ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE CUBAN ECONOMY

Annual Report, 2016-2017

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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. 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 Díaz Alejandro lecture and has continued to serve on the conference hosting committee. Ernesto Hernández-Catá has continued his outstanding work as treasurer and Gary Maybarduk has graciously served as secretary. Current and past Board members have been fully involved in specific initiatives including organizing a new hosting and fundraising committee (Ted Henken, lead), conference organizing committee (Rafael Romeu, lead), membership committee (Michael Strauss, lead), virtual session committee (Michael Strauss, lead), web-page committee (Ernesto Hernández-Catá, lead) and webinar committee (Jorge Luis Romeu, 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, December 2017.

Helena Solo-Gabriele, Ph.D.
President, Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy
Year in Review (2016-2017)

**XXVII Annual Conference, 2017: Cuba, Navigating in a Turbulent World.**

On July 27-29, 2017, ASCE held its 27th annual conference under the theme “Cuba, Navigating in a Turbulent World.” The board chose this theme taking into consideration the impending changes at the time in Cuba’s relations with the United States, especially given the transitions in the U.S. Presidency, the passing of Fidel Castro, and the collapse of Cuba’s key trading partner, Venezuela which was Cuba’s most important source of oil supplies. The conference included a plenary session on Cuba’s current economic and social developments as well as sessions on social, legal, and sectoral issues related to the economy and a student panel. This past year, ASCE for the first time hosted a sequence of law sessions providing continuing education credits, plus a new virtual session aimed at further encouraging student participation.

For full XXVII Annual Conference Program, (See Appendix A).
Opening Session: Top photo shows panel of presenters including Carmelo Mesa Lago, Omar Everleny Pérez Villanueva, and Jorge Pérez-López with Helena Solo-Gabriele as session chair. Bottom photo shows the audience.
Invited Guest Speakers from Cuba (in alphabetical order by first name)

In 2017, 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 attendees supported fully or in part through this grant, with supplemental support from ASCE, are listed below:

1. **Alina Bárbara López Hernández**, a Professor at the Central University in Las Villas. She is a member of the National Union of Writers and Artists in Cuba. Her work has been published in many Cuban magazines (Temas, Islas, Matanzas, Calibán, Perfiles de la Cultura Cubana y Debates Americanos). She received the Temas Award in 2007 and in 2012 for her Works focused on Cuban political topics. She has published many books. Her latest book published in 2016 received awards and was entitled, “Intellectualism, Politics, and Culture in a Bourgeois Republic.”

2. **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). The groups he has organized are an extremely committed group of intellectuals -- with a social science and public policy bend. For over 25 years, they have edited a journal initially with the name of *Vitral* and currently *Convivencia*.

3. **Ernest Pérez Chang**, prolific writer for Cubanet, a not-for-profit digital newspaper founded in 1994, as an independent news outlet for reporting news from within Cuba. Prior to Cubanet, Pérez Chang worked as editor for numerous Cuban cultural institutions such as the Casa de las Americas (1997-2008), Editorial Arte y Literatura, and the Center for Research and Development of Cuban Music. He was Managing Editor of the magazine Union (2008-2011).

4. **Joanna Columbié**, is director of the academic movement called Somos+. She worked for over 14 years in the Ministry of Education. As part of her work with Somos+ she is responsible for international relations for the Action Democratic Union and participates in the network of electoral facilitators and in the network of inclusive culture and rights for the disabled. She served as an observer in the latest Peruvian elections and has presented in Miami at the Cuba Internet Freedom event.

5. **Laritza Diversent** is a Cuban attorney, independent journalist, and human rights defender. She graduated from the University of Havana Law School in 2007 and, along with several other lawyers, founded the Cubalex Legal Information Center. Cubalex is dedicated to educating Cubans about their legal rights under the country’s constitution and body of laws, as well as under international standards.
6. **Olimpia Gómez Consuegra** was a member of the Cuban Academy of Sciences from 2004 to 2011 and member of the National Grade Scientific Tribunal from 2005 to 2011. She received an award from the Cuban Academy of Sciences in 2010 for work on Technological Innovation, the Development of Tomato Varieties with Greater Potential Returns with Social Impact, and Integration among Scientific Research Institutes. She is the author of *Mejora Genética y Manejo del Cultivo del Tomate para la Producción en el Caribe*, Horticultural Research Institute Liliana Dimitrova, La Habana, 2000.

7. **Omar Everleny Pérez Villanueva** is a top Cuban economist. He had a long academic career, for many years chairing the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy (CEEC) at the University of Havana and also chaired the Economics Department. While at the University of Havana, he wrote many important articles on the Cuban economy which were published in national and international journals. He edited or co-edited several collections of essays written by the faculty at the CEEC and published by Editorial Ciencias Sociales in Havana, the latest *Miradas a la Economía Cubana: El Sector no Estatal*. He currently is an independent economist with links to *Temas* magazine and the Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo of Matanzas.

8. **Yoandy Izquierdo Toledo**, member of the Board of Directors of the Convivencia Study Center. A microbiologist and a biotechnologist by training, he worked from 2011 to 2013 for the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Havana. In addition to being an accomplished microbiologist, he has written numerous works on social issues in Cuba, including four books specializing on citizenship and civil society in Cuba. He has been invited to speak at conferences throughout the world focused on digital journalism, advocacy, human rights, and civic education.

All eight Cuban scholars accepted the invitation to present in the XXVII Annual Conference. All but one attended. Ernesto Pérez Chang was unable to come. Thus, while eight scholars (listed above) were invited, only seven attended the conference.
In addition to the guests financially supported by the Christopher Reynolds grant and by ASCE, 14 additional individuals who became professionals in Cuba and who are still living in Cuba. Their attendance was financially supported through other independent funding agencies (e.g., Czech NGO, People in Need) and in some cases consisted of self support. Below is the list of these additional Cuban professionals that presented at the XXVII Annual Conference.

1. Beatriz Lima Lizama
   Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo-Cuba (CCRD-C)

2. Buenaventura Rubén Rigol Cardona
   Universidad de Holguín & Centro de Estudios de Políticas Alternativas para la Transición Democrática (CEPATD)

3. Eneida Díaz Díaz
   Emprendedoras beneficiadas por CCRD-C

4. Francisco Rodríguez
   FACE Cuba

5. Idabell Rosales
   Presidenta, Festival Vista

6. Jessica Clemente
   Músico y economista

7. Jorge Olivera Castillo
   Writer and poet

8. Juan Carlos González Leiva
   Consejo de Relatores de DDHH de Cuba

9. Julio Cesar Fariña Pérez
   Proyecto Emprende con Ciencia

10. Reinaldo Cosano Alén
    Agencia Sindical Press

11. René García Bello
    Asesor y colaborador de la estrategia de apoyo a las MiPyMEs del CCRD-C

12. Teresa M. Cruz Martínez
    Emprendedoras beneficiadas por CCRD-C

13. Tomas Deprestre
    Retired. Ministry of Agriculture, Havana, Cuba

14. Vicente P. Escobal
    Ex-director del Instituto Cubano de Investigaciones Socio-Laborales y Económicas Independientes

Conference Welcome Dinner

As a tradition the ASCE Board of Director hosts a welcome dinner the evening before the start of the conference. ASCE Board members, ASCE committee members and Cuban Scholars are invited to take part in this event for social and professional networking. This past year the event was held at the Habana Vieja restaurant located in Coral Gables, FL.

Dinner the evening before the ASCE Conference (July 26, 2017) with ASCE Board members, ASCE committee members, and scholars from Cuba.
Jorge Pérez-López Student Paper Competition

Our conference was also enriched by students, including first prize winner in the undergraduate category, Anthony Bencivengo from Sarah Lawrence College who presented on, “Sembrando la Sostenibilidad.” The prize winner in the graduate category, Pablo Boorsman-Mendoza from Utrecht University (Netherlands), won for his paper on “Peripheral Ideas that Won't Fly: EU Foreign Policy Decisions on Cuba and US Influence.” There was a tie for second place in the graduate category. These papers were presented by Julie Rausenberger of the University of Louvein (Belgium) whose paper was entitled, “Importing Modernity: Foreign Fashion and Identity-Making in Urban Cuba” and by Kate Gaffney of New York University whose paper was entitled, “The Destruction of Havana's Neighborhoods: When Heritage Tourism Becomes a Priority Over Habitable Housing.”

Photos from the student session. Top left shows the student panel, including student presenters, Anthony Bencivengo, Julie Rausenberger, and Kate Gaffney and session Chair Mario Gonzalez-Corzo, and judge Maria Dolores Espino. Top right shows student presenter Kate Gaffney. Bottom shows Mario González-Corzo presenting student awards before the Ernesto Betancourt Keynote Luncheon.
Virtual Session

This year for the first time, ASCE hosted a virtual session that targeted the participation of University students. All five presentations were authored by eight students from Pepperdine University in California, all of whom participated in an educational exchange program in Cuba under the guidance of Dr. Lani Frazier. Their papers were entitled:

- What the U.S. Could Learn from Cuba and China: Looking into an ‘Alternative Universe’
- Cuban Labor Market and Human Capital: Is There a Misalignment?
- The Cuban Paradox: Revolution, Socialism and the Colorful Rhythm of the Cuban Soul
- Exploring Reforms: Cuba's Minimum Wage Standard
- Exploring Cuban Vocational Education and Economic Stability

Photo from student virtual session. Michael Strauss, session chair, shown with Frank Carlos Martinez, committee member and technical facilitator. Session facilitators at Pepperdine University included Sonya Shariffard and Dr. Lani Frazier.
Ernesto Betancourt Keynote Address

This year the Ernesto Betancourt Keynote Address was presented by Marc Frank, a highly regarded economic correspondent for Reuters based in Havana, Cuba and author of the acclaimed book, “Cuban Revelations: Behind the Scenes in Havana.” His keynote presentation was entitled, "The Strategic Retreat: What’s Driving and Slowing Change in Cuba and U.S.-Cuban Relations." The presentation reflected on the slow rate at which economic change is happening in Cuba. It described a vision of gradual improvements in the long term, in light of anticipated changes in the Cuban governmental leadership.

Left, Marc Frank delivering his keynote presentation. Right, images from the luncheon ceremony.
Law Sessions

For the first time in 2017, ASCE’s Annual Conference included two CLE-qualifying law sessions organized by Stephen Kimmerling of Crowell & Moring LLP. Licensed attorneys who registered for the conference received 2 Florida Bar CLE credits for each of the sessions attended. These sessions focused on “Foreign Investment in Cuba: Law, Policy, and Practicalities” presented by Larry Catá Backer, Professor of Law and International Affairs, Penn State Law and “Coordinating U.S. and Cuban Legal Principles to Resolve Property and Damage Claims” presented by Pedro A. Freyre, Partner, Chair, International Practice, Akerman LLP and Rolando Anillo, Corporate Counsel, Florida Crystals Corp., and President, Cuban Claims Owners Association.
Special Co-Sponsored Events, Spring/Summer 2017

American Economic Association (AEA) Meeting

For the 21st consecutive year, ASCE held a session on the Cuban economy at the Annual American Economic Association (AEA) meetings, which were held in Chicago, IL on January 7, 2017. Roger Betancourt of the University of Maryland presented a paper entitled, “United States-Cuba Migration Policy: A Political Economy View.” Luis Locay of the University of Miami presented a paper entitled, “Why Did the Cuban Infant Mortality Rate Rise During the First Decade of the Revolution?” The discussant was John Devereux of the City University of New York-Queens College. Copies of the session abstracts and papers are available at: https://www.aeaweb.org/conference/2017/preliminary/1725?page=8&per-page=50.


The event was held in Spanish on January 30, 2017 at Casa Bacardi located at 1531 Brescia Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida. The panelists included Carlos Alberto Montaner, Elias Amor Bravo, and Dr. Eduardo Zayas-Bazán. The panel was moderated by Joaquín Pujol. The event was co-hosted by ICCAS (Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies), IAIM (Inter-American Institute for Democracy), NACAE (National Association of Cuban-American Educators), and the Center for a Free Cuba. Bacardi Company sponsored a cocktail for participants. A flier with more details about the event at Casa Bacardi is available at: http://www.ascecuba.org/additional-asce-events/. The event was broadcast live and the video from this event can be accessed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwPgU2t5lBE&app=desktop
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 ([http://www.ascecuba.org/publications/annual-proceedings/master-directory-asce-annual-proceedings/](http://www.ascecuba.org/publications/annual-proceedings/master-directory-asce-annual-proceedings/)). The yearly volumes of the proceedings are also accessible on the internet at: [http://www.ascecuba.org/publications/annual-proceedings/](http://www.ascecuba.org/publications/annual-proceedings/). In 2015, all conference proceedings were converted to html format allowing for more search visibility on the web. This also allows for searches within the online ASCE proceedings database by key word.

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 Santa Clara University and Mario González-Corzo of City University of New York of America. Four prizes were awarded in 2017.
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 Last Year’s ASCE Activities: See Appendix B for the January 25, 2017 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.
New ASCE Website

In the fall of 2014 as a new board of directors initiated their term, 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, 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 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. This past year all of the proceedings were converted to html format to improve the visibility of the papers through on-line search engines. Search engines provide higher priority to html pages as opposed to text contained within PDF uploads. So all papers published since 1991 to the present are now available in two formats: on-line and PDF.

ASCE Blog

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.
Treasurer’s Report for Fiscal Period
January 2011 through November 2017

Prepared by Ernesto Hernandez-Cata, ASCE Treasurer.
Based on data through November 15, 2017

ASCE experienced a net loss of $3011 in the first ten months of 2017, well below the net loss of $11,450 registered in 2016\(^1\) (Table 1). The lower net losses reflected largely a $12,000 donation from the Christopher Reynolds Foundations in 2017. This donation helped to finance expenditures related to the Travel Fund and the Student Fund\(^2\). Without the Christopher Reynolds donation ASCE’s net loss in 2017 would have been a record $8989.

Gross revenue rose by 11% in 2017, compared with a fall of almost 30% in the previous year. (Excluding the Christopher Reynolds donation, however, revenue would have dropped by 23% in 2017). Membership dues fell by 22% in 2017 the third consecutive annual decline. Income related to the Annual Conference fell by almost 9% owing to lower registration fees and payment for the official lunch. Purchases of *Cuba in Transition*, ASCEs Annual Conference Volume, rose by almost 12%.

Gross expenditure fell by just under 10% in 2017, reflecting substantial declines in outlays associated with the Annual Conference (owing to a more favorable contract with the Hilton Hotel) and the Travel Fund (because of a decline in the number of professionals invited from Cuba and a reclassification of hotel room costs to the Travel Fund). These savings were partly offset by higher outlays under the Student Fund (reflecting more generous awards approved new the Board). There was an unusually large increase in accounting services expenditure, reflecting payments to enhance ASCE’s website, (including the availability of on-line copies of articles presented in ASCE conferences) and improvements in ASCE’s ledger and membership lists.

As of October 2017, ASCE’s financial balance was $45,273, including checking and savings accounts in Bank of America, Pay Pal, and petty cash. ASCE has no liabilities and therefore its net worth is equal to its assets of $45,273, which are entirely liquid and represent approximately 100% of its gross annual expenditures.

\(^1\) All references to 2017 in this report refer to the period January-October. Historically, the period November-December includes very few transactions, and this is also likely to be the case in 2017. ASCE’s seasonal period of heavy transaction is from May-to August.

\(^2\) The Travel Fund is used to finance expenses of invited professionals and self-employed from Cuba attending ASCE’s Annual Conference or other events organized by the Association. The Student Fund covers the cost of awards and transportation for prize winning students. Historical data on the Travel Fund are provided in Table 2. Prior to 2017 expenses under the Student Fund were financed out of ASCE’s general funds.
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<th>Table 1. ASCE Income Statement (cash basis)</th>
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<td>4050 Student member fee</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
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<td>4100 Conference registration revenues</td>
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<td>4110 Member - Conference registration fee</td>
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<td>$9,300.00</td>
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<td>4115 Conference - official lunch</td>
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<td>4140 Non-member - Conference registration fee</td>
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<td>4150 Institutional member - Conference registration fee</td>
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<td>4170 Student - Conference registration fee</td>
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<td>4175 Other conference revenues</td>
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<td>4180 Conference-related refunds (contra-revenue)</td>
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<td>4200 Donations</td>
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<td>4300 Refunds</td>
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<tr>
<td>4310 Paypal refund fees issued to ASCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>4320 Other refunds issued to ASCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,847.07</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$1,847.07</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4400 Other revenues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4410 Interest income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$39.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4420 Revenue pending clarification &amp; other rev.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$893.65</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$933.31</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$37,125.72</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5000 Program expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5010 Professional services expense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,771.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5020 Conference venue expense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$16,515.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5030 Travel Fund expense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$661.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5040 Student fund expense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150.00</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$19,597.63</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5100 Management and general expenses</td>
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<td>5110 Paypal fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>$229.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>5120 Bank fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td>5130 Mailing and shipping expense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td>5140 Telephone expense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$487.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>5150 Accounting services expense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td>5160 Office expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$126.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5170 Meals and entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5180 Hosting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5190 Printing services (other than CIT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$107.48</td>
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<td>5195 Expense pending clarification</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
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<td>5200 Fundraising expenses</td>
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<td>5210 Fundraising mailing expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>$385.92</td>
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<tr>
<td>5220 Fundraising printing expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$38,197.57</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Revenue</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$12,691.87</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

asce@ascecuba.org
www.ascecuba.org
5931 Beech Avenue
Bethesda MD 20817
Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel Fund revenue (a)</td>
<td>$1,186</td>
<td>$7,910</td>
<td>$22,955</td>
<td>$15,082</td>
<td>$14,155</td>
<td>$2,050</td>
<td>$7,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Reynolds (b)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$14,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$7,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sobell</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASCE members (c)</td>
<td>$3,910</td>
<td>$1,745</td>
<td>$4,801</td>
<td>$550</td>
<td>$400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (d)</td>
<td>$1,186</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$1,281</td>
<td>(395)</td>
<td>$1,650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel fund expense (c)</td>
<td>$662</td>
<td>$3,328</td>
<td>$15,832</td>
<td>$15,130</td>
<td>$12,577</td>
<td>$12,259</td>
<td>$7,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net revenue</td>
<td>$524</td>
<td>$4,582</td>
<td>$7,122</td>
<td>(47)</td>
<td>$1,578</td>
<td>(10,645)</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative net revenue</td>
<td>$524</td>
<td>$5,106</td>
<td>$12,229</td>
<td>$12,181</td>
<td>$13,759</td>
<td>$3,114</td>
<td>$3,415</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Differs from income statement due to the inclusion of non-cash outlays (e.g. waived registration fees)
(b) 2017 is equal to $12000 received from Christopher Reynolds minus $4809.73 used for Student Fund expenditures.
(c) 2014 includes a contribution of $1594.78 from Cuba Study Group.
(d) Includes payments from unidentified donors before 2012.
(e) San Juan, Rutgers and Miami conferences; net of $16496.63 in reimbursements of unspent funds.
(f) Expenditure for 2017 includes $2261.12 for Hilton Hotel rooms, $4123.70 for travel and other expenses (from Ted Henken's table), plus $1225 for 5 Conferene Reitation fees (non-members).

Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>$4,940</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Reynolds</td>
<td>$4,809.73</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASCE members</td>
<td>$130</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nayara Sabrina b</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Benavengio</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>11-Jul</td>
<td>$1,088</td>
<td>7-Aug</td>
<td>$1,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Raushenberger</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>8-Jul</td>
<td>$1,170</td>
<td>12-Aug</td>
<td>$1,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Gaffney</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>7-Jul</td>
<td>$632</td>
<td>18-Aug</td>
<td>$782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pablo Boorham Mendoza c</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>15-Jul</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$600</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
<td>$3,640</td>
<td>$4,940</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

a. Includes Hilton hotel room cost
b. 2016 Conference
c. Did not attend conference
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, who reside in different cities of the United States, Puerto Rico, and France, 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.

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Jorge Luis Romeu  
Rafael Romeu,  
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Conference Logistics: Rafael Romeu (lead), Mario González-Corzo, Joaquín Pujol, Stephen Kimmerling, Enrique Pumar
Conference Secretariat: Maria Urizar from ICCAS
Student Papers Prize: Enrique Pumar (lead), Mario González-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 and Gary Maybarduk
AEA Session Coordinator: Luis Locay
Carlos Díaz-Alejandro Lecture: Carlos Seiglie
Media/Press ASCE Newscloppings: Joaquín P. Pujol
Blog (http://www.ascecuba.org/blog/): Luis R. Luis and Ernesto Hernández-Catá
Website: Ernesto Hernandez-Catá, Ted Henken, Helena Solo-Gabriele
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Election Teller: Steve Escobar, Antonio Gayoso
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Rafael Romeu
Ted A. Henken
Carlos Seiglie
Appendix A

2017 ASCE Annual Conference Program
Cuba: Navigating in a Turbulent World

Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy

27th Annual Meeting

With special thanks to:
MaestroMeetings, Inc
Proximo LLC
Best Rents
R&R Photo Group
UM, College of Engineering
Cuba: Navigating a Turbulent World

Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE)
Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting
July 27-29, 2017

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

PROGRAM

Thursday, July 27

8:00 a.m.  REGISTRATION and CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Concerto Foyer

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.  OPENING PLENARY (Concerto A&B)

1. Cuban Economic and Social Developments
Chair: Helena Solo-Gabriele, University of Miami and ASCE President
Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Professor Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh, "Fidel Castro's Legacy on Cuba's Social Policy and the Current Situation"
Omar Everleny Pérez Villanueva, Revista Temas, "La economía cubana: Por dónde anda y que se debería esperar"
Jorge Pérez-López, U.S. Department of Labor (retired), "Cuba's Never Ending External Sector Crisis"

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  COFFEE BREAK (Concerto Foyer)

11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  PLENARY SESSION (Concerto A&B)

2. The Exchange System and the Balance of Payments
Chair: Armando Linde, IMF (retired)
Luis R. Luis, "Cuba’s Capital Account of the Balance of Payments"
Gabriel DiBella, IMF, and Rafael Romeu, DevTech Systems, "Primer on Currency Unification and Exchange Rate Policy in Cuba: Lessons from Exchange Rate Unification in Transition"
Discussants: Joaquín Pujol, IMF (retired); Omar Everleny Pérez Villanueva, Revista Temas

1:00 p.m. -2:15 p.m.  LUNCH BREAK—Optional buffet lunch at the Brisa Restaurant, lobby level of the Hilton Hotel (cost $20 plus tax and gratuity)
2:30 p.m.- 4:15 p.m.  CONCURRENT SESSIONS

3. Agriculture (Concerto A)
Chair: Jorge Pérez-López, U.S. Department of Labor (retired)
William Messina, University of Florida, "Who are Cuba's Independent Farmers?"
José F. Alonso, Montgomery College, "Marabú, Charcoal, Exports and Dollars"
Olimpia Gómez, Tomás Depestre y Mayte Piñón, "Produciones de tomate y pimiento en el trópico: realidades y dificultades"
Mario González-Corzo, City University of New York (CUNY), "Prospects for Cuba's Usufruct Farmers"
Discussant: Gary Maybarduk, U.S. Department of State (retired); Juan Tomás Sánchez, Sugarcane Growers Association of Cuba, Inc.

4. Cuba: de la crisis a las propuestas para el futuro (organizado por el Centro de Estudios Convivencia, CEC) (Concerto B)
Presidencia: Carmelo Mesa-Lago, University of Pittsburgh y miembro del Consejo Académico del CEC
Dagoberto Valdés Hernández, Director del CEC, "Cultura y educación en el futuro de Cuba: visión y propuestas"
Carmelo Mesa-Lago, University of Pittsburgh y Consejo Académico del CEC, "Economía y educación en Cuba hoy"
Yoandy Izquierdo Toledo, Máster en Bioética, miembro del Consejo Directivo del CEC, "La educación ética y cívica: una solución a la crisis económica y de valores en Cuba"
Comentarista: Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan y Consejo Académico del CEC

4:15 p.m.-4:30 p.m.  COFFEE BREAK (Concerto Foyer)

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

5. Cuban Economic Policies & Growth Strategies (Concerto A)
Chair: Carlos Quijano, World Bank (retired)
Vadim Grishin, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Georgetown University, "Economic Reforms in Cuba: Myths and Realities"
Larry Catá Backer, Penn State University, "A Critical Look at Cuba’s National Economic and Social Development Plan 2030—With a Focus on the Tourism and Pharma Sectors"
Gary Maybarduk, U.S. Department of State (retired), "Encouraging Reform in Cuba: Can We Get It Right?"
Juan Tomás Sánchez, Sugarcane Growers Association of Cuba, Inc., "The Soft-Swift Transition of Cuba to a Hard Structure with Proven Results"
Discussants: Luis Locay, University of Miami; Sergio Díaz-Briquets, Independent Consultant

6. Perspectivas para Cuba: ¿Transición o Sucesión? (Concerto B)
Presidencia: Julio Shiling, Patria de Martí
Reinaldo Cosano Alén, Agencia Sindical Press, "El cuentapropismo: Limitantes sistémicos y perspectivas de desarrollo"
Julio Cesar Fariña Pérez, Proyecto Emprende con Ciencia, "Realidades y perspectivas del trabajo por cuenta propia en el sector transporte"
Juan Carlos González Leiva, Consejo de Relatores de DDHH de Cuba, “El reordenamiento jurídico cubano: requisito para una transición”
Alina Bábara López Hernández, Ediciones Matanzas, "¿Nominalistas o realistas? Los modernos teólogos de la economía cubana"
Comentaristas: Frank Rodríguez, FaceCuba; Julio Shiling, Patria de Martí

6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.  COCKTAIL RECEPTION (Concerto Foyer)

Friday, July 28

8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.   REGISTRATION and CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (Concerto Foyer)

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

7. Foreign Investment in Cuba: Law, Policy, and Practicalities (Concerto A)
Presenter: Larry Catá Backer, W. Richard and Mary Eshelman Faculty Scholar; Professor of Law and International Affairs, Penn State Law
Cuba’s 2014 Foreign Investment Law and the dissemination of its annual Portfolio of Opportunities for Foreign Investment are signals that Cuba is open to foreign direct investment. While Cuba has secured a number of deals, progress on all sides remains slow due to the complexities and uncertainties surrounding legal, policy, liability, and other issues. This session will offer a detailed look at Cuban law relevant to foreign investment, bilateral and other agreements with Cuba, transaction formation pitfalls and best practices, and how to steer clear of liability and policy traps so that all parties can seal the deal.

8. Real Estate Sector (Concerto B)
Chair: José Ramón de la Torre, FIU
Violaine Jolivet, University of Montreal, "(Re) Investing Havana: Mobility and Socio-Spatial Mutations in the Cuban Capital"
Sergio Díaz-Briquets, Independent Consultant, "Recognizing the Obvious While Muddling the Housing Waters"
Martina Kunović, University of Wisconsin-Madison, "Cuba’s Emerging Real-Estate Sector: A Closer Look at Havana’s Inmobiliarias"
Discussant: Joaquin Pujol, IMF (retired).

10:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m.  COFFEE BREAK (Concerto Foyer)

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  CONCURRENT SESSIONS
9. Coordinating U.S. and Cuban Legal Principles to Resolve Property and Damage Claims (Concerto A)

Presenters: Pedro A. Freyre, Partner; Chair, International Practice, Akerman LLP; Rolando Anillo, Corporate Counsel, Florida Crystals Corp., and President, Cuban Claims Owners Association

Full restoration of ties between the U.S. and Cuba requires, among other things, the resolution of outstanding property and other claims lodged by each country against the other. This in-depth session will look at Cuba’s expropriation of U.S. and other properties, U.S. certified claims and default judgments against Cuba, and country-to-country debts. We will also explore Cuba’s asserted claims for damages caused by the U.S. embargo and our operations in Cuba. The presenters will also discuss relevant U.S. law (e.g., OFAC regulations, Helms-Burton) and applicable Cuban law (including required changes depending on alternate resolution scenarios). Finally, the speakers will look at potential legal remedies and solutions, as well as possible next steps under the new U.S. Administration.

10. The Water Economy in Cuba (Concerto B)

Chair: Thomas M. Getting, Leopold a xylem brand
Enrique Pumar, Santa Clara University; Helena Solo-Gabriele, University of Miami; and Joseph Treaster, University of Miami, "Water in Cuba and American Relations: A Neo-Functional Approach"

Gabriel Ferrer, "Water Disinfection Systems for Cuban Churches"
Genesis Vargas and Elizabeth Worsham, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, "Powering the Pearl: A Study of Cuba’s Energy Autonomy"

12:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  ASCE OFFICIAL LUNCHEON (Concerto C)

ASCE Student Awards
Chair: Mario González-Corzo, City University of New York (CUNY)
Student Prize Winners:
- Anthony Bencivengo, Sarah Lawrence College, 1st place, Undergraduate
- Pablo Boorsman-Mendoza, Utrecht University (Netherlands), 1st place, Graduate
- Julie Rausenberger, University of Louvein (Belgium) and Kate Gaffney, New York University, 2nd Place Graduate

Ernesto Betancourt Keynote Address
Marc Frank, Reuters Correspondent, Havana, "The Strategic Retreat: What’s Driving and Slowing Change in Cuba and U.S.-Cuban Relations"

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

11. Cuba-U.S. Economic Relations (Concerto A)
Chair: Oscar Echevarria, GlobalExpand LLC
Final Program—7/24/2017

Roger R. Betancourt, University of Maryland, "Cuba Normalization Policy in a Trump Administration: The Obvious, The Sensible, and The Subtle"
Ernesto Hernández-Catá, The Foundry, Inc. and IMF (retired), "Economic Relations between Cuba and the United States: Looking Beyond the Early Irrational Exuberance"
Paolo Spadoni, Augusta University, "U.S.-Cuba Business Relations under the Obama Administration and Prospects under the Trump Administration"
Discussants: Luis R. Luis; Gary Maybarduk, U.S. Department of State (retired)

12A. Student Panel I (Concerto B)
Chair: Mario González-Corzo, Lehman College, CUNY
Anthony Bencivengo, Sarah Lawrence College, "Sembrando la Sostenibilidad"
Pablo Boorsman-Mendoza, Utrecht University (Netherlands), "Peripheral Ideas that Won't Fly: EU Foreign Policy Decisions on Cuba and US Influence"
Julie Rausenberger, University of Louvain (Belgium), "Importing Modernity: Foreign Fashion and Identity-Making in Urban Cuba"
Kate Gaffney, New York University, "The Destruction of Havana's Neighborhoods: When Heritage Tourism Becomes a Priority Over Habitable Housing"
Discussants: Mario González-Corzo, Lehman College, CUNY; María Dolores Espino, St. Thomas University; Archibald Ritter, Carleton University; Mauricio Solaún, University of Illinois (emeritus)

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

12B. Student Panel II (virtual panel)** (Concerto C)
Exploring Innovations and Advancements: Connecting Global Communities in Technology, Education, and Management in Cuba
Co-Chairs: Michael Strauss, Université de Paris 5; Frank Carlos Martinez, The Havana Consulting Group LLC; Lani Fraizer, Pepperdine University; Sonya Shariffifard, Pepperdine University
Charles Bray, Jessie Lockhart, John Masters, Kim Levey, Pepperdine University, "What the U.S. Could Learn from Cuba and China: Looking into an 'Alternative Universe'
Jennifer Fox and Rebecca Park, Pepperdine University, "Cuban Labor Market and Human Capital: Is There a Misalignment?"
Vicky Panossian, Pepperdine University, "The Cuban Paradox: Revolution, Socialism and the Colorful Rhythm of the Cuban Soul"
Shimeka Bruton, Pepperdine University, "Exploring Reforms: Cuba's Minimum Wage Standard"
Sonya Shariffifard and Lani Fraizer, Pepperdine University, "Exploring Cuban Vocational Education and Economic Stability"
**For those who wish to join virtually, please use the following link: [https://gsep.adobeconnect.com/asce/]
Participants are encouraged to join the asynchronous conversation for this session at 6:30 pm EDT via Facebook Live: [https://www.facebook.com/www.ascecuba.org]
13. Economic Analysis of Tourism and FDI (Concerto A)
Chair: Paolo Spadoni, *Augusta University*
Maria Dolores Espino and Srabana Gupta, *St. Thomas University*, "Cuban Success with Canadian Tourists: A Comparative Analysis"
Sebastián Acevedo Mejía and Trevor Alleyne, *IMF*, and Rafael Romeu, *DevTech Systems*, "Revisiting the Potential Impact to the Rest of the Caribbean from Opening U.S.-Cuba Tourism"
Janet L. Walsh, *CEO and President, Birchtree Global, LLC*, "Success Characteristics of Foreign Direct Investment in Cuba"

14. Private Sector (Concerto B)
Chair: Roger de la Torre, *Independent Consultant*
Ted A. Henken, *Baruch College, City University of New York*, "Between the 'Party Line' and the 'Bottom Line': *El Proyecto Artecorte* and the Virtuous Circle of Entrepreneurial Solidarity in One Old Havana Neighborhood"
Ståle Wig, *University of Oslo*, "A Comparative Framework for Understanding the Emerging Cuban Private Sector"
Vicente P. Escobal, *ex-director del Instituto Cubano de Investigaciones Socio-Laborales y Económicas Independientes*, "Las pequeñas y medianas empresas en Cuba: Antecedentes, actualidad y perspectivas"
Emilio Morales, *The Havana Consulting Group*, "Deshielo y reformas crean una clase media y un nuevo balance de poder sin precedentes en casi 60 años"
Discussants: Mario González-Corzo, *City University of New York (CUNY)*; Jorge Olivera Castillo, *escritor y poeta*

6:45 p.m.-8:15 p.m. ASCE BUSINESS MEETING (Concerto A)

**********

Saturday, July 29

8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION and CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (Concerto Foyer)

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

15. Special Topics (Concerto A)
Chair: Roger Betancourt, *University of Maryland*
Nicolás Sánchez, *Professor Emeritus, College of the Holy Cross*, "What If… Fulgencio Batista Had Been Black?"
Martin Palous, *Director of Vaclav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, FIU*, "Vaclav Havel's Legacy and Cuba's Future"
Rodolfo J. Stusser, M.D., "Cuban and U.S. Healthcare Systems 1900-2016: Similarities, Differences, and Efficiencies"
Joanna Columbié, Somos +, “La formación de liderazgo en la sociedad civil: Una necesidad imperativa para Cuba presente y futuro”
Discussant: TBA

16. Social and Cultural Topics (Concerto B)
Chair: Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan
Soren Triff, Bristol Community College, "Entre el gueto judío y el encierro cubano: la vida diaria y el artículo de costumbres digital bajo la economía de la miseria"
Yvon Grenier, St. Francis Xavier University, Canada, "The Revolution is Over, Isn't it? The Use and Abuse of the Term 'Revolution' in Cuban Studies"
Idabell Rosales, Presidenta, Festival Vista, “La cultura independiente en Cuba y la transición: trabas y oportunidades”
Ernesto Pérez Chang, periodista de Cubanet News, "Papel del periodismo independiente en el análisis de la economía cubana actual"
Discussant: Francisco Rodríguez, FACE Cuba; Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan

10:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m. COFFEE BREAK (Concerto Foyer)

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

17. La nueva economía cubana: casos de estudio (Concerto A)
Presidencia: Ted A. Henken, Baruch College, City University of New York
Beatriz Lima Lizama, Centro Cristiano de Reflexion y Dialogo-Cuba (CCRD-C), y René García Bello, asesor y colaborador de la estrategia de apoyo a las MiPyMES del CCRD-C, "El turismo y el sector privado: Sinergias y potencialidades para el desarrollo local en Cárdenas"
Jessica Clemente, "Músicos y economía: el caso Matanzas"
Eneida Díaz Díaz y Teresa M. Cruz Martínez, emprendedoras beneficiadas por CCRD-C en Cárdenas, "El emprendimiento femenino en Cuba: Dos proyectos, dos historias de muj eres"
Buena Ventura Rubén Rigol Cardona, Universidad de Holguín & Centro de Estudios de Políticas Alternativas para la Transición Democrática (CEPATD), “El sector transporte cubano, y el desarrollo económico comprometido”
Comentarista: Dagoberto Valdés, Centro de Estudios Convivencia

18. Cuba and U.S. Legal Topics (Concerto B)
Chair: Gustavo Arnavat, Senior Advisor, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
Laritza Diversent, Agencia Cubalex, "Sociedad civil fortalecida, una necesidad imprescindible en el futuro democrático de Cuba"
Kevin Fandl, Fox School of Business, Temple University, "Adios Embargo: The Case for Executive Termination of the U.S. Economic Embargo on Cuba"
Fred Viera, Esq. and Isabel Yague, Esq., "The State of the U.S. Constitutional Right to International Travel and its Potential Socio-Economic Impact on Cuba"
Discussants: Michael Strauss, Université de Paris 5; Rolando Anillo, Corporate Counsel, Florida Crystals Corp., and President, Cuban Claims Owners Association
Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE)

Board of Directors (2016-2018)
Helena Solo-Gabriele, President
Vice President Ex-Officio: Carlos Seiglie
Treasurer: Ernesto Hernández-Catá
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Larry Catá Backer
Roger de la Torre Casanova

ASCE Committees
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Conference Logistics: Rafael Romeu (lead), Mario González-Corzo, Joaquín Pujol,
Stephen Kimmerling, Enrique Pumar
Student Papers Prize: Enrique Pumar (lead), Mario González-Corzo
Conference Hosting Committee: Ted Henken (lead) Rafael Romeu, María Dolores Espino,
Maria Werlau, Roger de la Torre, Carlos Seiglie
Cuba in Transition editors: Jorge Pérez-López, Gary Maybarduk
AEA Session Coordinator: Luis Locay
Carlos Díaz-Alejandro Lecture: Carlos Seiglie & Mario González-Corzo
Media/Press ASCE Newsclippings: Joaquín P. Pujol
Blog (http://www.ascecuba.org/blog/): Luis R. Luis & Ernesto Hernández-Catá
Election Nomination: Roger Betancourt
Election Teller: Steve Escobar, Rolando Castañeda, Antonio Gayoso
Membership: Michael Strauss (lead), Jorge Luis Romeu, Roger de la Torre, Gary Maybarduk
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Newsletter: Helena Solo-Gabriele, Roger de la Torre

Webpage (http://www.ascecuba.org/): Ernesto Hernandez-Cata & Ted Henken

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Appendix B

ASCE Newsletter, January 25, 2017 Edition
Opening Letter

By Helena Solo-Gabriele, ASCE President, and Roger de La Torre, Newsletter Editor

Dear ASCE Members,

Since our last Newsletter issued in October, Fidel Castro has passed causing many mixed emotions, especially among Cubans and Cuban-Americans, including those currently living within the island and those living in exile. These mixed emotions are expressed eloquently by ASCE members including the OSV Newsweekly article by Enrique Pumar who reflected on Castro’s legacy and Cuba’s uncertain future, Jorge Luis Romeu’s article in Syracuse.com who discusses the impacts of Castro’s death on political and economic change in Cuba, and Larry Catá Backer’s article which reflects on the lessons that might be drawn from Fidel Castro’s legacy and concludes that “Las ideas no se matan” (ideas are not killed). The URL for all three of these articles can be found at: http://www.ascecuba.org/links/. Castro’s death coupled with a new President Donald Trump calls into question, “Where does Cuba’s future stand?” Will diplomatic relations continue to normalize between Cuba and the U.S. or will they revert back to pre-President Barack Obama conditions?

This uncertainty is captured well in the theme for the upcoming Twenty-Seventh Annual Conference scheduled for the Downtown Miami Hilton on July 27 to 29, 2017 entitled, “Cuba: Navigating in a Turbulent World.” Here conference participants will be able to reflect on the possible impacts of recent events on Cuba’s economic future. If you have written about the impacts of recent events on Cuba’s economy or about topics related to business, entrepreneurship, and other related economic issues in Cuba please consider submitting an abstract for potential presentation at the conference. Information about how to submit an abstract is included within this Newsletter. Please consider registering early for the conference at: http://www.ascecuba.org/2017-asce-conference-registration-form/.

ASCE has also initiated fund-raising efforts for this upcoming conference. Fund-raising is aimed at providing financial support for the students competing in the student paper competition and for financial support for Cuban scholars living within Cuba who can enrich scholarly discussions about Cuba’s economic issues. In addition to soliciting funds from U.S. Foundations we also ask our membership and those interested in supporting the ASCE meeting to contact us at asce@ascecuba.org in the event that you are able to provide financial support for student or Cuban Scholar travel to the conference.

In addition to our Annual Meeting which is ASCE’s signature event we have several other activities planned which are described within our Newsletter. So please continue reading

ASCE
Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy
http://www.ascecuba.org/
asce@ascecuba.org
Membership Committee—Michael Strauss

The membership committee has re-instated institutional membership. Institutional membership allows for conference registration discounts for multiple individuals who are part of the same agency. The first individual is charged at the full registration rate ($175) and subsequent individuals are charged at 50% ($87.50). More details about becoming a member are available on the last page of this newsletter.

Newsclippings—Joaquin P. Pujol

News related to Cuba’s economy that usually are not carried in mainstream media is selected. By the end of the week this news is forwarded to members’ e-mails. This facilitates the availability of information. So 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 has completed the 2016 Proceedings. The web version has been posted at: http://www.ascecuba.org/publications/annual-proceedings/. The Program Committee is also accepting abstracts for possible presentation at the conference. Deadline for abstract submission is April 1, 2017. Details about abstract submission are provided on the following page.

Conference Logistics Committee—Rafael Romeu

The conference logistics committee has been planning on spicing up the conference 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 papers 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

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
Joaquin 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 Díaz-Alejandro Lecture
Carlos Ségüe

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”

Twitter at @ASCECuba
Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/
Recent Events

ASCE recently sponsored a session entitled, "The Cuban Economy," during the 2017 American Economic Association Annual meeting on January 7, 2017 in Chicago, IL. Roger Betancourt of the University of Maryland presented a paper entitled, “United States-Cuba Migration Policy: A Political Economy View.” Luis Locay of the University of Miami presented a paper entitled, “Why Did the Cuban Infant Mortality Rate Rise During the First Decade of the Revolution?.” The discussant was John Devereux of the City University of New York-Queens College. Copies of the session abstracts and papers are available at: https://www.aeaweb.org/conference/2017/preliminary/1725?page=8&per-page=50. Roger Betancourt reports that, “The session ... went well and the discussant did a great job commenting on our two papers and pointing out strengths and weaknesses of each as well as elements that tie them together...... The comments were incredibly helpful for further research extending the analysis to current circumstances, i.e., Cuba’s normalization policy in a Trump administration.”

Upcoming Events

ASCE will be hosting a panel entitled, “Implications for Relations between the U.S. and Cuba.” The event will be held in Spanish on January 30, 2017 at Casa Bacardi located at 1531 Brescia Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida. The reception will start at 6 pm followed by a panel session from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. The panelists will include Carlos Alberto Montaner, Elias Amor Bravo, and Dr. Eduardo Zayas-Bazan. The panel will be moderated by Joaquin Pujol. Please RSVP by January 28 at pujolascenews@aol.com. The event is co-hosted by ICCAS (Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies), IAID (Inter-American Institute for Democracy), NACAE (National Association of Cuban-American Educators), and the Center for a Free Cuba. Bacardi Company will be sponsoring a cocktail for those who participate. A flier with more details about the event at Casa Bacardi is available at: http://www.ascecuba.org/additional-asce-events/. The flier includes a link for those who would like to attend virtually through live broadcast.

The University of Miami Institute for Cuban and Cuban American Studies (ICCAS) will be hosting a seminar titled, “Cuba Hoy, El Testimonio de un Misionero Cubano-Americano.” The seminar will be held February 2, 2017 at 6:30 pm. The event will be held at Casa Bacardi located at 1531 Brescia Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida. The event will be held in Spanish. The presenter, Gabe Ferrer, installs water treatment systems at churches and hospitals in Cuba. He will be speaking about aviation in Cuba. For more information call ICCAS at 305-284-CUBA (2822).

The Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies will be hosting a Panel entitled, “Transforming Cuba: Economic Reforms Beyond 2016.” The panel will be taking place on February 15, 2017 from 4 to 6 pm at the Graduate Center located at 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY. Three papers will be presented. These include: “Economic Reforms in Cuba: Present and Future” by Omar Everleny, “Prospects for Cuba’s EmergingUsufruct Farmers” by Mario Gonzalez Corzo, and “Post-Fidel Dynamics” by Mauricio Font. More information is available at: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Page-Elements/Academics-Research-Centers-Initiatives/Centers-and-Institutes/Bildner-Center-for-Western-Hemisphere-Studies/Center-Events/Detail?id=38566

ASCE will be coordinating a panel for the 11th Conference on Cuban and Cuban American Studies organized by the Cuban Research Institute of Florida International University (FIU). The session is scheduled for February 24, 2017 from 2 to 4 pm 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. Hernandez-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 specific issues (the return of Guantanamo and addressing water needs as a means of improving relations. Additional details about the conference and session are available at: https://cri.fiu.edu/news/2016/call-for-panels-cri-conference/. In addition to this session ASCE Committee member Mario Gonzalez-Corzo will be presenting a paper entitled, “Evolution, Trends, and Future Prospects for U.S.-Cuba Agricultural Trade.”

The Association of Cuban-American Engineers and the Cuban-American Association of Civil Engineers will be hosting their 2017 Cuba Infrastructure 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). During the competition 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).
Publication Highlights

The 2016 winner of the Graduate Student paper competition, Aleida Cobas Valdes (third from left below) from Universidad de La Habana and the Universidad del Pais Vasco, Spain, presented her paper on “Cuban Immigrants in the United States: What Determines their Earning Distributions?” An extension of her work has since been published in Applied Economics at: http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/c6DmqB6K49w4glAn5URd/full

Many congratulations to Aleida!

Suggestions Sought

Have You Published a Book Lately? ASCE Members are asked if they have published a book recently related to Cuba and/or economy. The conference logistics committee is currently coordinating a book display during the conference where authors can show their books to conference attendees. If you have a book that you would like to share, please contact asce@ascecuba.org.

Member News. If you have news or information that you would like to share with ASCE Members, please contact us and we will find an appropriate means to disseminate.

Reflections on Cuba’s Economic Policy

Rhetoric and Reality – A Personal Observation by Gary Maybarduk, Secretary and Board Member of ASCE

Ben Rhodes, White House Deputy National Security Advisor, recently published a blog entitled “Charting a New Course with Cuba: Two Years of Progress”. Rhodes, of course, was defending President Obama’s policies towards Cuba. As I read his message I found myself in agreement in many points and annoyed by others. Space prevents me from doing a full analysis, but one egregious assertion deserves comment. Rhodes claims the new policies – including unlimited remittances – has allowed for the growth of the private sector and proudly reports “there are now 500,000 licensed independent businesses a dramatic increase from eight years ago.” I suggest that history does not support that claim.

The first progress in restoring a private sector in Cuba came after the disappearance of Soviet assistance in the early 1990s. Facing severe economic crisis and political unrest, Fidel Castro reluctantly allowed small family businesses, cuentapropistas. Initially the number of cuentapropistas rose quickly, from a few tens of thousands to 210,000 in January 1996 before falling to 147,000 in 1997. But as the economy improved, the Cuban authorities began to tighten their control over the new entrepreneurs. Tightened inspections forced many businesses to close. New licenses became harder to obtain. Pressure on the cuentapropistas increased as money from Venezuela arrived. By 2010 the number of cuentapropistas was still 147,000. By 2008, however, the world economic downtown had hit Cuba, growth had slowed, capital formation had declined, and the budget could not handle the demands. With Fidel retired, Raul was ready to try some new reforms.

In 2008 the Government announced a new program to reallocate state land to small farmers in usufruct. Significant other policy changes were announced in October 2010 and in 2011 at the Sixth Party Congress. The government declared it would cut government employment by 1.5 million. To compensate the government created new opportunities in self-employment. The number of occupations available to cuentapropistas rose by 21 to 178 and later to 201. Cuentapropistas were also given permission to employ non-family members. By 2014 the number of cuentapropistas had risen to 483,000. Some of the new businesses undoubtedly were helped by remittances, but the political decision to encourage their creation had nothing to do with improved US/Cuban relations. It occurred because the Cuban economy was under economic stress that threatened political stability.

In contrast, the Cuban response to the December 15 US decision to reestablish formal relations has been to threaten the growth of the private sector. The April 2016 Seventh Party Congress recognized the need for some liberalization of market mechanisms, but made clear that private property was really held in usufruct. The Guidelines established by the Congress include, “The ownership or management of certain fundamental means of production by non-state natural or legal persons is subject to temporality and other conditions stipulated by the law . . .” The guidelines also declare “In the forms of non-state management, the concentration of property shall not be allowed” and it added “nor of wealth”. Raul Castro also made clear the political reasons for control of private property, “depending on the predominance of one form of ownership over another, a country’s social system is determined.” Instead the Congress made clear that Cuba’s economic growth would come from (easy to control), foreign investment. History and Raul’s words would suggest that lifting the embargo and encouraging foreign investment in Cuba might well hurt the development of an indigenous private sector, something the new American Administration might consider.

ihttps://medium.com/@rhodes44/charting-a-new-course-with-cuba-two-years-of-progress-a313982284d9#.90bdxic1
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’s 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.

The meeting will be taking place at the Downtown Miami Hilton. To register for the conference visit: [http://www.ascecuba.org/conferences/2017-asce-conference/](http://www.ascecuba.org/conferences/2017-asce-conference/)

### 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 for further information: [http://www.ascecuba.org/conferences/2017-asce-conference/2017-asce-conference-abstract-submission/](http://www.ascecuba.org/conferences/2017-asce-conference/2017-asce-conference-abstract-submission/)

- **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/](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
Enjoy updated and exclusive information on Cuba.
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**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.

**New:** Institutional memberships allow for **reduced conference registration fees** ($175 first individual and $87.50 for each additional individual)

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**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.