



*Jacqueline J. Arroyo*



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Welcome to our second issue of *Islas*. We know that you will enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed preparing it.

As you may have gathered from reading our first issue (June 2005), *Islas* is neither exclusively a magazine nor a journal. It is both! The core of each issue is to feature a collection of factual and interesting articles, stories, and pictures contributed by experts and practitioners knowledgeable about the experiences and struggles of African descendants and other people of color. We also seek out and publish written pieces contributed by academicians, scholars, and others who have studied African descendants and their accumulation into the Cuban and other cultures.

In this issue of *Islas*, we have added a new section – a photo essay of Cuba. We are pleased to welcome Javier, our new staff photographer from the island of Cuba, who will bring Cuba alive through pictures. We think this is extremely important for our readers who have not had the pleasure of visiting the island and for those who live there to be reminded of the island's beauty and uniqueness. We are really pleased to have Javier on board and hope that you will enjoy the new section!

*Islas* is a grassroots effort and, by that, we are always searching for individuals to contribute factual and interesting articles, stories, and pictures. If you are interested, please let us know! *Islas* welcomes all perspectives on race, race relations, or other issues affecting people of color, not just in Cuba, but anywhere they live. So, if you or someone you know has a non-mainstream view on such issues, we encourage you and them to share that view with us and our readers by submitting an article to *Islas*!

Our primary goal for publishing *Islas*'s is to inform and inspire Afro-Cubans and other people of color. If you read our publication, please give us feedback by sending a note at [www.infor@afrocuban.us](mailto:www.infor@afrocuban.us). We welcome all comments and suggestions. We want to make this publication as informative as possible and truly useful to the world community of African descendants, especially those in countries struggling to achieve democracy. Tell us how we can help!

Finally, thanks to all the writers who contributed to this issue. We appreciate everyone who offered his or her time and energy to make this happen. Special thanks to our fabulous editor Juan Antonio Alvarado, whose hard work and unflinching devotion is what keeps *Islas* going.

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*Islas*' Creators and Publishers