Hispanic Ministry and Austin Seminary

Selections from the Collections of the Austin Seminary Archives

1921-1954

SPANISH SPEAKING PROGRAM
Spanish Speaking program faculty

Antonio Horatio Perpetuo, 1921-1923
Robert Francis Gribble, 1921-1954

Orin Conway Williamson, 1928-1933
Robert Douglas Campbell, 1933-1945

From the Austin Seminary records

“The Mexican Department of Austin Seminary,” 1923

From the Robert Gribble papers
Programa de estudios, 1923

From the Robert Gribble papers

SPANISH SPEAKING PROGRAM, 1921-1954

Courses from the 1928 Catalogue (partial)

From the Austin Seminary records
Spanish Speaking Department, 1929

From the Austin Seminary records

SPANISH SPEAKING PROGRAM, 1921-1954

Catalogue Description, 1929

6. The Spanish-Speaking Department

Austin Seminary is the only one in our Church that bears the distinction of having a department where a foreign-speaking student body is trained in its own tongue for the work of the Presbyterian Ministry.

With the establishment of the Spanish-speaking Department in the Seminary, it has become possible for Mexican students to receive a thorough course of preparation which fits them especially for the strategic work among the hundreds of thousands of their native countrymen now residing in Texas and the Southwest. Following is the outline of the courses in this department:

From the Austin Seminary records

SPANISH SPEAKING PROGRAM, 1921-1954
Spanish Speaking Department, 1930

From the Austin Seminary records

SPANISH SPEAKING PROGRAM, 1921-1954

10/29/2014

Austin Seminary Archives
www.austinseminary.edu/archives
Spanish Speaking Department, 1931

From the Austin Seminary records

SPANISH SPEAKING PROGRAM, 1921-1954

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery newsletter, 1937

And Still More Accomplishments

The Spanish-speaking Department of Austin Theological Seminary has five students, two of whom are seniors. Mexican young men in this institution are trained as Presbyterian ministers for service at home or foreign missions.
Catalogue Description, 1944

HISTORY OF THE SPANISH-SPEAKING DEPARTMENT

The demand for native ministers among the half million Mexicans in Texas led to the creation of the Mexico Department of the Seminary at the time of its reorganization following the war.

The Board of Examiners of the General Assembly made the work financially possible, and the Seminary Faculty arranged the curriculum and provided the teachers. Rev. A. B. Perpeteau, instructor in Semitics, was the first director of the department. In 1922, Professor Gibbons F. Wilkerson, Professor 0. A. Wadd, senior student in the Seminary, was instructor. When, in 1927, Rev. D. C. Wilkerson resigned, the Board of Trustees of the Seminary requested Texas-Mexican Presbytery to permit him to give part of his time to the instruction of that department's students in the Seminary. In this capacity as full-time instructor in Spanish, Dr. Wilkerson served most acceptably, adding strength and attractiveness to the department. He resigned in December, 1932, to become pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Alexandria, Louisiana.

The Seminary Faculty immediately arranged to have the Rev. R. D. Campbell, D. D., to take over the superintending care of the department. Dr. Wilkerson began teaching in the Spanish Speaking Department in January, 1933, which position he continued to hold.

The curriculum is suited directly to the original purpose of this phase of the Seminary work, viz.: to send out preachers and workers well equipped to practical church affairs. The courses were originally outlined, and have been preserved in harmony with, advice of members of Texas-Mexican Presbytery. The regular theological schedule, with the exception of Hebrew and Greek, optional, is required, together with the study of Spanish and English languages. Personal experience is stressed. When the student is lacking in prescription, it is not unusual for the course to be extended over four years, instead of three.

A continual stream of competent and successful men has gone out from Austin Seminary since the first year of this very important and necessary work.

From the Austin Seminary records

SPANISH SPEAKING PROGRAM, 1921-1954

Three Graduates, 1947

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery records

SPANISH SPEAKING PROGRAM, 1921-1954
Catalogue Description, 1949

The Spanish-Speaking Department

The presence in Texas of thousands of Spanish-speaking Latin-Americans gave challenge to Presbyterians to increase their work among them. At the time of the re-opening of the Seminary after World War I, a department was added to train native ministers.

The Executive Committee of Home Missions of the General Assembly shared financially in this venture, and the Rev. A. H. Perpetua became the director. In 1903 Professor Griddle was requested to assume the directorship of this department with the Rev. G. A. Walls as instructor.

In 1907, the Reverend O. C. Williamson, D.D., returned from missionary work in Mexico to direct the studies of the students in this department, continuing until 1938. The following year the Reverend R. D. Campbell, D.D., assumed this responsibility and a constant stream of consecrated and trained ministers has gone out into the life and work of the Texas-Mexican Presbytery.

From the Austin Seminary records

Catalogue Description, 1954

THE SPANISH-SPEAKING DEPARTMENT

The presence in Texas of thousands of Spanish-speaking Latin-Americans gave challenge to Presbyterians to increase their work among them. At the time of the re-opening of the Seminary after World War I, a department was added to train native ministers.

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"Today the need for a special Spanish-speaking department has passed and Latin-American students take the regular B.D. course of study."
From the History of Austin Seminary in the 1956 Catalogue

For many years, the Seminary maintained a special Spanish-speaking department to prepare a ministry for the many Spanish-speaking people in the Southwest. Today all ministers who may serve bi-lingual churches take the regular course leading to the Bachelor of Divinity degree and the Spanish Department has been discontinued.

SELECTED STUDENTS

1902-present
Elias Santos Rodriguez (BD 1908)
First Hispanic graduate (pictured here in front of his church in Dallas in the 1940s).

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery records

Samuel G. Ramirez (Certificate 1924)

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery records
Jose Angel Hernandez (Certificate 1929)

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

Guadalupe M. Armendariz (Certificate 1930)

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT
Ruben M. Armendariz (Certificate 1930)

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

Jose de la Luz Guerrero (Certificate 1930)

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT
SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

Cruz Granados (Certificate 1931)

Alberto Luna (Certificate 1931)

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery records
Pedro A. Hernandez (Certificate 1934)

C. G. Alvarez (Certificate 1935)
Isaac C. Olivares (Certificate 1935)

From the Austin Seminary records and the Texas-Mexican Presbyterian records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

Efrain Z. Bello (Certificate 1936)

From the Austin Seminary records and the Texas-Mexican Presbyterian records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT
Tomas Garza (Certificate 1936)

From the Austin Seminary records

Julio Cantu (Certificate 1937)

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery records
Ismael Maldonado (Certificate 1937)

Gregorio Valenzuela (Certificate 1938)

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery records
Francisco P. Rugerio (Certificate 1939)

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery records

Jose Fuentes Martinez (Certificate 1940)

Jose Fuentes Martinez and other members of the Texas-Mexican Presbytery at a meeting at El Divino Salvador Church in Corpus Christi, 1952

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery records
Luis C. Hernandez, Sr. (Certificate 1942)

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

Isaac de Lugo (Certificate 1942)

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT
Jesus V. Franco (Certificate 1942)

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

J. Fernandez Curti (Certificate 1947)

From the Austin Seminary records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT
Jesse L. Leos (MDiv 1952)

From the Texas-Mexican Presbytery records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

Benjamin F. Gutierrez (MDiv 1956)

From the Austin Seminary records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT
Carlos Buck (MDiv 1957; ThM 1971)

From the Austin Seminary records

Jose Lara-Braud (MDiv 1959)

Hicks Scholarship winners from 1957: Marvin Williams, Jorge Lara-Braud and Jack Bennett.

From the Austin Seminary records
Ruben Armendariz (MDiv 1961)

Ruben Armendariz and Ben Gutierrez at Austin College, undated.

From the Austin Seminary records and the Texas-Mexican Presbyterian records.

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

Galdino Don Juan (MDiv 1968)

From the Austin Seminary records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT
Dan Garza (MDiv 1968)

From the Austin Seminary records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

Hector C. Villarreal
(MDiv 1976, DMin 1978)

From the Austin Seminary records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT
Jose L. Garcia, Jr. (MDiv 1977)

Sostenes Infante (MDiv 1977)

From the Austin Seminary records
SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT
Rebecca Reyes (MDiv 1979)
First female Hispanic graduate

Juan F. Trevino, Jr. (MDiv 1979)
Frank Diaz, Sr. (MDiv 1982)

Lydia Salazar Martinez (MDiv 1983)
Juan Carlos Bidot, Jr. (MDiv 1988)

From the Austin Seminary records

Selected Students, 1902-Present

Kenneth Davis (MDiv 1992)

From the Austin Seminary records

Selected Students, 1902-Present
Jesus Juan (Jesse) Gonzalez (MDiv 1992)

From the Austin Seminary records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

Aaron del Pozo (MDiv 1992)

From the Austin Seminary records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT
Michael Rodriguez (MDiv 1994)

Lemuel Garcia-Arroyo (MDiv 1995; Director of Alumni and Church Relations 2012-present)
Consuelo Donahue (MDiv 1996)

Marisela Garcia (MDiv 1997)
Carlos E. Torres (MA 1997)

[Image of Carlos E. Torres]

From the Austin Seminary records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

Carlos E. Ham Stanard (DMin 1999)

[Image of Carlos Ham and Gill Richardson accepting awards]

Carlos Ham and Gill Richardson accepting their ASA Awards for Service in 2011.

From the Austin Seminary records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT
Hector Reynoso (MDiv 1999)

From the Austin Seminary records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

Adan Mairena (MDiv 2003)

From the Austin Seminary records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT
David Pussman (MDiv 2005)

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

From the Austin Seminary records

Ramon P. Santillano, Jr. (MDiv 2005)

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

From the Austin Seminary records
David N. Martinez-Solis (MDiv 2006)

From the Austin Seminary records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

Juan Hererera (MDiv 2007)

From the Austin Seminary records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT
Jose H. Lopez (MDiv 2010)

From the Austin Seminary records  

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

Isabel Rivera-Velez (MDiv 2010)

From the Austin Seminary records  

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT
Lisa Juica (MDiv 2011; Associate for Admissions, 2012-present)

From the Austin Seminary records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT

Elsa Ramirez (MDiv 2011)

From the Austin Seminary records

SELECTED STUDENTS, 1902-PRESENT
1902-present

SELECTED FACULTY AND STAFF

Antonio Horatio Perpetuo (1921-1923)

From the Austin Seminary records
Jose Lara-Braud (1964-1973)

Genevieve (Gene) Luna (1968-2000)
Ruben Armendariz (1975-1976)

From the Austin Seminary records

Selected Faculty and Staff, 1902-Present

Rodrigo Rosales (1989-present)

From the Austin Seminary records

Selected Faculty and Staff, 1902-Present
Daniel M. Garza (1981-2002)
From the Austin Seminary records
SELECTED FACULTY AND STAFF, 1902-PRESENT

Ismael Garcia (1987-2009)
From the Austin Seminary records
SELECTED FACULTY AND STAFF, 1902-PRESENT

From the Austin Seminary records

Mona Santandrea (2008-present)

From the Austin Seminary records
Gregory Cuéllar (2011-present)

From the Austin Seminary records

Thanks for watching!

Please visit www.austinseminary.edu/archives to learn more about the Austin Seminary Archives.

If you have material relating to Austin Seminary or Hispanic ministry in Texas, let us know – we are always looking to expand our collections.

Contact Kristy Sorensen with any questions or comments:

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