# Mission and Areas of Focus

**Mission Statement:**
The Cuban Research Institute CRI was established in 1991 to generate and disseminate research about Cuban and Cuban Americans. Located at the Latin American and Caribbean Center at Florida International University, the CRI combined advanced scholarship with the substantial resources of the Greater Miami community to produce research, training, and public service programs at the local, national and international levels.

**Key Terms:**
- Cuba
- Cuban Americans

**Affiliated Universities:**
- (AFFILIATES)
CUBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Activities – Past Year

- “La noche de los asesinos” performance by FIU students with an appearance by the playwright, Jose Triana.
- “Hasta Luego a Eugenio Floret” A commemoration to the recently deceased poet. Organized by the Cuban Research Institute.
- Book presentation of La aventura del español en América, by Dr. Humberto López Morales of the Real Academia de la Lengua Española.
- 2nd Conference on Cuban and Cuban American Studies, March 18-20, 1999
- Chinese Ethnic Communities in Cuba. Presentation by Kathleen López, Ph.D. candidate, Dept. of History, University of Michigan. Sponsored by The Cuban Research Institute (CRI) and the Institute for Asian Studies.
- "La ruta del esclavo en Cuba" presented by Dr. Juan Antonio Alvarado Ramos, History Department, Universidad de la Habana.
- "Relaciones raciales en la sociedad cubana actual" presented by Dr. Juan Antonio Alvarado Ramos, History Department, Universidad de la Habana.
- "ECUACION" Y "FIRST" and a conversation with Enrique Pineda Barnet. Dr. Barnet is a film and video director as well as a professor of film, radio and television at Instituto Superior de Arte de la Universidad de la Habana.
- "Teatro de los elementos. Un teatro del período especial" presented by Lic. José Oriol González Martínez. Lic. Gonzalez is the founder and artistic director of Teatros de los Elementos in Cienfuegos, Cuba.
- "La virgen de la Caridad y la comunidad de los cobreros" presented by Dr. Olga Portuondo Zúñiga. Dr. Portuondo is a professor in History at the Universidad de Oriente, Cuba and researcher at the Academia de Ciencias de Cuba.
- "Los jesuitas en la economía cubana del siglo XVIII" presented by Dr. Mercedes García. Dr. Garcia is the Director of the Colonial Studies Department of Instituto de Historia, Cuba.

2. Activities – Coming Year

- Continue to generate new sources of funding to support graduate students, including continuing assistantships. Identify and pursue federal and private foundation grant opportunities.
- Carry on curricular development of both undergraduate and graduate level courses in Cuba and Cuban American studies.
- Work closely with CRI-associated faculty to identify new funding sources and research interests that can result in production of competitive proposals.
- Increased travel support for faculty and graduate students to conduct research in Cuba.
- Coordinate and implement a number of events, conferences, and lectures with the purpose of providing outreach to the FIU community and the community at large about issues concerning Cuba and Cuban Americans.
- Continue to host faculty advisory board meetings in order to respond to requests and recommendations.
- Institutionalize the annual Cuba and Cuban American Conference.
- Become permanent site for premier journal Cuban Studies.
- Secure funding for an endowed chair in Cuban studies.
• Continue to expand our academic collaboration with colleagues in Cuba and support FIU faculty research in the island.
• Implement a program of exchange of publications with selected libraries in Cuba.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT
The CRI was established, so as to fulfill, in the area of Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, FIU’s three-fold mission: research, teaching, and service. As the largest institution of public higher education in southern Florida, FIU (a part of the State University System of Florida) has unique obligations and opportunities in developing Cuba-related programs, derived from the following conditions:

• Its location in the largest concentration of the Cuban Diaspora, geographically situated at the limited gateway between Cuba and the United States.

• The largest nucleus of faculty experts on Cuba or the Cuban-American community of any university in the U.S., distributed across the various colleges and schools of the university.

• The largest undergraduate student body of Cuban origin of any university.

The CRI has responded to these unique challenges by developing quality research, teaching, and service programs intended to place the University in a leadership position, at the national and international levels, in the field of Cuban and Cuban American Studies. The CRI has received acclaim and accolades both nationally and internationally for its distinguished service, the institute will only continue to enhance its recognition of the university on these levels.