

The Society of Virgin Islands Historians

The Society of Virgin Islands Historians is an association of professional historians and associate members, located on the island of St. Croix, but serving all of the Virgin Islands. The membership of the Society hails from the Virgin Islands, other Caribbean islands, the United States, Denmark and other countries. The Society promotes the study and advancement of local history through a number of activities, the most prominent among them being the publication of articles and documents, the holding of an annual meeting and conference and the promotion of issues vital to local history and preservation. Visit the Society's webpage at <http://www.virginislandspubliclibraries.org/usvi/vihistorians.asp>

The University of Puerto Rico Doctoral Program in English

The doctoral program in Literature, Linguistics, and Culture of the Anglophone Caribbean was established in the year 2000 by the Department of English, College of Humanities. It offers a variety of courses related to the literary works of Caribbean writers, to the analysis of Creole languages and to the study of Caribbean culture. One of the most popular ones is called "Fieldwork Course in St. Croix" in which students from both literature and linguistics travel to the island for two weeks of concentrated work in these two disciplines once a year. St. Croix is an ideal place for the students to take this course for a number of reasons: UVI has provided Professors Faraclas and Dannabang the opportunity to teach the course in a Caribbean university environment; there are no passport logistics involved for the students from Puerto Rico; St. Croix is the ideal laboratory for the study of literature, language and culture because of the rich cultural and linguistic diversity of its population. The program presented today is a minute sample of all the works that have been written and published about different aspects of Crucian life. The University of Puerto Rico—Rio Piedras Campus is deeply grateful to St. Croix, its people, and the UVI campus for the support it has always received for its ongoing research. We also want to thank the Society of Virgin Islands Historians for giving us this opportunity.



Society of Virgin Islands Historians 25th Annual Conference

Language, Literature, and Culture of the Virgin Islands

A Tribute to St. Croix from
The University of Puerto Rico
Rio Piedras Campus

January 21, 2012

Visitors' Center

Salt River National Park and
Ecological Preserve



Biographical Information

Mirerza González earned a Ph.D. in Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of Iowa. She is currently the interim director of the Department of English at the College of Humanities, University of Puerto Rico. Both she and Dr. Ríos-Villarini will talk about their current research on this diaspora, the education of this population, and their connection with the island of Vieques.

Nadjah Ríos-Villarini received a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin. She is currently the director of the Graduate Program in Linguistics at the College of Humanities University of Puerto Rico.

Aida Vergne is a doctoral candidate in the Graduate Program in Caribbean Linguistics of the Department of English, College of Humanities, University of Puerto Rico. She plans to defend her dissertation in May, 2012. She will address the question of the structural connections between Crucian and some African languages.

Dannabang Kuwabong earned a Ph.D in English at MacMaster University in Hamilton, Canada. He is Professor of Literature in the Department of English at the College of Humanities, University of Puerto Rico. He will speak on the elements of African culture present in Crucian literature.

Nicholas Faraclas received a Ph.D in Linguistics from the University of California at Berkeley. He is Professor of Linguistics in the Department of English at the College of Humanities, University of Puerto Rico. He will explain the role that St. Croix has played in the study of creole language development in the Caribbean.

2012 Program

Dedicated to the Memory of Robert Johnson

Registration.....	8:00-8:30 a.m.
Opening Remarks by Wilfredo Géigel	8:30-8:40 a.m.
Introduction to the Program by Alma Simounet	8:40-8:55 a.m.
The Puerto Rican Diaspora in St. Croix	8:55-9:35 a.m.
Mirerza González & Nadjah Ríos-Villarini	
African Influences in Crucian	9:35-10:15 a.m.
Aida Vergne	
Questions and Answers.....	10:15-10:30 a.m.
Coffee Break.....	10:30-11:00 a.m.
Africa speaks through Crucian Literature	11:00-11:40 a.m.
Dannabang Kuwabong	
The Importance of St. Croix in the History and Development of Language in the Caribbean.....	11:40 a.m.-12:20 p.m.
Nicholas Faraclas	
Questions and Answer	12:20-12:35 p.m.
Closing Remarks by Aletha Baumann.....	12:35-12:45 p.m.