



# CUBAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

**BULLETIN  
FALL 2015**

## C-AACE EVENTS

- > *Installation Dinner :*  
*September 30, 2015*
- > *FIU Homecoming*  
*Event:*  
*October 24, 2015*
- > *BOD Meeting:*  
*November 11, 2015*
- > *BOD Holiday Dinner:*  
*December 13, 2015*
- > *Dia del Ingeniero*  
*Francisco D. Albear:*  
*January 11, 2016*
- > *Misa del Ingeniero:*  
*La Ermita*  
*January 16, 2016*
- > *CUBAN museum:*  
*Grand Opening*  
*January 28, 2016*
- > *Cuba Infrastructure*  
*Scholarship*  
*Competition:*  
*February 27, 2016 at*  
*Casa Bacardi*
- > *C-AACE/ACE Annual*  
*Gala: March 2016 at*  
*Hilton Downtown*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM JOSE L. ACOSTA, P.E.

It is with great pleasure that I write you today as the 2015-2017 President of the C-AACE. I am very excited about the future of our great organization. We have a group of excellent people and leaders throughout our industry at the table every month discussing, planning and executing various events, initiatives, and philanthropic efforts that should make each and every one of us very proud. The efforts of the Cuba Infrastructure Scholarship Competition (CISC) Committee continues to grow and evolve into an even more significant event. The Gala Committee is working hard on planning our upcoming event in March 2016. Our organization is working to support the Cuban Museum, Inc. Other events and efforts are in progress for 2016. I encourage each and every one of you to attend an upcoming board meeting or event and get involved. Lastly, on behalf of the board of the C-AACE, I would like to wish you and your family a happy and enriching Thanksgiving, Christmas Season and a Happy New Year.

## FEATURED COLLEAGUE

**EDUARDO A. VEGA, P. E.**

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS MIAMI-DADE WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT

Mr. Vega is a Professional Engineer who has dedicated 44 years of his life to the engineering industry, 35 of which have been with Miami-Dade County in various capacities.

In September 2015, Mr. Vega was selected by the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) to receive the 2015 Distinguished Leadership Award in the Owner category. Prior to that, in February 2010, he received the Florida Engineering Society (FES) Award for Outstanding Service to the Engineering Profession. In February 2008, Mr. Vega received the Engineer of the

Year Award from the Cuban-American Association of Civil Engineers. That same year he was appointed by the County Manager as a Standing Selection and Negotiation Committee member for Miami-Dade County competitive selection process during the effective period of the County's Economic Stimulus Ordinance. Presently, he oversees the professional and supervisory work of engineering, design, construction management, program management and utilities development activities at MDWASD, which are crucial to the



implementation of the Department's Capital Improvement Plan and support for the Miami-Dade County Building Permitting Process. He is scheduled to retire on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Eduardo and his wife Natacha enjoy spending leisure time, with their friends, three grown children and a grandchild.



Jose Acosta P.E. (New President)  
presented a recognition award to  
Victor J. Pujals P.E., BCEE (Past President)

## **BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S INSTALLATION DINNER 2015-2017**

The C-AACE Board (2015-2017) Installation Dinner was held at the Coral Gables Country Club on September 30, 2015. Mayor Carlos Gimenez, our guest of honor, swore in the new Board. More than 100 fellows colleagues and friends witnessed the ceremony. Mayor Gimenez stressed the importance of infrastructure, in particular water and sewer, for continued development and improved quality of life. For the first time ever the Board includes two Emeritus Directors in recognition for their service to the profession and C-AACE, Jose Abreu and Oscar Perez Zabala. President Jose Acosta represents a new wave of Cuban-American Board Members. He gratefully acknowledged his heritage and support from fellow engineers. Mayor Gimenez was presented with a token street sign to let those around him know the path to follow.



Mayor Carlos Gimenez  
was the Guest Speaker



## **COMPAÑERISMO BY OSCAR PEREZ ZABALA**

Un ingeniero mayor y uno joven, una ingeniera y un estudiante de ingeniería. Como deben actuar en una reunión de la directiva?

Un ingeniero nos presenta a una señora mayor encargada de la limpieza y mantenimiento y nos dice: Gracias a ella todo esta impecable... La ingeniera es María Porrata.

Otro ingeniero se acerca a un ingeniero recién graduado y le dice; mi padre trabajaba con usted y le dice como se llama su padre OSCAR PEREZ ZABALA, ah, si él era empleado mío estaba encargado de la limpieza, debió contestar los recuerdos por su responsabilidad, lealtad y preocupación por la empresa.

Me siento orgulloso de que fuera mi amigo y se sentara en mi mesa, me reservo el nombre del ingeniero



**C-AACE EXECUTIVE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2015-2017**

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**ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS**

*José Abreu, P.E. (Emeritus)*  
*Oscar Perez Zabala, (Emeritus)*  
*Maria F. Porrata, E. I.*  
*Carlos Gil-Mera, P.E.*  
*Pedro Giralt, P.E.*  
*Cristina Gonzalez, P.E.*  
*Cristina Ortega, P.E.*  
*Carlos Penin, P.E.*  
*Patrick Rebull, P.E.*  
*Rafael Robayna, P.E.*  
*Eduardo Vega, P.E.*

**OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE BACK - HERITAGE**

**SAN CARLOS INSTITUTE**



The San Carlos Institute, located in the heart of Key West's Historic District at 516 Duval Street, is one of the city's most majestic and historic landmarks. It was founded in 1871 by Cuban exiles who came to Key West to organize the struggle for Cuba's independence from Spain. The last major fundraiser was 30 years ago. The Board is planning another campaign to raise awareness of the San Carlos and to raise much-needed money to cover significant repairs for the building.

Today, the San Carlos is home to some of Key West's most prestigious annual events, including the Key West Literary Seminar, the Key West Film Festival and the Songwriters' Festival. The Florida Keys Community College uses the San Carlos as its downtown campus, offering a variety of courses and carrying on the Institute's educational tradition. The San Carlos is maintained exclusively by private donations and the work of volunteers. Donations to the 501 (c) (3) may be made by check or money order payable to the San Carlos Institute and mailed to 516 Duval Street, Key West, FL 33040.

**CUBAN MUSEUM**

Cuban Museum, Inc. is a Florida non-profit organization founded in 1996. It is tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Service Section 501(C) (3), and registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture as a charitable institution. In 2007 it purchased, the former Florida Grand Opera rehearsal hall, at 1200 Coral Way, in Miami. The museum has adapted that facility into a museum venue to be inaugurated in 2016. The museum is



poised to house a major collection of art of the Cuban diaspora. Its mission statement is clear: "To document, showcase, and interpret the art, culture, and history of the post-1959 Cuban Diaspora." For information about donating to the Museum, becoming a member, or joining the Friends of the Museum, please contact us at 305-667-9007 or send e-mail to [cubanmuseum@bellsouth.com](mailto:cubanmuseum@bellsouth.com) and we will contact you.

**CUBA INFRASTRUCTURE SCHOLARSHIP  
COMPETITION (2/27/2016)**



The Cuba Infrastructure Scholarship Competition (CISC) is a student design competition organized and sponsored by the Cuban-American Association of Civil Engineers (C-AACE) and the Association of Cuban Engineers (ACE). It entails that university student teams formulate and present a project of their choice on Cuba's public infrastructure that relates to the engineering field in transportation, water resources, power/telecommunications or healthcare. Save the date, February 27, 2016 for the event to be held at Casa Bacardi.



## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



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