Fifty-Second Annual

Commencement

ST. THOMAS
Thursday, the Twelfth of May
Two Thousand and Sixteen
Half after One O’clock in the Afternoon
Sports and Fitness Center
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

ST. CROIX
Friday, the Thirteenth of May
Two Thousand and Sixteen
Half after One O’clock in the Afternoon
Campus Grounds
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands
President’s Message

I welcome you to the highlight of our academic year. We gather at this moment to celebrate our graduates and to bestow upon them evidence of their academic achievement. This is a sacred moment wherein we reflect, reunite and prepare for the future. Commencement is our statement to the world that we have accomplished what we were called into existence to do. We are honored that each of you have gathered with us to witness this special moment in the life of these graduates, this University and this community.

Each year we gather to celebrate our academic accomplishments and thank those who have made it possible for our students to reach their milestone. We applaud the parents, siblings, spouses, children, loved ones and friends of our graduates who spiritually walk across the stage today with our graduates because they played such a critical role in their success. We are also blessed to have dedicated faculty who see our students as individuals and work hard, despite the odds, to inspire each student to reach his or her potential. I celebrate their critical contributions to this sacred moment. Our students are also successful because of various staff and administrators who contribute to their education and development in direct and indirect ways and we celebrate them as well.

We have selected a keynote speaker who is the epitome of academic excellence and an outstanding Caribbean scholar. We want the presence and words of Professor Sir Hilary McDonald Beckles to inspire our graduates to reach for the stars of their own aspirations, and to contribute to the intellectual, educational and economic growth of the Caribbean as Sir Hilary has done through his work. As part of this year’s Commencement exercises, we will also bestow honorary degrees upon two outstanding individuals who have served and inspired Virgin Islanders through education, literature and public service — Ruth Moolenaar and Richard A. Schrader, Sr. They serve as excellent role models for our graduates and for all of us, because they remind us that our greatest wealth is the untapped precious gems that are buried inside each of us and await the right opportunity and nurturing environment for them to spring forth.

To the members of the Class of 2016, it is with heartfelt joy and a great sense of pride that I salute and commend you for all that you have achieved. As you move forward on the path that is uniquely yours, I challenge you to use the knowledge and preparation that you have gained during your educational journey at UVI to make a real difference in our community and the world. Because of you and your potential to impact the communities, islands and nations within which you will reside through the advanced degrees that you have pursued, the professions in which you excel, and the contributions you will make, we will see UVI’s greatness extend well beyond our halls of wisdom. Indeed, your greatest contribution is what you do in the world, what you achieve, the type of person you become and the legacy you leave behind.

Although commencement will mark the end of your time with us as students, it also signals the first day of your lives as alumni. As you enter the next phase of your lives and careers, please remember that the Class of 2016 will forever be an integral part of UVI. I welcome you to the UVI alumni family and to the next stage in your lifelong relationship with our special university. I encourage you to stay connected to your alma mater and remember that you will always be ambassadors for the University of the Virgin Islands. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire University community, we extend heartfelt congratulations and wish you Godspeed.

David Hall, S.J.D.
President
Keynote Speaker: Honorary Doctorate - Sir Hilary McDonald Beckles (KA)  
Distinguished Scholar, International Historian, Sports, Culture and Arts Advocate

Professor Sir Hilary Beckles is the Vice Chancellor of The University of the West Indies. Before assuming this office on May 1, 2015, he served the university as Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of its Cave Hill Campus in Barbados for thirteen years. His distinguished career within the university began at age 36, its youngest scholar to be promoted to a personal chair. As Professor of Economic and Social History, he won the first Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in the field of research. Sir Hilary has been recognized globally for his academic achievements and leadership expertise. He serves on many United Nations (UN) committees and advisory panels. He is a founding member of Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon’s Science Advisory Board on sustainable development, and has been an advisor to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Cities for Peace Global Program and UN World Culture Report. He is the Vice President of UNESCO’s Slave Route Project and Editor of the Ninth Volume of UNESCO’s General History of Africa Series which he conceptualized around the Global Africa framework.  

Sir Hilary received his higher education in the United Kingdom and holds a BA (Hons) Degree in Economic and Social History and a Ph.D. from Hull University. He has lectured extensively in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia, and has published over 100 peer reviewed essays and 14 scholarly books and monographs on subjects ranging from Atlantic and Caribbean History, gender relations in the Caribbean, sport development, and popular culture. These include: Centering Woman: Gender Discourses in Caribbean Slave Societies (Randle Publishers, 1999); The History of Barbados (Cambridge University Press, 2006); Natural Rebels: A Social History of Enslaved Black Women in the Caribbean (Rutgers University Press, 1989); Britain’s Black Debt: Reparations for Slavery and Native Genocide in the Caribbean (UWI Press); and The Development of West Indies Cricket: Volume 1: The Age of Nationalism; and Volume 2: The Age of Globalization (Pluto Press, 1999).  

Sir Hilary has received numerous awards for his contributions including Honorary Doctor of Letters degrees from Brock University in Canada, the University of Glasgow in Scotland, Hull University and the Kwame Nkrumah University for Science and Technology in Ghana. In 2007, Sir Hilary was made a Commander Knight of St. Andrew (KA), Barbados’ highest honour, “in recognition of his distinguished service in the fields of Education, Sports and the Arts.” In 2015, he was honored by the Borough of Brooklyn, New York, for “extraordinary achievement, outstanding leadership, and contribution to the community.” He received in 2015 the Second Global Community Healer Award for humanitarian work from the Community Healer Network, in Washington DC, following the legendary Maya Angelou.  

Sir Hilary also serves in multiple roles in the Caribbean private sector, and is a long serving director of Sagicor Financial Corporation — the largest, international financial services conglomerate in the region. He is a director of British telecom giant Cable and Wireless and Chairman of The University of the West Indies Press. He also served as a director of the West Indies Cricket Board and West Indies Cricket World Cup Inc. He is founder and director of the CLR James Centre for Cricket Research and founder director of the Sagicor West Indies Cricket Academy. He is Vice President of the Commonwealth Advisory Body of Sports and Development which advises Sport Ministers on the planning of the Commonwealth Games. Sir Hilary is Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on Reparations, and is a member of the UN Development Program Advisory Panel of the Caribbean Human Development Report.  

In addition to being a distinguished university administrator, internationally reputed Economic Historian, and transformational leader in higher education, Sir Hilary is a keen cricketer and researcher of cricket history and culture. He is also an accomplished playwright with six of his staged works receiving popular acclaim.
The University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) was chartered on March 16, 1962, as the College of the Virgin Islands (CVI) – a publicly funded, coeducational, liberal arts institution – by Act No. 852 of the Fourth Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands. According to that law, UVI’s cornerstone objective is to provide for “...the stimulation and utilization of the intellectual resources of the people of the Virgin Islands and the development of a center of higher learning whereby and wherefrom the benefits of culture and education may be extended throughout the Virgin Islands.”

The first campus opened on St. Thomas in July 1963, on 175 acres donated by the federal government. The first Board of Trustees took office in August 1963. In 1964, the college founded a campus on St. Croix, on 130 acres also donated by the federal government. At a ceremony on March 24, 2011, the St. Croix campus was named in honor of the late Albert A. Sheen, Sr. Also in March of 2011, UVI opened the St. John Academic Center in Cruz Bay, with interactive classrooms and computer facilities. In 2015, UVI entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of St. Martin (USM) to establish an extension campus of UVI to be located on the campus of USM and to be called “UVI at USM” to offer quality academic and career education that will provide students from St. Maarten/St. Martin and other locations across the region and around the world the opportunity to build a solid foundation to enter the workforce in their homeland, across the wider Caribbean or abroad.

UVI offers 46 degree programs including 37 undergraduate degrees and nine graduate degrees through five schools and colleges: Business, Education, Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Nursing, and Science and Mathematics. Six new degree programs will begin in Fall 2016: PhD in Creative Leadership for Leadership & Change, BBA in Accounting, BBA in Management, BBA in Marketing, Master of Accounting, and Executive Master of Business Administration. Four undergraduate certificates are also available: Entrepreneurship, Music Industry, Psychology, and Teaching English as a Second Language. In addition, there are four special programs: Honors Program, Secondary Teacher Preparation Program, Early Medical School Selection Program, and Senior Reserve Officers Training Corps (SROTC). Classes are offered in the fall, spring, and summer. Academic advising and learning assistance including tutoring and supplemental instruction are available in UVI’s Center for Student Success.

In 1972, the College of the Virgin Islands was awarded land grant status by the U.S. Congress. This allowed for the establishment of an Agricultural Experiment Station and a Cooperative Extension Service. Since then, many other programs and services have been added. These include the Reichhold Center for the Arts, the Eastern Caribbean Center, the William P. MacLean Marine Science Center and the UVI Sports & Fitness Center, among others.

In 1986, the College of the Virgin Islands was renamed the University of the Virgin Islands to reflect the growth and diversification of its academic curricula, community and regional services, and research programs. That same year, the U.S. Congress named UVI one of America’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). It is the only HBCU outside the continental U.S., and the first to offer an undergraduate degree in marine biology.

Dr. David Hall began his tenure as president of the University of the Virgin Islands on August 1, 2009. He succeeded Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster, who was named president in 2002. Dr. Orville Kean was named president in 1990, succeeding Dr. Arthur A. Richards, who became president in 1980. Lawrence C. Wanlass served as the first president of the College of the Virgin Islands from 1963 until 1980.

Today, UVI enrolls approximately 2,500 full-time and part-time students on its two campuses. It continues to offer a high-quality, affordable liberal arts education in a culturally diverse environment. The University boasts more than 10,400 alumni who have gone on to excel as doctors, lawyers, judges, university and government administrators, teachers and other professionals. Among the many accomplished alumni are two Rhodes Scholars, the winner of a Pulitzer Prize for Journalism and the Premier of Nevis.

The National Student Exchange (NSE) program operates on both the St. Thomas and St. Croix campuses. Each semester approximately 25 students from the U.S. mainland enroll through NSE. In addition, UVI continues to admit students via memorandum of understanding with the State University of New York at New Paltz, the College of Charleston, Emory University, Savannah State University (associates completion), Columbia University and Washington University in St. Louis (engineering), UNINTER (Universidad Internacional de Guayama, Mexico) and the UNICA Caribbean Exchange Program.

The University of the Virgin Islands is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation. Because of its dedication to educational excellence and improvement through peer evaluation and accreditation, UVI schools also hold accreditation with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN), the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). UVI also has Community Engagement Classification status from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This prestigious national designation is an evidence-based documentation of deep community engagement and the University’s commitment to improving teaching and learning, producing research that makes a difference in communities, and revitalizing its civic and academic missions.

UVI also has Memoranda of Understanding with several other institutions, including The Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica; Fidelity Graduate University, California; Nantong University, China; Yangzhou University, Jiangsu, China; Anguilla Community College, Anguilla; H. Lavity Stoutt Community College, UVI; and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Existing Memoranda of Understanding continues with the University of St. Martin, Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College, St. Kitts and the Nevis Sixth Form College, Nevis. Additionally, there are transfer programs in pre-engineering, pre-pharmacy and pre-medical technology for students who wish to begin their studies in these fields at the University of the Virgin Islands before transferring to a specialized institution to complete their degrees.
College of the Virgin Islands Class of 1966
Celebrating 50th Anniversary

Reverend Amonteen R. Doward
Mr. Glenworth A. Byron
Mr. Christopher A. Chukwurah
Mrs. Juliette L. Clarke
Mrs. Patsy M. Coaker
Mr. Kenneth A. Dasent
Ms. Erua A. Denham
Ms. Enid M. Espinosa
Mr. Douglas H. Forde
Ms. Blanche T. Frazer
Mrs. Luisa L. Garcia
Mr. David B. Gaspar
Mrs. Gloria E. Gawrych
Mrs. Bernice M. Goodwin
Ms. Janet B. Henley
Mr. Roger C. Hill
Mr. Lesmore A. Howard
Mrs. Ann-Marie M. Jacobs
Mr. Malcolm V. Morgan, Sr.
Ms. Majourie Nibbs
Mrs. Yvonne H. V. Ochillo*
Ms. Adelle D. Petersen
Mr. George H. Richards
Mrs. Lola F. Riley
Mr. Morley V. Somersall
Mrs. Priscilla I. Stridiron
Mr. Charles E. Ward
Dr. Clement A. White
Mrs. Averrissa D. Todman-Williams
Mrs. Thyla Hodge Smith*
Ms. Elise Vlaet*
Mr. Jeremy C. Swan
Mr. William E. Smith
*deceased

Academic Regalia
The wearing of caps, gowns and hoods at graduation exercises is one of the oldest and most democratic of collegiate customs. It originated in the Middle Ages when the first universities were founded as clerical institutions. Besides distinguishing the weancers from laymen, the costume served a very practical purpose in the unheated churches and cloisters of the time. It often added grace to the individuals and impressiveness to the ceremonies in which they took part. Its chief virtue, however, was that it eliminated undemocratic differences in dress which might otherwise have marred an essentially democratic occasion.

Under the intercollegiate system adopted in 1893, the Oxford cap or “mortarboard” is worn for all degrees, but the doctor is entitled to a gold tassel and optional velvet cap. The sleeve of the master’s gown is distinguished from the bachelor’s by a half-moon cut at the end. The doctor’s gown has faced-down fronts, and round bell sleeves with bars of velvet. The master’s degree hood is longer than the bachelor’s and the doctor’s is longer than the master’s. All hoods are lined with silk showing the official colors of the institution that conferred the degree.

The bachelor’s and master’s degree candidates at the University of the Virgin Islands wear hoods lined with Caribbean blue and white, the school colors. The bachelor’s degree hoods are trimmed with white velvet to signify liberal arts, and with golden yellow velvet to signify science. UVI master’s candidate hoods are also trimmed with velvet — light blue for education, drab to represent business, and peacock blue to indicate public administration.

According to the Academic Costume Code, at most U.S. institutions the color of velvet trim indicates the following academic disciplines: agriculture/maize; economics/copper; engineering/orange; fine arts/brown; home economics/maroon; law/purple; library science/lemon; music/pink; nursing/apricot; philosophy/dark blue; physical education/sage green; public health/salmon pink; science/golden yellow; social science/cream; social work/citron; speech/silver gray.

The Mace
The mace of the University of the Virgin Islands is the symbol both of presidential responsibilities and authority. Carved on the island of St. Croix from the wood of a local mahogany tree, one of God’s most enduring symbols of life, the mace says that the responsibilities of the president are without end. It also says that the president cannot discharge those responsibilities without authority. The mace is a three-foot long mahogany cylinder 1.5 inches in diameter topped by a four-inch mahogany ball into which a sterling silver reproduction of the University logo is set. The sterling silver logo was crafted on the island of St. Thomas.
PROGRAM - St. Thomas Campus

Tamara Lang-Allen, M.S.H., Director of Hotel, Hospitality & Tourism Management

COMMENCEMENT MARSHAL

“PROCESSIONAL”................................................................. “Pomp and Circumstance” (Elgar)
University of the Virgin Islands Jazz Ensemble, Joseph H. Francis, Jr., M.A.E.

*INVOCATION .............................................................. Damien Audain, Class of 2016

* NATIONAL ANTHEM ........................................................... “Star Spangled Banner” (Key)
University of the Virgin Islands Jazz Ensemble

“VIRGIN ISLANDS MARCH” ................................................... “Virgin Islands March” (Adams)
University of the Virgin Islands Jazz Ensemble

MUSICAL SELECTION .............................................................. “Sway” (Ruiz/Berry)
University of the Virgin Islands Jazz Ensemble

WELCOME ............................................................................ David Hall, S.J.D., President

KEYNOTE ADDRESS ............................................................. Sir Hilary McDonald Beckles
Vice Chancellor of The University of the West Indies

AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES...................................................... President Hall

MUSICAL SELECTION .............................................................. “True Light” Keith Hampton
University of the Virgin Islands Concert Choir, Chanelle Schaffer, M.F.A.

ADDRESS ........................................................................... Patrice Harris, Class of 2016

REMARKS ............................................................................. Henry C. Smock, Esq.
Chairman, UVI Board of Trustees

The Honorable Neville James
President of the 31st Legislature of the Virgin Islands

The Honorable Stacey Plaskett
Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress

The Honorable, Kenneth E. Mapp
Governor, United States Virgin Islands

MUSICAL SELECTION .............................................................. “Final Countdown” (Tempest/Lavender)
University of the Virgin Islands Jazz Ensemble

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES .................................................. Camille A. McKayle, Ph.D., Provost
and Vice President of Academic Affairs

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Master of Arts in Education • Master of Business Administration • Master of Public Administration
Master of Marine and Environmental Sciences • Bachelor of Arts • Bachelor of Business Administration
Bachelor of Science • Associate of Arts • Associate of Applied Science • Associate of Science

INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ....................................... Mitchell A. Neaves
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

“ALMA MATER”................................................................. “Alma Mater by the Sea” (LaMotta)
University of the Virgin Islands Jazz Ensemble and Concert Choir

“BENEDICTION”................................................................. Roosevelt Smith, Class of 2016

“RECESSONAL”................................................................. “Ceremonial Procession” (Elgar)
University of the Virgin Islands Jazz Ensemble

*Audience is required to stand.

Every effort is made to ensure that this program is accurate; circumstances beyond our control may have resulted in unintentional errors.
PROGRAM - Albert A. Sheen Campus - St. Croix

Magdalene Tobias, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Education - COMMENCEMENT MARSHAL
David M. Capriola, M.A., Faculty, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences - COMMENCEMENT CO-MARSHAL

Prelude .................................................................................................................. The Albert A. Sheen Campus Steel Ensemble

*Processional ........................................................................................................... "Pomp and Circumstance" (Elgar)
University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band, Valérica Bryson

*Invocation .............................................................................................................. Felicia Leanna Emmanuel, Class of 2016

*National Anthem .................................................................................................. "Star Spangled Banner" (Key)
University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band

*Virgin Islands March ............................................................................................. "Virgin Islands March" (Adams)
University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band

Welcome .................................................................................................................. David Hall, S.J.D., President

Keynote Address .................................................................................................. Sir Hilary McDonald Beckles
Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies

Awarding of Honorary Degrees ............................................................................ President Hall

Musical Selection .................................................................................................. UVI Voices of Inspiration Community Choir, Josephine Thomas-Lewis

Address .................................................................................................................. Akeem O. McIntosh, Class of 2016

Remarks .................................................................................................................. Henry C. Smock, Esq.
Chairman, UVI Board of Trustees

The Honorable Neville James
President of the 31st Legislature of the Virgin Islands

The Honorable Stacey Plaskett
Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress

The Honorable, Kenneth E. Mapp
Governor, United States Virgin Islands

Musical Selection .................................................................................................. University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band

Presentation of Candidates .................................................................................. Camille A. McKayle, Ph.D., Provost
and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Conferring of Degrees
Master of Business Administration • Master of Arts in Education • Master of Arts in Psychology • Master of Public Administration • Bachelor of Arts • Bachelor of Business Administration • Bachelor of Science
Associate of Applied Science • Associate of Arts • Associate of Science

Induction into Alumni Association ......................................................................... Mitchell A. Neaves
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Commissioning Ceremony ..................................................................................... Major William Velazquez-Rivera
Senior Military Science Instructor

*Alma Mater ............................................................................................................ "Alma Mater by the Sea" (LaMotta)
UVI Voices of Inspiration Community Choir

*Benediction ............................................................................................................ Zoe'Theone Voya Walker, Class of 2016

*Recessional ........................................................................................................... "Ceremonial Procession" (Elgar)
University of the Virgin Islands Concert Band

*Audience is required to stand.

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Honoray Doctorate - Ruth Moolenaar

For Ruth Moolenaar, “service before self” has been a guiding principle in life. She carved a niche in education as a teacher at Lincoln School (now Jarvis), Washington School (now Marcelli), Leonard Dober School and later as the first principal of the Jane E. Tuitt School. In so doing, she touched the lives of numerous Virgin Islanders, many now contributing to their communities abroad and locally.

Her belief that knowledge of and pride in one’s culture is fundamental to a sense of self was reflected in her activities as Coordinator of Project Introspection (1969-1985), a cultural heritage education program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. The Project produced Virgin Islands cultural and historical instructional materials for grades K-12, many still in use today.

One of her numerous publications produced at Project Introspection is the, two volume Profiles of Outstanding Virgin Islanders, a popular collection of biographies of over 100 notable Virgin Islanders. In 1985, she wrote SAVANNE, a monograph on the settlement of the Savan neighborhood that was included in the publications of the American Folklife Festival of the Smithsonian Institution when it focused on the US Virgin Islands in 1991. Her most recent publication, sponsored by the VI Humanities Council and We From Upstreet, Inc., is Legacies of Upstreet (2006), which chronicles the history and legacy of this historic neighborhood.

After 42 years of service, Mrs. Moolenaar retired from the VI Department of Education in 1985 and was honored by the Council of Teachers of English and the Association of Education Administrators.

In 1992, she was elected to the Board of Education and served as Vice-Chair. Mrs. Moolenaar was active in several gubernatorial and senatorial campaigns and was honored by the VI Democratic Party. She also served on many civic and cultural boards. These include the Business and Professional Women’s Organization, League of Women Voters, VI Humanities Council, the Society for Historic Preservation, State Review Board for Historic Preservation and the Law Enforcement Planning Commission. She was also the first chairman of the VI Cultural Heritage Institute, serving several years in that capacity.

Mrs. Moolenaar is the recipient of many awards: she was commended by the 20th Legislature of the VI (1994) through Resolution Number 1510; received the League of Women Voters Impact Award (1997), the prestigious Humanist Award (1993) from the VI Humanities Council, and their VI Scholar Award (2006).

She has been an invited speaker at many commemorations, including the celebration of VI Emancipation (1993), the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Transfer Day, the commemoration of the purchase of the West Indian Company (WICO) dock, the Association of Caribbean States (1993), and by We From Upstreet, Inc. (2015). One of her favorite honors is the caiso song, VI Heroes, composed in her honor by celebrated calypsonian, Dr. Hollis Liverpool, “Mighty Chalkdust.”

A 1940 graduate of Charlotte Amalie High School, Mrs. Moolenaar received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Cheyney State College, Master’s degree in Educational Administration from New York University and completed postgraduate studies at the University of Hartford and University of Illinois.

She was married to Lucien Moolenaar, Sr., (deceased) and had 3 children: Dr. Gwen-Marie Moolenaar, Dr. Lucien A. Moolenaar, and Gwynneth M. Moolenaar, Esq., and adopted daughter Ingrid Warrington. She is grandmother to Lucien Moolenaar, III, Esq., Lucienne Moolenaar, Ashley-Ruth Moolenaar Bernier and Shenelle Moolenaar and has 7 great-grandchildren Eleni, James III, Jonah and Ethan Bernier, Eleyah Gordon, and Ainslie and Isaac Moolenaar.
Honorary Doctorate - Richard A. Schrader, Sr.

The son of sugarcane workers, Mr. Richard Augustus Schrader, Sr. was born on St. Croix. His formative years were filled with hard work and the comfort of family. Raised in Estate Fredensborg in the 1930’s and 40’s, he assisted his parents in the field, helping his mother carry water and his father plow the soil. Mr. Schrader attended St. Ann’s and St. Mary Catholic Schools. Determined to serve in the military, he left school and volunteered for the army during the Korean War. He was the first Black soldier to serve with Company “G” 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division in Germany. He did two military tours and received his GED in Germany. Mr. Schrader was honorably discharged in 1957.

After a brief employment with the U.S. Post Office at Morgan Station in Manhattan, he entered the New York City Department of Corrections training academy at Riker’s Island and was assigned to the Hart Island’s prison facility in the Bronx. While serving as a correctional officer, he attended Brooklyn College part-time.

Upon moving back to St. Croix, he was appointed Assistant Prison Warden at the Richmond Penitentiary in 1965. Attending school at night, he received an Associate’s Degree in Political Science and Administration in 1969 from the College of the Virgin Islands. He returned to New York and earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 1971. He then returned to St. Croix to continue serving as Assistant Prison Warden at Richmond Penitentiary.

While working at the Golden Grove Correctional Facility as Acting Warden and Warden, he received a Master’s of Arts in Education from the College of the Virgin Islands in 1981. In 1983, he spent a month in Denmark on a George C. Marshall Scholarship grant studying the Danish prison system. After serving for over twenty years in the field of law enforcement, he retired in 1985.

Leaving the prison system behind, Mr. Schrader picked up a pen. Inspired by a weekend on Blue Mountain as a national guardsman, Mr. Schrader was able to take in the entire island from that vantage point and decided to capture it for eternity with his seminal poem, *St. Croix by Night*. Since writing his first book *Home Sweet Home* in 1986, St. Croix, her people and culture, became his muse. Over the past thirty years, and in twenty-eight books, Mr. Schrader has vividly rendered Virgin Islands traditions and folklore. Some of his works include: *Notes of a Crucian Son; Mauhe, Queilbe, and T’ing; If The Gobi Could Talk; Kallaloo; Fungi; Under the Tamar Tree; Walking through Kasha and Roses; and Teach a Man to Fish*. His literary works like *In A Heartbeat: Stories of the Virgin Islands Army National Guard and Celebration: Salute to the Living and the Dead* document the glorious past of Virgin Islanders and personal reminiscences of the men and women of the Virgin Islands Army National Guard. These also include the play *1878: Queen Mary and Dem*, the “old time” tales of *Adelo and Margo of Fredensborg, My Neighbor Lucia, and Frank Charles of Frederiksted* and the timeless photos of Thelma Barry Clarke, Haralda Alphonso Barker, and Anita Rock. Mr. Schrader’s stories flood our memories, reminding us again and again of the pure strength and God given grace of Virgin Islanders.

In recognition of his literary contributions to the history and traditions of St. Croix, Mr. Schrader has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors including the Virgin Islands Humanities Council 1994 “Humanist of the Year” award. He also penned the 2003 Inaugural Poem, *The Madras that Bind All Ahwe*. Mr. Schrader is a member of the American Legion, Bromley Berkeley Post 133, and a lector at St. Ann’s Catholic Church. He is married to the former Claudette Davis. They have four children.

These days, this father, husband, grandfather, army veteran, poet, and author continues to enrich us all with the culture, history, and people of his home, sweet home, St. Croix.
President’s Cabinet

Dr. Camille McKayle  
Provost and Vice President for 
Academic Affairs

Shirley Lake-King  
Vice President 
for Administration and Finance 
and Chief Financial Officer

Mitchell A. Neaves  
Vice President for 
Institutional Advancement

Dr. Haldane Davies  
Vice President for Business 
Development and Innovation

Tina M. Koopmans  
Vice President for Information 
Services and Institutional Assessment

Dr. Frank Mills  
Vice Provost for Research 
and Public Service

Stephan Moore  
Interim Vice Provost 
for Access and Enrollment Services 
and Dean of Student Affairs, Albert A. Sheen Campus

Verna Rivers  
Dean of Students, St. Thomas Campus

Nereida Washington  
Director of Campus Operations 
Albert A. Sheen Campus

Una C. Dyer  
Director of Presidential Operations

UVI Schools & Colleges

School of Business – Stephen Reames, Ph.D. Dean
School of Education – Linda V. Thomas, Ph.D. Dean
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences – Emily Williams, Ph.D. Dean
School of Nursing – Beverly A. Lansiquot, RN, DNP Dean
College of Science and Mathematics – Sandra Romano, Ph.D. Dean

Commencement Committees

St. Croix

Francisca Barry  
Marsha Bedford-Elcock  
David Capriola - (Co-Marshal)  
Rokeyah Connor - (Student)  
Una Dyer  
Paul Flemming  
Denis Griffith - (Chair)

Gabriel Lawrence - (Student)  
Anyha Lord-Jerris  
Linda I. Smith  
Riise Thurland  
Magdalene Tobias - (Marshal)  
Nereida Washington

St. Thomas

Diana Claxton  
Una Dyer  
Peggy Fahie  
Theodore Glasford  
Denise Humphrey  
Tamara Lang-Allen - (Marshal)  
Liza Margolis  
Charles Martin

Monifa Potter  
NaShona Ruan - (Student)  
Gail Steele - (Co-Chair)  
Dahlia Stridiron  
Mervin Taylor  
Tamika Thomas-Williams  
Lorna C. Young-Wright - (Co-Chair)
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Honorary Chairman
Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands

Attorney Henry C. Smock
Chair
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Mr. Alexander A. Moorhead
Vice Chair
St. Croix, Virgin Islands

Dr. David Hall - ex-officio
Board Secretary
President of the University

Mrs. Jennifer Nugent-Hill
St. Croix, Virgin Islands

Dr. Sharon Ann McCollum - ex-officio
Commissioner
Department of Education
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Ms. Jacqueline A. Sprauve
Alumni Association Representative
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Ms. Mary Moorhead - ex-officio
Chair - V.I. Board of Education
St. Croix, Virgin Islands

Dr. Yvonne E. L. Thraen
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Mrs. Oran C. Bowry
St. Croix, Virgin Islands

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St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

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St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

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St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

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St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

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Alma Mater By the Sea

Words and Music by Wilbur “Bill” LaMotta

Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater
Beside the blue Caribbean calm
Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater
‘neath sunny skies and whisp’ring palm

Proud we are to tread thy ways
Loud and true we voice our praise
Open door thy every portal
‘mid sand and sea and golden days

Long the ties that will endure
Strong in heart and memory
Faithfully we’ll always honor
Our Alma Mater by the sea

Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater
For guiding stars so brightly shown
Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater
How wide the bound’ries we have flown

Sing we now of bright tomorrows
Yesterday we never knew
Walking down thy halls of wisdom
The towerin’ heights are all in view

Here to us on islands famed
Dear to us thy name will be
University of the Virgin Islands
Our Alma Mater by the sea.