Cuba
The People, Culture & Art
A People-to-People Educational Exchange
November 10-17, 2014
Michigan State University Alumni Association
Dear Alumni and Friends,

A subject of mystery, fascination and deliberation for decades, Cuba has been forbidden to American travelers — until now. We are pleased to offer you an exceptional opportunity to visit Cuba yourself on a remarkable 8-day exploration. In this people-to-people exchange, you will discover Cuba through the resource that has kept the country vibrant through decades of political strife and isolation from the world: the Cuban people. Their joys, challenges and unique world outlook will unfold for you through personal meetings and enjoyment of their arts and culture in this program.

Encounter Cuba through intriguing excursions, exciting performances, informative discussions led by knowledgeable experts and personal contact with a variety of Cubans including painters, dancers, teachers, students, medical professionals and everyday people.

Explore Havana’s timeless streets, architecture and famous landmarks. Venture into Cuba’s countryside across impossibly verdant landscapes to plantations and a socialist community before visiting the dazzling southern coast. Enjoy two nights in lovely Cienfuegos and discover the jewel that is Trinidad. Savor local cuisine, talk with Cubans about their way of life and visit their homes, a medical clinic and schools, with access unavailable to individual travelers. This program will show you Cuba’s unexpected delights and the very real struggles of its people.

Cuba: The People, Culture & Art is made possible by a special license issued to us by the U.S. Department of Treasury. Your guides are expert in the country and will share their personal connections with its people and places with us. Every measure has been taken to ensure our comfort and convenience during the journey.

A number of our alumni have enjoyed this excursion to Cuba, with two groups making the journey in 2013. Their evaluations were extremely positive and cited the meaningful exchanges with Cubans and access to unusual experiences as highlights. “We experienced much more than ever would have been possible had we tried to use the same week to see the country on our own,” said one alum from the class of ’64. “This was an opportunity to take a once-in-a-lifetime trip with the best group of people you could hope for. . . .,” said two married alums, classes ’75 and ’76.

We hope you can join us in this pioneering cultural exchange. Space is very limited, so call today to make your reservation: 888-697-2863.

Go Green,

Regina Cross
Director of Alumni Travel
MSU Alumni Association
Cuba in all of its color, controversy and history is now open for you to discover in an exciting journey to this fascinating country. There is no better way to discover Cuba than through its people, their culture and their art. Feel the hope of Cuba’s youth through its energetic young dancers and musicians. Experience the strength and spirit of older generations through their openness and warmth. Marvel at opulent colonial architecture frozen in time as much as Cuba’s vintage automobiles. The Bay of Pigs bakes in the Caribbean sun now as Cuba moves into the 21st century. Jump at the chance to see this amazing place and share personal moments with its people.

Program Highlights

- Embark on a truly unique travel adventure – an in-depth exploration of Cuba, now open to Americans after decades of isolation.
- Experience the exceptional opportunity to personally meet and talk with local Cubans from various walks of life, with access to venues not available to individual travelers.
- Enjoy an array of cultural and arts events, including a visit to Cuba’s leading art academy, the National Museum of Fine Arts, and the famous Lizt Alfonso Dance Cuba company.
- Explore three of Cuba’s finest cities – all of which are home to UNESCO World Heritage sites – Havana, Cienfuegos and Trinidad.
- Savor traditional Cuban cuisine at celebrated restaurants as part of a convenient all-inclusive meal plan.
As the journey unwinds, you will stroll through Old Havana, famous for its lively cafes and the cool lobbies of historic hotels that speak of a long-gone elegant era. Students and painters will tell you how they mix their socialist educations with their own ideas for Cuba’s future. The breathtaking countryside, with its rolling sugar cane fields and quaint villages will seduce you, as will the charming colonial cities of Cienfuegos and Trinidad. Explore this legendary country that few Americans have ever seen firsthand and meet Cuban people from many walks of life. Experience their music, cuisine and the very real challenges they face every day.

Included meals indicated each day as B | L | D = Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**DAY ONE | HAVANA**

Depart your gateway city for Miami, Florida, where you will board a direct-chartered flight for Havana, Cuba.*

**Excursion: A Look into Historic Havana.** Upon arrival, transfer to the historic center for lunch. Then visit the Museo de la Revolución, which houses extensive exhibits of Cuba’s history, including the Bay of Pigs and the Declaration of the Socialist Character of the Revolution.

Then, check in to the Hotel Telégrafo.

**Excursion: Contemporary Commerce.** This afternoon, stroll down vibrant Obispo Street – famous throughout Cuba for its nightlife and timeless feel – and chat with the cuentapropistas (self-employed shopkeepers).

Later, attend a Welcome Dinner at a lovely nearby restaurant.

**DAY TWO | HAVANA**

**Excursion: Habana Vieja.** In Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage site, explore the city’s oldest square, the Plaza de Armas, and the Palacio de los Capitanes Generales, home of the Spanish colonial governors. Walk to the Plaza de la Catedral, dominated by the baroque Cathedral of Havana, which the Jesuits began building in 1748. Visit the Plaza de San Francisco to see the white marble Fountain of Lions.

**Excursion: Supportive Society.** Discover two very different sides of Havana. First, visit the Convento Belén, a massive complex first built in 1712 that today is a world-renowned community center and social service facility. Then enjoy a fascinating look at Cuba’s education system with a visit to a local elementary school,** where you can talk with students and teachers.

**Educational Focus: Architectural Stories.** Continue your journey to some of the quieter streets of Old Havana with well-known Cuban architect, Miguel Coyula, as your guide. He will show you gracious old homes, now dilapidated, and tell you about the plight of the families that live there.

Mr. Coyula will lead a more in-depth discussion, “Urban Planning and the Architectural Challenges of Havana,” after your walk, followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant.

**Cultural Event: Dance Heritage.** Visit a local dance studio to learn about Afro-Cuban dance from the staff and young dancers including Noel Santovenía Alonso, Marco Hernández Suárez, Maria Yudith Cruz Reinoso and Yadira Cabrera Echevarría. All born and raised in Havana, they have made dance their life and now teach tango and salsa. Try a few steps yourself!

Enjoy dinner tonight at a paladar (a privately owned and operated restaurant).

**DAY THREE | HAVANA**

Begin the day with an invigorating ride through Havana’s historic district in an antique...
convertible, one of Cuba’s most enduring icons.

**Excursion: Jewish Havana.** Visit a local Jewish center and its beautiful temple. Learn about Judaism in Cuba through a discussion with some of its members, many of whom sell handicrafts to support the temple’s operations.

**Cultural Event: Red-hot Cuban Dance.** We have a special opportunity to visit the Ebony Contemporary Dance Studio to watch the dancers rehearse and speak with them afterward. Then go to the Cuban ballet school, Lizt Alfonso. Meet and talk with instructors and students before the company’s management describes exporting Cuban dance culture in spite of political and financial challenges.**

**Excursion: Campus Life.** After lunch, walk the campus of the Universidad de la Habana to see where many Cuban college students receive their education. Talk with students and professors at the school.

**Educational Focus: U.S.-Cuban Relations.** Attend a discussion about relations between the United States and Cuba, with a focus on the Cuban economy. Professor Juan Triana, of the University of Havana, will moderate.

Enjoy dinner tonight at a paladar.

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**DAY FOUR | HAVANA**

**Excursion: Socialism and Life in the Cuban Countryside.** Journey to the western province of Piñar del Río. Drive through the beautiful countryside, past rural communities and famous tobacco plantations. Visit Las Terrazas, a model socialist community developed in the 1980s. Tour their organic vegetable gardens and mark the occasion by helping to plant a tree with your fellow travellers. Meet and talk with the local gardeners and workers and visit a local art studio.

Lunch is served at an eco-restaurant that prepares dishes with locally and organically grown vegetables. Enjoy a discussion on Cuba’s agricultural industry led by the establishment’s chef.

**Excursion: Havana’s Eldest Citizens.** Upon your return to Havana, meet witnesses to Cuba’s legendary past at La Quinta Santa Venía, a private religious home for senior citizens. Talk with the nuns who manage the home, and share experiences and activities with the home’s residents.**

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**DAY FIVE | HAVANA**

**Excursion: The Finer Things in Life.** It may be early for a smoke, but morning is a great time to visit a local cigar factory to witness the art of rolling fine cigars. Talk with the workers and learn about Cuba’s most famous industry. Then explore the National Museum of Fine Arts, where you can take in Cuban art dating from colonial to current times.

**Educational Focus: Contemporary Arts in Cuba.** Learn about the contemporary arts and culture of Cuba from Wilfredo Benítez, a director of the Ludwig Foundation, a non-governmental, non-profit institute that supports Cuban artists.

**Excursion: Private Studio.** This afternoon finds you at the cooperative, Studio 7 y 60, where several artists work and jointly promote their art. They welcome you for a discussion about the new artistic opportunities in Cuba, as well as the challenges of opening a private studio there.

Savor local dishes tonight at a Havana restaurant.

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**DAY SIX | HAVANA | CIENFUEGOS**

**Excursion: Pearl of the South.** Make a few discoveries after breakfast as you journey to Cienfuegos. First, stop by La Cabana Fortress to admire its dramatic exterior and admire the views of Havana Bay. Then continue to the Bay of Pigs, site of the infamous failed invasion in 1962 by 1,300 CIA-trained Cuban exiles who wanted to overthrow Fidel Castro’s government.
Visit the Museum of Playa Girón to learn more about the invasion. Enjoy lunch at Caleta Buena, a beautiful ocean-side location known for excellent scuba diving.

Your journey takes you to your ultimate destination today, Cienfuegos, named a UNESCO World Heritage site for its being one of the best examples of 19th-century Spanish urban planning in this part of the world.

Upon arrival, settle into your room at the **Hotel Jagua**.

**Excursion: Gathering Places.** Enjoy an introduction to this beautiful city with a walking tour of the central square, Parque Martí. Its gracious, white-fronted buildings, handsome cathedral, terra cotta-topped domes and palm trees hint at the easy-going nature of this bayside town.

**Excursion: Casa de la Cultura.** On the western side of Parque Martí stands this cultural center, once the Palacio de Ferrer, a fanciful neoclassical structure built in 1918. We will go inside to learn how locals have converted it into a vital center for the city’s performing arts groups.

Relax over dinner tonight with live music at a colonial mansion.

**DAY SEVEN | CIENFUEGOS | TRINIDAD**

**Excursion: The Many Faces of Trinidad.** Discover petite and lovely Trinidad, a 500-year-old Spanish colonial city and UNESCO World Heritage site. Stroll the Plaza Mayor in the center of Old Trinidad, home to Cuba’s largest church, the Iglesia de la Santísima Trinidad, with its 14 wooden altars. Explore the nearby Museo de Arquitectura Colonial and the Museo Romántico de Artes Decorativas, housed in the sparkling Palacio Brunet. Visit a Santería temple, where a local santero (priest) will discuss the Santería religion.

Before returning to Cienfuegos, refresh yourself over a buffet lunch in a restaurant on the Plaza Mayor! Its stately 18th and 19th century buildings were financed from riches generated by the sugar trade.

**Cultural Event: Music of Generations.** Later this afternoon, enjoy a performance by Coro Cienfuegos, one of Cuba’s most famous choirs, at the Teatro de Cienfuegos, an Italianate structure of Carrara marble, carved Cuban hardwoods and elaborate ceiling frescos. Meet the singers to talk about their training and music.

This evening, celebrate your Cuba adventure at a Farewell Dinner, hosted by the owners of a paladar, who will talk about life in the city and what it is like to run a privately owned restaurant in Cuba.

**DAY EIGHT**

**Excursion: Cienfuegos Today.** This morning, visit one of Cuba’s 400 policlinicos (medical clinics). Talk with doctors and nurses about Cuba’s health system, which is renowned for offering quality care in often third-world surroundings. Then see the Escuela de los Oficios, a trade school where students learn modern and traditional building skills. Talk with the director and students to hear how they master various techniques to continue local construction traditions and the restoration of their lovely city.

After lunch, depart for the airport and your return flights home.

*Note: Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or other uneven surfaces.*

**The arts and cultural organizations, as well as the school, medical clinic, and senior citizens’ home we visit in Cuba both greatly need and appreciate monetary or in-kind donations.*
Hotel Telégrafo
Havana
This stately hotel, built in 1888 on its present location in Old Havana, is Cuba’s oldest hotel. Steps away from some of the city’s finest colonial architecture, it offers the wonderful ambience of old Cuba along with modern amenities. The lobby’s high ceilings and dramatic brick arches are a lively contrast to modern furnishings. Spacious rooms and a fine restaurant on the premises make the Hotel Telégrafo a very comfortable pied-à-terre in Havana.

Hotel Jagua
Cienfuegos
Enjoy the sun-soaked southern coast of Cuba with beautiful views of the Bay of Cienfuegos from every room at the Hotel Jagua, which offers the spaciousness and clean lines of 1950s Cuban modern architecture. Located in the quiet residential area of Punta Gorda minutes from central Cienfuegos, the hotel offers a sleek, light-filled multi-level lobby, restaurant and cabaret-bar, fitness center and dazzling outdoor pool and deck beside the bay.

Program Highlights

Transportation
- Round-trip, chartered jet service between Miami, Florida, and Cuba

Accommodations | Ground Arrangements
- Five nights in Havana at the Hotel Telégrafo
- Two nights in Cienfuegos at the Hotel Jagua

Activities and Events
- Thought-provoking educational programs, featuring planned meetings with local Cubans that will enhance your insight into Cuba
- All excursions as outlined in the program itinerary
- A Welcome Dinner with fellow travelers
- A Farewell Dinner with your fellow travelers

Extensive Meal Program
- Enjoy seven breakfasts, eight lunches and seven dinners with this all-inclusive meal program.
- Sample authentic regional specialties during select meals at featured local restaurants.

Many Included Extras
- Consultation services of a dedicated Passenger Service Representative prior to departure
- Services of English-speaking local guides throughout your stay
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning
- Tipping of excursion guides and drivers
- Complimentary travel wallet

Note: U.S. Department of Transportation has not yet approved the flights, so this brochure cannot identify them.
To reserve your space on this exclusive educational people to people exchange, please submit the completed Reservation Form, along with a booking fee in the amount of $600 per person to:

**Michigan State University Alumni Association**
535 Chestnut Road
Room 300
East Lansing, MI 48824

Checks should be made payable to Michigan State University Alumni Association.

We have selected AHI International Corp., a licensed Cuba Travel Service Provider, to assist with your travel arrangements to and from Cuba. AHI can assist in booking your air transportation, arranging airport transfers, booking hotel accommodations, arranging ground transportation, assisting with Cuban entry visa applications, and providing other necessary travel services. AHI will invoice participants separately for these travel services. The total cost for this program is estimated at $4,400*.

This includes the $600 booking fee to the Michigan State University Alumni Association and the travel services costs payable to AHI International Corp. As noted above, AHI International Corp. does not have final information regarding U.S. government authorized flight schedules at this time. *This price is based upon per person double occupancy rates. Single accommodations will be an additional $375 (limited availability).

At this time, AHI has provided the following quote for this departure:

**Travel Services:**
- **Land**/ground/property package: $3,300
- **Air** flights: $180
- **Travel insurance**:
  - Estimated cost: $300

The land/ground package price includes airport transfers, porterage between airports and hotels, hotel accommodations, all meals, all entrance charges, ground transportation, and Cuban visa application fees. The land/ground package price does not include certain tips and local service.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AHI INTERNATIONAL CORP./**

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**NOT INCLUDED:** Fees for passports are not included in the Land Program price, nor are personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning, excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features. Travel insurance, all items of a strictly personal nature.

**MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL** - The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI International Corp. is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION** - If connecting flights to the Cuba charter flight are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher applicable fare. VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

**CANCELLATION** - In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a $250 per person cancellation fee. Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75 days to 30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RETURN. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation. We strongly suggest purchasing travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be sent to you with your confirmation letter from the MSU Alumni Association.

**BAGGAGE** - All baggage including checked and carry-on cannot weigh more than a total combination of 44 lbs. Check-in bags will cost $20 USD and if total baggage is overweight, then $2 per pound overweight charge. This fee is payable in cash only and 70 pounds total weight is the maximum.

**AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS** - On occasion, AHI International Corp. obtains, from its staff, or from others, photographs, video images of passengers or trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize AHI International Corp., without providing compensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as voice recordings included with any videos, in AHI International Corp.’s sales, marketing, advertising, publicity and/or training activities.

**RESPONSIBILITY** - AHI International Corp. and Michigan State University Alumni Association do not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program, and act only as agents for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations or other services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. As a result, AHI International Corp. and the Sponsoring Association are not liable for any negligence or willful act of any such person or entity or any third person. In addition and without limitation, AHI International Corp. and the Sponsoring Association are not responsible for any delays, canceled or diverted flights, missed connections, loss, damage, death or injury to person or property or personal accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature whatsoever caused in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses occasioned thereby. Dates, Program Details and Tour costs, although given in good faith and based on tariffs, exchange rates and other information current at the time of printing, are subject to change at any time before the departure date. No revisions of the program itinerary or its included features are anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make any changes, with or without notice, that might become necessary, with the mutual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual passenger. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. If the entire program is canceled for any reason, participants shall have no claim other than for a full refund. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers and accepts the terms of this contract set out herein and in more specific pre-departure passenger information. The airlines and other transportation companies concerned agree to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passage contract in use, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the company(s) and the passenger and/or purchaser of this trip.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CHARTER FLIGHTS**

A Charter Operator with an OFAC Carrier Service Provider license will arrange the charter flights to and from Cuba. Exchange program participants should refer to the Charter Operator’s Operator-Participant Contract for further information on the charter program conditions. AHI International Corp. will provide this information as soon as the U.S. government approved flight schedules are available.

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**Reserve your November 10-17, 2014 trip to Cuba today!**

**Send to:**
Michigan State University Alumni Association
535 Chestnut Road
Room 300
East Lansing, MI 48824

Please call 888-697-2863 with questions regarding this trip or to make a reservation.

**Michigan State University Alumni Association Membership Statement**

Travelers, whether alumni or friends, must be current MSUAA members to participate in Association travel offerings. For more information on membership rates, call the MSU Alumni Association at (877) 678-2586. You may also join on-line at www.alumni.msu.edu. Tour reservations will be confirmed upon verification of Alumni Association membership. Membership dues are non-refundable.

**Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)**

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**E-mail:**

Sharing with: __________________________

We authorize you to make our reservations as follows:

**Land Program**
- Please contact me/us to discuss connecting domestic air flight options.
- I prefer single accommodations at an additional $375 (limited availability).
- I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.
- Please note that we anticipate check-in for your Cuba charter flight to begin at 7:00 a.m. AHI has arranged for a special rate at a hotel near the Miami airport for those who wish to overnight there prior to the charter flight. Check here if you wish for AHI to send you information regarding this overnight.

**Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis.** We have read the general information section of this brochure and understand and agree to the terms and conditions stated herein:

**Signature __________________________**

**Date ____________**

**Reservations are to be paid in full by September 26, 2014 (45 days prior to departure)**

**Credit Card Information**

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**Accept my check made payable to**

**Michigan State University Alumni Association**

**Charge my booking fee to:**
- [ ] MasterCard
- [ ] Visa
- [ ] Discover

**Expire____/____**

**Card # **

**(Signature as it appears on credit card)**

Please note: Any payment to Michigan State University Alumni Association or AHI International Corp. constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the Cancellation terms.

**888-697-2863**