

# Hispanic Theological Initiative



MAY 2009

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HTI Forms Partnership with Duke and Celebrates Two New PhDs	1
HTI Hosts Selection Committee Event	2
Logros	2-3
New In Print	3-4
Audiovisual Resources	4-5
For Your Prayers	5
HTI's Newest Family Member	5
Contact Information	5

## HTI Forms Partnership with Duke and Celebrates Two New PhD's

The HTI network continues to expand! The Hispanic Theological Consortium (HTIC) welcomes its newest member, **Duke Divinity School**. Prof. Edgardo Colón shared his institution's decision to become the eighteenth member, stating that, "Duke Divinity School is delighted to join the Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium. The work of HTI in promoting and supporting the development of Hispanic scholars, the most underrepresented ethnic group in graduate theological education, is invaluable for the future of religious studies in the United States. As the Divinity School encounters the people and concerns of the Latino community in North Carolina through its recently constituted Hispanic House of Studies, it is encouraging to know that experienced partners such as HTI can accompany us on the way."

We are certain that this new partnership will serve to provide new and exciting opportunities both for the support of Latina/o scholars committed to service and for the enhancement of Duke's already excellent academic venues and programs



Dr. Hinojosa, his wife Maribel and their children Samuel Alejandro and Ariana Sarai

But that is not all. We are thrilled to announce that this past April, **Felipe Hinojosa** (2008-2009 Dissertation Year fellow), successfully defended his dissertation, "Making noise among the 'Quiet in the land': Mexican American, Puerto Rican, and African American Ethno-Religious Identity in the Mennonite Church, 1932-1980". Felipe now holds his PhD in History from the University of Houston, and is set to assume the position of Assistant Professor of Latino/a History at Texas A&M University in the Fall. Reflecting upon his journey towards completion of his PhD, Felipe states: "I am extremely grateful to be a part of the HTI *familia*. *Muchisimas gracias* to Joanne, Ángela, María, and Dr. Ralph Piper for the support and *ánimo* along the way. Thanks also to all the outstanding HTI 2008-2009 fellows for making those Princeton days intellectually stimulating and downright fun."

To add to the excitement, **Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz** (HTI Dissertation Year fellow), Assistant Professor at Seattle University, also successfully defended her dissertation this past April. Her work, titled "Jesus the Borderlander: Hybridity as Survival Strategy and Model for Political Change - A Cultural Representation from the Gospel of John", awards her a PhD in New Testament from Vanderbilt University. With Felipe and Leticia the HTI PhD count has grown to 58.



## HTI Hosts Selection Committee Event

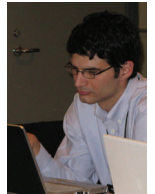
This past March, HTI Selection Committee members and a group of potential doctoral and dissertation fellows traveled to Princeton Theological Seminary for a time of academic rigor, worship, and networking. Over the course of two days, the students went through the interview process that allows them to learn much from the seasoned scholars whose efforts are geared toward supporting the students' future in academia.



Candidates also participated in a workshop titled *Writing Skills to Keep the Reader Riveted and the Writer On Task and On Time*, led by **Ulrike M. Guthrie** (Uli), freelance editor and seasoned HTI collaborator. Uli guided the students through a series of individual and group exercises designed to sharpen their decision-making, organizational, and redaction skills in the preparatory and editorial stages of writing.

A highly interactive panel on *What to Expect Once You're in a Doctoral Program* was offered by two previous HTI fellows, **Neomi DeAnda** (2009-2010 Dissertation Year fellow) and **Elias Ortega** (2008-2009 Comprehensive Exams Year fellow). From coursework years to comprehensive exams to writing a dissertation, the leaders laid out information regarding the process of becoming a PhD and shared insights from their own experiences as doctoral students, concerning both academic and personal issues.

In addition, **Rev. Maribel Piña**, United Methodist minister in Puerto Rico and longtime chaplain for HTI, offered a workshop on ecumenical worship. Under Rev. Piña's tutelage, the students who led the closing service provided a time of worship that was respectful of the various traditions.



The two-day event was best assessed in the words of one of the participants: "It was busy and intense, but well worth it!"

## Logros



**Dr. Mayra Rivera-Rivera** (2007-2008 HTI Dissertation Year fellow) has been named Assistant Professor of Theology and Latina/o Studies at Harvard Divinity School (HDS), effective July 1, 2010. Her scholarship focuses on the intersections between feminist theory and cultural studies. "I look forward to joining faculty and students at the Divinity School in their journeys of theological inquiry," Rivera Rivera said. "Especially exciting to me is the School's decision to make Latino studies an integral part of its theological education—a move that reflects an interest in engaging contemporary cultural and political contexts. I am committed to the transdisciplinary approach that such a study implies." Her appointment as part of the Harvard Divinity School faculty makes her the first HTI fellow to be hired by an Ivy League school.

**Dr. Daniel Ramírez** (2002-2003 Dissertation Year fellow), current Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Arizona State University, will assume the position of Assistant Professor of North American Religious History at the University of Michigan in the coming Fall. Ramírez looks forward to "inviting and working with students interested in top-ranked graduate programs in History, Anthropology and Culture, and to helping to develop an undergraduate doctoral pipeline for Latina/o Religious History."



## Logros (Cont.)

Boston College announced that **Ernesto Valiente** (2007-2008 Dissertation Year fellow) will join the faculty of their School of Theology and Ministry, where he will assume his position in the Fall as Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology. Valiente states "I am really grateful to HTI for all their unflinching support, and I am looking forward to returning to my alma mater, the place where I got my MDiv, happy to be joining an institution that already has three Latina/o theologians."

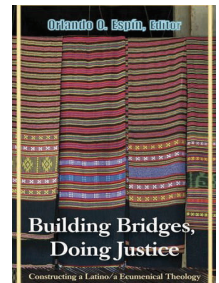


**Dr. Juan Hernández, Jr.** (2004-2005 HTI Dissertation Year fellow), Assistant Professor of New Testament at Bethel University, will be making a presentation at the Codex Sinaiticus Conference taking place at the British Library from July 6-7, 2009. Codex Sinaiticus is one of the two most important and earliest surviving copies of the Greek Bible. Of its original 730 parchment leaves (1460 pages), 400 leaves are known today, scattered among four institutions: the British Library, Leipzig University Library, St. Catherine's Monastery and the National Library of Russian in St. Petersburg. For the first time in centuries, all the surviving leaves of Codex Sinaiticus are being re-united in virtual form (digital photographs) on a website hosted jointly by the four institutions. More information can be obtained on the website: <http://www.codex-sinaiticus.net/en/>.

## New In Print

### *Building Bridges, Doing Justice: Constructing a Latino/a Ecumenical Theology*

Published by Orbis Books, this volume features a collection of essays by Protestant and Catholic Latina/o theologians that address major theological themes as God, the Holy Spirit, Mary, the Bible and Tradition, Grace and Justification, and Ecclesiology, marking an exciting new stage in the development of Latina/o theological identity. Within these essays the Latino voice on such major themes is heard as pertinent to a wider ecumenical dialogue. Contributors include:



- **Dr. Efraín Agosto** (HTI Mentor and Selection Committee member), Academic Dean and Professor of New Testament at Hartford Seminary
- **Neomi DeAnda** (2009-2010 HTI Dissertation fellow)
- **Dr. Miguel H. Díaz** (1998-1999 HTI Dissertation fellow and Mentor), Associate Professor of Theology at St. John's University
- **Dr. Orlando O. Espín** (HTI Mentor and Selection Committee member), Professor of Systematic Theology at the University of San Diego
- **Dr. Roberto S. Goizueta** (HTI Mentor), Professor of Catholic Theology at Boston College
- **Dr. Juan F. Martínez** (HTI Mentor, Selection Committee member, and HTIC Steering Committee member), Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies and Pastoral Leadership, Homiletics at Fuller Theological Seminary
- **Dr. Néstor Medina** (2006-2007 HTI Dissertation fellow), Adjunct Professor at Queens University

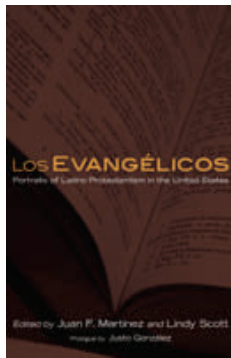
(Continued on Page 4)

## New In Print (Cont.)

- **Dr. Carmen M. Nanko-Fernández** (HTI Mentor and Selection Committee Member), Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry at Catholic Theological Union
- **Dr. Mayra Rivera Rivera** (2004-2005 HTI Dissertation fellow), Assistant Professor of Theology at Pacific School of Religion
- **Dr. José D. Rodríguez** (HTI Selection Committee Member), Professor of Systematic Theology at Lutheran School of Theology
- **Dr. Jean-Pierre Ruiz** (HTI Mentor), Associate Professor of Biblical Studies at St. John's University

**Dr. Orlando Espín**, editor of this volume, expresses his gratitude to every HTI family member who contributed to this book, with or without a paper. Every contribution, whether in material, ideas, or encouragement, was much appreciated.

### *Los Evangélicos: Portraits of Latino Protestantism in the United States*



*Los Evangélicos* is part of a larger effort of the Commission for the Study of the History of the Church in Latin American and the Caribbean (CEHILA) to write church history from the perspective of those groups and individuals that have been traditionally marginalized, their presence and influence unaccounted in traditional reports. Concerned with the history and issues of Latino Protestantism, *Los Evangélicos* challenges the way in which the history of Christianity in the United States has usually been told. The first half of the book contains an introduction to the history of Latino Protestantism in the 19th century, then chronicles the history of Hispanic ministries within five denominations: American Baptists, Assemblies of God, Apostolic Assemblies, the Evangelical Free Church, and Last Call Ministries. The second section covers six themes within Latino Protestant church life: acculturation, the role of women, social justice, Hispanic hymnology, missionology, and mass media. It concludes with a discussion about future challenges the Latino Protestant community will face. Editors include Lindy Scott and **Dr. Juan F. Martínez** (HTI Mentor, Selection Committee member, and HTIC Steering Committee member), Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies and Pastoral Leadership, Homiletics at Fuller Theological Seminary. Published by Wipf & Stock.

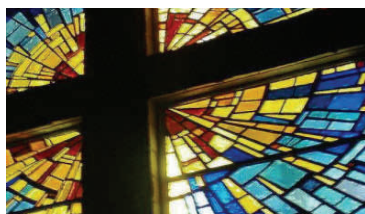
## Audiovisual Resources

### *Audiovisual Recording of AETH's 2008 Biennial Assembly's Sermon Available*

The Association for Hispanic Theological Education (AETH) is making available the sermon preached by **Dr. Zaida Maldonado-Pérez** (1997-1998 Dissertation Year fellow, HTI former Director), Professor of Church History and Theology at Asbury Theological Seminary, at the 2008 Biennial Assembly. The recording is in DVD format for the enjoyment and use of those who were not able to attend the event. The sermon, preached in Spanish, is titled "Se han llevado a mi Señor y no sé donde lo han puesto" (They have taken my Lord and I do not know where they have placed him), and discusses the biblical portions of John 20: 1-18 and Matthew 28:11-15. The cost of the DVD is \$5.00 plus shipping and handling. For more information please call 512-708-0660 or write to [aeth@austinseminary.edu](mailto:aeth@austinseminary.edu).

### Vocational Documentary Endorsed by the Association of Catholic Schools and Colleges

*The Calling*, directed by New York filmmaker David A. Raghelli, "is an emotionally and spiritually rich documentary featuring three very different individuals who feel called by God to serve as Catholic priests or vowed religious", according to Dr. Richard Yanikoski, President of the Association of Catholic Schools and Colleges. "As the story unfolds, viewers soon realize that each individual's response is deeply affected by family members who transform "the call" into "the separation." *The Calling* exposes the personal process of vocational discernment as inevitably communal, although in the end each person must fashion his or her own life-altering answer to "the call." The film has been selected to screen at the 29th Annual Breckenridge Film Festival (June 11-14). Production of a DVD of the film will be available by May 22, 2009 for educational/organizational use. A comprehensive study-guide is also being developed. For more information visit their website at: <http://www.thecallingdocumentary.com/>



### For Your Prayers...

**Dr. Sharon Ringe** (Selection Committee member and HTI Mentor) Professor of New Testament at Wesley Theological Seminary, underwent surgery on April 6<sup>th</sup>, which thankfully went well, and she is now at home. Please keep her in your prayers as she recuperates.

### HTI's Newest Family Member



**Dr. Michael Lee** (2003-2004 Dissertation Year fellow), Assistant Professor of Theology at Fordham University, and his wife, Natalia Imperatori-Lee, are thrilled to announce the birth of their new baby boy, Benjamin Alberto. Benjamin Alberto was born on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009, a younger brother to Michael and Natalia's firstborn son, William Edward.



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). 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!

#### HTI Staff

Joanne Rodríguez  
Director  
[joanne.rodriquez@ptsem.edu](mailto:joanne.rodriquez@ptsem.edu)

María Kennedy  
Office Coordinator  
[maria.kennedy@ptsem.edu](mailto:maria.kennedy@ptsem.edu)

Ángela Schoepf  
Assistant Director  
[angela.schoepf@ptsem.edu](mailto:angela.schoepf@ptsem.edu)

HTI Student Aides  
[hti@ptsem.edu](mailto:hti@ptsem.edu)