

IIR Today

The University of the West Indies



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Flagship: The Journal of Caribbean International Relations

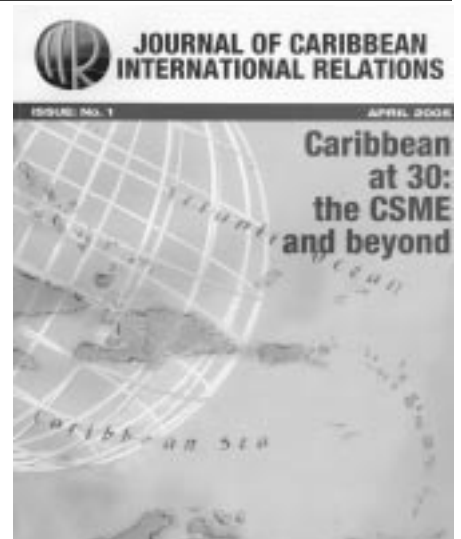
The Caribbean in the Global Arena: CARICOM Beyond Thirty

Excitement accompanies any new venture worth attention. This is certainly so, in the case of the launching of this journal by The University of the West Indies' Institute of International Relations. This inaugural issue includes seminal articles by three of the Region's Prime Ministers: Hon. Mr. Percival James Patterson of Jamaica, Hon. Mr. Patrick Manning of Trinidad and Tobago, and Hon. Mr. Owen Arthur of Barbados; and by four noted regional scholars: Professor Norman Girvan, Professor Vaughan A. Lewis, Ambassador Dr. Richard Bernal and Professor Jacqueline A. Braveboy-Wagner.

The Journal of Caribbean International Relations is published at a time when the Caribbean is confronting the challenges of mul-

tipale internal and external negotiations, which impact the region's identity, its positioning in the global arena, and its medium-term prospects for economic development.

The present issue exemplifies this objective, by including articles addressing the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, as well as the region's external trade negotiations; the nascent evolution of an Antillean Region, including the Greater and Lesser Antilles and the Guianas; the impact of major international institutions upon the prospects of the region's small developing states; Caribbean-US relations; and the role of the West Indian diaspora in the development of the Caribbean Community.



This inaugural issue is dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. Tyrone Ferguson, who worked tirelessly to develop and promote the concept of this Journal, and served as its first Editor until his untimely death in August 2004. I welcome all readers to this new Caribbean journal, which will ensure that its issues continue to be worth your attention and engagement.

Preface, Journal of Caribbean International Relations
Professor Dennis J. Gayle, Interim Executive Director, UWI IIR

The Journal was launched by UWI's Vice Chancellor Nigel Harris in July 2004 at the CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting and was presented to each Head. Subsequent to that meeting, each regional foreign minister was also sent complimentary copies. Copies are on sale at the Institute

IIR Today Editorial Committee

Tamara Brathwaite, Chair
Akilah Griffith
Jessica Jones
Solange Mike

Contact Tel: (868) 645 3232 ext 2010, 3245, 2291
Fax: (868) 663 9685
<http://www.uwi.tt/iir>
<http://www.uwi.tt/iir/news/default.html> (IIR Today)
Email: iirtoday@fss.uwi.tt

Write to iirtoday@fss.uwi.tt

IIR Continuing Development

UWI hosts conference on Trade Relations with the European Union



In photo (back row) from left are: Mr. Luis Carpio, ACS, Professor Dennis Gayle UWI-IIR, and Mr. Andre Verkade, Embassy of the Netherlands. In the front row, from the left are Dr. Guy van der Meulen (Amsterdam School of International Relations), Mr. Anthony Smallwood, European Commission Delegation, Ms. Susan Gordon, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Professor Norman Girvan

UWI IIR partnered with the European Commission Delegation Office in Port of Spain to host a two-day conference from 23-24 May 2005 to explore the evolving relationships between the Caribbean, Latin America and the EU. Campus Principal and PVC Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, opened the plenary on 23 May. Professor Dennis Gayle, Interim Executive Director, Mr. Anthony Smallwood, First Counsellor and Charge d'Affaires a.i. European Commission Delegation Office and Mr. Andre Verkade, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Port of Spain joined in welcoming conference participants. On this day discussions focused on trade relations and Caribbean competitiveness. On the second day, discussions continued on the need for regional countries to develop effective foreign cultural policies and there was additionally focus on encouraging CARICOM to develop a stronger sense of identity.

Guyana's Foreign Service Institute hosts International Relations Workshop

From the 3-5 May 2005, the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Guyana, in collaboration with The University of the West Indies/Institute of International Relations (UWI-IIR) hosted a workshop focusing on the areas of International Trade, Finance and Law. The Institute's team of facilitators included Professor Norman Girvan, Professor Vaughan Lewis, Mr. Anselm Francis, Dr. Bernadette Warner (Coordinator/Facilitator) and Professor Dennis Gayle.

The workshop was funded by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung office for Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean; Director, Ms. Judith Wedderburn, attended. The participants included representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Cooperation, Tourism, Agriculture, Finance and the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana Defence Force and the Bank of Guyana among other agencies. The workshop was opened and closed by the Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana, Mr. Rudy Insanally.



Professor Dennis Gayle, Interim Executive Director and workshop participants

The workshop also discussed Caribbean Relations with the European Union (EU) and placed special emphasis on the importance of negotiating skills and techniques.

WHITER IR: ACADEMIC STAFF SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Spurred by Donald Puchala's 2002 offering, *Visions of International Relations: Assessing an Academic Field*, Frank Clarke instigated the idea of academic fortnightly roundtables to discuss "international relations: critical reflections on research and teaching the discipline and working in the field in the world of the twenty-first century". All members of teaching staff immediately embraced the idea and Professor Lewis assumed the role of Chair. Staff have met, presented and explored their perceptions of IR. The outcome of this exercise would be a critical appraisal of what is researched, taught and recommended in the name of International Relations at the Institute and in the UWI ... a "Whither IR?" of sorts - these landmark presentations are eagerly anticipated in 2006!

IIR 40 YEARS STRONG! Next year is the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of the UWI-IIR! (1966 - 2006) What in your opinion would be the best way to recognize this milestone? We want to hear from you! Write us at iirtoday@fss.uwi.tt



A Note on the 26th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) 3-6 July 2005

Gros-Islet, St. Lucia, was the site of the 26th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, in this the Year of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). As the Secretary General, Edwin Carrington, reminded delegates in his opening remarks, it was also in St. Lucia, in 1998, that the Community adopted, in principle, the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ); the central pillar of the CSME.

Governments remain committed to the realisation the CSME, recognising the importance of deepening the Community as a strategy to combat the turbulence of the current global environment. Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago are already Single Market compliant and all States stand ready to assist each other. Full operation of the Single Market and Economy is slated for December 2005. Heads of Government emphasised the importance of the Development Fund for removing inequalities in the single economic space, in keeping with the

recognition of the necessity for special and differential treatment for certain members of the Community.

Also high on the agenda was the issue of agriculture, in particular sugar, as the region continues to face a downward rearrangement of its preferential agreement with the European Union (EU). The issues of crime and security, which are increasingly becoming obstacles to social and political stability throughout the region, were also addressed. Aware that legislative and enforcement inadequacies are not the sole issues, given that developments point to a change in the psyche of the populace, the Heads of Government endorsed the Management Framework for Security and Crime, cognisant that radical solutions need to be defined and implemented. Security for the Cricket World Cup in 2007 was also tackled, not only from the point of view that cricket has long had an important social impact on the region, but also with a view to ensuring that the region maximises the potential benefits of this event.

The challenges facing CARICOM are indeed many, informed by both internal and external factors, but there is a definite sense that the region is on the move again. The Prime Minister of St. Lucia, the Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony, alluded to this feeling of rejuvenation as he spoke at the opening ceremony of "Desired Destinations: A Fresh Breeze Arising". St. Vincent and the Grenadines have now joined Suriname in introducing the CARICOM passport and the other Community members will follow suit by December 2007. This is an important measure, as it will enhance the involvement of the people of the Caribbean Community in the continued process of regional integration. The Community has taken a more inclusive approach to CARICOM governance through the agreement to establish a Committee of Heads of Government and Leaders of Parliamentary Opposition to discuss ways of engendering increased involvement of both parties in Community affairs. In fact, the two sides met on the eve of the Conference to exchange views. The historic significance of this major step in the evolution of CARICOM governance cannot be underestimated as it represents an expansion of the Community's conceptualisation of democracy.

Prepared by Jessica Jones

THE PASSING OF DAME EUGENIA CHARLES



Dame (Mary) Eugenia Charles
(1919 - 2005)

Prime Minister of Dominica, 1980-1995

Even as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) mourns the passing of Dame Mary Eugenia Charles, it celebrates the life of a quintessential Caribbean personality, an exceptional and pioneering woman, an eminent jurist and daunting, bold and visionary national and regional leader.

Dame Eugenia Charles earned herself pride of place in the annals of Caribbean history by virtue of her unshakable commitment to regional integration, her unique, direct and effective style of governance and her early identification of and dedication to the values to which the Caribbean Community aspires and which, in part through her efforts, it suc-

cessfully achieves: rule of law, gender equality and shared identity.

The Caribbean Community acknowledged the brilliance inherent in Dame Eugenia when it presented her with the Order of the Caribbean Community in 2002. Today it solemnly salutes this distinguished daughter. The Community expresses its deepest condolences to the family of Dame Mary Eugenia Charles and to the Government and People of The Commonwealth of Dominica on the passing of "Marno Charles" and remembers and celebrates with them the life of the "Iron Lady" who earned the respect and affection of the Caribbean Community.

www.caricom.com

PHD Awardees



Dr. Natasha Ward

Globalization and the services Economy in the Anglophone Caribbean: Prospects & Implications for the Telecommunications Industry

Using theoretical concepts from the World Systems paradigm and the Interest group theory, Dr. Ward sought to examine the implications of the logic of globalization and the growth of the services economy in the Anglophone

Caribbean for the regional telecommunications industry. She also sought to assess the potential role of the telecommunications industry in the economic development of CARICOM. Under the guidance of her supervisor, Dr. Tyrone Ferguson, and with the assistance of other academics such as Dr. Keith Nurse and Professor Vaughan Lewis, she was able to successfully complete her Ph.D. in International Relations in 2004. She is the first Barbadian national to have received this award from the IIR at St. Augustine, UWI. Perhaps more striking is the fact that she was able to do so by the age of 28.

Dr. Ward's research found that even though the production of services offers the region an opportunity to diversify its economy, it is still relegated to producing low value-added services in the world economy. Additionally, though telecommunications can be a useful tool for development, the industry can also act as a brake on the development of other industries within the regional economy if the traditional industrial structure is maintained. Dr. Ward is currently a Foreign Service Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados with responsibility for financial services, economic and environmental affairs at the Multilateral Affairs / International Organisations Desk of the International Relations Division. A traveler who also enjoys a good read, Dr. Ward's research interests include service industries, particularly telecommunications services; political economy of telecommunications reform, South-South relations and United Nations reform.



Dr. Raghunath Mahabir

Clearing the Minefield: Resolving Conflicts between Islamic and Non-Islamic Worlds

Dr. Mahabir, familiarly known as Benji and a former member of the Institute's academic staff, now lectures in the Department of Government. A former Foreign Service officer, he was granted his Ph.D. through his examination of conflict resolution in the Islamic and

non-Islamic worlds. Using mainly the theory of constructivism as well as other known theories, he critically examined case studies from the Philippines, Indonesia and Iran with specific reference to ethnicity in International Relations to promote the idea of communicative dialogue among civilizations based on the work of Habermas and Khatami.

He credits the late, Dr. Tyrone Ferguson for his stellar supervision and dedicates the work to his parents. Benji also had an opportunity to accept an internship at the South Centre, unfortunately abbreviated by a family emergency for which he had to return to Trinidad. He has been offered a contract with the UWI Department of Government and he now lectures several courses, including Introduction to International Politics, Introduction to International Organizations, and Contemporary International Politics, the latter at the Masters level. His research interests include Middle Eastern Politics, Security, Terrorism, Migration, Ethnicity and the Role of Civil Society in International Politics.



Dr. Barry A. Ishmael

International competitiveness: The development of a model and its application to a small developing country as Trinidad and Tobago

Dr. Ishmael's presence is one that cannot be ignored, his stature, his smile and his voice calls you to acknowledge him, and likewise, his contribution to academia cannot be ignored. In his thesis, Dr. Ishmael attempted to answer the

question, "Does international competitiveness as has been traditionally analysed and studied with reference to "first world" developed countries, have relevance to developing "third world" countries such as Trinidad and Tobago?" . Using traditional and contemporary theories of International Relations, research findings and adaptations of actual economic situations, Dr. Ishmael ably presented an answer to that question by modifying an existing model and presenting a unique model of competitiveness applicable to small developing countries - the Small Developing Countries Model.

In dedicating the body of work to his family, Dr. Ishmael also acknowledged the assistance of his supervisor, Dr. Anthony Gonzales in provided guidance towards the completion of the thesis. Now a Research Specialist with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Dr. Ishmael's areas of primary responsibility include research into factors that affect Trinidad and Tobago's export competitiveness and to recommend policies in pursuit of furthering the Ministry of Trade's policy goal of increasing such exports. Responsibilities also include research into appropriate implementation strategies targeted at the fulfillment of the Ministry's areas of responsibility under the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's Vision 2020.

PHD Awardees



Dr. Debbie A. Mohammed

Global Competitiveness of Trinidad and Tobago in the Services export sector: A case study of the Information Technology Industry

There is no doubt that writing a Ph.D. requires research, sacrifice and personal commitment, and perhaps Debbie A. Mohammed can write another Ph.D. on these requirements. Dr. Mohammed started writing

her Ph.D. thesis in 1998. She focused on presenting a new model of competitiveness in the export of services - The Dynamic Model of International Competitiveness - particularly useful in analyzing small, open economies such as Trinidad and Tobago. The

pioneering work produced, looks at Porter's Diamond of National Advantage and other competitiveness theories as a starting point for assessing competitiveness requirements for service sector firms in small economies like Trinidad and Tobago. The work adds variables that are more relevant to determining competitiveness in developing economies.

She acknowledges the depth of knowledge and expertise of her supervisor Dr. Anthony Gonzales who helped to support her summations. Along with the Ph.D., Dr. Mohammed welcomed her son, Ché, into her family and it is to him, her husband and her friend, Joy, that this body of work is dedicated. Dr. Mohammed's research interests include Foreign Policy Options Facing Caribbean States; Trade Policy and Export Competitiveness; Trade Negotiation Strategies for Caribbean States; and the Role of IT in Caribbean Development Strategies.

UWI IIR Internship

REPORT ON THE UWI-IIR INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

At the beginning of 04/05 academic year, the Institute formalized a position of Internship Coordinator with the aim of registering interested students as interns with international organisations located in the region. From the efforts of Ms. Tracy Evans, the first internship coordinator, Mrs. Hilkiyah Hinds was received as an intern at the EU Delegation Office and the CARICOM Secretariat in Guyana invited Ayesha Wharton to work with them as an intern.

Positive feedback has been received from several other organisations, including IDB, CAIC and CTO. Indeed under the Memo-

randum of Understanding, with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), facilities are made for several internships of one to three months duration each year. Further, the UNDP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean has also executed a Memorandum of Understanding whereby several internships will be offered in Jamaica, Trinidad, Guyana and Barbados.

Additionally, through Professor Girvan's efforts, one student and an academic staff member; Ms. Anita Montoute and Dr. Raghunath Mahabir were offered internships at the South Centre in Geneva.

The internship programme demonstrates the Institute's continued recognition of the need for an applied co-curricular component. For the student, internships provide an opportunity to integrate academia with practical learning experience. The organisations likewise benefit from a flow of fresh ideas and talent from which they can potentially draw future permanent staff. With such recognition of its importance, the internship programme can only continue to grow from strength to strength.

Dr. Debbie Mohammed is the newly installed internship coordinator.

Reflections of an IIR Intern

My studies at the Institute of International Relations (IIR) broadened my perspective of the world and in particular enriched my knowledge on issues currently being discussed in the international arena. This then created a passion within me for developmental issues, especially as they relate to developing countries. The opportunity that the IIR presented me to do an internship at the South Centre in Geneva Switzerland further consolidated and confirmed my interest in developmental issues of the South.

Being able to walk through the United Nations and the World Trade Organization is like a dream come true. My internship entails assisting the Executive Director develop a programme on Regionalism. My specific responsibilities are to assist in mapping out areas of particular interest to developing countries relating to the project and undertaking substantive research on such areas. I also attend meetings that are relevant to my work at international organizations based in Geneva such as the United Nations



and its agencies, the WTO and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Additionally, I consult with developing country missions based in Geneva, engaging with ambassadors and country delegates as well as with other experts in the area.

One of the most challenging and probably the most exciting events so far is an invitation to make a presentation on regionalism at the Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations (CASIN) on October 27th 2005. My experiences have

indeed changed me for the better and I will never be the same again. I would like to thank the IIR family for their love and support and to encourage them to continue to inspire students who pass through their doors.

Warm regards,

Annita

Annita Montoute, Intern

Young South Volunteer Programme, South Centre
Ch. du Champ d'Anier 17, POB 228, 1211, Geneva 19, Switzerland

Yvonne Gittens-Joseph

A true daughter of the soil, she continues to represent Trinidad and Tobago in embodying the principles of professionalism, excellence and integrity.



Mrs. Yvonne Gittens-Joseph

Yvonne Gittens-Joseph is another in a long list of distinguished Institute of International Relations (IIR) alumni that the IIR Today newsletter is honoured to feature in this current issue. Mrs. Gittens-Joseph, a Trinidad and Tobago national, obtained her BSc at the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI in 1973 and a Post-Graduate Diploma in International Relations from the IIR in 1974.

Mrs. Gittens-Joseph has enjoyed a distinguished diplomatic career representing the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, primarily through her service at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs both at Headquarters and overseas in various capacities, culminating in her most recent appointment as Permanent Secretary (acting) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, since August 2004.

On completing her post-graduate degree at the Institute and prior to entering the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1975, Mrs. Gittens-Joseph served as a Research Officer in the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Planning and Development. Thereafter she joined the Ministry; working in various Divisions including that of Political and Economic Affairs, Protocol and Consular Affairs, International Economic Relations and International Trade, and Administration. She has held the positions of Director of the Division of Political Affairs from October 1992 to January 1995, Director of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Caribbean Affairs Division from July 2002 to July 2004.

Overseas, Yvonne Gittens-Joseph continued her excellent representation serving as First Secretary to the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations (Geneva, 1977 to 1981), Deputy High Commissioner in the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in New Delhi, (India, 1981 to 1983), and Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission to the United Nations (New York, 1995 to 2002) during which she was also Chargé d' Affaires (1997 to 1998).

Within her diplomatic activities, Mrs. Gittens-Joseph has also represented Trinidad and Tobago in delegations at a variety of international and regional conferences, including the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) in April 1994. She also provided a sterling contribution as the Chairperson of the Third Committee, one of the main United Nations Committees, at the 55th Session of the

United National General Assembly from September 2000 to September 2001. She is the first woman from Trinidad and Tobago to chair one of the main Committees of the United Nations. This important Committee, which comprises all United Nations Member States and specialised Agencies, is responsible for social, cultural, humanitarian and human rights issues.

In her capacity as Chairperson, Mrs. Gittens-Joseph received numerous letters of commendation highlighting her outstanding and excellent work. A true daughter of the soil, she continues to represent Trinidad and Tobago in embodying the principles of professionalism, excellence and integrity.

Prepared by Solange Mike

O N T H E H O R I Z O N

UWI-IIR 40th Anniversary Launch Saturday 21 January 2006, Cascadia Hotel. Contact agriffith@fss.uwi.tt. *Cocktail reception to follow*

The Higher Institute of International Relations "RAÚL ROA GARCÍA" Academic International Seminar: "Diplomacy and International Relations in the Great Caribbean" to be held December 5 to 7 2005 Havana City, Cuba. For further information, please contact: (537) 551474 or register at: diplocaribe2005@isri.minrex.gov.cu

UWIDEC & UNESCO have launched a new online course on **Local e-Governance in the Caribbean**. Course participants will learn how to utilise new information communications technology in local governance, to improve local management and administration. The course was coordinated, developed and prepared by Professor Stewart Marshall of UWIDEC, Mr. Alton Grizzle of UNESCO and Mr. Richard Escalante of IIR who is also a part-time lecturer in e-Government in the Faculty of Social Sciences. Further details can be obtained at: <http://e-gov.dec.uwi.edu/>

IIR Welcomes Staff

IIR is pleased to welcome new staff faces to the Institute. Interestingly, some of these faces are not that new, as they have been known to contribute to IIR in the past as students or as visiting faculty.

Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo – *profile by Anselm Francis*

Sometimes when one is asked to perform a particular task, one is inclined to think that it would have been better if another person were asked to do so. However, on this occasion, there is no time to pause to think about saying a few words of welcome to a dear friend and colleague, Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo. We are absolutely delighted to have him back with us for the academic year 2005 / 2006.

More often than not, clichés are meaningless but it must be said about Sahadeo that he needs no introduction. He was attached to the Department of History and after a stint in national politics; including the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs; he joined the staff of the Institute. We recognised his worth then as a scholar and academic and fully appreciate now the contribution, which he will make to our programme.

His varied career and wide experience make him an invaluable asset to our staff. Knowing him as well as I do, I am certain that he would be willing to share with students some of the important lessons, which he learnt in the conduct of diplomacy and the formulation of foreign policy. It is also safe to assume that researchers and students would benefit enormously from his scholarship.

With respect to members of faculty, it is simply a matter of continuing from where we left. During his sojourn in Canada, at Okanagan University in British Columbia, he kept in close touch with us, and indeed, we always looked forward to his fraternal greetings at Christmas time. Sahadeo, we warmly welcome you and wish you a most enjoyable stay at our Institute.

Dr. Mark Kirton – *profile by Jessica Jones*

On sabbatical leave for the next 18 months from the University of Guyana (UG), Dr. Mark Kirton has graciously accepted an invitation from the UWI-IIR to spend a year on contract. No stranger, Dr Kirton, was a lecturer in the early 1990s in International Relations of Latin America at the Institute. He regards it as an important Caribbean unit for teaching and research.

It was in 1976 that Dr. Kirton graduated from UG with a Bachelor of Arts in Languages (Portuguese) and Political Science. This course of study resulted in a rewarding convergence of interest between modernist literature with struggle and revolution, which in many ways has defined and informed his career.

Dr. Kirton is practically an institution at UG, having spent some 29 years there. Staff-leave facilitated his pursuit of Masters and Doctoral studies in the USA. His Doctoral thesis treated with the issue of Foreign Policy Behaviour of Emerging States, focusing on Brazil. He has served as the Head of Department Political Science and Law and the Director of the Graduate School of the Social Sciences. Having recently demitted the post of the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Kirton remains a lecturer in Government and International Affairs. Additionally, he has been instrumental in the introduction of the Semester system, a full LLB degree, an undergraduate degree and a Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations.

Dr. Kirton's interest in conflict resolution and mediation has led to a project with Clark Atlanta University: Democratization and Conflict Resolution in Guyana. The result has been an internal solution for Guyana, with the development of a cadre of persons able to work in their own communities. This has been solidified by the development of an undergraduate course at UG: Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Conflict Resolution.

Immersed in Guyanese culture he remains a regionalist as well, and relishes the CSME's potential for positive impact on the Caribbean. Married with two children, Dr. Kirton enjoys cricket and still plays a little, so do not be surprised if you spot him on the pitch or at the boundary. A lover of good music, his tastes run the gamut from Beethoven to Bob Marley. The Institute is pleased to welcome Dr. Kirton back: to rekindle both institutional and personal links.

Jessica Jones – *profile by Tamara Brathwaite*

The newest member of Staff to join the Institute of International Relations is Jessica Jones, a returning student now in her present post Research Assistant. Jessica is a true Caribbean national, Guyanese by birth, Bajan by descent (both of her parents are from Barbados) and married to a Jamaican, whom she met during her studies in Trinidad.

Jessica has a B.Sc. in Computer Studies from UWI, St Augustine. Starting as a Computer Programmer, she has spent several years as an IT Consultant responsible for Project-Coordination, computer software training and implementation in Telecommunications and National Insurance arenas. Her career has taken her to several Caribbean islands, Bermuda, Panama and London. This was coupled with several stints teaching at the Community College in Barbados.

Taking a career break to pursue Postgraduate studies, she returned to Trinidad to complete a Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations (2004) and her studies have changed the way she looks at the world.



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IIR Welcomes Staff

Her motivation to apply for the post of Research Assistant came from her enjoyment of her time at IIR, her gratitude to the faculty, staff and the library and the opportunity to have a job in research whilst continuing her development, pursuing a M.Sc. in International Relations at the Institute. Her areas of research interest include, but are by no means limited to, conflict resolution and mediation, and the Law of the Sea.

Jessica's sunny outlook helps her do the things that she loves; diving and dancing numbers among her hobbies. Drawing her strength from family and close friends she loves languages and speaks French and Spanish, and is hoping to follow suit with Japanese and Chinese. Jessica brings her enthusiasm, love of learning and ready smile to the role of Research Assistant UWI-IIR is happy to have her, and we wish her well!!

Tamara Brathwaite - profile by Jessica Jones

Trinidadian by birth and Bajan by descent, Tamara graduated with a BA (First Class honours) in Library and Information Studies from UWI Mona and immediately followed suit with a Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations at the UWI-IIR. Her fieldwork experience and this combination degree prepared her to work with the UN Information Centre in Port of Spain where she spent six years. A recipient of the 2002 Scotiabank Caribbean Graduate Scholarship for study in London, England, Tamara was granted one year study leave from the UN to pursue an MA in Electronic Communication and Publishing at the School of Library, Archive and

Information Studies at the University College of London; a course with an integrated internship programme. A 3-month stint ensued at the Electronic Resources Development Section of the Dag Hammarskjold Library at the UN in New York.

Tamara has always maintained her links at the Institute and once returned to facilitate a presentation on Volunteerism and the UN. It is no surprise therefore that upon learning of the vacant post of Librarian; she jumped at the opportunity to come back home, as it were, with the added advantage of her rich international experiences. She prides herself on retaining an international outlook as it carries with it, perhaps, an inherent inclusiveness of all people and cultures.

Tamara sees herself building on the excellent service already offered by the Institute's Library, with a focus on electronic resource development and she also hopes to cultivate a sense of mutual respect and responsibility towards the Library's resources among faculty, students and staff and to continue to enhance the Library's collection and its aesthetics.

An optimist, a traveller and a professional, Tamara is a self-confessed planner who, "could organise spontaneity". It gives the Institute great pleasure to welcome Tamara back, and we are confident that her vision for library services will be fulfilled, because as she is wont to say, "Everything is possible."

Feedback

We are currently updating our contact database and we want to hear from you

Comments _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ *Fax:* _____ *Mobile:* _____

Email _____

Send to IIR Today, iirtoday@fss.uwi.tt UWI Institute of International Relations, St Augustine Campus, The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago

Collective support goes out to **Joyce Reid** and family on the untimely passing of her husband.

Condolences to **Jacqueline Roberts** and family on the recent passing of her mother.

Good luck to **Tracy Evans** as she leaves IR to continue her studies at the Amsterdam School of International Relations.

Akilah Griffith has been appointed Alumni Affairs Coordinator. Please feel free to contact her at agriffith@fss.uwi.tt.