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SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

REV. DR. ROBERTO ESCAMILLA
2013 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD RECIPIENT

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The Reverend Dr. Roberto Escamilla earned the S.T.M. from Perkins School of Theology in 1955, and currently is an instructor in the Perkins School of Theology Course of Study School (COSS), where he teaches classes on Evangelism, Worship and the Sacraments and Preaching. He also serves Perkins as worship coordinator for COSS every summer. Originally a clergy member of the Rio Grande Conference, and subsequently the Southwest Texas Conference, he presently is Minister of Evangelism at First UMC in Ada, Oklahoma. Perkins Dean William B. Lawrence expresses appreciation for the extraordinary scope of Escamilla's ministries. "Roberto Escamilla has devoted a lifetime to the mission of the church. He has embraced tasks on a scale as large as global Christianity and as small as conversations with individuals across personal boundaries to offer an evangelical witness for faith in Jesus Christ. Whether he was working as a denominational leader or serving as a translator who helped English speaking preachers bring the gospel to Spanish-speaking congregations, Roberto has offered a faithful witness to God's people."

More about Roberto Escamilla...

In addition to his degree from Perkins, Escamilla earned a B.S. from Parsons College and B.A. from Iowa Wesleyan College; an M.A. from Trinity University in San Antonio; an S.T.M. from Union Theological Seminary; and a D.Min. from Vanderbilt University. He holds honorary degrees from Huston-Tillotson College and Iowa Wesleyan College. He was the First E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Methodist Theological School in Ohio, and has been an adjunct professor at McCormick Theological School in Chicago.

Escamilla served as a United Methodist pastor in Dallas, San Antonio, and Austin, and was chairperson of the Board of Discipleship in the Southwest Texas Conference. In addition to being elected a delegate to Jurisdictional and General Conferences, he served on the Board of Missions of the Board of Global Ministries; with the Board of Discipleship as Associate General Secretary of the Division of Evangelism, Worship, Stewardship, and Upper Room; and as Editor of the Upper Room (Spanish Edition). He currently is President of the Board of Directors of the United Christian Ashram International. Escamilla is author of *Prisoners of Hope: Essays on Life's Journey* (1982/86) [*Prisioneros de la Esperanza: Ensayos Sobre la Jornada de la Vida* (1984)]; *La Sed de Vivir* (1970); *Come to the Feast* (Denman Lectures, 1998 Congress on Evangelism, Kansas City, Missouri); and editor of *A Feast of Life* (Tidings, 1972).

Escamilla is a recipient of the Foundation for Evangelism's Harry Denman Evangelism Award. While at Perkins, he received the B'nai B'rith Award in Social Ethics and the W.B. DeJernett Award in Homiletics.

He is married to the former Dorothy Delaplain who has been a music teacher. They have four adult children and ten grandchildren. One of their children, Paul, is a former Perkins School of Theology adjunct faculty and staff member currently serving as senior pastor of St. John's UMC in Austin, Texas.