

Chaminade Award

Sr. Malia Wong

The Chaminade Award is given each year to a faculty member or a professional staff member who has exhibited a continuous commitment to Marianist values, by accepting others with love and respect, by being dedicated to a collaborative and honest search for truth, by undertaking the intellectual life as a form of service in the interest of justice, and by exhibiting the Marian traits of openness, hospitality, graciousness and faith in a loving God. The recipient of this year's Chaminade Award is Sr. Malia Wong.

Sr. Malia received his BA from Chaminade University, her M.A. from the University of San Francisco and her Doctor of Ministry from the University of Creation Spirituality. She has served as a Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies here at Chaminade for over 18 years. Her professional and personal life are intertwined. She writes a column for the Catholic Herald (the newspaper of the Diocese of Honolulu), serves on the Executive Board of the Fujitani-Bukkyo Interfaith program, and has written or co-authored books on religious figures or groups that have served in Hawaii.

A nomination for Sr. Malia remarked that her "life and work on campus exemplify the Maranist spirit of faith, service, commitment to justice and community. Colleagues describe Sr. Malia as a "visible disciple of Christ", and remark on her being "soft-spoken and kind", "prompt in responding to e-mails—"that makes my job easier", "dependable". I believe that Sr Malia has figured out a way to multiply hours in a day. There is just no other way for my mind to comprehend how she accomplishes all that she does.

Besides preparing and teaching class, she has a reserve of creative energy that allows her to do things like:

1. Think up and then produce the All Things Marianist video series,
2. Document plants and trees on campus, complete with descriptions that include their use in natural medicine (and writing a grant to get funding to produce metal signs that have QR codes on them so that the information she has collected can be shared)
3. participate with colleagues in professional development activities at the Center for Teaching and Learning
4. perfecting the arts of calligraphy and iconography
5. making visits to those in the hospital, sometimes to people she has never met but whose names come up in conversation.

A current student remarked that Sr. Malia works very hard at connecting with her students and presents information in multiple ways when it is clear that the way she first planned to present it is missing the mark. A student from one of her first years here at Chaminade remarked “She always put others before herself”. Every semester I ask students what their favorite class is and Sr. Malia’s classes are frequently mentioned.

Sr. Malia’s nomination was filled with references and quotes from a variety of members from the Chaminade community and a few from beyond the community. I’m sure the members of her religious community could add to the list of things that make Sr. Malia such a valuable member of their community. I’m sure those additional things would be things we recognize too.

It is with gratitude that we present the 2019 Chaminade Award to Sr. Malia Wong.

Marianist Award

Rui Jiang Huang

The Marianist Award is presented to a staff member who has exhibited a continuous and extraordinary commitment to the Marianist quality of family spirit, by living the Marian traits of openness, hospitality, graciousness, and faith in a loving God, by drawing others into the challenge of building a collaborative community, and commitment to the vision and mission of Chaminade University. The recipient of this year's Marianist Award is Rui Jiang Huang.

Rui or Huangy as his friends call him, has been the University electrician for over 20 years.

Mr. Huang's nominator pointed to the way he approaches his work and the way he serves people as qualities that exemplify the Marianist spirit. If you have ever had the need for his services, you will probably recall that your interaction with him started with him greeting you with a big smile. His English is limited but that smile puts us at ease at times when we are most in need. During the first week of the semester, the Marianists at Hale Malia installed a new ceiling fan in a guest room. After a visit from a guest, we could not get the fan to work again. Mr. Huang came to assess the situation. Thinking that it was problem some small problem with the programming of the remote, I was a bit relieved when even he could not get the fan to work. He took the fan apart, tested the wiring, checked to make

sure that power was getting to the unit, and a few other things that I don't have the vocabulary to explain. After about 30 minutes, he asked for the instruction manual and assured me that he would return tomorrow. And he did just that. Within 30 minutes during which he re-wired the fan, he had it working. He found a work around. A hands on example of adaptation and change.

A few days after the decision had been made to give this award to Mr. Huang but before it was made public, I saw him on campus and stopped to greet him. We exchanged a few words and he was on his way, driving off in a golf cart to his next job. But just as I started to walk away, another employee from campus approached me and, pointing to Mr. Huang who was driving away, and said "I'd like to be like him. He is always so positive." He doesn't boast about his work but, if you ever have had to live for just a few hours without electricity or lights, you know how important his work is.

His limited English does not impede him. Among the members of the facilities and maintenance department, he is known for his ability to bring laughter and joy. He is optimistic and looks to find solutions to problems instead of dwelling on the downside. He is an optimist. And he expresses his kindness in actions. At the Christmas lighting on campus, Mr. Huang was had a lei made of Christmas lights that was battery operated. Seeing Dr. Babington, he presented the lei to her before she went out to flip the switch on the lights that graced Ching Hall.

For his ability to be of assistance and do so with a welcoming attitude; for being able to overcome barriers in order to be of service; for his generosity

and his positive attitude, with great joy we present the 2019 Marianist Award to Rui Jiang “Huangy” Huang.

Founders' Award

Savanna Lyn Delos Santos

The Founder's Award is presented to a student who has:

Exhibited a spirit of faith,

Demonstrated a commitment to Marianist values by his/her
outstanding generosity and respect for others,

and who is an exemplary role-model for the Chaminade Community.

The recipient of this year's Founders' Award is Savannah Lyn Delos Santos.

Savannah is one of those students that hit the ground running when she came to Chaminade University to continue her education. From her home in Saipan, she wasn't quite sure what she was getting herself into. On Monday as we were walking in the Martin Luther King parade in Waikiki, I was listening to a conversation in which she said she wasn't even sure how to pronounce the name of the school before she came here! But she didn't miss a beat once she got here. Her sense of adventure and desire to learn both inside and outside of the classroom led her to get involved in things like Christmas off (or on) Campus, the programming board for Chaminade Student Government Association, and the Resident Hall Association. An articulate spokesperson, Savannah has been asked to speak to donors and prospective students. She embraces opportunities that come her way with enthusiasm. She has helped to plan a national conference, interned for a local fashion designer, been a member of a task force for the university

strategic planning process and been a member of the Hogan Entrepreneur Program.

Savannah has also participated in the Awakening Retreat first as a participant and then as a leader. She says that it is one of the things that she will always remember about Chaminade. Her faith has been strengthened by her participation in numerous campus ministry events. And her willingness to share that sense of faith is evident in her participation as a lector at mass, speaking to the Board of Regents about Awakening, and leading prayer before athletic events. Her smile brightens any room she walks into. One person told me that if he was in trouble and could only call on one person for help, he would call Savannah. I'm extrapolating here but given what we know about Savannah, she probably would help to lift up the spirits AND begin a process that would solve the problem.

Savannah's plans for after graduation are still taking shape. She might spend a bit of time closer to family before diving into graduate school. When I told people who would be getting this year's Founders' Award, a number of people said things like "She is going to make a mark on this world" or "She is going places". With confidence that we are sending a great ambassador filled with the spirit of Chaminade University and the Marianist Family into the world, it is great pleasure to present the 2019 Founders' Award to Savannah Lyn Delos Santos.