Dear ASCE members and other colleagues,

As many of you already know, our Fifteenth Annual Conference will take place in less than two months. We are particularly pleased to inform you that Mr. Egor Gaydar, former Prime Minister of the Russian Federation under President Yeltsin and author of some key reforms that helped free Russia from Bolshevik domination will be the keynote speaker at our annual meeting in August. Also we are planning a special event on Cuban Venezuelan economic relations. We really hope you can join us on August 4 through 6 at the Chapman Conference Center, Wolfson Campus at Miami-Dade College, in Miami, Florida. A preliminary program is attached.

Given recent events and reports on Cuba and Venezuela connections, this conference promises to generate interesting discussions regarding Cuba’s economy and political landscape in both the short and long terms. Much has happened in the year since the current Board took office.

ASCE continues to serve the international community as a viable and energetic vehicle to study and discuss Cuba’s transition to a democratic market economy. Also, we must emblematically present the ideas and voices of many of our colleagues, who are currently political prisoners in Cuba, unable to freely speak their minds and publish their works. We hope that we will be able to hear their voices during future ASCE meetings, as we have had in past years. Deplorably, this year’s ASCE conference once again will miss the participation of these well-known Cuban economists, who have taken many risks attempting to exercise their profession. But, recent events and concerns should present new opportunities and challenges to all participants.

E-MAIL: ASCE@ASCECUBA.ORG
P.O. BOX 28267 WASHINGTON, DC • 20038-8267
This Board has enjoyed working with a very committed members and membership. In addition to the work of the President and the Board, individual members have volunteered for many responsibilities, executed with precision and timeliness. We would like to recognize once more and give special thanks to these key contributors, including Dr. Jorge Pérez-López, who is responsible for bringing together the conference program and Dr. Enrique Pumar for coordinating the awards for best student papers, among others. To Miami-Dade College, under the leadership of our colleague Prof. Juan Carlos Espinosa for providing the facilities for this annual meeting and to The University of Miami’s Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, under the leadership of Prof. Jaime Shucklicki, for providing ASCE the secretariat for the meeting.

Additionally, Mr. Ernesto Betancourt has continued to prepare opportune and relevant e-clippings briefings that many of you have enjoyed receiving. His information provides us all with much food for thought. We also thank Ms. Nora Ron Pedrique for her very efficient and timely distribution of the press clippings and our newsletters. All of these combined efforts have contributed to advancing ASCE’s agenda and to maintain its prestige as a major independent professional organization.

If you are not a member already, please consider joining ASCE before the conference so you can take advantage of all the benefits of membership. We hope to see you again or meet you in Miami this coming August 4-6.

Warm regards,

Rolando H. Castañeda,
Secretary

P.D. For facilitating your registration in the annual meeting and renewing your membership, we are providing the necessary forms in this newsletter. Also a registration form is included for new members. We urge you to distribute it among any interested party.

1. Changes at the Board

In the last meeting of the Board on May 10, 2005, the Board accepted Mr. Juan Belt resignation as Secretary due to his new work commitments. He will remain as Director in the Board.

The Board approved unanimously the motions that Mr. Armando Linde will serve as the new Vice-President to replace Mrs. Beatriz Casals, who resigned in April, and that Mr. Rolando Castañeda will served as the new Secretary to replace Mr. Juan Belt.
2. Pre-Registration Form

XV Annual Conference - August 4-6, 2005
Miami-Dade College Wolfson Campus,
Chapman Conference Center, 245 NE 4th Street+. Miami, Florida

Pre-Registration Form

Name: ___________________________________________________
Affiliation: ________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________
e-mail _____________________________________________________
Tel/Fax ____________________________________________________

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ASCE Member</th>
<th>Non-Member</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-registration (*)</td>
<td>$60.00 /__/</td>
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<td>Luncheon</td>
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(Limited capacity. Reserve early)

Membership renewal (Indicate one) (**)
A) Regular $60 in USA - $70 outside USA /___
B) Sponsor $100 to $250 /___
C) Institutional $100 – or more /___
D) Benefactor $251- or more /___
E) Student $20 in USA-$30 outside USA /___

Total enclosed…………………………………………………………$_______

Please Make check to “ASCE” and send registration to:
ASCE, P.O. Box 28267 Washington, DC 20038-8267

(*) Pre-registration fee must be postmarked not later than July 26th, 2005; otherwise late registration fees will apply to both the Conference ($85 for Members and $150 for Non-Members, and the Official Lunch ($40). Parking for the Conference at Miami Dade College- 500 NE 5th Street (between 1st and 2nd Ave) will be Free for those that pre-register.

(**) ASCE's membership runs July 1-June 30. To obtain ASCE member rate, dues for 2005-2006 must be paid before meeting.

For questions about registration contact: Armando Linde, ASCE Treasurer (asce@assecuba.org) or Joaquin Pujol (jppujol342@aol.com)
3. **Application for Membership**

**Application for Membership**

Name: ____________________________________________________
Affiliation: ________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
e-mail (*) _________________________________________________
Tel/Fax __________________________________________________

**Membership Type (Indicate one) (**)**

A) Regular $60 in USA - $70 outside USA /__/
B) Sponsor (***)$100 to $250 /__/
C) Institutional (***)$100 or above /__/
D) Benefactor (***) Over $250 /__/
E) Student $20 in USA-$30 outside USA /__/

Total enclosed..........................................................$_____________

*Please Make check to “ASCE”*

Send registration to: ASCE, P.O. Box 28267 Washington, DC 20038-8267

(*) News Clippings and Newsletters are only sent to the e-mail address submitted. Please make sure it is clearly written. Members receive the Proceedings Publication corresponding to the year of Membership.

(**) ASCE’s membership runs July 1-June 30. To obtain ASCE member rate in our XV Annual Conference, dues for 2005-2006 must be paid before annual meeting.

(***) Names are listed in the Volume of Proceedings of the corresponding Annual meeting.

ASCE is a non-profit corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) organization and thus donations and gifts are deductible for tax purposes.

ASCE does not share membership information with anybody.

For questions about registration contact: Armando Linde, ASCE Treasurer (asce@ascecuba.org)

*Edited by Rolando H. Castañeda*
4. **Hotel Facilities and Reservations for the Conference**

THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL ([www.ichmiami.com](http://www.ichmiami.com)), located on Biscayne Blvd. facing Miami Bay, is offering a room group discount of $109 per night (plus 13% tax) from August 3 thru 6 for those attending the ASCE Conference (extensive to 3 days before and 3 days after on the basis of availability). They also offer a reduced 24 hour parking rate of $18.

**RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL NO LATER THAN JULY 15, 2005 AT**

1(800)327-3005 OR FAX 1(305)372-4440.

*Metromover: Bayside Station – Free (5 minutes from Hotel to MDC)*

5. **Preliminary Program—As of June 6, 2005**

(Please send any observations or suggestions that you have about the preliminary program to Dr. Jorge Pérez-López, [jperezlopez@cox.net](mailto:jperezlopez@cox.net))

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 4**

8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. **REGISTRATION**—Chapman Conference Center

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
Ernesto Hernández-Catá, ASCE President

1. **Economic and Social Situation**

Chair: Ernesto Hernández-Catá, ASCE President
Carmelo Mesa-Lago, University of Pittsburgh
Jorge Sanguinetty, DevTech Systems
Juan del Aguila, 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
2:15 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

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

Chair: Carlos Quijano
Manuel García Díaz, Universidad de Granada, “Malformaciones Estructurales de la Economía Cubana”
Discussants: Armando Linde (García); Luis Locay, University of Miami (Sanguinetty); Julia Sagebien, Dalhousie University (Baklanoff/Jones)

4. **El poder político y el futuro económico de Cuba**—Room 3208

Moderador: Juan F. Benemelis
Antonio Arencibia, “Institucionalización y localismos: Implicaciones económicas”
Alvaro Alba, “La nomenclatura reciclada: Control político, control financiero”
Eugenio Yánez, “Los grupos de poder: Pugnas y pactos”
Joel Brito, “Los sindicatos y la transición económica”
Juan F. Benemelis, “El Ejército, el Partido, y la Asamblea: ¿Y a cómo da el pastel?”

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 (Mesa-Lago and Pérez-López); Antonio Gayoso (García Díaz); Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland (Corrales)
6. **Energy Issues**—Room 3208

Chair: Juan Belt (invited)
Jorge Piñón Cervera, “Cuba’s Energy Challenge”
A. F. Alhajji 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 (Piñón); Dan Erikson, Inter-American Dialogue (Alhajji/Maris)

6:30 – 9:30 P.M.  **WELCOMING RECEPTION**—Chapman Conference Center

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**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 3208

Chair: George Harper, Harper, Meyer, Perez, Ferrer & Hagen
Tania Mastrapa, Mastrapa Consultants, “Real Property Restitution: Risks for Claimants and Investors”
Timothy Ashby, Duane Morris LLP, “Tax Implications for U.S. Investors and Restitution Claimants”
Discussant: Nicolás J. Gutiérrez, Jr., Borgognoni, Gutiérrez & Arza, LLP

8. **Special Topics**—Room TBA

Chair: Alfred Cuzán, University of West Florida
Jorge L. Romeu, “El Caribe Hispano y su Influencia para una Transición en Cuba”
Dominga González Suárez, Universidad de Granada, “Españoles 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 (Romeu); Virgilio Blanco (González); Eudel Cepero (Daley)

9. **Agricultural Trade: Legal and Economic Issues**—Room TBA

Chair: Gary Maybarduk

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Edited by Rolando H. Castañeda
“Economic Impact of U.S. Agricultural Exports to Cuba Using an Applied General Equilibrium Model,” Mike O’Connell, University of Florida
Discussants: Stephen Kimmerling (Maris); Brian Alexander (invited)

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

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

10. Real Estate II: Development Issues and Scenarios—Room TBA

Chair: TBA
Antonio Zamora, Hughes & Hubbard, “Real Estate Investment: Law & Finance Issues”
Andres Duany, Duany Plater-Zyberg & Co., “Zoning and Land Use Issues”
Mario Gonzalez Corzo, Lehman College, “Condominiums vs. Cooperatives: Possible Roles in the Future Transformation of Havana's Economy”
Discussant: Joseph Scarpaci, Virginia Tech

11. Informal Sector—Room TBA

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”
Maria Werlau, Orbis International, “Fidel Castro’s Net Worth: Conjectures and Approximations”
Discussants: Ernesto Hernández-Catá (Ritter, Werlau); Katherine Hirschfeld (Henken)

12. Student Papers—Room TBA

Chair: Enrique S. Pumar, William Patterson University
Participants TBA.

12:45 P.M. – 2:15 P.M. ASCE LUNCHEON—Chapman Conference Center

Announcement of Student Awards
Keynote Address: Edor Gaydar, former Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation

Edited by Rolando H. Castañeda
2:30 P.M. – 4:15 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

13. Economic and Social Evaluation of U.S. Foreign Policy Towards Cuba: Impacts and Alternatives I —Room TBA
Chair: Gastón Fernández, Indiana State University
Soren Triff, “The Valuable and Elusive Cultural Component in the Engagement with Cuba”
Eudel Cepero, “Ir o no ir, esa no es la cuestión”
Alberto Luzárraga, “U.S. Policy Toward Cuba: Will We Get it Right Finally?”
Rolando Castañeda, “Implicaciones de la política de Estados Unidos para una transición de Cuba hacia una economía más dinámica”
Discussant: Jorge Sanguinetty

14. Agriculture —Room TBA
Chair: William Messina, University of Florida
G.B. Hagelberg and José Alvarez, “Historical Overview of Cuba’s Costs of Sugar Production”

15. Transition Issues —Room TBA
Chair: Oscar Echevarría
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, “Hanging the Shingle: The Oversight of Service Professionals in a Post-Transition Cuba”
Discussants: Jennifer Gauck, Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative, American Bar Association (Zukowski); Alfie Ulloa, Harvard University (invited) (Castañeda); Gustavo Arnavat, Hunton & Williams (Travieso-Díaz and Musa)

4:15 A.M. – 4:30 A.M. COFFEE BREAK—Chapman Conference Center

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

16. Economic and Social Evaluation of U.S. Foreign Policy Towards Cuba: Impacts and Alternatives II —Room TBA
Chair: Benigno Aguirre, University of Delaware

Edited by Rolando H. Castañeda
Felipe Sixto, “USAID’s Cuba Program: NGOs and Their Role in Cuba’s Transition to Democracy”
René Monserrat, “La actual política exterior de EUA respecto a Cuba: Evaluación y perspectivas”
Juan Tomás Sánchez, “The Report of the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba: Big Book, Bad Advice”
Discussant: Ricardo Puerta

17. **External Sector Issues**—Room TBA

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”
Discussants: Ernesto Betancourt (Díaz-Briquets and Pérez-López); Lorenzo Pérez (de Miranda); Andy Gomez, University of Miami (Erikson)

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 – 9:30 P.M. **CULTURAL EVENT AND COCKTAIL**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6**

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

9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. **Plenaria Especial: Balance del Intercambio Económico, Político y Social entre Cuba y Venezuela**

Moderador, Ponentes, y Rapporteur a ser anunciados.

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Edited by Rolando H. Castañeda