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HTI Announces Graduation of 50th Fellow!



Néstor Medina is all smiles with Dr. Lee Cormie, his advisor, and Dr. Orlando Espín, his HTI mentor.

The Hispanic Theological Initiative is proud to announce that **Néstor Medina** (2006-2007 Dissertation Year fellow), successfully defended his dissertation on February 1, 2008. **Dr. Orlando Espín**, Néstor's HTI mentor and Professor of Systematic Theology at the University of San Diego, excitedly called the HTI office to share the wonderful news, having been present to witness the stellar defense of his former mentee. **Dr. Daisy Machado** (former HTI director), Professor of the History of Christianity at Union Theological Seminary, was a member of the committee that found Néstor worthy of the conferral of his doctorate. We congratulate Néstor on reaching this wonderful milestone, one that is of great significance for the HTI as well.

Baptists and Catholics Meet Pope Benedict XVI

HTI Selection Committee members **Dr. Nora O. Lozano** (1997-1998 Dissertation Year fellow), Associate Professor of Theological Studies at Baptist University of the Americas, and **Dr. Peter Casarella**, Professor of Catholic Studies at DePaul University, attended the second meeting of the second phase of international conversations between the Baptist World Alliance and the Catholic Church that took place December 2-8, 2007 at the Domus Internationalis "Paulus VI" in Rome, Italy. A first phase of international conversations had taken place in 1984-1988, resulting in a report in 1990 entitled "Summons to Witness to Christ in Today's World." The overall theme of this phase, from 2006-2010, is "The Word of God in the Life of the Church: Scripture, Tradition and Koinonia." Each denomination selected a group of ten theologians from around the world to participate in these yearly conversations. Dr. Lozano and Dr. Casarella were chosen by their respective denominations, Baptist World Alliance (Study and Research Division) and the Catholic Church (Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity) as participants. The theme for this second meeting was "Baptism and Lord's Supper/Eucharist as Visible Word of God in the Koinonia of the Church." In addition to the daily theological conversations, the joint commission participated in a lunch hosted by Cardinal Walter Kasper (President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity), a private tour of St. Peter's Basilica, and a private audience with Pope Benedict XVI at the Apostolic Palace.



Latina Leadership Institute Holds Annual Training



Attendees at the Latina Leadership Institute Training session.

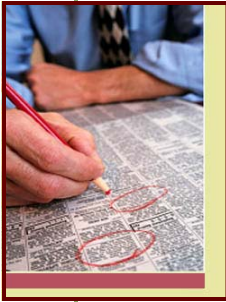
The Latina Leadership Institute (LLI) offered its second annual training at Camp Buckner in Marble Falls, TX on January 3-7, 2008. **Dr. Nora O. Lozano** (1997-1998 Dissertation Year fellow and HTI Selection Committee Member), co-founder and co-director of the LLI, was joined by twenty-eight Latina leaders and members of various Baptist, Catholic and Pentecostal churches for this event. The Latina Leadership Institute is housed at Baptist University of the Americas, and represents an educational initiative to promote Latinas in Leadership. The LLI offers a three-year certificate in Leadership from the Latina perspective as well as other educational, mentoring, and networking opportunities for emergent and established women leaders. In addition, the LLI seeks to offer research based on the Latina leadership experience, and publications that empower Latina leaders and provide awareness about issues that Latinas in leadership face.

COMING EVENT!

Dr. Daniel Flores (2002-2003 Dissertation Year fellow) announced that the next Annual Meeting of Sociedad Wesleyana (The Hispanic Wesleyan Society), of which he is President, will take place at Duke University Divinity School March 13, 2008 at 12:30 PM, room TBA. This meeting will be held prior to the larger joint Wesleyan Theological Society and Society for Pentecostal Studies meetings. The main agenda will be a panel discussion on the topic: "Practical Divinity in a time of Cultural Xenophobia." This is a 21st century twist on a good Wesley term popularized by the late Dr. Thomas Langford of Duke University Divinity School. Panelists will present on considerations for employing Wesleyan forms of practical theology for Hispanic/Latino ministry in a cultural context steeped in xenophobic symptoms such as anti-immigrant legislation, immigrant unrest, border clashes, racial profiling, jingoism, and post-9/11 suspicions of "the other."

Featured panelists are **Dr. Daniel Ramírez** (2002-2003 Dissertation Year fellow), Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Arizona State University; **Rev. Gabriel Salguero** (2003-2004 Comprehensive Exams Year fellow), Director of the Hispanic Leadership Program at Princeton Theological Seminary/Pastor of Lamb's Church in Manhattan; Rev. Josefina "Cookie" Santiago, Director of Hispanic/Latino Ministries, North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church; Dr. Mark Wethington, President of The Wesley Heritage Foundation; Dr. Edgardo Colón-Emeric, Director of Hispanic House of Studies at Duke University Divinity School; and Rev. Francisco Canas, Director of National Plan for Hispanic and Latino Ministries, The United Methodist Church in New York.

... CAREER DEVELOPMENT



The Diocese of Toledo, OH is seeking a Director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry who is enthusiastic, compassionate and visionary. Interested candidates must be fully bilingual (Spanish/English), comfortable in both cultures, understand and work well with local parish leadership and advocate for full inclusion of the Spanish speaking communities in parishes. This position works closely with the Director of Hispanic Pastoral Ministry and collaborates with other diocesan Directors. Responsibilities include: administration of advocacy and direct services (CLINIC), provide resources for education, formation and small faith communities, empowerment of and collaboration with Hispanic communities and pastoral leadership, and maintain connections with social service agencies and other organizations which provide services to the Hispanic community.

Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter and salary expectations by February 20, 2008 to: Human Resources, Catholic Diocese of Toledo, P.O. Box 985, Toledo, OH 43697-0985. You may also email resumes to rcoutts@toledodiocese.org.

Instituto Fe y Vida (www.feyvida.org) is seeking a full-time Associate Director of Research and Publications. This position entails developing bilingual resources for ministry with Catholic Latino/a teens and their parents, assisting in the creation of web-based and video-based resources for the same groups, and producing research reports in English. The candidate must be willing to live in Stockton, CA and to travel nationwide. Salary and benefits are competitive, commensurate with professional experience. Starting date: Spring 2008. For more information, contact before March, 2008: Ken Johnson Mondragón at (209) 951-3483, or via email at research@feyvida.org.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Hope of Liberation in World Religions

Dr. Miguel De La Torre (2000-2001 Post Doctoral fellow), Associate Professor of Social Ethics at Iliff School of Theology, recently saw the publication of his latest book, *The Hope of Liberation in World Religions*. This work is the first to attempt to find a “common ground” for liberation theology across religions, and was published by Baylor University Press. All the contributors are scholars who share the religion or belief system they describe. Throughout, they articulate liberationist concepts from the perspective of those who have been marginalized.



Faith and Values in Action: Religion, Politics, and Social Attitudes

The Institute for Latino Studies and Research Associates announces the recent publication of a study compiled by **Dr. Edwin I. Hernández** (HTI Advisory Committee member), Foundations Research Director at RDV Corporation, **Dr. Milagros Peña** (HTI Selection Committee member and mentor), Director of the Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research at the University of Florida, Fr. Kenneth G. Davis, Georgian Schiopu, Jeffrey Smith, and Matthew T. Loveland.

This report presents how religion plays a considerable role in shaping many Americans’ civic engagement and political behavior, including how they vote and what political party they prefer. Few studies have explored in great depth the extent to which this is so among Latinos/as. Analyzing the Pew Hispanic’s Center’s 2004 National Survey of Latinos, this report attempts to shed light on how religious affiliation and regular church attendance influence Latinos/as; volunteering rates, political party identification, and positions on social and moral issues.



LOGROS

The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and Lilly Endowment have announced that **Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier** (1997-1998 Dissertation Year fellow and HTI Advisory Committee member), Assistant Professor of Religious Education at Claremont School of Theology, is one of the recipients of the 2007-2008 research grants for her project, *Hispanic Immigrant Children and Religious Education*.



Proof that good news sometimes comes in bundles was seen recently in Princeton, as **Elías Ortega-Aponte** (2007-2008 Comprehensive Exams fellow), took one more step in the pursuit of his doctorate, passing his exams at Princeton Theological Seminary. Elías and his wife Mandy stopped by the HTI office to share the good news, and to introduce their new baby daughter, Luna Inés, born on December 26th.

Please keep them in your prayers...

We ask you to continue to pray for **Dr. Luis Pedraja** (1997-1998 Post Doctoral fellow and HTI mentor), Vice President at the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and his wife Amber, who recently learned that Amber's cancer has spread. The doctors have afforded them little hope at this time for her recovery.



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. Remember to include pertinent information, such as website or email addresses, as well as any photographs (preferably in .jpeg format). The deadline for receiving submission is the **25th** of each month.

Keep in mind that each submission should be no more than two paragraphs long, and remember to help us maintain our newsletter mailing list up to date, by advising us of email address changes. ¡Gracias!