

## Characteristics of Marianist Education - Family Spirit and my life at Chaminade.

Families come in many different forms. Let me tell you a little about mine. I have two brothers and a sister. They are all on the east coast, where I am originally from, and like most families we've had our ups and downs. There are times when my relationship with some is better than others, times that I agree with them and they agree with me. And there are other times when we do not see eye to eye. But no matter what, I know that they are there for me when things get tough. They are the ones I turn to when I need a hand or I feel like I'm in a situation that I just don't know how to handle.

My Chaminade family is very much the same. I've been here for 10 years now, and I've known some of the people here from when I first started. They have seen my life go through many changes and I've witnessed some of the changes in their life as well. Much like my family, they are there for me. They don't always agree with what I say, and I don't always agree with everyone in my Chaminade family. But much more often than not, we are on the same page. I never doubt that the people who work at Chaminade are committed to doing what they honestly believe is right. Right for the students, right for the faculty and staff, and right for the university. And even though, as I mentioned, we don't always see eye to eye, it is sometimes in those moments of disagreement that we learn the most from each other. I like to think that is ultimately what every one of us works at a university for...to be lifelong learners.

That is what family spirit means to me.

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