



ASSOCIATION OF  
MARIANIST UNIVERSITIES

## *AMU Links*

Winter  
Newsletter

February, 2015

**Thomas Giardino, SM**

**Executive Director**

**Association of Marianist Universities**

### **Caring For God's Creation**

By Kathy Browning, Associate Director, UD Dining Services

In the fall of 2009, Dining Services at The University of Dayton implemented a comprehensive composting program that was the largest institutional food-scrap recycling effort in Ohio at that time. The goal of Dining Services was to compost and recycle 90% of its waste thus reducing the impact on the local landfill. Promotional material explaining the program bore the slogan, "Sustainability. Now serving the environment, too."

Two years from conception to implementation included searching for renewable source carry-out containers to replace the 2,795,220 styrofoam and traditional oil based plastic products that were used yearly. The new items include cutlery made from corn starch, hot food containers made from sugarcane waste, and salad containers made from corn based PLA plastic. UD was fortunate to have a local vendor, I-Supply, that was willing to inventory the specific items needed, and that a class II compost facility was within 35 miles of campus.

UD Dining worked with the Facilities department to make sure that a container could be dedicated to collecting the compostable waste at each of the three main dining locations. Waste Management was the university's contracted waste hauler in 2009 and they agreed to haul the full containers to the Paygro composting facility. Since that time, the contract has been changed to Rumpke and they have continued to support us with this program.

In order to ensure that each type of waste would end up in the proper place, Dining Services removed all waste and recycling containers from the dining rooms and moved all sorting to the

dish rooms. A three container waste system was established to simplify the sorting. Yellow is used for compost, blue for recycling, and gray for landfill. When the compostable waste is taken to Paygro, they will reject any load that is contaminated with waste that is not compostable. When this happens, UD pays twice. Once for it to go to Paygro and then a second time for Paygro to take it to the landfill.



Extensive training for all staff from the back of the house, to the front of the house was the key to the success of the program. When the staff heard that the landfill was the highest elevation point in the city of Dayton it really hit home for them all. They embraced the program and were determined to do everything they could to make sure that all compost and recycling waste was properly disposed of. The dedication and daily efforts of the entire staff has made this program successful, and in five years only one load has been rejected by Paygro.

In the fall of 2012, Dining Services took the composting program to the next level by purchasing two Ecovim 250 food dehydrators. With the Montgomery County Solid Waste District as a sponsor, Dining Services was able to obtain matching funds from a state grant to purchase the equipment. Each Ecovim processes 250 pounds of food waste over a 14 hour period. The process reduces the 250 pounds into 25 gallons of potable water and 25 pounds of a nutrient rich soil amendment product that looks very much like mulch. The soil amendment is so nutrient rich that it has to be mixed with nine parts of soil before being used on plants.

The soil amendment has been used by the UD Grounds Department, the Mission of Mary Cooperative garden plots, and is currently being picked up by the City of Dayton for use in their neighborhood tree program.

Since 2009 UD Dining Services has composted over 2.1 million pounds and processed 294,000 pounds in the Ecovim equipment. Caring for God's creation is something everyone should be called to do. Dining Services is proud that we are "Now serving the environment too."

## ***Teaching as a Vocation at Marianist Universities***

*By Steve Neiheisel, Ph.D., MEA*

Embedded in every crisis is an opportunity, and perhaps embedded in the recent public criticisms of American higher education, particularly in regards to diminished faculty teaching responsibilities, is the opportunity to revisit the question of teaching as a vocation. Teaching as a vocation is the craft of teaching understood not simply as one among many obligations of one's employment contract, but as a calling, as having rich and compelling meaning in itself.

The Marianist tradition of education has long informed the exploration of teaching as a vocation. Among the brand plurality within Catholic higher education, the Marianists have long been recognized as strong pedagogues, educationists emphasizing person-centered education, educating both the head and the heart. The *Characteristics of Marianist Universities* document name those pedagogic values.

Blessed Chaminade noted that the essential is the interior, and it is at the interior where the understanding of teaching as a vocation resides. It is about the inner reflection and spiritual understanding of the how and why we do what we do when we teach, and why we have committed our lives to this particular craft. It is about making meaning of our work lives and the contribution our craft makes to the lives of our students and to society.

Person-centered teaching in the Marianist tradition creates a type of social-dynamic relationship, happening at the intersection of a teacher's intellectual passion, a student's interests and aspirations, and the richness of the subject matter. For students, who we are as people and professionals, how we treat them as people, is as memorable – sometimes more memorable - than the subject matter we profess.

Nurturing teaching as a vocation on our campuses requires encouragement from colleagues as well as resources and rewards from administrators. Quality teaching must *really* matter. I once asked an administrator at a small Catholic university a forced choice question: if they had the choice to recommend for tenure either a professor recognized by colleagues as a high-performing teacher but a low-performing researcher, or a professor recognized by colleagues as a low-performing teacher but a high-performing researcher which would they recommend? "How low-performing a teacher is the researcher?" was the response.



*First tier* research is to be highly valued and highly rewarded. Within the institutional framework at Marianist universities though, there needs to be made space for the nurturing and reward of *first tier* teaching, pedagogic excellence unmitigated by research record, as a necessary and valued contribution to the Marianist educational brand.

Marianist education has as its core competency high quality, person-centered teaching. Perhaps now is the time, in the midst of public scrutiny as well as structural changes in the higher education industry, to have campus conversations and explorations about an old and rich part of our Marianist heritage, teaching as a vocation.

*Steve Neiheisel, Ph.D. teaches at the University of Dayton and is Sponsorship Chairman for the Marianist Province of the United States.*

---

## **AMU News**

### **Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., Given Prestigious Award**



The past president of the University of Dayton Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M. received the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC, Award for outstanding contributions to Catholic higher education.

## Catholic Intellectual Tradition lecture at St. Mary's University

The Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S., Archbishop of San Antonio, presented "[Jesus the Galilean and Pope Francis' Contribution to the Catholic Intellectual Tradition](#)" on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015 at St. Mary's University.

## Chaminade University Presents Heritage Awards



The annual [Heritage Awards](#) were presented at Mystical Rose Oratory on Feb. 9 as part of a prayer service. The Chaminade Award went to Professor Peggy Friedman, the Marianist Award was presented to Dayna Bareng, and Founders Award went to Faith Leasiolagi.

**Featured publication:** [Principal Characteristics of Marianist Administration](#)

### In Memorium:



Minita Santizo, former AMU Associate Director and editor of this newsletter, passed away on 7 February 2015 after an eight-month struggle with cancer. She had worked for 15 years at St. Mary's University and was in the first cohort of Marianist Educational Associates. Minita's vibrant personality and generous spirit made a significant difference in all her endeavors.

She was passionate about international education and all things Marianist. She will be deeply missed by her family and in Marianist higher education circles. May she rest in peace. [Click here](#) for a link to her "life legacy".

You are receiving this email after expressing interest in the Association for Marianist Universities.  
Association of Marianist Universities University of Dayton 300 College Park Dayton, OH 45469 USA

