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## The DePaul El Salvador Project

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### Cover Page Footnote

This article is from an earlier iteration of *Diálogo* which had the subtitle "A Bilingual Journal." The publication is now titled "Diálogo: An Interdisciplinary Studies Journal."

# THE DEPAUL



www.lagavia.8m.net/ort.html. Photo by Claudia Morales Haro.

## El Salvador Project

Thomas Drexler, Kay Read and Alicia Alvarez  
DePaul University

In the summer of 1991, a delegation of DePaul faculty and staff, led by University Ministry's Rick Jones and Sam Citero O.Carm., traveled to El Salvador to investigate the possibility of entering into a working relationship with one or various education institutions or non government organizations. Joining Jones and Citero were Len Cavise and Craig Mousin from the Law School and Kay Read from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This was the first of many delegations that DePaul faculty, staff and students would make, slowly but steadily solidifying a relationship with the Salvadoran people through institutional and community commitments. During this first delegation, the idea of a mutually benefiting agreement providing mutual support and learning between DePaul University and the *Universidad de El Salvador* arose, given the compatibility of each university's vision and mission.<sup>1</sup> In 1992 the presidents of each University signed this cooperative agreement, most recently re-signed in the spring of 2002. To facilitate and

promote DePaul's participation in the agreement, the DePaul El Salvador Project was launched by a group faculty and staff committed to peace, justice and equality in El Salvador.

Over the years, the agreement between the *Universidad de El Salvador* and DePaul University has yielded many fruits even though the institutional commitment may have wavered on both sides from time to time. The *Universidad de El Salvador* and DePaul University through the DePaul El Salvador Project has continued to move ahead with projects and programs dedicated to bringing North Americans and Salvadorans together, fostering mutual understanding, supporting each other in its teaching and learning, and working together to bring about justice within our respective communities. Some of the highlights over the past 12 years of the DePaul El Salvador Project include:

# Chispas

## 1992

The first cooperative agreement between the *Universidad de El Salvador* and DePaul University is signed.

## 1994

A month-long training program held in February for institutional planners from the *Universidad de El Salvador*

## 1994

DePaul University hosts and provides training for administrators from the *Universidad de El Salvador* as well as city administrators from San Salvador. During this same year, DePaul University's International Human Rights Law Institute provides training for Human Rights lawyers and judges from El Salvador and Guatemala during the months of May, June, and July.

## 1994

First student delegation from the School for New Learning headed by Ann Stanford and David Shallenberger travel to El Salvador

## 1995

Keith Howe from the Finance Department works on establishing a Masters Program in Finance at the *Universidad de El Salvador* eventually graduating its first participants in 1998

## 1996

Kay Read and Sam Citero O.Carm. lead first Liberal Arts and Sciences student delegation to El Salvador that include a service learning course based in Chicago

## 1998

Eric Lopez, student at the *Universidad de El Salvador* is recipient of a full-time scholarship allowing him to eventually earn a Bachelors degree in Computer Science from DePaul. At present Eric is finishing his Masters before returning to El Salvador and begin teaching at the *Universidad de El Salvador*

## 1999

The Stean's Center for Community-based Service Learning co-sponsors with the School for New Learning and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, a three week Salvadoran service learning course taught in El Salvador, connecting with both the *Universidad de El Salvador* and the Vincentian parish of San Jacinto

## 1999

Alicia Alvarez, from the College of Law, is the first DePaul professor to spend a one full year at the *Universidad de El Salvador* as a Fullbright Scholar.

## 2002

University Ministry begins Winter Break service trips to El Salvador, alternating yearly with the service learning trips

## 2003

In the spring, Alicia Alvarez ,College of Law, leads a delegation of DePaul Law students to El Salvador as part of a course exploring post conflict justice

## 2003

Sarah Gelsomino, supported by a Vincentian Endowment Fund grant, spent six months in the small village of Copopayo working on a oral history project concerning this community's individual and collective experiences during the civil war

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## NOTE

Mission of the University of El Salvador: The University of El Salvador, an institution of higher education is open to all sectors of the Salvadoran society, but with the priority of favoring the majority of the people with limited economic resources, carrying through its functions in a democratic way, preparing professionals with high technical and scientific capacity, with a solid human formation, and with creative, analytical, critical and proactive thinking, according to the economic, social, political, juridical, ecological and cultural present and future necessities of our society, with the purpose of creating, preserving and disseminating science and culture in order to contribute to the process of transformation and self-determination, promoting social development, just and sustainable, through scientific research, teaching and social projection in a permanent dynamic of change