the windows rolled up,” Washington said. “The security presence is important.”

Security Department Supervisor Ralph Cook said the vehicle has an additional advantage: “it can go some places where the regular vehicle can’t go.” The department uses the Bubble Buddy to patrol during daylight hours. “Overall I think it’s a good thing,” Cook said. “These days, with the price of gas being so high, this is a big savings.”

Washington hopes the use of the electric vehicle serves as a pilot program to determine if additional vehicles should be replaced with electric vehicles.

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