

Hispanic Theological Initiative



DECEMBER 2008

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Mexican American Cultural Center Becomes Mexican American Catholic College

Dr. Arturo Chávez (2004-2005 Dissertation Year fellow) proudly announces that the Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) will now provide an accessible and affordable fully bi-literate degree program in which students can obtain either a BA or an MA in Catholic Pastoral Ministry. Because MACC has complied with all of the requirements of the State of Texas for degree-granting status it will now be a College. The acronym MACC remains the same, but it now stands for the Mexican American Catholic College. With a huge portion of the Latina/o constituency in Texas not having a BA degree, this is not only an important direction for MACC, but one that is wise and absolutely essential to empower and educate leaders for service in a culturally diverse Church.



Congratulations MACC and Arturo and God's abundant grace in your new direction.



Esperanza College Appoints Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier as Dean



After serving Claremont School of Theology as Associate Professor in Religious Education for a decade **Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier** (1997-1998 Dissertation Year fellow & HTI Advisory Committee member) will be the new Dean of Esperanza College effective January 2009. Dr. Conde-Frazier has numerous monographs on multicultural issues, Hispanic theological education, and the spirituality of the scholar.

"As the incoming dean of Esperanza College, I will seek to continue the rich legacy of the college as a Hispanic serving institution with the purpose of helping students to be successful academically as a step toward their dreams," Dr. Conde-Frazier said. "I hope to instill in the graduates a strong sense of their gifts and vision, and to nurture a desire to serve the community as a part of their expression of faith."

HTI Hosts Receptions at AAR and SBL



Every year the HTI reception at AAR/SBL is welcomed because it offers the Latina/o scholarly community the opportunity to hobnob, share information about their current academic interests and find interactions with faculty in other disciplines. This is the place not only where excellent food and music can be found, but where future publications, lectures, and jobs are negotiated with editors, faculty, deans, and presidents. At both conferences, HTI was well represented with the participation of

several of the program's members, from fellows to mentors, who participated as speakers and panelists on a variety of topics.

Because of the split between AAR and SBL, HTI had two receptions this year—one at the American Academy of Religion held on October 31st thru November 2nd in Chicago, and one at the Society of Biblical Literature on November 21st thru the 23rd in Boston—offering opportunities for further fellowship and networking.

However, as one HTI PhD commented at the SBL meeting, “the reception was great as always, but I truly missed our brothers and sisters from AAR. I missed interdisciplinary conversations at the reception as well as in the various lectures we participate in. This split actually makes SBL less exciting for me due to the absence of conversation partners in different fields. I can't wait until we come back together.”

Time will tell if this sentiment, shared by many, leads to the reinstatement of the joint conference.



HTI fellows, left to right: Dr. Francisco Lozada, Associate Professor of New Testament at Brite Divinity school; Dr. Chris Tirres, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at DePaul University; Jacqueline Hidalgo, PhD Candidate at Claremont Graduate University; Dr. Benjamín Valentín, Professor of Theology and Culture at Andover Newton Theological School.

LOGROS



The Armin Schmitt Foundation for Biblical Research, associated with the University of Regensburg, Germany, has announced that the Foundation's 2008 Prize for Biblical Research has been awarded to **Dr. Juan Hernández** (2004-2005 Dissertation Year fellow), Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Bethel University. Juan is being honored for his published dissertation on *Scribal Habits and Theological Influences in the Apocalypse* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck 2006). The Foundation award includes a grant of €4000 in support of his ongoing research.

Employment and Career Opportunities

University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center is looking to fill the position of Director, Chaplaincy and Pastoral Education.

The Director is responsible for the effective and efficient operation of the Chaplaincy and Pastoral Education Department. This includes, but is not limited to, identifying key department strengths and opportunities for improvement; developing and implementing strategic and operational plans; measuring outcomes; and creating an environment of employee engagement and continuous improvement.

For more information, please refer to:

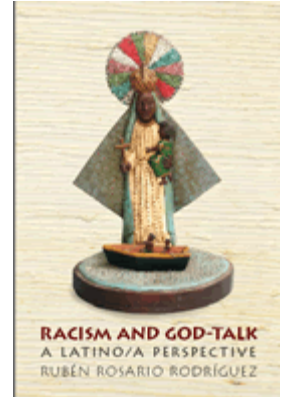
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Wesley Theological Seminary invites applications for its new Urban Fellows Program, a contextual education opportunity for outstanding Master of Divinity students who sense a call to become leaders in urban ministry. Wesley's Urban Fellows will learn to engage the poor and the powerful, to meet the needs of diverse cultures, and to answer their call to applied ministry in the complex social systems of the inner-city. Urban Fellows will seek faithful solutions to the challenges of homelessness and gentrification, addiction, failed schools, inaccessible health care systems, unemployment, and illiteracy.

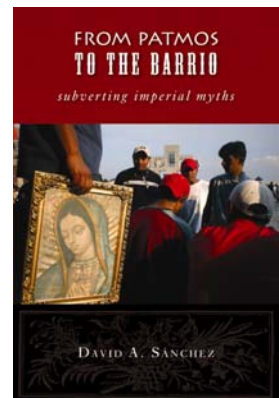
Interested students are encouraged to apply to the Urban Fellows program as part of their admissions process to Wesley. Applications for admission must be submitted by February 1, 2009, and are available at <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/apply>. To learn more about the Urban Fellows program and intentional living community, visit: <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/urbanministry>.

New in Print

NYU Press recently published *Racism and God-Talk: A Latino/a Perspective* by **Dr. Rubén Rosario-Rodríguez** (2003-2004 Dissertation Year fellow), Assistant Professor of Theology at St. Louis University. The work explores the biblical and religious dimensions of North American racism while highlighting examples of resistance within the Christian religious tradition. While social historians have seldom analyzed the problematic of race from a primarily theological perspective, this volume undertakes a critical examination of explicitly theological and confessional perspectives for understanding and transforming North American racism.



Joining Rubén in seeing the publication of his first book is **Dr. Dávid Sanchez** (2004-2005 Dissertation Year fellow), whose work *From Patmos to the Barrio: Subverting Imperial Myths* was recently published by Fortress Press. Dr. Sánchez, who is Assistant Professor of New Testament at Loyola Marymount University, explores the ways subordinate groups in history have repeatedly taken the dominant myths of imperial ideology and turned them inside out and upside down, subverting them in formulating their own counter-narratives of liberation.



Thank You for Your Continued Support!

We are elated to announce that thus far our recent appeal letter has generated \$1,490 in donations. We are very grateful for the financial support received to date from our mentors, partners and friends and we want to remind everyone that it is never too late to send in your donations. Remember these funds will be used to help more students receive their doctorate!

For Your Prayers

- HTI mentor, **Dr. Alberto Pulido**, Professor and Director of Ethnic Studies at University of San Diego, will be undergoing surgery, please keep him in your prayers.
- Please continue to pray for the recovery of **Dr. Jeanette Rodriguez** (HTI mentor), Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Seattle University, who has yet to be discharged from the hospital after complications from minor surgery.

A Note of Thanks from Joanne

With the recent surgery of my mother, I was able to witness on a very personal level the love and support of a wonderful community, one that I strive to serve in as many ways as possible. Words cannot express my heartfelt gratitude for the prayers that were offered by so many for my mother's recovery. Thanks to the Lord's merciful hand, and to the kind intentions of so many people, I am happy to report that *Mami* is doing amazingly well, and on her way to a full recovery.

Mil gracias to all!

HTI's Newest Family Member



Victor Carmona (2008-2009 Comp Exams fellow) and wife Astrid joyfully announced the safe and happy arrival of their first child, Ella Victoria.



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!