COMMUNICATING RESOURCES OF INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY AT PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The Seminary through its curriculum, programs, and services, endeavors to provide understanding and supportive interaction among diverse population groups and respects individuals’ personal values and ideas. This medium is intended to provide helpful insights as we move forward embracing a myriad of diversity of perspectives in our midst.

Early Orientation Program begins and concludes with worship!
The Early Orientation Program (EOP) concluded on Wednesday, September 10th with a magnificent worship service in Miller Chapel. EOP began on Wednesday the 3rd and for a full week the students received insightful information as they prepared for an edifying academic year. Twenty five students from 21 countries arrived with joyful expectations as they pursue their vocational interests. Some of the countries represented with this new entering class are: Malawi, China, Myanmar, Scotland, Ghana, Cameroon, Germany, Iceland, Taiwan and many more.

The International community at PTS is supported through various student organizations such as the International Students Fellowship (ISF) and the International Friends Network (IFN). Ms. Yunson Mun (Korea) is the new president for ISF and Christina DeYoe and Samuel Arroyo are the co-coordinators of IFN. The Office of Multicultural Relations (OMR) provides technical support to these two organizations. For more information please click here.

“CELEBRATING THE WORLD: Global Experiences of Faith in Action” will be a new initiative organized by IFN and ISA through the Office of Multicultural Relations. Beginning October 1st, we will hear of the challenges experienced by the Church in different parts of the world in luncheon forums held in the Main Lounge at 12:15pm. For more information please click here.

Web portal brings insightful information
Information on issues such as inclusion in higher education, racial reconciliation in church and society, multiculturalism and its various manifestations, conferences on gender, racial ethic and other pertinent issues can be found in https://our.ptsem.edu/ics/Campus_Life/Multicultural_Relations/. Every month OMR will provide updates as to a variety of resources through Diversity Focus.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins September 15th
45.5 million is the estimated Hispanic American population in the United States as of July 1, 2007 making people of Hispanic origin the nation’s largest ethnic or race minority. Hispanics constitute 15% of the nation’s population and the U.S. is now the second largest Spanish speaking country in the world, second to Mexico with a 105 million. For more information please visit the Campus Highlights tab of our web portal.
The Herencia Lecture Series: An insightful opportunity!

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, the Herencia Lecture Series is co-sponsored by the Hispanic Theological Initiative, the Hispanic Leadership Program, AL/HAS and the Office of Multicultural Relations.

Individuals from Latin America profess all world religions. It is not unusual to encounter Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, or Buddhist Latinos. An estimated 65 percent, however, are Roman Catholic as a consequence of the Spanish expeditions that initiated the Catholic conversion of indigenous people in 1492. Yet, Christian faith is vibrant among the U.S. Hispanic immigrant population, which now numbers in the millions. The first and most obvious indication of the presence of Hispanic Christians is the increase in attendees in churches from a variety of denominations on a Sunday morning. In the PCUSA, 32 of 40 new church developments are concentrated in growing Hispanic communities. Mainline denominations, but especially evangelical and Pentecostal denominations and independent groups, are seeing new churches sprout everywhere. The Catholic Church and many Protestant denominations see this explosion in the number of churches and church-goers as an unprecedented opportunity for all kinds of pastoral, teaching and care-giving ministries. The Herencia Lecture series will provide some challenging insights for continued dialogue and research as this phenomenon is not just something to be aware of or to be considered simply a new target for outreach; it contains perspectives that have much to teach majority culture Christians and churches about life with God and with our neighbor. We all have much to learn from each other. We will begin our series on Monday, September 26th at 7pm. For more information on the Herencia Lecture Series and on Hispanic Heritage Month please click here.

The Sister Circle Retreat: An Outstanding Beginning!

On Friday, September 12, 2008 over fifty women of color graced us with their presence here at PTS and Princeton University. These leaders participated in a new initiative developed through the creativity of our own Dr. Yolanda Pierce, Associate Professor of African American Religion and Literature and Dr. Karen Y. Jackson-Weaver, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Diversity at Princeton University. In collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Relations, this initial event provided a time of refreshing for women in graduate education from surrounding areas. The hope of this initiative is to cultivate a network of women of color interested in or already attending graduate school, including those interested in theological vocations. This program will be offered periodically throughout the academic year. For more information on the Sister Circle please click here.

International Friends Network [IFN]

IFN will be having its orientation gathering with hosts/partners on Friday, September 26th at 6:00pm in the Main Lounge. For more information please click here.

Association of Black Seminarians [ABS] holds its annual Academic Forum on Saturday, September 13th.

ABS had a wonderful gathering with incoming and returning students at the Armstrong Room in the Luce Library. A morning filled with helpful suggestions were provided accordingly by returning students sharing their own experiences. Arrangements were made with the Library staff for a tour of the facility and resources.

EMBRACING DIVERSITY
Experience & Discipline

The L.I.V.E. Symposium
October 26-28, 2008
A bold new initiative!

In an effort to intentionally identify prospective students for the ministry, PTS through Admissions and Financial Aid and OMR is developing this exploratory opportunity for individuals from underrepresented populations groups wrestling with their sense of call. For more information click here or contact OMR at 609.688.1943.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Please refer to The Wineskin for further information on all campus events.

Saturday, September 20
Association of Latino(a)/Hispanic American Seminarians’ Opening Celebrations at 4:30pm, Witherspoon Lounge.

Tuesday, September 23
Asian American Association at PTS Ice Cream Social in front of Mackay at 6:30pm.

Wednesday, September 24
Spiritual Direction at PTS. An introductory gathering in the Main Lounge at 12:30pm.

Thursday, September 25
Opening Celebrations for Episcopal Students’ Fellowship at 6:00pm

Monday, September 29
Herencia Lecture Series—7:00pm: “It’s More than Just Spanish!: Theology and Praxis.” Main Lounge. Lecturer: Dr. Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz

Wednesday, October 1
Herencia Lecture Series—7:00pm: "Politics of Assimilation: Latinos/as and the Sacred.” Main Lounge Lecturer: Dr. David Abalos

Thursday, October 2
The Reading Circle gathering at Erdman Center at 5pm. For more information click here.