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Renaming of UVI St. Thomas Campus to Orville E. Kean Campus Unveiled With New Signage

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From left: UVI Board Chair Henry Smock, UVI President David Hall, VI Gov. Albert Bryan, Jr., UVI President Emeritus Orville Kean, Mrs. Julie Kean, Lt. Gov. Tregenza Roach and Miss UVI Jackeima Flemming pose for a photo in front of new UVI sign. By. UVI

ST. THOMAS — University officials, government leaders and members of the Kean family assembled at the entrance to the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) campus on St. Thomas Thursday afternoon to witness the unveiling of the newly installed sign marking the renaming of the campus to the Orville E. Kean Campus of the University of the Virgin Islands, UVI has announced.

The event, honoring UVI President Emeritus, Dr. Orville E. Kean who dedicated more than three decades of service to the university, included remarks from Dr. Kean, his daughter and UVI alumna, Dr. Catherine Kean, Virgin Islands Gov. Albert Bryan Jr. and UVI President, Dr. David Hall, according to the release.

“President Kean’s leadership and commitment to the University and the Territory is worthy of recognition that will allow his name and contributions to be reflected upon by students, faculty, staff and this community for years to come,” said Dr. Hall. “As President of the University, I am very grateful for the contributions of Dr. Kean, and the other presidents that preceded me for creating a strong and vibrant foundation upon which we could continue to build this University into a great University.”

“It is a great honor that no one in my family expected,” said Dr. Kean. “I believe the University of the Virgin Islands has surpassed the expectation of the people who created it. It has created more knowledge and more skills than they anticipated.” Apart from his family, Dr. Kean noted, “Working at the University of the Virgin Islands and helping to create this difference has been the best thing of my life.”

According to UVI, Dr. Kean began his career at the then College of the Virgin Islands as Professor of Mathematics in 1966. He advanced to Vice Chair of the Science and Mathematics Division, to Dean of Instruction, then Acting Director of the Caribbean Research Institute, Executive Vice President and Director of the Eastern Caribbean Center and acting Vice President for Academic Affairs. In 1990, the UVI Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Kean to serve as President of UVI. He held the position for 12 years until his retirement in 2002.

Legislation to rename the campus was sponsored by Sen. Myron Jackson and adopted by the 33rd Legislature in December 2019. On Jan. 5, 2021, Gov. Albert Bryan, Jr. signed into law, Act 8404, legislation to honor and commend Dr. Kean for his contributions to the University.