

Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy

Newsletter Summer 2000

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MEMORANDUM

To: ASCE Members

FROM: Sergio Díaz-Briquets

Just a few days away from our Annual Meeting in South Florida, I am pleased to announce to the membership the results of the election for ASCE's Board of Directors conducted earlier this summer. The new Board, elected for the 2000-02 period, will be led by a dear friend and distinguished economist, Dr. Carlos Quijano. As most of you know, although Carlos began his career in Cuba, he spent most of his professional life as a senior World Bank official where he made innumerable contributions to Latin America's economic development. While now retired from the World Bank, Dr. Quijano is more active than ever lecturing in European and Latin American universities and doing consulting work. On behalf of the members of the outgoing Board and the Association, I welcome Carlos to his new responsibilities well aware that he will jealously guard ASCE's interests and provide the leadership to further its agenda of contributing to the analysis of Cuba's current and future social and economic prospects.

In the name of the outgoing Board, I take this opportunity to also congratulate other newly elected Board members, as well as those re-elected for a second term, for their commitment and dedication to ASCE. Their names are shown elsewhere in this newsletter. A well earned thanks goes to Steven Escobar, who for the last four years served as ASCE's Secretary, and to Enrique Pumar, Treasurer for the last two -- two not always appreciated responsibilities -- and to the other members of the outgoing Board for a job well done. While our nerves were sometimes frayed by intense debate, whenever we disagreed, we did so in good spirit, with ASCE's interests in mind, and as the best of friends.

As ASCE's President, and in the name of the outgoing Board, we would not want to bring our tenure to a close without acknowledging the invaluable assistance provided to the Association by the law firm of ShawPittman, through Matias Travieso-Díaz, as well as by the World Council of Credit Unions, in the person of Antonio Gayoso. By permitting us to use their meeting rooms and teleconference facilities for the Board's regularly scheduled meetings, we managed to save

substantial amounts of time and money and were able to conveniently discuss ASCE business as often as necessary.

ASCE, as it enters its second decade, continues to gain in stature. Our annual *Cuba in Transition* volumes, now electronically available through our website as well, have become required reading for individuals seriously interested in Cuba's prospects. Our membership stands at a historically high number. To assist us in coping with this growth, ASCE's Board this summer decided to accept a gracious offer made to the Association by Professor Jaime Suchlicki, Director of the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies (ICCAS) at the University of Miami. ICCAS will serve as ASCE's Secretariat for the 2000-2002 period. Jaime's offer was most welcome given that with our continued vitality and growing number of attendees at the annual August meeting, our resources, mostly provided by volunteers, were being taxed to their limits. We thank Jaime and the ICCAS for the assistance being provided to make the 2000 Annual Meeting a success, and look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship over the next two years.

Those of you planning to attend the Annual Meeting – and those who will be missed by not being there – are invited to consult our web page (asce@ascecuba.org) to see how the final program shaped up thanks to the session organizers, paper contributors, discussants, and invited guests. In this Newsletter we are also reproducing the press release recently released to highlight the most prominent features of this year's conference. At this time of the year, it is traditional to appreciate once again, and I gladly do so, Jorge Pérez-López in his role as Chair of the Program Subcommittee. Well-deserved kudos for a job well done have also been earned by Michelle Pujol (from Atlanta!) and Juan Carlos Espinosa, members of the Organization Subcommittee. See you in Coral Gables in what promises to be a most fruitful and interesting annual meeting!

2000-2002 Elections

The Teller's Committee and the Board of Directors announce the results of the 2000-2002 elections. The following members were elected President and members of the Board of Directors for the 2000-2002 term:

President: Carlos Quijano

Board of Directors: José Alvarez; Ernesto F. Betancourt; Sergio Diaz-Briquets; Maida Donate Maria Dolores Espino; Armando Linde; Stuart Lippe; Michelle Pujol; Enrique Pumar; Jorge Luis Romeu Jorge Sanguinety

UPDATED ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM AVAILABLE ON ASCE's WEBSITE

To find the final version of the program and schedule for the Tenth Annual Meeting, log on to ASCE's website, locate at www.ascecuba.org, and click on the "ASCE News" section. Or, you may go directly to the program using the following address: <http://lanic.utexas.edu/project/asce/program2000.pdf>.

The final program as found on the website will be printed for distribution to all registered members and non-members during the Annual Meeting.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE CUBAN ECONOMY
10TH ANNUAL MEETING**

ASCE AT 10!

WHAT: A three-day conference with distinguished speakers focusing on various aspects of the Cuban economy. Twenty panels of experts from different disciplines including economics, political science, sociology, law, business and other professions will present and discuss papers during the event. The event will include the participation of several honored guest speakers, including:

Antonio Elorza, from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain, as keynote speaker for the opening plenary session..

Carlos Alberto Montaner, well known author and syndicated columnist, as speaker during the evening reception .

Sidney Weintraub, William E. Simon Chair in Political Economy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, as luncheon program speaker. His topic will be the Role of Trade in Cuba's Economic Transition.

WHEN: Conference: **Thursday, August 3 through Saturday, August 5, 2000**
Reception: **Thursday, August 3, 6:30pm – 9:30pm**
Luncheon: **Friday, August 4, 12:30pm – 2:30pm**

WHERE: **The Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida**

COST: On site registration (including reception)

Conference:	\$100	for non-members	Luncheon:	\$40
	\$65	for members	Press:	Complimentary

TOPICS: Some of the topics to be addressed by the panels of experts include: a review of the Cuban economy during the Special Period, political developments in Cuba, transition strategies, the sugar industry, non-sugar agriculture, tourism, trade, foreign investment, external debt and financing, private enterprise, the role of the military, environmental issues, socioeconomic statistics, the rule of law, Spain-Cuba relations, governance issues, legal issues, and political issues....

HOSTS: Organized by **the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE), with the assistance of the new ASCE Secretariat for 2000-2002, the Institute for Cuban and Cuban American Studies, University of Miami.**

OTHER: For more information on ASCE, please visit our website at www.ascecuba.org (for a copy of the program, click on website, ASCE news, tenth annual conference). You may also contact one of the following individuals:

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