HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE
En Conjunto Honoring our Past, Celebrating our Present, and Envisioning our Future
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION BETWEEN THE TIMES

THE TEBT PROJECT CELEBRATES HTI FOR 25 YEARS OF WISE, BRAVE, AND JOYFUL LEADERSHIP IN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION.

“I would be hard-pressed to name any other resource that even approaches this series in its visionary outlook and wide perspective on the challenges and opportunities currently facing theological education. The authors represent an unparalleled selection of leaders in theological education whose views and experiences point to different paths into the future, all leading to true excellence and relevance in theological education.”

— JUSTO L. GONZÁLEZ
author of *The History of Theological Education*

COMING SOON: BOOKS BY COLLEEN MARY MALLON, OP; HOSFFMAN OSPINO; TED A. SMITH; AND MARIA LIU WONG
Music composed by Dr. Tony Alonso, a Latin Grammy nominated composer of sacred music and a scholar whose work responds to the diverse realities of contemporary culture.

A Cuban-American Roman Catholic, Tony’s compositions embrace multicultural musical expressions and reflect a commitment to strong ritual song. His music appears in compilations and hymnals across Christian denominations throughout the world. His “Mass of Joy and Peace” is one of the most widely sung Mass settings in the United States. In 2015, Tony’s compositional work was recognized with an invitation to compose the responsorial psalm for the first Mass Pope Francis celebrated in the United States. In 2020, he was nominated for a Latin Grammy for his groundbreaking album “Caminemos con Jesús.”

Tony’s scholarly work lies at the intersection of liturgical theology, ecclesiology, and cultural studies. He has authored several essays and articles in journals such as Modern Theology, Worship, and Liturgy. In 2019, Tony was awarded the Catherine Mowry LaCugna Award for new scholars for the best academic essay in the field of theology within the Roman Catholic tradition by the Catholic Theological Society of America. He holds a Bachelor of Music in choral conducting from Northwestern University, a Master of Arts in theology from Loyola Marymount University, and a PhD in religion from Emory University.

Tony is Assistant Professor of Theology and Culture at Candler School of Theology at Emory University where he also serves as the inaugural Director of Catholic Studies.

Composed for the 20th Anniversary of the Hispanic Theological Initiative

UNA GRAN NUBE DE TESTIGOS

Based on Hebrews 12:1-2

Words and Music by
Tony Alonso

Refrain
For each phrase: solo, then all

Te das mos gra - cias, te das mos gra - cias por tan gran
nu - be de tes - ti - gos.

Que en la lu - cha que lu - cha mos, la ca -
rre - ra que co - rre - mos, nos ro - de - an y nos
gui - an. ¡Qué tan gran nu - be de tes - ti - gos!

Verses (Invocation)  All

¡Pre - sen - te! ¡Pre - sen - te!

English translation:
We give you thanks for so great a cloud of witnesses.
In the struggle we endure,
may they surround and guide us.
What a great cloud of witnesses!

Copyright © 2016 by Antonio Eduardo Alonso. All Rights Reserved.
May God’s love empower us with hope and healing
To face the struggles of this day and the hurts from the past.
May the love in our hearts be a light and force
For the healing of creation and the liberation of humanity.
May the bonds of creativity and mentoring that hold us together
Sustain the friendship and solidarity that make us one out of many.
May we receive this blessing, and be a blessing.
Amen

Que el amor de Dios nos fortalezca con esperanza y sanación
Para enfrentar las luchas de este día y las heridas del pasado.
Que el amor en nuestros corazones sea luz y fuerza
Para la sanación de la creación y la liberación de la humanidad.
Que los lazos de creatividad y mentoría que nos unen
Mantengan la amistad y la solidaridad que nos hacen uno entre muchos.
Que recibamos esta bendición y seamos bendición.
Amén

Que o amor de Deus nos dê esperança e cura
Para enfrentar as lutas desse dia e as feridas do passado.
Que o amor em nossos corações seja uma luz e força
Para a cura da criação e a libertação da humanidade.
Que os laços de criatividade e de mentoria que nos mantêm unidos
Sustenham a amizade e a solidariedade que nos fazem, de muitos, um
Que possamos receber essa bênção e ser uma bênção.
Amém
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Cover design by Dave Orantes (daveorantes.com)
¡Feliz cumpleaños
y nuestros mejores deseos para los próximos 25 años!
Over the past year, I have often thought, “How do we celebrate in the midst of so much grieving? How do we honor HTI’s special silver anniversary while also allowing our hearts and souls to engage the deep grieving we are currently living? How do we live even more authentically this time, and how do we learn from it, instead of trying to forget what seems too unbearable to face? How do we continue to uplift and remain excited about the achievements this momentous quarter-century milestone represents at a time when the threat of death fills every breath we take?”

For HTI, it is through this very breath—¡aliento!—that we affirm life, including the lives of those who may no longer be among us. The HTI community continues to stand strong in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. **En conjunto**, we honor our ancestors. **En conjunto**, we offer remembrance and testimony. And that is why, today, with a grateful heart and a joyful spirit, I share HTI’s 25th Anniversary commemorative brochure. We pay homage and tribute to those who shaped and formed us to be the amazing people of God we are today. Gracing the brochure cover are the faces of ancestors who formed HTI scholars—the faces of the parents, siblings, uncles, aunts, pastors, and church leaders who encouraged and also made sacrifices so that today we are able to celebrate their efforts through our leadership in communities and institutions across the country. Additionally, the brochure lists the more than 85 committed partnering institutions and individuals that said, “¡Presente!” when asked to join us in celebrating HTI’s mission of recruiting, retaining, and graduating the 150 PhD graduates now reaping the many rewards of HTI in the larger landscape of theological and religious education.

While the journey has certainly not been easy, the varied partners who have joined in HTI’s testifying are paving the way for the present and future. Despite all of the uncertainties of our new way of living, we trust that your HTI Scholars have developed into leaders equipped to address the most pressing issues affecting the church, the academy, and the world. Done en conjunto, their life-transformative work edifies all of God’s creation.

Join us in celebrating our collective accomplishments of the past 25 years! Support HTI by giving your time, talent, testimony, and treasure to strengthen our shared journeys. For the sake of the future dreamed by our ancestors, we have a sacred duty to continue paving the path for the generations of tomorrow.

**Blessings,**

The Rev. Joanne Rodríguez
CONGRATULATIONS to the Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI) for 25 years of outstanding work in support of Latine faith leaders in the academy and the church.

Thank you for all that you do. Trinity Church Wall Street is proud to partner with HTI in this worthy and faithful endeavor. Blessings on the years to come.
This brochure will give you a sense of the robust network of connections that HTI has been able to build over the past twenty-five years. The potential for continued growth is significant.

HTI’s exceptional work and lasting impact stems directly from partnerships with a broad spectrum of institutions and individuals like YOU!

The variegated representation of HTI graduates—ethnicity, denominational affiliation, and field of study—is similarly reflected by the variety of institutions represented in this brochure. In addition to HTI’s 24 PhD member institutions, included here are departments of religion at universities, seminaries, and schools of theology where HTI scholars teach as well as major funding agencies, publishing houses that publish HTI scholars’ work, and the nonprofit educational institutions they serve.

Also represented is The Association of Theological Schools, an organization that counts as members more than 270 graduate schools that conduct postbaccalaureate professional and academic degree programs to educate persons for the practice of ministry and for teaching and research in the theological disciplines. This tremendous blend of talent, drive, and resources, is precisely what has helped and will continue to enlarge the scope of HTI’s programming and impact in the broader landscape of theological and religious education.

Thank you!

TESTIMONIAL

When Justo González asked Edwin Hernández to write a grant proposal to be made to The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) for the establishment of HTI, Edwin discussed with me the drafting of the grant application outlining the structure, methods, purpose, and goals of HTI. Then, when the organizational meeting was planned, I was invited to be part of the team. It was a privilege to meet and work with the other members of the committee that designed the role and responsibilities of those who would be mentors of the program. It was also a privilege for me to have been a mentor to two of the successful candidates who earned PhD with the help of HTI. The mentors are the ones who distinguished this program from the previous efforts by Pew to help in the developing and growth of the Hispanic Church in the United States.

I trust that my two cents worth contribution to the program made a difference to the many who benefitted from the mentoring received from HTI. I know that I benefitted a great deal from having been involved in such a successful and pioneering program. I hope that the brilliant display left in the sky by the achievements of HTI in its first twenty five years are only the down payment on a much larger cohort of Hispanics who contribute significantly to the betterment of our society.

Herold Weiss
Professor of Religious Studies, emeritus, Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame IN
1996 Santa Fe, NM, Retreat to organize HTI
HISTORY OF HTI

Two decades prior to HTI’s inception, the Fund for Theological Education (FTE), now the Forum for Theological Exploration, implemented two programs that supported 198 Hispanic students both at the master’s and doctorate levels. In 1986, The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) provided FTE with a planning grant for Dr. Justo L. González along with an advisory team to conduct a study titled, “The Theological Education of Hispanics,” which was published in 1988. The study was pivotal for Pew’s philanthropic strategy in supporting Hispanics in religious and theological education.

After a Pew study conducted by Dr. Luis Rivera-Pagán and Dr. Rosendo Urrabazo in 1994, Pew decided to withdraw its funding for Hispanic students, yet Dr. Joel Carpenter and the Rev. Danny Cortes, then Pew director and program officer of religion programs, were committed to establishing a new program to develop leaders for the church and the academic community.

Using a planning grant to conduct a new needs assessment study and design process, they hired Dr. Edwin Hernández to lay the groundwork for the Pew Hispanic Scholarship Study. With the support of an advisory team, including Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, Dr. Justo L. González, Dr. Allan Figueroa-Deck, Dr. David Maldonado, Dr. Olga Villaparra, Dr. Ana María Pineda, and Ms. Sarita Brown, they wrote the study titled, “The Future of Hispanics Graduate Theological Education.” In 1995, Hernández submitted to Pew a grant proposal for the HTI. HTI was launched at Emory University under the directorship of Dr. Justo L. González and Dr. Daisy Machado with a $3.5 million grant, which was renewed in 2001, and a final grant in 2005 for $1.8 million. In the fall of 1996, HTI awarded its first fellowships.

In 1999, HTI was relocated to Princeton Theological Seminary and Dr. Zaida Maldonado Pérez became its new director. During Pérez’s tenure, she introduced the HTI Book Prize and Latinas in Theology. From 2002 to present, the Rev. Joanne Rodríguez, executive director, has worked collaboratively with a variety of advisors, mentors, and editors to develop and maintain the unprecedented completion rate of 93% with an average time to degree of 5.5 years.

In 2003, HTI received an $888,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., and in 2007, 17 PhD-granting institutions launched the HTI Consortium to expand the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of Latinx PhD students. Today the Consortium stands at 24 members. In 2010, HTI was awarded the Examples of Excelencia award at the graduate-level from ¡Excelencia in Education!, catapulting the HTI vision and model into the larger landscape of education in the United States. Since then, HTI is known as the “411 Hub” for Latinx theological and religious resources, and is relied upon by presidents, deans, faculty, and students for resources and networks. In 2011, HTI received a $400,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to provide fellowships to post-comprehensive examination/dissertation HTI scholars.

HTI celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2016 with a corporate gift of $100,000 from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and a $1.5 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., which provided ten $25,000 dissertation fellowships to students yearly for five years.

In November 2017, HTI received $475,000 from the Henry Luce Foundation to widen and enhance the audience of HTI’s peer-reviewed trilingual journal, Perspectivas, by building Open Plaza, a platform that addresses key Latinx social issues.

Also in 2017, HTI received a planning grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. titled, “Synergies to Nurture, Improve, and Advance Hispanic Religious and Theological Leaders/Scholars.” This grant supported three new initiatives: First, a gathering of Higher Education Denominational Leaders to discuss opportunities and challenges in serving Hispanic leaders’ educational goals; second, a Mentoring Pilot Program for First Call to nurture and address the needs of HTI graduates who are in their first position; and third, a Mentoring Internship Program for current HTI Scholars to explore diverse ways in which they can utilize their doctoral degrees to serve in diverse contexts. Each of the new initiatives were carried out in 2018, and their success led to HTI receiving a $1.4 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., in March 2019. This grant allows HTI to continue the Mentoring Program for First Call and the Mentoring Internship Program. With this grant, HTI will also develop a Latinas in Theology Leadership Program to create opportunities for Latina scholars to apply for leadership positions in theological and religious education institutions and will strengthen HTI’s evaluation capacity allowing it to measure its more than 20 years of Mentoring and Professional Development Curriculum.

During the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature annual meetings in November 2019, HTI launched Open Plaza (htiopenplaza.org), a virtual gathering space to amplify Latinx voices in the global public space through blogs, podcasts, and HTI Video Talks. Open Plaza is uniquely designed for Latinx intellectuals in religion and theology to connect with a broader audience and exchange resources and ideas that contribute to advancing the well-being of Latinx communities and society at large.

In 2020, HTI received a $1.6 million grant, which allows HTI to continue providing ten $25,000 dissertation fellowships to students yearly for four years. And in 2021, Trinity Church Wall Street granted HTI $100,000 to digitize the Professional Development Curriculum for Latinx Faith Leaders and Scholars.

HTI holds Affiliate Member Status with the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.
The Hispanic Theological Initiative was born in a time of extraordinary ferment and creativity in the field of Hispanic ministries.

Founders & Advisors from 1986 thru 2002

Efrain Agosto
Daniel Aleshire
Benjamin Alicea
Arturo Bañuelas
Paul Thomas Barton
Joel Carpenter
Elizabeth Conde-Frazier
Danny Cortés
Esther Diaz-Bolet
Ana María Diaz-Stevens
Virgilio Elizondo
Orlando Espín
Allan Figueroa Deck
Ismail Garcia

Armando García Rivera
Francisco García-Treto
Raymond T. Garza
Thomas Gillespie
Justo González
Heidi Hadsell
Geddes W. Hanson
Edwin Hernández
Ada María Isasi-Díaz
Kevin Lagree
Francisco Lozada
David Maldonado
Kathleen M. O’Connor
Alvin Padilla

Milagros Peña
Ana María Pineda
Pablo Polischuk
Luis Rivera-Pagán
Luis Rivera Rodríguez
Daniel S. Schipani
Fernando Segovia
Joyce Tucker
Rosendo Urrabazo
Caroline Viernes Turner
Olga Villa Parra
Jesse Miranda

New national networks and associations were rising, but everywhere the same questions came up: How does this movement develop new leaders? Would the rapidly growing churches and movements put down deep roots? Would Hispanic Christians develop theology and missions to address North American realities? So, the HTI has met a great need. HTI graduates have massively strengthened leadership development across the continent by forming new agencies and leavening older ones. Back in the 1990s, HTI seemed like a very good idea. Today, by God’s grace, it has done far more than we asked or imagined.

Joel A. Carpenter, Senior Research Fellow
Nagel Institute for the Study of World Christianity
Calvin University, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Princeton Theological Seminary Congratulates the
Hispanic Theological Initiative on Celebrating 25 Years

Thank you for leading the way for over two decades. In helping Latinx scholars thrive as they achieve their academic pursuits and answer God’s call, the Hispanic Theological Initiative betters the academy as a whole. Princeton Theological Seminary looks forward to continuing this important partnership to advance such incredible work.

HTI SCHOLARS
Guilherme Brasil de Souza
Stacy Quinto-Salinas
Chauncey Diego Francisco Handy
Francisco Javier Peláez-Díaz, ThM ’13

HTI GRADUATES
Jared Alcántara, PhD ’14
Rubén Arjona-Mejia, PhD ’17, ThM ’12, MA(TS) ’11
Tommy A. Cásarez, PhD ’10
Gastón Espinosa, MDiv ’92
Daniel Flores, MDiv ’02
Matilde Moros, MDiv ’05
Elias Ortega, PhD ’11, MDiv ’05
Angel D. Santiago-Vendrell, ThM ’00
David Ramos, MDiv ’99
Rubén Rosario-Rodríguez, PhD ’04
Stephanie Mota Thurston, PhD ’20
Lis Valle, ThM ’13
Grace Vargas, MDiv ’14

HTI MENTORS
Carlos F. Caroza-Orlandi, PhD ’99, ThM ’90
Francisco García-Treto, PhD ’67, MDiv ’62

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES
Eric D. Barreto, MDiv ’04, HTI graduate
Frederick and Margaret L. Weyerhaeuser
Associate Professor of New Testament
Raimundo César Barreto, Jr., PhD ’06,
Associate Professor of World Christianity,
HTI mentor
Luis Rivera-Pagán, Henry Winters Luce
Professor Emeritus of Ecumenics,
HTI mentor

HTI STAFF
Joanne Rodriguez, ThM ’02, MDiv ’99

ptsem.edu
The blessing is to be a part of the formation of Latinx scholars, because what is actually happening is that they are forming us as well. I am a better Christian because of the humility, the sensitivity, the competence, the understanding, and most of all the love that I developed for these Latinx scholars.

Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes
President,
Princeton Theological Seminary

The HSP congratulates the HTI for 25 wonderful years of support for Latinx doctoral students. The link between our organizations remains strong. From students and faculty who have benefited from both organizations, to the visionary leadership of Dr. Daisy Machado, HTI’s first Director in 1996 and the HSP’s current Director since 2012, collaboration remains key. We look forward to 25 more years of Latinx theological education en ¡conjunto! 

Learn more about our programming including our new Alumni Network and flagship HSP Summer Session that hosts accredited graduate level courses for Latinx seminarians: www.hispanicsummerprogram.org
EL/LA COSECHADOR/A (HARVESTER):
LEGACY INVESTMENT IN HTI’S LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY—$5,000 AND ABOVE
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Lilly Endowment Inc.
Princeton Theological Seminary
Trinity Church Wall Street

EL/LA PLANTADOR/A (PLANTER):
FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT FOR PhD STUDENT—$2,500–4,999
Auburn Seminary
Baylor University
Baylor University Press
Boston University
Claremont School of Theology
Drew University
Duke Divinity School
Emory University
Harvard University
Mount Saint Mary’s University
The University of Chicago
Theological Education Between the Times (TEBT) / Wm Eerdmans Press
University of Notre Dame

EL/LA CULTIVADOR/A (CULTIVATOR):
SUPPORT FOR PhD DEBT RELIEF—$1,000–$2,499
Baker Academic
Brite Divinity School
Claremont Graduate University
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Forum for Theological Exploration
Fuller Theological Seminary
Graduate Theological Union
Hispanic Summer Program
In Trust Center for Theological Schools
Iona College
Louisville Institute
Luther Seminary
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
McCormick Theological Seminary
Oblate School of Theology
Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology
Southern Methodist University
The Association of Theological Schools
Union Presbyterian Seminary
Vanderbilt University
Wipf and Stock Publishers
Yale Divinity School

HERMANEX (SIBLING): BOOK SUPPORT FOR PhD STUDENTS—$500–$999
Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Church of St. Matthew and St. Timothy
Emmanuel College of University of Toronto
Baylor University’s George W. Truett Theological Seminary
Grand Canyon University
Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary
Lexington Theological Seminary
Loyola Marymount University
Metropolitan State University of Denver—Department of Chicana/o/x Studies and Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Mexican American Catholic College
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
Texas Christian University
Ulrike Guthrie Editorial Services
Union Theological Seminary
University of Dayton
University of the Incarnate Word
Vanguard University
Virginia Theological Seminary
Westminster John Knox Press
Williams College Latina/o Studies Program and the Religion Department

TESTIMONIAL

“Being selected for the HTI Book Prize continues to reverberate in my professional life. It was a great affirmation of my scholarly work and the culmination of the Dissertation Year Grant I received in 1999-2000. As an early recipient of this grant I am eternally grateful, not only for the needed financial assistance, but the wonderful community of support and the sense of belonging that HTI provided me in my academic career. I’m very proud to be associated with HTI—a very much still needed organization that I pray will continue to grow and expand in new ways.”

Raúl Gómez-Ruiz
President-Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology
2008 HTI Book Prize Winner
I have served as an HTI mentor for many years, and still continue to do so. I have given talks at the HTI summer gatherings, at the AAR/SBL conventions, etc. I don't recall missing an HTI event. Is there one specific moment that has been very special? Not one, but very many. My entire experience as mentor, working and speaking with many students, and the many conversations at meetings... they have all been very important, and the sum of them has impacted my own theologizing. Few programs have been so impactful not just on my scholarship but on the entire field of Latinoax theology as the HTI has. ‘Thank you’ to all at HTI for giving me the opportunity to serve more than one generation of Latinoax scholars in theology and religion. It has been a privilege!

Orlando Espín
Professor Emeritus, University of San Diego
All events
Congratulations on 25 years of supporting Hispanic and Latinx Scholars/Leaders for service in the academy, the church, and the world
Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States

ACHTUS Congratulates HTI on 25 years of leadership and excellence!

We look forward to many more years partnering to form the next generation of theological scholars.

https://achtus.us

ULRIKE GUTHRIE EDITORIAL SERVICES

HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE

25 YEARS OF DEDICATED SUPPORT OF LATINX SCHOLARS OF RELIGION

CONGRATULATIONS!

ULRIKEGUTHRIE@GMAIL.COM 207.942.6593 WWW.ULRIKEGUTHRIE.COM

If an institution is thinking about being part of HTI, I'd say yes, do it for your students! But do it for your faculty. Your faculty will be better faculty if they are involved with HTI.

Dr. Ted Smith
Professor,
Candler School of Theology
and Director of Theological Education Between the Times
With a grateful and joyful spirit we pay homage and tribute to those who shaped and formed us to be the amazing people of God we are today. Gracing this brochure cover are the faces of people who formed HTI scholars—the faces of parents, siblings, uncles, aunts, pastors, and church leaders who encouraged and also made sacrifices so that today we can celebrate en conjunto 150 Latinx PhDs! Even for those whose pictures were not submitted we give GREAT THANKS!

Listed here are the HTI graduates who submitted pictures of those who inspired them, and their names:

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<th>IN HONOR OF</th>
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<td>Padre Mateo Sheedy</td>
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<td>Alicia Panseso</td>
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<td>Constâncio Chaves</td>
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<td>Marlene Ferreras</td>
<td>Feliciiana Sánchez</td>
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<td>Daniel F. Flores</td>
<td>Edwin Sylvest</td>
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<td>Mercedes Concepcion Gallardo Gutierrez</td>
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<td>Idolina Ruiz de Gómez</td>
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<td>Alexander Gonzales</td>
<td>Joe and Rosie Gonzales</td>
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<td>Cecilia González-Andrieu</td>
<td>Dolores Van der Gutch y Lopez de Lanza</td>
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<td>Yara González - Justino</td>
<td>Carlos García Parrilla</td>
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<td>Leo Guardado</td>
<td>Porrírio Guardado</td>
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<td>Abner Hernandez</td>
<td>Francisco, Mercedes, Keila, Andy, Jasiel, Abdiel, and Yurdiana Hernandez</td>
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<td>Vinicius Marinho</td>
<td>Joana Figueiredo Marinho</td>
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<td>Néstor Medina</td>
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<td>Héctor Varela Rios</td>
<td>Laura Vanessa Varela Ortiz</td>
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<td>Grace Vargas</td>
<td>Esther Repliado Entenza Reguera</td>
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<td>Aizaiah Yong</td>
<td>Ricardo Garcia</td>
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<td>Theresa A. Yugar</td>
<td>Jeanne Marie Yugar</td>
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<td>Raúl Zegarra</td>
<td>Gustavo Gutiérrez</td>
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I was invited to come and receive the HTI Book award. There was lots of protocol with pictures, but what I most remember about my presentation was the response from Roberto Goizueta. The room was filled with colleagues, mentors, and students. I thought to myself, this is not just any award, this award is an expression of being part of a large community and project to push Latinas/os/xs forward. I felt really honored with such a great gesture of love and trust and really excited to be part of it.

Néstor Medina
Assistant Professor of Religious Ethics and Culture
Emmanuel College, Victoria University, University of Toronto
2012 HTI book award presentation
My very first HTI dissertation scholar left abruptly for the Atlanta airport after receiving my feedback on his dissertation. Evidently he'd not experienced what I tout as the gentle side of my editing work, only the forthright one. That was 1996.

In the 25 years since then, I've worked with almost every student that's been associated with the HTI, either at summer workshops or on their dissertations. That collaboration has changed my life.

Professionally, our scholars' writing has opened my eyes to a Latinx world of scholarship, experience, laughter, and perseverance often against considerable odds. I've made many friends. I've fed my family through working for HTI. And I hope I've helped one or two people enjoy writing more and trust that they do it well.

Personally, as a twice-over immigrant myself, I feel fortunate to have (HTI) family close by. Tony Alonso suggesting to his dissertation writers' cohort over Zoom that they dub me “Ulita” clinched that! As does the dark chocolate Joanne and colleagues always have ready for my arrival in Princeton (and often art supplies too, lest I find myself with non-editing minutes to spare-ha!). And, and, and.

That first student didn't board his flight. He revised and defended his dissertation, and has a successful academic career.

Here's to many more HTI graduates! And huge appreciation for the founders of HTI, those who fund the HTI's work, and those who continue to lead it today.

Ulrike Guthrie
Editor, Ulrike Guthrie Editorial Services
1996-2021, My Quarter Century with HTI!
Harvard Divinity School congratulates the Hispanic Theological Initiative on its 25th Anniversary

The Hispanic Theological Initiative has been a deeply valued partner in our shared commitment to the recruitment, support and success of Latinx students. We are grateful for the excellent and indispensable work HTI does to prepare Latinx faculty and leaders in many areas of religious studies and theological education. Its dedication to this crucial effort elevates all the institutions with which it collaborates. We are proud and grateful to be one of them.
Besides my interactions with HTI from my position at Fuller Seminary, it has also been a joy for me to observe how my son has benefited personally from being an HTI scholar.

Dr. Amos Yong
Dean and Professor,
Fuller Theological Seminary
The HTI En Conjunto Model is a best practice, award-winning, innovative and holistic approach for supporting Latinx PhD scholars in religious and theological studies. Currently, HTI’s model is fully available to HTI Consortium member schools. Each member institution pays an annual membership fee, which supports the infrastructure of the Consortium and provides members with several benefits, including the right to enroll or re-enroll one student per year as an HTI scholar. A separate fee is charged for each additional student.

In this brochure, you will find the list of member institutions, and testimonials from presidents, deans, and faculty giving witness to HTI’s programming. Additionally, at www.htiprogram.org, you will find descriptive pages of each school’s offerings.

The How of the HTI Consortium

Here are the opportunities that are supported for each doctoral student in the first, second, and/or comprehensive examination year:

- Travel, lodging, and meals to the four-day HTI Professional Development Conference
- Honorarium and travel expenses for a mentor to support the student and to visit the student’s institution
- One-on-one mentoring
- Funds for networking opportunities
- Internships

If the HTI Scholar is All But Dissertation (ABD), the funds are used to cover the following expenses:

- Travel, lodging, and meals to the four-day HTI Professional Development Conference
- Editorial assistance for the academic year
- Funds for networking opportunities
- Winter and Summer Writer’s Sessions
- Competitive Dissertation Fellowships

In addition to supporting doctoral students, the HTI Consortium also works En Conjunto to enhance and advance the work of HTI. The Consortium’s governing body is the Member Council, comprised of presidents and deans of the member schools. The Member Council gathers once a year at the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) annual meetings, to review and approve recommendations from the Consortium Steering Committee. ¹

¹ Listen to testimonies about HTI by Consortium Council Members:
Congratulations on
25 years of exceptional work
Ph.D. Program,
Department of Religion,
Baylor University
This is about the gifts and the contributions to God’s handy work. So I want to lean in on that and I want to participate in that work. That is the chance we have in the support of the work that HTI is doing.

Dr. Robin Steinke
President,
Luther Seminary
Looking Forward with Hope: Reflections on the Present State and Future of Theological Education by Dr. Benjamín Valenti
Cascade Books (November 1, 2019)

Did God Create the Universe?: A Bilingual Devotional For Kids Who Like To Ask Big Questions by Dr. Carmelo Santos
Independently published (December 16, 2019)

Unmasking Latinx Ministry for Episcopalians: An Anglican Approach by Carla E. Roland Guzmán
Church Pub Inc (February 17, 2020)

Escatologia (Eschatology): La Esperanza Cristiana by Dr. Leopoldo Sánchez
Edit Concordia (April 17, 2020)

Introducing Latinx Theologies by Dr. Edwin David Aponte and Dr. Miguel A. De LaTorre
Orbis Books (May 20, 2020)

The Word Became Culture (Disruptive Cartographers: Doing Theology Latinamente) by Dr. Miguel H. Diaz. (Editor)
ORBIS (January 20, 2021)

O Racismo Na História Batista Brasileira: Uma Memória Inconveniente do Legado Missionário by Dr. João Chaves
Novos Diálogos (March 5, 2021)

Predicadores: Hispanic Preaching and Immigrant Identity by Dr. Tito Madrazo
Baylor University Press (March 15, 2021)

Gonna Trouble the Water: Ecojustice, Water, and Environmental Racism by Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre (Author), Governor Bill Ritter (Foreword)
Pilgrim Press (April 1, 2021)

Latino/a Theology and the Bible: Ethnic-Racial Reflections on Interpretation by Francisco Lozada Jr. (Editor, Contributor), Fernando F. Segovia (Editor, Contributor), Sammy Alfaro (Contributor), Edgardo Colón-Emeric (Contributor), Michelle A. Gonzalez Maldonado (Contributor), Nora O. Lozano (Contributor), Loida I. Martell (Contributor), Elaine Padilla (Contributor), Nancy Pineda-Madrid (Contributor), Rubén Rosario Rodríguez (Contributor), Christopher D. Tirres (Contributor)
Fortress Academic (May 11, 2021)

Valuing Lives, Healing Earth: Religion, Gender, and Life on Earth (Eswtr Studies in Religion, 3) by L. Dube (Editor), T. M. Hinga (Editor), S. E. Robinson (Editor), T. A. Yugar (Editor)
Peeters Pub & Booksellers (June 25, 2021)

Atando Cabos: Latinx Contributions to Theological Education (Theological Education between the Times) by Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier (Author)
Eerdmans (August 31, 2021)

Migrational Religion: Context and Creativity in the Latinx Diaspora by João B. Chaves
Baylor University Press (October 1, 2021)

T&T Clark Introduction to Spirit Christology by Leopoldo A. Sanzchez M.
T&T Clark; Annotated edition (November 18, 2021)
Dr. Saúl Barcelo  
(Claremont School of Theology)  
Director of the Center for Whole Person Care: Integrating Faith and Healing, and Assistant Professor of Religion  
Loma Linda University

Dr. Liam de los Reyes  
(University of Notre Dame)  
Associate Professor of Moral Theology  
Mount Angel Seminary

Dr. Fellipe do Vale  
(Southern Methodist University)  
Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Dr. Jennifer Fernandez  
(Graduate Theological Union)  
Independent Scholar/Consultant

Dr. Yvette Garcia  
(Baylor University)  
Vice President of Advancement  
West Coast Bible College and Seminary

Dr. Michael Remedios Grigoni  
(Duke University)  
Research Associate at the Kenan Institute for Ethics  
Duke University

Dr. Elmer A. Guzmán  
(Andrews University)  
Professor of Systematic Theology  
Instituto Adventista Paranaense, Brazil

Dr. Lydia Hernández-Marcial  
(Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago)  
Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

Dr. Maria Monteiro  
(Baylor University)  
Lecturer in Church Music  
Baylor University School of Music

Dr. Juan Carlos Morales  
(Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York)  
Pastor, Park Slope Christian Tabernacle, Brooklyn, New York  
Adjunct Professor  
Western Theological Seminary  
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Dr. Michael Orellana  
(Andrews University)  
Director of Graduate Studies in Theology  
Universidad Peruana Union, Peru

Dr. Adam Perez  
(Duke Divinity School)  
Postdoctoral Associate Worship  
Duke Divinity School

Dr. Christopher Rios  
(University of Notre Dame)  
Post-doctoral Fellow  
University of Notre Dame Press

Dr. Jorge Juan Rodríguez  
(Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York)  
Associate Director for Strategic Programming  
Hispanic Summer Program

Dr. Martin Rodríguez  
(Fuller Theological Seminary)  
Assistant Professor of Practical Theology  
Azusa Pacific University

Dr. Eric Joseph Sias  
(Graduate Theological Union)  
Adjunct position  
Berkeley School of Theology  
St. Mary’s College of California

Dr. Stephanie Mota Thurston  
(Princeton Theological Seminary)  
Research Fellow in the Religion Department  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Dr. Héctor Varela Rios  
(University of Chicago Divinity School)  
Assistant Professor of Theology  
Villanova University

Dr. Grace Vargas  
(Southern Methodist University)  
Assistant Professor Latinx Religious Traditions  
Texas Christian University

Dr. Aizaiah Yong  
(Claremont School of Theology)  
Assistant Professor of Practical Theology and Pastoral Care  
Pacific School of Religion

Dr. Raúl Zegarra  
(The University of Chicago Divinity School)  
Lecturer  
Loyola University Chicago
“IT IS IN COLLECTIVITIES THAT WE FIND RESERVOIRS OF HOPE AND OPTIMISM.”

ANGELA Y. DAVIS

The Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE) celebrates the Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI) for its 25 years of impact on the academy and nurturing rising Latina/o scholars. FTE is grateful for its partnership with HTI and acknowledges its strong history and legacy.
The mentoring I received through HTI as a graduate student was instrumental in my academic journey and subsequent career as a professor. That cannot be overstated. I benefitted from the role models I met, beginning with Dr. Justo González and Dr. Virgilio Elizondo, Dr. Daisy Machado, Dr. Ada María Isasi-Díaz and so many others over the years. The networking and friendships with peers who are now established academics, remain precious in my memory. I really don’t think I would have achieved academic success without the support from HTI. Rather than one event, all the workshops, anniversaries events and social times played a role in my development. And it was an honor to eventually become a mentor to young graduate students. The leadership of HTI over the years must be commended! ¡Gracias a HTI!

Lara Medina
Professor Chicana-Chicano Studies, California State University, Northridge
Too numerous events to name
Granting you the opportunity to ignite change.

Funded by the Religion Division of Lilly Endowment, Louisville Institute awards grants and fellowships to those who lead and study North American religious institutions, practices, and movements, advancing scholarship to strengthen church, academy, and wider society.

Check eligibility and application deadlines by visiting our website:

Louisville-Institute.org
I think HTI captures the sense of both conserving the tradition of academia, ministry, and service, as well as moving forward in developing new leadership to carry out that mission; to carry out that task of spreading the Gospel.

Dr. Scott Woodward
President,
Oblate School of Theology

Emmanuel College is rooted in the ecumenical heritage of Canada, offering professional and academic other advanced degrees.

Congratulations
Hispanic Theological Initiative
on
25 years

Emmanuel College is a multi-religious theological school rooted in the ecumenical heritage of the United Church of Canada, offering professional and academic master’s degrees, PhD and other advanced degrees.

www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca

www.vts.edu
Congratulations!

Auburn Seminary believes that leaders of faith and moral courage have key roles to play in making our culture humane, just, and ethical. Latinx leadership is crucial in this work.

We congratulate HTI for 25 years of cultivating leaders who challenge and reshape our collective imagination. Your legacy is already a blessing. We wish you continued success!

Erica Ramirez
Director of Applied Research
Auburn Seminary
HTI AT A GLANCE

WHO ARE HTI SCHOLARS?

64% Male
36% Female
2 deans
4 presidents
15 Denominations
30% Ordained
103 Full-time educators
45 Leaders in administration, research, and ministry

WHAT HAS HTI ACHIEVED?

48 master’s & 150 doctoral students supported
93% of HTI students earn their graduate degrees in an average of 5.5 years
40% are tenured
33% are on tenured track
93% of HTI students earn their graduate degrees in an average of 5.5 years
Compared to 31% retention rate and 9.3 years. Source: Council of Graduate Schools PhD Completion Project

180 Published books by 71 HTI scholars
Assisted 10 post-doctoral scholars in the writing of their books (1997 to 2001)
Honored 12 Book Prize winners

WHERE ARE HTI GRADUATES NOW?

3 continents & 7 countries

29 States and Puerto Rico

Brazil
Canada
Costa Rica
Mexico
Peru
Taiwan

Academic institutions
Denominations
Congregations
Nonprofit organizations
Media/publishing organizations
Government agencies
Health organizations
Professional/educational organizations
HTI is extremely grateful for the pivotal role that the mentors and editors have played to ensure the graduation of 150 Latinx scholars, maintaining HTI’s exceptional graduation rate of 93% and average time to degree of 5.5 years.

**Mentors**

Efrain Agosto                              Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz                              Daniel Ramírez
Maríana Alessandri                        Juan Hernández                                     Guillermo Ramírez-Muñoz
Sammy Alfaro                               Jacqueline Hidalgo                                 Harold J. Recinos
Antonio (Tony) Alonso                      Kathryn (Kay) Higuera-Smith                         Gary Riebe Estrella
Jorge Alberto Aquino                       Felipe Hinojosa                                    Sharon H. Ringe
Lloyd Barba                                Natalia Imperatori Lee                             Mayra Rivera
Eric D. Barreto                            José Ramón Irizarry                                Nelson Rivera
Raimundo Barreto                           Ada María Isasi-Díaz                               Robert (Bobby) Rivera
Paul Thomas Barton                         Cleophas J LaRue                                   Luis R. Rivera Rodríguez
Carlos F. Cardoza-Orlandi                  Michael Edward Lee                                 Luis N. Rivera-Pagán
M. Daniel Carroll R. (Rodas)               Luis Daniel León                                   Jeanette Rodríguez
Peter Casarella                            Ediberto Lopez                                    Carla Roland Guzmán
Daniel Castelo                              Francisco Lozada                                  Rady Roldán-Figueroa
Edgardo Colón-Emeric                      Nora O. Lozano-Diaz                                Caleb Rosado
Elizabeth Conde-Frazier                    Daisy L. Machado                                  Daniel A. Rodríguez
Jeremy Cruz                                Gary Macy                                         Rubén Rosario-Rodríguez
Gregory Lee Cuéllar                       Otto Maduro                                      Jean-Pierre Ruiz
María Teresa Dávila                       Loida I. Martell                                  Santiago Slabodsky
Cristian De La Rosa                        Juan Francisco Martínez                            Leopoldo A. Sánchez
Miguel De La Torre                         Lara Medina                                      Arlene M. Sánchez-Walsh
Neomi DeAnda                               Rubén Muñoz-Larrondo                              David A. Sánchez =
Teresa Delgado                             Carmen M. Nanko-Fernández                         Timothy Sandoval
Miguel H. Díaz                             Adriana Nieto                                    Angel Santiago Vendrell
Rubén René Dupertuis                       Alvin Padilla                                    Fernando F. Segovia
Orlando O. Espín                           Elaine Padilla                                   Samuel Soliván
Gastón Enrique Espinosa                   Melissa Pagan                                    Angela Tarango
Ismael García                              Samuel Pagán                                     Mark Lewis Taylor
Sixto J. García                            Segundo S. Pantoja                                Christopher D. Tirres
Oscar García-Johnson                       Luis G. Pedraja                                   Theresa Lynn Torres
Francisco García-Treto                     Milagros Peña                                   Benjamin Valentín
Roberto Goizueta                           Ahida Pilarski                                   Ernesto Valiente
Raúl R. Gómez-Ruíz                        Nancy Pineda-Madrid                               J. Wentzel Van Huyssteen
Julian Gonzalez                             Ana María Pineda                                  Alicia Vargas
Cecilia González-Andrieu                   Santiago O. Piñón                                Herold Weiss
Michelle Anne González-Maldonado

**Editors**

Patrick Alexander                          Ched Myers                                       Laura A. Wilmot
Jon Berquist                               Catherine Osborne                                Raúl Zegarra
Ulrike Guthrie                             Ralph Piper                                     
Rex Matthews                               Robert Ratcliff

† Deceased
In the past twenty-five years, HTI has embodied its “En Conjunto” model both in its supportive programming and daily activities. Now that we have a cohort of scholars represented nationally and abroad with connections that expand beyond theological and religious education we are in a position to broaden our scope and vision.

HTI is committed to the recruitment, retention, and graduation of Latinx PhD students in religion and theology, and also to help Latinx faculty publish more, gain tenure, and move into the leadership roles of dean, provost, and president to academic institutions. Additionally, HTI wants to be in conversation with the educational leaders of denominations to see how, mutually, we can help support the academic growth of Latinx communities.

Here are several examples of how HTI continues to address the needs presented by the shifting landscape of academia:

- Pre-dissertation HTI internship Program to enhance and advance the leadership capacity of HTI Scholars;
- Early Career Orientation (ECO) provides post-graduate career development through mentoring and workshops, which supports graduates transition into professional careers for greater contributions and partnerships at their hiring institutions;
- Latinas in Leadership (LIL) provides Latinas who bring bi-vocational, entrepreneurial, and mid-level careers in religion and theological education an en conjunto program to explore and advance their skills for executive level leadership.

Additionally, during this anniversary year, HTI has introduced these new opportunities:

- The Hispanic Theological Initiative Series on Religion and Theology En Conjunto—an academic book series published by Baylor University Press. The HTI/Baylor Press series will strengthen Latinx scholarship beyond HTI circles, contributing innovative research to a number of disciplines and providing a site for the publication of minoritized junior, mid-career, and also senior scholars in and outside of the HTI networks.
- The HTI Lecture Series at Member Schools—These lectures are co-sponsored by several consortium member schools and they will continue to strengthen HTI’s en conjunto work by disseminating cutting-edge scholarship over the next three years.

For more information about how to become more involved in HTI’s current and future programming subscribe to Journeys, HTI’s newsletter.

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**TESTIMONIAL**

I have very fond memories of the Writing Retreats that HTI put together to help me finish my dissertation. Lots of laughs and struggle-sharing with my cohort. But if I had to share the most impactful moment it would be this: that moment when HTI told me that they would do ‘EVERYTHING’ within their power to help me finish my doctorate. I know they meant it, and it was such transformative experience. How can you not live up to someone who believes in you unconditionally?

*Luis Menendez-Antuña*

Assistant Professor of New Testament, Boston University
2014 Writer’s Week
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE CONSORTIUM

Supporting Latinx Scholars for 25 Years

WE ALSO CONGRATULATE
Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI) Scholars
Graduate Program in Religious Studies,
Southern Methodist University
2007 to 2021

Graduates
Dr. Ángel J. Gallardo
Dr. Julián Andres González (HTI Book Prize Winner 2018)
Dr. Grace Vargas

Current Scholars
Fellipe do Vale
Matthew Esquivel
José Santana
Yolanda Michelle Santiago Correa
Noemí Vega Quiñones

Perkins School of Theology – Southern Methodist University Faculty – HTI Scholars
Dr. Paul Barton (Post-Doctoral Fellow 2000-2001)
Dr. Ángel J. Gallardo
Dr. Hugo Magallanes

HTI Mentor
Dr. Harold Recinos
The Religion Department of Texas Christian University would like to congratulate the Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI) for its 25 years of supporting Latinx Scholars.

The consequences of HTI’s influence gives the opportunity for a wider array of the church, not just the Latino church, but beyond the Latino church too, to see God in the fullness of God’s reality.

Rev. Dr. Mark Labberton
President,
Fuller Theological Seminary
The University of Chicago Divinity School congratulates HTI on its 25-year anniversary.

We are happy to partner with you to support the work of LatinX scholars.

The Divinity School offers the doctoral (PhD) degree, the Master of Divinity degree (MDiv), the Master of Arts (MA) degree, and a Master of Arts in Religious Studies (AMRS), as well as a major and a minor for College students.

For more information about our degree programs and application processes, or to learn more about life in the Divinity School, visit https://divinity.uchicago.edu/admissions. We welcome your inquiries!
Dr. Emilie Townes  
Dean,  
Vanderbilt Divinity School

When I went to this event [Early Career Orientation], I had left a job of 13 years and had just completed the PhD. I was also still processing the loss of my mother. Needless to say, I was very much in a period of transition at the time. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier was the HTI’s scholar supporting this program. She also happens to be someone whom God has used at various times in my life, since we met in California many years ago. I had a conversation with her that helped bring clarity and focus in a time of chaos. I journaled much of the conversation and have referred back to it from time to time.

I met Chris Cavanaugh during this week at Princeton. HTI was generous and kind enough to ‘hire’ her to help me with my CV. Chris’s help was invaluable. The conversations we had went well beyond the CV and were very profitable at a personal level.

I am very grateful for HTI!

Lizette Acosta  
Director of Latino Ministry Formation Program, Asbury Theological Seminary  
2019 – Early Career Orientation
CONGRATULATIONS,
ON 25 YEARS!
BA OR MA DEGREE IN PASTORAL MINISTRY
MACC fosters a Christ-centered campus where students – clergy, seminarians, religious, and lay leaders – can further their education for ministry and begin higher education in their native language, while attaining bilingual proficiency. Undergraduate students can concurrently enroll at the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) in the Collaborative Bachelor of Arts Program in Pastoral Ministry, accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and offered at MACC. Graduate students can concurrently enroll in the Collaborative Master of Arts Degree in Pastoral Ministry.

CONTINUING EDUCATION
MACC also offers a formation program for candidates for the permanent diaconate; language studies in Spanish and English; spiritual retreats; and workshops to teach leadership skills and intercultural competencies for ministry in Hispanic and other multicultural communities.

For more information: Mexican American Catholic College, 3115 West Ashby Place, San Antonio, TX 78228 210.732.2156 Toll-free 1.866.893.6222 • Degree Program: ext. 7102 or aalvarado@maccsa.org • Lay Ecclesial: ext. 7140 or pductram@maccsa.org • Continuing Education ext. 7134 or lgraham@maccsa.org

HTI is a model of best practices and using best practices with doctoral students.

Dr. William Bellinger
Chair of the Religious Department (retired), Baylor University
Drew Theological School Congratulates HTI for 25 Strong Years of Supporting, Mentoring and Encouraging Latinx Theological Scholars

Drew proudly supports graduating Latinx PhDs for their scholarly leadership positions.

Drew Theological School has trained rooted, innovative and courageous leaders for over 150 years for service to the church, the academy and the world. We are a diverse and open community that dares to pursue the love, wisdom and justice at the heart of the kin-dom of God.


For more information on our programs, visit Drew.edu/theo.
HTI is helping nurture faculty at Brite Divinity School, but not only Brite Divinity School... It is so much better to have a faculty that is genuinely diverse.

Dr. Newell Williams
President,
Brite Divinity School

“HTI creates a space within the imagination of the community where new things can be imagined, new theological concepts come forth, new notions of community are generated.”

Rev. Dr. Serene Jones
President,
Union Theological Seminary
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Congratulates the Hispanic Theological Initiative on its 25th Anniversary!

Your programs and ministry have formed generations of Latinx leaders for the church, the academy, and our world and we are extremely proud to be a member.

¡Éxito y bendiciones!

Dr. Nancy E. Bedford
Dr. Yara Gonzalez-Justiniano
Dr. Débora B. A. Junker
Dr. Luis R. Rivera
Dr. Osvaldo D. Vena
Dr. Javier A. Viera
The great thing we have is so many HTI scholars out there and so many publications for the academy, the church, religion departments, and theological schools.

Dr. Lallene Rector
Professor,
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

“HTI can come alongside and help people like me, and institutions like mine, that have plenty of good intentions but all sorts of cultural blind spots, maybe not to have some of those good intentions pave the road somewhere else, rather than the road that we are trying to walk on.”

Dr. Dan Treier
Professor and Director of Graduate Studies,
Wheaton College
Boston University School of Theology celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium

We are proud to support the HTI on the occasion of their 25th anniversary.

We also congratulate our HTI community members:
Xochitl Alvizo, PhD (‘15)
Jasmin Elise Figueroa, PhD candidate
Yara González-Justiniano, PhD (‘19)
Luis Menéndez-Antuña, faculty member
Daniel Montañez, PhD student
Mónica Isabel Rey, PhD candidate
Rady Roldán-Figueroa, ThD (‘05), faculty member
Seth Anthony Villegas, PhD candidate

Boston University School of Theology Latinx faculty members met recently to discuss the future of Latinx programming at the School. From left to right: Alejandro Botta, Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible; Cristian De La Rosa, Associate Dean for Students and Community Life; Filipe Maia, Assistant Professor of Theology; Luis Menéndez-Antuña, Assistant Professor of New Testament; Jonathan Calvillo, Assistant Professor of Sociology of Religion; and Rady Roldán-Figueroa, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity and Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
We now have a presence of Latino scholars training not only Latino scholars and theological leaders for the future, but also helping Anglo, African America, Asian, and Asian American students to understand the needs and opportunities for the Hispanic and Latino/a church in the US, Latin America, and around the world.

Dr. Gregory Jones
Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr., Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Christian Ministry,
Duke Divinity School
President,
Belmont University

“...It gave me great hope to discover HTI and to learn that we don’t just have this faculty, we are producing more faculty. There is a tremendous need going forward for excellent scholars and future leaders.”

Dr. Craig Hill
Dean,
Perkins School of Theology
En celebración y apreciación por su ardua labor y ministerio

McCormick Theological Seminary se une a la familia de Hispanic Theological Initiative dando gracias a Dios por 25 años de excelencia en el desarrollo académico y ministerial de líderes Latinx. Les felicitamos en este logro.

¡Adelante!

In celebration and appreciation for your great work and ministry

McCormick Theological Seminary unites with the Hispanic Theological Initiative family in giving thanks to God for 25 years of excellence in the academic and ministry development of Latinx leaders. We congratulate you in this grand accomplishment.

Keep moving forward!
**HTI ONLINE PUBLICATIONS**

**HTI Open Plaza** is an online platform within the Hispanic Theological Initiative that amplifies the voices of diverse thinkers and scholars in the public square. HTI Open Plaza’s conversational and interdisciplinary space engages issues of religion, history, and social justice affecting Latinx communities, specifically in the areas of:

- Culture
- Education
- Gender & Sexuality
- Health
- Migration
- Politics & Economics

HTI Open Plaza contributors work en conjunto with a faculty-led team of editors from academic institutions throughout the United States and Canada. Through its HTI25 Series, Open Plaza honors HTI’s quarter century of *Excelencia*.

**Perspectivas** is the online peer-reviewed bilingual subscription journal of the Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI). Perspectivas began in 1998 as Perspectivas: Occasional Papers to feature the contributions of Latinx scholars in theology and religion. It served as a critical resource to stimulate further dialogue and research in theological and religious studies. As interest, readership, and impact grew, Perspectivas evolved into a peer-reviewed print journal through 2009 when publication ceased due to financial constraints. Although Perspectivas was no longer being published, readers continued to engage the existing issues and as a result, demand for the publication increased. Perspectivas has become a vehicle to reach a broad audience, including faculty and students, as well as a growing number of churches and other community organizations across the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada. Because of its continued success, HTI was thrilled to move Perspectivas to its new online home in 2016.

**Journeys** is HTI’s online quarterly newsletter whereby you will see HTI’s member schools’ shared commitment to advancing the recruitment, retention, and graduation of Latinx PhD students in the larger landscape of theological and religious education, and hear about the contributions HTI graduates and current HTI scholars are making in the academy, the church, and the world. Subscribe here: [https://hti.ptsem.edu/publications/journeys/](https://hti.ptsem.edu/publications/journeys/)

**HTI Dissertation Series Collection.** Inaugurated in 2002, this collection, housed at Princeton Theological Seminary’s Library, has provided scholars across the nation with access to an array of dissertations written by our gifted HTI scholars, as well as by other scholars who have chosen topics that deal with Latinx issues. For patrons off campus, the online catalog can be accessed online ([https://catalog.ptsem.edu](https://catalog.ptsem.edu)), where the list of dissertations can be searched under the title “HTI” or “HTI dissertation collection.” Interlibrary loans are possible through OCLC at local libraries, and the material is available for a four-week loan period with in-library use only.

**HTI’s website**, [hti-program.org](http://hti-program.org), offers academic institutions, students, and pastors, information on each of our 24 member institutions, including: financial information and resources, Hispanic/Latinx faculty, Hispanic centers and programs, and library resources. The HTI website also features HTI graduates’ profiles, past issues of Perspectivas, bibliography for Latin American Religious Study (BLARS), current and past issues of Journeys, bibliography of monographs written by HTI graduates, and employment opportunities, etc.

**HTI on Social Media.** Join us on social media to receive the most current happenings at HTI, updates on HTI member institutions, announcements on new publications, employment opportunities, and information about academic and church events.

- Facebook /htiprogram
- Twitter @HTIprogram
- Instagram @htiprogram
- YouTube [youtube.com/channel/UCIRgPK5M9d1w7ljGdmGL8zg](https://youtube.com/channel/UCIRgPK5M9d1w7ljGdmGL8zg)

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‡See some of the content produced by Open Plaza and Perspectivas:
Celebrating 25 years of changing lives by lifting up Latinx scholars.

Congratulations to the Hispanic Theological Initiative and 25 years of honoring Latinx scholars' contributions to the academy and world. Duke Divinity School celebrates with HTI and is committed to its vision of working En Conjunto to create life-giving education for the next generation of Latinx theological leaders who will shape the world.

2020-2021 HTI SCHOLARS
Adam Adrian Perez
Alberto Alexander LaRosa Rojas
Alma Tinoco Ruiz

DUKE DIVINITY FACULTY
Nina Balmaceda
Peter Casarella
Daniel Castelo
Edgardo Colon-Emerich
Alma Tinoco Ruiz
I had never been surrounded by so many bright, beautiful, kind Latinx thinkers until I arrived to the campus of Princeton Seminary. My interaction with each colleague, mentor, staff member, and most importantly editor (Santa Uli), inspired me to go through this process. Perhaps I should confess that even if I had passed my comprehensive exams, I still didn't believe I would graduate.

Prior to my arrival to the Summer’s Writing Weekend, I had spent six months, researching and had only written 20 pages. I’m aware that working full time and having a young family didn’t leave much time, but there was a much deeper issue that was getting in the way of my progress. I confess, I was fearful of writing. I was afraid that my ideas were not good enough and that I would never meet the deadlines. Everything changed once I met my editor Ulrike Guthrie, right away, she asked me, ‘What are you afraid of?’

During our conversation, Uli shared helpful advice and encouraged me to just write. For the first time I felt empowered and I decided to use every second I had available to research and write. I didn’t sleep much or do anything fun during the weekend, but at the end of the weekend I had written my introduction, first chapter, and outlined my writing for the next six months. The HTI monthly reports and conversations with Ulrike helped me maintain a writing momentum. Also, my deep commitment to my family and the fact that my wife was scheduled to give birth to our baby daughter on December of 2019.

Although, I wasn’t able to attend the HTI Winter Writers Week the HTI support helped me meet the deadline for the dissertation submission on January 15, 2020. I didn’t get much sleep within those six months, but as I reflect on those difficult days, I still cannot believe that I wrote more than 200 pages in only 6 months and that had a successful defense on February 25, 2020. How can someone put together a full dissertation in 6 months? A miracle???

There was no way I could have done this without the resources provided by HTI. I’m forever in debt to you!!!

Saul Barcelo  
Director of the Center for Whole Person Care: Integrating Faith and Healing  
Assistant Professor of Religion, Loma Linda University  
2019 – Summer’s Writing Weekend
The Religious Studies program at Mount Saint Mary’s University is proud to support HTI. Congratulations on 25 years of success! We look forward to celebrating another 25 years of working together to develop and nourish compassionate, unstoppable leaders for a more inclusive and just world.

Melissa Pagan, PhD
Graduate Program Director
Religious Studies
Mount Saint Mary’s University
HTI Graduate and Faculty of HTI’s Professional Development Conference

Become an Unstoppable force in the church and the world with our programs:

• Master of Arts in Religious Studies
• Certificate in Spiritual Direction

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HTI takes an underrepresented group in theological education and gives that group lots of support. Very concrete, material, practical, well-organized support.

Dr. Jan Love
Dean,
Candler School of Theology

Of the many memorable moments in HTI, the one that I’d like to share is the moment we danced. At a July 1999 HTI gathering in Menlo Park, and after a series of productive presentations and dialogues, a weekend evening was upon us. And so we cleared our space to create a dance area. HTI scholars had brought CDs of salsa, Tejano and disco music: Gloria Estefan, Marc Anthony, Jennifer Lopez, Selena, the Texas Tornadoes, and Barry White soon filled the air with festive celebration. I’ll never forget that evening; HTI scholars not only practiced rigorous theological reflection, but also festive celebration!

Oswald Nira
Faith Formation Team, Mission Concepcion Catholic Church
1999 HTI Summer Workshop, Menlo Park
Recursos en español de Baker Academic

Las PRÁCTICAS de la PREDICACIÓN CRISTIANA

9780801098673 • 240 pp. • $22.99p

“No es fácil predicar el evangelio eterno en medio de las circunstancias siempre cambiantes de cada día. Y sin embargo, este libro señala algunas pautas tantas teológicas como prácticas para lograrlo. No es un libro para leer y echar a un lado, sino que es más bien un libro al que han de volver repetidamente esos predicadores del evangelio quienes quieran a la vez ser fieles a la verdad que anuncian y relacionarla con la vida cotidiana de quienes escuchan.”

—JUSTO L. GONZÁLEZ,
imigrante, historiador de la iglesia y teólogo

Introducción al Nuevo Testamento

9780801099694 • 560 pp. • $44.99p

“Es una obra actualizada en cuanto a la investigación de los biblistas neotestamentarios y tiene un fuerte sentido pastoral que será apreciado por muchos pastores, seminaristas y estudiosos serios del Nuevo Testamento. Los temas centrales de cada libro son presentados de manera sintética y precisa. Cuestiones críticas y teológicas en cada libro son elucidadas y presentadas a la consideración del lector de manera inteligente y persuasiva.”

—MARIANO AVILA,
profesor del Nuevo Testamento, Seminario Teológico Calvino

Happy 25th Anniversary to the Hispanic Theological Initiative!
Austin Seminary celebrates with The Hispanic Theological Initiative on 25 years of sustaining and promoting Latinx scholarship & leadership.

Dr. Gregory Cuéllar
Austin Seminary Associate Professor of Old Testament
2005-2006 HTI Dissertation Year Scholar, HTI Mentor

HTI gives our students that national platform, networking, and connectivity that has helped them develop their work, and learn how to survive in the academy; it has built bridges for them for future employment, and it has been the community that has supported them down through the years of their work.

Dr. Timothy Matovina
Professor and Chair of Theology Department,
University of Notre Dame

UIW congratulates HTI on 25 years of excellence!


The University of the Incarnate Word is proud to rank No. 1 nationally among faith-based universities graduating Hispanic students with bachelor’s degrees.

uiw.edu • San Antonio, TX
25th Anniversary Congratulations to HTI,
May God continue to abundantly bless your work and witness.

Episcopal Church of St. Matthew and St. Timothy • Iglesia Episcopal de San Mateo y San Timoteo
NYC • www.smstchurch.org • FB @SMSTChurch
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GCU offers a transformational pathway and scholarship program for aspiring pastoral leaders to gain the training and experience they need for a career in church ministry.

To learn more, visit GCU.EDU/BARNABAS
If you are a PhD director and you are saying ‘I don’t know, can we really afford this?’ Go find a donor; this is a no brainer. Go find a donor who will give money to help your students go to HTI. It will be fantastic!

Dr. Tom Shepherd
Professor,
Andrews University

TESTIMONIAL

I have been a member of HTI Steering Committee for six years. This committee works closely in supporting and resourcing the work and leadership of the executive director, Rev. Joanne Rodríguez. The committee is responsible for program oversight, review, evaluation, and planning, and meets at least two times a year. There is always a lot of work and also times for prayer, camaraderie, and one celebratory dinner in a nice restaurant. We always interact with staff and students.

I am always inspired by the joy, creativity, commitment, generosity, friendship, and vision that these colleagues bring to the table. The meetings are a laboratory for doing Latinx theological education and a hub for practicing leadership ‘en conjunto.’ Many good things have come out of these meetings! There are always plenty of smiles and good feelings as we enter and exit those gatherings. This kind of service has enriched and blessed deeply my personal and professional life. Happy anniversary HTI!

Luis Rivera
Associate Professor of Theology, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
2016–2019 – Chair, Steering Committee and Member Council
2019 to present – Steering Committee member
Congratulations to the Hispanic Theological Initiative on 25 years of successful leadership in creating a vibrant community of Latinx scholars equipped to serve the academy and the church.

Luther Seminary is honored to be a longtime partner of HTI as it carries out its mission and distinctive work in the world.

luthersem.edu

Brite Divinity School congratulates the Hispanic Theological Initiative on 25 years Transforming Theological and Religious Education.

Learn about Brite’s Borderlands Initiative and Latina/o Church Studies Program at www.brite.edu/LCSP

BRITE
DIVINITY SCHOOL

TCU Box 298130 • Fort Worth, Texas 76129 • www.brite.edu • 817-257-7575
This year we gather to celebrate HTI’s silver anniversary and we offer gratitude and pay honor to the many individuals and institutions who have made the mission and vision of HTI real and impactful.

When you stop, reflect, and truly take in all of the achievements of these past twenty-five years, it is certainly inspiring and exciting! When you see a Latinx student graduate begin to make vital and long-lasting changes at an academic institution, a denomination, a church, or a nonprofit, it is the best feeling in the world. HTI scholars are passionate about the work that they do and watching them in action is confirmation that the work HTI does to support them is crucial.

HTI helps emerging scholars actualize their vision of doing the work that fulfills them and also ushers in change. With words of encouragement and admiration, with our advocacy, together we help Hispanic leaders enhance and use their own voices. The partnerships HTI builds extend to the HTI scholars, empowers them with resources, and creates spaces for them to build relationships and make their dreams a reality. This reality continues to give to hundreds and thousands, both in the United States and abroad, to both the Hispanic community, and to all with whom they come in contact. Your continued partnerships and giving is what makes the work of HTI possible, and that is why it is so important! So we urge you to continue to dream with us and give of your time, treasure, testimony, and talents to expand HTI’s mission.

“...I can still remember my conversation with Dr. Ada María Isasi-Díaz at a restaurant near Princeton Theological Seminary. Our conversation so impacted me at multiple levels. I greatly appreciated her candor and honesty about many different theological, ministerial, and practical issues involving social justice ‘y la Lucha.’ But, I also appreciated her heart. I felt like that mentoring dinner provided a space and place for me to really get a sense of her heart for the people, for the Lord, and for me as a young Hispanic scholar. We connected at the level of story-telling and ‘talking story’ which really made me feel like I belonged. I felt like I truly belonged in the academy and ‘en la Lucha.’ I felt like Dr. Isasi-Díaz really cared and I knew that she was investing in me because she wanted me to succeed. I felt connected to Dr. Isasi-Díaz as one would to a family member. I saw in her eyes faith, hope, and love and I saw that lived out in her way of life. Even after I graduated she continued to serve as a mentor from afar, cheering me on, supporting me with encouraging words, and standing in my corner as I continued to grow in my calling. In many ways, I have tried to do the same for other young scholars. I am truly grateful for HTI and the mentoring program."

Tommy Casarez
Associate Dean, Vanguard University
2011-12 Mentoring Dinner Event with Ada-María Isasi Díaz
"Felicidades POR ESTOS 25 AÑOS DE FRUCTÍFERA LABOR (1 CO. 15:58)"

"Congratulations ON 25 YEARS OF FRUITFUL WORK (1 COR. 15:58)"
We don’t have a safety net, so if I fail, there is nobody to catch me; if I fail, there is nobody in my home who got to seminary or sometimes even college, to say ‘keep going, we are going to support you.’ I had to do that myself and HTI became that safety net.

Dr. Alexander Gonzales
Professor,
Dallas Theological Seminary

One of the greatest assets that the HTI has is its Writer’s Workshop. Speaking to a professional editor encouraged me to finish my PhD dissertation, because it gave a point of view from outside of my institution. I felt like my contribution to scholarship was taken seriously and valued by someone who had a perspective that was not competitive, but encouraging. Also, some of the best moments I have experienced with HTI have been my conversations with Joanne Rodríguez. Her ability to listen and share her wisdom is invaluable for Hispanic scholars who typically see obstacles versus ‘logros’ in the academy. I am deeply grateful for all of this.

Renata Furst
Associate Dean for Hispanic Engagement, Oblate School of Theology
2001 Writer’s Week

David Sánchez led a powerful mentoring meeting that persuaded me to finish my dissertation and think about an academic career. It was a difficult year but his mentorship and work on Revelation opened a pathway for mine. Thanks, HTI for setting up these transformative conversations!

Roberto Mata
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Santa Clara University
2014, Mentoring
Felicidades  
HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE

ON 25 YEARS OF STRENGTHENING THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION!

Claremont School of Theology is grateful for the work you do in cultivating, encouraging, and empowering Latinx scholars and we are proud to have partnered with HTI since its inception.

As a member school of HTI, we are committed to increasing the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of Latinx PhD students.

HERE’S TO THE NEXT 25 YEARS!

CST’S HTI SCHOLARS:
2000-01, María Elizabeth Feliberty
2010-11, Altagracia Pérez-Bullard
2011-12, Ann Hidalgo
2015-16, Rafael Reyes III
2017-18, Marlene Ferreras
2018-19, José Francisco Morales Torres
2019-20, Saul Barcelo
2019-20, Aizaiah Yong
2020-21, Eunice Villaneda-Bolaños
HTI is providing a critical current and future missional need for theological schools. This is an increasing need in ATS schools because what we see from our data in regards to ATS enrollment is that the only places in which we see growth amongst students and newly enrolled students is among students of color.

Dr. Frank Yamada  
Executive Director,  
Association of Theological Schools

Congratulations on 25 remarkable years!

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago appreciates your dedication and support of our scholars.
The Program in Latina/o/x Studies and the Department of Religion at Williams College congratulate the Hispanic Theological Initiative on 25 amazing years of fostering and supporting Latina/o/x scholars in the fields of Religion and Theology.

¡Felicidades!

Vanderbilt Divinity School celebrates the Silver Anniversary of the Hispanic Theological Initiative.

Congratulations to the Hispanic Theological Initiative on 25 years of excellence in developing Latinx leaders for the church and the academic community.

Union Theological Seminary salutes you.

The Program in Latina/o/x Studies and the Department of Religion at Williams College congratulate the Hispanic Theological Initiative on 25 amazing years of fostering and supporting Latina/o/x scholars and scholarship in the fields of Religion and Theology.

¡Felicidades!
HTI is necessary. Predominantly white schools of theology were not able to do it alone. They needed the kind of intensity, support, vision, embrace that HTI gave to HTI scholars, and the kinds of relationships that HTI helped build across the Américas.

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore
Professor and Dean Emerita,
Boston University School of Theology

I was very nervous as I was going to be interviewed for the HTI scholarship, Father Raúl Gómez-Ruiz was the chaplain of the event and he approached me (he must have seen something). He listened to me and shared with me about his spiritual journey. I was filled with peace in the midst of my own insecurities. I failed the interview and did not receive the fellowship and I was truly disheartened at first, but my peers were super supportive and loving and I left with hope and peace. I was able to apply again and I received the fellowship the following year. The rigor taught me many lessons, the support at the worship spaces and opportunities to be nurtured impacted my life in very meaningful ways. The familia of HTI has been a blessing that has transformed my life. The journey en conjunto has been one that has changed the course of my life. Gracias.

Efraín Velázquez
President, Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary
2002 Interviews for HTI Scholarship
Union Presbyterian Seminary congratulates the Hispanic Theological Initiative on twenty-five years of vital support to theological scholars.

Claremont Graduate University Congratulates HTI

CGU celebrates and shares HTI’s success as a premier program in Latinx and Religious Studies. In addition to our exceptional alumni, notable faculty efforts include “The Reformation en Español,” an October 2021 conference organized by Professor Daniel Ramírez, and the receipt and processing of the Gomez Collection, one of the most extensive document collections regarding the rise of Mormonism in Mexico, led by Professor Matthew Bowman.

Study religion at CGU
cgu.edu/religion

Claremont Graduate University
Working with other Latinx scholars on the Teaching Borderlands Podcast has brought me back to my first contact and workshop with HTI which led to me receiving a postdoctoral fellowship back in 1997, an opportunity which marked the beginning of my teaching career at the Jesuit School of Theology, now part of Santa Clara University, as well as the Graduate Theological Union. Like what I experienced then, this coming together with other scholars in a supportive, ecumenical setting, one in which we shared not only our current research but our connections to communities responsible for our vocation as theologians, I felt a special kind of freedom, one in which you did not have to explain yourself or experience the dreaded imposter syndrome. As we were interviewed by the selection committee and in subsequent discussions, I could feel first director Dr. Daisy Machado’s concern that our scholarship and teaching be done for the right reason, that is, not our personal glory but for the good of our sisters and brothers. Dr. Justo González’ dedicated mentorship in putting together a book proposal based on my dissertation project, similarly, led to my first book, Cosecha: Harvesting Contemporary United States Hispanic Theology (1972-1998), which recently appeared in its third incarnation in Spanish out of Chile, a work for which he wrote the prologue. Now engaged in this Teaching Borderlands Project, one of its fruits being these podcasts, has reminded me, in the words of our goal, that our aim is ‘not only to offer a counter story of the borderlands but ultimately to foster a life-giving vision of Latinidad for educational ecology.’ Gracias a Dios for HTI and for good mentors!

Eduardo Fernandez, SJ
Professor of Pastoral Theology and Ministry
Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University
2019 – Open Plaza

In the winter of 2016, I flew to Princeton to join others as we worked together on our dissertations. Coming together—and getting snowed in—provided the community that I needed just when I was feeling ‘stuck’. It was mentally and spiritually healthy for me to be with others who understood and could encourage me in my journey.

Melisa Ortiz Berry
Assistant Professor of History and World Christianity, Bushnell University
2016 – Winter Writing Workshop
Warmest Congratulations on HTI’s 25 years!

Loyola Marymount University honors David Arturo Sanchez (1960-2019)

LMU’s Mission and Ministry, Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, and Department of Theological Studies

Join the celebration of HTI’s 25 years of unparalleled leadership, remembering the life of our compañero, hermano and HTI alum David.

You helped lead the way to the inclusivity of Latinx voices and perspectivas, we honor you as we continue this work.

Tus familias de HTI y LMU

CONGRATULATIONS!

We congratulate the Hispanic Theological Initiative on 25 years of supporting and celebrating Latinx faculty and leaders. Baylor’s Truett Seminary is grateful to be a partner in this past work and future vision.

RECOGNIZING

Truett Faculty & HTI Graduate
Jared Alcántara, Ph.D.

Truett Alumni & HTI Graduates
João Chaves, Ph.D.
Julían Andrés González Holguín, Ph.D.

Current HTI Students
Kerwin Rodriguez (current Truett PhD student)
Bobby Martinez (MDiv ’20 and current Baylor PhD student)

Celebrate a Legacy

baylor.edu/truett
Part of my work has been to continue to emphasize why HTI’s work is so significant, why this work deserves the attention and the support of people all over the country.

Dr. Jeffrey Kuan
President,
Claremont School of Theology

Goodness, there are so many impactful moments I could share from the almost 22 years of involvement I’ve had with HTI. Receiving a doctoral dissertation scholarship award in 1999, the book award and lecture from 2003, and the many years of participation and the networks made possible by HTI in all of the years since. But two moments and opportunities standout the most. The first was the Summer Workshop of 1999. This was when HTI gathered a group of doctoral students who were at the dissertation writing stage in the programs and brought them to Atlanta, GA for a workshop. This event allowed me to interact with a brilliant group of Latina/o scholars in the making. Just the opportunity of knowing that there were other Latinos and Latinas who were preparing to enter the academy along with me was a huge moral boost for me that has lasted to this day. But in that event and from that group I also began friendships with some of my fellow colleagues, friendships that continue till this day and that have been vital for me. The second event or opportunity I will mention has been the chance to mentor two amazing doctoral students and human beings: Rafael Reyes III and Seth Villegas. For all of this I am grateful!

Benjamin Valentin
Professor of Theology & Latinx Studies, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
1999 Summer Workshop
Candler School of Theology at Emory University is proud to support the Hispanic Theological Initiative.

As a founding institution of HTI, Candler shares the belief that diversifying influential voices in the academy, the church, and communities is essential for creating positive change in the world. And for the past 25 years of our partnership with HTI, Candler has helped shape students into compassionate and prophetic Christian leaders for the 21st century—leaders like HTI scholar Sarah Kothe, MTS ’19, pictured here.

Learn more at candler.emory.edu.
Even in my role as president, because now there are multiple generations of HTI graduates, I feel like I have a cohort in my own role. We have been connected through HTI. HTI serves multiple functions. As support for students primarily, but also to faculty and to administrators in our roles.

Dr. Javier Viera
President,
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

The beautiful thing about HTI is: the mentors, the graduates of the program, the staff will hold every single one of their scholars' hand as they go through.

Dr. Tammi Schneider
Professor and Chair of Religion,
Claremont Graduate University
Congratulations, HTI!

The students, faculty, and staff of Yale Divinity School send our warmest compliments to the Hispanic Theological Initiative for its twenty-five years of work on behalf of Latinx scholars. Your service to the church and academy inspires us all.

Inspire the Minds that Inspire the World

Learn more about our Latinx and Latin American Christianity program at divinity.yale.edu/academics.
My recollections of HTI-inspired and infused moments are many. Two come to mind. The first has to do with paradigm shifts, and the second with catalytic impact. When I met my assigned mentor, Luis Rivera-Pagán (then of the Universidad de Puerto Rico), and shared my preliminary research plans, he turned me on to Marcelino Menéndez y Pelayo’s *Historia de los Heterodoxos Españoles*. This magisterial work by one of Spain’s greatest literary critics introduced me to a deep bibliography of Spanish scholarship on Iberian Christianity. This in turn allowed me to engage meaningfully and add new material (unknown to the faculty, who did not read or require Spanish) to seminars on Christian Heresy and Calvin in Duke’s Graduate Program in Religion (I was the first Latino student in the doctoral program). Luis also mentioned that liberation philosopher Enrique Dussel was coming to campus for a semester residency with Latin American cultural studies guru Walter Mignolo. With permission from my Duke mentor, I made a beeline for Mignolo’s office upon arrival to campus in the fall semester. I not only gained an additional mentor, as a result, but also garnered support to organize a symposium around Dussel’s 1998 spring residency, ‘New Directions in Latino/a Theology and Religion.’ The unprecedented conference, generously supported by the Divinity School and Religion Department and featuring a dream team of scholars from across the country (Justo González, Daisy Machado, Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi, Alan Neely, Manuel Gaxiola, Teresa Berger, etc.), helped me to map my research path forward and partially seeded Duke Divinity School’s institutional trajectory in a Latino/a direction.

Daniel Ramírez  
Associate Professor of American Religions, Claremont Graduate University  
1997 – Mentoring

I remember sitting in a session on professionalization, at the HTI Summer Workshop. I don’t remember who the presenters were, but what they said has never left me: Don’t Burn Bridges. I was at a point in my education when I wanted to burn all of the bridges at my institution, but I took their advice to heart and didn’t burn any. It was the best professional advice I’ve ever gotten and I pass it along whenever I think a student needs to hear it. Thank you, HTI!

Mariana Alessandri  
Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
2008 – Summer Workshop
Congratulating our colleagues at the Hispanic Theological Initiative for 25 years of excellence and service!
HTI produces scholars who are thinking more autonomously and more vigorously along the lines of their life experiences and bringing that into an academic context. This is really important work that we can see and we harvest the fruits through the graduates of HTI.

Dr. Klaus-Peter Adam
Professor,
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

“HTI is a model which every institution that takes diversity seriously should implement at every level of all of its programs.”

David Nirenberg
Professor and Dean,
The University of Chicago Divinity School
Wipf and Stock Publishers congratulates the **HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE**
on 25 years of shaping and sustaining a vibrant community of Latinx scholars, including many Wipf and Stock authors.
For me, the fundamental question is ‘what kind of world we want to have in the future? And how can higher education contribute to making that dream of a world that we want to have happen come to pass?’ And for me HTI is the answer to that question not just for people in the Latinx community, but it’s the kind of higher education that I want to see to help prepare for the world that I want my children and grandchildren to live in.

Dr. Arthur Holder
Professor, Graduate Theological Union

During the discussion following Miguel Diaz’s lecture at Princeton Theological Seminary, the late, great Otto Maduro (Drew University) talked about his problem with those who talk about the marginality of Latino/a perspectives in our culture and in the academy as if it were a bad thing. Rather than trying to bring Latino/a perspectives into the mainstream, Otto argued that the critique from a Latino/a liberative perspective says the ‘middle’ (the status quo) is part of the problem and what needs changing. It was a celebration of marginality as solidarity that has shaped my scholarship ever since.

Rubén Rosario Rodríguez
Professor of Systematic Theology, Saint Louis University
Congratulations to the HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE for 25 years of exceptional professionalism, and service to the Church and the Academy.

¡Muchas felicidades! Junto con nuestra gratitud a HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE por sus 25 años de labor realizada con excelencia y profesionalidad al servicio de la Iglesia y la Academia.

Iona College is pleased to continue our support of the Hispanic Theological Initiative and especially to recognize our own Teresa Delgado, Ph.D., faculty mentor and member of HTI’s Curriculum Review Committee, as we all work together to Learn Outside the Lines!
Recent publications from HTI Alumni
via Baylor University Press

**PREDICADORES**
*Hispanic Preaching and Immigrant Identity*

**Tito Madrazo**

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