



Winter 2012

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ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE CUBAN ECONOMY

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Dear ASCE friend:

December 28, 2012

I hope this letter finds you well this holiday season. Thank you for being a part of ASCE's success as we celebrate twenty-two years, particularly at this key time in Cuba's history.

Since its founding, ASCE has come to represent a prestigious and credible source of systematic thinking on the Cuba's political economy and economic development. In the coming year, we look to further expand our non-partisan, empirically-driven analysis to include some of the broad array of voices both on and off the island that reflect a serious commitment to informed and respectful debate over Cuba's economic future. Some of the voices we look forward to engaging with are those being convened by Antonio Rodiles in the inclusive, civil, and critical atmosphere fostered at *Estado de Sats*. We will also continue to reach out to economists on the island, such as Oscar Espinosa Chepe, Karina Gálvez, Pavel Vidal Alejandro, Armando Nova González, Camila Piñeiro Harnecker, and Omar Everleny Pérez in order to enrich and inform the work we do at ASCE.

Continuing our tradition of academic excellence, I'd like to share with you the news that that Alejandro Portes, the eminent Cuban-American sociologist and Princeton University scholar of international migration and Latin American political economy, has agreed to give ASCE's prestigious Carlos Díaz-Alejandro Lecture on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 in New York City at the New School University. This year's lecture promises to be particularly timely given recent changes to Cuba's migration legislation, the rising electoral importance of Latinos in the United States, and demographic changes in the Cuban-American community, all subjects which Portes has addressed before.

If this were not enough, George J. Borjas, the distinguished Cuban-American economist and Robert W. Scrivner Professor of Economics and Social Policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, has agreed to be the keynote speaker at our annual conference in August, 2013. Borjas' work on labor economics, as well as on the economic impact of immigration, promise to provoke an enlightening discussion among conference attendees.

ASCE's strength is its financial independence and we thank you for your past support. This year we are once again continuing our endeavor to bring Cuba-based economists, some of whom are mentioned above, to our annual conference. Because we recognize potential sensitivities surrounding the sponsoring of economists in Cuba, a fund separate from the general revenues will support travel by these scholars. The criteria for selection include social scientists that can provide original, informed analysis on the Cuban economy. Additional criteria include the potential invitee's quality of written publications and reputation for candid discussion.

Please consider supporting this fund by sending a check (in any amount) marked for the "travel fund" to our post office box or make an online payment at www.ascecuba.org.

Felices fiestas y próspero año nuevo!

Sincerely,

Ted A. Henken
President, Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy

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