

Hispanic Theological Initiative



JULY 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HTI Graduate Named Ambassador	1
Book Prize Winner Announced	1
SMU/Perkins Active in Latino Recruitment	2
HTI Hosts Annual Summer Workshop	3
Logros	3-4
Boston College Hosts Catholic Ministry Event	5
Upcoming Event	6
New in Print	6
Call for Papers	7
HTI's Newest Family Member	8
For Your Prayers	8

HTI Graduate Nominated Ambassador to The Holy See



On July 22, **Dr. Miguel Diaz** (1998-1999 Dissertation Year fellow and HTI mentor) appeared before the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations as part of the nomination process for his appointment as Ambassador to the Holy See. Dr. Diaz, who served as an adviser to Barack Obama's presidential campaign, cited the President's recent words during his June visit to Cairo that this country is "shaped by every culture, drawn from every end of the Earth, and dedicated to a simple concept: E pluribus unum: Out of many, one." Dr. Diaz offered his "Cuban-American background as proof of the fundamental American value

of this country," asserting that two cultures shaped his identity, leading to his firm belief that his experience through interacting with diverse communities throughout his life have made him more open to others.

Dr. Diaz is a Professor of Theology at St. John's University and the College of Saint Benedict in Minnesota. He is the co-editor of *From the Heart of Our People: Explorations in Catholic Systematic Theology*, and author of *On Being Human: U.S. Hispanic and Rahnerian Perspectives*, the winner of HTI's first Book Prize award.

2009 HTI Book Prize Winner Announced

Connecting three time periods and three sets of competing sacred images for imperialism and counter-imperialism, the HTI Book Prize selection committee named **Dr. David Sánchez** (2005-2006 Dissertation Year fellow) as this year's winning author for his book, *From Patmos to the Barrio: Subverting Imperial Myths*. The interdisciplinary account engagingly presents the Mexican image of the Virgin of Guadalupe as a resource for resisting the dominant figure of the Virgin of Guadalupe as instilled by the Spanish conquistadors. The same image is then employed to counter the conquering Divine Destiny myth of American expansionism, in a similar way to how she is to be found in rallies for immigrant rights in our time. Dr. Sánchez, Assistant Professor of New Testament Studies at Loyola Marymount University, offered a lecture on his prize-winning work during this year's HTI Book Prize lecture. His compelling presentation elicited enthusiastic appreciation for the unexpected vehicles for expressing resistance to oppression, opening the door for a Call for Papers. HTI seeks submissions for a future issue of *Perspectivas* that address the Virgin of Guadalupe's powerful presence. Please refer to the Call for Papers on Page 7.



Pictured with Dr. Sánchez are his advisor, Dr. Brigette Kahl (left) and his wife, Denna (right).

Consortium Member Institution Making Great Strides in Recruitment of Latinos



Southern Methodist University/Perkins School of Theology, a member institution of the Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium (HTIC), is expending great efforts in attracting the growing Latino graduate population.

Dr. Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi (HTI mentor) was recently appointed as Professor of World Christianity. He joins fellow faculty member, **Dr. Harold Recinos** (HTI Mentor), Associate Professor of Christianity and Cultures, and **Dr. Hugo Magallanes-Tejeda** (2001-2002 Dissertation Year fellow), Professor of Church and Society. All three are deeply involved in research and scholarly activity related to Hispanic/Latino themes and would welcome working with Latina/o doctoral students. In addition, **Dr. David Maldonado** (HTIC Steering Committee member) heads the center for Study of Latino Christianity and Religions, Rev. Jeannie Trevino Teddlie heads the Mexican American program and Dr. Isabel De Campo serves as the Associate Professor of Supervised Ministry helping students with their internships.

The learning experiences offered by these seasoned scholars are not the only opportunities available. Potential students are encouraged to apply for a fellowship, consisting of an annual stipend of **\$16,000.00 and a waiver for the full tuition** Additionally, the fellowship is renewable for two years, assuming satisfactory progress toward degree. The fellowship recipient would also have the great fortune to work on aspects of the Latina/o religious experience, choosing between any of the following fields to do their research: Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, New Testament, the Christian Tradition, Systematic Theology, Religious Ethics, and Religion and Culture.

Additionally, a fellow whose interests and objectives are compatible with the aims of the Hispanic Theological Initiative would also be supported as an **HTIC Scholar**. HTIC Scholars are assigned mentors, given networking funds, and participate in the HTI Summer Workshop where they have the opportunity to meet and work with Latina/o doctoral students and scholars from across the nation. Given the current economic crisis, this is a wonderful opportunity. Applicants are encouraged to apply by downloading the application, at SMU's website at: <http://www.smu.edu/PerkinsFacultyAcademics/GPRS.aspx>; applicants should clearly express interest for this fellowship in the "statement of purpose."

We congratulate SMU/Perkins School of Theology for their ongoing efforts in opening the doors to aspiring scholars, and we look forward to continuing our collaborative work.



Drs. Harold Recinos (left) and Hugo Magallanes-Tejeda (right).

HTI HOSTS 13th ANNUAL SUMMER WORKSHOP

A short-lived summer storm provided the backdrop for the opening dinner of this year's Summer Workshop, but spirits were anything but dampened by the rain that drenched Princeton. From Friday, July 26th to Monday, July 29th, the 2009-2010 cohort of sixteen HTI fellows promptly got down to the business of focusing on the valuable information shared by the experienced workshop leaders who led seminars tailored for each level of doctoral studies. In order to take full advantage of the short time together, the students were asked to complete assignments prior to their arrival in Princeton, allowing for personalized evaluation of their work by the leaders. The young scholars voiced their enthusiastic appreciation for the event, one expressing that "HTI is a great blessing. It feels like a family and this event provides a casual space to learn skills from other scholars that are very helpful to my immediate, and future, needs." The event's success urged another young scholar to suggest that we should "share this model with other scholarship programs.



The event concluded on Monday, with the group of fellows tired but appreciative of the opportunities they were given, leaving Princeton in high spirits and looking forward to facing the new academic year's challenges armed with their newly acquired skills, knowing that the HTI support network will continue, perhaps in ways they may not even yet imagine.

LOGROS



Warmed by the bright Rocky Mountain sun, **Adriana Nieto** (2008-2009 Dissertation Year fellow) received her PhD diploma from the University of Denver & The Iliff School of Theology. Adriana is currently working as a visiting instructor for the Department of Chicana/o Studies at Metropolitan State College of Denver.

LOGROS (Cont'd)



On the West Coast, **Salvador Alcántara** (2007-2008 Dissertation Year fellow) just a few weeks ago joined Adriana in celebrating the achievement of his doctoral degree, granted by Graduate Theological Union. With these two success stories, HTI proudly counts **60** graduates that the program has supported, and we look forward to seeing that number grow in the new academic year.

On August 17, **Dr. Milagros Peña** (HTI Selection Committee member and mentor) will leave her current position as Director of the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research at the University of Florida, to assume her new position as Associate Dean for Social and Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences at the same institution.



Another HTI graduate, **Rev. Dr. Raúl Gómez Ruiz** (1999-2000 Dissertation Year fellow), Vice President for Academic Affairs, Director of Intellectual Formation, and Professor of Systematic Studies at Sacred Heart School of Theology, was recently named the recipient of this year's *Virgilio Elizondo Award* during the annual gathering of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACHTUS), held in Chicago. The award is conferred to an individual "for distinguished achievement in theology, in keeping with the mission of the Academy." Rev. Gómez Ruiz received the award from Dr. Gary Riebe-Estrella (HTI Advisory Committee member).

Rev. Dr. Gómez Ruiz was also elected to the *Real Academia de Bellas Artes y Ciencias Históricas de Toledo* (Royal Academy of Arts & Sciences of Toledo), in the Academic Correspondents category. His election is based on having realized works meeting the goals of the Royal Academy. Dr. Gómez-Ruiz will travel to the beautiful city of Toledo in October to receive this important recognition.

Enthusiastically responding to an invitation extended by the *Seminario Evangélico de Matanzas* in Cuba, **Dr. Néstor Medina** (2002-2003 Dissertation Year fellow) recently spent four months teaching at that institution. He reports that he underwent a "process of cultural adjustment, and came out enriched in more ways than one: the way people interact, their concept of time, the way they relate to professors, and their own sense of identity in relation to the U.S., among other things." The institution's rector expressed his profound appreciation for Dr. Medina's collaboration, and expects to invite him back next year.



National Catholic Hispanic Ministry Symposium held at Boston University

From June 8-10, an unprecedented effort initiated by scholars at Catholic universities, sixty-three carefully chosen participants from all over the country came together for the first ever "National Symposium on the Present and Future of Catholic Hispanic Ministry in the U.S." The event, held at Boston College, was co-sponsored by that institution along with Loyola Marymount University and Barry University. Responding to the urgent need to form leaders for service to the U.S. Catholic community (which will be majority Hispanic in less than 20 years) the gathering included theologians, pastoral leaders, liturgists, youth leaders, specialists in religious education and persons in church leadership at the national and international levels. Members of the Steering Committee for the gathering included **Dr. Roberto Goizueta** (HTI mentor), Professor of Catholic Theology at Boston College, and **Dr. Cecilia González-Andrieu** (2006-2007 Dissertation Year fellow), Assistant Professor of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University. Each of the study groups will propose concrete steps for implementation and identify areas in need of further conversation and exploration. The final documents will be published bilingually in early 2010 by Convivium Press and distributed by several renowned national presses. Copies will be made available to dioceses around the country. The hope is that local communities will then carry on their own processes of dialogue about the issues and find ways to clarify their goals and enhance their programs in Hispanic Ministry. More information is available at: <http://www.bc.edu/schools/stm/edevnts/hminsym.html>.



UPCOMING EVENT

Dr. Daniel Flores (2002-2003 Dissertation Year fellow) announced that the *Sociedad Wesleyana*, of which he is president, will convene for its annual conference in Chicago, August 19, 2009. The featured presenter will be Rev. Saúl Herrera, retired United Methodist clergy and public education administrator. Attendees will learn critical skills in organizational management, and will be able to participate in a site visit of a prominent Hispanic mega-church in Chicago. For more information on this event, please contact Dr. Flores as soon as possible at dflores.phd@gmail.com.

NEW IN PRINT



Judson Press announces the publication of *Para ser bautistas: Lecciones para nuevos miembros/Being Baptist: Lessons for New Members* by J. Manny Santiago; preface by **Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier** (1997-1998 Dissertation Year fellow & HTI Advisory Committee member), dean at Esperanza College. To purchase this excellent bilingual resource, call the publisher at 1800-458-3766 or visit their website, www.judsonpress.com.

The July edition of *Theology Today*, published by Princeton Theological Seminary, features an article penned by **Dr. Rubén Rosario-Rodriguez** (2003-2004 Dissertation Year fellow), Assistant Professor of Theology at St. Louis University. His work, *Calvin and "Communion Ecclesiology": An Ecumenical Conversation*, was included in this special issue commemorating the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin.



Call for Papers

The Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI), is seeking submissions for an issue that will be dedicated to ***La Virgen De Guadalupe***. We are seeking papers that address this topic from within the following categories:

Arte y Teología

- typically an essay-length review of one or more recent publications, film, or other media as well as literature and poetry relating to Latino/Hispanic theological and religious issue.

El Mundo y La Iglesia

- shorter essays on ecumenical church and the contemporary world.

Cruzando Fronteras

- essays dealing with interdisciplinary work. Essays by specialists in one theological field, religious tradition or subfield reflecting on a primary text from another theological field, religious tradition or subfield.

Teología en Nuestros Pueblos

- essays by experienced pastors, teachers, lawyers, social workers, bringing theological reflection to bear in relation to church practices and emerging forms of church life and mission.

Educación Cristiana

- essays dealing with educational issues regarding the Latina/o community in the academy and the church.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: **August 15, 2009**. Contributors will be notified whether or not their submission has been accepted for publication by **September 15, 2009**.

Submission Guidelines for Perspectives

Please visit the HTI website at: www.htiprogram.org.

HTI's Newest Family Member

Elías Ortega (2009-2010 Dissertation Year fellow) and his wife, Mandy, joyfully announce the arrival of their son, Lucien Marcel. Little "big sister," Luna Inés, has happily assumed her new role by enthusiastically offering to help care for her newborn brother.



For Your Prayers...

We ask that you keep **Dr. Fernando Segovia** (HTI mentor) in your prayers as he grieves the recent loss of his mother. May our Creator comfort Dr. Segovia and his family at this difficult time.



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!

HTI Staff

Joanne Rodriguez
Director
joanne.rodriquez@ptsem.edu

Angela Schoepf
Assistant Director
angela.schoepf@ptsem.edu

Maria Kennedy
Office Coordinator
maria.kennedy@ptsem.edu