



# IIR Today

*The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine*

*Newsletter of the Institute of International Relations  
Issue 10, June 2009*

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## *Professor Vaughan Lewis and Mr. Anselm Francis retire from the IIR*

On September 5th 2008, the IIR held a retirement ceremony for two of its esteemed lectures, Mr. Anselm Francis and Professor Vaughan Lewis.



**Mr. Anselm Francis and Professor Lewis  
at the retirement ceremony  
September 2008**

### *An Interview with MR ANSELM FRANCIS*

*by Rosanna Glasgow*

Mr. Francis hails from the neighbouring island of Grenada. He is married and is the proud father of three children. He received his primary and secondary school education in Grenada. He then went on to London where he obtained both a Bachelors and Masters degree in Law. He returned to Grenada in 1977, and was employed for three years at the Ministry of External Affairs, (now Foreign Affairs). In 1978, he decided that a change in his life was necessary and applied to the Institute of International Relations. His congeniality and friendliness make him approachable in and out of the classroom. He is known for his suave demeanour and is never *ruffled*, which sometimes attracts friendly provocation by his students who congratulate him for bringing GQ to IR!

After having lectured at the IIR for roughly 30 years, Mr. Francis remains grateful for and is satisfied with his career choice as an educator. He derived tremendous intrinsic satisfaction from nurturing and shaping young Caribbean minds. He is especially proud of the many graduates who sit at the helm of regional and international organisations, and the many others who occupy key decision-making positions in their respective capacities throughout the region. He boasts that many of his students have maintained contact, marked by the many seasonal cards that he receives and occasional visits.

He laments though, the decline in the enrolment of regional students over the last few years, and longs for their return in the numbers seen previously. His most rewarding and satisfying accomplishment is the supervision of PhD Theses. He enjoys the entire process of guiding students over a period of time and has expressed his willingness to continue to supervise and guide enterprising minds. He will truly be missed!

### *PROFESSOR VAUGHN LEWIS*

*by Kimberly Mitchell*

Professor Vaughan Lewis, was born in St. Lucia in 1940. He studied at the University of Manchester, England where he attained both his undergraduate and doctoral degrees. He served in various academic positions at the University of Swansea, Wales as a Temporary Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Government; at the University of Liverpool as an Assistant Lecturer, Department of Political Theory and Institutions, and as a Research Fellow in the Department of Government at the University of Manchester.

During the period 1972-1986, Professor Lewis joined the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus as Lecturer in Political Theory and International Relations. Following this, he served as Head of the Institute

of Social and Economic Research at UWI's Cave Hill Campus. He then went on to serve as Professor of International Relations of the Caribbean at UWI's St. Augustine Campus from 1999 until his retirement in 2008. Professor Lewis was also elected to Parliament in 1996, and following the resignation of Sir John Compton, served as Prime Minister of Saint Lucia from 1996-97.

He has done extensive work for several regional and international bodies, including, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (UNECLAC) and the Commonwealth Secretariat. More recently he was appointed Chairman of a task force charged with exploring the possibilities of an economic and political union between Trinidad and

Tobago and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). On May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the report of the Task Force was formally presented by Professor Lewis to the four original signatories of the Joint Declaration for the proposed union; St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister Stephenson King of St. Lucia, Grenadian Prime Minister, Tillman Thomas and, Prime Minister Patrick Manning of Trinidad and Tobago.

Professor Lewis has also written numerous articles on regional integration, Caribbean International Relations and relations between small developing states and the great powers of the international system. Some of his articles include: ... (Continued on page 4)

## ***Professor Girvan awarded Honorary Degree***



**Professor Norman Girvan**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2008, Professor Norman Girvan was conferred with the title Doctor Honoris Causa in Economic Sciences by the University of Havana.

“In recognition of his relevant scientific and academic merits, to his tireless position in defence of Caribbean peoples and his unshakeable solidarity with Cuba and its Revolution, the University of Havana, on the proposal of the Caribbean Studies Centre and the Centre for Study of the International Economy, is honoured to award him the title of Doctor Honoris Causa in Economic Sciences.”(1. Footnote Below)

In his remarks on receipt of the degree, Dr. Girvan recollected the events of 1959 and thereafter and noted that the honor was made even more extraordinary by the fact that it coincided with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution. Making reference to the various forms of assistance the Cuban people have extended to both the region and the wider world, Dr. Girvan noted that the “the debt is unpayable” and accepted the honour on both his behalf and that of fellow Pan-Caribbean thinkers such as Lloyd Best and George Beckford. (2. Footnote below)

IIR Today extends congratulations to Dr. Norman Girvan, Professorial Research Fellow, Institute of International Relations, on the receipt of such a signal honour.

*¡Felicitaciones!*

1. Citation of the University of Havana—<http://www.normangirvan.info/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/uh-hon-doctorate-citation-eng1>
2. 2008. Girvan, N. “The Debt is Unpayable.” Remarks at the Great Hall of the University of Havana on receipt of the degree of Doctor of Economic Sciences, Honoris Causa December 3, 2008. Accessed December 18<sup>th</sup> 2008 [www.normangirvan.info](http://www.normangirvan.info)

### **CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS HOSTED BY THE IIR 2008/2009**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 21 October 2008    | Land Reform and Food Security—Lessons from the Southern African Experience, Dr. Moyo  |
| 23 October 2008    | Roundtable Discussion on Post Graduate Professional Opportunities   |
| 24 October 2008    | Seminar - An Encounter with Haiti , Mr. Reginald Dumas  |
| 27 October 2008    | Seminar - 21st Century Multilateralism , Ms. Patricia Goff  |
| 18 November 2008   | Seminar - Regional Developments, Ambassador Henry Gill  |
| 20 November 2008   | Launch of UNFPA Report state of the World population Report   |
| 27 November 2008   | Presentation - Current Caribbean-EU relations and future challenges, Mr. Geert Laporte  |
| 23 January 2009    | Meeting of the Caribbean (NGO) Policy Development Centre, Professor Timothy Shaw  |
| 26 January 2009    | OAS Scholarship Alumni Association Meeting , Ambassador Albert Ramdin   |
| 4 March 2009       | Panel Discussion on ISA’s 50th Conference - “Exploring the Past, Anticipating the Future”, Professor Marianne Marchand, Professor Jane Parpart and Professor Timothy Shaw |
| 9 March 2009       | Panel Discussion on Commonwealth Day: “The Commonwealth at 60, Serving a New Generation”  |
| 12 March 2009      | Seminar—Election Results in African Regions, Dr. Cyril Daddieh  |
| 14-16 April 2009   | Colloquium: Inter-American Cooperation at a Crossroads  |
| 21-22 April 2009   | Seminars - Why a nation in Jeopardy, Professor Rattan Lal Hangloo<br>The Evolution of CARICOM Monitoring efforts, Dr. David Golberg                                       |
| 24 April 2009      | Panel Discussion- Critical reflection on the Fifth Summit of the Americas   |
| 30 May-7 June 2009 | Surinamese Cohort Visits the IIR  |
| 2 June 2009        | Lecture - Power Play in the UN System, Dr. S.R Insanally  |
| 4-6 June 2009      | Academic Council of the United Nations System (ACUNS) Annual Meeting  |

## *Interrogating the Summitry Process in the Americas*

*By David Gibbs*

### *IIR Holds Colloquium to coincide with Summit of the Americas*

The Institute of International Relations in collaboration with the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) and the International-American Studies Center of Laval University held a two-day academic conference from April 15-16, 2009. The conference attracted participants from North, Central and Latin America and the Anglo-phone Caribbean, with representation from academia, civil society organisations and the media.

The two-day Colloquium, under the theme *"Inter American Cooperation at a Crossroads"*, addressed issues such as the successes and failures of Inter-American cooperation and the prospects for hemispheric regionalism.

The Colloquium, which comprised panel discussions, focused on such themes as: *"Responding to the Challenges"* which reviewed the performance of the Inter-American System in resolving problems confronting various communities in the Americas; *"The Effectiveness of other Institutions"*, which examined the efficacy of new sub-hemispheric institutions as CARICOM and ALBA and *"Reconstructing a Regional System for the Americas"*, which assessed the feasibility of various mechanisms for reinforcing the current inter-American system.

Among the guest presenters were Professorial Research Fellow Norman Girvan and Assistant Secretary General of the Organisation of the American States (OAS) Albert Ramdin. The colloquium was characterised by a keen and robust exchange of views.

Generally it was felt that the hemisphere had not maximised its development potential. The extent of,

and more so, the reasons for this development deficit however, remains widely disputed. Prospects for improvements in the social, political and economic fortunes of the region were generally thought to be promising.

Overall the Colloquium assisted considerably in placing the Fifth Summit of the Americas in historical and contemporary context; it drew attention to the multilayered, multifaceted and evolving nature of a dynamic regionalism and reminded those present of the considerable challenges and opportunities ahead.

The Colloquium therefore provided a useful background for the subsequent panel discussion following the Summit which was not without some attendant controversies.

### *"Summing" the Summit*

*"Summing the Summit"* was convened by Dr. Gale T C Rigobert immediately after the Summit of the Americas, to assess the outcome of the 5th Summit of the Americas.

The post-mortem sought to analyse whether the region's development objectives as spelt out in the declaration of Port of Spain were feasible, desirable or attainable.

The panel comprised Professor Norman Girvan; Mr. Anselm Francis; Professor Timothy Shaw; Dr. David Goldberg, International Relations student, David Gibbs and Dr. Gale Rigobert as moderator.

Professor Girvan contended that the Summit was deficient in placing key issues on the agenda, such as the removal of the US trade embargo and the impact of the global financial crisis. In his view, claims by host Chairman, that the agenda was already decided prior to the emergence of the financial crisis around September 2009 was simply not a convincing argument. He was supported on this

point by Mr. Gibbs who suggested that contemporary diplomacy has to be more nimble in responding to new trends and circumstances. Professor Girvan asserted that Prime Minister Manning, as Chair of the Summit, may have erred in publicising that the final communiqué would be signed, especially given the apprehension expressed among the Heads. Thus, the claim that the Heads had asked him to convey their support for the decisions taken at the Summit was to many a *face-saving* measure.

Mr. Gibbs advanced the view that US President Obama was successful in using the Summit confirming himself as the voice of reason, dialogue, tolerance and goodwill. To this extent he was able to increase his political capital and continue the process of restoring some of the United States' lost respect. He suggested that small states in CARICOM should not defer from hosting important multilateral summits, but should be creative in structuring them in keeping with their resources and institutional capabilities.

Mr. Francis argued that the failure of the Heads to sign the final communiqué was not a fatal flaw in the Summit outcome, since a signed communiqué does not carry any legal significance under international law. He stated that the practise of signing communiqués varied widely in international multilateral diplomacy and served mainly symbolic purposes.

Professor Shaw and Dr. Goldberg generally adopted a wait-and-see approach in determining what the Summit's outcome could be and whether Trinidad and Tobago will eventually be able to exert any leverage at the hemispheric level and/or develop a legacy as a consequence of having hosted the Summit.

### **Vaughan Lewis.....continued from page 2**

*"The Changing Environment of OECS International Relations and some External Policy Implications"*, *"Looking from the Inside Outwards: The Caribbean in the International System after 2000"*, and a two part series entitled *"Sir John Compton and Caribbean Integration"* and *"Caribbean Adjustment to the External Environment."*



***The IV Peoples' Summit of the Americas 2009: "Another America is possible."  
IV<sup>e</sup> Sommet des Peuples des Amériques 2009 : « Une autre Amérique est possible »***

***By Aisha Lewis***

excitement to the proceedings that were palpable.

The official days of the IV Peoples' Summit of the Americas were from the 16-18 April 2009, at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad, however, activities began on April 15 with the Workers' Forum.

Meetings took the form of either plenary sessions or a number of breakout sessions covering a wide array of topics built around the main themes: *Food Sovereignty, Financial/Economic Crisis, Social Crisis, Migration, Culture and Identity, Energy Sustainability, Governance and Citizenship and Security/Militarization.*

The overarching aim of the Summit was for the peoples of the Americas to establish alternative solutions to the crises confronting us.

Several regional countries and groups were represented including trade unions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, social movements, agricultural groups, university lecturers and students, among others. Moreover, the presence of Cuba (excluded from the *other Summit*) lent both a sense of gravity and

From the onset, the Summit, organized by the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU), met with seemingly insurmountable obstacles — last minute refusals for both a venue for the Summit and the Trinidad and Tobago government's cancellation of the permit for "*The March for Social Justice*," which it was expected would take place in the capital, Port-of-Spain, on the last day. The irony was inescapable. The fact that things eventually worked out was truly a testimony to the irrepressible tenacity of the trade union movement. In the end, despite the cancellation of the permit, as proof of the seriousness of their convictions, participants held a peaceful march in downtown Port-of-Spain.

The seven point declaration emanating from the Summit intended as a message to the heads at the V Summit of the Americas, on Saturday 18 April called for "no more exclusion, neo liberalism, free trade or militarization". What is left to be seen is if governments of the region will consider any of the demands made or solutions proposed and how the contents of such a Summit could filter down to include the wider population and the impact that this could have.

Officiellement, le IV<sup>e</sup> Sommet des Peuples des Amériques devait se tenir du 16 au 18 avril 2009 à l'Université des Indes Occidentales, St. Augustine (Trinité-et-Tobago), où logeraient les participants (Trinité-et-Tobago), ou encore l'annulation de l'autorisation par le gouvernement de Trinité-et-Tobago de la « manifestation pour la justice sociale », qui devait avoir lieu le dernier jour dans la capitale, Port-d'Espagne. L'ironie était inéluctable. Le fait que les choses se soient finalement arrangées constitue une preuve véritable de la ténacité irrépressible du mouvement syndical. En fin de compte, malgré l'annulation de l'autorisation, les participants ont mené une manifestation pacifique à Port-d'Espagne pour montrer le sérieux de leurs convictions.

Les réunions ont pris la forme de séances plénières ou d'ateliers abordant une large gamme de sujets touchant aux thèmes majeurs tels que la souveraineté alimentaire, la crise financière/économique, la crise sociale, la migration, la culture et l'identité, la durabilité énergétique, la gouvernance et la citoyenneté et la sécurité/militarisation. L'objectif principal du Sommet était de permettre aux peuples des Amériques de développer des solutions alternatives aux crises auxquelles ils font face.

Plusieurs pays et groupes régionaux y participaient, y compris des syndicats, des organisations non-gouvernementales (ONGs), la société civile, des mouvements sociaux, des groupes agricoles, des professeurs d'université et des étudiants, entre autres. En outre, la présence de Cuba (exclu de l'autre Sommet) a créé à la fois une atmosphère de gravité et d'excitation palpable.

Dès le début, ce Sommet, organisé par le syndicat des travailleurs du secteur pétrolier (OWTU) a dû faire face à des obstacles

La déclaration de 7 points émanant du Sommet qui se voulait être un message aux chefs d'États du V<sup>e</sup> Sommet des Amériques, le samedi 18 avril, a lancé un appel pour mettre fin à « l'exclusion, le néolibéralisme, le libre-échange et la militarisation ». Ce qui reste encore à déterminer, c'est de savoir si les gouvernements de la région vont prendre en compte les demandes exprimées et les solutions proposées et comment on pourrait propager le contenu d'un tel Sommet pour intégrer le grand public et l'impact que ceci pourrait avoir.

## Summit of the Americas: A Missed Opportunity

By Marlon Anatol



The hosting of the Summit does not in, and of itself solve our developmental quagmire. The glittering lights are fine to admire, the pomp and ceremony comical to observe, and the posturing pitiful; but we do have more serious issues on the ground that need our immediate attention.

We still have to address our problems of trade constriction due to the downturn in the global economy, and the resultant fall in the price of our primary exports; as well as a reduction in the amount of trade occurring locally. While some financial pundits argue over when the global economy will rebound, the fact remains that one needs to be economically prudent in these times, and as such, adopt sustainable policies and in many cases create new strategies and programs to protect the livelihood of the most disadvantaged in society.

Though this sort of diligence may not be in the best interest of some; we notice the global trend of governments intervening in their national economies at levels not seen in the last few decades. This is evidenced by the various interventionist measures, dubbed “rescue

packages” championed by governments. The economic viability of small states such as ours, which are especially vulnerable to global economic and financial shocks, hinges on the successful solution to the global financial crisis.

This begs the question of what policies and programs are being developed locally and indeed regionally to deal with our realities and attendant survival.

It has been said that Trinidad and Tobago has been trying to revive ‘integration’ in the English speaking Caribbean; and while I would like to consider myself an integrationist that means a lot more than mere ‘old talk’. Neither the glitter nor the pomp impress or confuse me. Integration movements are premised on common principles and ethos that are communally accepted by the consenting parties to such a movement. It ought not to be, or some argue that it cannot be forced upon unsuspecting, or in some cases, unwilling actors. The financial crisis allows the region to re-prioritize and re-strategize; as a region, and not as a number of disparate states. If this is not done, one may very well find oneself in a region that is even more vulnerable after the more developed nations have ‘fixed’ the global financial dilemma. After all, if one fixes a problem, I think it fair to assume that it will be fixed in the interest of the ‘fixer’ with less attention or consideration given to the needs of the ‘fixee’.

As the old adage goes, ‘the proof is in the pudding’. It would seem that this is the perfect opportunity for the CARICOM nations to forge deeper ties for their mutual survival. The leaders had the opportunity to make common representation on a number of issues,

including unified developmental strategies, environmental sustainability, poverty reduction, common representation, trade strategies and their position in relation to Cuba. And while some commentators have hailed the Summit hosting by Trinidad and Tobago as an undeniable success, I am somewhat more cautious.

While there were some inherent advantages to be gained, I do not share the view that there will be more investments coming to the country as a consequence of paying for the Summit. Also I believe that if this was a foreign policy strategy, that the goals needed to be clear, the evaluation of its success or failure objective, and the methodology of evaluation above suspicion. If these things cannot be achieved, then once more we may be lured into thinking that the *glitter* is true gold. Foreign policy objectives must be clearly defined and evaluated, but somewhat flexible to deal with the changing realities of the international system. If the crafters are not flexible in their approach or open to new concepts, then what is left is a rigid and ineffective foreign policy; which will eventually weaken our position regionally and internationally.

The aftermath of the Summit is itself defined by the character of the Summit itself. While undoubtedly there will be commentaries on the successes and failures of the event, attention should remain focused on the critical issues of sustainability, prudent fiscal policies, the development of social programs, adopting a culture of good governance, regional co-operation (if only in the form of functional co-operation), proper international representation, poverty reduction, environmental responsibility and more participation in the governing of the country.

## Suriname MSc Cohort Visits IIR

### *A Manifestation of Caribbean Integration*



It is with great excitement and high expectation we welcomed the official launch of the first joint Master of Science in International Relations under the auspices of the Institute of International Relations (IIR) of the University of The West Indies (UWI) in cooperation with the newly established Institute of Graduate Studies and Research (IGSR) of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname (Adekus).

A group of twenty three (23) enthusiastic Surinamese students enrolled in this program which, given the language barrier, was a challenging undertaking. This first group of students, comprising of experts from different government ministries, the private sector, civil society organizations and multilateral agencies, came from a wide variety of professional and academic backgrounds.

From a student's perspective, this program represented a truly unique opportunity to be part of an internationally

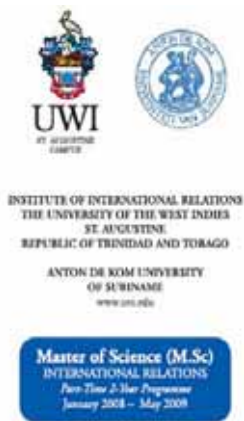
accredited program while remaining within our own surroundings and environment, without substantive disruption to professional and family life.

On a personal note, I feel privileged to have had this opportunity to embark upon a scholarly program provided by an internationally renowned regional institution that teaches International Relations from a Caribbean perspective (the only one of its kind).

This program can be regarded as a manifestation of regional integration, whereby two independent regional academic institutions have embarked upon a collaborative endeavour to effectively maximize the use of available resources.

All will agree that this has been a fruitful and successful initiative and one which ought to continue.

*By Ruben Martoredjo*



## *Bakabana with Thai Peanut Sauce*

Bakabana is an Indonesian dish from Suriname. Slices of plantain are battered and fried, then served with a spicy peanut sauce.

### BAKABANA

#### Ingredients:

4 ripened plantains  
1 egg  
1/4 cup flour  
2 tablespoons buttermilk  
2 tablespoons brown sugar  
Salt  
Vegetable oil

#### Method:

Mix egg, flour, buttermilk, sugar and salt; Slice the plantain diagonally; Coat the plantain slices in the batter; Heat oil in a frying pan over medium heat until about 350 degrees; Fry the plantain until golden brown. Drain on paper towels and sprinkle with salt. Serve warm with peanut sauce for dipping.



### THAI PEANUT SAUCE

#### Ingredients

1/3 cup peanut butter  
3 tbsp water  
2 tbsp soy sauce  
juice from 2 limes  
1 tbsp fresh minced ginger  
1/2 tsp brown sugar  
1 clove garlic, minced  
1/4 tsp red pepper flakes, or to taste  
Salt to taste

#### Method

Whisk together all ingredients in a small bowl. For a spicier version add extra pepper flakes or freshly diced chillies.

## *Surinamese Students attest to the value and quality of the IR MSc Program*

Prior to pursuing the IR course I knew nothing about International Relations. I had little interest in news, be it national or global, but that has since changed. IR has awakened my political interest in Suriname. As a public servant, it has assisted me in my job and I have been able to advise and share my new found knowledge with my co-workers. Persons involved in politics should pursue such a course as it would broaden their views and enhance the decision making process. I also believe that civil society in Suriname needs to be more engaged with and involved in the decision-making process at the highest level. The Lecturers were amiable, professional and knowledgeable.



**Elizabeth Gezius, Ministry of Justice and Police, Suriname.**



I am a Police Inspector and a lawyer and have pursued several courses in the sphere of money laundering, security, and Latin American studies. However, this IR course has given me the tools to function more efficiently. I feel better equipped to relate to both my superiors and those whom I supervise. The lecturers are excellent and their performance and commitment to the students are outstanding.

**Kenneth Johan Amoksi, Ministry of Justice and Police, Suriname.**

I was born in Suriname, but up until three years ago I lived in Holland where I was educated. The European education I received echoed the western or northern perspective. International Relations with a Caribbean focus has been both new and interesting. Suriname has been slow in responding to the challenges and opportunities available within the global arena. A program such as this goes a long way in triggering a “mind-shift”, and in developing the capacity to be more proactive rather than reactive. The lecturers challenged us to think critically and to develop our opinions, both of which are new to me.



**Renate Burgrust, Ministry of Regional Development, Suriname.**



I work alongside the Minister and my duties include the drafting of letters and correspondence in English, which has been one of my greatest challenges. This IR course has made me more comfortable with the language as we are forced to have discourse and interaction in English. I have become more knowledgeable and have obtained a broader view on global issues, especially on Latin America and the Anglophone Caribbean, since previously my exposure had been limited to the metropole, Holland, in particular. The lecturers have taught us well.

**Angela Ramkusoen, Ministry of Home Affairs, Suriname.**

I am the Deputy Permanent Secretary of Communication and advise the Minister on developments that take place within ICT and the media. The IR course has encouraged me to develop a critical eye. As a lecturer at the Suriname University I can now teach my students from a global perspective and my seminars reflect a broader viewpoint. The lecturers were diverse in their teaching methods, but all were knowledgeable in their respective areas. I enjoyed the discourse and interaction immensely. Internet for research has been one of my greatest discoveries!

**Thea Smith, Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism, Suriname.**



### ***Surinamese Students visit UWI, St. Augustine Campus (30 May - 7 June 2009)***



The Surinamese Cohort of the MSc IR program arrived in Trinidad and Tobago on May 30. This one week visit was deemed an important component of their studies. It gave students the opportunity to avail themselves of the extensive resources available at the IIR Library and the campus Main Library.

The visit also coincided with the 22<sup>nd</sup> ACUNS Annual Meeting. Five (5) of the students had the distinct opportunity to present their views on regional integration, and participated in the panel *'Thinking about IR in the non-Anglophone Caribbean'*

The students also visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and various regional and international organisations in Port of Spain. Perhaps the most memorable of those were the visits to the Caribbean Court of Justice and the Association of Caribbean States, the latter, not least because they were met and hosted by one of their own, Ms. Gloria De Mees.

The visit would not have been complete without an opportunity for cultural exchanges. Hence, the Surinamese hosted a "Surinamese night" where their Trinidadian counterparts and the staff of the IIR were treated to various delicacies and ethnic dishes of Suriname.

For these students, the IR MSc program, with its Caribbean focus, has been an eye-opener. In their opinion, the Suriname government should encourage the teaching of International Relations as a critical tool to the development of Suriname's civil servants. The knowledge gained will broaden analysis at the highest level. The MSc in IR could be a first step in providing the necessary tools for the Surinamese in order to pursue the opportunities available in the international arena.

### ***IIR Students go to Geneva for Global Model United Nations***

***by Tamara Brathwaite***

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009, six distinction-worthy post-graduate students of the Institute of International Relations, UWI were awarded the opportunity to represent the English Speaking Caribbean at the first ever UN supported and organized Global Model United Nations. The theme of the conference is "The Millennium Development Goals: Lifting the Bottom Billion out of Poverty," to be hosted in Geneva, Switzerland, from 5 - 7 August 2009.

The students are: Stefan Affonso, Crystal Bastien, Ornal Barman, Julianna Baptiste, Elizabeth Encinas and Kobina Wilson. According to the Director of the United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean Area, Ms Angelica Hunt, [this office] fully endorses this IIR initiative to

broaden its students' experience of the work of the United Nations and develop their international negotiation skills" She further stated that "Model UN conferences provide a forum for educating young people about the UN Organisation and building their support for its work. The global event is meant to serve as a model of best practices for MUN conference."

The Director of the Institute of International Relations, Timothy Shaw remarked that "such connections/activities make IIR very special!" Special thanks are extended to the Principal of UWI, Prof. Clement Sankat and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Hamid Ghany for supporting this inaugural undertaking.

### ***The IIR extends its condolences to the family of Mr. Barsotti, Former Director of the IIR***

The Director and Staff of the Institute of International Relations at The University of the West Indies join with the National Community of Trinidad and Tobago in lamenting the passing of our colleague, Mr. Frank Barsotti who served the Institute from 1986 to 1994. He first joined the Institute as Visiting Fellow in 1986, thereafter he served as Senior Fellow from 1990. He was appointed to act as Director of the Institute for various periods: 1987 to 1988 and from October 1990 to July 1993. Even after he demitted office from the Institute, he always made himself available to guide and advise both colleagues and students.

The Institute and the University substantially benefitted from Mr. Barsotti's experience and expertise, first as Head of the Trinidad and Tobago Public Service and subsequently as Chairman of Republic Bank. And the national and international communities benefitted from his contributions to international relations, especially international economics, including service as a Governor of the IMF. Our condolences go out to his bereaved daughter, Natasha.

## *IIR OVERSEAS TRIPS CONTINUE*

The Institute of International Relations once again carried out its annual overseas educational tour with a trip to Cuba during the country's celebration of its 50 year socialist revolution.

### *Cuba – A View from the Outside*

*By Kay Julien-Gutu*

With all the excitement of young children going to school for the first time, on Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 60 students from the Institute of International Relations boarded the Copa Airlines flight to Cuba via Panama. For many of us, Cuba was a place of mystery waiting to be explored and for others a place of rebellion which had dared to challenge the mighty United States for fifty years through its socialist project and had survived despite the odds. The David versus Goliath story somehow has a fairy tale element to it which has kept drawing millions of tourists every year to the island.

Cuba was a unique adventure and while it was fascinating to plant our feet on the island we were soon awakened to the reality of a governance and economic system as never before witnessed in our sojourns in any other country this side of the hemisphere. One cannot dislodge the socialist project from Cuba's long struggle for national liberation from Spain and later the annexionist ambitions of the United States. One Cuban scholar, José Bell Lara claims that Cuba fell into socialism following the 1959 Castro Revolution. Bell Lara's argument is that the national interests and the populist ideology of the revolution (wellbeing for all) could not be asserted without contradicting foreign capital which was dominated by the US and linked to the native bourgeois oligarchy.

Today, Cuba is facing its biggest challenge: how can a socialist revolution survive in a globalized, fundamentally capitalist world order? When the disintegration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1989 signalled the collapse of socialism as an economic world system the Republic survived while a 50-year US economic blockage has only spurred the country to seek economic alternatives and to experience growth outside of the neo-liberal paradigm. The mood within Cuba even as Fidel Castro has handed over the reigns of power to his brother Raúl is that Cuba will continue to adjust within the parameters of a non-capitalist society while maintaining its socialist gains.

With a keen eye and hungry for information about this strange phenomenon called Cuba we trekked around Havana asking questions. To us the lifestyle was incomprehensible. Who would willingly live



everyday for the good of others? Uh...this is a concept definitely missing in the capitalist literature. What we saw was a country deeply entrenched in the vestiges of socialism but one which is already opening up more to the demands of globalization as observed through Cuba's huge tourist market. The Cubans have etched out a dual economy in a landscape in which the slogan "everything for Cuba and Cubans" is a welcome notion.

In fifty years the Revolution has managed to stamp out underdevelopment from the country's vocabulary by reversing hunger, poor health conditions, illiteracy, cultural deprivation, unemployment and extreme social inequalities. Today, Cuba's human development indicators are comparable to any industrialized capitalist country. Its medical care facilities are second to none while it has captured the market for the export of human capital in the area of medicine and education. A tour of the Latin American School of Medicine just outside Havana which caters to Latin American and African students showed us the tremendous spirit of generosity of the Cuban government. All students registered at the University are provided with full scholarships by the Cuban government for the six years of their training.

The Cubans themselves would tell you that the socialist process has survived because of three elements: people's participation (from the Popular Councils up to the National Assembly), social equity (equal access to basic social ...Cont'd on pg 11.

*CUBA cont'd from page 10*

services and equitable income distribution), and solidarity (volunteerism of the Cuban people to build their communities and to embrace others). Our visit to the *Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples* was an emotional experience and some of us almost shed tears as we listened to the daily struggles of the Cuban people. We complain here if the bus is late but what if there are hardly any buses to wait for in the first place, can you walk to work? (We put the flat shoes on and walked to some of our assignments in Havana). Can we survive without ketchup, without soap, without electricity (yes...the electricity went out a couple of times during two separate visits to the University of Havana and yes we continued to listen to the presenters in the dark).

There was a notable absence of the hustle and bustle we are used to in our open, market-oriented capitalist economies. The only advertising billboards we witnessed carried revolutionary slogans. Contrast this with our short stopover in Panama. The moment we left the Tocumen airport all we could think of was shopping fuelled by the La Croste, Pepsi, Sony, Hello Kitty, Clarke's, Digicel and many other billboards we passed on the way to our hotel. Was there any guilt of having just arrived from a country where there is too little? No...I guess capitalist ideology is a part of our reality.

For the more compassionate among us, the Cubans appear to have a tough life which has been made even harder by the four-decade old US trade embargo but amazingly the Cubans have shown their resilience and strength as a people fighting for their own identity in a crowded Caribbean space. On the other hand, there are those who question whether the socialist project has not succeeded at the expense of freedom of expression and movement and the ability to determine how far one can go for personal self-fulfilment.



*The tour encapsulated a true reflection of the national culture, history, politics and economics of the Cuban society, and their seemingly inherent philosophy/ideology of Cuban independent thought*

**ACUNS HELD AT  
UWI/IIR**

**JUNE 4-6, 2009**

**Look forward to the  
September issue for  
details**

*Solidarity is to give without expecting, Cuba may be poor but it shares what it has, Cuba does not expect anything in return*

*The UN in a changing global environment*

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009 IIR hosted a lecture entitled **“Power Play in the UN System”** by Dr. S.R. Insanally, Foreign Affairs Advisor, Office of the President, Guyana.

Dr. Insanally began his lecture by noting that the basis of the UN Charter was the sovereign equality of states. This however is militated by the imbalance of power in some of the operations of the UN, particularly in the Security Council, where five permanent members hold veto-power, and non-permanent members do not. He argued that this ran counter to the expectations of member states, since in his view, power in the international system originates with the major world powers and the Bretton Woods Institutions.

The lecture continued with an evaluation of the different types of states in the present international system. Dr. Insanally argued that it is difficult for small states to put their proposals to the UN as they do not possess hard power, but rather the power to mitigate e.g. the case of Malta and The Law of the Sea. Despite this, small states continue to play a role in the United Nations; reference was made to the number of Caribbean academics occupying high offices in several international organizations.

The economic strength of the middle powers was recognized but the absence of hard power on their part precluded a larger role. The role of the emerging powers was examined vis a vis their growing importance in International Relations in terms of their large populations, robust economies and foreign policy as it relates to the remaining superpower. The challenges posed to the primacy of the United States of America by the emerging powers, economic woes and simultaneous engagement in wars in Afghanistan and Iraq was noted and it was suggested that unilateralism be replaced by multi-lateralism and uni-polarity by multi-polarity.

Dr. Insanally closed by indicating the need for new models of development where progress can be quantified. The financial crisis can be a good opportunity to reform the international institutions, but the region has to strengthen its negotiating capacity, prioritize its interests and further develop and implement its ideas.

## *Post Graduate Professional Opportunities*

IIR holds panel discussion on professional graduate opportunities available for IR students . The following are personal accounts of experiences by two former students.



### **Clinton Global Initiative,**

#### **Elizabeth Encinas**

At the Institute to International Relations panel on post graduate professional opportunities in November 2008, I presented on my internship experience at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) in New York City and also gave an idea of the opportunities available at the Clinton Foundation for graduates of the Institute.

Prior to my first semester at IIR I did a 4 month internship at CGI which is a non-for profit organization and an Annual Meeting, founded in 1995 by the forty second president of the United States of America, William Jefferson Clinton.

The organization was established to foster collaboration between the private sector, non-governmental organizations and global leaders to confront the many global challenges that require globalized solutions. I interned in the Sponsorship Department, which manages the accounts of the sponsors who contribute the funds required for executing the Annual Meeting. The internship entailed keeping track of payments, coordinating high profile meetings for sponsors and preparing briefs for the President for sponsor events. A bonus of the program is the ‘meet and greet’ that all interns are required to attend with prominent individuals in short Q&A sessions, with people such as Edward Norton, Shakira, Madonna, Bono and of course former President Bill Clinton.

The departments in which interns were placed included commitments, membership, press, administration and office of the C.E.O. The program takes students of all ages and backgrounds for the Spring, Summer or Fall and for a duration of three to four months. All internships are unpaid, but some US based students are offered a small stipend if the student is able to demonstrate financial need.

Beyond interning, there are fellowships for graduate students and remarkable job opportunities offered by the Clinton Foundation to work at its US offices in New York, Arkansas and Boston; and positions are also available around the world where CGI commitments are taking place, such as the Bahamas, Indonesia, Brazil and China.

Working with CGI presents a unique opportunity to work with people from various nations and to make a real difference through international linkages. It would be a perfect fit for any student of international relations looking to mix a bit of philanthropy, business and globalized living into their career.

For information on jobs and internships at the Clinton Foundation please go to <http://clintonfoundation.com/careers/>.

### **Teaching English In Japan,**

#### **Letitia Bobb**

People always seem surprised when I tell them I ended up living and working in Japan because of Google. They seem to think that finding and securing a job online is unimaginable and unsafe, and that the web’s use is limited to corresponding, shopping, surfing or doing research. In 2003 however, I headed to Japan.

After being trained by a recruiting company based in London, I headed for Nagoya – the 4<sup>th</sup> largest city in Japan. The rich culture is inarguably spectacular and indeed an eye opener to anyone from the Western world. The people are extremely polite and considered ‘cultural ambassadors’ and the land is filled with an ambit of activities in which one can engage – skiing, Japanese doll-making, visiting *onsens* (hot springs), climbing Mt. Fuji, Japanese calligraphy, Japanese dining and so on.

### **Teaching English as a Foreign Language in Japan**

The demand to learn English in Japan is high since the younger generation in particular wants to be more internationalized either by watching English films, travelling to English-speaking countries, corresponding with pen pals or e-pals, working or attending University abroad or for job advancement purposes domestically. The students are highly motivated and it is considered ‘prestigious’ for a Japanese to be able to speak English fluently and even more so, to have native English-speaking friends or associates.

The Japanese work ethic at schools is, in some cases, markedly different from what we are used to in Trinidad & Tobago. The school year begins in April compared to our September-start system, so most jobs in the public schools need to be filled for this start. The private conversation schools hire throughout the year. It is also common to see not only children riding their bicycles to school, but also principals, vice-principals and teachers alike. Bicycle riding sees no status since it is a practical and economic way to get to one’s destination in some parts of the country. Also, it is expected of employees to leave school *after* one’s contracted working hours. In other words, if your day ends at 4pm, you are required to work until 5pm or later. This seems to be an unspoken and unwritten agreement and foreigners are oftentimes exempted from this practice.

If you’re looking for a way to experience another culture, in a country that has managed to maintain traditions in a ever more globalized world, you can definitely take advantage of this opportunity.

## *Showcasing Graduate Research at the IIR*

### Energy and Geo- Politics: A Case Study of CARICOM's Relationship with Venezuela and Brazil

**Niki Brathwaite**

#### **MPhil International Relations**



The issue of energy and geo-politics has become a contentious one, and has come to occupy a prominent position on the global political agenda. Several (re) - emerging factors have contributed to this phenomenon, demanding a *response* from the discipline of International Relations, one that endeavours to (re) - examine such concepts as energy security, balance of power and globalization. The thesis, therefore, investigates how energy geo- politics characterizes relations between Latin America and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The work interrogates the nature of the relationship and the extent to which it is reflected in and is shaped by the socio- economic interests of key stakeholders.

CARICOM is certainly not isolated from the dynamics of the global political economy (GPE) and it is of utmost importance that the regional governing machinery takes the necessary steps to ensure an appropriate response and smooth adaptation to the new environment. The response must be informed in part, by an understanding of the changing global environment; and the need to devise the comprehensive coordination of financial, human and capital resources by member-states. Moreover, a reconfiguration of relations among our Latin American counterparts namely, Venezuela and Brazil is imminent given the increasing relevance of these actors in the international community, and the centrality of energy politics in international affairs.

Brazil has gained tremendous economic strength and political prominence, encapsulated in the rise of the BRICSAM, whereas Venezuela has adopted an ambitious social welfare project that seeks to address the hemisphere's persistent poverty and development issues. The Commonwealth Caribbean cannot escape these stark realities and should embrace the opportunity to foster closer relations with its hemispheric neighbors. At the centre of the engagement, naturally, would be concerns about energy security and the implications for the region's economic security and viability.

### ***IIR plans warm welcome for incoming students in September***

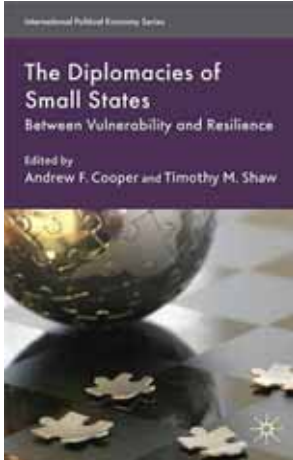
This year the IIR launches a comprehensive Orientation Program to welcome its new students. It seeks to introduce new students to the culture of graduate study and to expose them to a holistic understanding of international relations and global studies. The week-long program encompasses both academic and practical training in areas such as Information Literacy, Protocol, Speech Writing and Team building. The students will also be afforded the opportunity to interact with practitioners during the "International Relations Praxis" session. The Formal Opening is carded for Monday 7th September as denoted below.

| DATE                   | TIME          | ACTIVITY   |
|------------------------|---------------|--|
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> | 9:00 -10:30   | <b>Formal Opening</b><br>Chair: Coordinator Orientation Program - Dr. G T C Rigobert<br>Director, IIR - Professor Timothy Shaw<br>Campus Coordinator, School of Graduate Studies and Research -<br>Professor Patricia Mohammed<br>Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences – Dr. Hamid Ghany<br>... And others |
|                        | 10:40 – 12:00 | <b>Meet and Greet</b><br>Interactive session (Staff/Student Introductions)   |

## ***BOOK PROFILE***

*Professor Timothy Shaw's comments on Cooper and Shaw (eds)*

*The Diplomacies of Small States (London: Palgrave Macmillan for CIGI, 2009)*



IIR has always been concerned with small states as well as the Caribbean region. At the start of the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there are more small states than ever, even if they are sometimes simultaneously the centres of larger multinational corporations and/or civil societies. This revisionist collection seeks to transcend established assumptions and projections: proceeding from vulnerable to resilient states at the end of the first decade of the new millennium? But as the financial crisis intensified in the last years and months of the first decade, so vulnerability once again became more widespread than resilience: how to characterise +/- 50 states? Meanwhile, at the end of the first decade of the new century while, the hierarchy of states and civil societies/formal politics evolves, what assumptions and approaches are most salient?

This collection of 17 chapters by 16 contributors in 300 pages captures the state of analysis and practice in several overlapping fields: development, regionalisms and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as small states per se. It includes analysts from a variety of disciplines and persuasions: culture, development, Diasporas, economics and law as well as International Relations /International Political Economy. Some of these are younger, many well-established. And it includes scholars from the Caribbean and elsewhere, such as Canada, Fiji, Malta, UK and US as well as Iceland and Singapore. It juxtaposes and contributes to a set of overlapping debates and genres.

The volume's case studies include dependencies in the Caribbean and 'developmental states' like Singapore and Iceland, the latter chapter changing dramatically from presentation to publication as that economy shrunk in recent months. Cases also include sectors like culture, finance and gambling. And the public diplomacy of the West African C4 is enlightening.

This collection was launched during the early-June ACUNS AGM at St Augustine along with a parallel compendium co edited by Winston Dookeran and Akhil Malaki on Leadership and Governance in Small States: getting development right (Saarbrücken: VDM, 2008); the latter was more policy-oriented and comparative in orientation and contained but two shared contributors: Vaughan Lewis and Naren Prasad. Both books contribute to and draw insights from the two Summits in Port of Spain in 2009: the 5<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Americas and the Commonwealth Summit, as recognised in the Acknowledgements.

The Diplomacies of Small States results from an early-2008 workshop at IIR and it appeared just one year later. Because of the continuing global economic crisis, so many small states are indeed Between Vulnerability and Resilience; so maybe a second conference and edition are called for? What new/small/vulnerable state analysis/policy/practice by 2020? The first chapter and Table of Contents as well as the index are available at: [www.palgrave.com](http://www.palgrave.com).

### **FEEDBACK**

*We wish to hear from you!*

Comments:

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Name:

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*Email us at [iirtoday@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:iirtoday@sta.uwi.edu)*