



AMU LINKS

Spring Newsletter

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Dear Friend,

I am happy to send you the second issue of our AMU newsletter. We hope you will find it interesting and stimulating. It came to our notice that some did not receive the first issue back at the beginning of February because of computer "firewalls" at our various institutions. We think we have solved that problem now. Just in case you need it, you can click on the following link to read the [first issue](#).

Fr. David Fleming, S.M., Editor

MEA'S SUPPORT EDUCATION IN MICRONESIA
by David Coleman (Chaminade University, Honolulu)

For many Marianist Educational Associates the question of how we carry out our commitment to strengthen the University's Catholic and Marianist mission and identity is often a topic of conversation. We emphasize bringing this commitment to our everyday professional activities, engaging the community and processes of the University with a perspective and values nurtured through our interaction with the Marianist educational tradition. We continue to build a living community born out of our interactions with each other and the Marianist religious on campus. Among the many examples we might highlight, this update is about two initiatives that have involved the MEAs and Marianist religious on campus.



Dr. Helen Turner, Dean of Natural Science and Math working with our CCPI students on the isolation of DNA. It was the first time the experiment had been done on Chuuk.

After an extended dialogue with Bishop Amando Samo of the Caroline Islands (a Chaminade alumnus) and his representatives, we partnered with the diocese to create the Caroline College and Pastoral Institute. The new college is the site for our Associate of Arts Program in Liberal Studies. The diocese chose the degree program because they wanted a Liberal Arts based program that would provide access to higher education for Micronesian students, especially students from Chuuk, the most populous and poorest state in the Federated States of Micronesia. The program allows us considerable freedom to adapt to meet the needs and interests of the students and the diocese, including preparation in Scripture and Systematic Theology that serves those students preparing for entry into the seminary and provides well trained catechetical personnel to assist the evangelization efforts of the diocese. We have added elements that provide basic knowledge and skills so that our graduates can more effectively engage the health, environmental, political, and technological issues that confront Micronesian society. We began with 27 students in Fall 2010 and will have just over 150 students on campus in Fall 2013. We celebrated our first 14 graduates in December 2012 and will graduate another seven students from that first class in May 2013.

Why not simply bring these students to the main campus? To recruit students from Federated States of Micronesia to our main campus almost inevitably means that they will not be able to return to their homeland because of the level of debt they will likely incur. For the target students of this project, all of whom qualify for Pell Grants under the current relationship that the FSM shares with the United States, the chance of coming to our main campus was indeed remote. In addition a variety of obstacles prevent most of the students on Chuuk from gaining access to the College of Micronesia, whose degree programs are now centered in the capital on the island of Pohnpei. With our partners, we created a new reality on Chuuk for these students, one that promises quality education and the real opportunity to use that education for the betterment of their own society.

Several of the MEAs are directly involved in the program as teachers and administrators, providing support for the program and students. They have celebrated the effort as one of those special occasions that highlights the University's efforts to be mission-centered. The work itself, overcoming many challenges in pedagogy, language usage, and cultural diversity, has been an opportunity for the teachers and all of us serving the community there to be inspired and learn more deeply our own identity and mission from our students and their island community. This spring, Bro. Tom Spring, SM, is teaching Mathematics and tutoring $\frac{3}{4}$ time at the college, living at the priests' community on the island. It has been a real experience in simplicity and sustained sacrifice and service. The students and staff treasure the time he is spending with them. Our hope is that we may be able to establish a Marianist lay community at CCPI in the future.

The future holds great promise for our partnership and presence on Chuuk. We are building relationships with the government agencies and private employers so that our graduates will have good opportunities for jobs in the local economy. The President's Office is sponsoring three major scholarships for students who have chosen to continue their studies at our Hawaii campus. The University has partnered with the Diocese of Honolulu in its work with the large Chuukese Catholic community here on Oahu.

COMMON THEMES IN MARIANIST MISSION AND IDENTITY: A Learning Guide, by Bro. Raymond Fitz, S.M.

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION: As part of a broad-ranging effort to articulate the mission and identity of the University of Dayton, Bro. Raymond Fitz, UD President from 1979-2002, recently spelled out a "Learning Guide" to key themes articulated by a UD Committee that met from 2010-2012. We publish the core of this "Learning Guide" here as something that should prove helpful for all Marianist universities.

By way of introduction, Bro. Ray comments:
"The mission of the University of Dayton is inspired by Blessed Fr. Chaminade's commitment to Mary's mission of bringing Christ into the world and of forming lay communities of apostolic faith....

"The University of Dayton is a comprehensive, Catholic university, a diverse community, committed in the Marianist tradition, to educating the whole person and to linking learning and scholarship with leadership and service: Learn, Lead, Serve.

"The Mission of the University is supported by the beliefs and convictions of three interrelated educational traditions:

- Independent higher education - non-state supported education, chartered by the State, governed by a Board of Trustees
- Catholic higher education - centuries of tradition of Catholic universities
- The Marianist tradition of education - based on the educational work of the Society of Mary."

The U.D. document continues: "Although these three educational traditions have different origins and histories, they come together in the mission of the University of Dayton like the different-colored threads in an ornate tapestry" critically addressing one another in order to:

- Excel in integrated learning and scholarship;
- Search for truth grounded in both faith and reason;
- Educate for practical wisdom;
- Build community across diversity; and

- Partner for the common good.

Bro. Ray gets to the heart of the "Learning Guide" with a chart relating these goals to basic outlooks of the three educational traditions mentioned above:

[Link to chart.](#)

Bro. Ray concludes by affirming that the UD document provides a guide "to clarify our Catholic and Marianist mission and identity and develop our vision of excellence as we move into the 21st Century. As we move into the future we respond to new challenges and opportunities and, at the same time, remain creatively faithful to our founding mission of creating a learning community to educate faith-filled persons prepared and committed to lead and serve society and the church." The entire UD document, entitled Common Themes in the Mission and Identity of the University of Dayton can be found on the web page of the UD Office for Mission and Rector (<http://www.udayton.edu/rector>).

AMU News

- AMU Lecture by Dr. Michael Galligan-Stierle's at St. Mary's University. "The Marianist Contribution to the Gifts and Challenges of Catholic Higher Education Today"
Tuesday, February 26, 2013
St. Mary's University, Assumption Chapel
[Watch the Lecture](#)
- *First edition of newsletter - see AMU website.*
- AMU Campus Ministries Staff Conference, 20-23 May 2013 @ St. Mary's University
- For more information about MEA formation see the web sites at the AMU schools: [UD](#), [St. Mary's](#), [Chaminade University](#).

- Please visit the new [web site for AMU](#).

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