



ASSOCIATION OF
MARIANIST UNIVERSITIES

*Educate for Formation in Faith
Provide an Integral Quality Education
Educate in the Family Spirit
Educate for Service, Justice and Peace
Educate for Adaptation and Change*

AMU Links

Fall Newsletter

September, 2015

"Let Christians form themselves in community and from their midst, they will shine forth as a sort of light which will make them the object of general attention."

Blessed William Joseph Chaminade *

From the Executive Director...



When Jefferson arrived in Paris in 1784 as America's second ambassador to France he was asked, "So it is you who have come to replace the great Franklin?" Jefferson replied "One does not replace Dr. Franklin, one merely succeeds him." I share that sentiment in succeeding Bro. Tom Giardino, SM, as Executive Director. His organizational talent and insight into all things Marianist cannot be replaced and will surely be missed. Familiar readers of this e-newsletter will notice some refinements. First, an inspirational quote from a Marianist founder will grace each future edition. Second, a listing of the Characteristics of Marianist Universities repeated each edition will remind us of the value-added proposition of our educational enterprise. Third, added to the regular line-up of a formation essay and a feature story is a seasonal prayer/reflection to provide us some spiritual nourishment. Authorship of all three sections will be cycled among writers from the three universities. Finally, *AMULinks* will now be published quarterly to capture the changing rhythms of the academic year as well as the changing shades of the seasons. If you like what you see and read in this and future editions, please thank the authors and Jack O'Gorman, editor of *AMU Links*. If you do not like what you see and read, blame me. I put them up to it. Best, Steve sneiheisel1@udayton.edu

Embodied Spirituality: Finding the Sacred Within

By Terri Boggess, MEA St. Mary's University



As members of Marianist educational communities, we have only to look at the work of Fr. Chaminade to know that he called us to act on our faith in communities to be part of the cosmic Body of Christ. Curiously, the booklet (*Characteristics of Marianist Universities*) uses the term 'embodied' eight times in 32 pages. It speaks of our mission to educate the "whole person" through a spirituality emphasizing faith, a movement of the heart, and the mind that moves a person to act. Often in the bustle of university life, we live so much in our heads, that we ignore our hearts and bodies. However, to really live our mission, we must begin within the very real Presence of God within our bodies.

My journey at St. Mary's in the Exercise and Sport Science program has led me from my love for dance and movement, to the discovery of sacred dance and the most amazing power to pray not only within my heart but in and through my body. Combined with a growing passion for holistic wellness (rooted in the research I was doing for my teaching) and a deepening Yoga practice, I then found the work of Fr. Thomas Ryan, C.S.P., in "Yoga as Prayer" and other writings about practices in Christian living that help us understand our faith and live it through a more consciously embodied experience. With my heart on fire, I knew I had to find a way to bring this to the students and community at St. Mary's!

For the past three years, students majoring in EXSS have the opportunity to take a Yoga class for academic credit. It is integrative and interdisciplinary, and it affords students the opportunity to learn special breathing techniques, to practice Yoga (Asana) and to meditate (both in stillness and through movement). The knowledge and skills gained are discussed from personal and professional perspectives. The path to helping others find holistic wellness begins within the self. Student journals tell poignant stories of finding silence in their bodies for the first time and, an understanding that through their personal gifts as kinesthetic learners, they are offering prayers of thanks and praise to God in embodied prayers. They recognize this personal transformation as clearly distinguishing them from colleagues in their professional lives and providing a cornerstone for their work with clients/students/athletes/patients.

For all faculty, administrators and staff, I offer a Yoga class after work as a way to create a community that would otherwise not exist on campus. We open and close class with the Marianist doxology as an embodied prayer. We know each other by first name and we know the department where each member works. In the Marianist spirit, there are no distinctions in rank or status. We practice Yoga, breathing and meditation together and leave with the feeling that we can find peace at our workplace with kindred spirits and the knowledge that we are held together by the Presence within us.

Autumn in Hawaii

By Danny O'Regan, Director of Campus Ministry,
Chaminade University of Honolulu



Autumn in Hawaii sneaks by in the guise of summer – yet even in the tropical climate, its presence can be felt if carefully observed. Growing up in England, *Fall* was otherwise known as *Autumn*, and its presence was always memorable. It brought a gold to the leaves and a new wind of change. It was a season of letting go and preparing, yet it carried its own remarkable beauty.

Everything *is* and everything is preparing. I often foolishly feel that I am prepared, that I am ready, that I am accomplished, but, in hindsight, I am still being formed and still preparing, being readied for the next step in life. Maybe that is why the leaves become so golden and beautiful, for awareness of letting go is truly richness in life. As we begin a new semester, there is almost an expectation of summer, of excitement, of freedom, of new friends, relationships and the discovery of a deeper identity for many of the new students. At Chaminade, the sun shines bright in the fall. Yet, coupled with the pain of separation, of new struggles and adopting to a new environment, many struggle and sneak by in the guise of summer. They experience their own *fall*, of change, of letting go and the process of being prepared. But for some and without the proper support, the experience may not be so golden. The greatest ministry at college is to celebrate the autumn which is happening in the inner lives of many of our students. For them to grow in maturity of their own formation and growth. In a world of Google and ever increasing noises, we invite them into silence and awareness. We share our golden leaves as ministers also being formed and prepared. If silence is golden then surely there is only one way to become rich.

Family Spirit and the Characteristics of Marianist Universities

By Jack O’Gorman, MEA, University of Dayton



At the start of the school year, a first year student came up to me and told me she had switched her religion class and was off to the new class time. I met this student through the Integrated Living and Learning Community program orientation for the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) at UD. Later that day, I had lunch with a newer faculty to talk about WISE, and I shared with him the *Characteristics of Marianist Universities*. These everyday encounters made me think about our Marianist charism. How we relate to our students and to each other is guided and informed by our charism.

As the *Characteristics of Marianist Universities* states: "Following Chaminade, Marianists have also always attempted to make their educational institutions genuine communities. To bring and hold these communities together, Chaminade held up the ideal of 'Family Spirit' of religious and lay persons, faculty and students, working together to achieve lasting relationships of friendship and trust, supporting and challenging each other in developing their mutual gifts. Leaders of such communities, religious and lay, must see their work not merely as a job but as a ministry of love and service."

How do you see your work as a ministry?

Continuing with the *Characteristics*: "That belief in what the Marianist call 'Family Spirit' further commits them to learning to love those in whose company they find themselves, a commitment that extends to all the members of the educational community. Though appropriately professional and impartial, Marianist universities are inevitably also faith communities whose members respect and educate, love and serve one another. In particular, Marianist universities tend to the relationships between faculty members and students, supporting and rewarding excellence in teaching and advising."

How do you challenge your students in a supporting environment? How do you engage your students whether it is via shared research, classwork, and or the work of an on campus office?

"Such a vision of community and friendship runs the risk of being romanticized. It must therefore be recalled that friendliness and hospitality are genuine expressions of a process that necessarily includes conflict, division, and all manner of human suffering and failing. Yet, those grounded in the Marianist vision of education recognize that only out of precisely this mix of joy and sorrow can genuine communities be formed."

What does "Education in Family Spirit" mean to you? And how do you choose to live it out?

AMU News

The University of Dayton welcomes [Dr. Eric F. Spina](#) as the 19th president of the University.



Right Relationships at Marianist Universities. Witness, Formation & Celebration.

Save the Date: St. Louis, June 12–15, 2016



Call for Posters Right Relationships at Marianist Universities: Witness, Formation, Celebration, a symposium sponsored by the Association of Marianist Universities, will take place in St. Louis, June 12–15,

The Symposium seeks to advance the dialogue about what constitutes “right relationships” – relationships that are just, fair, and that promote the common good – the benefit of right relationships as a community good, and how a Marianist university might best advance this good in the academy and civil life. Staff, faculty, and administrators of Chaminade University, St. Mary University, and the University of Dayton are invited to participate in poster sessions on the broad theme of Right Relationships at Marianist Universities and/or focused within one or more of

the sub-categories of Witness, Formation, and/or Celebration.

Proposals: one-page single-spaced to include:

- 1) Name of campus department or program
- 2) Contact information of poster presentation leader
- 3) Category presented (Right Relationships, Witness, Formation, and/or Celebration)
- 4) Description of poster presentation

Email proposals to sneiheisel1@udayton.edu Please forward this announcement to interested campus colleagues. For more information contact Steven R. Neiheisel, Ph.D., Executive Director, Association of Marianist Universities, sneiheisel1@udayton.edu or [937-229-4721](tel:937-229-4721).

Dr. Leanne Jablonski, FMI, has agreed to present the 2015–2016 Marianist Lecture entitled *Caring for Our Common Home Together: A Dialogue with Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si*. She will explore themes in the ecological encyclical through the lens of our Marianist charism and the challenges and opportunities it presents at our Universities, eco-regions and our ministries.

Chaminade University Named as 2015 Top Hidden Gem College in Hawaii. College Raptor Inc. recently named Chaminade University as the best hidden gem institution in the state. Hidden gems are defined as high-caliber colleges and universities which receive fewer than 5,000 applicants per year but have a total enrollment of greater than 1,000. With a student-to-faculty ratio of 11 to 1, Chaminade University is known for its small, academically rigorous classes in which faculty are readily available to ensure the success of its students.

AMU-sponsored joint meeting of Chief Information Officers held at University of Dayton on July 22 & 23, 2015. From left to right are: Dr. Steve Neiheisel of AMU, Curtis White of St. Mary's University, Kyle Johnson of Chaminade University, and Dr. Thomas Skill of University of Dayton.



*Thompson, Thomas A. (2003) "Distinctive Traits of Marianist Spirituality: Mary, Mission, Community," Marian Studies: Vol. 54, Article 8. Available at:http://ecommons.udayton.edu/marian_studies/vol54/iss1/8

As quoted in: Henry Rousseau, William Joseph Chaminade: Founder of the Society of Mary (Dayton, Ohio: Brothers of Mary, 1914), 131.