of his children, it was his daughter Esperanza who came to be considered something of an institution in Manila. As a Catholic nun with the Assumption order, she was the moving force in the post-war rebuilding of the heavily damaged Assumption College. She is also credited with having founded Assumption’s College Department in 1946. She became its dean, recruited a top-notch faculty, and mentored many students. In recognition of her services, she received two honorary doctorates: a doctor of education from De La Salle University in 1965, and a doctor of humanities from Araneta University in 1977.

Carmeola Ang See

REFERENCES
Interview with Josephine Khu, daughter, September 2009.

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Dai Xiao Hua
(戴小华, 1949–)

Writer, Chinese association leader, Malaysia

Dai Xiao Hua, who was born in Taiwan in 1949, is a famous Chinese writer in Malaysia. She was the president of The Writers’ Association of Chinese Medium of Malaysia for two terms and is also the president of the Malaysian Chinese Cultural Society since 2003. As a writer, she is recognized and respected by writers especially woman writers from overseas. As a result she was elected as third president of the World Overseas Woman Writers’ Association. During her term as the president of the Malaysian Chinese Cultural Society, she was invited to be chairman of a famous debate between two political parties, viz. the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA) and the Democratic Action Party (DAP). As a cultural figure, she was awarded the Honourable Contribution Award by the king of Malaysia.

From 1968 to 1971, when she was at a university campus as an undergraduate, she was a keen writer of articles. During this period too, she founded The New World Press with her friends and was its deputy president. The publication was a monthly, which provided her with a training ground for her writing. However, her writing career did not continue after she graduated from the university. Instead she stopped writing for ten years. In 1973, she married a Malaysian businessman and has stayed in Malaysia since then.

Dai started writing again in 1986 and wrote not only prose, but also discursive essays and television drama. Her literary works were published in Nanyang Siang Pau (南洋商报) and her television dramas were well received by Malaysian. In 1986, her television drama, Frightening Experience during The Honeymoon (蜜月惊魂) was made into a television series.