What an amazing year this has been for me. Having been associated with CCSRE since before its formal opening in 1996, my year of service as Director of CCSRE has felt like the closing of the circle. Perhaps a better metaphor is that my year has been like a spiral turn of the circle, as my deep connection to CCSRE will certainly not end with the conclusion of my term. Taking another turn in the spiral, I look forward to serving the CCSRE community in the future as a member of the distinguished group of Emeriti Directors.

When Professor José David Saldívar takes over on September 1, 2012, he will find that CCSRE continues to serve the needs of our undergraduate, graduate, staff, and faculty group in a manner consistent with the goal of providing the best possible academic experience for our students. Joining Professor Saldívar in the important work of the leadership of the center on September 1, 2012, will be Professor Prudence Carter as the new Director of RICSRE, Professor David Palumbo Liu as the new Director of Undergraduate Studies, and Dr. Mar'Yam Hamedani as the new Associate Director of CCSRE. Please join me in congratulating and expressing our gratitude to our good colleagues as they begin their important work with the beginning of the 2012 academic year.

As I leave CCSRE, I am pleased to report that CCSRE is in excellent shape in all respects. It continues to grow and explore new teaching and research possibilities for our undergraduate students, our graduate fellows, and our affiliated faculty. With the continued successful recruitment of new faculty to Stanford University through the Faculty Development Initiative over the past three years (eleven new faculty to date, bringing more than twenty new courses to our core curricular offerings), the undergraduate and research programs are in better shape than ever before. Another important development concerning our undergraduate curriculum is that the School of Humanities & Sciences this past spring approved the first new major in CSRE since the founding of the original four CSRE-IDP majors in 1996. Autumn 2012 will mark the inauguration of the new CSRE-IDP undergraduate major in Jewish Studies. In conjunction with the existing majors in Asian American Studies, Chicana and Chicano, Latina and Latino Studies, Native American Studies, and Comparative Studies, the new major in Jewish Studies will provide an unequaled opportunity for the exploration of the major social issues of our time. I cannot
overemphasize how significant this development is. I believe it is an event of historic proportions. The creation of a new major in Jewish Studies represents the opening of the study of race and ethnicity to the international level, beyond what has been to date a near-exclusive concern with racial and ethnic processes in the US. Moreover, the creation of the new Jewish Studies major fulfills one of the original, unachieved, visions of the faculty groups that created CCSRE: to study race and patterns of racialization in a global comparative context. Since I chaired the original committee that drafted the blueprint documents for the establishment of CCSRE, I am especially pleased to see that our original plans to have CCSRE study race and ethnicity on an international, indeed, global scale are now coming to fruition.

Continuing the process of evaluating our existing goals and redefining them for the future, the senior faculty leadership group decided this year to suspend our External Faculty Fellows Program and to reconceive our efforts on the research side of our multiple endeavors. Suspending the funding of external fellowships allows us to concentrate our research efforts toward the needs of Stanford undergraduates and graduate fellows and of our own affiliated faculty. In particular, we wish to see how the redistribution of our resources toward internal rather than external needs might best contribute to our teaching and research agenda. This redirection of funding is a matter of ongoing consideration and we will be monitoring on a yearly basis how best to use the research funding now available to Stanford undergraduates and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty as a result of this redistribution of a portion of our available funds. At its most recent meeting the senior leadership faculty group decided to explore the creation of a variety of programs and events that would, in effect, create an Internal Faculty Fellowship Program. The planning and execution of these exciting new possibilities are part of the agenda for the new leadership group.

Concerning the disposition of CCSRE funding in general, one of our most significant achievements during the past year has been the development of a significant relationship with a new donor. As a result of our efforts, CCSRE was the recipient this past December 2011 of a major new gift from Ms. Ina Coleman, Executive Director of the Feminist Majority – publishers of MS Magazine. Ms. Coleman is a Stanford University alumna, current Stanford parent, and CCSRE External Board member. With a matching gift from the School of Humanities & Sciences, the funds generously provided by Ms. Coleman represent the second largest gift in the history of CCSRE (see article on page 15).

As I complete my year as director, I see that CCSRE continues to be a dynamic and innovative academic and research unit, a model nationally for the study of race and ethnicity. The continued growth of its student enrollments, the increase in the numbers of majors and minors, and the significant addition of new affiliated faculty all ensure that its future is particularly auspicious, even with the transitions in staffing and leadership that are the norm for academic programs. With the filling of important leadership positions, CCSRE is well situated to pursue and meet the high goals and important responsibilities that it has set for itself on behalf of Stanford University students.

Respectfully yours,

Ramón Saldívar
Director, Center for Comparative Studies in Race & Ethnicity (2011-12)