

Hispanic Theological Initiative

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HTIC Scholar On-Line Process Now Available	1
Building HTI Fellowships	2
Center for the Study of the Hispanic Church & Community Celebrates Anniversary	3
Dissertation Writers Meet in Princeton	4
HTI Hosts Reception at AAR & SBL Meetings	4
Logros	5
New Print & On-Line	6-7
Career Development	8
For Our Prayers	9
HTI Gift Form	10



FEBRUARY 2010

New HTIC Scholar On-Line Process Announced

We are pleased to announce that the new on-line enrollment process for HTIC scholars is now operational for students chosen by their respective HTIC member institution. Once the institution registers the student(s) using this new user-friendly process, an HTI staff member will contact the student(s) to complete enrollment. The HTI staff will then begin the identification of a suitable mentor, as well as initiate the necessary preparation for the student's attendance at the HTIC Summer Workshop, to be held this year from July 16-20, in Princeton.

For students who are interested in becoming an HTIC scholar but who are not accepted to, or not attending, an HTIC member school, they are highly encouraged to express their interest to the institution's president and/or dean of Ph.D. studies, who would subsequently contact HTI director, Joanne Rodríguez.

As always, we encourage you to visit our website where more information on our program is available, including past issues of this newsletter, *Perspectivas* (the HTI journal), as well as information on our fellows and their publications. Please visit us at:

www.htiprogram.org



Building HTI Fellowships, *Poco a Poco*

Although it seems that we just finished celebrating the wonderful Christmas holiday, the days have gone by rapidly as we find ourselves already in mid-February! Before another day goes by, we would like to share the results of our recent Advent fundraising letter, happy to announce that 15 donations were received, totaling \$2,760.00, as follows:

Level 1 (up to \$99)	Dr. Paul Barton* Mr. Daniel Conrad Dr. Cecilia González Andrieu Dr. Jaime Lara Rev. Maribel Piña Dr. Daniel Schipani*
Level 2 (\$100 to \$249)	Dr. M. Daniel Carroll-Rodas Mr. Nelson & Dr. Esther Diaz-Bolet* Ms. Jacqueline Hidalgo Dr. Loida Martell-Otero* Dr. Aida Spencer*
Level 3 (\$250 or more)	Mr. Jeremy Cruz Dr. Edwin Hernández* Dr. Justo González* Rev. Dr. Joyce Tucker*

*Repeat donor

We thank each of our donors for their generous heart and for their belief in our program expressed through their gifts. I would like to share that one of these donations came from a young scholar who works with migrant workers in California. He initially contacted the office to request a copy of *Perspectivas*, recommended to him by a professor, and after a conversation with Maria, HTI's Office Coordinator, he learned of the program's history and invaluable contributions, compelling him to send a donation to us, even though he did not receive any HTI support for his soon-to-be completed doctorate! This donation proves that our collective efforts have been, and continue to be, far-reaching both in the academy and the church, and inspire us to forge ahead. With as little as \$50 from everyone in our database, we could provide at least two students with full fellowships! Please join our "en conjunto" mission, and also sustain us with your continued prayers and commitment to the program. On page 10 you will find a form that you can print to send us your gift. Again, *muchas...*

Left to right: Maria Kennedy (Office Coordinator), Angela Schoepf (Assistant Director), and Joanne Rodríguez (Director)



Fuller Theological Seminary's Center for the Study of Hispanic Church and Community Celebrates 35TH Anniversary

The *Center for the Study of Hispanic Church and Community* of **Fuller Theological Seminary** is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. The Center offers M.A., M.Div., and D.Min. degrees fully in Spanish and scholarships for Latina/o students. It also serves as the liaison between the Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium (HTIC) and the Ph.D. program, providing scholarship support and networking for Latino Ph.D. students. The Center serves as the principal driver for the growth in the number of Latina/o students at Fuller. Currently, over 100 students are in the degree programs linked to the Center.

Fuller Seminary has been connected to HTI since the 1990s. Several Fuller students received fellowships through HTI, and Fuller is one of the founding members of HTIC. Currently there are five Latina/o students in Fuller's Ph.D. programs.

In September 2010 the Center will be expanding its course offerings through diversified delivery systems. Courses on several of the seminary's campuses utilizing live video feed as well as online courses will be offered. The goal is for students to be able to complete an M.A. in Spanish through a combination of intensive courses in Pasadena, live video courses at one of Fuller's regional campuses, and online courses.

Currently, there are three Latina/o faculty members at Fuller and the Seminary is conducting a search process for a New Testament professor that will teach in the Center (please see listing under "Career Development" on p. 7). **Dr. Juan Martínez** (HTI Mentor), Associate Dean and Associate Professor, is the director of the Center; Dr. Oscar García-Johnson is Assistant Professor of Theology; and Dr. Lisseth Rojas-Flores is an Assistant Professor of Psychology and Director of Clinical Training in the Department of Marriage and Family of the School of Psychology. Emma Rodríguez is the Center's Program Director in the Center and Arnaldo Soto is the administrative assistant.



From left to right: Emma Rodríguez, Arnaldo Soto, Juan Martínez, Oscar García-Johnson, Lisseth Rojas-Flores.

Dissertation Writers Meet with Editor in Princeton



Norman Ruano and Neomi DeAnda

A trio of HTI Dissertation Year fellows writers holed up at Princeton for a week in late January with **Ulrike Guthrie** (HTI editor), bent on making significant strides with their writing. Away from family, teaching, and work responsibilities, and more delightful distractions like beach walks, **Neomi DeAnda** (2009-2010 fellow), **Elaine Padilla** (2009-2010 fellow), and **Norman Ruano** (2008-2009 fellow) came through. Keeping to a strict routine of three Seminary cafeteria meals together per day interspersed with hours upon hours of writing, each student completed the best part of a chapter at Princeton.

This is not the first time we've organized a writing retreat like this. A year ago, **Eric Barreto** (2008-2009 fellow), **Dr. Salvador Alcántara** (2007-2008 fellow), **Dr. Adriana Nieto** (2008-2009 fellow), and **Dr. Felipe Hinojosa** (2008-2009 fellow), left homes and families for a hotel room and the Speer Library.

What makes the difference? The space to focus exclusively on writing. Sharing goals and set-backs with fellow dissertation travelers. Meals together. An on-site editor. What more could an eager-to-finish dissertation writer want?



Elaine Padilla

HTI's *Teología en Conjunto* Evident at AAR & SBL Meetings

In keeping with tradition, HTI hosted receptions at the meetings of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) that took place in Toronto and New Orleans, respectively. Both events showcased the talents of the HTI community, with the participation of **over 30** of our *hermanas* and *hermanos*. The receptions are always well attended, providing great opportunities for friends and colleagues to catch up, as well as the perfect settings to do some serious networking!



HTI Assistant Director, Angela Schoepf, shares the many benefits of being an HTI community member to Richard Medina (center), who was introduced to Angela by HTI fellow, Enrique Baez (right).



Dr. Laurel Schneider (left) shares her experience with HTI fellows, Dr. Mayra Rivera and Rebecca Davis, ABD (center & right).

Logros

The American Academy of Religion (AAR) announced that **Dr. Otto Maduro** (HTI mentor), Professor of World Christianity at Drew University Theological School, was elected to the position of Vice President. Dr. Maduro now serves on the Executive and Program Committees, as well as on the Board of Directors. He will be in line to be confirmed President-Elect in 2010 and President in 2011.



Catholic Charities USA recently named **Dr. Arturo Chávez** (2005-2006 Dissertation Year fellow), President and CEO of the Mexican American Catholic College, as one of the four winners of the organization's first-ever National "Keep the Dream Alive" Award. Recipients are national figures recognized for their life work of reducing poverty in America.

The HTI staff is happy to announce the addition of two more fellows to the program's growing roster of graduates:



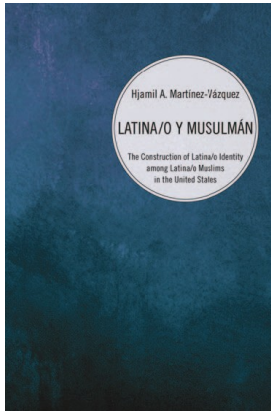
Mariana Alessandri (2008-2009 Dissertation Year fellow) ended the year with her successful defense at the University of Pennsylvania, and **Joseph De León** (2003-2004 Comprehensive Exams Year fellow) was conferred his doctorate at the Graduate Theological Union. Thanks to their perseverance, we now count **62** graduates.



Rebecca Davis (2008-2009 Comprehensive Exams fellow) enthusiastically shares that she passed her oral comprehensive exams with distinction at Graduate Theological Union. Three of Rebecca's committee members, pictured below with her, were (from left to right), Sr. Mary McGann, RSCJ, Fr. Michael Morris, OP, and Dr. Ron Nakasone. Also on the committee were **Fr. Eduardo Fernández, S.J.** (1997-1998 Post-Doctoral fellow), who was behind the camera, and Dr. Susan Verdi Webster, who participated in the process via telephone conference.

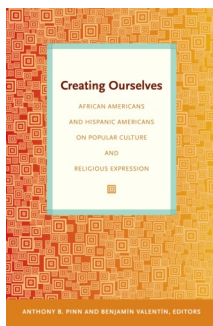


New in Print & On-Line



Wipf and Stock Publishers announced the publication of two new books. The first, *Latina/o y Musulmán: The Construction of Latina/o Identity among Latina/o Muslims in the United States*, penned by **Dr. Hjamil Martínez-Vázquez** (2001-2001 Dissertation Year fellow), presents the ways in which Latina/o Muslims construct their identity, as a minority within a minority. Latinas/os are the fastest growing “minoritized” ethnic group in the United States and Islam is one of the fastest growing religions in the United States. This book explores the process of conversion of U.S. Latina/o Muslims and how it becomes the foundation for the re-construction of their U.S. Latina/o identities. Furthermore, since Latina/o religious experience in the United States up until now has largely assumed Christianity as the de facto religion, *Latina/o y Musulmán* brings a whole new angle to studies in this area. Dr. Martínez-Vázquez is Assistant Professor of Religion at Texas Christian University.

The second book, written by Dr. Oscar García-Johnson, models a creative exercise in ecclesiology based on a Latino/a practical theology of the Spirit, which designs theological discourse based on its encounter with the Spirit in human culture. *The Mestizo/a Community of the Spirit: A Postmodern Latino/a Ecclesiology* sets forth practical guidelines for implementation of the ecclesial construct in the urban context of devastated communities and offers suggestions for further development in Latino/a theology. Dr. García-Johnson is Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary.



Creating Ourselves: African Americans and Hispanic Americans on Popular Culture and Religious Expression, published by Duke University Press, is a unique effort to lay the cultural and theological groundwork for cross-cultural collaboration between the African and Latina/o American communities. In the introduction, the editors contend that given overlapping histories and interests of the two communities, they should work together to challenge social injustices. This is reaffirmed by the writings of several HTI community members, including:

- **Dr. Joseph De León** (2003-2004 Comprehensive Exams Year fellow), Adjunct Professor at Central Pennsylvania College
- **Dr. Teresa Delgado** (2001-2002 Dissertation Year fellow), Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Coordinator of the Peace and Justice Studies Program at Iona College
- **Dr. Suzanne Hoferkamp** (2001-2002 Dissertation Year fellow), Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology at The Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest
- **Dr. Mayra Rivera** (2004-2005 Dissertation Year fellow), Assistant Professor of Theology at Pacific School of Religion

New in Print & On-Line (Cont'd.)

Continued from P. 6

This compilation was edited by **Dr. Benjamín Valentín** (1999-2000 Dissertation Year fellow), Associate Professor of Theology and Culture and Director of the Orlando Costas Latino/a Studies Program at Andover Newton Theological School, and by Dr. Anthony Pinn, Professor of Humanities, Professor of Religious Studies, and Director of Graduate Studies at Rice University.



Dr. Juan Hernández Jr. (2004-2005 Dissertation Year fellow), Assistant Professor of New Testament at Bethel University, has authored several new articles. Three appeared recently in collaborative works of scholarship and one is forthcoming (April 2010) in the peer-reviewed journal, *New Testament Studies*. These studies continue to pursue questions of interpretation related to the earliest readers and interpreters of John's Apocalypse. The articles include:

- "The Apocalypse in Codex Alexandrinus: Its Singular Readings and Scribal Habits" in *Scripture and Traditions: Essays on Early Judaism and Christianity in Honor of Carl R. Holladay*.
- "The Apocalypse in Condex Sinaiticus" in *Jewish and Christian Scripture as Artifact and Canon*.
- "Andrew of Caesarea and His Reading of Revelation: Catechesis and Paranesis" in *Die Johannesapokalypse: Kontexte und Konzepte/The Revelation of John: Contexts and Concepts*.



Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion

Sopher Press announces the launch of a new online journal, the *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion*. The editor of the journal is noted scholar **Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre** (2000-2001 Post-doctoral fellow), Associate Professor of Social Ethics at The Iliff School of Theology. Serving on the editorial of international reputation is **Dr. Mayra Rivera** (2004-2005 Dissertation Year fellow), Assistant Professor of Theology at Pacific School of Religion (Dr. Rivera will join the faculty of Harvard Divinity School in September as Assistant Professor of Theology and Latina/o Studies). Religion, race, and ethnicity combine in multiple ways to shape American history and global human life. This new journal, the first to address this interaction, will offer fresh insights into the varieties of religious expression. The first article is now available at www.raceandreligion.com. During 2010, all of the journal's articles will be free to the public.

Career Development



Fuller Theological Seminary invites applications for a faculty position in New Testament Studies. Applicants possess a Ph.D. degree or equivalent in New Testament or cognate field (e.g., Christian Origins). Requirements include, among others, the ability to teach bilingually (Spanish and English) and to represent Fuller Theological Seminary among Latina/o communities in the United States. Preference will be given to those who have substantial background in the Hispanic Church in the United States, who have experience teaching in Latina/o contexts in the United States, and who have published in Spanish. The position is available as of September 1, 2010. For more information, please visit: <http://www.fuller.edu/work-at-fuller/faculty/sot/new-testament.aspx>

Luther College is looking for a qualified individual to fill a one-year position with the possibility of renewal up to a term of three years, of Visiting Instructor or Assistant Professor of Religion in Biblical Studies, beginning in late August 2010. Applicants must possess a Ph.D./Th.D. preferred at time of appointment exceptional ABDs will be considered (Instructor rank). Teaching experience required.



Review of applications begins on February 8, 2010, and will continue until the position is filled. Applications should include: 1) letter of application; 2) curriculum vitae; 3) at least three letters of recommendation; 4) evidence of effective teaching (student evaluations, sample syllabi, other course materials); and 5) official graduate transcripts. Please send all application materials via postal mail to:

Professor Guy Nave
 Chair, Biblical Studies Search Committee
 Luther College
 Decorah, Iowa 52101
 Telephone: 563/387-2143



The Center for Theological Inquiry (CTI) located in Princeton, NJ is inviting applications for participation in "Writing Theology with Marilynne Robinson," that will take place from June 20 to July, 10, 2010. The leader will lead an intensive, three-week residential workshop to help scholars in the academy to write theology with clarity for wider readerships. CTI welcomes applications from tenure-track and tenured faculty teaching full-time in one of the disciplines of theology. For more information, please visit the News section on the CTI website at www.ctiinquiry.org.



For Our Prayers

Dr. Edwin Aponte (HTI mentor), Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dean, and Professor of Religion and Culture at Lancaster Seminary, is grieving the loss of his father, Domingo Aponte, who recently passed away in Puerto Rico.

Dr. Otto Maduro (HTI mentor), Professor of World Christianity at Drew University Theological School, is also mourning the loss of both his brother, Pedro, and his sister, Marianela.

Mati Moros (2009-2010 Comprehensive Exams fellow) has asked us to express her deep appreciation for the prayers that have been offered for her mother, who has been released from the hospital in Venezuela. Mati asks that we continue to ask for God's healing hand as her mother recovers at home.

HTI Staff

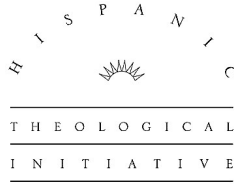
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As always, we ask all of our community members to keep us posted of any news items you would like to have considered for inclusion in our newsletter by emailing us at **hti@ptsem.edu**. Remember to include pertinent information, such as website or 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!



**Hispanic Theological Initiative
Gift**

Name: _____
(Please print)

Yes! Please accept my gift to continue to support Latina and Latino doctoral students, and send me a receipt for my tax-deductible donation to the address listed below. I would also like to be added to the HTI distribution lists for *Perspectivas*, the HTI journal.

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____

I would like to suggest that HTI contact the following individual or private family foundation that may be able to support the program.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Please return this form along with your gift, made out to **HTI Restricted Funds**, to:

HTI
12 Library Place
Princeton, NJ 08540