



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE CUBAN ECONOMY

Annual Report, 2015-2016

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Letter from the ASCE President, Helena Solo-Gabriele,

First I would like to express that it is an honor to have been elected as President. I am an environmental engineer by training who has a strong interest in understanding the links between infrastructure and public health in all parts of the world but in particular Cuba. I am of Cuban heritage and studying about issues in Cuba is a way of connecting with my heritage and with my research interests. I have a full-time job at the University of Miami. On the academic side I am a Professor and on the administrative side I am the Associate Dean for Research at the College of Engineering. I believe that my service through ASCE is synergistic with my full-time responsibilities at the University. Through my scholarship and service responsibilities at the University I have been involved in activities that promote student-led research on Cuba infrastructure needs. ASCE is a match for me because of its strong history with student competitions. The topic is very relevant to me as I believe that infrastructure and the economy are interdependent, infrastructure that serves the needs of populations requires a viable economy. So from my perspective ASCE is a great fit. I am excited to have been elected as President of this great organization and I am fully committed to seeing the organization grow and prosper.



In order to move the organization forward, ASCE will need everyone's help. We have a committed Board of Directors who have taken on leadership roles. I am happy to state that Carlos Seiglie, our immediate past president, will be organizing the Carlos Diaz Alejandro lecture and will be serving on the conference hosting committee. Ernesto Hernandez-Cata will continue his outstanding work as treasurer and Gary Maybarduk has graciously agreed to serve as secretary. Current and past Board members have been fully involved in specific initiatives including organizing a hosting and fundraising committee (Ted Henken, lead), conference organizing committee (Rafael Romeu, lead), and membership committee (Michael Strauss, lead). My vision for the upcoming years is to have members participate fully in planned ASCE activities and to consider volunteering within the various roles in ASCE. We can definitely use help in recruiting new members and we would greatly appreciate if you could pass along information about ASCE to encourage others to become part of this organization.

Respectfully submitted, October, 2016,

**Helena Solo-Gabriele,
President
Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy**



Year in Review (2015-2016)

XXVI Annual Conference, 2016: *Cuba, Assessing the Reforms.*

On July 28-30, 2016, ASCE held its 26th annual conference under the theme “**Cuba, Assessing the Reforms.**” The board chose this theme as we felt it would allow us to evaluate the state of the Cuban economy taking into consideration developments that come out of the VII Congress of the Cuban Communist Party in April 2016. The key issue remains whether Cuba will implement the economic reforms needed to stimulate the private sector and attract foreign investment to spur economic growth. Will Cuba seek to develop and modernize its primitive banking system? When will currency reform be implemented? When will the agricultural sector be restructured to increase productivity and output? Can we expect Cuba to develop its banking system and establish well-functioning capital markets? The conference included a plenary session on Cuba’s current economic and political situation as well as sessions on social, legal, and sectoral issues related to the economy and a student panel.



Invited Guests from Cuba

In 2016, ASCE received a grant from the Christopher Reynolds Foundation to support the attendance of scholars resident on the island at our annual conference. A list of the attendees supported fully or in part through ASCE are listed below:

1. Omar Everleny: Top Cuban economist formerly of the Centro de Estudios de la Economía Cubana (CEEC), University of Havana. Now an independent economist with links to Temas magazine and El Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo of Matanzas.
2. Janettee María García: Soy coordinadora de proyectos de una institución de la sociedad civil que se llama Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo-Cuba. Soy Psicóloga de profesión y llevo a ASCE los resultados y la experiencia de una estrategia de Apoyo a la MiPyMEs en Matanzas por más de 5 años.
3. Dagoberto Valdés: Founder of both Vitral and Convivencia magazines – now the director of the think tank: Centro de Estudios Convivencia (based in Pinar del Río).
4. Karina Gálvez – Convivencia (past ASCE guest)
5. Jorge Ignacio Guillén Martínez – Convivencia (past ASCE guest)
6. Yoandy Izquierdo Toledo – Convivencia



7. Osmany Sánchez: Young professor of Geography at the University of Matanzas and a blogger and co-founder of La Joven Cuba blog with Harold Cardenas and Roberto Peralo (past ASCE guest)
8. Yailenis Mulet: Economics professor at the University of Havana. Used to work in CEEC but now an adjunct professor doing independent research and starting her own cuentapropista business. From Holguín.
9. Eduardo López Bastida: Economics professor at the University of Cienfuegos.
10. Ramón Bedias: Successful cuentapropista – Gary’s invitee.
11. Gilberto “Papito” Valladares & Camilo Condis Mojena: Papito founded and runs and Camilo assists in the Proyecto Artecorte on the now famous Callejon de los Peluqueros in the Habana Vieja neighborhood of Loma del Angel. He was mentioned by Obama in his Havana speech. The project mixes entrepreneurship, the preservation of Cuban culture, and social outreach and community education. Have gotten past support (and protection!) from Eusebio Leal.
12. Celia Mendoza & Robin Pedraja: Cuentapropistas who collaborate on Vistar Magazine, which is Cuba’s independent answer to Rolling Stone magazine. However, the magazine is not printed or sold but distributed via the weekly “paquete” and makes its money doing ads and PR for Cuban culture (music and ads for new businesses).
13. Vicente Luis Botín & María Soledad Vallejo: Keynote speaker and his wife – both Spanish journalists who have worked in Cuba.
14. Osmar Laffita Rojas: writes for CubaNet and other independent publications – has been at ASCE perhaps twice before.
15. Mario Félix Lleonart & Yoaxis Marcheco: Baptist pastors, bloggers, and human rights activists with La Comisión Coordinadora del Encuentro Nacional Cubano.
16. Lázaro Blanco: Economics and business professor at the University of Havana.
17. René Gómez Manzano & Hildebrando Chaviano: activists, independent lawyers and journalists with Corriente Agramontista
18. Antonio Madrazo Luna: Activist with Comité Ciudadano por la Integración Racial.



Student Papers and Prize Winners



Our conference was also enriched by students, including first prize winner in the undergraduate category, Nayara Sabrina (second from left above) from the University of Miami and Universidade do Estado do Para, Brazil who presented on, “Havana’s Wastewater Treatment Plants: Changes over Time and Estimate Replacement Cost.” The prize winner in the graduate category, Aleida Cobas Valdes (third from left above) from Universidad de La Habana y Universidad del Pais Vasco, Spain, presented her paper on “Cuban Immigrants in the United States: What Determines their Earning Distributions?”

XXVI Annual Conference Program (See Appendix A)



Special Co-Sponsored Events, spring-summer, 2016

American Economic Association (AEA) Meeting

For the 20th consecutive year, ASCE held a session on the Cuban economy at the Annual American Economic Association (AEA) meetings, which were held in San Francisco on January 3-5, 2016. Our AEA session was presided over by Roger Betancourt (University of Maryland-College Park). Papers presented included “Why Has the Growth of the Cuban Economy Been So Strong since the Mid 1990s?” by Ernesto Hernández-Catá (International Monetary Fund-Ret.), “The Value of Food Consumption in Cuba 1966-2011” by Luis Locay (University of Miami), and “Modelling Economic Growth in Cuba” by Carlos Seiglie (Rutgers University). John Devereux (City University of New York-Queens College) and Roger Betancourt served as discussant for the papers presented in this session. We invite members to present papers at the next Annual meetings of the American Economic Association, which will be held in Chicago from January 6-8, 2017.

“Cuba: Challenges and Opportunities”

On May 26, 2015, ASCE held a daylong conference entitled “Cuba: Challenges and Opportunities” (“*Cuba: Retos y oportunidades en la nueva relación*” at the Inter-American University in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The conference presenters included Cuban economists based on the island and ASCE members outside Cuba. Participants included: Rafael Hernández, Rafael Betancourt, Ricardo Torres, Omar Everleny, Gerardo González, Ernesto Hernández-Catá, Roberto Orro, Jorge Sanguinety, and Carlos Seiglie, and was moderated by former ASCE president Ted A. Henken and board member Gary Maybarduk.

Board Member Special Invitations

In December 2015, Ernesto Hernández-Catá spoke at a conference on Cuba organized by The Economist in Washington, D.C. In April 2016, he and Roger Betancourt talked about Cuba’s economic situation before the staff of the International Monetary Fund’s Western Hemisphere Department. In May, Hernández-Catá discussed the challenges for Cuba’s macro-economic policies before the senior staff of the Latin America and Caribbean Region of the World Bank. Finally, Ted Henken, ASCE’s President Ex-Officio, was invited by the administration to brief Ambassador Susan Rice on the emerging actors and changing dynamics of Cuban civil society during a visit to the White House prior to Obama’s trip.



Leading Internationally on Cuban Economic Research

Publication of Research

ASCE publishes all of its members' research (in our annual *Cuba In Transition* proceedings volume) freely as a public service to continue its effort at promoting non-partisan fact-based analysis the Cuban economic, social, and legal reality. ASCE promotes solid and unbiased economic and social research among public policymakers, business professionals, and the academic community. The Association's work continues to be recognized by the public and governments around the world as one of the cornerstones of useful and up-to-date research on Cuba.

ASCE continues to make all papers from the Annual Conference available on our website, including with a searchable database of the published research. In addition, ASCE continues to publish our periodic newsletters to our members and publicly on our website. Alongside announcing upcoming ASCE events and other membership-related information, these newsletters contain short pieces on the evolving economic conditions in Cuba.

Outreach and Public Service through ASCE Student Prize

ASCE is committed to helping the global community broaden its understanding of the economic, legal, and social issues driving policy in Cuba. To back up this commitment, ASCE spends thousands of dollars and hundreds of volunteer hours to reach as wide an audience as possible. As in prior years, the cornerstone of ASCE's outreach efforts to young scholars is via the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Prize awarded each year in honor of Jorge Pérez-López. The prize is given to the author of the best undergraduate and graduate paper on Cuban economic issues with a \$600 cash award; up to \$600 coverage of travel, food, and lodging to attend the annual conference; the opportunity to present his or her work at the conference; two years of ASCE membership; and publication of the paper in *Cuba in Transition*.

The student prize competition is open to students around the world and is judged by a panel of professors in ASCE under blind review. Led by Professor Enrique Pumar of the Catholic University of America, two awards were administered in 2016.

Cuban Economic News Clipping Service

Managed by long-time ASCE member, Joaquín Pujol, every week we select news related to Cuba's economy that are not usually carried in mainstream media and share them with members. This spares members the need to track the information in the various media, while also allowing ASCE members to stay well informed about relevant trends related to Cuba's economic reforms, international relations, economic performance, the sugar crop, tourism, and corruption, among other issues.

We limit our selections to events, trends, and commentaries related to the Cuban economy from sources such as the international press and wire services such as, *The Miami Herald*, *El Nuevo Herald*, and *Cubanet*, and Cuban publications, such as *Granma*, *Granma Internacional*, and *El Economista de Cuba*. This service has been established as an additional benefit exclusively for those members who provide us with their e-mail addresses.



Summary of Current ASCE Activities: See Appendix B for October 2016 Newsletter.

Value Creation for Our Membership

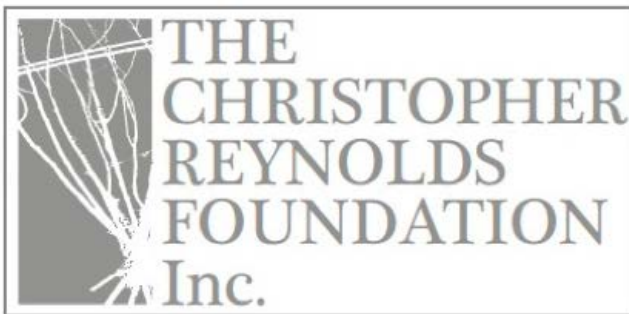
Updating ASCE's Funding Model

One of ASCE's most important ongoing efforts is to complement our member-supported dues with contributions from Charitable Foundations that share ASCE's goals. This strategic long-term effort seeks to diversify our revenue sources. To this end, the Board began a campaign in 2011-12, continued and consolidated in 2013-2014, focused on reaching out to foundations that support non-governmental organizations. Led by Ted A. Henken and Rafael Romeu, ASCE applied for funding from several funding institutions in 2013 and 2014, receiving awards from the Christopher Reynolds Foundation, the Sobel Family Foundation, and the Cuba Study Group. This ongoing effort to gain foundation support for some of the public goods that ASCE has provided over the decades, such as the free publication of research, support for the media, the student prizes, and especially our support for the attendance of scholars from the island to our annual conference.

ASCE continues to seek support to expand its efforts in the following areas:

- **Informing the public dialogue:** ASCE provides on-the-record and background information on Cuba for policymakers including the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of State, and nearly every major media outlet, including the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, the *Associated Press*, and NPR. To achieve this and build strong lines of communication between ASCE and the media, journalists' registration costs are waived at ASCE conferences.
- **Support to the research community:** ASCE makes freely available online research on Cuba's economy;
- **Supporting higher education and the economically disadvantaged:** ASCE's undergraduate and graduate student prize pays for travel, lodging, cash prizes, and participation in ASCE conferences, and subsidizes economically disadvantaged scholars and students – no one is turned away because of inability to pay.
- **Reaching out to Cuba-based scholars:** ASCE members created a special fund to support travel by Cuba-based scholars to ASCE conferences.

These initial efforts were successful, particularly in the area of funding Cuba-based scholars. In addition to funds donated by our membership, ASCE has received support for Cuba-based travel from several foundations, including The Christopher Reynolds Foundation, the Freddie Mac Foundation, the Sobel Family Foundation, and the Cuba Study Group. ASCE is grateful to its members and supporting foundations and **philanthropists for their help in advancing its mission.**



CUBA STUDY GROUP

New ASCE Website and Blog

In the fall of 2014 as a new board of directors took over, ASCE decided to update its website (<http://www.ascecuba.org>) with the aim of making the content more manageable, our offerings more navigable and accessible to the public, and allowing an easier interface with the growing world of social networks and media platforms like Youtube, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+, and Facebook (where we also have a web presence and growing following). Thus, the new and improved website houses not only our annual proceedings in PDF format but also photos and videos of our various events, past newsletters and annual reports, membership and payment info, as well as our bylaws and a narrative of ASCE's history.

In other news related to social media, in 2013 ASCE decided to enter the Cuban blogosphere by launching its very own blog, a project headed up by Luis R. Luis and Ernesto Hernández-Catá. The blog is hosted on our ASCE website and features economic analysis by a revolving cadre of ASCE members. Recent blog posts include, "The Geographic Structure of Cuban Imports and Over-Invoicing" and "How Will the End of the Accord with Venezuela Affect the Cuban Economy?" by Ernesto Hernández-Catá plus "Understanding Cuba's Capital Flows" by Luis R. Luis. Be sure to visit, leave your comments, and submit your own post to Luis and Ernesto at <http://www.ascecuba.com/blog>.

PUBLISH YOUR WORK HERE

ASCE seeks to publish high quality original posts on the economy of Cuba and related social, legal, industrial and cultural topics. The articles should have an empirical or analytic bend and should be no more than 1300 words in length. Articles can be written in English or Spanish. Send your articles, bio and picture to blog@ascecuba.org.



Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Period January 2011 through August 15, 2016

Prepared by Ernesto Hernandez-Cata, ASCE Treasurer.

Summary Report on ASCE's Financial Situation

Based on preliminary data

August 15, 2016

- ASCE's experienced a negative net revenue of \$7.7 thousand in the period from January, 1 to August 15, 2016. (Table 1). This compared to net surpluses of \$4.4 thousand in 2015, and an annual average of \$9.6 thousand for the period 2011-2014.
- Gross revenue fell from \$50.5 thousand to \$33.0 thousand, reflecting mostly a sharp drop in Christopher Reynolds donations to the Travel Fund, and significant declines in both membership dues and conference registration fees.
- Gross expenditure fell from \$46.1 thousand to \$40.7 thousand, owing mainly to lower Travel Fund expenditure.
- On a net basis, the Travel Fund continued to be the largest negative item. Net Travel Fund expenses increased from \$2.4 thousand to \$10.7 thousand, as a reduction in spending was more than offset by the disappearance of Christopher Reynolds donations. Conference expenses (the second largest category of net expenditure) rose from \$2.6 thousand to \$5.8 thousand, but that was not particularly high by historical standards. Membership dues continued to be, by far, the largest positive category in spite of their decline in 2016.
- Data on participation (Table 3) confirms the large declines in registration fees and membership dues.

Ernesto Hernández-Catá
Treasurer



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Table 1						
Revenues						
4000 Membership dues						
4010 Annual regular member fee	\$ 14,991.00	\$ 17,724.00	\$ 15,978.00	\$ 18,939.91	\$ 10,041.78	\$ 8,370.00
4020 Annual contributing member fee	\$ 1,319.00	\$ 191.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 611.00	\$ 2,925.00	\$ 1,805.29
4030 Annual Sponsor member fee	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,261.00	\$ 622.00	\$ 201.00	\$ 1,337.00	\$ 910.00
4040 Annual Benefactor member fee	\$ 251.00	\$ 465.00	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,897.00	\$ 2,217.00
4050 Annual student member fee	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 315.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 17,211.00	\$ 19,741.00	\$ 17,050.00	\$ 21,266.91	\$ 17,400.78	\$ 13,502.29
4100 Conference registration revenues						
4110 Member - Registration - conference fee	\$ 5,050.00	\$ 9,355.00	\$ 3,550.00	\$ 5,075.00	\$ 8,430.00	\$ 6,540.00
4115 Member - Registration - official lunch	\$ 2,710.00	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 1,760.00	\$ 2,080.00	\$ 4,085.00	\$ 4,005.00
4120 Member - Registration - printed volume	\$ 1,379.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 651.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 720.00	\$ 770.00
4125 Member - Pre-registration - conference fee	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,550.00	\$ 1,890.00	\$ -	\$ -
4130 Member - Pre-registration - official lunch	\$ 540.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,035.00	\$ 720.00	\$ 45.00	\$ -
4135 Member - Pre-registration - printed volume	\$ 575.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 610.00	\$ 305.00
4140 Non-member - Registration - conference fee	\$ 1,825.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,075.00	\$ 2,900.00
4145 Non-member - Registration - official lunch	\$ 250.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 45.00
4150 Non-member - Registration - printed volume	\$ 744.00	\$ 288.00	\$ 632.00	\$ 603.00	\$ 245.00	\$ 85.00
4155 Non-member - Pre-registration - conference fee	\$ 1,225.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 875.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ -	\$ -
4160 Non-member - Pre-registration - official lunch	\$ 135.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 585.00	\$ 90.00	\$ -
4165 Non-member - Pre-registration - printed volume	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 298.00	\$ -	\$ 420.00
4170 Student - registration - conference fee	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 60.00	\$ -	\$ 125.00	\$ -
4175 Other conference revenues	\$ 195.00	\$ 28.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4180 Conference-related refunds (contra-revenue)	\$ (50.00)	\$ (1,345.00)	\$ (120.00)	\$ (210.00)	\$ (705.00)	\$ 947.60
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 15,988.00	\$ 19,966.00	\$ 12,523.00	\$ 14,541.00	\$ 18,720.00	\$ 16,017.60
4200 Donations						
4210 ASCE Travel Fund donation	\$ 1,186.00	\$ 3,810.00	\$ 22,954.74	\$ 15,082.13	\$ 14,155.00	\$ 2,039.63
4220 ASCE Student fund donation	\$ -	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 4,065.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
4230 Other donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 580.00	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 1,186.00	\$ 5,210.00	\$ 27,169.74	\$ 15,662.13	\$ 14,205.00	\$ 2,089.63
4300 Refunds						
4310 Paypal fee refunds issued to ASCE	\$ -	\$ 3.74	\$ 2.64	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 49.59
4320 Other refunds issued to ASCE	\$ 1,847.07	\$ 12.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 1,847.07	\$ 15.74	\$ 2.64	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 549.59
4400 Other revenues						
4410 Interest income	\$ 39.65	\$ 17.13	\$ 9.33	\$ 5.22	\$ 1.77	\$ 1.87
4420 Revenue pending clarification	\$ 854.00	\$ 2,531.56	\$ -	\$ 632.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 835.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 893.65	\$ 2,548.69	\$ 9.33	\$ 637.22	\$ 151.77	\$ 836.87
Total	\$ 37,125.72	\$ 47,481.43	\$ 56,754.71	\$ 52,107.26	\$ 50,477.55	\$ 32,995.98
Expenses						
5000 Program expenses						
5010 Professional services expense	\$ 5,771.03	\$ 2,615.04	\$ 7,115.32	\$ 11,314.97	\$ 4,250.00	\$ 3,250.00
5020 Conference venue expense	\$ 16,515.03	\$ 33,490.96	\$ 16,894.04	\$ 20,420.37	\$ 19,776.81	\$ 20,207.02
5030 Travel fund expense	\$ 661.57	\$ 3,327.75	\$ 15,832.41	\$ 15,129.58	\$ 16,576.77	\$ 12,694.54
5040 Student fund expense	\$ 150.00	\$ 407.00	\$ 1,690.87	\$ 1,459.00	\$ 2,231.21	\$ 1,650.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 23,097.63	\$ 39,840.75	\$ 41,532.64	\$ 48,323.92	\$ 42,834.79	\$ 37,801.56
5100 Management and general expenses						
5110 PayPal fees	\$ 229.03	\$ 369.55	\$ 318.64	\$ 386.47	\$ 6.18	\$ 124.70
5120 Bank fees	\$ -	\$ 49.00	\$ -	\$ 74.50	\$ 45.00	\$ 12.00
5130 Mailing and shipping expense	\$ -	\$ 34.31	\$ 424.15	\$ 470.60	\$ 563.51	\$ 144.29
5140 Telephone expense	\$ 487.22	\$ 516.68	\$ 551.63	\$ 448.90	\$ -	\$ -
5150 Accounting services expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,640.00	\$ 1,320.00	\$ -
5160 Office expense	\$ 126.57	\$ -	\$ 186.00	\$ 210.89	\$ -	\$ 194.00
5170 Means and entertainment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 455.50	\$ 181.97	\$ 225.27	\$ -
5180 Hosting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 184.95	\$ -	\$ -
5190 Printing services	\$ 107.48	\$ 115.04	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,092.80	\$ 2,167.15
5195 Expense pending clarification	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 245.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 950.30	\$ 1,084.58	\$ 3,135.92	\$ 4,598.28	\$ 3,252.76	\$ 2,887.14
5200 Fundraising expenses						
5210 Fundraising mailing expenses	\$ 385.92	\$ 162.45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5220 Fundraising printing expenses	\$ -	\$ 17.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 385.92	\$ 179.46	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 24,433.85	\$ 41,104.79	\$ 44,668.56	\$ 52,922.20	\$ 46,087.55	\$ 40,688.70
Net Revenue	\$ 12,691.87	\$ 6,376.64	\$ 12,086.15	\$ (814.94)	\$ 4,390.00	\$ (7,692.72)



Table 2. Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy
Net revenue by major categories

Net revenue from:						Jan-Aug.
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Membership dues	\$ 17,211	\$ 19,741	\$ 17,050	\$ 21,267	\$ 17,401	\$ 13,502
Conference, net*	\$ (3,285)	\$ (14,923)	\$ (5,949)	\$ (7,430)	\$ (2,632)	\$ (5,769)
Travel fund, net	\$ 524	\$ 482	\$ 7,122	\$ (47)	\$ (2,422)	\$ (10,655)
Student fund, net	\$ (150)	\$ 993	\$ 2,374	\$ (1,459)	\$ (2,181)	\$ (1,600)
Professional services expense	\$ (5,771)	\$ (2,615)	\$ (7,115)	\$ (11,315)	\$ (4,250)	\$ (3,250)
Accounting services expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,200)	\$ (2,640)	\$ (1,320)	\$ -
Printing services	\$ (107)	\$ (115)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,093)	\$ (2,167)
Sales of Cuba in Transition	\$ 2,758	\$ 1,398	\$ 1,578	\$ 1,551	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,580
Other revenue, net	\$ 1,512	\$ 1,415	\$ (1,774)	\$ (741)	\$ (687)	\$ 666
Total net revenue	\$ 12,692	\$ 6,377	\$ 12,086	\$ (815)	\$ 4,392	\$ (7,693)
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (0)	\$ -	
Total, excluding travel fund	\$ 12,167	\$ 5,894	\$ 4,964	\$ (767)	\$ 6,813	\$ 2,962

Table 3

	Numbers		%
	2015	2016	2016/15
Total participation	230	145	-37%
Conference registration, paid	139	97	-30%
Conference, Travel Fund guests	13	11	-15%
Conference, press	5	5	
Students prize winners)	4	6	
Students (Maria group)	6	0	
Other	67	26	
Contributors			
Membership dues	160	110	-31%
Official lunch	85	78	-8%
Cuba in Transition sales	37	39	5%
Travel Fund	7	7	0%
Student Fund	1	1	0%



ASCE Mission Statement

The Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE) is a non-profit, non-political organization incorporated in the state of Maryland in 1990.

Our mission is to study the Cuban economy in all of its aspects, promote research and scholarship on this subject, and provide the basis for well-informed and civil discussions on these topics through our publications and conferences.

Affiliated with the American Economic Association and the Allied Social Sciences Association of the United States, ASCE maintains professional contacts with economists inside Cuba —whether independent or associated with the Cuban government— who are interested in engaging in scholarly discussion and research.

ASCE Board of Directors

A Board of Directors, elected by the membership for a two-year period, meets monthly. Its officers, who reside in different cities of the United States and Canada, serve in a pro-bono, voluntary capacity. Since ASCE's inception, Board positions have been occupied by individuals from academia, government service, law firms, multilateral organizations, and business enterprises.

Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy Board of Directors (2014-2016)

President: Carlos Seiglie
President *Ex-Officio*: Ted A. Henken
Treasurer: Ernesto Hernández-Catá
Secretary: Helena Solo-Gabriele
Rafael Romeu
Archibald R.M. Ritter

Sergio Díaz-Briquets
Gary Maybarduk
Stephen J. Kimmerling
Ramón Barquín III
Mario González-Corso
Maria Werlau



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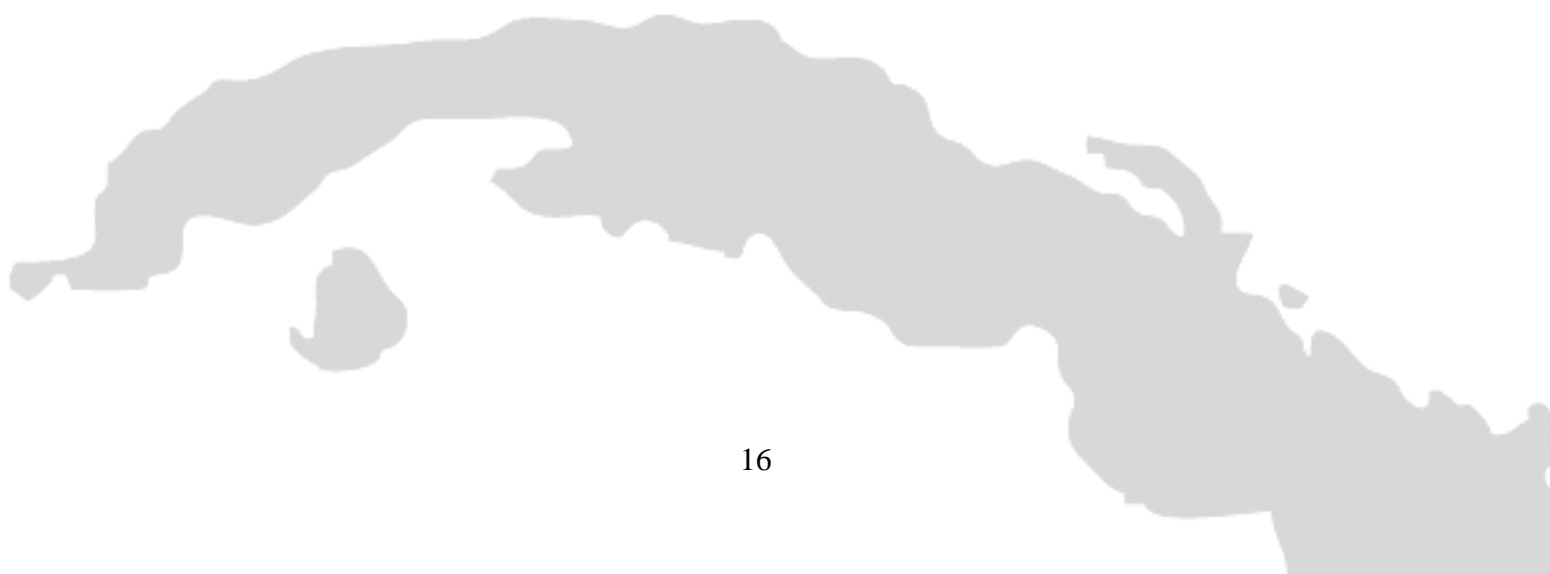
ASCE Committees

Conference Program: Jorge Pérez-López
Conference Logistics: Rafael Romeu (lead), Mario Gonzalez-Corz, Joaquin Pujol, Stephen Kimmerling, Enrique Pumar
Conference Secretariat: Maria Urizar from ICCAS
Student Papers Prize: Enrique Pumar (lead), Mario Gonzalez-Corzo
Conference Hosting Committee: Ted Henken (lead) Rafael Romeu, Maria Dolores Espino, Maria Werlau, Roger de la Torre, Carlos Seiglie
Cuba in Transition editor: Jorge Pérez-López
AEA Session Coordinator: Luis Locay
Carlos Díaz-Alejandro Lecture: Carlos Seiglie & Mario Gonzalez-Corzo
Media/Press ASCE Newsclippings: Joaquín P. Pujol
Blog (<http://www.ascecuba.org/blog/>): Luis R. Luis & Ernesto Hernández-Catá
Election Nomination: Roger Betancourt
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Student and Young Professionals Committee:
Newsletter: Helena Solo-Gabriele, Roger de la Torre



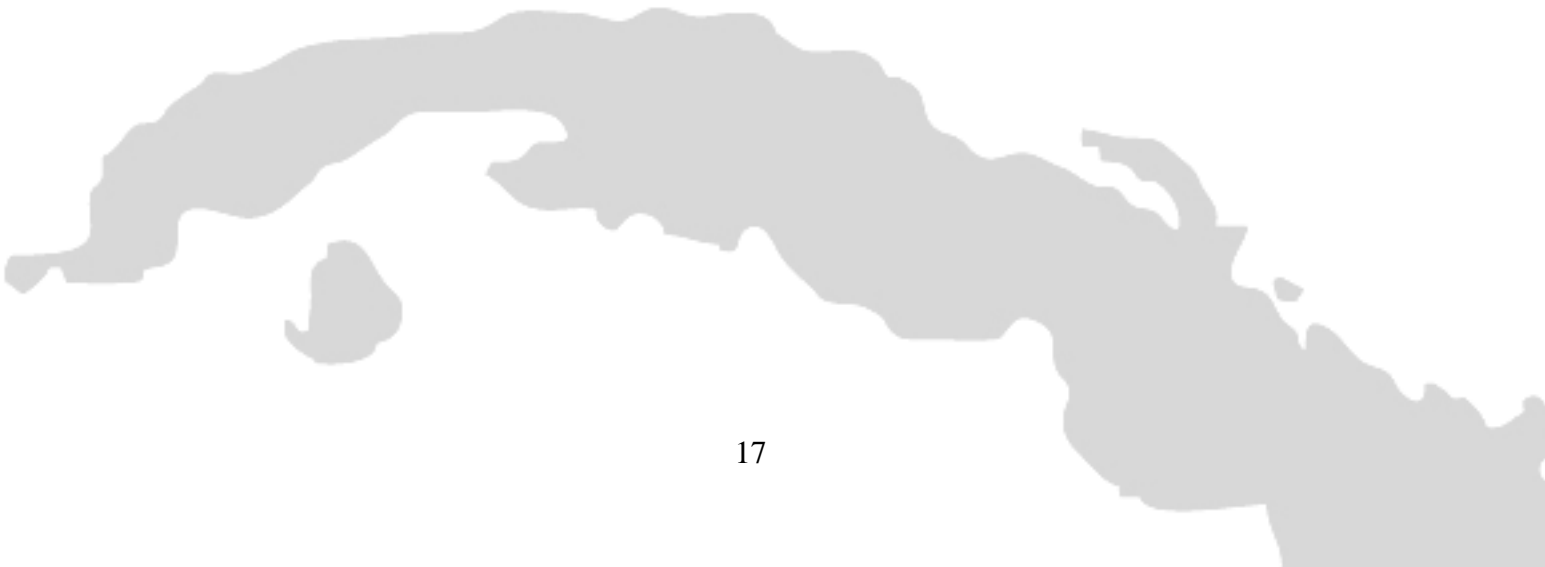
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Antonio Gayoso
Lorenzo Pérez
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Carlos N. Quijano
Beatriz C. Casals
Ernesto Hernández-Catá
Armando S. Linde
Jorge A. Sanguinety
Rafael Romeu
Ted A. Henken
Carlos Seiglie





Appendix A
2016 ASCE Conference Proceedings



July 28-30, 2016

Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy
Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting

Cuba:
Assessing the Reforms

ASCE 2016



Cuba: Assessing the Reforms

Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE)
Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting
July 28-30, 2016

The Hilton Miami Downtown Hotel
1601 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida 33132



ASCE gratefully acknowledges The Christopher Reynolds Foundation for providing us with generous funding over the past five years to support the conference attendance of Cuban scholars resident on the island adding to the richness, diversity, and fruitful exchange and collaboration among us. We also acknowledge the ongoing secretarial support we receive each year from María Urizar of the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies of the University of Miami and Carlos Bustamante of MaestroMeetings for his assistance in designing the conference badges, poster, and program.



Note: Presentations will be in English unless the title of the session or paper is in Spanish.



WELCOME TO ASCE 2016!

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to everyone who has traveled here from Coral Gables and Calle Ocho, from places further afield like New York, Washington, D.C., California, Paris, and Madrid, and from what sometimes seem like places even further away like Havana, Cienfuegos, Pinar del Río, and Matanzas to attend the 26th annual meeting of the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy: "**Cuba: Assessing the Reforms.**" At a time of historic opportunities and acute challenges for the Cuban economy and Cuban-U.S. relations, ASCE is more committed than ever to playing a positive, constructive role in critically evaluating the changes impacting the lives of Cuba's 11 million citizens.



We are very committed to and proud of the presence at the conference this year of a record number of participants –more than 25 in total– who have joined us directly from Cuba allowing us to bridge the intellectual distance between Miami and Havana, building bonds of frank, respectful, and informed debate, dialogue, and collaboration.

Among the many attendees from Cuba this year, I'd like to highlight to the presence for the first time of a number of scholars whom have made their careers within state institutions, including Omar Everlency Pérez , Eduardo López Bastida, Lázaro Blanco, Yailenis Mulet, and Yociel Marrero. We also extend a warm welcome to younger scholars whom we hope will be the new blood that keeps ASCE vital and relevant in the years to come, including Jorge Ignacio Guillén, Karina Gálvez, Yoandy Izquierdo Toledo, Osmany Sánchez, Roberto G. Peralo, and our two student prize awardees this year: Aleida Cobas Valdés and Nayara Sabrina de Freitas Alves.

All this is a happy and necessary addition to the even larger number of participants we welcome this year from numerous organizations of Cuba's emergent independent civil society, including *Centro de Estudios Convivencia*, *Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo*, *Corriente Agramontista*, *Comité Ciudadano por la Integración Racial*, CubaNet, and *La Comisión Coordinadora del Encuentro Nacional Cubano*.

In closing, I'd like to extend a special welcome to our keynote speaker the eminent Spanish journalist Vicente Luis Botín and his wife María Soledad Vallejo. I'd also like to note the presence of the pioneering Cuban *cuentapropistas* Gilberto "Papito" Valladares, Camilo Condis Mojena, Ramón Bedias, Celia Mendoza, and Robin Pedraja.

Sincerely,

Carlos Seiglie – President, Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy

PS: Be sure to follow us on Twitter at [@ASCECuba](https://twitter.com/ASCECuba). While you're at it "friend" us on Facebook, check out our past conference videos on YouTube, and browse past volumes of *Cuba in Transition* on our website: <http://www.ascecuba.org/>.



Concerto Foyer A

8:00 a.m. REGISTRATION and CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Concerto Ballroom A/B

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. OPENING PLENARY

1) Current Economic and Political Situation

Chair: **Carlos Seiglie**, ASCE President, Rutgers University

Joaquín P. Pujol, International Monetary Fund (retired), "Cuba: Great Expectations, but How Real Are They?"

Omar Everlery Pérez Villanueva, Cuban Economist, *Temas Magazine*, "Cuba: Economía y Desafíos"

Jorge R. Piñón, Center for International Energy and Environmental Policy, University of Texas at Austin, "Cuba's Energy Crisis: Truth or Fiction?"

Concerto Foyer A

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. COFFEE BREAK

Concerto Ballroom A/B

11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. PLENARY SESSION

2) Macroeconomic Topics

Chair: **Carlos Quijano**, World Bank (retired)

Roberto Orro Fernández, Caribbean Analysis Unit, "Cuban Monetary Unification: Zeroing in on Why There Has Been Zero Day Zero in Cuba"

Heidi Colby-Oizumi, U.S. International Trade Commission, "Overview of Cuban Imports of Goods and Services and Effects of U.S. Restrictions"

Pavel Vidal Alejandro, Universidad Javeriana (Cali, Colombia), and **Ernesto Hernández-Catá**, IMF (retired) and The Foundry, Inc., "The Rise and Fall of Economic Growth in Cuba, 2015-16: External Factors, Business Confidence, and Domestic Policies"

Discussants: **Lorenzo Pérez**, International Monetary Fund (retired); **Gary Maybarduk**, U.S. Department of State (retired)

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. LUNCH BREAK



2:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Concerto Ballroom A

3) Agriculture

Chair: **Felipe Manteiga**, U.S. Agency for International Development (retired)

Mario González-Corzo, Lehman College, The City University of New York, "Urban Agriculture in Cuba: An Update"

Jorge Pérez-López, U.S. Department of Labor (retired), "The Restructuring of the Cuban Sugar Agroindustry: A Progress Report"

Roberto G. Peralo, Universidad de Matanzas, "Estudio del funcionamiento de los mercados agrícolas cubanos"

Discussants: **José F. Alonso**, Adjunct Professor, Montgomery College Adult Education; **Antonio Gayoso**, U.S. Agency for International Development (retired)

Concerto Ballroom B

4) Legal Issues

Chair: **Stephen Kimmerling, Esq.**

Dagoberto Valdés, Centro de Estudios Convivencia (CEC), "Un nuevo marco jurídico y tránsito constitucional en Cuba"

José Gabilondo, Florida International University College of Law, "Fundamentando las Reclamaciones de Cuba contra los EEUU: La Expropiación De Facto de la Propiedad Estatal de los Cubanos"

Michael J. Strauss, Centre d'Etudes Diplomatiques et Stratégiques (Paris, France), "Returning Guantanamo Bay to Cuban Control"

Discussants: **Rolando Anillo, Esq.**; **Luis Carlos Battista**, Georgetown Law School; **Larry Catá Backer**, Penn State University

Concerto Foyer A

4:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. COFFEE BREAK



4:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Concerto Ballroom A

5) La justicia transicional y la anhelada reconciliación nacional cubana

Presidente: **Julio M. Shiling**, politólogo, escritor y director del foro *Patria de Martí*

Fredo Arias King, director de Casla Institute y experto en países del ex bloque soviético, "Lecciones de justicia transicional de países del antiguo bloque comunista soviético"

Enrique García, ex oficial de la inteligencia cubana, "Transformando el aparato de seguridad cubano: retos y realidades"

Pastor Mario Félix Leonart, pastor bautista, miembro de la Comisión Coordinadora del Encuentro Nacional Cubano y bloguero, "La anhelada reconciliación nacional: retos, realidades y esperanzas"

Maria C. Werlau, Directora Ejecutiva de Cuba Archive / Archivo Cuba, Proyecto de Verdad y Memoria, "La justicia transicional en un contexto universal: aprendizaje para Cuba"

Comentaristas: **Vicente Botín**, periodista y autor español; **Nilda Pedraza**, madre de joven asesinado en 1994 por Tropas Guardafronteras de Cuba

Concerto Ballroom B

6) Cuba's Infrastructure in Support of Economic Development

Chair: **René Costales**, Inter-American Development Bank (retired)

Josef Asteinza, Producer and Writer of the documentary film "Havana Modern: The Architecture of Nicolás Quintana"; and **Vivian García**, University of Miami, "Mapping Cuba's 20th Century Architecture"

Diana Arboleda, **Francisco DeCaso** and **Antonio Nanni**, Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering, University of Miami, "Historic Infrastructure Rehabilitation with Fabric Reinforced Cementitious Matrix (FRCM) Composites"

Enrique S. Pumar, The Catholic University of America; **Helena M. Solo-Gabriele**, Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering, University of Miami; **Joseph B. Treaster**, School of Communications, University of Miami, "Perceptions of Water Quality in Cuba as Reported by Users: Preliminary Findings of the Cuban Water Project"

Wangda Zuo, College of Engineering, University of Miami; **Raymond Kaiser**, Amzur Technologies; and **Stephen Welty**, Calor Technologies, "Envisioning a 21st Century Renewable, Reliable, Resilient, and Affordable Energy Infrastructure for Cuba"

Overture Foyer 1

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **ASCE WELCOMING RECEPTION**



Concerto Foyer A

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. REGISTRATION and CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Concerto Ballroom A

7) Cuba's Self-Imposed Embargo

Chair: **Oscar Echevarría**, Global Expand LLC

Emilio Morales, The Havana Consulting Group, "Gobierno cubano, ¿congela o descongela los límites del sector privado en la era del deshielo?"

Jorge A. Sanguinety, DevTech Systems, "Implications of Cuba's Foreign Investment Law in the Context of 2016" (to be delivered by Juan Antonio Blanco)

Juan Antonio Blanco, Historiador (Ph.D.) y Director Ejecutivo de la Fundación de Derechos Humanos para Cuba, "Tres mitos referidos al embargo"

Discussants: **Carlos Seiglie**, Rutgers University; **René Gómez Manzano**, Presidente de la Corriente Agramontista

Concerto Ballroom B

8) Student Panel

Chair: **Enrique S. Pumar**, The Catholic University of America

Aleida Cobas Valdés, Department of Applied Economics and Institute of Public Economics, University of Basque Country, Spain, "Cuban Immigrants in the United States: What Determines their Earning Distributions?"

Nayara Sabrina de Freitas Alves, Department of Biology, University of Miami and Universidade do Estado do Para, Brazil, "Havana's Wastewater Treatment Plans: Changes over Time and Estimate Replacement Cost"

Discussants: **Mario González-Corzo**, Lehman College; **Enrique S. Pumar**, The Catholic University of America

Concerto Foyer A

10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. COFFEE BREAK



10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Concerto Ballroom A

9) Demography

Chair: **Nick Sánchez**, College of the Holy Cross (retired)

Luis Locay, University of Miami, "Why Did the Cuban Infant Mortality Rate Rise during the First Decade of the Revolution?"

Sergio Díaz-Briquets, "Population Aging in Cuba: Policy Options from a Global Perspective"

Emilio Morales, The Havana Consulting Group, "La demografía de las remesas a Cuba"

Discussants: **Rodolfo Stusser, MD**

Concerto Ballroom B

10) Cuban Economic Reforms and Party Congresses

Chair: **Rogelio de la Torre**, De la Torre International

Osmar Laffita Rojas, Partido Solidaridad Democrática and CubaNet, "Los problemas de la economía no resueltos por el VI Congreso"

Larry Catá Backer, Penn State University, "Central Planning Versus Markets Marxism: The Cuban Communist Party Confronts Crisis, Challenge and Change in its 7th Congress"

Domingo Amuchástegui, columnist for *Cuba Standard* and *Temas*, "A Nation's Debate: What to Expect"

Gary Maybarduk, U.S. Department of State (retired), "Cuba's Seventh Party Congress: Listening Carefully to Raúl"

Discussants: **Jorge Pérez-López**, U.S. Department of Labor, retired; **Hildebrando Chaviano Montes**, Corriente Agramontista

Concerto Ballroom C

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. ASCE OFFICIAL LUNCHEON

ASCE Student Awards, Enrique Pumar, Catholic University of America

Graduate Student Award: Aleida Cobas Valdés, Department of Applied Economics and Institute of Public Economics, University of Basque Country, Spain

Undergraduate Student Award: Nayara Sabrina de Freitas Alves, Department of Biology, University of Miami and Universidade do Estado do Pará, Brazil

Ernesto Betancourt Keynote Address: Vicente Botín, Spanish journalist, author of two books on Cuba, and TV Española correspondent, "Las cuentas y los cuentos de las reformas"



2:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Concerto Ballroom A

11) Impacts of Structural Economic Reforms

Chair: **Lorenzo Pérez**, International Monetary Fund (retired)

José Gabilondo, Florida International University College of Law, "Assessing Cuba's Monetary Reforms: What Will Happen to State Balance Sheets?"

Ernesto Hernández-Catá, International Monetary Fund (retired) and The Foundry, Inc., "Growth and Policy-Induced Distortions in the Cuban Economy"

Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland, "USA-Cuba Migration Policy: A Political Economy View"

Discussants: **Carlos Seiglie**, Rutgers University; **Jorge Sanguinety**, DevTech Systems

Concerto Ballroom B

12) International Relations

Chair: **Oscar Echevarría**, Global Expand, LLC

Carlos A. Romero, Universidad Central de Venezuela, "Business as Usual: Venezuelan-Cuban Relations Today"

Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan, "The Impossible Triangle: Cuba, the US, and Miami and the Re-establishment of Relations"

Jorge Hernández Fonseca, Dr. Ing., "Cuba, Brasil y el puerto de Mariel"

Miriam Leiva, Independent Journalist, *Reconciliación Cubana*, "Cuba: Movimiento o Caos"

Discussants: **Rafael Romeu**, DevTech Systems; **Maria Werlau**, Cuba Archive

Concerto Foyer A

4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. **COFFEE BREAK**



4:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Concerto Ballroom A

13) Tourism and Self-Employment

Chair: **María Dolores Espino**, St. Thomas University

Rafael Romeu, DevTech Systems and **Trevor Alleyne** and **Sebastián Acevedo**, International Monetary Fund, "The Vacation is Over, 2016"

José Perelló, Universidad de La Habana, "Tourism Development in Cuba: Trends, Policies, and Relevant Issues Impacting the Future" (to be delivered by María Dolores Espino)

Yailenis Mulet Concepción, Universidad de La Habana, "El trabajo por cuenta propia después de las reformas de Raúl Castro: Un balance"

Discussants: **Julio Cerviño Fernández**, Universidad Carlos III (Spain); **María Dolores Espino**, St. Thomas University

Concerto Ballroom B

14) Private Sector

Chair: **Ramón Carlos Barquín**, Barquín International

Omar Everlery Pérez Villanueva, Cuban Economist, *Temas* Magazine and **Janettee María García Cobas**, Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo, "El desarrollo de las pequeñas y medianas empresas en Cuba: Una necesidad impostergable"

Gilberto "Papito" Valladares and **Camilo Condis Mojena**, cuentapropistas, "El Proyecto Artecorte: Un proyecto comunitario de desarrollo local en la Cuba actual"

Ramón Bedías, cuentapropista, "El Patio de Ramoncito"

Discussants: Ted A. Henken, Baruch College; **Yociel Marrero**, Antonio Núñez Jiménez Centro para la Naturaleza y el Hombre

Concerto Ballroom C

6:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. ASCE BUSINESS MEETING

Review of activities of the 2014-2016 period

Investiture of the incoming Board of Directors, 2016-2018

Incoming Officers: Helena Solo-Gabriele, President; Carlos Seiglie, President, Ex-Officio; and Ernesto Hernández-Catá, Treasurer

Incoming Board Members: Larry Catá Backer; Sergio Díaz-Briquets; Antonio Gayoso; Steven J. Kimmerling; Gary Maybarduk; Roberto Orro Fernández; Jorge Luis Romeu; Rafael Romeu; Michael J. Strauss; and Rogelio de la Torre Casanova



Concerto Foyer A

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION and CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Concerto Ballroom A

15) Authors Meet Critics

Chair: **Enrique Pumar**, The Catholic University of America

Authors: **Archibald R.M. Ritter**, Carleton University and **Ted A. Henken**, Baruch College, The City University of New York, *Entrepreneurial Cuba: The Changing Policy Landscape*

Critic: **Sergio Díaz-Briquets**

Author: **Silvia Pedraza**, University of Michigan, *Political Disaffection in Cuba's Revolution and Exodus*

Critic: **Enrique Pumar**, The Catholic University of America

Authors: **Carmelo Mesa-Lago** and **Jorge Pérez-López**, *Cuba Under Raúl Castro: Assessing the Reforms*

Critic: **Mario González-Corzo**, Lehman College, The City University of New York

Concerto Ballroom B

16) Historical and Cultural Perspectives

Chair: **Roger Betancourt**, University of Maryland

Luis Martínez-Fernández, University of Central Florida, "Centuries-Deep Roots: Early Colonial Foundations of Twentieth-Century Cuban Society and Culture"

Yvon Grenier, St. Francis Xavier University, "*Temas* and Anathemas: Depoliticization and Newspeak in Cuba's Social Sciences and Humanities"

Soren Triff, Bristol Community College, "The Other Racism: The Role of the Revolutionary Discourse in Cuban Identity Economics"

Discussants: **René Costales**, Inter-American Development Bank (retired)

Concerto Foyer A

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. COFFEE BREAK



11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Concerto Ballroom A

17) Development Strategies and Geography

Chair: **Luis Locay**, University of Miami

Eduardo López Bastida, Universidad de Cienfuegos, "Algunas consideraciones sobre ciencia, tecnología, innovación tecnológica y medio ambiente para desarrollo próspero y sostenible cubano"

Dagoberto Valdés, Centro de Estudios Convivencia (CEC), "Propuestas para reformas de la economía cubana"

Mauricio Font, City University of New York, "Spatial Differentiation: Oriente v. Occidente"

Osmany Sánchez, Universidad de Matanzas, "Paisajes y economía ecológica: bases geográficas para la gestión costera integrada en la provincia de Matanzas"

Discussants: **Antonio Gayoso**, U.S. Agency for International Development (retired); **Juan Antonio Madrazo Luna**, Comité Ciudadano por la Integración Racial (CIR)

Concerto Ballroom B

18) Cuba and the Internet

Chair: **Ted A. Henken**, Baruch College

Salvi Pascual, cuentapropista, Apretaste.com, "Using the current tech and infrastructure to connect Cuba to the Web"

Lázaro J. Blanco Encinosa, Centro de Estudios de Técnicas de Dirección, Universidad de La Habana, "Internet y las tecnologías de la información y las comunicaciones en el sector empresarial cubano. Actualidad, perspectivas y retos"

Celia Mendoza and **Robin Pedraja**, cuentapropistas, *Vistar Magazine*, "Alternativas entre la conexión y la desconexión"

Discussants: **Yoaxis Marcheco**, Licenciada en Ciencias de la Información y Máster en Estudios Teológicos, Coordinadora del Instituto Patmos (invited); **Harold Cárdenas**, Universidad de Matanzas y co-fundador del blog *La Joven Cuba* (invited)

Note: Throughout the conference there will be a Press Room for interviews in the Soprano Room



ABOUT ASCE

ASCE Mission Statement

The Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE) is a non-profit, non-political organization incorporated in the state of Maryland in 1990.

Our mission is to promote research, publications, and scholarly discussion on the Cuban economy in its broadest sense, including on the social, economic, legal, and environmental aspects of a transition to a free market economy and a democratic society in Cuba. ASCE is committed to a civil discussion of all points of view.

Affiliated with the American Economic Association and the Allied Social Sciences Association of the United States, ASCE maintains professional contacts with economists inside Cuba — whether independent or associated with the Cuban government— who are interested in engaging in scholarly discussion and research.

ASCE Board of Directors

A Board of Directors, elected by the membership for a two-year period, meets monthly. Its officers serve in a pro-bono, voluntary capacity. Since ASCE's inception, Board positions have been occupied by individuals from academia, government service, law firms, multilateral organizations, and business enterprises.

Current Board of Directors, 2014–2016

Officers: Carlos Seiglie, President; Ted A. Henken, President, Ex-Officio; Ernesto Hernández-Catá, Treasurer; and Helena Solo-Gabriele, Secretary

Other Board members: Ramón Barquín III, Sergio Díaz-Briquets, Mario González-Corzo, Steven J. Kimmerling, Gary Maybarduk, Archibald R. M. Ritter, Rafael Romeu, and María Werlau

Incoming Board of Directors, 2016-2018

Officers: Helena Solo-Gabriele, President; Carlos Seiglie, President, Ex-Officio; and Ernesto Hernández-Catá, Treasurer

Other Board members: Larry Catá Backer, Sergio Díaz-Briquets, Antonio Gayoso, Steven J. Kimmerling, Gary Maybarduk, Roberto Orro Fernández, Jorge Luis Romeu, Rafael Romeu, Michael J. Strauss, Rogelio de la Torre Casanova



Main Committee Chairs

- **Annual Conference Program:** Jorge Pérez-López and Ted A. Henken
- **Conference Organization and Logistics:** Mario González-Corzo and Joaquín Pujol
- **Conference Secretariat:** María Urizar of ICCAS
- **Student Prize Competition:** Enrique Pumar
- **Editor of “Cuba in Transition,” conference proceedings:** Jorge Pérez-López
- **Travel Fundraising and Logistics:** Ted A. Henken, María Werlau, and Archibald Ritter
- **American Economic Association ASCE Coordinator:** Luis Locay
- **Carlos Alejandro Lecture Coordinator:** Lorenzo Pérez and Carlos Seiglie
- **Media and News Clippings Service:** Joaquín P. Pujol
- **ASCE Webpage and Newsletter:** Carlos Seiglie, Ernesto Hernández-Catá, and Ted A. Henken
- **ASCE Blog:** Luis R. Luis and Ernesto Hernández-Catá
- **Membership Committee:** Ramón Barquín III and María Werlau
- **Elections, Nominating, and Tellers Committee:** Roger Betancourt and Steven Escobar

ASCE Past Presidents

- Felipe Pazos †
- Roger Betancourt
- Jorge F. Pérez-López
- Armando M. Lago †
 - Antonio Gayoso
 - Lorenzo Pérez
- Sergio Díaz-Briquets
 - Carlos N. Quijano
 - Beatriz C. Casals
- Ernesto Hernández-Catá
 - Armando S. Linde
- Jorge A. Sanguinety
 - Rafael Romeu
 - Ted A. Henken
 - Carlos Seiglie





Appendix B

ASCE Newsletter, October 14, 2016 Edition





ASCE Newsletter

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE CUBAN ECONOMY

Issue Date:
October 14, 2016

Highlights

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Board of Directors

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Helena Solo-Gabriele

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Antonio Gayoso

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Gary Maybarduk

Roberto Orro Fernandez

Jorge Luis Romeu

Rafael Romeu

Michael Strauss

President's Letter

By Helena Solo-Gabriele, ASCE President 2016-2018

Dear ASCE Members,

First I would like to express that it is an honor to have been elected as President. I am an environmental engineer by training who has a strong interest in understanding the links between infrastructure and public health in all parts of the world but in particular Cuba. I am of Cuban heritage and studying about issues in Cuba is a way of connecting with my heritage and with my research interests. I have a full-time job at the University of Miami. On the academic side I am a Professor and on the administrative side I am the Associate Dean for Research at the College of Engineering. I believe that my service through ASCE is synergistic with my full-time responsibilities at the University. Through my scholarship and service responsibilities at the University I have been involved in activities that promote student-led research on Cuba infrastructure needs. ASCE is a match for me because of its strong history with student competitions. The topic is very relevant to me as I believe that infrastructure and the economy are interdependent, infrastructure that serves the needs of populations requires a viable economy. So from my perspective ASCE is a great fit. I am excited to have been elected as President of this great organization and I am fully committed to seeing the organization grow and prosper.

In order to move the organization forward, ASCE will need everyone's help. We have a committed Board of Directors who have taken on leadership roles. I am happy to state that Carlos Seiglie, our immediate past president, will be organizing the Carlos Diaz Alejandro lecture and will be serving on the conference hosting committee. Ernesto Hernandez-Cata will continue his outstanding work as treasurer and Gary Maybarduk has graciously agreed to serve as secretary. Current and past Board members have been fully involved in specific initiatives including organizing a hosting and fundraising committee (Ted Henken, lead), conference organizing committee (Rafael Romeu, lead), and membership committee (Michael Strauss, lead). My vision for the upcoming years is to have members participate fully in planned ASCE activities and to consider volunteering within the various roles in ASCE. We can definitely use help in recruiting new members and we would greatly appreciate if you could pass along information about ASCE to encourage others to become part of this organization. Information about membership is available on the last page of this newsletter. If you are interested in getting involved please contact us at asce@ascecuba.org.

On the next few pages of this newsletter we highlight this year's upcoming activities. We are excited about our plans for the upcoming conference scheduled for July 27-29, 2017 at the Hilton Downtown Miami Hotel. Enclosed is the Save-the-date which we hope is shared among all of your professional and social networks. In addition we have plans for a sessions at two conferences, one at the American Economics Association Annual meeting, and another at Florida International University's Conference on Cuban and Cuban-American Studies. I ask that you please pass along this newsletter to colleagues, family and friends who have interests in Cuba's economic issues.

I hope that you find this newsletter useful. If you have items that you would like considered for the next newsletter please let me know. In closing I would like to thank all of you for being part of ASCE.

Regards, Helena Solo-Gabriele, Ph.D., P.E.

ASCE

Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy

<http://www.ascecuba.org/>

asce@ascecuba.org

ASCE Newsletter Submissions

Newsletter submissions, comments, and letters to the editor may be sent to:

Roger de la Torre
ASCE Newsletter Editor
r.delatorre@earthlink.net

Letters to the president may be sent to: Helena Solo-Gabriele
hmsolo@miami.edu

Please send email, telephone, and address changes to:
Ernesto Hernandez-Cata
ehernandezcata@gmail.com

ASCE Committees

Membership Committee
Michael Strauss

ASCE Newsclippings
Joaquín P. Pujol

ASCE Blog
*Luis R. Luis and
Ernesto Hernandez-Cata*

Conference Program Committee
Jorge Pérez-López

Conference Logistics Committee
Rafael Romeu

Conference Secretariat
Maria Urizar of ICCAS

Student Paper Prize
Enrique Pumar

Conference Hosting Committee
Ted Henken

Carlos Diaz-Alejandro Lecture
Carlos Seiglie

AEA Session Coordinator
Luis Locay

Election Nominations
Roger Betancourt

Election Teller
Steve Escobar

Need to Renew your Membership?

Go to

<http://www.ascecuba.org/>

On the "Membership" tab click
"Membership Annual Dues"

Updates from ASCE Committees

Membership Committee—Michael Strauss

The membership committee has been brainstorming about ways to increase membership and a number of ideas were put forth. As part of our membership drive we are asking that all current members encourage colleagues to consider ASCE membership. The advantages of membership are listed on the last page of this newsletter. Other possibilities include an institutional membership category (these members may designate someone to participate in ASCE events), publicizing ASCE in relevant places where its existence may not be widely known—foreign universities, commercial seminars for potential investors in Cuba, etc. To further encourage participation, one idea was for brand new members to receive a discount off first-year membership dues and the registration fee for the yearly conference.

Newsclippings—Joaquín P. Pujol

We will select news related to Cuba's economy that usually are not carried in mainstream media and by the end of the week they are forwarded to members' e-mails. This will spare you the need to track the information in the various media by digging it out by yourself, while at the same time, as an ASCE member, you will be well informed of relevant economic trends and events in relation to Cuba's economic reforms, international relations, economic performance, the sugar crop, tourism, corruption among other issues. This service has been established as an additional benefit exclusively for those members who provide us with their e-mail addresses.

ASCE Blog—Luis R. Luis

The ASCE blog presents brief articles on the Cuban economy and society. The posts provide original commentary and analysis on topics relevant to gauging social and economic trends in the Cuba. Articles of an analytical nature by members and friends of ASCE are welcome and can be sent to asce@ascecuba.org in care of the editors. For examples, visit <http://www.ascecuba.org/blog/>.

Conference Proceedings and Program Committee—Jorge Pérez-López

The Conference Proceedings Committee is in the process of preparing the 2016 Proceedings. They hope to have the web version of the proceedings ready by Thanksgiving. For the 2017 meeting we are moving up deadlines for abstract submissions to April 1, 2017. Abstracts to be submitted to: asce@ascecuba.org

Conference Logistics Committee—Rafael Romeu

The conference logistics committee has received Board approval to set the 2017 Conference date and venue. The date has been set to July 27-29, 2016 at the Downtown Miami Hilton. This upcoming year we are planning on spicing up the conference with by bringing back activities geared towards the academic community, featuring book sales and commentary. We are also focusing on enhancing our social events to help in building the ASCE community. Please SAVE-THE-DATE of July 27-29, 2017 for the 27th Annual ASCE meeting.

Student Papers Prize—Enrique Pumar

ASCE Student Award Committee is accepting nominations for the 2017 Jorge Pérez-López Student Award Competition. The award committee welcomes papers from undergraduate and graduate students from all over the world including Cuba and from all disciplines, not just economics. A panel of scholars will judge all submissions on the basis of relevance, originality, quality, contribution, and clarity of presentation. The top papers in the graduate and undergraduate categories will receive travel stipends towards their participation at the conference. Deadline for student papers is May 20, 2017. Contact Enrique S. Pumar, committee chair, at pumar@cua.edu. For more information about the award stipend and expectations, consult the ASCE webpage, <http://www.ascecuba.org/competition/2017-competition>.

Conference Hosting Committee—Ted Henken

ASCE strives to promote scholarly discussion on the Cuban economy and one key to meeting this goal is to include presentations by economists inside Cuba. To this end we invite speakers from Cuba to engage in discussions focused on the Cuban Economy. The main initiative of this committee is to fund-raise which is a large challenge for us. Given the funds we raise, the committee then provides recommendations for potential invitees from Cuba who can share their points of view on the status and future directions of the Cuban economy. If you have fund-raising ideas, please contact Ted Henken at: asce@ascecuba.org

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Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy



Twitter at @ASCECuba

Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/>

Book Reviews

Review by Stephen Kimmerling

The process of U.S.-Cuban rapprochement has spurred intense interest in Cuba on the part of the business community, lawyers, academics, and others the world over. But too many players lack a knowledge, much less an understanding, of the U.S. and Cuban laws and legal structures that will shape how and whether deals get done and ideas come to life. *Cuba: A Legal Guide to Business* provides that critical insight. The book is edited by José R. Cot & Rolando Anillo. The contributors are Robert L. Muse, Peter A. Quinter, Jesus Sanchelima, and Robert R.M. Verchick. This book is a smart, well thought-out, and highly informed survey of relevant Cuban and U.S. laws produced by attorneys with deep experience in their field. This go-to reference work will prove indispensable to businesspeople; attorneys; students of law, business, and other disciplines; jurists; and policymakers—to name just a few! If ever we needed an authoritative resource on Cuban and U.S. law—and we do—this book is it.

Upcoming Events



ASCE will be sponsoring a session within the 2017 American Economic Association Annual meeting scheduled for January 6 to 8, 2017 in Chicago, IL. The session entitled, “The Cuban Economy” will be chaired by Carlos Seiglie of Rutgers University. Presentations will be provided by Roger Betancourt of the University of Maryland and Luis Locay of the University of Miami. The discussant is John Devereux of the City University of New York-Queens College. More details about this session are available at: <https://www.aeaweb.org/conference/2017/preliminary/1725?page=8&per-page=50>.



ASCE has proposed a panel for the 11th Conference on Cuban and Cuban American Studies organized by the Cuban Research Institute of Florida International University (FIU). The conference will be held from February 23 to 25, 2017 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus of FIU, Miami, Florida. The panel, which was organized by Roger Betancourt, is titled Multidisciplinary Approaches to US-Cuba Relations. Four papers by ASCE members (E. Hernández- Catá, Silvia Pedraza, M. Strauss and a joint one by E. Pumar and H. Solo-Gabriele) are included. The first two papers provide a broad perspective on US-Cuba relations from the point of view of Economics and Sociology, respectively. The other two discuss more narrowly focused issues (the return of Guantanamo and water quality) from the perspective of international relations and an interdisciplinary effort between a sociologist and a civil and environmental engineer, respectively. Additional details will not be available until the preliminary program is posted at the CRI/FIU website after December 1st. After that date go to <https://cri.fiu.edu/events/2017/> and click on February for details on the conference program.



ACAE
Association of Cuban-American Engineers
Asociación de Ingenieros Cubano-Americanos

The Association of Cuban-American Engineers and the Cuban-American Association of Civil Engineers will be hosting their 2017 Student Scholarship Competition on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at Casa Bacardi located at the University of Miami Coral Gables Campus (see: <http://www.aic-ace.com/?q=node/91>). The competition entails that university-level student teams formulate and present a project of their choice on the reconstruction of Cuba’s public infrastructure that relates to the engineering field in transportation, water resources, power, telecommunications, healthcare or agriculture. Any questions regarding the competition guidelines should be directed to the Chair of the CISC Committee by contacting Regina Rodriguez (reggie17r@gmail.com).

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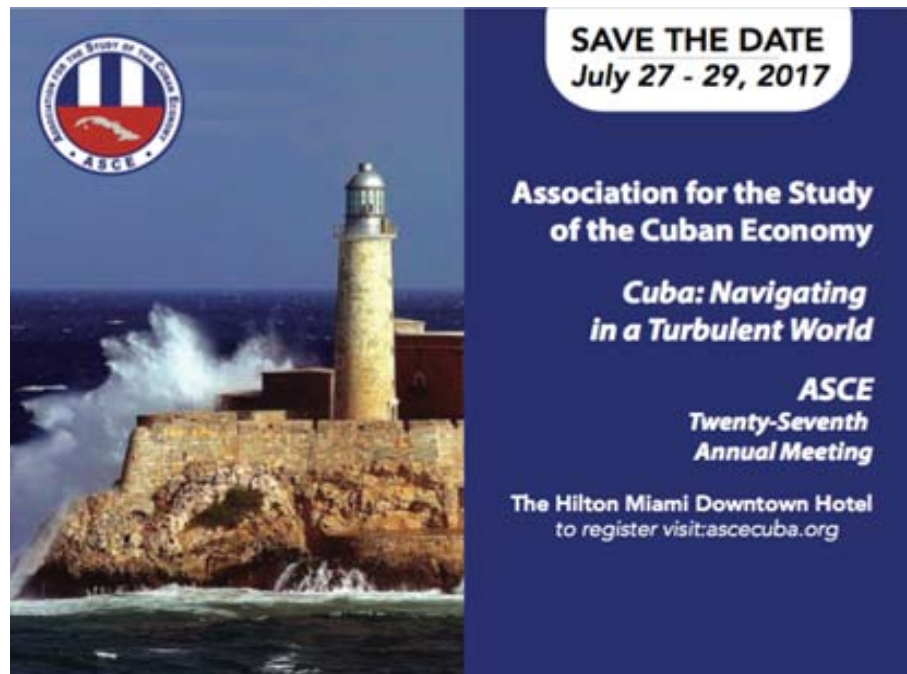


The University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection (CHC) will host a multidisciplinary conference October 20-21, 2016, to disseminate the work of graduate students and emerging scholars and survey the current status of Cuban and Cuban American Studies. The *New Directions in Cuban Studies* conference is free and open to the public. Registration is required. Please see the link below for more information: <http://library.miami.edu/chc/fellows/conference2016/>



The University of Miami Institute for Cuban and Cuban American Studies (ICCAS) hosted a workshop on October 12—13, 2016 entitled, “Democracy and Free Economy.” Speakers included Carlos Alberto Montanar, Jose Azel, Pedro Roig, Alvaro Alba. For more information call ICCAS at 305-284-CUBA (2822).

2017 ASCE Conference



The three-day conference, around the theme “Cuba: Navigating a Turbulent World,” will focus on evaluating the state of the Cuban economy taking into consideration the impending changes in Cuba’s relations with the United States. One key issue remains whether Cuba will implement the economic reforms needed to stimulate the private sector and attract foreign investment to spur economic growth. Another key issue is what will happen to Venezuela assistance to Cuba and to Cuba’ oil supplies if the economy of Venezuela keeps collapsing. Will Cuba seek to develop and modernize its primitive banking system? When will currency reform be implemented? When will the agricultural sector be restructured to increase productivity and output? Can we expect Cuba to develop its banking system and establish well-functioning capital markets? The conference will also include a plenary session on Cuban economic and political trends as well as sessions on social, legal, and sectoral issues related to the economy and a student panel. We also hope to have again a strong presence of scholars and intellectuals from the island.

Call for Abstracts/Papers/Panels

Abstracts, papers, and/or panel proposals should describe original work related to the economy of Cuba in a broad sense, including legal, sectoral, and social aspects of economic development. Abstracts must not exceed 250 words and must be received via an email to asce@ascecuba.org by April 1, 2017. Include the words “ASCE CONFERENCE ABSTRACT” in the subject line. Authors of accepted papers will be required to register for the annual conference. Visit our website: <http://www.ascecuba.org/> for further information.

Deadlines for submitting papers for the conference

- Abstract submission deadline: April 1, 2017
- Notification of acceptance: May 1, 2017
- ASCE XXVII Annual Conference: July 27 – July 29, 2017
- Final papers for proceedings due: July 15, 2017

Call for Student Papers

The 2017 Jorge Pérez-López, Graduate and Undergraduate Student Award Competition

ASCE Student Award Committee is accepting nominations for the 2017 Jorge Pérez-López Student Award Competition. A panel of scholars will judge all submissions on the basis of relevance, originality, quality, contribution, and clarity of presentation. Details about the paper requirements are available at: <http://www.ascecuba.org/competition/2017-competition/>

Graduate Awards: First prize: Up to \$600 for domestic travel or \$800 for overseas travel to attend the conference. Second prize: Up to \$600 for ASCE conference travel.

Undergraduate Awards: First prize: Up to \$600 for domestic travel to attend the conference or \$800 for overseas travel. Second prize: Up to \$400 for ASCE conference travel.

All participants receive a one year complimentary ASCE membership and may attend the annual meeting in Miami including the luncheon for free. First and second prize winners will also receive an additional two years of complimentary ASCE membership. Deadline: May 20, 2017. For more information contact Dr. Enrique S. Pumar, pumar@cua.edu

Reflections from the 2016 Annual Meeting

By Ernesto Hernandez-Cata, ASCE Treasurer 2014-2018

From the viewpoint of the quality of presentations this was one of our best meetings. There were some truly excellent performances, notably by Jorge Piñon, Omar Everlany, Emilio Morales, Roger Betancourt, Jorge Perez-Lopez, Luis Locay and Juan Antonio Blanco. Of course I did not attend all the lectures so I am sure there were other good ones. The keynote speaker, Vicente Botin, was great; thanks Maria Werlau for nominating and hosting his visit. The program and the meetings were very well organized. The FIU students at the reception table did a great job. Mario Gonzalez-Corzo's did a fantastic job guiding them. Altogether a very good conference, although the revenues were down compared to last years'.

A Note of Gratitude

From Eduardo López Bastida, Economics Professor from University of Cienfuegos

Ante todo deseo darte las gracias por todas las atenciones tenidas conmigo y de verdad que fue un congreso magnifico donde creo que aprendimos todos a dialogar como hermanos a pesar de las diferencias. Creo que aprendi mucho de las posiciones de todos en relacion a la economia cubana. Pues es totalmente necesario. cualquier cosa que necesites en Cuba aqui estamos para servirte.



Board dinner at Restaurant Habana Vieja to kick off the Conference Activities. From left to right: Lorenzo Perez, Roger de la Torre, Helena Solo-Gabriele, Joaquin Pujol, Omar Everlany, Antonio Gayoso.



Keynote Speaker Vicente Botin



Helena Solo-Gabriele, Nayara Sabrina, Silvia Pedraza, and Frank Martinez



Session on Cuba's Economic Reforms and Party Congresses: Hildebrando Chaviano, Osmar Laffita, Jorge Perez-Lopez, Roger de la Torre, and Domingo Amuchastegui.



Membership Drive

To become a member or update your membership
 Visit: <http://www.ascecuba.org/membership/apply-now/>

Enjoy updated and exclusive information on Cuba.
 Access a select group of Cuba experts.
 Learn & share information and ideas in a stimulating and collegial environment.
 Network amongst a highly talented and influential group of individuals.

Member Benefits

- Receive regular news and comprehensive information on Cuba via an *electronic clipping service exclusive to members*.
- Enjoy *reduced fees* for the annual conference and other ASCE events.
- Purchase the Annual Volume of *conference proceedings* for just \$25.
- Elect the Board, run for office, and enjoy *all member rights* afforded by the by-laws.

Membership Annual Dues

Regular Member: \$90
 Contributing Member: \$91-200
 Sponsor: \$201 - \$350
 Benefactor: over \$350
 Student Member: \$25

Membership is renewed annually and runs from January 1 to December 31.

What is ASCE?

The **Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE)** is a non-profit, non-political organization incorporated in the state of Maryland in 1990. Our mission is to promote research, publications, and scholarly discussion on the Cuban economy in its broadest sense, including on the social, economic, legal, and environmental aspects of a transition to a free market economy and a democratic society in Cuba. ASCE is committed to a civil discussion of all points of view. Affiliated with the **American Economic Association** and the **Allied Social Sciences Association** of the United States, ASCE maintains professional contacts with economists inside Cuba —whether independent or associated with the Cuban government—who are interested in engaging in scholarly discussion and research.

Members reside in the U.S., Latin America, and Europe and come from many professions -economists, engineers, lawyers, journalists, political scientists, business people, officials from international organizations and governments, consultants, university students, and other professions. Many are Cuba experts.

Board of Directors. ASCE's Board is elected by its members for a two-year period. Board members, who reside in different U.S. cities, serve pro-bono.

Activities

Annual Meeting, held in Miami, Florida each August: Specialists present papers and participate in roundtable discussions during the 2½ day conference.

Annual lecture and **occasional conferences/seminars** throughout the year in Washington, D.C., New York and other cities. ASCE-sponsored sessions on Cuba at the annual meetings of the **American Economic Association**.

Publication of a volume of **Annual Conference Papers and Proceedings** -Widely used inside and outside of Cuba by universities, research centers, government agencies, and others.

Dedicated website containing all **Annual Papers and Proceedings** among other information.

Annual prize for a best papers on Cuba by university students.

ASCE's activities are financed through membership dues, event registrations, publication sales, and sponsorship by universities, foundations, private corporations, and individuals.

Go to www.AsceCuba.org to join and also find By-laws, current Board of Directors, activities, and over two decades of scholarly work on Cuba.