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## Scientism, Vocationology and the Need for a Specific Educational Program

*S. E. Streater, D.V.S.*

As an emerging discipline, the forensic vocational field has truly entered an era of scientism. Scientism, a viewpoint based in science that encompasses natural explanations for all phenomena embracing both empiricism and reason as the basis for a philosophy appropriate for our Age of Science. The concept rejects unsubstantiated opinion, myth, superstition and supernatural or paranormal explanations as the reasons for anything. This is according to Michael Shermer, publisher of Skeptic Magazine, in a recent article written for "Scientific American."

In a private practice, extending over more than twenty-five years, encompassing more than 1000 individual cases, allowing the opportunity to hear and read many more testimonies and literally analyze several thousand reports, heard and read testimony that was likely based in mysticism or possibly even extra terrestrial methods. I have also read some well constructed, well connected reports where the data presented led the reader to findings, conclusions and onward to the experts opinions, accurately providing substantiated answers the courts were looking for in a well organized package.

Some reports, read for adverse evaluations, had absolutely no basis for the opinion offered, other than "it is my experience" and "in my judgment." Sample reports written for real life cases and submitted as a portion of the requirements for membership for a professional organization were plagued by the same concerns. Carefully studied reports that incorporate data from testing and extrapolations from occupational codes unfortunately, never utilized the data available, leaving it dangling in the report, never extrapolating it to some end, which could have provided the required basis to report their findings, formulate their opinions and provided conclusions. This expert had done all of the work, but for some reason they did not utilize the fruits of their efforts.

All of these circumstances existed, in spite of the fact that we, as a discipline, have been able access sound, representative data for prediction, thereby providing a sound, legitimate basis for opinions regarding labor market access and earning capacity. Granted, these measures were initially manual, but nonetheless hard data, and measurement processes were available, founded in basic statistical methods.

There are additional concerns. Astonishingly, in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, in a nation that is one of the world's most advanced technologically, the uninformed, glib and persuasive, can convince judges, administrators and other influential decision makers, that pivotal information, dramatically affecting their opinions is accurate or most representative, though not based in any science. Such information is palmed off, as "intelligent design," or "plain as the nose on your face" only to be accepted as fact. In other words, the information seems apparent, on face value, but sadly lacking any basis in fact. So states John Rennie in a recent edition of Scientific American.

To understand what is science and what is not and how science must be the basis for theory and therefore, fact, is and will become increasingly important to us, as practitioners. The courts have asked us to predict the future. As we all know, we do not have a crystal ball. Therefore, the science of measurement is the only basis we have to construct accurate forecasts that will be the best indicator in the future.

John Rennie, an Editor in Chief of Scientific American, writes concerning scientific matters, most recently on issues of evolution and creationism. Reading these articles and observing the discussions that continue in our own discipline, I find certain similarities between the evolution/creationism arena and our own discussions of what supports good opinion.

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## President's Message

**By Dick Baine, ABVE President, 2002-2003**

Conference Chair Larry Sinsabaugh managed to put together an event at the Fall 2002 Conference Williamsburg, Virginia that had something for everyone. The conference addressed "The Changing Nature of Work: The Past 200 Years". The beautiful Virginia countryside provided a perfect environment for us to explore our roles as vocational experts as we move further into the twenty first century. It was great to see the new and familiar faces at the conference.



The Board of Directors have been busy since assuming office in Las Vegas as each member has assumed the role of a chair of a specific committee of the organization. We will be meeting to hear from each chairperson as they present their ideas for moving ABVE forward during the coming months. The chairpersons for the Spring and Fall Conferences in 2003 are also putting together their programs for these events. More on these important events will be coming forth as they develop.

As we approached the one-year anniversary of the horrific events of last fall (9-11), let us not forget those who were the victims of the attacks upon our nation. I believe that there can be no better or fitting memorial to these individuals than for us as American Citizens to demonstrate to those who would wish us harm that we are ready to continue to work at the task of improving our nation as well as the brotherhood of mankind.

We must remember that the freedoms that we enjoy today are the fruits of the "work and labor" of those generations who preceded us. We cannot allow the spirit and the energy of The United States of America to be undermined by the actions of those who would hate us for having the benefits of the bountiful harvest generated by our forefathers' labors and the capacity to plant the seeds for those Americans who will follow us in generations to come. The changing nature of work for the next 200 years has already begun with us and we, the vocational experts of today, have a responsibility to provide our clients with the best work product available by keeping up with the rapidly changing world of work that is the United States of America.

By doing this, we can be an intrinsic part of the solid foundation that has been set for America's future work product and growth. God bless each of you and your families and God bless America. Best regards to all.

## Welcome to the Following New Members

Congratulations to the following new members, who have applied for membership, upgraded their status or reinstated their membership. Welcome to all!

H. Gray Broughton, Associate

Dennis Contreras, Associate (applied for Diplomat)

Ronald Fleck, Associate (applied for Fellow)

Suanne Grobe, Associate

Betty Hale, Associate

Mary Alice Harris, Associate

Patricia S. Schwadron, Associate

Suman Srinivasan, Associate (applied for Fellow)

Leslie Tar, Associate

Maria Vargas, Associate

Lori Wasankari, Associate

Laura Woodard, Associate

Sean Fitzgerald, Associate

Rachel Hawk, upgraded to Diplomat

Edmond Provder, Diplomat

Timothy Bruffey, Diplomat

## Letter From the Editor

*Cynthia Grimley, MS  
Newsletter, Editor*

Dear Members:

Many of you are now viewing the second edition of our newsletter in a PDF format, which you received via email. You will need Adobe Acrobat reader to view the PDF format. The feedback with the first newsletter disseminated via email was favorable. If you have any problems receiving your email, please let BTF know immediately. Those members who do not have email will continue to receive their newsletter by mail. It is very important that you keep BTF updated of any email address changes.

I continue to look for members to assist me on a committee for the newsletter. I would like to see members contribute items such as book reviews, or any other areas that may be of interest to our forensic community. If a committee could be formed to assist with the contribution of such items then these can be distributed via email on a monthly basis, in between the regular newsletter publications.

Please contact me if you are interested in serving on the newsletter committee. I can be reached at 803-765-1513 or [CPGRIMLEY@AOL.COM](mailto:CPGRIMLEY@AOL.COM).

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please check the ABVE web site [www.ABVE.net](http://www.ABVE.net) and make sure that your information is correct in the membership directory. If you have any changes, notify Terri at BTF by October 25, 2002. We are having the hard copy of the Membership Directory printed. This should be mailed to all members in November.

## Membership Committee

*Bart Hultine, Ed.D  
Treasurer & Membership Services Chair*

In an attempt to continue to build our membership, I have contacted 25 prospects from the Internet. These have been "cold calls" and have resulted in 11 people telling me they were interested in ABVE Certification. Of the 25 who were contacted, 16 were eligible for membership. This information is then passed onto BTF so that membership packets can be forwarded.

There is still a diligent effort contacting those that have not renewed. Thirty-six individuals had not renewed their membership. Every one was called on July 19th, those not contacted nor returning the call were contacted again on July 25th, and those still not responding were contacted again on August 8, 2002.

Of those, 23 indicated they would re-join ABVE and had not for a variety of reasons, mostly "I forgot." A few people simply did not return my calls, even though they were left messages. Four individuals indicated they were not going to renew due to changes in their practices. There were no negative comments about ABVE from those who have not renewed. Six former members could not be reached. These six individuals were Angelica Greene, Patricia Schwadron, George Starosta, Arthur O'Shea, Norman Corson, and Karen Sherwood. If any one knows where these folks are or how to contact them, please do so or contact me with their phone numbers.

The American Board of Vocational Experts, never has and currently does not endorse the use of any specific tests, test batteries, or commercial products.

## Ethics Committee

*Donald E. Jennings, Ed. D.  
Chairperson, Ethics Committee*

As the new Chairperson of the Ethics Committee, I would like to inform the membership of the makeup of the current Ethics Committee.

At the current time, the Committee has been charged by the Board of Directors to reevaluate our ethics code in order to bring it as up to date as possible. It is suggested that each member obtain a copy of the Ethics Code, since this is the blanket under which our membership functions and the criterion to which they will be held if any ethical charges are brought against a member.

The members are encouraged to contact the Committee members to discuss any ethical issues, which may arise from time to time. The members are strongly encouraged to use consultation either with an Ethics Committee Member or another ABVE member when a personal ethical issue may arise which concerns the member.

As part of the Ethics Committee's responsibility, we also review and handle ethical complaints brought against our membership.

It is the hope of this Committee that by the end of our tenure, we will have updated our ethics code. The Committee would welcome any observations, comments, etc., concerning our function, from the membership at large.

The Committee consists of the following members:

Mary Barros Bailey  
Cheryl Bowers  
Bart Hultine  
Lindette Mayer  
Gene Van de Bittner



# ABVE Fall Conference

By S.E. Streater

As a professional group we are truly fortunate to have four important phenomena collide on schedule at a predetermined point, a historic location, informative speakers, interested conferees and wonderful conference organization.

A big “hats off” to BTF management and ABVE’s Larry Sinsabaugh for bringing the other three factors together in a masterful manner. We are so lucky to have fine management, and hard working members who serve as conference chairs to put the mosaic-like pieces of a national conference together. This is no small chore, far more complex and time consuming than most people would imagine.

Accolades are accorded to those ABVE members who attended this conference, and supplied the reason that conferences are held. It is so nice to again see and talk to long-term friends and professional associates and to meet and greet the newer members.

The Williamsburg Conference opened with a value added session lasting 2 ½ hours. It was led by Billy Joe McCroskey, Ph.D. who spoke in detail regarding developments in estimating vocational earning capacity and the relationship to vocational capacity. Considering the depth and length of this presentation and the attention paid by the many attendees, I would estimate the importance of this issue to be of heightened importance and will receive more attention across the broad range of practices in our ABVE group.

The lead speaker in the main body of the conference was Dr. Samuel Osipow. Speaking on the changing nature of work over the past two hundred years, he helped conferees focus their thinking regarding the changing nature of work and the primary elements of work that account for such changes. He spoke of the freedom to choose the work one wishes to pursue and the value of the right to

choose. This was in direct opposition to colonial times, when work was typically an inherited aspect of one’s life and vocational “choice” stemmed from your family’s origin.



Speakers John Klein & Jonathon Walker

Dick Baine and Eloy Castillo were up next with the value of the role of the VE in veteran’s claims and how our efforts role can be a powerful asset to the disabled veteran and a practice expander that can add an additional income center to a private practice.

Bruce Billman spoke to the changing trends in VE testimony covering the do’s and don’t’s and the evolution of the O\*Net, new social security rulings and strategies and competence skills.

In the morning session of the second day, Edward Peck, Ph.D., unveiled a new area of concern in the VE’s practice. This interesting and potentially troublesome area was carefully explained, elucidating the potential for inappropriate speculation, utilized by opposing counsel, based on a careful analysis of your referral/client list and your financial records. Potential trends of favoritism demonstrated by your own financial records and your client/referral list can be utilized in a damaging manner. Proactive methods of dealing positively with this venue of potential attack were presented.

A second presentation by Attorneys John H. Klein and Jonathan Walker covering wage earning capacity based on labor market surveys, testifying, and counsel/expert relationships with special focus on report preparation on claimants cases. The second portion of this session covered defense

concerns before Federal and State Workers Compensation. Both presenters spoke in a very direct manner, clarifying their particular needs and client goals.

In a job analysis practicum, conference participants were asked to go into the Colonial Williamsburg community and analyze jobs on a structured form looking at work as it was performed 200-300 years ago. Conferees seem to enjoy this offering, as they were able to visit the Williamsburg Community and deepen their job analysis skills as well as their knowledge of the changes that have occurred in work from colonial times to the present, which reflects on the main theme of the conference. These analyses were later discussed and a request to perform future analyses at future conferences was requested by the participant group.

Following the job analysis practicum, Nelson Hendler, MD of the Mensana Clinic, spoke to the chronic pain, misdiagnosis phenomena, detailing with references and offering scenarios of appropriate and inappropriate diagnostic tests and the eventual outcomes. Physiological as opposed to anatomical testing was discussed and the importance of being on track with your patient/clients was fully disclosed.

Larry Sinsabaugh, Ph.D. and Davis Martin, Ed.D presented a session on ethical considerations of practice. This presentation spawned an interesting discussion that centered on practice directions and methods. A diversity of opinion materialized which prompted a request for future offerings in this vein. A general comment by conference participants came in the form of a desire for future round-table discussion on topics such as ethical issues.

On Sunday the final presentation by Mary Landon Moore, Ph.D., Director of the Virginia Career Information System was a demonstration of the impressive computer based career information system her agency has in place covering employment/employer information on

a county-by-county basis covering the State of Virginia. This, the final session must have held attendants interest, as the attendance was very good for a last offering on the last day. The career system presented was detailed and extensive and prompted a number of agreeing nods and comments by Virginia conference attendants.

Our host location The Williamsburg Hospitality House did everything in their power to make our stay pleasant. Williamsburg is the most popular family vacation destination in the United States. They host more than one million visitors per year. A traditional English Christmas in Williamsburg, a true Holiday experience, must be scheduled at least a year in advance. ABOVE is indeed fortunate to have such a productive and effective conference experience.



*Bonnie Lou Gladden & Bonnie Martindale*

The second day was punctuated with an evening meal at The Chowling Tavern, prepared and served in a period appropriate manner. A good time had by all with much conversation and an eventual breakdown to smaller groups which in some cases continued into the evening?

## **Scientism**

### **Continued from page 1**

The National Academy of Science (NAS) defines a scientific theory as “a well substantiated explanation of some aspect of the natural world that can incorporate facts, inferences and tested hypotheses.” As John Rennie states, “no amount of vali-

ation can change a theory into a law, which is a descriptive generalization about nature.” Ergo, when scientists discuss a theory, they express little doubt that the theory, in fact, can be held as truth. This is why it is a theory! This means that the word theory can be substituted or used interchangeably with the word fact.

The NAS defines the word fact as “an observation that has repeatedly been confirmed and, for all practical purposes, has been accepted as true.” Therefore, when the attorney asks you the question, “Mr. Expert, isn’t that merely a theory?” Your response can be, “Yes, Mr. Attorney, and that is what makes it a fact.” “The two words are interchangeable.” Isn’t science grand? This is particularly true when you have sound science on your side.

Additional concerns regarding science and scientific method include inquiries into the possibility that there is an ever increasing faction in the vocational forensic arena that doubts that the labor market access projections and the loss of earning calculations cannot be calculated but must simply be estimated based on the experience of the expert. Why would this challenge not arise, when we have individuals in our own discipline, boldly writing about just such phenomenon on the Internet and in our printed literature?

Evidence that the movement away from science or measurement based opinion does not exist in the literature. Quite the contrary, literature, at least serious literature indicates the method is on the upsurge. Individuals that conduct serious research in this area write and discuss with their colleagues the increasing number of professionals that have adopted measurement based opinions. And why not, the courts are demanding it. Validity, reliability and reproducibility, where have we heard that phrase before?

After a recent visit to my office by a colleague to learn to operate new measurement software, they were amazed at the rapidity one can obtain in-depth in-

formation, with a clarity and direction, which data outcomes of such programs can produce. The unfolding revelation occurred during a relatively brief exposure, about three hours.

In a telephone contact several days later, after the individual had the opportunity to analyze several of their own cases, there was an expression of continued amazement at “instant information” they could derive from the calculations. The depth, rapidity and accuracy with which they professed to be able to assemble data which assisted in the development of clear insights as to the client’s skills, abilities and estimated earning capacity, absolutely astounded them. This was only the most recent experience, in a long line of experiences, certainly not the only experience. In fact, of all of the individuals, which I have had the privilege of participating in their training in measurement and measured vocational outcomes, I would count this reaction as extremely typical.

On the other hand, there have been individuals who have rejected the entire notion of measured outcomes, and reverted back to “It has been my experience,” when their opinion was based on reports and testimony. Frequently, these individuals lack the necessary statistical educational background to understand what measurement is all about. This is a common finding in individuals with undergraduate degrees in the human service field. It certainly is not something that should be held against them, as their training was light in some areas. This is not an elitist stand; I suffered from the same circumstance. However, I truly believe this to be the case. In fact, on two separate occasions, after the individuals had dismissed the scientific method of measured opinion, they return after running into increased resistance in their courts system.

After taking the time to learn what it was really about, and acquiring the necessary basic measurement skills, they develop the insights necessary to proffer opinion based

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on measurement and scientific process, thereby putting reliability, validity and reproducibility in their reports.

After twenty-five plus years utilizing scientific methods in formulating opinions, there has not been one instance of anyone successfully attacking my methods. I have never needed to argue methods, which created a circumstance allowing the attention to be focused on the worker traits and their meaning to the client. The impact of the injury and the worker trait levels involved is what we should be discussing in court. That is not to say that I have never lost a case, that certainly has occurred, although not frequently. Further, I have never seen formal journal articles disclaiming measurement-based opinion. In the obverse, I have seen multiple formal journal articles confirming the findings and advantages of such a process.

For this and various other reasons we, as a professional membership body should call on the American Board of Vocational Experts to invest time and energy in aiding in the formulation of an educational program. This program should result in an advanced degree, one that is modeled after the former American College of Vocational Education (ACVE) program, which offered a post-graduate degree in vocational studies. If such a program was offered, particularly in a University based venue, there would be multiple students seeking such a program. The program should offer a degree. The degree should be a functional post-graduate degree. There is little need for a philosophical based program in our area. This program

could become a model for similar programs, nation wide.

I believe the expertise necessary to staff such a degree program exists in the ranks of our ABVE membership and able individuals could readily be recruited to aid in the building of, and to instruct in such a program. As professionals and as a professional group, we would gain greatly from such an educational endeavor and the potential research they would need to generate in their dissertations would help in carrying our specialized field far into the future. After all, the meaning of the word professional is someone who has control over his or her science. When one stops changing, one stops.

## **Information For the Work Place**

**By Cynthia P. Grimley, MS**

### **New *Daubert* Tracker Offers Most Comprehensive Site Ever for *Daubert* Researchers**

**Chicago, IL, August 7, 2002 – MDEX Online, Inc.** today announced the launch of **The *Daubert* Tracker** on its web site. This is the most comprehensive body of information regarding the landmark 1993 Supreme Court ruling, *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals*. This new service allows attorneys and forensic professionals easy access to the latest court decisions and developments pertaining to the *Daubert* case, and its progeny, *Kumho Tire v. Carmichael* and *GE v. Joiner*.

The strength of **The *Daubert* Tracker** is its searchable database designed to provide trial attorneys quick access to

previous challenges levied against an expert being considered for retention or an opposing expert, and to assist in the preparation of strategies for the prosecution or defense of an upcoming challenge. The site is easy to navigate and can potentially save anyone using it hundreds of hours researching case law.

“The *Daubert* Tracker offers speed and convenience not available through any other research service,” says Henry B. Alsobrook, Jr., JD, a partner at the New Orleans, LA-based law firm of Adams & Reese. “It gives attorneys a broader, more complete history of prospective experts, helping them to choose the best expert available, while also avoiding an unexpected challenge from the opposing side.” Edward J. Imwinkler, JD, a professor of law at UC Davis School of Law agrees. “The ability to access this information is especially important in today’s courts, where the focus has moved away from generalists to more precise testimony from experts who can directly speak on the task at hand.” David L. Faigman, JD, a professor of law at UC Hastings College of the Law and author of *Legal Alchemy: The Use and Misuse of Science in the Law* adds, “Most lawyers are not prepared in scientific evidence or technical presentations. The *Daubert* Tracker not only illuminates how past courts have viewed a prospective expert’s testimony, but also offers a number of avenues for attorneys to prove or approach their litigation strategy.”

The *Daubert* Tracker consists of five key components:

- A searchable database of all reported *Daubert*, *Kumho Tire* and *Joiner* cases to date (more than 2,000 federal and 1,000 state cases).

- Direct links to core documents such as opinions, docket sheets, briefs and transcripts.
- A series of web lectures delivered by nationally recognized authorities on *Daubert* and scientific evidence issues, followed by panel discussions with other experts on the same topic.
- A weekly email update that notifies subscribers of all the latest cases from the previous week, including a summary of each case.
- A quarterly journal with articles of relevance to *Daubert* by trial attorneys, law professors, judges and testifying experts.

Legal professionals can use **The *Daubert* Tracker** either through an annual subscription or on a session basis. Exact pricing and examples of the service can be found at

<http://www.mdexonline.com>.

MDEX Online, Inc. is a national full service medical-legal consulting firm. The company was established to give attorneys easy access to the country's leading medical and disability authorities and the broadest array of medical legal consulting services, delivered conveniently and cost-effectively over the Internet. As a leader in the medical legal consulting field, MDEX Online is committed to providing attorneys, consulting clinicians and experts with training on medical legal topics of relevance and interest.

**Note:** The President recently signed an Executive Memorandum creating a new web site that will serve as a single stop online site where people with disabilities, services providers, and advocacy organizations can access links to infor-

mation about federal disability-related programs and services. The President's Memo directs the Department of Labor to coordinate the web site development, but this web site is the responsibility of all federal departments and agencies. There is a 60-day launch deadline and expect to make the web site available in October.

Below is the Memorandum for your information.

### Directive to Develop Interagency Disability Web Site

Twelve years ago, the Congress passed and President George H. W. Bush signed one of the most significant civil rights laws since the Civil Rights Act of 1964 — the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In doing so, America opened its door to a new age for people with disabilities.

Through the New Freedom Initiative, my plan to reduce barriers to people with disabilities, my Administration is committed to ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to learn and to develop skills, to engage in productive work, to choose where to live, and to participate in community life. This effort will allow America to draw on the talents and creativity of all its citizens.

In an effort to remove barriers for people with disabilities, I am instructing Federal agencies to work together to develop a comprehensive Federal web site that serves people with disabilities. This site will provide individuals with access to a single point to go online for Government information and resources related to disabilities and to the New Freedom Initiative.

The development of this web site shall be coordinated by the Department of Labor. Information and services for the new web site shall be shared by all Fed-

eral agencies. Therefore, I direct executive departments and agencies to work together in developing and launching this new citizen-centered and useful web site. I further direct agencies, within 60 days of the date of this memorandum and on an ongoing basis thereafter, to work together to provide information about their programs and access to their services to the Department of Labor. The information and services should be relevant to people with disabilities and should include the programs in the New Freedom Initiative.

Agencies shall also work with State and local governments, as appropriate, in collecting information about the State and local government programs and access to services for people with disabilities to be included in the web site.

George W. Bush  
President of the United States

Anyone desiring additional sets, single copies or individual articles of either the *Monograph Series* or the *Journal Series*\* should contact Terri Skill:

<mailto:terri@btfenterprises.com>

Telephone: (831) 576-1417

Fax: (831) 464-4881

<http://www.abve.net>

\*Charges vary widely depending upon selection.

### Journal Guidelines Available

Those interested in submitting manuscripts for *The Journal of Forensic Vocational Assessment* can request specific guidelines from:

Bruce Growick

Phone: 614-292-8463.

<mailto:growick.1@osu.edu>

# Future ABOVE Conferences



## Mark Your Calendars Now!

**Spring 2003 – San Diego, CA**

**March 21-23, 2003**

Wyndham US Grant

326 Broadway

San Diego, CA 92101

619-232-3121

The Wyndham US Grant is a deluxe, landmark Edwardian hotel built in 1910 located in downtown, opposite Horton Plaza. All rooms feature custom furnishings, bathrobes and all the modern amenities that guests would expect from a deluxe hotel. The hotel's 280 rooms are all presented in Turn-of-the-Century elegance, including mahogany furnishings, two-poster beds, armoires and wingback chairs. The large bathrooms feature marble and ceramic tile tubs. The newspapers of the day called the US Grant one of the great hotels in the country, that was true then and is true now. The hotel is minutes to fine dining, shopping and entertainment. Area attractions include: Sea World, the world famous San Diego Zoo, San Diego Wild Animal Park, LegoLand, Harbor Excursions, Trolley Tours, Balboa Park, Reuben H. Fleet Space Science Center, Aerospace Museum, San Diego Museum of Art, Birch Aquarium at Scripps, Embarcadero, Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá, San Luis Rey Mission, deep sea fishing and whale watching.

**Fall 2003 - St. Thomas, VI**

**October 10-14, 2003**

Renaissance Grand Beach Resort

Smith Bay Road

Route 38

St. Thomas, 00802

United States Virgin Islands

Phone: 1-340-775-1510

Fax: 1-340-775-2185

Atlantis Submarine (dive down 80 ft. in sub to view marine life) (6 mi), British Virgin Islands for sight-seeing, snorkeling, beaching (20 mi), Charlotte Amalie / Downtown Shopping (7 mi), Chris Sawyer Diving Center (on site) - 5-star center offering boat dives, Coral World Marine Park and Underwater Observatory (0.5 mi), Historic St. Thomas sites including Synagogue, Ft. Christian Museum, 99 Steps (7 mi) Kayak EcoTours (guided kayak tour through mangroves) (5 mi), Mountain Top (shopping, highest viewpoint on St. Thomas) (9 mi), Paradise Point Tramway (tram ride to viewpoint overlooking harbor) (5 mi,) St. John National Park for hiking, beaching, snorkeling (10 mi), St. Peter Mountain Greathouse & Botanical Gardens (7 mi), Outdoor pool, Full spa (on site), Exercise Room, Sauna, Jogging, Tennis, Beach, Snorkeling, Sailing, and Jet skiing, Mahogany Run Golf Course (18 holes; 6022 yards; 70 par; 3 miles away)