Office of Multicultural Affairs January/February 2015 Volume 7 Issue 3



HANA

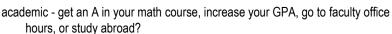


VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

January/February 2015

Letter from the Director

The Office of Multicultural Affairs staff hope that your semester is off to a great start! Students, I hope you are making good progress on your 2015 goals. Each new semester presents opportunities to reflect on the past in order to determine the strategies that you will continue and any new plans you want to adopt. I would encourage you to think about both! What do you want to continue? What do you want to do differently? Think about the goals that you have in multiple areas. Do you have specific goals in the following areas:



personal - become involved in a student organization, find on-campus employment, identify scholarship opportunities, or grow in your faith?

professional – attend campus events to deepen your understanding of diverse topics, explore graduate school opportunities, or identify full-time employment after graduation?

I provided a few examples of goals that you might be considering. Many of these goals will likely prove enriching on multiple levels. Speak with an OMA staff member, a faculty member, or someone else on campus to learn about additional resources that may assist you in achieving your goals.

In November and January, the University offered programming in recognition of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Thank you to all of the areas that provided the campus and Dayton communities with opportunities to reflect on Dr. King's life and work. The campus community was indeed able to engage in a critical evaluation of our times through these events. I am particularly appreciative of the areas that provided the 84 MLK Social Justice Plunge participants with the opportunity to engage in dialogue regarding race and to conduct service. The participants included 36 UD students, 35 Upward Bound high school students, and 13 staff. Thank you to the Center for Social Concern, the School of Education and Health Sciences – Upward Bound, Holy Angels, Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations, Nick Eddy from United Way, Mr. Anthony Whitmore with RTA, Rev . Bob Jones, and the dialogue facilitators for being such generous partners. OMA is proud to have been one of the co-sponsors of this great event!

Last, but not least, please help me in extending a warm welcome to Merida Allen, Associate Director in the Office of Multicultural Affairs. She has already made many wonderful contributions to the OMA and UD community since her first day on February 2. Please make a point to stop by OMA (Alumni Hall – First Floor South) to meet her. We feel very blessed to have Merida Allen as a part of the OMA family and team.

I hope the mid-term break proves to be relaxing and productive! Please contact an OMA staff member if we can be of assistance.

Take care.

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



Inside this issue:

Letter from the Director	2
Student Engagement Assistants	3
Editors' Note/ Carta Del Editor	4
Academic Success Corner	5
Colors of Leadership Conference/	6
UD Alumna Returns Home	7
OMA's Graduate Assistant Corner	8
OMA Proclamation	9
Welcome new Associate Director to UD &PEERS Mentoring	10
Cultural Heritage Months	11
MLK Week Photos	12



OHANA

OMA Student Engagement Assistants



Hello everyone! I hope that everyone's semester is off to a good start. The Student Spotlight Board is up and running! If you feel like someone should be featured let me know by email at cabreray1@udayton.edu or just find me at the office. We are also still doing the Student Recognition board in the OMA Lounge. This has been a total success and I really appreciate the lovely messages that have been written for students, faculty, and staff. As always, keep supporting the SEA events and have a wonderful semester!

Hola Amigos, I hope you finished the fall semester strong and are off to an even better start this semester! February has been an action-packed month! Be sure to check out go.udayton.edu/blackhistorymonth to stay up to date on Black History Month programming. The first REAL Topics of the semester will be held on February 26th and will focus on the current impact of the paper brown bag test; students, faculty and staff will examine modern day colorism as it pertains to African American culture. Thank you for your continued support and know that you can always voice your suggestions for future programming, we are here for you!



My name is Tiara Jackson, and I am one of the Student Engagement Assistants in The Office of Multicultural Affairs. I lead



Sister to Sister (STS) which is a monthly program that caters to female students. In February, STS collaborated with Brother to Brother (BTB), the monthly program for male students, to host an event for Valentine's Day. Students gathered to discuss relationships. The purpose of this event was for students to listen to other people's opinions on the topic and then ask questions they always wanted the answer. The event had a great turnout and STS will have another event in March that focuses on women achieving their career goals.

Hello everyone! I hope everyone's semester started great. One of my responsibilities in OMA is co-chairing The Colors of

Leadership Conference. The Colors of Leadership Conference (COLC) is a conference geared towards informing diverse collegians—those new faces of leadership—to achieve their full leadership potential. Participants will be challenged to develop and explore leadership skills and fulfill the tenets of responsible leadership. The conference will be held on April 18, 2015 in Kennedy Union. The conference will begin promptly at 9:00 A.M. This year's theme is Mission I'M Possible. I encourage everyone to attend!

Student Engagement

Assistant

Page 4 VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

Editor's Note/Carta del Editor

Kwynn Townsend Riley, junior, and Yolanda Gavillan, junior



"It is better to be hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not"- Lupita Nyong'o. February, the month of self-love, love for others, and love for community. No wonder it is the month of Black History, Valentine's Day and I heart UD month. All require respect, compassion and love. February, 28 days filled with love, history and many, many, many UD events! Congratulations to all my first years who have successfully transitioned to their second semester! You are half way done through your first year at the University of Dayton, keep going! I know you can do it. February is my favorite month. Not only because

of the huge amount of chocolate I receive from my Valentine, but because of the events sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and I Love UD month. These events are specifically tailored for 28 days full of entertainment. This month has been jam packed for amazing things to participate in! Some of the events include the Friends of Africa Reception, Ask Dr. Dan, and a trip to the Freedom Center, NPHC Week, my play-*Unnoticed*, Green Dot Week and so much more! You do not want to miss out. Make sure to stay updated! In this issue, some of these events are highlighted including more information about what is coming up! Stay Fly, Flyers!

Hello peers!

My name is Yolanda; many of you know me from working for the past two years as a student assistant for The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA). For those who don't know me I am from San Juan, Puerto Rico and I am a current junior majoring in Early Childhood Education/ Pre-K Special Needs endorsement.

I am also the Vice President for El Orgullo Latino (EOL). I would like to thank everyone who has participated in the OMA events throughout the fall se-



mester and so far during this spring 2015 semester, they have been a complete success. For the first year students, congratulations for making it through the first semester of college. To the sophomores, juniors and seniors keep going you are almost there! There have been several events during the months of January and February which the Office of Multicultural Affairs has hosted. Those events were a complete success! Different events include the MLK Week, Black History Month, and PEERS. Another successful event was co-sponsored by UD Late Night, CAB, EOL and BATU was Culture & Cocktails. The event was a great way to represent our different cultures within the UD community and have a great time together. Make sure to keep your calendar updated with all the upcoming events at OMA, I wish all of you the best of luck on this new semester.

OHANA Page

Academic Success Corner

Aaron Witherspoon, assistant dean for student success, College of Arts and Science

Thank You Students!

I hope that everyone is having a successful spring semester! I wanted to take this opportunity to say a heart-felt THANK YOU to every student who I have had the chance to work with in OMA over the last several years. You have contributed to my professional and personal growth, and can only hope that I have been able to have some sort of positive effect on you as well. Nothing in my professional life has given me greater joy than to see students grow and mature into competent, compassionate and service —oriented leaders.

While my office is now located in 104B O'Reilly Hall, I am still here to provide continued support – whether it be giving feedback on your resume, selecting a major or if you just need someone to listen!

I will be holding office hours in OMA on Tuesdays from 1pm – 3pm. However, as always, my office door is ALWAYS OPEN! To make an appointment simply email me at awitherspoon1@udayton.edu or stop by O'Reilly Hall!

leesha Ramsey, academic success specialist,

Office of Multicultural Affairs and School of Business Administration

The Importance of Meeting with Your Professors

When you were in high school, your teachers would flag you down and make you stay after school when they needed to speak with you or your academic performance was lacking. As you've probably already found out, it doesn't quite work that way in college. Faculty connections are important. As a college student, you are responsible for your



learning. However, you are not alone—college faculty members are your partners in your academic success. The faculty here at UD want to see you succeed, but if you don't let them know that you're having problems, they won't know that you need assistance. Keep the following things in mind when it comes to faculty meetings:

- Introduce yourself and speak to your professors outside of the classroom because they could be one of your professional resources or write a letter of recommendation on your behalf.
- All faculty members have office hours set aside each week to meet with students, but it's best to schedule an appointment. This allows the professor time to review your work and prepare for your meeting.
- If the professor's office hours conflict with your class schedule, contact the professor and ask if there are alternate times when he or she may be available.
- Don't wait until just before an exam, or until the end of the semester to seek out assistance. Reach out to your professor for help as soon as you feel like you're just not grasping the material—the earlier, the better.
- Don't show up to the meeting with your professor and just say, "I don't get it." Your professor's time is valuable and
 you should be respectful of their time. Prepare for your meeting by making a list of questions or concepts that are
 unclear to you. This gives your professor an idea of where to start and how to begin to help you. Be ready to take
 notes, if necessary.
- Bring past assignments, quizzes, and exams with you to your meeting, as well as your syllabus. Going over these
 things with your professor will give you clarity in terms of the things you did well, and the areas in which you need to
 improve.
- Utilize time to work with your professor to come up with strategies as to what things you can do to better understand the course material and work toward success in your class.
- Sometimes just one meeting is not enough. It's okay to meet with your professor multiple times to gain a better understanding of class material.

At some point in their college career, every student needs assistance. Reaching out to your professors for assistance early on is a huge step toward your academic success!

Page 6 VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

God's Hands

Kwyn Townsend Riley, junior,

I have been to the most beautiful place in the world

Where the wind feels like

Laughter across your face

Sunny days

Mean golden crisp smiles

Baked to perfection

With ingredients like humility, simplicity, and unity

I lived in a place

Where I witnessed nature at its finest

Different birds

Different words

But difference was accepted here

The ground was red brown as a sunset dipped in milk chocolate

People who lived in this place were every shade between black and beautiful

That is indisputable, to some this place is unusual

Because here it proves that unity is doable

That love can be mutual

If you want it, then you can do it because anything is achievable

In this place, smiling is human nature

People abide by the rules of our heavenly creator who said

"Love thy neighbor" and "Let my word be the true navigator in your life so that you may meet me in the afterlife"

I walked in a place

Where rain felt like the leftovers of the cup that runneth over from the creators mighty table.

Each drop was filled with a blessing

Suppressing every oppressing experience, emotion that I have ever felt. I was cleansed in that place.

Of my ignorance

Recognizing the belligerence in the wildness I now call America

Understanding the untamed, organic, beauty in difference

Rinsing my peripherals and rearranging my literals

So literally my reality has changed for the better

I know, now, we can do better as a together and whatever we endeavor we are strong.

The sweet nectar that I tasted from that place was carefully picked from the fruit of knowledge

Not like the bottled, packaged and sold version we receive in college

But the common knowledge and sense I received as a award from my experience

To travel through the mysterious only to find myself smiling, laughing like the wind, dancing to the song of joy, enjoying life as the beautiful thing it is, eyes filled with a new perspective of positivity and optimism, liberalism, unionism, naturalism

I found myself in the center of God's Hands this place called Africa.

Colors of Leadership Conference 2015



Saturday, April 18, 2015

9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Kennedy Union

Register online at: http://oma.udayton.edu

\$5 UD students/ \$10 non-UD students & faculty/staff

*Lunch served *Group rates available
Contact oma@udayton.edu or 937-229-3634 with questions

OHANA

UD Alumna Returns Home

Yolanda Gavillan, junior, guest editor



Coral Flamand Méndez es una joven que sufrió un accidente automovilístico aparatoso, del cual sobrevivió pero ha quedado con trauma cerebral. Coral siempre se dedicó a ayudar al prójimo. Su compromiso era tan grande que se especializo en estudiar derechos humanos a la Universidad de Dayton. Al igual que Coral, su hermano Francois fue estudiante graduado en el 2004 de la Universidad de Dayton. Ahora, es Coral quien necesita la ayuda de todos nosotros. La joven de 24 años de edad sobrevivió el terrible accidente que la mantiene inmóvil. Los hechos

Page 7

ocurrieron en diciembre del 2013, mientras estudiaba derecho en la Universidad de Cincinnati. Tras casi un año en el hospital el 18 de octubre del 2014 Coral regreso a su adorada isla Puerto Rico. La familia de esta joven sigue luchando por su recuperación lo que le ha significado enormes gastos médicos. Un día como hoy, le pido a la comunidad que nos unamos en oración por la pronta recuperación de una joven tan maravillosa. Para más información o donaciones; https://www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/coral-victoria-flamand

Coral Flamand Mendez is a vibrant and amazing young woman who graduated from the University of Dayton and was undergoing her last year, studying law at The University of Cincinnati. Coral always dedicated herself to helping others. Her commitment was so great that she specialized in studying human rights at UD. Her brother is also a UD alumni. Everything changed on the night of December 2013 were Coral was hit by an oncoming vehicle and suffered a severe traumatic brain trauma, from which she is still healing. She survived all her life threating injuries and is now on the long journey of recovery. Today it is Coral who needs all the help she can get from all of us. Coral's friends and family have been supporting her since day one. After nearly a year in the hospital, on October 18, 2014 Coral returned to her beloved little island, Puerto Rico. The family of this young woman is still struggling to recover from the enormous pain this has caused them. Today, I invite all of you to raise a prayer on behalf of this wonderful young woman and her recovery. For more information about Coral or to pledge any donations to her care and recovery visit: https://www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/coral-victoria-flamand

Page 8 VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

OMA's Graduate Assistant Corner

Christian Lozano, graduate assistant, Office of Multicultural Affairs

It has been a great semester thus far in OMA; we kicked off the semester with the great weeklong 2015 MLK Celebration! The University of Dayton's MLK Celebration Planning Committee hosted a series of programs and events in celebration of the great Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.!



We would like to thank our campus partners and representatives who helped make the week successful including, Br. Brandon Paluch, Campus Ministry: Center for Social Concern; Chris Tangeman, Chair of the University Libraries Diversity &Inclusion Committee; Christian Lozano, GA: Office of Multicultural Affairs; Daria Graham, Office of Student Leadership Programs; Dr. Jack Ling, Office of Provost; Dr. Patty Alvarez, Office of Multicultural Affairs; Dr. Roger Crum, UD Faculty; Erin Brown, GA: Graduate Academic Affairs; Ian Edgley, SGA; Student Representative; Ione Damasco, UD Libraries; John Reynolds, GA: Housing and Residence Life; Karlos Marshall, GA: ArtStreet; Kernysha Rowe, Center for Student Involvement/CAB; Miracle Reason, BATU; Student Representative; Stephen Zubritzky, GA: Communications and Community Relations; TyAnn Stewart, School of Education and Health Sciences: Upward Bound; & Vet Smelko: GA: Sexual Assault Prevention

This year's theme, "...a long, long way..." is a reminder and challenge from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech delivered on our very own campus back in 1964.

The week-long celebration kicked off on Monday, January 19 and concluded on Monday, January 26. The week offered a diverse range of events where many students and community members celebrated the legacy of MLK. Programs and events included students marching during the MLK City of Dayton March, the campus community gathered in fellowship during the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Lunch with keynote speaker Ms. Amy Lopez-Mathews; UD faculty came together to facilitate SGA's Speaker Panel: How to be an Agent of Change; Rhythm, Voice, and Vision in the Spirit of Dr. King was a night full of student talent and special guest performances by the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company; and the MLK Social Justice Plunge was a day of dialogue and service where Upward Bound high school students and UD students came together in service at an Urban Ministry Center on Salem Avenue.

On behalf of the MLK Planning Committee, we would like to give a special thank you to all the students, faculty, and staff that supported and were involved in the success of UD's 2015 MLK Celebration events!

Contact Christian Lozano via email at <u>lozanoc1@udayton.edu</u> or stop by OMA (Alumni Hall 105) for additional information!



Recognizing Support of Campus Partners

The Office of Multicultural Affairs presented an OMA Proclamation to Dr. Donna Cox at OMA'a Fall 2014 recognition dinner. Words really cannot express the important role that Dr. Cox has played in the lives of so many students, including during times of crisis. This acknowledgement is long overdue. Please join us in thanking Dr. Cox for all that she does for students and the University of Dayton.



WHEREAS, Dr. Donna Cox acts as a valued advocate for University of Dayton students, faculty, and staff; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donna Cox has contributed to the personal, social, cultural and leadership development of multicultural students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donna Cox has demonstrated a student-centered approach and a commitment to student learning, inside and outside of the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donna Cox has provided appropriate levels of challenge and support to members of the University community; and

WHEREAS, through her work with the Ebony Heritage Singers, Dr. Donna Cox has contributed to the multicultural competence of all students, as well as assisted with their faith and spiritual development; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donna Cox has supported the endeavors and staff of the Office of Multicultural Affairs at the University of Dayton; and

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, do hereby express our appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Donna Cox. We celebrate your work and extend a heartfelt thank you for your contributions, both seen and unseen.

Patty Alvarez, Ph.D.

Assistant Dean of Students/

Christine Schramm

Dean of Students

GET CONNECTED WITH OMA!

OMA Listserv:

1) Join @ www.orgsync.com 2)Select UD 3)Select OMA



@UDsOMA @UDS OMA



OMA (Office of Multicultural Affairs)

Page 10 VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

Merida Allen, associate director, Office of Multicultural Affairs

I'm So Proud To Be A Flyer!

Hello! ¡Hola! Hallo! Bonjour! Ciao! Konnichiwa! Shalom! 您好 Lam Merida Allen, the newest member of the OMA team where I humbly serve you in the role of Associate Director. I am from Toledo, OH, affectionately known as the Glass City. It is my greatest pleasure to join the UD family and I look forward to getting to know everyone. The first couple of weeks on campus have been phenomenal. I have learned so much and I am definitely ready to have more experiences at UD. I am already so impressed with the spirit of community, inclusion and commitment to excellence of faculty, staff and especially students. I am here to serve you. I look forward to working together to make the educational journey for all students enriching, engaging and experienced with excellence!

My office is located in Alumni Hall Rm. 108, please stop by to say hi, ask a question or give me suggestions on what to see and do in Dayton. Other ways to contact me are at 937.229.3635 or mallen2@udayton.edu.

Carlos Stewart, assistant director, Office of Multicultural Affairs

PEERS Mentoring Program

The PEERS Mentoring Program is excited to begin the 2015 Spring semester right where the Fall semester left off; with students taking advantage of resources, both social and academic, and involving themselves in opportunities that contribute to their personal growth and development. January's First Friday event, complimented these areas as students heard from Jean-Paul Sewavi, Program Manager for Education Aboard, about wonderful study abroad opportunities for students. Students were also challenged to explore the Vocation competency as Lead Mentors, Stefon Towler and Joe Dunham led them through a very introspective experience. Laura Bistrek, Program Manager for the Diversity in Engineering Programs, and Lead Mentors Asia Roebuck and Jorge Munoz, led the February First Friday Session focused on Critical Evaluation of our Times. PEERS welcomed a representative from the U.S. Marines to speak about employment/leadership opportunities in the aviation area and also featured a thought provoking experience led by the Lead Mentors.

The remaining First Friday dates are March 13 and April 10. Each event will be held in Kettering Laboratories, RM 221 and is from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm.

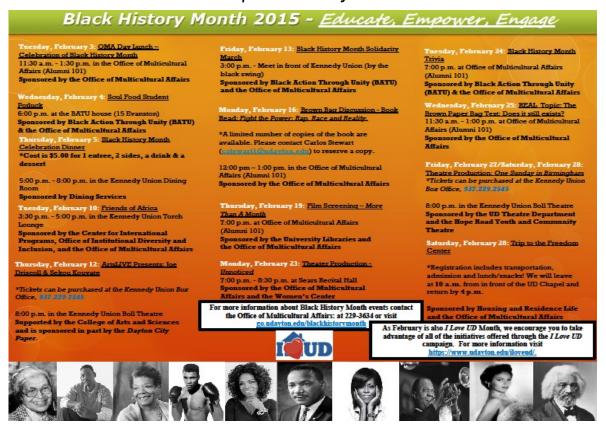
If you are interested in being a part of PEERS as either a Mentor or a Mentee, please contact Carlos Stewart via email at cstewart1@udayton.edu.

Cultural Heritage Months

Black History Month

The Black History Month Committee is excited to offer a host of educational programming experiences throughout the month of February that both recognize and celebrate the histories and cultures of African Americans.

The Black History Month complete schedule of events can be found on our website: http://oma.udayton.edu



Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month

Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month is a time when the University of Dayton community commemorates the contributions of Asian and Pacific Americans both in the U.S. and also our global communities. While celebrated nationally in May, UD is excited to host a series of rich experiences throughout the month of April while spring semester are in session. If you are interested in serving on the Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month Committee, please contact Carlos Stewart via email at

cstewart1@udayton.edu.

