

**Institute for Cuban and
Cuban-American Studies**

**Second Annual Report
September 30, 2001**

From the Director

The second year of operation of the Institute of Cuban and Cuban-American Studies (ICCAS) has been exceptionally gratifying and quite dynamic. In addition to continuing the work started in the first year, which included luncheon/seminars, lectures, film and music festivals, and publications, the Institute reached an important landmark.

The University of Miami assigned a 10,000 sq.ft. two-story building to become the permanent home of ICCAS. The building, located at 1531 Brescia Avenue, on the Coral Gables Campus, will house the offices of ICCAS and the "Casa Bacardi".

Through a generous donation from the Bacardi Foundation in the amount of \$1 million, the building will be refurbished and remodeled. When completed, it will include "Casa Bacardi," a major conference center; space for exhibits; a small cinema; a database of information on Cuba and its history; and a future pavilion with simultaneous individual stations to listen to Cuban music. We hope that this facility, when finished in early 2002, will become a frequently visited site to learn about Cuba, its history and culture.

Of particular importance was the major donation of \$2.5 million from the Goizueta Foundation to establish the Roberto Goizueta Pavilion at the University's Otto Richter Library. This new pavilion, to be inaugurated in 2002, will house the Cuban Heritage Collection, a worldwide resource for the study of Cuba. This grant created the necessary momentum for the University to raise an additional \$5 million for ICCAS.

We hope to build on the accomplishments of the past two years and to strengthen the position of the Institute as a leading center for the study and dissemination of Cuban and Cuban-American history and culture, as well as the analysis of U.S.-Cuba relations.

I am particularly grateful to Olga Goizueta, Manuel Jorge Cutillas and Carlos Saladrigas as well as to the ICCAS Advisory Board for their generous help and continuous confidence in my leadership of the Institute. I am also grateful to the many donors and friends who have consistently supported our work and vision. I would like to make special mention and to thank the Institute's staff for their outstanding work and dedication.

Jaime Suchlicki
September 30, 2001

Introduction

The Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies was established by the University of Miami and approved by the Faculty Senate in May 1999. The Institute is attached to the University's School of International Studies and reports directly to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The University appointed Jaime Suchlicki as the Emilio Bacardi Moreau Distinguished Professor of History and International Studies and as the founding Director of the Institute.

ICCAS sponsors academic and outreach programs and helps coordinate Cuban-related activities at the University of Miami including the Emilio Bacardi Moreau Chair, the Cuban Heritage Collection at the Otto G. Richter Library, the John J. Koubek Memorial Center, and other University components related to Cuban and Cuban-American studies. ICCAS offers courses on Cuban history and culture, produces publications, and sponsors original research on specific topics. The Institute currently serves as the Secretariat for the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy, the most prestigious international organization devoted to the study of the island's economy.

Objectives

The objectives of ICCAS are to preserve, teach, and disseminate the history and culture of Cuba; provide research and information about contemporary Cuba, U.S.-Cuba relations, and Cuban-Americans; increase awareness and appreciation of Cuba nationally and internationally; and to prepare for change in the island.

Programs and Activities, 2000-2001

Luncheon/Seminars

Following is a list of topics and speakers:

"Cuba After Castro: What to Expect." The speaker was Professor Jaime Suchlicki, Director, ICCAS and Emilio Bacardi Moreau Professor of History and International Studies.

"Bay of Pigs' 40th Anniversary." Speakers included the Honorable Theodore Sorensen; Brian Latell, Visiting Professor, Georgetown University; Juan Clark, Professor of Sociology, Miami-Dade Community College and Esteban Bobo Caras, 2506 Brigada de Veteranos.

"Meet the Authors." Speakers included Carlos Alberto Montaner presenting his new book "*Journey to the Heart of Cuba*;" Damian Fernandez, Chair, Department of International Relations, Florida International University presenting "*Cuba and the Politics of Passion*" and Susan Kaufman Purcell, Vice President of the American Society/Council of the Americas presenting "*Cuba: The Contours of Change*."

"U.S. Policy Toward Cuba: Continuity or Change." The speaker was Dr. Edward Gonzalez, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of California Los Angeles.

“Cuba After Castro: Succession, Transition or Chaos.” Speakers included Brian Latell, Visiting Professor, Georgetown University, and Antonio Jorge, Professor of Economics and International Relations, Florida International University.

“Cómo y Por Qué la Historia de Cuba Desembocó en Fidel Castro,” by Carlos Alberto Montaner.

“La Sombra del Pasado,” by Professor Luis Aguilar-León.

“The Czech Republic and Human Rights in Cuba,” by His Excellency Alexandr Vondra, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States.

Academic Seminars

The Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE), with ICCAS serving as its Secretariat, held a three-day conference on the Cuban economy at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida.

Music Concerts

ICCAS sponsored two concerts at the University’s Maurice Gusman Concert Hall. Zenaida Manfugás, “Danzón Cubano”, and Velia Yedra, “A Concert of Cuban Art Music” and also co-sponsored a third with the School of Music, “A Concert of Cuban Popular Music” at the Miami Music Festival.

Films

This past year, the Institute premiered the film, “Made in Cuba: Children of Paradise,” by Mari Rodriguez Ichaso and the documentary “Last Night in Cuba,” co-produced by Eugene Pons and Suzette Mayobre, and co-sponsored with the Hispanic Theater Guild and others “Alma de Cuba,” by Marcos Casanova. Also, the Second Annual Cuban Film Festival was held at the University of Miami Bill Cosford Cinema, January 14, 2001.

Lowe Museum Cuba Exhibits

ICCAS, in collaboration with Christie’s, presented a visual lecture, at the Lowe Art Museum, “Lam in Paris: Encounters with Surrealism.” The speaker was Alberto Barral, Vice President, Client Advisory Services, Christie’s North and South America.

ICCAS and Cuba Nostalgia presented “A Journey Through the Cuba of Yesteryear,” a series of lectures which included “La Continuidad del Pensamiento Visual en el arte Cubano,” by Ricardo Pau-Llosa, poet, art critic and curator.

A six month exhibit, “Arte Cubano y Cubano-Americano” at the Lowe Art Museum also was sponsored by ICCAS.

Courses

Cristóbal Díaz Ayala conducted a three day course at ICCAS, “Un Siglo de Música Cubana: 1898-1997”, Professor Luis Aguilar León taught “Cuba y los Procesos Revolucionarios en América Latina” as a non-credit course and “The Cuban Revolution,” a 3-credit summer course. Professor Jaime Suchlicki taught “History of Cuba,” as part of the University offerings in the History Department.

Publications

During the past year ICCAS published the following:

“Fascell on Cuba” edited by Professor Jaime Suchlicki, includes selected speeches and statements on the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro and U.S.-Cuban Relations.

“Judaism in Cuba: 1959-1999” by Dr. Moisés Asís.

“Fresa y Chocolate: The Rhetoric of Cuban Conciliation” by Enrico Mario Santí, The William T. Bryan Endowed Chair of Hispanic Studies at the University of Kentucky, Lexington.

Other Activities

ICCAS in conjunction with the University of Miami’s School of Architecture offered “Tracing Parallel Cultural Experiences Between Cuban and Cuban-Americans,” a day long event which focused on searching for similarities between the two worlds of Cubans through art, architecture, and urbanism.

ICCAS and Cuba Nostalgia offered at the Koubek Center “La Historia y Cultura Cubana,” by Professor Luis Aguilar León, and “Un Siglo de Música Cubana: 1898-1997,” by Cristobal Díaz Ayala, researcher and writer of Latin American music.

“Cuba for Kids,” a bilingual children’s book that relates the history of Cuba, was written by Dr. Ismael Roque-Velasco and illustrated by Gonzalo Montes de Oca with contributions from ICCAS Director, Jaime Suchlicki.

Cuba Transition Project

ICCAS has begun a project to study and make recommendations for the reconstruction of the island once the post-Castro transition begins in earnest. A proposal has been submitted to the U.S. Agency for International Development and funding is in the process of being approved for this project to begin in November 2001. The first product of this project, “A Preliminary Bibliography on Cuban Transition” was published in February 2001.

Cuba On-Line

ICCAS has developed an Information Center that contains a major Internet-accessible database. Cuba On-Line is a full-text, searchable database comprised of current economic, demographic, political, historical and business information on Cuba. The continually updated database was acquired early in 2000 and an expanded version soon will be offered to the academic community and the media.

Web Page

ICCAS has developed a web page accessible at: www.miami.edu/ICCAS with links to the School of International Studies.

Advisory Board

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Eugene Pons, Cuban Information System Coordinator
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Orlando Gutierrez, Graduate Assistant

Future Plans and Needs

In addition to continuing with the activities initiated in the Institute's first two years of operation, we are planning, with the continued support of the university administration and the community, the following:

- The development of an undergraduate minor in Cuban Studies at the School of International Studies. There is significant interest among young students to learn more about the history and culture of Cuba. A minor will be an important factor in attracting new students to the University of Miami.
- The expansion of studies, seminars, work groups dealing with Cuba's transition and reconstruction. The Institute will attempt to prepare U.S. government agencies, the business community, the media and the Cuban-American community for future changes in the island and for the economic, social, educational, political and other needs during the post-Castro reconstruction era.
- The establishment of two endowed chairs, one in "Cuban Studies" and a second one in "Transition Studies." These chairs will enable the Institute to bring to South Florida two outstanding scholars to offer courses at the University as well as lectures and seminars to the community.
- The offering of three short courses: "Marxismo y Filosofía en Cuba: Teoría y Práctica," by Emilio Ichikawa, "La Economía de Cuba" by Carlos Quijano and "La Historia de Cuba y sus líderes" by Carlos Alberto Montaner.
- The production in CD Rom format of "Cuba for Kids," so as to make this important product more available to the Cuban-American community and all those interested in having their children learn more about Cuban history.

For further information, please contact:

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