



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

Newsletter, Winter 2006

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Note: "Please find an update of the 2006 Winter Newsletter. It includes an update of the program for the ASCE-sponsored conference to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico on March 14, 2006; the rules governing the election of ASCE's Board for the period 2006-08; and further information on the Annual Student Prize competition".

February 24, 2006

Dear ASCE members and other colleagues,

Our Board is busily engaged in the arrangements and details for the following activities:

1. ASCE's Sixteenth Annual will be held at the Chapman Conference Center, Wolfson Campus of Miami-Dade College, in Miami, Florida from Thursday August 3 to Saturday August 5, 2006. This newsletter include the first call for papers and session chairs, and the first call for student papers.
2. Two events in San Juan, Puerto Rico : (a) a one day Conference on the Current Situation in Cuba on Tuesday March 14 at the Hotel "El Convento"; and (b) a workshop on transition policies on Thursday March 16 at the Hotel Caribe Hilton, in the context of the By-Annual Conference of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA).
3. The elections for a new president and board of directors to carry out the Association's work during the biennium 2006-2008.

Details on these three activities are included in this newsletter, which also provides information on ASCE's financial position, its participation in the last meeting of the AEA/ASSA and on a new journal on Cuba by ICCAS.

Please feel free to contact the Board about any other issue of relevance to ASCE. Your active and continued participation is the best way to ensure the vitality of our organization.

Best regards,

Rolando H. Castañeda
Director

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1. First Call for Papers and Session Chairs for the Sixteenth Annual Meeting to be held at the Chapman Conference Center, Wolfson Campus at Miami-Dade College, in Miami, Florida from August 3 to August 5, 2006

ASCE invites papers on subjects related to the Cuban economy and society, including: macroeconomics; banking and finance; agriculture and the sugar industry; tourism; social and political aspects of economic development and transition; education; health; environmental policy; law and legal institutions; privatization; civil society; gender issues; governance; infrastructure; foreign investment, and civil-military relations.

Proposals for panels, roundtables or individual papers should be sent to **Jorge Pérez-López**, Chair, Program Committee, 5881 6th Street, Falls Church, VA 22041, jperezlopez@cox.net, or asce@ascecuba.org, as soon as possible. **More detailed abstracts are required by March 17, 2006.** Persons interested in serving as session chairs, discussants or participants in roundtable discussions should also communicate with the Chair of the Program Committee.

Papers for the Annual Meeting should be distributed to the discussants and session chairs by July 7, 2006.

2. Annual Student Prize Competition. Call for Papers

The ASCE Student Prize Committee appreciates your assistance in promoting our annual **Jorge Pérez-López** Research Award student prize competition. Dr. Enrique S. Pumar (William Paterson University) will chair the committee again this year as in years past, the committee will accept papers from graduate and undergraduate students who analyze the Cuban reality and its repercussions. One of the purposes of this prize is to promote rigorous work on Cuba by students.

Anyone can nominate papers authored by university undergraduate and/or graduate students. The papers can address any topic related to Cuba's domestic issues, its foreign relations, or topics related to Cuba in historical or comparative perspective. Self nominations are also welcomed. All entries must be accompanied by a letter stating the name, mailing address, phone number, and email address of the nominee, and a brief statement describing the merits of the nomination.

For graduate students, the first and second best papers carry awards of \$600 and \$300, respectively. For undergraduate students, the awards for the two best papers are \$300 and 200, respectively. In addition, the first place winners are invited to present their papers at ASCE's 16th annual conference on August 3-5, 2006 in Miami Florida; their papers will be published in Volume 16 of "Cuba in Transition"; and they will be given a travel allowance of up to \$400 each to come to Miami. Additional details are provided in the attached fact sheet and call for papers.

Papers are expected to outline thesis and support it by persuasive evidence. All papers, should be from 15 to 20 pages, and follow one of the standard writing style guides. Papers will be judged by a panel of scholars on the basis of relevance, originality, quality, contribution, and clarity of exposition.

For further questions about this prize, please contact Enrique S. Pumar at asce@ascecuba.org.

The newsletter includes a flyer of the call for student papers, as an annex. We would be grateful if our members could give it the widest possible distribution i

3. Meetings on March 14, 2006 and March 16, 2006

a. Programa para la Conferencia de ASCE en Puerto Rico

“Cuba: Situación Actual y Perspectivas para el Futuro”

Martes, 14 de Marzo de 2006, Hotel “El Convento,” El Viejo San Juan

8:30 – 9:00 am Registro

I) 9:00 – 10:45 am. La situación económica, social y política en Cuba

Preside: Federico Sánchez Febles

1. Joaquín P. Pujol – *“La economía de Cuba en la actualidad”* (*)

2. Roberto Orro – *“La dolarización y la multiplicidad de monedas en Cuba: Implicaciones”*

3. Mauricio de Miranda – *“Los problemas de la inserción internacional de Cuba en las condiciones de la Globalización”*

4. María Werlau *“Fidel, S.A., la oculta economía cubana”*

Comentarista: Antonio Gayoso

II) 11:00 am-12:45 pm. Políticas Económicas para la Transición

Preside: José Joaquín Villamil

1. Ernesto Hernández Catá --*“Un modelo general de Transición de la Planificación al Mercado Abierto”*

2. Jorge Sanguinety -- *“La Economía Cubana: Actualidad y Posibilidades”*

3. Armando Linde – *“Inflation Targeting”: La posible contribución de una política monetaria basada en reglas pre-establecidas para la economía Cubana”*

Comentarista: Luis Rivera Batiz

1:00 pm – 2:45 pm. Almuerzo (Por invitación)

Rafael Rojas, *“Reflexiones sobre la evolución política de Cuba”*

III) 3:00 pm – 4:45 pm. El rol e impacto de sectores y grupos especiales de la economía cubana

1. **Turismo** : Gerardo González – *“El Turismo en Cuba, análisis comparativo con las economías caribeñas”*

2. **Sector Laboral**: Luis Locay -- *“ Distorsiones en el Mercado Laboral y la velocidad de la transición en Europa Oriental: Implicaciones para Cuba”*

3. **Las empresas**: Antonio Gayoso -- *“Los servicios financieros, la pequeña y mediana empresa (PYMES) y el caso de Cuba”*

4. **Los negros:** Carlos Seiglie – “*Discrepancias en ingresos entre negros y blancos en Cuba y su implicación para la Transición*”

Comentarista: María Dolores Espino

IV) 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm. La Diáspora, su impacto y sus relaciones con la Sociedad Cubana

1. Jorge Duany: “*Mas allá de las balsas: Tendencias recientes y proyecciones de la emigración cubana*”

2. Silvia Pedraza: “*La última ola del éxodo: Emigrantes Políticos o Económicos?*”

3. Gastón Fernández: “*Los Marielitos, comparación con las migraciones mas recientes e implicaciones para el futuro*”

Comentarista: María Werlau

V) 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Cocktail

(*) **Nota:** Han sido invitados tres economistas de Cuba: Oscar Espinosa Chepe, Dagoberto Valdés Hernández y María Caridad Gálvez Shuí pero aún no sabemos si el Gobierno Cubano les dará autorización para salir de la isla y asistir a esta conferencia.

THE HOTEL "EL CONVENTO" (www.elconvento.com) located on 100 Cristo Street in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, is offering a room group discount of \$195.00 per night (plus tax) to those attending the ASCE and LASA Conferences.

RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL, contact Paola Soto at 1(787)723/9020 ext.. 232 OR FAX 1(787)723-9260

b. Program for ASCE’s workshop at LASA’s Conference

A workshop (ECO009) on Economic Policies for the Transition will take place on Thursday March 16, from 6:00 to 7:45 pm in the context of LASA’s by-annual Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico from Wednesday March 15 to Saturday March 18).

This program will include presentations by Ernesto Hernández-Catá, Luis Locay, Jorge Sanguinety, and Antonio Gayoso, to be commented on by Armando Linde and Joaquin P. Pujol. It will be held at the Caribe Hilton , room Tropical A.

4. Elections 2006

Once again in this year, ASCE members will be asked to elect a new President and a new Board of Directors to carry out the Association's work during the biennium 2006-2008. In addition to the information provided in this letter, we encourage members to become familiar with the rules governing the process that are available in our web page.

Candidates can be proposed to the Nominations Committee by themselves or by any member(s) of ASCE in good standing. These nominations (which must be supported by 5 members of ASCE) should be addressed to the Chairman of the Committee, **Roger Betancourt**, at betancou@econ.bsos.umd.edu, with copy to the Secretary of ASCE, Antonio Gayoso. Nominations can be sent by e-mail, fax, or letter.

By April 15, the Secretary of ASCE will provide members with official ballots, instructions, and information about the candidates. Completed ballots are expected to be returned no later than June 15. Votes will be counted and certified by the **Tellers Committee** that will announce the results as soon as possible and submit a formal election report to membership during the annual ASCE Conference in August. The new Board, members will assume their positions in August, after the annual business meeting in Miami.

The Board of Directors will consist of ten persons, not including the President and the Vicepresident

5. ASCE's Participation in the Annual Meeting of the AEA/ASSA in Boston on January 6, 2006.

ASCE participated in the last Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association/Allied Social Science Associations in Boston on January 6. Four papers were presented with their respective discussants.

Presiding: Luis Locay, University of Miami

Semoon Chang, University of South Alabama — Economic Sanctions on Cuba and the Role of the Southeastern States (schang@usouthal.edu)

Luis Locay, University of Miami — Labor Market Distortions and Speed of Transition in Eastern Europe: Implications for Cuba (l.locay@miami.edu)

Archibald Ritter, Carlton University — Survival Strategies and Economic Illegalities in Cuba (Arch_Ritter@carleton.ca)

Jorge Sanguinety, DevTech Systems, Inc. —The Destruction of Cuba's Social Capital

Discussants:

Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland, College Park (Betancou@econ.umd.edu)

Ted Henken, Baruch College (Ted_Henken@baruch.cuny.edu)

Manuel Amador, Stanford University (amador@stanford.edu)

Carlos Seiglie, Rutgers University, Newark (seiglie@andromeda.rutgers.edu)

6. A New Journal on Cuba

“Cuban Affairs,” makes its debut on-line this month to academics and Cuba watchers who subscribed to it. The English-language electronic journal’s first edition will carry articles on a lively pro-con debate on travel to Cuba, the Cuba/Venezuela connection, Cuba/China connection, Cuba's economic policy, and analysis of Cuba after Castro by Brian Latell, former CIA Director for Latin America and now a Senior Research Associate at ICCAS.

“Cuban Affairs” will also publish book reviews and an updated chronology of events on the island for 2005. ICCAS decided to offer the journal electronically because it provides immediate delivery, more up-to-date articles and a fast way to archive it. The journal will be easy to download, if readers wish to keep a hard copy.

The cost of the journal is \$25 for a year’s subscription to individuals. Institutional subscriptions are \$95. To subscribe to “Cuban Affairs” log on to www.cubanaffairsjournal.org or call 305-284-CUBA (2822).

7. ASCE’s Financial Report

Financial Report January 1-31, 2006

Current Account:

Beginning balance	\$19,045.84
Revenues/Credits	1,795.00
Dues and registration fees	
LateDues	1,795.00
Late Registration	
Late Lunch	
Book sales	
Expenses/Debits	581.97
Check # 511 Postmaster	100.00
Check # 513 VISA Dreamweaver, tax and shipment	29.07
Check # 514 Network Solutions, web host	134.91
Check # 515 Acrobat reader for website	314.99
Check enclosure fee	3.00
Ending balance	\$20,258.87
<u>Savings account:</u>	
Balance, end-month	\$8,714.89
Interest earned: \$3.70	
<u>Total bank balance, end January 2006.....</u>	\$28,973.76

<u>Checks outstanding, total.....</u>	2,500.00
Check # 516 MDC Scholarship	1,000.00
Check # 517 VISA Hotel El Convento	1,500.00

<u>Deposits January 1-17, total</u>	\$714.99
Late dues	400.00
Refund for Acrobat reader	314.99
<u>Accounts receivables (book sales)...</u>	\$1,098.00
YBP Libraries	\$338
Oregon State University	280
Virginia Tech	200
Baruch College	280
<u>Net accrual position as of</u>	
<u>Board Meeting January 17, 2006</u>	\$28,286.75

Historical financial position, year earlier

January 31, 2005	\$16,991
January 31, 2004	\$23,465

Armando S. Linde
Treasurer

2006 GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD COMPETITION

The Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE) is a nonpolitical, professional international association dedicated to the study of the Cuban economy in its broader political, social, and cultural context.

The Jorge Perez-Lopez Student Award Competition

ASCE Student Award Committee is accepting nominations for the 2006 Jorge Perez-Lopez Student Award Competition. Anyone can nominate original papers authored by undergraduate and graduate students. The papers should address topics related to Cuba's domestic issues, its foreign relations, or Cuba in comparative perspectives. At a minimum, papers are expected to outline a thesis statement and present evidence or data supporting it. All nominations ranging from 20-25 pages must follow one of the standard academic writing and citations styles. Self nominations are also welcomed. All correspondences must be accompanied by a letter stating the name, school affiliation, mailing address, phone number, and email of the nominee as well as a brief statement describing the merits of the nomination.

Graduate Awards

- ✚ **First prize** \$600, up to \$400 travel, and publication in *Cuba in Transition*.
- ✚ **Second prize** \$300

Undergraduate Awards

- ✚ **First prize** \$300, up to \$400 travel, and publication in *Cuba in Transition*.
- ✚ **Second prize** \$200.

All students who enter the competition will receive a one year complimentary membership in ASCE, which will entitle them to receive our publications and newsletter. If they wish to attend the annual meeting in Miami, they will also receive a complimentary conference and key speaker luncheon invitation (but no travel allowance, except to the first prize winners).

Deadline

Papers received or postdated by **May 20**, 2006 will be considered. The winner of the competition will be announced in June.

Basis for Award

Papers will be judged by a panel of scholars on the basis of relevance, originality, quality, contribution, and clarity of presentation. A 15-20 page limit for the essay will be strictly enforced.

Submission and Information

Please send a hard copy of the manuscript via regular mail and an electronic MS Word attachment of the paper to:

Dr. Enrique S. Pumar,
Chair 2006 Student Award Committee
The Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy
P.O. Box 28267
Washington, DC 20038-8267
asce@ascecuba.or