



dateline: UVI

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UVI in Recovery After Hurricane Omar

When Hurricane Omar struck the territory on Oct. 15 and 16, the island of St. Croix was hit the hardest and UVI's St. Croix campus subsequently received more damage than the St. Thomas campus. The St. Croix campus experienced uprooted trees, water damage in offices, classrooms and residence halls, power outages and generator problems.

UVI was closed Oct. 15 and 16. Faculty and staff returned to work on Oct. 17 and classes resumed on Oct. 20. In a voice mail message to the UVI community on Oct. 17, President Ragster said the territory is fortunate to have escaped worse damage, announced the recovery mode and asked everyone to be patient as UVI worked toward normalcy.

"We are fortunate in the fact that the storm impacted us less than it could have," Dr. Ragster said. "Despite the diffi-



Photo courtesy of St. Croix CEA's Office
A tree uprooted by Hurricane Omar on UVI's St. Croix campus.

culties we're having at the moment, it could have been worse." She asked that the UVI family be more tolerant and kinder to each other in the aftermath of and recovery from the hurricane.

"Although we live in a part of the world that does have to go through these natural hazards, we also live in a part of the world that has wonderful people that care about each other, especially during times of difficulty like these," Dr.

Ragster said 24 hours after the hurricane's passing.

Giving an update one week after the hurricane's passing, Acting St. Croix Campus Executive Administrator Nerida Washington thanked the employees on the St. Croix campus for their collective support. She specifically thanked the members of the Physical Plant department under the leadership of Arthur Joseph for their "Herculean efforts on restoring the campus."

While technological services on the St. Croix campus were not functional following the storm, services were restored as of Oct. 22.

No damage estimates have been made available so far.

Volleyball Action



Photo by Dale Morton

UVI Men's Volleyball team battles in a home game at the Sports and Fitness Center on Oct. 10.

Events Calendar

Oct. 27	Alumni Meeting	STT
Oct. 27-30	Red Ribbon Week	STT/STX
Oct. 28	Staff Council Meeting	STT/STX
Oct. 31	Halloween Costume Party	STT
Nov. 1	Board of Trustees Meeting	STX
Nov. 2	World Food Day	STX
Nov. 7	Film Screening	STX
Nov. 19-21	GIS Conference	STT
Nov. 20	Incentive Awards Ceremony	STT
Nov. 21	Incentive Awards Ceremony	STX
Nov. 22-23	St. Thomas/St. John Ag Fair	STT
Nov. 22-29	Paradise Jam	STT

UVI Designer Shines on the Runway



Photos by Dale Morton

Models, some of whom are UVI students, fashion designs created by UVI student Cliaunjel Williams at Virgin Islands Fashion Week Caribbean Catwalk runway show.

In her first public showing outside of the University, UVI student Cliaunjel Williams won the “Young Emerging Fashion Designer Competition” at the 2008 Virgin Islands Fashion Week. Williams, a biology major, featured seven pieces from her “From Trash to Treasure” collection at the Caribbean Catwalk runway show. The pieces were created from plastic bags. Beautifully detailed, the pieces combined creativity and couture. As winner of the competition, Williams’ prizes include having her designs featured in a spread in Posh Caribbean Magazine.



Cliaunjel Williams

Excited about the feedback surrounding her work, Williams said she looks forward to the launch of her clothing line Cliaunjel sometime in 2009. Meanwhile she looks forward to designing the costumes for the UVI 2009 Carnival troupe entry and earning her degree in biology in May.

Williams’ designs will be again featured at the UVI St.

Thomas campus’ “Going Green” presentation at noon on Nov. 3, in the Dining Pavillion. The “From Trash to Treasure” collection will complement the theme of recycling and eco-friendliness. Williams, who hopes to continue a career in fashion designing and nurse midwifery, began designing clothing as a student at St. Croix’s Central High School.

VI Fashion Week, now in its second year, seeks to unite established and emerging local, regional and international fashion and accessory designers, models, photographers, stylists and media companies. The events were held Oct. 9-13 on St. Thomas.

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