



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

**P.O. Box 28267 • Washington, DC • 20038-8267**

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*Newsletter, WINTER 2007-08*

### **REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to report that the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy completed a full and rewarding agenda of activities in 2007. Our main achievements include organizing a particularly stimulating and well-attended conference at our 17<sup>th</sup> annual meeting last August, as well as a notable increase in membership.

We enjoyed a record turnout at our 2008 annual meeting with close to two hundred participants attending the presentations of dozens of scholars and experts on Cuban affairs. Panels focused on a wide range of pressing issues facing Cuba, including macroeconomic policy, infrastructure, agriculture, political economy and questions relating to the Cuban Diaspora. Horacio Aguirre, the publisher of *Diario de las Americas*, spoke at our opening reception. We also celebrated our distinguished member Carmelo Mesa-Lago, who recently won the International Labor Organization's *Decent Work Research Prize*, awarded jointly with Nobel Peace Laureate Nelson Mandela. Noted author Carlos Alberto Montaner gave a moving keynote speech at our luncheon event.

The 2007 Jorge Perez-Lopez Student prize was awarded to two undergraduates, Brenden Carbonell from Yale University and Matthew Craig from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. The competition received many entries from the US and abroad. There was no graduate prize awarded this year. The prize committee was chaired by Enrique Pumar of the Catholic University of America and included Joseph Scarpaci of Virginia Tech, Jose Alvarez of the University of Florida, Maria Dolores Espino of St. Thomas University, Ted Henken from CUNY-Baruch College, and Alfred Cuzan of the University of West Florida. We thank them all for their work. The 2008 prize competition will open in January 2008 and will run until May 20.

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The Board of Directors has been active in pursuing a number of new initiatives, including managing the Padiá Cuban Studies Initiative. This initiative is designed to promote Cuban studies programs in Tulane University and the University of Granada (Spain). During 2006-07 a committee was organized to propose guidelines and evaluate proposals for this prize. The initial committee was chaired by Enrique Pumar, who will head the Granada initiative. Ted Henken will handle proposals from Tulane University. Other committee members include professors Silvia Pedraza of the University of Michigan, Mario Gonzalez-Corzo of CUNY-Lehman College, Ernesto Hernandez-Cata from Johns Hopkins University-SAIS, and Joseph Scarpaci of Virginia Tech.

We remain an active presence in other important academic associations. Joaquin Pujol organized a panel of ASCE members at the annual meeting of the Latin American Studies Association in Montreal, Canada last September. In January, 2008 Roger Betancourt chaired the ASCE session of the annual meeting of the American Economic Association. The Asociación Cultural con Cuba en la Distancia (ACCD) based in Cadiz, Spain, which is dedicated mainly to promoting Cuban culture and cultural events, will hold its Fourth Congress on November 17-21, 2008 in Valencia. The Congress will feature for the first time sessions on economics, which ASCE has been asked to organize. Twenty members of ASCE will be presenting papers and participating in round tables. More details on the program will be available in the Spring newsletter.

ASCE's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and conference will take place on August 7-9 in Miami, FL at the former Radisson Hotel on Biscayne Blvd, now part of the Hilton chain. The Call for Papers for the conference will be issued in February. Volume 17 of *Cuba in Transition* is being prepared for publication and will be sent to press shortly. It is already available in ASCE's website.

**The current two-year term of ASCE's Board of Directors ends in August 2008. Elections for a new board will be held in the Spring. A nominating committee has been appointed by the Board pursuant to ASCE's Bylaws to receive the nominations of members in good standing that would like to serve in the Board or as President. The Nominating Committee is chaired by Roger Betancourt, and include Steven Escobar and Carlos Motoulieu. Please submit your nominations to the Nominating Committee, prior to March 15, 2008, at the address below:**

**ASCE Nominating Committee  
c/o Roger Betancourt, Chair  
3506 Saul Road  
Kensington, MD 20895**

**or by email to: [BETANCOU@ECON.BSOS.UMD.EDU](mailto:BETANCOU@ECON.BSOS.UMD.EDU)**

I would remind members, especially those from outside Washington, DC, that if you are visiting our city, you are welcomed to attend Board meetings, as are those members who live here. Please contact me or another board member for dates (usually the second Tuesday of the month) and location.

Your enthusiasm and support has been critical to the continued success and relevance of ASCE at this important juncture for Cuba's future. We are proud to count you among our members and look forward to further achievements in 2008.

**Armando S. Linde**  
February 10, 2008