

# Fountain

University of West Florida March 2007 Vol. 41(7)



## Focus

### Alfred Cuzán,

professor and chair, Political Science

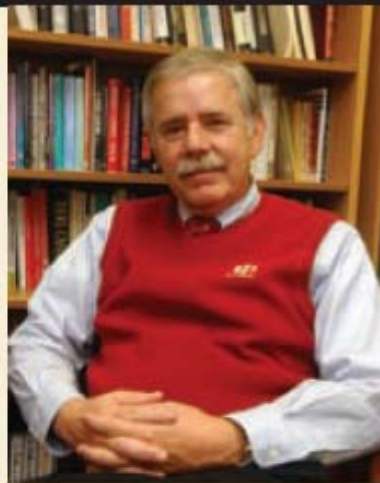
■ **What classes do you teach and what are your academic interests?** Although like everyone else I have special interests, I am basically a generalist. Accordingly, during the last decade, I have taught introductory courses in American Politics (the regular and the honors section), Comparative Politics and International Politics, upper-division courses in Comparative Politics and Political Theory and a graduate seminar on the Scope of Political Science. In sum, my interests range across the entire breadth of the discipline.

■ **How long have you been with UWF?** I am completing my 27th year.

■ **Experience prior to joining UWF?** I taught at New Mexico State University for four years. Looking back, though it was a difficult time in some ways, it was also a very creative period.

■ **What is your favorite part of your job?** I don't know that there is a favorite part. I like everything about my job. I teach and advise students, read articles and books, write for presentation or publication, collaborate with colleagues at all levels of the university, protect and advance the interests of my department, travel to conferences in interesting places, give interviews and speak before community groups. It's a dream job.

■ **As a government professor, what significance do you think Fidel Castro's death will have on Cuba?** The regime will change from a tyranny (where one man towers above all others) to an oligarchy or collective dictatorship. It is probable that Raul Castro will try to extend the dynasty by incorporating one of the family offspring into a leadership position, as was done in Haiti, North Korea and Syria, and to ride as far as he can the current anti-American wave led by Iran and Hugo



Chavez in Venezuela. But without Fidel Castro to impose settlements on competing factions, the probability is that friction within the ruling clique will result in a regime breakdown. In the long run, barring a global catastrophe, Cuba will be back on the track it was more than half a century ago, one of economic and cultural integration with the American market under a government accountable for its actions through competitive elections and an independent judiciary.

■ **Favorite food and the best place to get it?** My wife Linda's cooking.

■ **The world would be a better place if:** All nations were governed by democracies.

■ **The movie everyone should see is:** Well, because this is winter, I recommend *Groundhog Day*.

■ **Next pleasure trip you're planning?** We hope to take another trip out West. Eventually we'd like to get back to Europe. I'd like to see Scotland, Germany, Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries.