I am pleased to inform you that during academic year 2002-2003, the Center for Latino Research (CLR) made considerable advances on most of the items agreed to in the cycle 4 MOA.

1. **Enhance research agenda:** The CLR created and the Dean approved a Fellowship program as outlined in the MOA. During academic year 2003-2004 we will have two fellows: Bernadette Sánchez (Psychology) and Layla Suleiman (Education). We will announce next year’s competition in September and will offer three fellowships during the 2004-2005 academic year.

The Latino Chicago Oral History Project and archives experienced considerable growth with the addition of the Bracero Project that we undertook in collaboration with the Oral History Institute of the University of Texas, El Paso. For this project, we are committed to completing and transcribing at least 50 interviews of Braceros in Chicago. Two undergraduate students have received the training to conduct oral histories and are working closely with UT, El Paso. When the project is completed, the UT and DePaul will have full collections in their respective archives.

Our archives will soon receive a gift from Hunter College’s Center for Puerto Rican Studies: The records of the U.S. Office of Puerto Rican Affairs pertaining to Puerto Ricans in Chicago (1954-1989). Also, Debra Evenson, a former faculty member of DePaul’s Law School, is considering donating a collection of primary documents, interview transcripts, and other printed materials used for her ground-breaking research on the Cuban legal system.

The CLR – LALSP resource center / library has also grown considerably. We added fifteen new videos to our already extensive collection, and we bought and received as donations more than 100 books.

We are currently working with the Nicolás Guillén Foundation to produce a joint-publication of the proceedings from the conference on Nicolás
Guillén, organized by the CLR and held at DePaul in April, 2003. The book will include 10 original essays on the life and work of Nicolás Guillén presented at the conference by scholars from Cuba and the U.S. The publication will be a bilingual edition with all essays in Spanish and English. The scheduled publication date is February 2004.

2. **Continue publications:** *Diálogo* no.7 was published in April and more than 3,000 of the 5,000 copies printed have been distributed to our large local, regional, and national readership. As in the past, we distributed the publication to local high schools, libraries, universities, and community-based organizations, as well as to our large mailing list of supporters and collaborators. *Diálogo* no. 7 is by far the largest and most colorful issue we have ever published. More importantly, eight DePaul faculty members published their work in this issue.

I am currently working with Dean Mezey to find alternative and traditional sources of funding for the magazine. The increase in production, printing, and mailing costs made this issue extremely expensive and we were able to cover those costs thanks to the generous support of Father Minogue, the Cultural Center, *Celebración de Nuestra América*, and the Steans Center.

This year we will continue publishing the *Nuestra América* Occasional Papers Series. Our editorial committee is currently reviewing three papers for publication, and a new call for paper has been distributed to out constituency.

3. **Continue and enhance programming:** As in the past, the CLR continued working in close collaboration with the Latin American and Latino Studies Program. Our collaboration is most visible in the yearly public program *Celebración de Nuestra América*. Together with another ten DPU co-sponsors, last year we organized and presented fifteen major programs ranging from lectures to theatrical performances, workshops, films and art exhibits. The CLR has been a main organizer and sponsor of *Celebración* since its inception in 1995. During academic year 2002-2003 the CLR also collaborated on a variety of projects with the Center for Black Diaspora, Cultural Center, Humanities Center, and Steans Center, as well as the departments of Sociology, History, Political Science, and Modern Languages.

We continue strengthening and increasing our relationships with community groups and other universities. In November 14-16, 2003, the CLR will host a Latin American Cultural and book fair. The fair is being organized in collaboration with seven other Chicago-based universities, six Latin American consulates, and more than 40 local and international publishers, and will feature major writer from Latin America. Like all our
events, the fair will be free and open to the public. We are promoting the event widely and expect to attract a very large audience from the community.

4. **Increase opportunities for external funding:** Last year we applied for a National Endowment for the Humanities Media grant (for $100,000) to produce a documentary on the history of the Young Lords Organization. Although our proposal was not funded, we received strong encouragement from the NEH to reapply. We are currently revising and rewriting the proposal for resubmission in October. We are also collaborating on funding proposals with the Center for Black Diaspora, the Cultural Center, and the Steans Center.

5. **Increase visibility:** Beginning in September 2003 the CLR will continue its Meet the Author Series of research presentations by DPU faculty who publish articles or books on Latin America and U.S. Latinos. We are working on scheduling presentations by three of our faculty associates who published books recently: Lourdes Torres (LALSP), Sonia Soltero (School of Education), and Maria de lo Angeles Torres (Political Science). All presentations will be followed by a reception.

On the recommendation the APRC subcommittee, we are gathering the materials and documents necessary to write and publish the history of the CLR.

6. **Improve assessment and evaluation:** We continue to distribute and request evaluation forms at all our events. We also receive and compile readers’ comments and evaluations of *Diálogo* (enclosed). In addition, we will soon conduct a mail survey on the CLR and *Diálogo* that will be sent to our extensive database.

CC: Michael Mezey
    Charles Strain
    Katherine Cermak

Enclosures: *Diálogo* no.7
    Readers’ comments