



THE PATH WORTH TAKING

Ilia Morales' story is unique, it also shares many similar themes with those of other students at the Seminary. Her life and vocational path has been rich and fulfilling, and still something called her to "start again" and go back to school to seek a new path. We asked her to share her story.

Ilia Morales, MACC

I grew up in Maunabo, Puerto Rico, a town along the southeast coast. I attended the University of Puerto Rico and earned a bachelor's in Psychology. I was always into sports, especially volleyball, so doing graduate work in Sports Psychology became my goal. I applied and was accepted into a masters/doctoral program in Kinesiology at the University of Minnesota. At that time, Kinesiology was an umbrella field combining physical education, exercise physiology, biomechanics, sport management, sport sociology, and sport psychology. I received a Ph.D. in Kinesiology in 1999.

After studying in Minnesota for four years, I went back home to Puerto Rico and got married. I worked for the Center for Sports, Health and Exercise Sciences at the Olympic Training Center in Puerto Rico, first as the Interim Director of their Exercise Physiology Unit for two years and then as a Sport Psychology Consultant for four years. After that, I became an Assistant Professor at the Metropolitan University of Puerto Rico in their School of Education. I loved teaching and the relationships I developed with my students but had to leave that job when we moved to the Lehigh Valley for my husband's job in 2008.



My first job in the Lehigh Valley was as a Community School Director in the Allentown School District. This job helped me get to know the community and its resources pretty well. It also allowed me to combine my passion for education with my passion for social justice. I met many heads of nonprofit organizations and private agencies and was able to build up the school's Leadership Team. Working with the many committed volunteers from private companies, churches, and community organizations made my job very satisfying.

When I got pregnant with my third child (my oldest two were born in Puerto Rico), I decided to become a stay-at-home mom. After two years, I began working part-time from home with an e-mentoring organization called Infinite Family. I was their Video Mentor Coordinator and trained mentors from all over the world to meet with their Net Buddies (from South Africa) in the organization's Internet platform. I also created activities for their curriculum and started developing the monitoring and evaluation system.

I had always wanted to go back to teaching, though. I taught Spanish part-time at Northampton Community College and Sport Psychology and Research Methods at

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OUR NEWEST FACULTY MEMBER

Welcome Rev. Dr. Beth Toler

Moravian Seminary welcomed the Rev. Dr. Beth Toler to her first semester of teaching this fall. Beth Toler is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and received her ThD from Emory University, Candler School of Theology. She is also an ordained American Baptist minister and brings diverse experience from ministry, clinic, and classroom to Moravian Seminary. Her pastoral experience includes parish and campus ministry, hospital chaplaincy, and work in psychiatric facilities. Beth's clinical experience includes over fifteen years of private practice counseling for individuals, couples, and families.

Though a native Floridian, Beth's heart is in the northeast Georgia mountains where she enjoys her family's cabin and its great porch for swinging, rocking, and watching night come. Beth is clear, "if I hadn't been so strongly called to this line of work, I probably would have become a park ranger for the National Park Service." We are glad she is not a park ranger but is, instead, here at the Seminary. We asked Beth to reflect on what brought her here and what she's looking forward to.

What drew you to Moravian Seminary?

What drew me to MTS was its rich history, theology, commitment to service in the world, and emphasis on formation. I felt Moravian would be a place where I could bring my whole self. I consider myself to be a clinical theologian, and I wanted to teach in a program where serious theological reflection could be a part of the endeavor of integrating religion and spirituality into counseling and the therapeutic process. I resonate with Moravian's emphasis on formation. It's important to teach the skills of counseling and how to integrate religion and spirituality into counseling, but it's more important to help students develop their personal spiritual, theological, and clinical identity. It is that identity that creates a solid foundation for practice and makes a difference in the venture of therapy.



What has surprised or been particularly rewarding for you this first semester?

What has surprised me is the immediate, warm inclusion from faculty, staff, and students. The openness and willingness to receive and incorporate my perspectives and gifts has been wonderful.

What are you looking forward to as you settle in?

I am looking forward to collaborating with my colleagues in different fields for writing, research, and teaching. I look forward to getting to know the community of Moravian Seminary and building relationships in the Lehigh Valley. I want to combine my gifts with the gifts of the Seminary to cultivate a fun, vibrant community; practical, cutting edge scholarship; and a place where students are a part of it all. Δ



HOPE IN HARD TIMES: PRISONER ART FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

March 1- April 7 **Art Exhibition** at the Artsquest's Banana Factory Arts Center
23 W. 3rd Street Bethlehem, PA 18015

March 19, 7pm **Lecture by Tyrone Werts**, Soros Fellow, PA lifer commuted by Gov. Rendell
Moravian College's Prosser Auditorium, HUB

March 24, 2pm **Vigil for Hope in the Criminal Justice System** at the Artsquest's Banana Factory Arts Center
Cester Hollman, Jr. will tell the story of his son's wrongful conviction and sentence of life without parole



All events are free and open to the public. **Registration requested for the lecture at moravianseminary.edu/registration.**
Sponsored by the Moravian Church Eastern Dist., Church in Society Ministry Team, Moravian College and Seminary.

TEACHING & CONNECTING ACROSS THE DISTANCE

Spiritual Direction Intensive Program (SDIP) Forming a 2nd Cohort

In the summer of 2017, Moravian Seminary launched its first low-residency program, the Spiritual Direction Intensive Program (SDIP), co-directed by Barbara Martell and Marcella Kraybill-Greggo. Because Spiritual Direction involves such personal connections between participants, it might seem that this program would be the last to fit into a mostly online format. However, perhaps because Spiritual Direction demands such close attention to the other, it is a perfect program to push the boundaries of how we understand the internet and online education.

Heather Ruce '18 from San Diego, a member of the first cohort, explains what education in spiritual direction across the distance was like: "We gathered over Zoom, joining one another from England, Canada, and various time zones in the US. With Teilhard's notion of the 'noosphere' in mind, our distance cohort opened ourselves to the opportunity to learn how to lean into our connection that exists beyond physical space and time. It was an adjustment at first, but we settled in quickly and in an unexpected way. Gathering together from our own homes brought with it a special sense of intimacy and safety." Participants in the first cohort joined from Ontario, Great Britain, Pennsylvania, California, North Carolina, New Jersey, and Georgia.



"The fact that this was a distance learning cohort was surprisingly no deterrent to our attentive and caring presence with one another as a learning community."

— **Jeanine Siler Jones '18**
Asheville, NC

With the resounding success of the first cohort, we are gearing up for a new cohort to start this summer. The one-year intensive program is designed for individuals who already have training in contemplative listening (e.g. counselors, nurses, pastors, chaplains). It includes five courses over three semesters—all available online—and two on-site retreats anchored in a Wisdom format. Participants also meet with 2-5 directees, and receive peer and individual supervision. We are excited to be able to open our arms more widely to connect with more students across the country and around the world.

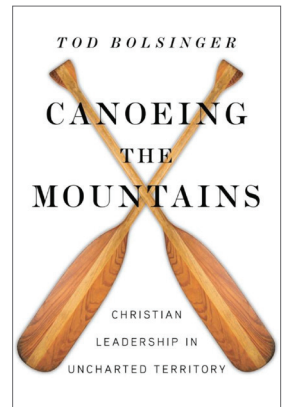
For more information about the Spiritual Direction Intensive Program, contact Dave DeRemer deremerd@moravian.edu. Δ

BOOK REVIEW BY DR. RIDDICK WEBER

Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territories by Tod Bolsinger



For decades authors writing about the Christian Church in the 20th and 21st centuries have noted that the church is in unknown territory. Bolsinger, Vice President for Vocation and Formation and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Fuller Seminary, looks at Lewis and Clark's famed Corps of Discovery Expedition for inspiration for how church leaders might navigate this uncharted terrain.



In his well-developed and readable book, Bolsinger examines Lewis and Clark's preparedness for undertaking their mission; the unique qualities they brought to the challenge; how they adapted when the landscape turned out to be nothing like what they had expected and nothing that they were prepared for; and how these characteristics allowed them to complete their mission with a remarkable degree of safety, accuracy, efficiency and success.

Bolsinger divides the book into four sections: *Understanding Uncharted Territory*, *The On-the-Map Skill Set*, *Leading Off the Map*, *Relationships and Resistance*, and *Transformation*. He takes the reader back and forth between the challenges Lewis and Clark faced and challenges facing the church today. Bolsinger notes the importance of Sacagawea as a guide for The Corps of Discovery. They may have been in unknown territory, but she was not. Likewise, as the church moves into unknown territory, there are many people, native in a variety of ways who might serve as our guides.

In addition, Bolsinger points out that Lewis and Clark developed radical approaches to problem solving that would later become more normal in US. They trusted female authority and leadership and gave an African American equal say in the decisions of the group. His point reminds readers that what is familiar now was once very new.

Leadership is vital to the success of an expedition, and Bolsinger spends much of the book examining leadership skills, both "on-the-map" and "off-the-map" skills. As church leadership wrestles with the relevance of previously important skills, competencies, and approaches to ministry, Bolsinger emphasizes that "No one is going to follow you off the map unless they trust you on the map (loc 106)." In other words, leaders need to establish credibility with their community in whatever situation they are in before they will trust that leader to guide them out of familiar territory.

Students who read this book in last fall's leadership in Ministry course affirmed, like many others, that *Canoeing the Mountains* is a must read for pastors and leadership in local congregations. We are headed into uncharted territories, we don't know what we will find, and Bolsinger's work provides us with excellent ways of thinking about the leadership skills and the processes necessary for moving into the unknown. Δ

CROSSROADS UPCOMING SPRING CLASSES

TRAVELING MERCIES Thursdays, March 7–May 2, 6-9pm

UNPACKING THE SCRIPTURES: PREACHING Mondays, Mar 11–May 6, 6-9pm

Learn more about the Crossroads Lay Leadership Program and the upcoming classes at moravianseminary.edu/crossroads. You can also contact Jill Peters directly at petersj@moravian.edu or 610-861-1616.

ALUMNI ARE OUR BEST RECRUITERS

You, alumni, are our best recruiters because you are living examples of the MTS experience. Encourage your friends, family, and colleagues to attend an upcoming info session. For more info or to register visit moravianseminary.edu/info-sessions.

ON CAMPUS/BAHNSON CENTER

Wednesday, February 26, 2019
7:00–9:00pm • FREE

Saturday, March 9, 2019
10:00am–Noon • FREE

VIRTUAL/ONLINE

Thursday, March 21, 2019
6:30–8:00pm • FREE

Tuesday, April 9, 2019
6:30–8:00pm • FREE

Morales Cont.

Muhlenberg College but never had the opportunity to get a full-time position. After so many years away from my field of study, I realized that I would need to do something different. I felt called to go back to my original roots and pursue a path in the field of Psychology.

I started looking at different options and registered for one class at Moravian Seminary: Chronic Illness, Death, and Loss with Dr. Jane Williams. (I joke that I started the counseling program from the end instead of the beginning.) My second semester, I took Intro to New Testament with Dr. Timothy Luckritz-Marquis. I loved both courses for different reasons. Jane's personality was warm and welcoming. The students in the class were kind and caring. That kind of environment was what I was looking for in a new school. As for New Testament, I loved how challenged I was to go deeper in my understanding of each book. Learning from Tim was a treat. My brain was stimulated again! And I realized that this was the perfect environment: I could go back to school for a MA in Clinical Counseling in a place that would challenge me while also taking care of my soul.

I enjoy being here, and I miss it when there are long breaks. I have felt most alive here when I have had the opportunity to get to know others better by having deep, honest conversations. Having lived through experiences of racism and prejudice in my previous graduate school years, it has been absolutely refreshing to feel safe in this environment. The experience of sharing my life journey and feeling validation from classmates and professors has been important. I have felt comfortable in my interactions with my professors and have found them to be very kind. They really do care about their students and take the time to get to know them. Professors are fair and many go out of their way to help students achieve their goals.

I'm now getting ready to begin my practicum. I will be working with clients diagnosed with a life-threatening diseases and looking to develop a space within me to be able to hear these stories, keep my composure, and be effective as a counselor.

After graduation, I would love to be able to work with immigrants and refugees to help them navigate their new environments while making sense of the experiences they are having or have had in the past, especially any experiences with trauma, grief, and loss. I still love academia and the college environment. Working in an educational setting is something I would also love to do. In either environment, my hope is that I could help people find themselves.

Until then, I continue to enjoy being challenged in a supportive, caring environment that fosters both professional and, more importantly, personal growth. I think of the people at Moravian as extended family. Δ

Llia Morales in Dr. Jane Williams' course Chronic Illness, Death, and Loss.



SCENES FROM THE SEMESTER



Each semester, Enrollment Director Dave DeRemer welcomes new students on the first day of class. During the Fall and Spring a combined, 38 new students entered our degree and certificate programs.



Moravian Bishop Carol Foltz '78 spoke to students, faculty, and staff at the Nov. 13 Second Tuesday Moravian Lunch. Second Tuesday Moravian Lunches are a special opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to learn more about the current issues facing the church.



MACC students Colleen Torrey, Ilia Morales, Diomarys Nunez and Mike Brown, at MACC Professional Day, when counseling students explore practicum and internship sites.



2018 Marold Lecturer, Dr. Obrey Hendricks, spoke about working for justice in America today in his presentations *WWJD? The Divine Economy of God* and *The Political Economy of MLK's Beloved Community*.



Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts presented the 2018 Moses Lectures about *How Christian Missions Shaped the Caribbean Imaging of God*.



Lively conversations at the most recent MACC Alumni Wine and Cheese Gathering. Pictured l to r: Sahar Giocobbe '17; Stephanie Barnett MDiv '00, MACC '14; Jannette Seager (Directory of Seminary Advancement); and Kelly Brooks MACC '05.



As part of a visit to Moravian College and Theological Seminary through the Audrey Rafferty Visiting Scholars Series, Dr. Barry Kerzin, physician to the Dalai Lama, spent December 4th making presentations at the Seminary. Pictured l to r: Prof. Marcella Kraybill-Greggo, Pat Herbst, Dr. Kerzin, and Prof. Barb Martell.



Dr. Kerzin focused on meditation and compassion when he shared time with the fall 2018 Spiritual Formation class.

September 26 was Heritage Day. As part of the service portion of the day, the faculty, staff, and students of MTS made craft kits for children in local hospitals. We partnered with the organization Caitlin's Smiles to help share smiles and laughter with children facing chronic or life-threatening illnesses. Pictured l to r: Asst. Dir. of Seminary Admin. Rachel Starmer '16 MACC and Paul Silwamba MATS.



MDiv senior Becky Sausser, Student Elders Council member, decorates the Seminary Christmas Tree.



Timothy Naisby MDiv passes out candles at the final chapel service before the Christmas break.



SAVE THE DATE

Additional information and registration details can be found at moravianseminary.edu/continuing-ed



■ LECTURES, WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS

■ INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

■ CROSSROADS COURSES

■ FORMATIVE SPIRITUALITY

■ ALUMNI GATHERINGS

MAR. 7–MAR. 28 CREATING WELCOMING FAITH COMMUNITIES FOR VETERANS Thursdays, 9:00am-1:00pm, Lunch included, FREE

MAR. 7–MAY 2 TRAVELING MERCIES
Thursdays, 6:00-9:00pm, \$240 (early reg. \$220 till 2/21),
Instructor: Rev. Maggie Wellert

MAR. 11–MAY 6 UNPACKING THE SCRIPTURES: PREACHING
Mondays, 6:00-9:00pm, \$240 (early reg. \$220 till 2/25),
Instructor: Rev. Dr. Sue Pizor Yoder

MAR. 19 COUILLARD LECTURE Mr. Tyrone Werts,
Topic: Hope in Hard Times: Prison Art for Social Justice,
7:00pm, FREE

MAR. 21 DAY OF GIVING

APR. 5 FEED YOUR SOUL: CREATIVE SELF CARE WORKSHOP FOR PROFESSIONAL CAREGIVERS 3:00–5:00pm, \$20

APR. 5 MACC/PC ALUMNI WINE & CHEESE GATHERING
5:00–7:00pm, FREE

APR. 28 INTERFAITH DIALOGUE (1 DAY EVENT)
Sunday, 2:00–6:30pm, \$10 Donation

MAY 9 MATS THESIS/PROJECT PRESENTATIONS
3:00–5:00pm, FREE

MAY 9 MATS ALUMNI GATHERING
5:00–7:00pm, FREE

MAY 11 COMMENCEMENT 3:00pm

MAY 18 CROSSROADS GRADUATION AND 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

JUL. 28–AUG. 2 WISDOM SCHOOL: THE DIVINE EXCHANGE (5 DAY RETREAT), \$725



1200 Main Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018-6650

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED