



**ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
THE CUBAN ECONOMY (ASCE)**

Newsletter, Summer 2004

July 19, 2004

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Dear ASCE members and other colleagues,

As many of you already know, our Fourteenth Annual Conference will take place in just three weeks. We hope you can join us August 5 through 7 at **The Wyndham Hotel in Coconut Groove**, Florida. Given recent events and reports on Cuba, this conference promises to generate interesting discussions regarding Cuba's economy and political landscape in both the short and long terms. Much has happened in these two years since the current Board took office.

ASCE continues to serve the international community as a viable and vibrant vehicle to study and discuss Cuba's transition to a democratic market economy. We must symbolically represent the ideas and voices of many of our colleagues, who are currently political prisoners in Cuba, unable to speak their minds and publish their works. We hope that we will be able to hear their voices during future ASCE meetings, as we have in past years. Regrettably, this year's ASCE conference will continue missing the participation of these distinguished Cuban economists, who have taken many risks attempting to exercise their profession. But, recent events and concerns should present new opportunities and challenges to all participants.

It is our great pleasure to congratulate **Prof. Ernesto Hernández-Catá** for his election as new President of ASCE, for the period 2004-2006. We also extended our heart-felt congratulations to all of the directors elected to the new Board. Ernesto, and other newly elected directors, will take possession of their post during our business meeting on August 6th, at the ASCE annual conference before the ASCE's reception. A copy of the report of the Tellers Committee is included in this Newsletter.

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This Board has enjoyed working with a very committed members and membership. We have been especially fortunate to have **Ms. Beatriz Casals** as our dependable President over the last two years. In addition to the excellent work of the President and the Board, individual members have volunteered for many tasks, executed with precision and timeliness. We would like to recognize and give special thanks again to these key contributors, including **Dr. Jorge Pérez-López**, who is responsible for bringing together the conference program and annual proceedings, and **Dr. Enrique Pumar** for coordinating the awards for best student papers, among others. The University of Miami's Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, under the leadership of Prof. Jaime Shucklicki, continues to provide support to ASCE's annual conference.

Additionally, **Mr. Ernesto Betancourt** has continue to prepare timely and relevant briefings that many of you have enjoyed receiving. His analysis and perspectives provide us all with much food for thought. We also thank **Ms. Nora Ron Pedrique** for her very efficient and timely distribution of the press clippings and our newsletters. From Casals & Associates' staff, **Miguel García-Gosálvez** has contributed significantly to expanding and updating the website, **Bronwyn Price** to conference arrangements, and **Gema Aragonés** and **Maureen Ray** to Board needs. All of these combined efforts have contributed to advancing ASCE's agenda and maintaining its prestige as a premier professional organization.

If you are not a member already, please consider joining ASCE before the conference so you can take advantage of all the benefits of membership. We hope to see you again or meet you in Coral Gables this coming August 7-9.

Warm Regards,

Rolando H. Castañeda
Secretary

1. **Annual Meeting Preliminary Program**

Preliminary Program as July 19, 2003-Subject to Changes

ASCE's Fourteenth Annual Meeting
Wyndham Grand Bay Hotel, Coconut Grove, Miami, Florida
August 5-7, 2004

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION

9:00 A.M. - 10:45 A.M. OPENING PLENARY

1. Current Economic and Social Situation

Chair: Beatriz Casals, ASCE President
Panelists: Archibald Ritter, Carleton University, Canada
Phil Peters, Lexington Institute
Brian Latell, Center for Strategic and International Studies
Pablo Alfonso, El Nuevo Herald
Adolfo Franco, U.S. Agency for International Development

10:45 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. COFFEE BREAK

11:00 A.M. – 12:45 P.M. PLENARY

2. Cuba's Future Exchange Rate System

Chair: Ernesto Hernández-Catá, Johns Hopkins University, SAIS
Panelists: Roberto Orro
Jorge Sanguinetta
Alfie Ulloa, Universidad de Chile

12:45 P.M. – 2:15 P.M. LUNCH BREAK (*Participants on their own*)

2:15 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS.

3. Tourism

Chair: Terry Maris, Ohio Northern University
"The Three Cs of Tourism in the Caribbean: Context, Characteristics, and Consequences," Art Padilla, NC State University
"Corporate Citizenship in the Coastal Caribbean: Environmental and Social Practices in the Dominican and Cuban Resort Sector," Ellen Bradley and Emma Stewart, Stanford University
"Urban Planning and Tourism Development in Havana during the Special Period," Andrea Colantonio, University of Reading, UK
Discussants: Nicolás Crespo; Joseph Scarpaci, Virginia Tech

4. Legal Issues: Migration, Transition, and Trade

Chair: Stephen Kimmerling, Esq.
"Incentives for Legal Reform in Post-Communist Societies," Jennifer Gauck, Criminal Law Reform Program, ABA/CEELI
"International Law and Other Considerations on the Repatriation of Cuban Balseros by the United States," Maria Werlau, Orbis International
"The Trade Impact of a Free Cuba: Legal Considerations from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce 2004 Report," Pedro A. Freyre, Of Counsel, Akerman, Senterfitt & Eidson; Cuba Committee Co-Chairman, Great Miami Chamber of Commerce
Discussants: Gustavo Arnavat, Hunton & Williams; Stephen Kimmerling, Esq.; Pamela Falk, City University of New York Law School

5. Special Topics

Chair: Joaquin Pujol

“What Color Is My Parachute: The Cuban Military-Business Complex in Transition,” Juan Carlos Espinosa

“Disaster Relief in Cuba” Benigno Aguirre, University of Delaware

“The Mariel Factor in Cuban Immigrant Adaptation to U.S. Society: A Comparison of the Socio-Economic and Political Adaptation of Three Cuban Immigrant Cohorts to the United States, Gastón Fernández, Indiana State University

“Los Marielitos: Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality and Art in the 1980 Cuban Exodus,” Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan

Discussants: Domingo Amuchástegui; Sergio Díaz-Briquets, Casals and Associates; Guillermo Grenier, FIU

4:00 P.M. – 4:15 P.M. COFFEE BREAK

4:15 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

6. Foreign Investment

Chair: Oscar Echevarría, GlobalExpand USA

“Foreign Investment in Cuba: An Inventory,” Jorge Pérez-López

“The Current Situation of Foreign Investment in Cuba,” Paolo Spadoni, University of Florida

“Cat on a Hot Tin Roof: The Status of Foreign Joint Ventures in a Post-Transition Cuba,”

Matías Travieso-Díaz, Shaw Pitman LLP, Washington, D.C., and Armando Musa, Holland & Knight LLP, Miami, Florida

Discussants: María Werlau, Orbis International; Gustavo Arnavat, Hunton & Williams

7. Poverty and Social Issues

Chair: Damián Fernández, FIU

“Dollars and Racial Inequality: The Demise of Structural Equality in Cuba's Dual Economy,” Sarah Blue, UCLA

“Las Reformas Necesarias para Superar la Situación de Empobrecimiento y Disparidades Sociales Existentes,” Rolando H. Castañeda

“Social work as a challenge for the democratic transition in Cuba,” Maida Donate

Discussant: Katrin Hansing, Cuban Research Institute, FIU

8. Politics and Government

Chair: Ernesto Betancourt

“Franco's Spain and Castro's Cuba: A Comparative Evaluation,” Alfred Cuzán, University of West Florida

“Who’s On First?: The Struggle for Succession in Fidel Castro’s Cuba,” Dan Erikson, Inter-American Dialogue

“The Domestic Politics of the Cuban Transition: Economic Reform and the Status Quo,”
Brian Alexander

Discussants: Brian Latell, CSIS; Jaime Suchlicki, Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, University of Miami

6.30 P.M: CULTURAL EVENT.

Lisandro Pérez-Rey will present his film on Cuban music. *La Fabri-K*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

8:00 A.M. – 8:30 A.M. REGISTRATION

8:30 A.M. – 10:15 A.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9. Self-Employment in Cuba: A Ten-Year Appraisal

Chair: Ted Henken, Baruch College

“Between Ideology and Pragmatism: The Revolution and the Private Sector Before the Special Period, 1959-1990,” Ted Henken, Baruch College

“Today's Cuentapropistas: Numbers, Income, Economic Significance,” Phil Peters, Lexington Institute

“Cuba's Underground Economy,” Archibald Ritter, Carleton University

“Education and Labor Skills in Socialist Cuba,” Roberto Orro Fernández

Discussant: Mauricio Font, City University of New York

10. Value Orientations and Opinions of Recently Arrived Cubans

Moderator: Andy S. Gomez, Special Assistant to the Provost and Senior Fellow, Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, University of Miami.

Speakers: Eugenio Rothe, MD, University of Miami School of Medicine and Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, University of Miami, and Frank Mora, National War College and Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, University of Miami

Discussants: Juan Clark, Miami-Dade College; and Héctor Castillos, MD, Psychiatrist and Former Director of Psychiatric Emergency Services at the Julio Trigo Hospital, La Habana, and Research Associate at the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, University of Miami

10:15 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. COFFEE BREAK

10:30 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11. A Decade of Reforms in the Agricultural Sector and Food Markets

Chair: William A. Messina, Jr., University of Florida

“The Reorganization of Cuba’s Cooperatives and Markets,” José Alvarez, University of Florida

“Agricultural Production Cooperatives: The Future of Cuban Agriculture?,” Frederick S. Royce, University of Florida

“Cuban Agriculture: To Be or Not to Be Organic,” William E. Kost, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service

Discussants: William A. Messina, University of Florida; Luis Echevarria, University of Florida; James Ross, University of Florida;

12. Student Papers

Chair: Enrique Pumar, William Patterson University

“Castro's Cuba: Ideological Themes in Rhetoric” David Penny, Oxford University, UK.

“Stop Singing ‘Copacabana’ and Get Yourself to Havana: The Prospect of Cuban Tourism After the Fall of Castro,” Irene Sánchez, Harvard University

“Cuba’s Path to Market: Washington Consensus, Doi Moi, or Reforma á la cubana?,” Chantal Agarwal, George Washington University and Lexington Institute

“Cuba: A Decade of Economic Reforms—Balance and Perspectives,” Orlando Justo, New School University

Discussants: María Dolores Espino, St. Thomas University; Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland.

12:45 P.M. – 2:15 P.M. ASCE LUNCHEON

Announcement of Student Awards

Keynote Address: "Supporting Cuba's Democrats", Speaker: Stephen Johnson, Heritage Foundation

2:30 P.M. – 4:15 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

13. Transition Issues

Chair: Gonzalo de la Pezuela

“Reforms of the Social Safety Net During the Cuban Transition,” Lorenzo Pérez and Norman Hicks

“The Role of the State during Transition: Cuba,” Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland

“Black-White Income Differentials Amongst Cubans and its Implication for the Transition,” Carlos Seiglie, Rutgers University

Discussants: Luis Locay, University of Miami and TBA.

14. Civil Society and Social Transition's Greatest Challenges I

Chair: Teo A. Babun, Jr., President & Executive Director, ECHO-Cuba

”Civil Society in Cuba: Advancing through Moral Convictions and Public Connectedness,”

María P. Aristigueta, University of Delaware

“Practical Humanitarian Challenges and Considerations on Both Sides of the Florida Straits,”

Eric Driggs, Cuba Transition Project/University of Miami

“Civil Society, Social Capital, and the Economy: Preliminary Considerations Relevant to

Cuba,” Maria Dolores Espino and Jorge F. Perez-Lopez

Discussants: Andy S. Gomez, University of Miami; Benigno Aguirre, University of Delaware

15. Agriculture

Chair: René Monserrat

“Varieties of Agricultural Land Tenure in Cuba: A Research Guide,” Gary Maybarduk,

United States Army War College

“Importance and Role of the Agricultural Processing Subsector in the Economic Development of Less Developed Countries,” José Ricardo

“La industria azucarera cubana, el mundo del azúcar, y la transición,” Juan Tomás Sánchez

Discussants: Antonio Gayoso; Felipe Manteiga.

4:15 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. COFFEE BREAK

4:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M. CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

16. Foreign Trade

Chair: Carlos Quijano

“Economic Impacts of U.S. Agricultural Exports to Cuba Using an Applied General Equilibrium Model,” Mike O’Connell, University of Florida

“Trading with Cuba Based on Fundamentals Rather than Politics: Who Wins, Who Loses,”

William Trumbull, West Virginia University

“U.S. Agribusiness Export Prospects to Cuba Under Three Scenarios,” James Ross, University of Florida

“Canada’s Economic Relations with Cuba During the Special Period,” Eric Baklanoff, University of Alabama

Discussants: Tim Lynch, Florida State University; Brian Alexander

17. Civil Society and Social Transition's Greatest Challenges II

Chair: Teo A. Babun, Jr., President & Executive Director, ECHO-Cuba

“The Social and Human Services Sectors as Independent Institutions,” Guarioné Díaz, Cuban American National Council

“The Role of Volunteers and Building the Capacity of Independent NGOs,” Julieta N. Valls, FAVACA)

“NGOs Functioning as Social Service Providers: The Elderly Problem in Cuba-- Recommended Ways to Deal with It,” Pamela Elfenbein, Center for Aging, FIU

Discussant: Marc Wachtenheim, Pan American Development Foundation; Ricardo Puerta

18. Environment

Chair: Argelio Maldonado

Participants: Eudel Cepero
René Costales
Frank Resillez
Larry Daley, Oregon State University
Sergio Díaz-Briquets

6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. BUSINESS MEETING AND ASCE'S RECOGNITIONS

7.30 PM RECEPTION

AUGUST 7

CUBAN TRANSITION STRATEGIES AND ASSISTANCE

9:00 A.M. – 9:10 A.M. Introduction of Topics and Participants

Beatriz Casals, ASCE Vice President

9:10 A.M. – 9:40 A.M. Lessons from Other Transitions: Implications for Cuba,

Patrick M. Cronin, Center for Strategic and International Studies

9:40 A.M. – 11:30 P.M. Cuban Transition Strategies

Antonio Jorge, Florida International University (9:40 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.)

Carlos Saladrigas, Cuba Study Group (10:00 A.M. – 10:20 A.M.)

Jorge Sanguinetty, DevTech Systems (10:20 A.M. – 10:40 A.M.)

Discussants: Ernesto Hernández-Catá and Carlos Quijano (10:40 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.)

Open discussion led by moderator (11:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.)

11:30 A.M. – 11:50 A.M. Coffee Break

11:50 AM. - 1:10 PM Transition Assistance

Walter Bastian, U.S. Department of Commerce (11:50 A.M. – 12:05 P.M.)

Daniel Fisk, U.S. Department of State (12:05 P.M. – 12:20 P.M.)

Discussants: Ernesto Hernández-Catá and Carlos Quijano (12:20 P.M. – 12:40 P.M.)

Open discussion led by moderator (12:40 P.M.-1:10 P.M.)

1:10 P.M. – 1:40 P.M. Open Discussion and Conclusions

Beatriz Casals, ASCE Vice President

2. Tellers Committee Report

A Meeting of the Tellers Committee was held at the home of Steven R. Escobar, 11929 Oden Court, Rockville, MD, on Monday, June 21, 2004, at 10:00 AM.

Committee members present: **Steven R. Escobar (Chair), Rene Costales and Enrique Pumar**, comprising the whole Committee. Also present was Rolando Castaneda, Secretary of ASCE, who observed, but did not participate in, the Committee's activities.

Mr. Escobar began the meeting by reading to the Committee the relevant provisions of ASCE's Bylaws regarding the activities of the Tellers Committee. Thereupon, the Committee carried out the responsibilities with which it is charged under the Bylaws, in a manner consistent with the same.

COUNTING OF BALLOTS

Upon counting the ballots in a manner consistent with the Bylaws, the Committee determined that the valid votes cast by ASCE members in good standing were as follows:

For President:

Ernesto Hernández-Cata	82
Matías Travieso-Díaz	1
Jorge Perez-Lopez	1

For Board of Directors:

Rolando H. Castaneda	75
Joaquín P. Pujol	74
Matías Travieso-Díaz	71
Armando Linde	69
Ramon Barquin	67
Juan A. Belt	67
Oscar Echeverría	67
Ted Henken	64
Carlos Seiglie	64
Juan Carlos Espinosa	59
Art Padilla	57
Antonio Gayoso	1
Jorge Sanguinety	1

It should be noted that the Committee counted all received votes, and was informed by the Secretary that only dues paying members had been sent official ballots. No duplicate ballots were received from the same member.

There being no further business, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Steven R. Escobar
Chair

3. Summary of the Student Award Committee Report

Committee Members

Maria Dolores Espino y Enrique S. Pumar (Chair).

2004 Award Competition

This year the committee received 12 papers, 6 undergraduates and 6 graduates. Two of the papers came from the UK. The committee also received 5 additional inquiries about the award competition. None of the five inquiries submitted a paper, two of the inquiries came from Canada, another was received late in the middle of June and the Committee Chair asked the student to re-submit next year.

Awards

The Committee selected the following award recipients:

Graduate:

First Prize:

David Penny, Oxford University, UK, "Castro's Cuba: Ideological Themes in Rhetoric."

Andrea Colantonio, University of Readings, UK, "Tourism in Havana during the Special Period: Impacts, Resident's Perceptions and Planning Issues."

Since there was a tie among first prize graduate papers, the Committee decided not to award a First Honors Award.

Undergraduate:

First Prize: **Kezia McKeague**, Wake Forest University, "Institutional Continuity in Cuba: Predicting the Legacy of Communist Institutions in a Democratic Transition."

First Honors: **Cynthia Romero**, Princeton University, "The Communist Reformation: Retrospective Views of Gorbachev and the Fall of the Soviet Union."

The Committee Chair drafted a letter announcing the result of the competition and sent it via email to all the students on Saturday, July 10.

Enrique Pumar
Chair

4. Financial Report, Update to July 10, 2004

Current Account balance as of July 1, 2004.....\$23,699.72

Revenues to July 10, 2004

ICCAS contribution.....\$5,000.00

Dues and registrations payments.....7,435.00

Book sales..... 372.00

Sub-total.....\$12,807.00

Expenses to July 10, 2004
Storage to October 18, 2004.....\$430.50

Current account balance as of July 10, 2004.....\$36,076.22
Savings account balance..... 8,660.30
Net cash on hand as of July 10, 2004.....**\$44,736.52**

Antonio Gayoso
Treasurer