



DECEMBER 2007

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## HTI Celebrates Its Tenth Anniversary!

The Hispanic Theological Initiative celebrated its Tenth Anniversary at AAR/SBL on November 17<sup>th</sup>. This festive occasion began with a video presentation where we heard **Dr. Daniel Aleshire** (HTI 1999-2007 Advisory Committee member), President of the Association of Theological Schools, **Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier** (HTI 1996-1997 Dissertation year fellow & HTI 2004-2007 Advisory Committee member), **Dr. Alberto Hernández** (HTI 2000-2001 Dissertation year fellow & HTI 2004-2007 Advisory Committee member), **Dr. Justo González** (former HTI Executive Director), **Dr. Edwin Hernández** (HTI 1996-2007 Advisory Committee Member), **Dr. Heide Hadsell** (HTI 1996-1998 Advisory Committee member), President of Hartford Seminary, and Dr. Nick Carter, President of Andover Newton Theological School, as well as HTI fellows and MDiv students from seminaries and universities across the nation, sharing their personal telling of the importance and positive impact HTI has made in the academy and the church over the past ten years. After the video presentation, HTI Director **Joanne Rodríguez** shared that HTI has help graduate **49 PhD** students and **47** of these graduates are now teaching in the academy. **Eleven** are tenured and **18** are in tenure track positions. Most have published articles and/or written and co-edited monographs. Before HTI there were **69** Latina/o scholars of religion teaching in theological schools, seminaries, and colleges around the country. Today there are more than **118**. HTI's distinctive way of creating spaces for Latina/o scholars to work together for the benefit of the wider church across denominational gaps is its transformative edge in the academy and it is how HTI has made and continues to make a positive impact in religious scholarship across the nation. **Dr. Iain Torrance**, President of Princeton Theological Seminary, praised the efforts of the program's visionaries and staff who have made the program a successful one. Without hesitation, **17** PhD granting institutions have united to form the newly inaugurated Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium, expressing their belief that the work of the HTI should continue. Knowing that the program would not exist without the contributions of so many dedicated and gifted people, Joanne presented plaques to the over **90** plus individuals who have served HTI as advisory committee members, selection committee members, mentors, and editors. Additionally, recognition was given to each of the **49** HTI graduates, who were given medals celebrating the completion of their doctorates and their service to the academy and the church.



HTI graduates and contributors were all smiles at the program's tenth anniversary celebration.

## INAUGURATION OF THE HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE CONSORTIUM

As many of you will recall, in January of this year a historic meeting was held at Princeton Theological Seminary, attended by representatives from 17 prestigious PhD granting institutions from across the country gathering to ratify their support of the formation of a consortium in order to advance the already successful work of the HTI. We are delighted to announce that on November 15<sup>th</sup> of this year, the newly formed **Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium** held its inaugural meeting during the annual AAR/SBL gathering in San Diego. The HTIC has been implemented to continue and expand HTI's already-proven track record in advancing and graduating Latina/o PhD students through a group of PhD granting institutions. This collaborative enterprise will seek to increase the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of Latina/o PhD students across the nation by uniting and leveraging the institutional resources (human, financial & infrastructure) of the founding seminaries and universities. **Dr. Iain Torrance**, President and Professor of Patristics at Princeton Theological Seminary was joined by a distinguished group of representatives from the member institutions to define the implementation stages of the HTIC and to accept the slate of nominees for the HTIC Steering Committee. Attending the meeting were **Dr. Newell Williams**, President & Professor of Modern and American Church History at Brite Divinity School, **Dr. Michael J. Brown**, Associate Director of the Graduate Division of Religion at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, **Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the Claremont School of Theology, **Dr. Maxine Clarke Beach**, Dean of the Theological School and the Graduate Division of Religion at Drew University, **Dr. Gastón Espinosa**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy/Religious Studies at Claremont McKenna College, **Dr. Howard Loewen**, Dean of the School of Theology and Professor of Theology and Ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary, **Dr. Lallene Rector**, Dean & Associate Professor of Psychology of Religion at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, **Dr. Maureen Maloney**, Dean of Students & Vice President for Student Affairs at the Graduate Theological Union, **Dr. Alberto Hernández**, Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity at Iliff School of Theology, **Dr. David Trickett**, President and Professor of Ethics & Leadership at Iliff School of Theology, **Dr. Katharine Doob Sakenfeld**, Professor of Old Testament and Director of PhD Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, **Dr. William Lawrence**, Dean and Professor of American Church History at Perkins School of Theology, and **Dr. Charles Wood**, Professor of Christian Doctrine & Director, Graduate Program in Religious Studies at Southern Methodist University. The HTIC's Steering Committee will hold its first meeting in April, a gathering where the HTI's continued promise for the future will be further developed.



Attendees at the Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium inaugural meeting.



On November 16, 2007 **Dr. Mayra Rivera** (HTI 2004-2005 Dissertation year fellow), Assistant Professor of Theology at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA, participated in a panel discussion at AAR/SBL regarding her new book entitled *Touch of Transcendence, a Postcolonial Theology of God*. Distinguished scholars **Dr. Peter Casarella** (HTI Selection Committee Member) and Professor of Catholic Studies at DePaul University, Dr. Wendy Farley, Professor of Religion at Emory University, Dr. Laurel Schneider, Associate Professor of Theology, Ethics, & Culture at Chicago Theological Seminary, Dr. John Thatamanil, Assistant Professor of Theology at Vanderbilt University, and **Dr. Mark Taylor** (HTI Mentor 2003-2005), Professor of Theology & Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary, provided Dr. Rivera with extensive positive feedback and also encouraged her to continue to advance this very important dialogue between theological and non-theological discussions about transcendence. Dr. Rivera was the first Latina HTI fellows to complete her doctorate in four years, and write a book in her first year of teaching. We congratulate her and encourage her to continue to make these very important contributions.

On Friday, November 16, HTI, together with the Fund for Theological Education (FTE) sponsored “*Strangers No More: African American & Latina/o Scholars Forming Coalitions as Colleagues.*” Dr. Sharon Watson Fluker, FTE Vice President, Doctoral Programs and Administration, and Joanne Rodríguez, HTI Director, organized this event for seventeen PhD students from both programs to ask the question, “*What are the possibilities for African American and Latina/o scholars for shaping policy in the academy as coalition partners?*” The students gathered for this important conversation were **Elías Ortega-Aponte** (HTI 2007-2008 Comp Exams fellow), from Princeton Theological Seminary, **Néstor Medina** (HTI 2007-2008 Dissertation year fellow) from the University of Toronto, Stephanie Crumpton from Columbia Theological Seminary, **Neomi DeAnda** (HTI 2005-2006 Comp Exams fellow) from Loyola University, Gregory Ellison from Princeton Theological Seminary, Kirsten Boswell-Ford from University of Chicago, Beverly Goines from Catholic University of America, **Jacqueline Hidalgo** (HTI 2007-2008 Dissertation year fellow) from Claremont Graduate University, Kamas Hill from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, Cedric Johnson from Princeton Theological Seminary, Tamura Lomax from Vanderbilt University, Eboni Marshall from Union Theological Seminary, Lerone Martin from Emory University, **Matilde Moros** (HTI 2007-2008 Doctoral fellow) from Drew University, **Elaine Padilla** (HTI 2007-2008 Comp Exams fellow) from Drew University, Kimberly Russaw from Vanderbilt University, and Jennifer Leath from Yale University. Dr. Emilie Townes, Professor of African American Religion and Theology at Yale Divinity School and the newly elected President of the American Academy of Religion, set the stage by calling the attendees to see diversity as a mark of excellence. Embracing diversity is the way to include many voices in our scholarship to better understand and interpret the global world we live in. Dr. Evelyn Parker, Associate Professor of Christian Education at Perkins School of Theology, and **Dr. Edwin Aponte** (HTI 1998-1999 Dissertation year fellow), Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Lancaster Seminary, continued the dialogue and shared their experiences as colleagues during their tenure at Perkins, and how vital their collaborative efforts have helped them foster and nurture a sincere friendship that keeps them accountable to each other and their respective communities. Emphasis was placed on the fact that these relationships require letting one’s guard down, and a willingness to embrace the other. In the afternoon the students engaged in sessions with Dr. James Logan, Assistant Professor of Religion and Assistant Professor of African and African American Studies at Earlham College, **Dr. Mayra Rivera** (HTI 2004-2005 Dissertation year fellow), Assistant Professor of Theology at Pacific School of Theology, and Dr. Evelyn Parker to address issues of diversity and possibilities for African American and Latina/o scholars to become coalition partners. The group concluded that these conversations must continue and that the findings of these scholars should eventually be published.

**Elias Ortega-Aponte**, current HTI Comp Exams fellow, and **Dr. James Logan**, exchange thoughts on the topics discussed during *Strangers No More*.



# L O G R O S

## MORE LOGROS

On November 17, Joanne Rodríguez, HTI Director, acting on behalf of Dr. Daisy Machado (former HTI Director), joined **Dr. Carmen Nanko** (HTI Selection Committee member & mentor), Dr. M. Shawn Copeland, Associate Professor of Theology at Boston College, **Dr. Jorge Aquino** (HTI Doctoral/Dissertation Fellow), Assistant Professor of Theology & Religious Studies at the University of San Francisco, **Néstor Medina** (HTI 2007-2008 Dissertation year fellow), Dr. Robert J. Schreiter, Professor of Theology at Catholic Theological Union, Dr. Maria Clara Lucchetti Bingemer, Associate Professor & Dean of the Center for Theology and Human Sciences at the Pontificia Universidade Católica, Rio de Janeiro, and **Dr. Alejandro Garcia-Rivera** (former HTI Selection Committee member), Professor of Systematic Theology at the Jesuit School of Theology, to celebrate *Teologías en Conjunto: A Fiestaschrift Celebrating the Work of Orlando O. Espín*. This diverse group of scholars explored the trajectories explicitly articulated by and implicit within the corpus of Espín's scholarship. Each presentation made evident that Dr. Espín's life corpus is grounded in the faith of the people and his insights and works lead us to be open to intercultural and ecumenical theologies, helping us to re-image traditioning. Dr. Espín has shown unflinching support of the HTI since its inception. He has served on the Selection Committee for over five years and has also mentored many students. Dr. Espín expressed heartfelt appreciation for the tribute, ratifying that he will begin to address the feedback and new directions suggested by the panelists.



On November 1, 2007 **Rebecca Berru Davis** (HTI 2007-2008 Doctoral fellow) lectured at Princeton Theological Seminary on "*Picturing Paradise: Cuadros from Peruvian Women of the Pamplona Alta as Visions of Hope.*" Rebecca shared the vibrant works of art created by Peruvian women of the Pamplona Alta, a shantytown located on the outskirts of Lima, Peru. They are exhibited as "cuadros" a Spanish word meaning "picture". These colorful *cuadros* serve a variety of purposes.

The making and selling of *cuadros* is an important economic enterprise that provides the women with a modest income, but most importantly, they are also an avenue for self-expression, a means to develop and demonstrate their skills and a tangible way to record past memories and present experiences. These works are available for purchase at *Shop the World* in Princeton, NJ, tel. 609-924-0455.

**Dr. M. Daniel Carroll Rodas** was recently named as Distinguished Professor of Old Testament at Denver Seminary.

**Ana Bedard**, HTI 2006-2007 Comp Exams fellow, will present a paper entitled, "*Us Versus Them? Undocumented Workers and the Common Good*" during a gathering of The Society of Christian Ethics and The Society of Jewish Ethics in Atlanta, January 3-6, 2008.

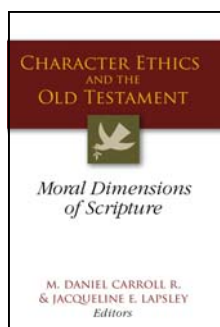
Drew University recently named **Dr. Otto Maduro** (former HTI mentor) as a recipient of the institutions's *Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award*, funded by the Board of Higher Education of the United Methodist Church.



## ... CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The American Academy of Religion invites applications for the AAR Programs Associate position. This position is an administration position, and it is not clergy or an academic position (although an MA or MDiv would be very helpful). The AAR Programs Associate designs, implements, and coordinates programs to serve the membership of the AAR. Strong writing, communication, and interpersonal skills, ability to problem-solve during high-stress situations, excellent analytical and organizational abilities, attention to detail, ability to direct strategic/long-range planning process and proficiency in Microsoft Office are required. For an application and more information regarding this position please contact Kyle Cole, Director of Professional Programs at 404-727-1489, email: [kcole@aarweb.org](mailto:kcole@aarweb.org).

## NEW BOOKS



*Character Ethics and the Old Testament: Moral Dimensions of Scripture*, published by Westminster John Knox Press in 2007 and coedited by M. Daniel Carroll Rodas, Earl S. Kallarnd Chair of Old Testament at Denver Seminary, and Jacqueline E. Lapsley, Associate Professor of Old Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary, is a volume that illustrates the greater breadth and depth now evident in the conversation between Ethics and Old Testament studies and also provides the reader with fresh insights into the way Old Testament texts, read with care and sophistication, can offer direction for moral life.

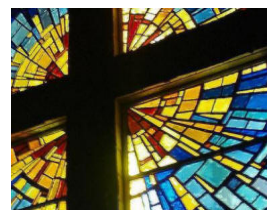
Also, forthcoming in spring 2008 is Dr. Carroll-Rodas' new book entitled, *Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church, the Bible*.

### Please keep them in your prayers...

**Dr. Edwin Hernández** (HTI Advisory Committee member) is grieving the recent passing of his father.

HTI 2007-2008 doctoral fellow, **Theresa Yugar**, is recovering from surgery.

**Dr. Jeanette Rodríguez**, HTI 2007-2008 mentor, is back at work but still recovering from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.



As always, we ask all of our community members to keep us posted of any news items you would like to have considered for inclusion in our newsletter by emailing us at [hti@ptsem.edu](mailto:hti@ptsem.edu). Also, please help us to maintain our newsletter mailing list up to date, by advising us of email address changes.