



The Eric Williams Memorial Collection

P.O. Box 561631, Miami, FL 33256-1631, USA*Tel: 305-271-7246*Cell: 305-905-9999*Fax: 305-271-4160

18th Annual FIU Eric Williams Lecture Focuses on a Donald Trump Ascendancy

MIAMI, FL. (September 12, 2016)— The 18th Annual Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture at Florida International University’s Modesto Maidique Campus (11200 SW 8th Street, Miami, Florida) will take place at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center, on Friday, September 30, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

This year, the African & African Diaspora Studies Lecture hosts the former President of Guyana, the Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo. *“The Caribbean and American Presidential Power: A Donald Trump Ascendancy”* promises to explore the future relationship between the US and the Caribbean in a Donald Trump presidency. While the distinctions between the two US candidates may be stark, it is not clear how they would differ vis a vis their interactions with the Caribbean.

Media Contact:
Erica Williams Connell
305-905-9999
ewmc@ewmc.tt.org

Bharrat Jagdeo was born in Guyana of humble origins. He joined the youth arm of the People’s Progressive Party at 13 years old, becoming a full-fledged member at the tender age of 16.

Armed with a Master’s in Economics from the Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia in 1990, he has held several high-level governmental positions, ranging from Minister of Finance to President of Guyana from 1999-2011. He is currently his country’s Leader of the Opposition.

During Mr. Jagdeo’s tenure as President, major economic and social reforms were undertaken, making Guyana one of the fastest growing economies in South America and the Caribbean with several years of consecutive growth, even through the global financial crisis of 2007-2008.

In addition to the financial arena, Jagdeo holds a number of global leadership positions in the areas of sustainable development, green growth and climate change. In 2008, he was named *Time Magazine*’s ‘Hero of the Environment’ and in 2010, the United Nations declared him to be one of its ‘Champions of the Earth Awardees’.

Established in 1999, FIU's annual Eric Williams Lecture honors the distinguished Caribbean statesman, consummate academic, internationally renowned historian, and author of several other books. His 1944 groundbreaking study Capitalism and Slavery, popularly referred to as *The Williams Thesis*, arguably re-framed the historiography of the British trans-Atlantic slave trade (and its concomitant European incarnations) and established the contribution of Caribbean slavery to the development of both Britain and America. The book has been translated into eight languages, including Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Turkish and soon-to-be, Korean. It continues to inform today's ongoing debate and remains "years ahead of its time...this profound critique is still the foundation for studies of imperialism and economic development," according to the *New York Times*. Eric E. Williams was also the first Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and Head of Government for a quarter of a century until his death in 1981. He led the country to Independence from Britain in 1962 and onto Republicanism in 1976.

Among prior Eric Williams Memorial Lecture speakers have been: the late John Hope Franklin, one of America's premier historians of the African-American experience; Kenneth Kaunda, former President of the Republic of Zambia; Cynthia Pratt, Deputy Prime Minister of the Bahamas; Mia Mottley, Attorney General of Barbados; Beverly Anderson-Manley, former First Lady of Jamaica; Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica; Hon. Kenny Anthony, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia; Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and The Grenadines; the celebrated civil rights activist Angela Davis and prize-winning Haitian author Edwige Danticat.

The Lecture, which seeks to provide an intellectual forum for the examination of pertinent issues in Caribbean and African Diaspora history and politics, is co-sponsored in part by FIU's: Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center; Bilmor With Advertising Specialties, Inc.; Earl Christian; Mr. & Mrs. Frank Collins; Carole Cumberbatch; Mr. & Mrs. Michael Edwards; Hometruster Mortgage Corporation; Joy's Roti Shop; Dr. & Mrs. Leroy Lashley; Lentropic Properties Inc.; Miami Dade College; Mr. & Mrs. Nesbitt; Mavis Perez; Mervyn Solomon; Linda Spears Bunton; Yvonne St. Louis; Marilyn Taylor Duncan and Welch, Morris & Associates.

The Lecture is also supported by The Eric Williams Memorial Collection Research Library, Archives and Museum at the University of the West Indies (Trinidad and Tobago campus), which was inaugurated by former **U.S. Secretary of State, Colin L. Powell** in 1998. It was named to UNESCO's prestigious *Memory of the World Register* in 1999.

Books by Eric Williams will be available for purchase at the Lecture. For more information, please contact 305-348-4156/271-7246 or africana@fiu.edu.