

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON Office of Multicultural Affairs

November/December Volume 4 Issue 3



OHANA



Letter from the Director

OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

OHANA

Best wishes to everyone with your final projects, papers, and tests! First-year students, congratulations on nearing the completion of your first semester of college! A very special congratulations is dedicated to the December graduates! Please share your next steps with us! Thank you for the contributions that you have made to UD. We wish you the very best!

Three graduating seniors deserve special recognition. At the end of each semester, graduating students are recognized with an Outstanding Graduating Scholar of Excellence award for their academic achievement, exemplary leadership skills, and continuous commitment to and embodiment of the mission of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the College or their respective School. Congratulations to Brittney Cordes (College of Arts and Sciences), Kasandra Maxwell

(School of Engineering), and Lawrence Pelt (School of Business Administration)! A student from Education was not selected due to the small number of December graduates. Brittney, Kasandra, Lawrence, and other graduates will be recognized at the OMA end of the semester recognition dinner on December 9.

For returning students, consider becoming involved in one of the following leadership or academic success initiatives during the Spring semester (contact OMA for additional information):

- Become a member of the Colors of Leadership planning

committee

- Become a mentee or mentor in the PEERS mentoring program - approx. 100 students are actively involved and attend monthly meetings
- Attend a study table session in OMA - these biweekly sessions will now occur every week due to their popularity (an average of 40 students attended each session)
- Register for the Intergroup Dialogue mini-course focused on Race/Ethnicity

Have an enjoyable and safe break,

Patty Alvarez, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean of Students/Director of Multicultural Affairs



Dr. Patty Alvarez,
Assistant Dean/Director

Daria-Yvonne Graham
Associate Director

Update: Women of Remarkable Distinction

Lauren Porter, Junior

Women of Remarkable Distinction is a service organization aimed toward building and strengthening relationships among women of all different cultural backgrounds through service, leadership, and awareness. While our goal is designed in hopes of improving women's issues and relationships, group membership is not at all limited to just women, as men's contributions obviously play a significant part in improvement efforts.

W.O.R.D. is very excited to be beginning its long-term service partnership with DECA Early College Academy. W.O.R.D. will host a girl's club designed to help young women succeed in all aspects of life and to increase the confidence and understanding of relationships, academics, and self in young women through mentoring, educational programming and community service.

This semester was primarily dedicated to building this service relationship and fundraising. Next semester, in light of several different awareness months dedicated primarily to women's issues, W.O.R.D. hopes to be very active in programming. W.O.R.D. meets every Sunday from 3pm to 4pm on the second floor of Alumni Hall in the Women's Center. If you wish to receive email updates from W.O.R.D., please contact Amber Beavers at beavers.am1@gmail.com to have your name added to the mailing list.

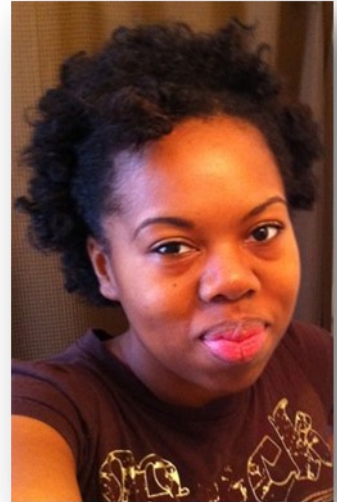
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Meditation

by Danyell Lewis, Senior

I was told to meditate on now
 Like I'd forgotten how golden silence is
 How much-needed the stillness is
 So when the music vibrations stopped
 And my lights were turned out
 I re-discovered her, sleeping on my couch
 Rooms look different in the dark
 Like faces, truth, and winged armchairs
 Exploring, I found a chest
 Open, sitting quietly at a desk
 Full of love
 coin-operated dreams,
 dust covered goals,
 and the musty smell of ambition
 She was still asleep
 The night continued
 Past a suffocated past
 As 45 skeletons stepped out my closet
 Stretched deeply and held my hand
 Took turns kissing me on the forehead
 And then bursting into a million
 Feathers
 Insisting that life is too short for hang ups
 Everything hanging up in my closet,
 Including my smarty pants,
 Folded up neatly and freed itself from scrutiny
 My bed was a fiasco of sleepless nights, broken promises, and security
 Oh how it screamed security
 I left it to its own devices
 Leaving my Comforter with the sheets
 No wonder she sleeps on the couch
 Out the corner of my eye was my silhouette
 No longer mimicking each of my steps
 She was picking up my childhood in a bucket
 Building a sandcastle of mid-summer nights
 No shovel she used the grace she was blessed with
 No shovel, she used the grace she was blessed with
 I envy my shadow more than anything else
 Seeing my mistakes while they're still ideas
 Maybe meditating on now will be a great idea?
 She winked at me before she got up
 To run along the beach
 Natural and fluid,
 I didn't know I could sing like the ocean
 See what happens when the music stops?
 I wake her up on the couch
 Still, the lights are out
 And we dance...I mean...I dance
 Well rested and freed
 (OM)





PEERS First Friday Recap for November 2011

Carlos Stewart, Assistant Director

On Friday, November 4th, the Peers Mentoring Program in collaboration with the Minority Engineering program, participated in a wonderful program we called the PEERS resource hunt. This fantastic program allowed students to utilize their resource management skills as they raced to find answers to 11 very clever riddles about significant places at the University. The students were randomly placed in groups and were required to take photos at specific locations around campus and were to do so in a specific order. The first group to find and photograph each location was declared the winning group. This event was created and implemented by two of our Lead Mentors, Ariel Giles and Rachel Bernardo. The PEERS and MEP program would like to thank Ariel and Rachel for their innovation and hard work in designing an amazing program. PEERS and MEP would like to congratulate the following team for being the first to find the answers to the riddles of the resource hunt:



Jalisa Robinson
K.C. Abakporo
Kennedy Ovenseri
Tyree Bailey
Ibrahim Abdul-Karim
Ellyn Davis

Looking Forward

The PEERS and MEP programs would like to wish all students good luck as we move into the time for finals. Please use your resources and rest up as needed. You most certainly have our support!!

The last **First Friday** for this semester was **December 2, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in Kettering Labs room 221.**

If you would like more information about First Fridays and the PEERS Mentoring program or if you would like to submit your answers to the riddles, please contact Carlos Stewart, Assistant Director for OMA @ cstewart1@udayton.edu.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Can you find the answers to the riddles for the resource hunt?

1. He was the first Catholic president, assassinated in office. Who am I? Go to the building named after me and take a picture with me. Then take a second picture with the people you call when seeking campus information.
2. You will always find GOD here. He will never turn you away. Find the echo point. Take a picture with your group standing on the echo point.
3. A statue of Our Lady stands in front of the entrance. The sound of running water can be relaxing. Find the quote engraved on stone in this place. Take a nice group picture here.
4. It has already caught on fire twice, but that does not shy people away from coming to visit and experience the different food and renovations. What is the new area in this place called? Take a picture by one of the tables.
5. If you're a member of one of UD's largest majors you spend a lot of time here. A carpenter and his son stand together. If you need help, look to the child in this statue for guidance.
6. It's where you go when it's time to visit, where they said yes to your admission. Take a picture in front of this building.
7. Come here fast if you wish to print for free, we represent multicultural students at UD. Take a picture in this office.
8. Food next to books, and books right by rooms, come to this place and take pictures with the room numbers of the rooms in the study space.
9. Spend time here and your GPA will rise, go to the basement and you will find a surprise. Take a picture with, in, or around the phone booth. What is this location called? What do you come here for?
10. When built this was the tallest building in Dayton. Now home to an office that makes sure to put FLYERS FIRST. Take a picture in this location. What offices are here?
11. For a late night jam session above the rim, go around the corner and take a swim. In this location you are sure to get slim. Take a picture in front of this building.

Academic Success Corner

Aaron Witherspoon, Academic Success Specialist, College of Arts and Sciences

Congratulations! You are now almost complete with another semester here at UD! I hope that it has been a productive and positive semester academically for all of you. Keep in mind that if you are still having difficulty in any of your courses to

- ✓ Visit your professors outside of class time. If office hours don't fit in your schedule, arrange to meet at another time.
- ✓ Seek help through tutors. Visit Student Learning Services Drop-In Tutoring in Marianist M-TH 6-10 pm; Or check Departmental Tutoring hours.
- ✓ Attend Supplemental Instruction sessions.
- ✓ Create a study group with classmates.
- ✓ Also, make sure to stop by OMA, as we are all here to help support you in your pursuit of academic excellence.

As we draw closer to the end of the semester, we would like to congratulate a few students who have been recognized for their academic achievements. The Office of Multicultural Affairs is committed to honoring students and their achievements. See what your peers are up to!

OMA Student Spotlight



Marcus Allen
Detroit, MI
Pre-Medicine, Psychology

Stefon Towler
Baltimore, MD
Mechanical Engineering



Kadeem Clarke
Houston, TX
Chemical Engineering

Kadeem is the recipient of the 2011 Omega Psi Phi - Delta Alpha Chapter Founders Scholarship. Kadeem was honored at a reception at The Racquet Club, Dayton. Please help the Office of Multicultural Affairs in congratulating Kadeem!

During his time here at UD, Marcus has been able to take advantage of every opportunity that has been afforded to him. Balancing a very challenging academic curriculum, social activities, leadership and service are often a difficult dilemma of being a college student. However, Marcus has been able to do just that.

Through his hard work in the classroom, he has been able to gain invaluable experience in undergraduate research at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Children's Medical Center of Dayton, as well as at The University of Massachusetts Medical School. Outside of the classroom, Marcus has been a lead mentor for A.I.M.S., tutored inmates at the Montgomery County Jail, as well as helped elementary students understand the importance of holistic well-being. Marcus has also been active in BATU, Healing Hearts and S.A.N.D. Most recently, Marcus was honored by members of his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc as 2011 Ohio District Brother of The Year, and will proceed to compete at the regional level in April.

Marcus is joined in celebration by fellow student Stefon Towler. Recently, Stefon was recognized with the highest GPA by the Ohio District of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Please help us in congratulating both Marcus and Stefon on their achievements!

OMA

Midyear Recognition Dinner

Friday, December 9

7pm KU West Ballroom

Free

Register by email: stewart1@udayton.edu

Navigating an Undergraduate Romantic Relationship

Soleil Verse, Senior

Everyone knows college is tough enough with classes, extracurricular activities, jobs, and internships, but adding a relationship on top of that might seem like a difficult feat to accomplish. Your undergraduate years are full of new experiences, exciting discoveries made about yourself, and meeting new people; so why not make the most of it? Today's ever-popular scene of party-going, bar-hopping, and "casual" dating has many college students confused about what really makes a relationship work. So, how does one really go about this? What are the benefits of an undergraduate relationship?

Meeting new people and building meaningful, lasting relationships with people in college happens often, in fact, it's just as much a part of the process as anything else. So, when you meet that special someone, in the fast-paced environment of campus-life, things can move along pretty quickly. Remember to ask yourself, what do I want out of this relationship? Are you just looking for a friend, a study partner, or something more? Be upfront with the person about the parameters of the relationship; if they really do care about you, as a friend or otherwise, they will respect that.

That brings up another important point: remember who you are. Keeping your own goals, interests, and schedule in mind is important to making sure that you don't lose sight of why you came to UD in the first place. Balance is key. Of course, you want to make time for someone special, whether you are just friends or more, but allotting time for homework and activities is a part of that. Setting a schedule for how you will spend your time can really help in making sure you get those things done, and then you can clearly see when you will have time to spend together. A great way of spending time together is studying together, even if it is in a completely different topic, especially because studies show that

studying in groups increases motivation and focus.

Spontaneity and adventure are key to a healthy relationship. So, doing something new together or going to a different on-campus activity than you normally would, will increase the bond that you share. Also, include your friends. Group dating and outings are a great way to meet other people, or grow your group of friends. Keeping up with your other relationships, such as with friends or even classmates, is important. You don't want to seclude yourself from others and focus completely on one person; this will stunt the growth of any connections you might have been able to make with other people, as well as inhibit your existing outside relationships.

There are many benefits of dating while being an undergrad. Things don't have to be too serious, and you have the ability to grow and learn new things about yourself, just by sharing your time with another person. Honesty and trust are also cultivated. It is important to be honest with yourself and your feelings, especially when it comes to someone you have feelings for. It will help in the success of other relationships you have, as well as building a better relationship between you and the person you are with at the moment.

Most importantly, don't go looking for a relationship. The best things come to those who wait. Is this cliché? Yes, it is. But, remember that college is a big adventure where you will have many opportunities to meet new people. Make the most of it.

"The most wonderful of all things in life, I believe, is the discovery of another human being with whom one's relationship has a glowing depth, beauty, and joy as the years increase. This inner progressiveness of love between two human beings is a most marvelous thing, it cannot be found by looking for it or by passionately wishing for it. It is a sort of Divine accident." - Hugh Walpole, Sr.

A Word from the Editors

With the holidays approaching us quickly, many of us start stressing over family dinner and the shopping specials for the perfect Christmas presents. However, we must take a step back and reflect upon the meaning of the holidays. What makes this time of the year so special to us? For me, it's having extended family come together and share a meal. It is a time where we put aside our differences and enjoy each other's company. We come together to be thankful and remind ourselves of the good things in life. JFK once stated, "As we

express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them" I encourage you all to take advantage of the various opportunities around campus that are aimed in helping people in this time of need!

Sincerely,
Carolina Alvarado and Soleil Verse (Co-Editors)



Student Organization Highlight

Chase Jones, Graduate Assistant



This month's Organizational Highlight comes from the N.A.A.C.P.

What has your organization done this year?

NAACP has been very active in the community this year so far. We hosted one of the first events of the year, the annual NAACP BBQ. We wanted to create a mixer where upperclassmen and underclassmen could come together to establish and foster relationships. We also hosted Community Talk: What is the Social Climate at a PWI along with Zeta Phi Beta. This was a forum where members of the community could voice their opinions and concerns with members of NAACP and Zeta Phi Beta, so that community leaders could be aware of issues. We also helped OMA and Aaron Witherspoon host the Study Tables, which was a great event, where many students showed up

to do work! But we also host meetings every other Tuesday, so come support. NAACP week was November 6-12, 2011. We collaborated with organizations such as W.O.R.D and departments such as the center of Social Concern to continuously help raise awareness about matters within and around the Dayton Community!



Left: Derrick Foward,
NAACP Dayton
Chapter President

Right: Jasmine
Henderson, senior,
UD NAACP Vice
President

How many members active do you have?

We currently have about 6-7 active members on campus. But we always have about 10 members who actively commit to showing up to meetings and events.

What are your mission/goals?

Well NAACP youth and college division's mission is raise awareness about inequalities and create active solution to the problems that surround discrimination and inequalities, especially racially related. But the goal of the UD chapter has always been to tackle and raise awareness about inequality of anything, not just race. But also nationality, sexual orientation, disability etc.

But for the 2011-2012 school year we have special incentives or goals for our chapter. We wanted to be an active agent is raising awareness and being a hub for diversity, where people from many different background can come into communion together. Hopefully, we are in the process of starting a diversity club that will gather to talk about social issues on campus and around campus. But also create tentative solution or dialogues that the university administration would take seriously. We also emphasize academic excellence, especially within the minority community. We want to offer support and an open space where student could come get help or be directed toward help. We also wanted to focus on community service, not only is it important to know what is going on in the community, but to give back to the community.

What can new members expect to gain from join this organization

They can expect to join a group of people concerned about raising awareness about the social issues on campus and the greater community. But also know they are now an active agent of change within the community they live in. We are committed to making campus a better and more socially aware place about difference.

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

If my organization was an animal, it would have to be an Owl, because it's a wise and intelligent creature and my organization as a whole is a group of wise and intelligent people, ready to spread their knowledge and unity among everybody.



Leadership Styles Unpacked

Chase Jones, Graduate Assistant

A majority of the student organizations were represented in last month's Kindred Presidents' meeting. Everyone had great input and the ideas we much appreciated. The help and advice for each other that stemmed from conversations was wonderful. This month Kindred Presidents participated in the Thanksgiving Basket Drive and praise goes out to all the organizations for their gifts and helping to feed local families over the holiday!

A new section in the Kindred Presidents corner of OHANA is **Leadership Styles**. Every month a different style will be featured to help student leaders understand more about their own style(s). Not everyone has the same, and some leaders incorporate multiple styles in their leading. Understanding and knowing certain aspects of those styles, how they intersect internally and externally with others styles and the challenges is very useful information. This month's style is *Charismatic Leader*.

Charismatic Leader

Assumptions

Charm and grace are all that is needed to create followers.

Self-belief is a fundamental need of leaders.

People follow others that they personally admire.

The searchlight of attention

It is interesting to watch a Charismatic Leader 'working the room' as they move from person to person. They pay much attention to the person they are talking to at any one moment, making that person feel like they are, for that time, the most important person in the world.

Charismatic Leaders pay a great deal of attention in scanning and reading their environment, and are good at picking up the moods and concerns of both individuals and larger audiences.

They then will hone their actions and words to suit the situation.

Leading the team

Charismatic Leaders, who are building a group, whether it is a political party,

a cult or a business team, will often focus strongly on making the group very clear and distinct, separating it from other groups. They will then build the image of the group, in particular in the minds of their followers, as being far superior to all others.

The Charismatic Leader will typically attach themselves firmly to the identity of the group, such that to join the group is to become one with the leader. In doing so, they create an unchallengeable position for themselves.

Alternative views

The description above is purely based on charisma and takes into account varying moral positions. Other descriptions tend to assume a more benevolent approach.

Source: *ChangingMinds.org*

Next month: *Transformational Leadership*

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON SPEAKER SERIES 2011-12

BUILDING MOVEMENTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

EBONY UTLEY

Author of the forthcoming book, *Rap and Religion: Understanding the Gangsta's God*

"SOCIAL MOVEMENT STRATEGIES AND THE HIP-HOP GENERATION"

Part of the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Holiday Celebration

7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

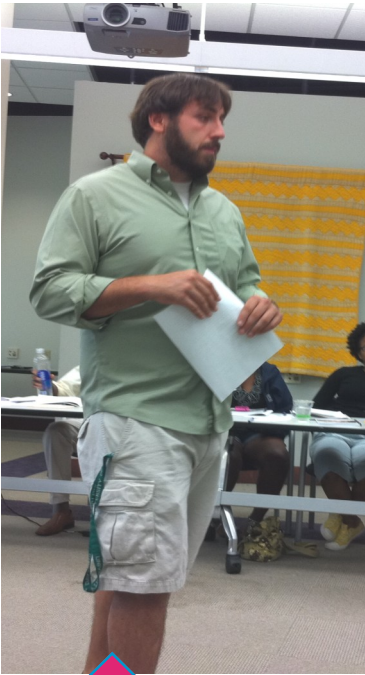
Kennedy Union Ballroom

Free and open to the public



Traverse The Mountain

Chase Jones, Graduate Assistant



"On the mountains of truth you can never climb in vain: either you will reach a point higher up today, or you will be training your powers so that you will be able to climb higher tomorrow."

Friedrich Nietzsche
Nietzsche was a 19th century German poet, philosopher, and composer. He was known for a lot of things but in this quote I feel he does an exceptional job of depicting progress and how we should

look at it. The mountains of truth are our own, hence the plurality. We each are striving toward the summit of individual goals, for knowledge, for the truth we

call our own. Sometimes, a day passes where not much could be said for accomplishments, for successes, or for productivity in the search for this truth. Days when we didn't get any homework done or TV was doing such a good job of entertaining us we had no choice but to give it our undivided attention. Days that we met a challenge not easily overcome like large papers, a huge test we forgot about, or an argument where our opinion was pushed wayside. These are the days Friedrich says, and I agree, that we should then "train our powers" so that tomorrow we are ready to face the tasks before us. I strengthen mine by making To Do lists, reading, and prayer. I reflect on why I was unable to move higher up the mountain that

day. Reflection is a key element to training our powers. We all have the power to excel, to succeed, and to overcome we just have to reflect on the instances where that power was bewildered by obstacles. Understanding this and being prepared for the next challenge or obstacle will allow us to climb higher, to meet our own expectations in our journey to the truth, the truth that we procrastinated and now hard work is in order, the truth that we can and will persevere and traverse this mountain.

Randomness:

Dolphins sleep with one eye open.

Leonardo Da Vinci invented scissors.

The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is uncopyrightable.

Sign up
to receive
OMA
listserv
posts on
Porches!

Congratulations to Dr. Mary Ann Angel

Submitted by Dave Weinkauf

On December 6, 2011, Dr. Mary Anne Angel was honored as one of the Ten Miami Valley women named 2011 recipients of the Ten Top Women awards. If you'd like to congratulate her, you could e-mail her at

mary.angel@notes.udayton.edu.

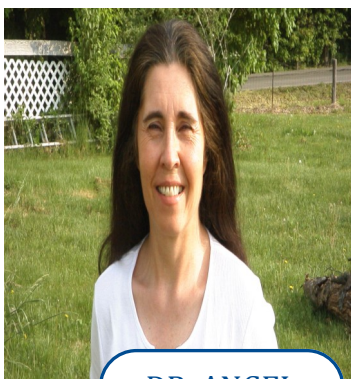
You can also send cards or personal notes to her at:

Dr. Mary Anne Angel
Communication Department
University of Dayton
300 College Park Drive
Dayton, Ohio 45469-1410

The honor, initiated in 1962, recognizes leaders in the community who contribute time and talent for the greater good.

See the story in the Dayton Daily News announcing the award at

<http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/dayton-news/ten-top-women-named-for-2011-1273209.html>



DR. ANGEL

A 2011 recipient of the
Ten Top Women awards

A Note of Encouragement

Fred Cox, Student Administrator

Greetings family... my fellow students!!!!

Let me first suggest that you take the time to catch your breath! Huge inhale then exhale moment.

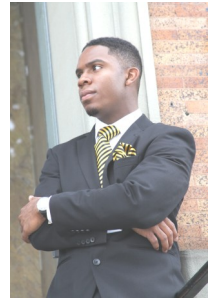
The semester is coming to an end if your like the rest of your PEERS you are begging for the semester break! I want to encourage you to keep pushing. "Tough times don't last, but tough people do."

The University strives to create spaces for support and we also have the opportunity to use each other as resources, because WE ARE NOT ALONE! Don't forget about OMA! We are always prepared to serve you. The academic success specialists, professor office hours, and many other venues of support are available to you as a student.

The semester break is coming up! I encourage you to think about what you are thankful for. I challenge you to think of the person that you are most thankful for and write them a handwritten note to show them your appreciation.

I am always here for you! Come visit! The first to come see me to prove they you sent your letter of appreciation, lunch will be on me!

Your Peer,

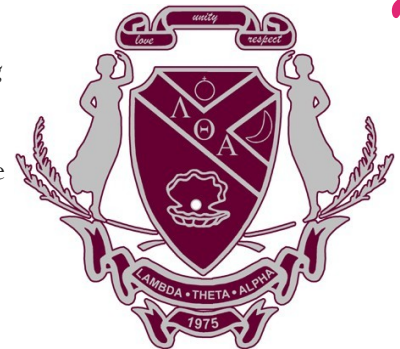


Building a New Path: Latina Sorority

Carolina Alvarado, Senior

Over the four years that I have been part of this institution, I have noticed the increasing diverse population on campus; specifically when it comes to Hispanic students. Yet, there is not enough participation and involvement from students to take this momentum as an opportunity to positively impact not only our UD campus, but also the city of Dayton. In addition, there is very little representation of the diversity within the Hispanic community.

At UD, it is no surprise when students are proactive in taking action whenever the situation arises. Something is always getting done and it's no different scenario for this situation. El Orgullo Latino (The Latin Pride) has taken initiative in educating our fellow students on issues concerning the economics of Puerto Rico. This exposes UD students to learn about issues that affect the Hispanic community.



Yet, much more can be done. The Hispanic population is becoming influential in this country. It is time that students, especially those of Hispanic background, step up their leadership and make their presence known. What better way than bringing a nationally recognized Greek organization to campus!

Such organization can provide many opportunities. It can be a great resource to students in terms of networking and meeting professionals. Moreover, it can be helpful in bringing awareness about the Hispanic community through conferences, events, educational forums, guest speakers and more! But, in order to get something started, we need PEOPLE! Hence I am calling all females interested in collaborating to bring Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority Inc. If interested or would like more information about this initiative email calvamata@gmail.com or check its website at <http://lta.orgsync.com>.

Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority Inc. Quick Facts:

1. It is recognized as the first Latina Sorority in the nation
2. It was initiated at Kean University (New Jersey) in 1975
3. Its mission involves "... to provide a sisterhood based on unity, love, and respect. To develop strong leaders who will then provide and practice political, social and cultural activities. Promote unity through charitable and educational programs. Maintain a higher standard of learning and serve as a voice for all students"

Building a New Path: Latina Sorority (con't)

4. Principles: Unity, Love and Respect
5. Colors: Burgundy and Gray
6. Member of the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organization (NALFO)
7. Includes Alumnae and Graduate chapters
8. Chapters established across the U.S, including: California, Arizona, Illinois, Texas, New York and Puerto Rico
9. Institutions also include: Texas A & M University, Arizona State University, University of Texas-Arlington, Northwestern University, Vanderbilt University, Cornell University, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of California-Berkley, University of Chicago

2011 OMA Retreat Review

Soleil Verse, Senior

For the third time since being at UD, I had the opportunity to attend the annual OMA Retreat that took place from November 18 to 19. This reflective retreat, which has been in operation for a few years now, allows students a free opportunity, meals included, to take 24 hours and talk about our life at UD. Students left campus around 4:30 that Friday and returned on Saturday around the same time; this allowed for just 24 hours in which students, a few members of the OMA staff, and retreat leaders came together and learned a little more about what community means to us all, on campus and beyond.

After a little time fellowshiping over dinner, retreat attendants arrived at the Athleten in Action facilities in Xenia, OH, to begin work on discovering more about the unique individuals in our group and what brings us all together.

Retreat leaders included Jasmine Henderson, Jasmine Smith, Fredrick Cox, Jerami Johnson, and Radiance Lunsford; whom facilitated ice breakers and in-depth activities. It soon became clear to us all that the focus of this year's retreat was Community, something that we can all use a few moments to reflect on, define, and shape.

Individual activities, small group, and large group gatherings allowed for participants to define what community means to them, how it is reflected at UD, as well as how we would like it to change and grow in the near future. Students named such attributes as diversity, acceptance, success, education, and trust as essential to building and growing a sustainable, healthy community. We also had the chance on Saturday, in an activity led by Daria Graham, to identify ourselves as individuals, but also as a community, while standing in a circle and making statements about a variety of things that make us who we are. I have had the opportunity to go through this exercise with Ms. Graham on several occasions, and it is always as transformative and eye-opening as the first time I did it.

The OMA retreat, as it drew to a close, gave each attendee the opportunity to think about what we learned that weekend, and how each of us would like to move forward with the new insight and better sense of community that was established. I encourage anyone who went on the retreat, as well as those who were unable to make it, to remember what talents and skills they bring to UD, and how those can help others, as well as seeking out resources on campus. It is ever more important as our campus grows, and hopefully as we come together more as a community, rather than on our own, to remember why we came to UD, whether as staff, faculty, or student, and move forward in building relationships and leaving a legacy. Maybe you have yet to identify why you are here, but, don't worry, one of great many things about UD is that the people and resources are here for you to figure that out. I encourage you to take the time to reflect and explore on what you really want in your time here at UD.



Office of Multicultural Affairs

P.E.E.R.S. in Action

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

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

[http://oma.
udayton.edu](http://oma.udayton.edu)



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

follow us on
[twitter](#) at www.twitter.com/UDsOMA

Reflections Regarding Events Surrounding the "Semana Santa" Photo

Dr. Patty Alvarez, Assistant Dean of Students/Director

Differing perspectives exist surrounding the events related to the "Semana Santa" photo that was a part of the Citizens of the World exhibit. I want to provide a few reflections, particularly as the campus continues to make meaning of these events.

After being contacted by the exhibit sponsors and campus partners, the Center for International Programs (CIP) and ArtStreet, about the potentially sensitive nature of the "Semana Santa" photo, we discussed strategies that could be adopted that displayed sensitivity to the diverse experiences and perspectives of members of the UD community. I shared that learning about aspects of "Semana Santa" in Spain may be difficult for individuals who might first be reminded of a violent part of United States history, which still exists today in some areas. I also talked about dimensions of the campus climate for diverse students.

A precedent does exist on campus for considering alternative ways to present what some may view as controversial artwork at UD. An article was recently shared with me that highlighted how the English Department, the Women's Center, and other key areas decided to present a controversial photo. In both exhibits, additional options were considered in terms of displaying the images - not out of a desire to censor, but due to UD's values as a Catholic Marianist institution.

As an individual who has seen this procession of penitents in Spain, I can appreciate the rich tradition associated with all of the activities that occur during Holy Week. However, I was startled when I saw this procession in Spain several years ago due to the symbolism that the outfits had for me within a U.S. context. I cannot begin to adequately summarize all of the perspectives that exist surrounding the events related to the "Semana Santa" photo, but it is important to note that I did not hear from anyone who had issues with this tradition in Spain or the photographer. The outfits worn in the "Semana Santa" photo conjure up painful and very personal reminders of the Ku Klux Klan, particularly for many African Americans, but not exclusively. In addition, understanding that an unwelcoming campus climate is experienced by many diverse students at institutions of higher education (Harper & Quaye, 2009) provides an important and additional framework in which to understand the perspective and experiences of some individuals. The "Semana Santa" photo can serve as a reminder of experiences encountered on campus that can make for an unwelcoming climate.

There is room at UD and in society for all of these differing perspectives. In moving forward, we can truly live and learn in community by trying to gain a deeper understanding of the diverse perspectives and experiences of others through continued dialogue, particularly with individuals who do not share our same perspective. The diverse reactions that emerged from the events surrounding the exhibit emphasize the need for ongoing discussions about race, culture, difference, power, and privilege. UD's strategic plan and vision of excellence calls all of us to engage in intercultural dialogue. The Office of Multicultural Affairs is committed to continuing to engage in these conversations and to work with others on campus to provide opportunities for dialogue.

Harper, S. R., & Quaye, S. J. (Eds.). (2009). *Student engagement in higher education: Theoretical perspectives and practical approaches for diverse populations*. New York: Routledge.