Cuban scholar building connections locally

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although Cuba is just 90 miles from the United States, and is a country commonly associated with rebellion and violence and much about the history of the island nation beyond a few bare facts. A Cuban scholar who frequently visits his home country is being called to the White House to discuss the ongoing crisis with President Barack Obama. Almerindo Rodríguez, a researcher and professor of history at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, was surprised when he found out he had been selected. "Latin American studies in the United States has been marginalized in the ivory towers," Rodríguez explained. "I am very honored to serve the best aspirations of the Cuban people in our countries.

The Cuban Revolution is quite unique," he said. "It was a general social upheaval, and in my opinion, it can be compared to the American Revolution. It was a large-scale revolution that had a great impact on the world."

The Cuban Revolution started in 1953, when Fidel Castro led a group of rebels in an unsuccessful attack on the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba. The revolution continued for several years, with Castro and his followers eventually gaining control of the government. In 1959, Castro founded the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, which became the Cuban Military Forces and then the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces. The revolution's impact was felt throughout the Latin American region, as other Latin American countries looked to Cuba as a model for their own revolutions.

"The Cuban Revolution was quite an inspiration to other Latin American countries," Rodríguez added. "The revolution's impact was felt throughout the Latin American region, as other Latin American countries looked to Cuba as a model for their own revolutions."

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