

# UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

## Office of Multicultural Affairs

October 2011 Volume 4 Issue 2

Programming  
with Purpose

Do you want to  
Study Abroad?

# OHIANA

OMA Days: What, Where, When and WHY?



# Letter from the Director

As we approach the middle of the semester, I want to wish you the best of luck in the remaining 10 weeks!

As I think about the words of encouragement and advice that I can offer, the following quote comes to mind: **If it is to be, it is up to me!** I remember hearing this quote as an undergraduate student. I have always remembered this quote, but I do not recall who was credited with making these comments. You are not expected to experience college on your own. College students must engage with others and become involved in order to be successful. It is up to you to take the first step, but know that there will be a variety of people who will want to help you achieve your goals!

Take advantage of the resources that UD has to offer! **What you do today will help you reach your short-term and long-term goals.** The grade that you receive in a particular class and the opportunities available to you after graduation will likely be a reflection of the reading, writing, and studying that you do each and every day as well as the assistance that

you seek out. Here are a few helpful resources:

- **Meet with your professors** to get assistance with better understanding course material.
- Visit the **Office of Student Learning Services (SLS)**, located in Roesch Library, to participate in tutoring sessions, a study group, or an individual consultation.
- Check out **The Write Place** in Roesch Library if you would like assistance writing a paper.
- **Schedule an appointment with the Counseling Center.** The Counseling Center offers personal and career counseling. Undergraduate students can use the services at the Counseling Center for essentially no charge. Visit the Counseling

Center website to learn more about the services available and how you can schedule an appointment: <http://campus.udayton.edu/~cc/>

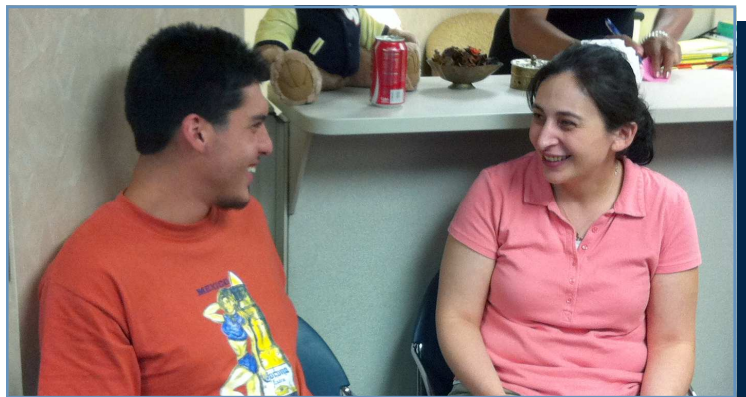
- **Meet with an OMA staff member.** OMA staff members can connect you with resources that we offer (e.g., study tables, computer lab, academic success workshops), but also on campus!

In the 10 weeks that remain, think about what you want to continue to do or what you want to do differently in order to achieve your goals. Hopefully your plan also includes individuals and offices that will assist you in achieving your goals!

Take care,

Patty Alvarez, Ph.D.

Assistant Dean of Students  
and Director of  
Multicultural Affairs



# OMA Days: What, Where, When and WHY?

Daria-Yvonne Graham, Associate Director

Join us for the  
November  
OMA Day:  
Harvest  
Luncheon  
November 11  
11:30—1:30pm  
OMA Lounge

Sign up to  
receive  
OMA  
listserv  
posts on  
Porches!

**What are OMA Days?**  
**Where are OMA Days?**  
Several times during the year, the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) host socials that take place during the day in OMA. The socials, such as the OMA Welcome Cookout and Harvest luncheon, are designed to build relationships between students, campus stakeholders, faculty and staff, and OMA staff.  
**Why have OMA Days?**  
Besides providing sustenance for students, the OMA Days have been constructed around the concept that “across cultures and time, food sharing is an almost universal medium for expressing fellowship; it embodies values of

hospitality, duty, gratitude, sacrifice and compassion” (Fieldhouse, 2007-2008, p. 3). The kitchen and living rooms are often the most used rooms in the home and provides space for sharing and encouragement. “The shared meal is an opportunity not only to eat, but to talk, to create and strengthen bonds of attachment and friendship, to teach and to learn. It is not surprising then that the [shared] meal is often celebrated as a supremely important component of [shared] life” (Fieldhouse, p. 3). OMA Days are just one of the elements

of a strategic list of programs that support students’ academic, social, spiritual, and personal development.

**When is the next OMA Day?**  
The next OMA Day is the Harvest Luncheon on Friday, November 11, 11:30am to 1:30pm in the OMA Lounge.

Fieldhouse, P. (2007-2008). Eating Together: The culture of the family meal. *Transition*, 3-6.



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## OMA Annual Student Retreat

Meals  
Included

**FREE**

Off-Campus

**OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**November 18-19, 2011**

Sign up by emailing OMA  
at [oma@udayton.edu](mailto:oma@udayton.edu)

# Dates to Remember

Friday, November 4

P.E.E.R.S. First Friday event \$ 4pm location TBA

Family Weekend Reception @ 6pm in OMA

Sunday, November 6

Daylight Savings Time ends

Friday, November 11

Harvest Lunch @ 11:30-1:30pm in OMA

Thursday, November 17

Kindred Presidents monthly meeting @7:30pm in OMA

Friday, November 18 – Saturday, November 19

OMA Student Retreat

Coming January 2011!  
**Intergroup Dialogue**  
**Mini Course**  
**Critical Dialogue on Race**

UDI 389 M1

Call 937-229-3634 for more information.

# Greek Alumni and Friends Reunion

Carolina Alvarado, Senior



Various departments from the university supported the reunion held during Labor Day weekend. Cecelia A. Johnson-Stewart '78 chaired the reunion committee, which included alumni from varied years as well as current students.

Ms. Stewart shared that while the reunion started as an opportunity for alumni to come together and fellowship, the planning included a meet and greet with Dr. Curan and other administrators to discuss how

alumni could be more engaged with the University and its efforts to recruit, retain, and mentor students. Additionally, we discussed scholarship development for students of color. We left the reunion with new and renewed friendships, as well as a commitment to be more visible and accountable to supporting the university initiatives. Our next event is a Western Caribbean cruise June 24-30, 2012; contact Cecelia @ [cassy46410@yahoo.com](mailto:cassy46410@yahoo.com) if interested.



# Getting an Education Beyond UD

Soleil Verse, Senior

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to travel across the Atlantic, visit a foreign country, study in another language, or serve in a different culture altogether? Well, so have many other UD students, and they have taken the opportunity to make their dreams a reality. You don't



have to be an International Studies major to travel abroad, like Carolina Alvarado, Senior, who went to Cameroon for a month this past summer. Studying or serving abroad can add a valuable experience to any University of Dayton major, as it did for Bernard Jones, Senior, Sociology major, and Jorge Lopez, Senior, Accounting and Finance majors. Jorge traveled to Madrid, Spain, during the Fall semester of his junior year, and had this to say about his experience: "I was taking classes not only with Spaniards but with students from all over the world, which made building this network of friends the most valuable thing about my time in Spain." There is a lot more than just



earning credits, or adding a blurb on a resume to get out of studying or serving abroad.

Many students want to know where to begin, and might feel overwhelmed about the entire process. Carolina mentioned a few of the ways that you can begin your search, some of them including just talking to the coordinators of any service/study programs at the University of Dayton, as well as gathering information on how to fund your trip abroad. She surrounded herself with people who were supportive and encouraging of her plans to serve abroad, and this seems to be



the best way to begin. Bernard took a similar route, seeking funding and support from those he knew, but took it a step further by applying for, and receiving, the Learn, Lead, and Serve Award, which comes through the College of Arts and Sciences. Another thing to think about is that if you plan on going through a University of



Dayton study abroad program, then most likely your financial aid and awards will apply towards the college that you are attending for the semester, pointed out by Jorge.

In case you are still wandering why you should study or serve abroad, Carolina put it best when she said:

"Money is an important factor in your planning, but it should not be an obstacle. There are people willing to help you look for resources. Moreover, traveling abroad opens you to a whole new perspective about human life.

Challenge yourself to grow and educate yourself to understand others' way of life. As Franklin D. Roosevelt once stated: 'If civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships - the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together, in the same world at peace.'

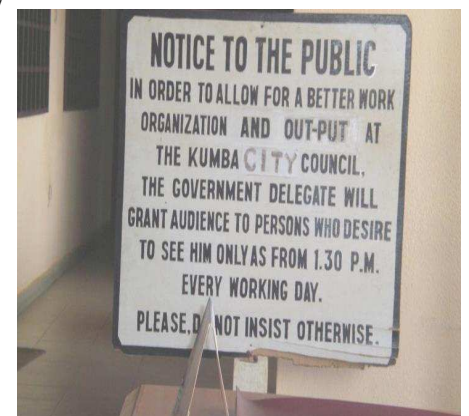
I encourage you to take advantage of the resources listed below, too help you figure out how to begin the first steps towards studying or serving abroad, as well as to find important information about upcoming events and deadlines.

Education Abroad Office at 937-229-3728 or edabroad@udayton.edu, or visit [www.udayton.edu/edabroad/](http://www.udayton.edu/edabroad/)

The University of Dayton International Club (UDIC),  
web: <https://sites.google.com/site/udinternationalclub/>,

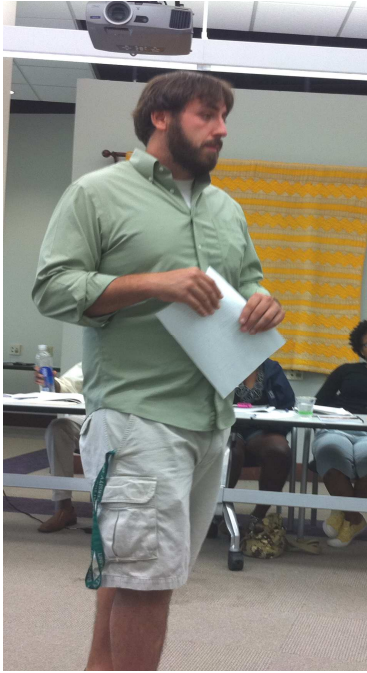
E-mail: [udayton.internationalclub@gmail.com](mailto:udayton.internationalclub@gmail.com)

Facebook: The University of Dayton International Club (UDIC)



# OMA Graduate Student Greetings

Chase Jones, Graduate Assistant



I believe it was Mark Twain who said, "I will never let my school interfere with my education." Well Mr. Twain was not a student in our day. He did not have the distractions of our generation, yet he makes a point we should all strive to understand and encompass. We must remember that education is not only what is

taught, that knowledge is everywhere, held by everyone to some capacity, and received by those who seek its wonder. I challenge you all to be educated and not merely schooled. I ask that you aspire for the deeper levels of intelligence. I beg you, be brilliant, be bold, be beautiful!

Randomness:

Karaoke means "empty orchestra" in Japanese.

The word "Lethologica" describes that state when you

can't think of the word you want.

Every year, about 98% of the atoms in your body are replaced.



# Programming with Purpose

Lauren Porter, Junior

Greetings everyone! I hope your break brought rest, comfort, and a few extra dollars from your very loving parents! My name is Lauren E. Porter and I am the Student Programming Assistant within the Office of Multicultural Affairs. This is a new position within the office that



"The Office of Multicultural Affairs strives to support a community of scholars, and that is exactly what I will do."

I am extremely excited and honored to hold. This year, my personal mission stands upon two very important principles: community and growth. As students, faculty, and staff of this University, we have all made a commitment to contribute to

the well-being of community through our individual actions as well as our interactions with others. The Office of Multicultural Affairs seeks to promote both of these pivotal attributes through providing a comfortable space for student interaction, several academic resources for the prosperity of the student, and opportunities for the work of the student to flourish and ultimately inspire. It is my hope that through this year's programming, students can actively strengthen their attachment to the campus community while contributing to both its growth as well as their

individual growth as students. It is my belief that as a community of scholars and budding leaders, we are capable of creating our own trail rather than simply following the path given to us. It is our responsibility to shape the future of this institution for those who are to follow, and that calls for innovation, passion, and dedication.

Best regards,

Lauren

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

Harold R. McAlindon

# The Home STRETCH

Grace Pregent, Academic Success Specialist, School of Business Administration

**OMA Study Tables:**  
Every other Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. in the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Gosiger Hall.



You've made it to the half way mark! I hope you had the opportunity to relax and at least partially rejuvenate dur-

ing Fall Break. Now we turn to the second half of the semester. Remember that these last weeks fly by, so stay ahead with **PLANNING** and **PROACTION**. Below are some tips to help you through this second half:

**Face time:**

Does your professor know who you are? He or she should! Make an effort to speak with him after class, email him, or meet with him during office hours. He needs to know you are invested in your grade! He needs to have a face behind the name!

**The Big Picture:**

Step 1: Grab a soda, cup of coffee, or a bottle of water.  
Step 2: Take out all of your syllabi (locate them first!).



Step 3: Pull out a monthly calendar. You know those big assignments are coming up, but when exactly? Somehow they all fall during the same week. Know when the week is and plan to tackle it before it tackles you!

**Reality Check:**

Did you have a rough mid-term or first half of the semester? Before you toss in the towel, remember that you can easily make up for a choppy start because most of the large assignments are still before you. Now you know what the teacher wants. Deliver.

**Don't plan alone! Know your resources:**

Aaron Witherspoon (141 Gosiger Hall) and Grace (211B Miriam Hall) – Academic Success Specialists for the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and the School of Business Administration.

Walk in Tutoring: check out the Student Learning Services Schedule that offers walk-in tutoring for a variety of subjects. Search "SLS" from the UD home page.

OMA Study Tables: every other Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. in the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Gosiger Hall.



## The Kindred Presidents' Update

Chase Jones, Graduate Assistant

*Kindred Presidents, a council comprised of student organization presidents and leaders, has begun their monthly meetings. The following are a few updates from the meeting in October 2011.*

Meetings have been scheduled with various individuals surrounding a desire to host days of service. Options are positive and still being discussed. There will be an event in November which may satisfy the desire for friendly competition. Attend the meeting on October 20, 7:30pm for more information. Details for the Networking Dinner will also be discussed. The OMA calendar has all upcoming events. Students are encouraged to submit content on the website at <http://oma.udayton.edu>.



# What Now? What's Next?: Programming Update

Carlos Stewart, Assistant Director

## Programming Recap

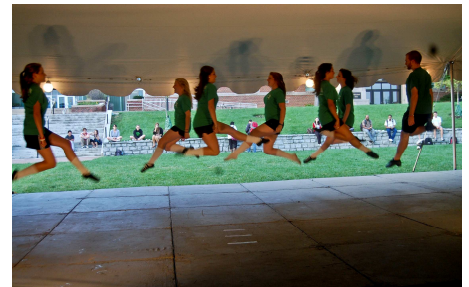
OMA and the Hispanic Heritage Month Committee would like to thank all those who participated in Hispanic Heritage Month activities. OMA appreciates your support and we hope that you felt the programming opportunities were rewarding on all levels. As we look forward to the planning of Black History Month, we would like to extend an invitation to all those who would like to serve on the planning committee. Please contact Carlos Stewart - [cstewart1@notes.udayton.edu](mailto:cstewart1@notes.udayton.edu) if interested.

## Special Programming Highlight

*Culture Fest - Wednesday, September 21 -* Culture Fest was a joint initiative between the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Center for International Programs, Dining Services, Student Life and Kennedy Union, Housing and Residence Life, Campus Recreation, ArtStreet, Women's Center, New Student Programs, and Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. This event featured free food from a variety of cultures (sponsored by dining services), international sporting demonstrations, an intercultural speed meet, music and dance of different cultures, student organization information booths, and much more!

Culture Fest was a great success as there were about 1800 + people in attendance. We would like to thank all those who helped make this initiative a huge success.

If you have any programming ideas or would like to assist in the planning/implementation of any current OMA programming initiatives please contact Carlos Stewart at [cstewart1@notes.udayton.edu](mailto:cstewart1@notes.udayton.edu).





# Student Organization Highlight: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.



Chase Jones, Graduate Assistant

1. What has your organization done so far this year?

Zeta Phi Beta has accomplished so much this year! We are proud to say Zeta Phi Beta was one of the only minority student groups to host a September 11, 2001 Remembrance event; here we reflected on the attack and were given words of encouragement by a UD



professor and sorority sister, Dr. Donna Cox. Also, we have had a Meet the Zetas event that allowed several young women to learn more about Zeta. During Zeta week there were several

informing events, such as a Domestic Violence Awareness event and a Community Talk in collaboration with NAACP. These events provided a chance to learn and build community here at UD. Other events like "Every Child Deserves A Smile", where Zeta made cards for children in local hospitals, and feeding the homeless at St. Vincent DePaul Homeless Hotel, gave UD students a chance to serve the community. The Iota Epsilon chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated has and will continue to host



informing, useful, and community building events here at the University of Dayton.

2. How many active members do you have?

Right now there is only one active member, but we are actively looking for new membership from any young woman who lives by the



precepts of Scholarship, Service, Sisterly Love, and Community Service, regardless of race, color, or creed.

3. What is your mission/ what are your goals?

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated is a community conscious, action-oriented organization. Our Five Founders began this sorority in order to uphold and support women who live by the principles of Scholarship, Service, Sisterly Love, and Community Service.



4. What can new members expect to gain from your organization?

New members will gain a life long sisterhood with thousands of women all around the world, along with the support and brotherhood of our constitutionally bound brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated. The women of Zeta Phi Beta form a distinct family and together with Phi Beta Sigma we are the one and only Blue and White family.



5. If your organization was an animal, what would it be and why?

Zeta Phi Beta would be the White Dove, because it is a gracious and unique animal; full of purity and love.

# OMA Lead Mentors

University of Dayton  
300 College Park  
Dayton, OH 45469-0812

Phone: 937-229-3634  
Fax: 937-229-4331



Join us on Facebook at  
OMA (Office of Multicultural Affairs)



at  
[www.twitter.com/UDsOMA](http://www.twitter.com/UDsOMA)

The Lead Mentor position is a new initiative and is designed to work with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Enrollment Management to implement marketing and enrollment strategies for the recruitment of students of color. Lead Mentors will also assist with the planning and implementation of PEERS and OMA programming. Lead Mentors are made up of students from different racial/ethnic backgrounds, cultures and academic majors. (The picture of the Lead Mentors on the cover was taken at the Dayton African American Cultural Festival in August.) Here are your Lead Mentors:



Lauren Porter



Ametra Harris



Ariel (Arie) Giles



Carolina Alvarado



Daniel Forero



Jorge Lopez



Candace Madry



Stefon Towler



Rachel Bernardo

## A Word from the Editors

As we move further into the semester, and things seem to pick up a bit, with classes, extracurricular activities, and the like, it is important to remember to take some time for yourself. In the spirit of Breast Cancer Awareness month, it seems as good a time as any to focus on your own well-being and health. Whether it is working ahead towards your next paper due in a tough class, or re-focusing your goals to be more realistic or manageable—taking a few minutes every day and doing a self-check can



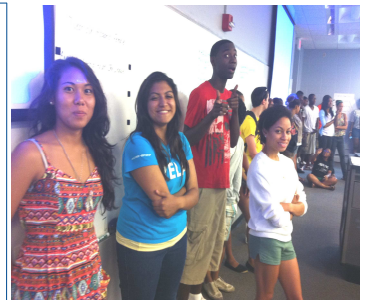
prove to be very useful. Ask yourself, have I accomplished what I intended to finish today? And if not, what steps do I need to take to get that done? Just slowing down and re-grouping your thoughts in the midst of everything you have going on, can actually help you

mentally, and physically, de-stress during this busy time of the semester.

We wish you a happy mid-semester, and encourage you to stay strong!

Sincerely,

Soleil Verse and Carolina Alvarado  
(Co-Editors)



Special thanks to Molly Gieb, OMA student intern photographer