



**ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
THE CUBAN ECONOMY (ASCE)**
Special Newsletter, Summer 2005 (2)

July 28, 2005

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Dear ASCE members and other colleagues,

As many of you already know, our Fifteen Annual Conference will take place in less than a week. We hope you can join us August 4 through 6 at Miami Dade College, Miami, Florida. Given recent events and reports on Cuba, this conference promises to generate interesting discussions regarding Cuba's economy, Venezuelan and Cuban relations and the political landscape in both the short and long terms.

ASCE continues to serve the international community as a viable and vibrant vehicle to study and discuss Cuba's transition to a democratic market economy. We must symbolically represent the ideas and voices of many of our colleagues, who are currently political prisoners or repressed in Cuba, unable to speak their minds and publish their works.

If you have not renewed your membership, please consider rejoining ASCE before the conference so you can take advantage of all the benefits of membership. We hope to see you again or meet you in Miami this coming August 4-6.

Warm Regards,

Rolando H. Castañeda
Secretary

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**E-MAIL: ASCE@ASCECUBA.ORG
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1. Program (as July 28, 2005)-Subject to Changes

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

**8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION—Chapman Conference Center
(Miami Dade Wolfson Campus, 245 NE 4th Street, Miami)**

**9:00 A.M. – 10:45 A.M. OPENING PLENARY—Chapman Conference Center
Welcoming Remarks:**

Dr. Rolando Montoya, President, Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus
Opening of Conference by Ernesto Hernández-Catá, President of ASCE

1. Economic and Social Situation

Chair: Ernesto Hernández-Catá, President of ASCE
Carmelo Mesa-Lago, University of Pittsburgh
Jorge Sanguinety, DevTech Systems
Juan del Águila, Emory University
Frank Mora, National War College

10:45 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. COFFEE BREAK

11:00 A.M. – 12:45 P.M. PLENARY SESSION—Chapman Conference Center

2. Institutions and Policies in the Transition

Chair: Joaquín Pujol (former official International Monetary Fund)
Ernesto Hernández-Catá, John Hopkins University
Egor Gaydar, Former Prime Minister, Russian Federation
Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland
Ricardo Lago, Visiting Profesor, Florida International University

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

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

**3. Structural Issues, Social Capital, and International Economic Relations
- Room 3209**

Chair: Carlos Quijano (former official World Bank)
Manuel García Díaz, Universidad de Granada, “*Malformaciones Estructurales de la Economía Cubana*”
Jorge Sanguinety, Devtech Systems, “*The Invisible Ruins of a Society: The Case of Social Capital in Cuba*”
Eric N. Baklanoff and LaShondra Jones, University of Alabama, “*Deconstructing ‘Constructive Engagement’: Canada’s Economic Relations with Cuba, 1993-2003*”
Discussants: Armando Linde, IMF; Luis Locay, University of Miami; Julia Sagebien, Dalhousie University.

4. Governance Issues – Room 3208

Chair: Antonio Gayoso

Brian Latell, “*Raúl Castro and the Changing Face of the Cuban Military*”

Agustín de Goytisolo, Arán, Correa, Guarch & Shapiro, P.A., “*Una Constitución para la Transición de Cuba*”

Brian Alexander, “*Castro Must Go, but How? A Brief History of Castrology and a Look at the Real Scenarios in Which Castro Might Leave the Scene*”

Discussants: Domingo Amuchástegui; Alfred Cuzán, University of West Florida; Frank Mora, National War College

4:00 P.M. – 4:15 P.M. COFFEE BREAK

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

5. Social and Economic Issues – Room 3209

Chair: Susan Kaufman Purcell, Center for Hemispheric Policy, University of Miami
Carmelo Mesa-Lago and Jorge Pérez-López, “*An Assessment of ECLAC’s Política Social y Reformas Estructurales en Cuba a Principios del Siglo XXI*”

Manuel García Díaz, Universidad de Granada, “*La Economía Cubana en Cifras: ¿Una Economía Real o Virtual?*”

Javier Corrales, Amherst College, “*What’s Wrong with Cuba’s Equity-Without-Growth Model?*”

Discussants: María Dolores Espino; Antonio Gayoso; Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland.

6. Energy Issues – Room 3208

Chair: Juan Belt

Jorge Piñón Cervera, Research Associate, Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, University of Miami, “*Cuba’s Energy Challenge*”

A. F. Alhaji and Terry L. Maris, Center for Cuban Business Studies, Ohio Northern University, “*Energy Trends in Transition Economies and Their Implications for Cuba*”

Juan T. Sánchez, “*La industria cañera (sucro-alcoholera) de Brasil y su interés para inversión en Cuba*”

Discussants: Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, University of Nebraska at Omaha; Daniel Erikson, Inter-American Dialogue; Lillian Vizcaíno.

6:30 - 9:30 P.M. WELCOMING RECEPTION - Chapman Conference Center

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

8:00 A.M. – 8:30 A.M. REGISTRATION—Chapman Conference Center

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

7. Real Estate I: Legal & Regulatory Issues – Room 3209

Chair: George Harper, Harper, Meyer, Pérez, Ferrer & Hagen

Tania Mastrapa, Mastrapa Consultants, “*Real Property Restitution: Risks for Claimants and Investors*”

Jose Palli, World Wide Title, “*Land Registration in Cuba: Past, Present and Future*”

Timothy Ashby, Duane Morris LLP, “*Tax Implications for U.S. Investors and Restitution Claimants*”

Discussants: Nicolás J. Gutierrez, Jr., Borgognoni, Gutiérrez & Arza, LLP.

8. Special Topics – Room 3208

Chair: Alfred Cuzán, University of West Florida

Jorge L. Romeu, Syracuse University, “*El Caribe Hispano y su Influencia para una Transición en Cuba*”

Dominga González Suárez, Universidad de Granada, “*Espanoles y cubanos: conflictos y estereotipos*”

Larry Daley, “*Parks and Protected Areas/Forests, Ecology and Ethnicity: Cuba’s Riverine Gallery Forests*”

Discussants: Alfred Cuzán, University of West Florida; Virgilio Blanco, Middlesex County College; Eudel Cepero, South Florida Environmental Center, Florida International University.

10:15 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. COFFEE BREAK—Chapman Conference Center

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

9. Real Estate II: Development Issues and Scenarios – Room 3209

Chair: Carlos Seiglie, Rutgers University

Antonio Zamora, Hughes, Hubbard & Reed LLP, “*Cuba’s Real Estate under Succession*”

Raúl Rodríguez, Rodríguez and Quiroga Architects, “*Cuban Civic Art*”

Mario Gonzalez Corzo, Lehman College, “*Condominiums vs. Cooperatives: Possible Roles in the Future Transformation of Havana’s Economy*”

Discussants: Joseph Scarpaci, Virginia Tech.

10. Agricultural Trade: Legal and Economic Issues – Room 3208

Chair: Gary Maybarduk

Terry L. Maris, Center for Cuban Business Studies, Ohio Northern University, “*The Agricultural Export Facilitation Act of 2005: Its Rationale and Relevance for U.S. – Cuba Trade*”

William Messina, University of Florida, “*Cuba: The 25th Largest Food and Agricultural Export Market for the United States*”

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

Discussants: Stephen Kimmerling Esq.; Brian Alexander.

12:30 P.M. – 2:15 P.M. ASCE LUNCHEON—Chapman Conference Center

Announcement of Student Awards

Keynote Address: Egor Gaydar, former Prime Minister of the Russian Federation

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

11. Economic and Social Evaluation of U.S. Foreign Policy Towards Cuba: Impacts and Alternatives I – Room 3209

Chair: Gastón Fernández, Indiana State University

Soren Triff, *“The Valuable and Elusive Cultural Component in the Engagement with Cuba”*

Eudel Cepero, South Florida Environmental Center, Florida International University,
“Ir o no ir, esa no es la cuestión”

Alberto Luzárraga, *“U.S. Policy Toward Cuba: Will We Get it Right Finally?”*

René Monserrat, *“La actual política exterior de EUA respecto a Cuba: Evaluación y perspectivas”*

Discussant: Jorge Sanguinety, DevTech.

12. Transition Issues – Room 3208

Chair: Oscar Echevarría, Global Expand

Ryszard Zukowski, Universidad de las Américas, Mexico, *“Route Out of Socialism as Path-Dependent Process: Central-Eastern Europe’s Experiences and Lessons for Cuba”*

Rolando Castañeda, *“Main Lessons Learned from the Transition to a Market Economy in Latin America, Europe and Asia over the Last 15 Years”*

Matías Travieso-Díaz and Armando Musa, *“Courts of Special Jurisdiction in a Post-Transition Cuba.”*

Discussants: Jennifer Gauck, Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative, American Bar Association; Alfie Ulloa, Harvard University; Gustavo Arnavat, Hunton & Williams.

4:15 A.M. – 4:30 A.M.

COFFEE BREAK—Chapman Conference Center

4:30 A.M. – 6:15 P.M.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

13. Economic and Social Evaluation of U.S. Foreign Policy Towards Cuba: Impacts and Alternatives II – Room 3209

Chair: Benigno Aguirre, University of Delaware

Felipe Sixto, *“US-Cuba Policy: Strengthening Civil Society and Establishing Democracy”*

Rolando Castañeda, *“Implicaciones de la política de Estados Unidos para una transición de Cuba hacia una economía más dinámica”*

Ed Canler, *“Which Transition? A Contrarian Perspective on Post-Castro Cuba”*

Juan Tomás Sánchez, *“The Report of the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba: Big Book, Bad Advice”*

Discussant: Ricardo Puerta

14. Informal Sector – Room 3208

Chair: Katherine Hirschfeld, Oklahoma University

Archibald Ritter, Carleton University, *“Survival Strategies and Economic ‘Illegalities’ in Cuba”*

Ted Henken, Baruch College, *“Informal Sector or Second Economy?: Comparative Theoretical Approaches to Cuba’s Underground Economy”*

María Werlau, Orbis International, *"Fidel Castro's Net Worth: Conjectures and Approximations"*

Discussants: Ernesto Hernández-Catá, John Hopkins University; Katherine Hirschfeld.

**6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. BUSINESS MEETING AND ASCE RECOGNITIONS –
Room 3209**

President's Report: Ernesto Hernández Catá

Secretary's Report: Rolando Castañeda

Treasurer's Report: Armando Linde

**7:45 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. CULTURAL EVENT AND COCKTAIL
Chapman Conference Center**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

8:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION- Chapman Conference Center

9:00 A.M. – 10:45 A.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

15. External Sector Issues – Room 3209

Chair: Juan Carlos Espinosa, Miami Dade College

Sergio Díaz-Briquets and Jorge Pérez-López, *"Remittances to Cuba: A Survey of Methods and Estimates"*

Mauricio de Miranda, *"Los problemas del desarrollo y la inserción internacional de Cuba en las condiciones actuales"*

Daniel Erikson, Inter-American Dialogue, *"Cuba, China, and Venezuela: New Developments in 2005"*

Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan, *"Assimilation or Transnationalism? Conceptual Models of the Immigrant Experience"*

Discussants: Ernesto Betancourt; Lorenzo Pérez, IMF; Andy Gómez, University of Miami.

16. Student Papers –Room 3208

Chair: José Álvarez, University of Florida

Enrique Romero, El Colegio de Mexico, Firdt Prize 2005 Student Award, *"Demystifying a Bilateral Relationship: Rise and Fall of the Mexican-Cuban Political Understanding"*

G. Derrick Hodge, CUNY Graduate Center, First Honors 2005 Student Award, *"Socialist Citizens and Capitalist Criminals"*

Discussants: Joe Scarpaci, Virginia Tech; Ted Henken, Baruch College

10:45 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. COFFEE BREAK

11:00 A.M. – 12:45 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

17. Agriculture – Room 3208

Chair: William Messina, University of Florida

James Ross, J.E. Ross & Associates, and María Antonia Fernández Mayo, “Cuba’s “New”
Peso Food Chain –Linkages and Implications”

G.B. Hagelberg and José Alvarez, “Historical Overview of Cuba’s Costs of Sugar
Production”

Vanessa Harper, University of Florida, “Exploring the Influence of Agricultural Markets on
Plant Species Diversity in Urban Homegardens in Cuba: Initial Observations from Field
Research”

Discussant: Larry Daley

18. Relaciones Económicas y Sociales entre Cuba y Venezuela – Room 3209

Chair: Ernesto Hernández Cata, President ASCE, Prof. John Hopkins

Hernán Yanes, University of Miami “La alianza cubano-venezolana: Algunos beneficios para
el régimen castrista”

TBA. “Civic and Military relations between Cuba an Venezuela- Its impact in other countries
and the United status”

Gustavo Coronel, Associate Editor, Petroleum World, “When oil lubricates Fascism”. (The
Venezuelan-Cuban Connection).

Discussant: Beatrice E. Rangel, President and CEO of AMLA Consulting

2. Secretary’s Report

Annual Report to be presented at the Fifteenth Annual Meeting in Miami Dade College, on August 5, 2005

It has been a real pleasure and privilege to serve once again as ASCE’s Secretary from May to August 2005. I really appreciate your confidence and hope that together we are contributing to the body of knowledge available so at the right moment, hopefully very soon, we can help Cuba’s transition to a democratic market economy. I thank Ernesto and the Board for providing me this opportunity. Regrettably I can not continue as Secretary due to some previous travel plans and the Board has appointed Antonio Gayoso to serve as Secretary starting in September. I promise to do my best to help in the transition to the new Secretary and to continue helping with the website and the quarterly newsletters.

In addition to the work made by the Board members individually and as a team, some members have volunteered for important tasks, and have accomplished them with precision and timeliness. Especially, Jorge Pérez-López was responsible for bringing together the annual proceedings and conference program, Enrique Pumar has coordinated the awards for the best student papers, and Ernesto Betancourt has been in charge of the weekly press clippings. All of these combined efforts have contributed to advancing our agenda and maintaining ASCE’s prestige as a premier professional organization.

Monthly Meetings

Over the last year, the ASCE's Board of Directors has held regular monthly meetings every second Tuesday at the Offices of Barquín International. Inc, in Washington, DC. Board members who reside outside of Washington, as well as those who were not able to attend in person have participated via teleconference call. Nora Ron Pedrique from Barquín International has contributed significantly to our regular Board needs to whom we express our very sincere gratitude.

Changes in the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors was very sorry to announce the resignation of Beatriz Casals, Vice-President of the Association in April 2005. The Board members unanimously expressed their gratitude to Beatriz for her numerous and substantial contributions to ASCE and expressed their hope that she will remain active and continue to support the activities of our Association. The Board elected Armando Linde as Vice-President; he will also continue to serve as Treasurer. The Board also elected me to serve as Secretary until September replacing Juan Belt, who asked to be relieved from the position because of pressing work commitments. Juan Belt has remained in the Board.

Update on Activities

As in the past, the Board's main project over the last year has been the organization of the Annual Meeting. To prepare the XV Meeting, three groups were established. The Program Group was responsible for organizing the topics, panels, presentations and discussants of the papers. It was chaired by Jorge-Pérez-López and had the continuous input from the Board. The Student Papers Subcommittee was chaired by Enrique Pumar and included Pepín Alvarez, Alfredo Cuzan, Loli Espino, Ted Henken, and Joe Scarpaci. The Organization Group was chaired by Juan Carlos Espinosa and Joaquin Pujol and undertook all the logistic arrangements for the meeting, including determining the new location of the conference, making the selection and all necessary arrangements for meeting rooms, lodging, food, and reception activities with the Miami Dade College, and organizing the staffing for the conference with the University of Miami.

Besides the Annual Meeting, our next most significant project was publishing Volume 14 of Cuba in Transition. As usual, this project was done efficiently and promptly by Jorge-Pérez-López to whom we convey our great appreciation.

Other projects undertaken by the Board over the last year include the following:

- In January 2005, ASCE sponsored a session on Cuban economic issues at the Annual Meetings of the American Economic Association/Allied Social Sciences Association in Philadelphia. ASCE members presented the following papers: Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland, “Markets, Institutions, and Economic Performance”; Ernesto Hernández-Catá, Johns Hopkins University, “Institutions to Accompany the Market in Cuba’s Future Transition”; and Luis Locay and Claustre Bajona, University of Miami, “Declining Growth in Centrally Planned Economies with an Application to Cuba”.
- The Sixth Carlos F. Díaz-Alejandro Lecture took place at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC on March 7th. Dr. José Antonio Ocampo, the Under-Secretary General of the United Nations for Economic and Social Affairs (ECOSOC), and former Secretary General of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and Finance Minister of Colombia, spoke on “Latin American Reforms in a Historical Perspective. Mr. Ocampo was introduced by former IDB President Enrique Iglesias and ASCE President Ernesto Hernández-Catá.
- ASCE, in conjunction with FIU, had two Cuba Forums at Brookings Institution in 2005 in Washington DC. One a seminar "Cuba 2005: International Dimensions of Continuity and Change" with Ambassador Carlos Westendorp y Cabeza, Daniel Erikson from the Inter-American Dialogue, Damian Fernandez from the Cuban Research Institute, Jorge Perez-Lopez from ASCE, and Kevin Whitaker from the US State Department on January 13, 2005. The other was a presentation by Frank Mora from the National War College "Will the Cuban Military Support Democracy?" on March 13, 2005.
- On July 28, 2005 ASCE’s press clippings No. 214 was distributed by e-mail. We are enormously grateful to Ernesto Betancourt for his very useful contribution selecting and distributing the press clippings every week. They keep us update on Cuban affairs and provide us with much food for thought.
- In the last year, we distributed four newsletters: Autumn 2004, Winter 2004, Spring 2005 and Summer 2004. We appreciate the continuous support that we have received from Nora Ron-Pedrique, Carlos Quijano’s efficient assistant, for the timely distribution of the newsletters. We have also included the newsletters in our web site.
- Thanks to the efforts of our Vice-President and Treasurer Armando Linde, ASCE’s website (<http://www.ascecuba.org>) hosted by the University of Texas Latin American Information Service, is operational again and has been updated. Also our e-mail (asce@ascecuba.org) is also fully functional. We really appreciate your suggestions to improve and expand our website, and make it more useful and informative to everybody interested in Cuban economic affairs. Please send your suggestions to our e-mail asce@ascecuba.org
- As every year, in 2005 ASCE sponsored a Student Research Award Competition for graduate and undergraduate students on interdisciplinary research dealing with Cuba's

domestic issues, its foreign relations, or Cuba in a comparative perspective. These awards are now made possible by a grant from the Lunsford Padilla Fund of the Triangle Community Foundation. By June ASCE received 14 student papers. The papers were evenly split between 7 graduate and 7 undergraduate students. The Board agreed to use the previous mentioned grant to offer more prizes in 2005: three for graduate students and three for undergraduate students. Also, the Board reiterated its previous decision that every student who submitted a paper would receive some recognition as an incentive to foster our student membership numbers; thus, the Board approved a free one-year student membership to all those students who participate in the Student Award Contest, a free registration at the annual conference and a luncheon invitation.

- The Student Prize Committee chaired by Prof. Pumar awarded the following six prizes for 2005. Graduate Awards: First Prize: Lindsey Frank; First Honor: G. Derrick Hodge; and Second Honor: Roberto Portada. Undergraduate Awards: First Prize: Enrique Romero; First Honor: Tami Kneese; and Second Honor: Daniel Alvarez.
- In June the Board decided to send to our membership Carmelo Mesa-Lago's letter to Spaniard authorities on behalf of our colleague Oscar Espinosa-Chepe, who is ill and needs urgent medical treatment. Oscar Espinosa Chepe has participated in some of our previous meetings and has been associated with ASCE for many years.
- With the generous support of Carlos Padial ASCE is also sponsoring a competition for best scholarly paper on the topic of "Privatization of State Owned Enterprises in Cuba" which proposes and describes the process and principles that should be utilized by the Cuban government to privatize the country's state-owned enterprises. The paper should illustrate the recommended approach with a detailed discussion of how it would apply to enterprises in an important sector of the Cuban economy (for full specifications see ASCE's website). The winning paper will carry an award of \$10,000 and an invitation to present the paper in ASCE's Annual Conference in August 2006. ASCE may publish the paper. Deadline for submissions is February 28, 2006.
- ASCE is planning to participate in other meetings, including one in Spain and one in Puerto-Rico, where its members will continue to present their views on Cuba and on the difficult problems facing the Island.
- Finally, the Secretary continued supporting ASCE's fast transition from a paper-based to electronic communication system with members based on the newsletters and the web page. Part of this effort involves collecting and updating all our members' e-mails and for this we need your constant support and help. So I urge to send us your e-mails and updates to our e-mail (ascecuba.org).

Please feel free to contact our new Secretary Antonio Gayoso regarding any issue of significance to our organization. Your active and permanent involvement will be the best way to insure ASCE's strength and relevance.