



# ASCE NEWSLETTER

## REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

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In this issue of the ASCE Newsletter, I want to take the opportunity to report to the membership on a number of steps taken by the Board. These include the recent change in our Treasurer, the necessary decision to raise dues after four years, the revitalization of our Committee structure and plans for the Annual Meeting.

Our hardworking Treasurer, Enrique Pumar, unfortunately requested to be relieved of this responsibility, which he has so ably carried out, because of a new teaching appointment at William Patterson University in New Jersey, requiring him to be out of Washington most of the week. I therefore asked Ernesto Betancourt if he would be willing to become our new Treasurer. Upon his acceptance, his name was submitted to the Board and he was elected. Enrique will continue to cooperate in treasury matters where his assistance will be invaluable. Ernesto is now implementing many changes, started by Enrique. This includes retaining a CPA to provide more formal accounting re-

ports and reporting. Such records and reports are needed in order to comply with Federal Laws granting ASCE non-profit status. Among the findings of the first analysis made by the accountant is that our expenses have been exceeding our revenues for some time now. Briefly, donations and sponsorships have declined while costs have risen. While we still have enough cash resources to continue operations as usual for now, prudent management requires we not wait to address this situation. The Treasurer will provide the membership a report at the end of the current Fiscal year June 30 and a more detailed and comprehensive report at the Annual Meeting.

As you have already been informed by our Treasurer the first step we were required to take is one that we have avoided for as long as possible, that of raising the regular membership dues—last increased in 1997—from \$45 to \$60, as well as the cost of the Proceedings from \$50 to \$80. Other steps we are taking include asking each member to make it a personal target to invite at

least one friend, colleague or business relation to join ASCE. Moreover, we should all be involved in seeking donations among members and firms that may be interested in sponsoring our Annual Meeting. At the same time, the Logistics Committee, now working on arrangements for the Annual Meeting, will be taking measures to keep our costs under control. This is based on guidelines given us from the experience of the last two years. The Committee will be working very closely with the Institute of Cuban and Cuban-American Studies at The University of Miami, and the Secretariat for the Annual Conference. We are most encouraged by offers already received by DevTech Systems, Inc., GlobalExpand LLC, the School of International Studies at the University of Miami,

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**REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT (CON'T)**

and the Institute of Cuban and Cuban-American Studies at the University of Miami to help finance the travel of speakers for the opening session and luncheon as well as for our traditional cocktail party. I am travelling to New York and Miami in May and June to explore with other potential donors their interest in supporting our activities. Any member who has potential corporate or individual donors to suggest is asked to contact Ernesto or me at 202-296-8901.

The primary the goals of the Board and myself are to further institutionalize and preserve ASCE's role as it enters its second decade of existence, including adequate financial and operational underpinnings, broadening the impact of its publications, maintaining Pro-bono nature of its operations, and preserve the independence that has been essential to its success and prestige. At the last business meeting in Miami some of the members in suggested that the Board consider foundation financing. However, before we can seriously explore that option, ASCE needs to further institutionalize its operations.

A review of what might be considered the minimum necessary for this is to have a permanent location with phone, fax, copier, computer and email capabilities as well as accounting services. After exploring the option of linking with a Washington area university and the costs that would entail, which are beyond ASCE's ability, we accepted a generous offer from Ramón Barquín who has made available at no cost space and facilities at his offices.

These are the offices where our monthly Board Meeting takes place and it is conveniently close to where several other Board members work. ASCE already has a COMPAQ computer, bought with a generous donation from our Treasurer and a desk, which I have provided; here we can consolidate all our databases, the WebPages and future electronic services.

The Treasurer is available on Tuesdays for any member requiring information or clarification.

The phone number is 202-296-8901 and the fax is 202-296-8903. The address is Suite 1100, 1815 H St. NW, Washington DC 20006.

The Board has reviewed and sought to rationalize ASCE's committee structure to make it more transparent and responsive. Other volunteers to serve on these committees are always welcome. On page two is a listing of our committees and their members.

I hope you will agree with the steps we have taken to maintain and improve ASCE's continued ability to serve its members. The Annual Meeting is shaping up to be one of the best ever with an interesting and challenging agenda. We look forward to seeing as many members as possible in August and reviewing with you our plans.



## COMMITTEES

Information Committee: Chair: Stuart Lippe, Armando Linde, Enrique Pumar, Jorge Pérez-López, Ramón Barquín, José Alonso, Sergio Díaz-Briquets, Joaquín Pujol, Steven Escobar, Antonio Gayoso. Responsibilities: to organize and supervise internal and external communications including the website, newsletters, other publications and the operations of the database. Subcommittees: ASCE History: Joaquín Pujol and Steven Escobar. Newsletter: Antonio Gayoso.

Prizes and Contests: Chair: Jorge Sanguinety. Members: Luis Locay, Roger Betancourt, Sergio Díaz-Briquets, Jorge Pérez-López, and Matías Travieso-Díaz. Responsibilities: to review and select all proposals for prizes, contests and honors: to determine awarding of prizes and honors.

Finance Committee: Chair: Ernesto Betancourt. Members: Enrique Pumar, Armando Linde and Alberto Luzárraga. Responsibilities: to oversee all financial operations, to maintain and update the membership database, to develop, design and implement an auditable accounting and budget system.

Fund Raising: Chair: Carlos Quijano. Members: Ernesto Betancourt, José Alvarez, María Dolores Espino, Jorge Sanguinety, Oscar Echevarría, and Alberto Luzárraga. Responsibilities: to undertake fund raising activities, contacts with foundations and potential sponsors and seek sponsorships for the Annual Conference.

Membership: Chair: Jorge Luis Romeu. Members: José Alvarez, Enrique Pumar, José Alonso, and Armando Lago. Responsibilities: to undertake a drive to enlarge membership including a special effort to mobilize and attract students.

Programs and Logistics Committee: Chair: Jorge Pérez-López. Program Members: Michelle Pujol, Juan Carlos Espinosa. Responsibilities: To undertake assignments of papers, panels, speakers, call for papers, proceedings of public activities, including the Annual Conference and Round Tables.

Logistics Members: María Dolores Espino, Enrique Pumar, Maida Donate, and Jorge Sanguinety.

Media Relations: Ernesto Betancourt, María Dolores Espino, Jorge Sanguinety, and Antonio Gayoso.

American Economic Association: Luis Locay





## ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 2-4, 2001

The program for the Association's Eleventh Annual Meeting is currently under preparation by the Program Committee. We hope to have it completed by mid-May and to mail out to members by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001. Remember that the dates are August 2-4, 2001, at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida.

Among the speakers who will make presentations at this year's meeting in plenary sessions are Professor Arnold Harberger, University of California, a well-known expert on Latin American macroeconomics issues, José Antonio Ocampo, Secretary General of CEPAL, and Professor Antonio Jorge, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Cuban and Cuban-American Studies at the University of Miami and Professor of Political Economy at Florida International University. We also plan to have a roundtable on the Russian transition and its lessons for Cuba with a group of prominent speakers from international organizations.

This year's meetings are being dedicated to Felipe Pazos, the Honorary President of the Association, who passed away earlier in the year. We plan to have two sessions recognizing Pazos' ideas on the Cuban economy and his influence on Latin American economic issues.

In addition, the tentative program includes sessions on the following topics:

- Macroeconomics
- Civil Society
- Impact of U.S. Economic Sanctions
- Internet and E-Commerce
- The Unofficial Economy
- Market, Socialist and Mixed Economies: Comparative Policy and Performance
- Legal Issues
- Tourism
- Politics and Government
- Social Issues
- Agriculture
- Foreign Investments
- Transitions Issues
- Humanitarian Aid to Cuba

If you would like to participate in the program as a Presenter of a Paper, a Discussant or Session Chair, please contact Jorge Perez-Lopez, Chair Program Committee at 5881 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Falls Church, V.A. 22041 or at [perezlop@erols.com](mailto:perezlop@erols.com).

If you wish to make any Hotel Reservations, please note that the Biltmore has reserved 30 hotel rooms for the special group rate of US\$ 115.00 per room per night. These rooms at these rates will be available to Annual Meeting attendees on a first come, first serve basis until July 1st, 2001. You can make your reservation by calling the hotel's reservation desk at (305) 445-1926 or 1-800-727-1926 or via fax at (305) 913-3159. Please note our group code is #6573. Individual reservations may be cancelled within 48 hours prior to the beginning of the conference.



## ***SUPPORT FOR OUR ICEI COLLEAGUES IN CUBA***

Our colleague and former ASCE Board member, Maria Werlau, has established a procedure thru Western Union to provide regular financial assistance to members of the Instituto Cubano de Economistas Independientes (ICEI). These Cuban colleagues are subject to tremendous hardships and persecution and need support from those who are fortunate to live in prosperous and free societies. Presently, ICEI gathers 15 economists who meet regularly to discuss economic issues and generate papers on different issues related to the Cuban economy.

The new US regulations on remittances make it possible for anybody to support someone in Cuba. Being a blood relative is no longer a requirement. The limit is that no household can receive more than US \$ 300 per quarter from the same source. Through ICEI's fifteen members, it is possible to send assistance to several households, thus allowing a steady stream of financial support. This has to be a purely personal effort, from one colleague to another, and not have any organizational link. If you wish to join this effort to provide personal support to our ICEI colleagues in need, we encourage you to contact Ms. Maria Werlau at [ORBISCONSULT@AOL](mailto:ORBISCONSULT@AOL).



## **BOOK REVIEWS**

1. "[Cuba's Sugar Industry](#)" by José Alvarez and Lázaro Peña Castellanos.

This book on Cuba's sugar agroindustry presents the results of a remarkable collaboration between researchers living in the United States and Cuba. The authors consider the prospects for the sugar industry -- offering scenarios of a smaller, more efficient role in the economy-- and examine the reforms of the 1990s. The book begins with an overview of the 1959-79 period and the focuses on the next twenty years, when the industry was heavily subsidized by the Soviet Union. It discusses the future of a re-structured industry, including the importance of sugar by-products and derivatives, potential competition between the United States and Cuba, and interests the two countries share. No book of this scope about the sugar industry has been published in or outside Cuba. It offers the balanced perspectives of the coauthors, who visited cooperatives, state farms, sugarcane collection centers, self-provisioning plots, mills, refineries, by-products enterprises, and research institutions.

University Press of Florida  
15 NW 15 Street  
Gainesville, FL 32611-2079

Contemporary Cuba Series  
May, 176 pp. 6 x 9 Jacket  
46 tables, 7 figures, 2 appendices, notes,  
bibliography, index  
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Book Review continued on page 6 & 7

## BOOK REVIEW CONTINUED

2. "The Economics of Transition" is a referred journal published three times a year by Blackwell Publishers since 1992. It accepts papers dealing with the economics of transition towards developed market systems. Mostly concentrated on the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, it also considers papers dealing with Vietnam and China. Most of the papers presented at ASCE's annual meetings probably can be submitted for review to the journal. All correspondence connected with submissions should be directed to:

Gloria Cilliers  
Journals Administrator: Economics of Transition  
Department of Economics  
University College London  
Gower Street  
London WC1E 6BT  
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7679 5203

Fax: +44 (0) 20 7916 2775

E-mail: [eot@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:eot@ucl.ac.uk)

More information (titles of articles, purpose of journal, etc.) can be found at their web site:

<http://www.blackwellpublishers.co.uk/asp/journal.asp?ref=0967-0750>

3. "Conquering Nature: The Environmental Legacy of Socialism" in Cuba by Sergio Díaz-Briquets and Jorge Pérez-López. *Conquering Nature* provides the only book-length analysis of the environmental situation in Cuba after four decades of socialist rule. Díaz-Briquets and Pérez-López challenge the concept that environmental disruption was not supposed to occur under socialism since it was alleged that, guided by scientific policies, socialism could only beget environmentally benign economic development. Between the early 1960s and the late 1980s the environmental situation worsened despite Cuba's achieving one of the lowest population growth rates in the world and having eliminated extreme living standard differentials in rural areas, two of the primary reasons often given for environmental derioration in developing countries. The government's approach was to "conquer nature." This disregard for the environmental consequences of development projects continues to this day despite official allegations to the contrary. *Conquering Nature* provides, for the first time, a relevant analysis of socialist environmental policies of a developing country. It will be of interest to students and scholars of Cuba and those interested in environmental issues in developing countries.

Published by the University of Pittsburgh Press, March 2000

416 pp. 6 x 9

Cloth 0-8229-4118-X \$50.00s

Paper 0-8229-5721-3 \$22.95s

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## BOOK REVIEW CONTINUED

4. “DE LA PATRIA DE UNO A LA PATRIA DE TODOS, Como encarar el reto de la reforma institucional durante la transición en Cuba.” By Ernesto F. Betancourt. In this little book, the author provides an outline of various institutional issues that will have to be addressed during a transition that he asserts one way or the other is bound to occur. Drawing on his experience as a consultant in modernization of the state and public sector reform throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, the author discusses institutional topics seldom reviewed in relation to systemic transitions in former Communist regimes. Among them, the reform of the state and public administration, the changes in public organization required by the transition to a market economy in which there is widespread ownership of the means of production and the changes in the organizational culture of government bureaucracies and civil society required when the individual citizen, rather than the state, becomes the center of social organization. It provides an annotated agenda that outlines for discussion groups, inside and outside Cuba, the issues that the demands for a satisfactory governance will force the transition government in Cuba to face in order to have access to international financial institution resources. It includes the Manifest, “La Patria es de Todos,” as an Appendix.

Published by Ediciones Universal, 2001

95 pp. 6 x 9, in Spanish, US\$13.00, for mail order shipping and handling add \$ 2.00

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## EN MEMORIA DR. FELIPE PAZOS, 1912 – 2001

El Dr. Felipe Pazos (1912-2001), prominente economista fundador y primer Presidente del Banco Nacional de Cuba, autor de varios libros y numerosos artículos sobre desarrollo económico entre ellos “Chronic Inflation in Latin America” (1972), considerado por varios reconocidos economistas de fama internacional, como una obra seminal sobre la inflación y primer Presidente de ASCE, falleció recientemente en el exilio en Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela. A continuación la eulogia pronunciada por el Dr. Eduardo Mayobre en su funeral el día 27 de Febrero del 2001.

*En 1985 en el acto de presentación del libro “Política de Desarrollo Económico” de Felipe Pazos, publicado por el Banco Central de Venezuela me correspondió decir algunas palabras. Después de la ceremonia, Don Felipe me comentó: “... yo quiero que digas lo mismo el día de mi entierro...” Hoy cumplo con ese deber y con esa necesidad espiritual.*

*Y repito: “...Felipe Pazos fue uno de los más destacados exponentes del pensamiento económico latinoamericano. No sólo por la profundidad de sus ideas sino porque ocupó un lugar muy especial entre el grupo de hombres que tuvo la audacia de criticar y utilizar los viejos moldes académicos para adaptarlos y aplicarlos a nuestra propia realidad. Al hacerlo, contribuyó a rescatar y a definir nuestra propia identidad, lidiando con problemas reales, combatiendo la injusticia y la arbitrariedad, y al mismo tiempo ayudó a renovar un pensamiento económico que se había encasillado en especulaciones de laboratorio y era incapaz de ver más allá de las fronteras de los países industrializados. En este sentido, participó en los primeros y más decisivos pasos para la conformación de las ideas que hoy disponemos para entender la vida y los problemas de más de dos tercios de la humanidad, del llamado mundo en desarrollo...”*

*Durante el último medio siglo una de las mayores contribuciones a la conformación de la identidad latinoamericana se origina en el área económica, de la cual pocos esperaban un aporte de tal naturaleza. La originalidad y peculiaridad de ese movimiento no fue algo buscado sino fue un resultado. Resultado de una lucha práctica y honesta por resolver problemas concretos y enfrentar realidades.*

*En esta lucha sus protagonistas debieron despojarse muchas veces de sus características de intelectuales y sufrir exilios o asumir responsabilidades de gobierno. De la experiencia surgió un nuevo intelectual, muy típicamente latinoamericano, capaz de combinar las exigencias racionales con las demandas de una realidad que a veces, y particularmente para los teóricos de capilla, aparece como absurda o fantástica. Pero por ello mismo un tipo de intelectual con una visión amplia que trascendió las fronteras de las disciplinas académicas y que, a través de la práctica fue capaz de darle a su labor un contenido ético.*

*Felipe Pazos fue de los mejores y de los primeros ejemplos de este grupo de hombres. Pero además, uno de características muy peculiares porque ocupó una posición propia dentro del ámbito de las ideas que se originaron en América Latina. Una posición que desde sus inicios se acercó a lo que, decantado por los años, puede considerarse el aporte permanente de nuestra región a la teoría y práctica económicas, y cuya mejor relación podemos encontrar en el Libro que entonces comentaba.*

*La especial preocupación de Don Felipe Pazos por los problemas nacionales y por los asuntos monetarios y fiscales le confirieron a sus ideas una vigencia nacida de la experiencia y que no ha sido desmentida por ella. Esto se debió a una manera especial de enfocar los problemas. Tanto en su acción como en su pensamiento, Don Felipe destacó por su mesura y entusiasmo. Combinación curiosa, si se quiere, pero cuyas virtudes pueden reconocerse y adquieren densidad con el paso del tiempo, como se puede observar en el Libro de Don Felipe, donde exhibe mesura en el lenguaje y en el pensamiento. Es riguroso y trata de enfocar los problemas en sus justos términos, sin concesiones a las modas o a sus propias posiciones políticas, pero también sin alardes pseudo científicos.*

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Es en parte por respeto a esa medida, que en lo personal se tradujo en austeridad y humildad, que he tratado de despojar a estas palabras de contenido afectivo, ya que si lo tuvieran tendría que desbordarme.

Quienes conocieron a Felipe Pazos probablemente se sorprendan de que se le describa por la medida. Porque junto a aquel equilibrio intelectual encontramos en él el entusiasmo. Entusiasmo por las causas justas, entusiasmo por la verdad. Indignación ante los farsantes y ante los timoratos. Fuerza vital y gusto por la vida. De tal manera que si su homenaje es un acto de justicia y reconocimiento fue también un acto de audacia. Pues con el homenaje tratábamos de congelar, de fotografiar, lo que era un pensamiento vivo. Un pensamiento que sabía qué hacer con nuestra realidad y lo proponía y luchaba por que se hiciera, por que sabía que tenía razón y esa razón era también pasión venezolana, pasión latinoamericana de acento universal y caribeño.

El entusiasmo de Don Felipe Pazos le dio grandes dividendos a América Latina pero no fue tan benévolo con él. Su participación en las grandes luchas nacionales y internacionales del continente le obligó a vivir y a morir lejos de Cuba. Y cuando dominaron los extremos de uno a otro signo debió soportar las críticas de quienes erróneamente confundieron su sensatez con el rechazo. Críticas que eran inevitables en el caso de alguien que, como él, fue un protagonista de la historia de América durante más de medio siglo. Protagonista y combatiente. Actor en las batallas más importantes. Desde Bretton Woods a la revolución cubana, acompañando a ambos movimientos mientras fueron virtuosos, para culminar su labor en la ayuda a la construcción de la democracia venezolana, a la cual dio muchos más aportes de los que él confesaba o de los que se podían observar desde la superficie.

Por ello me pareció en esa oportunidad que se debía hablar del hombre. Pues el libro mostraba sus cualidades por sí mismo mientras que Don Felipe tendía a ocultar las suyas. Y dentro del hombre, preferí hablar del hombre público, ya que en lo privado por más esfuerzos que hiciera le era imposible ocultar su bondad. Y porque el hombre público fue un Maestro en toda la acepción de la palabra. Y hoy cuando estamos más necesitados de maestros, tanto así que hay abundancia de falsificaciones, constituye un deber destacar los maestros genuinos. Decir que casi fue un delito no aprovechar lo que tenía que darnos. Pero también tener la gran satisfacción de agradecer lo que hizo por nosotros.

Hace tres días, revisando papeles y antes de que ocurriera su final, me encontré con estas palabras y recordé que él quería que fueran su despedida.

Hoy pienso que son totalmente insuficientes, porque no le hacen justicia al hombre bueno, al padre ejemplar, al amigo entrañable, al maestro riguroso que fue Don Felipe. Porque no recogen su sonrisa.

Pero se hacen pocas las palabras para recoger toda su humanidad y toda la tristeza que nos deja su partida. Sólo el amor entre sus hijos y sus nietos y entre los que lo hemos querido, conforta esa carencia. Pero resulta difícil imaginar que se pueda compensar la guía espiritual que nos dejó como pensador, como padre y como maestro.

Descanse en Paz.





ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE CUBAN ECONOMY

P.O. BOX 7372  
SILVER SPRING, MD 20907-7372

If you would like to renew your membership or become a new member, attached please find an ASCE Membership form for the Fiscal Year 2001/2002. If you are interested in contacting us about sponsorship opportunities, please contact our Treasurer, Ernesto Betancourt, at [efbhernand@aol.com](mailto:efbhernand@aol.com) or PO Box 7372, Silver Spring, MD 20907-7372.



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