



# OHANA

Happy Holidays  
from OMA!



2015 OMA Retreat Participants

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### Special points of interest

- 2015 OMA Retreat
- Students of Achieving Excellence
- OMA Calendar of Events
- Updates on new OMA Student Orgs.
- Ready for Finals Week
- 2016 MLK Events
- Heritage Month Recap

### **Finals Care Packages**

Available Dec. 14-18<sup>th</sup>  
Details inside this issue

## 2015 OMA Retreat

*Discovering Self. Success. Teambuilding. Confidence*

**Merida Allen, Associate Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs**

Forty-three students participated in OMA's Retreat on Friday and Saturday, November 20-21, 2015 at the Athletes in Action Sports Complex and Retreat Center in Xenia, OH with the theme, "Take Flight." The planning committee led by OMA's Student Engagement Assistant, Tiara Jackson, planned an eventful and insightful weekend. The purpose of the OMA retreat is to motivate and connect diverse students with one another through a variety of activities and leadership sessions. The goals for the 2016 retreat:

- ◆ Students will be able to identify their strengths and weaknesses as it pertains to working in groups.
- ◆ Students will gain a sense of community by working with at least two people who they have not worked with before.
- ◆ Students will learn and appreciate others from various backgrounds and experiences.
- ◆ Students will reflect on personal leadership experiences and how they want to grow as a leader.

The focus of the retreat was to build student skills in Discovering Self, Success, Teambuilding and Confidence. If any students are interested in serving on the 2016 OMA Retreat committee or Colors of Leadership Conference, please email mallen2@udayton.edu. A huge thank you to Tiara, OMA Staff and the OMA Retreat Committee for a job well done.

Get connected with us on **Facebook** - OMA (Office of Multicultural Affairs),  
**Twitter** - @UDsOMA, and **Instagram** - @UDS\_OMA

## Letter from the Director

Patty Alvarez, Ph.D., Assistant Dean of Students, Director



December 2015

Happy holidays and congratulations on nearing the end of the semester! First-year students deserve a special shout-out for completing their first semester at UD. I want to send my well wishes to students as you work to finish the semester. Enjoy the winter break and take time to reflect on the Fall semester. Over the break, think about what you want to continue doing, start doing, and perhaps stop doing. Schedule a time to speak with an OMA staff member or another administrator so that we can support you in achieving your goals. Don't hesitate to contact a faculty member if you think he/she can be of assistance.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs would also like to congratulate all of the May graduates. We are proud of each of you. You will definitely be missed, but we look forward to hearing about all of the great things you will do after graduating. The January/February issue will contain pictures of some of the graduates as well as information from the December recognition dinner.

The winter break is a great time for you to get some rest, spend time with family/friends, and to be productive! Think about what you want to accomplish during the Spring semester and beyond. Here are some items you might want to work on over the break:

**Identify Academic Goals!** Congratulations if you met your academic goals during the Fall semester! If you fell a little short of achieving some of your goals, know that there is always tomorrow (as my mom would tell me). Think about the strategies you want to adopt for the Spring semester - create a schedule and a plan. Do you need a new study schedule and a different environment to study? Do you plan on taking advantage of tutoring offered by the Office of Learning Resources, faculty-led tutoring in OMA on Wednesday evenings, and/or visiting your professor's office hours? Are you using a student planner or

another calendar to keep track of assignments and exams? OMA planners are available in OMA if you need one. Are you reading for class and studying course material in advance? Who will help you achieve your goals?

**Take advantage of campus resources!** It is not that you cannot succeed in college on your own. With all of the resources available at UD, you shouldn't try to experience college by yourself! Contact individuals and offices over the break or soon after you return to campus, including the Office of Learning Resources, the Counseling Center, Career Services, Campus Ministry, Campus Recreation, the Health Center, the Center for Student Involvement, and Flyers First. An OMA staff member or your academic advisor can also share additional helpful resources. We are here to assist you!

**Personal and Professional Goals!** Identify personal goals you want to accomplish – this may include becoming more involved (or less involved for some) on campus. Also, take advantage of the winter break to update your resume and cover letter, apply for employment opportunities, explore summer or post-graduation opportunities, work on graduate school materials, explore study abroad experiences, apply for scholarships, start completing financial aid paperwork, or accomplish a number of other items!

Wishing you a productive and relaxing break! Contact an OMA staff member if we can be of assistance with anything. Make sure you stop by OMA when you return to campus.

God Bless,

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



**OHANA seeks to inform,  
empower and nurture by  
allowing a space to  
express, give voice and  
feed the spirit of the  
University of Dayton  
Community.**

The Office of Multicultural Affairs  
*Congratulates*  
**Students Achieving Excellence**

**Reginald Henderson** placed in the top 10 in the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual University of Dayton Business Plan Competition's Elevator Pitch Competition, pitching his business, Rotor.

**Gurjot Kaur**, a double major in economics and finance, presented her research paper at the annual conference of the Ohio Association of Economists and Political Scientists. Gurjot was then awarded first prize for the best undergraduate research paper in economics.

**Myles Patterson** was awarded the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Delta Alpha Chapter Scholarship for the 2015-2016 academic year. He received the award on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at Sinclair Community College. He was selected based on his academic achievement and service.

**Brandon Payne** placed 8th in the 10th Annual University of Dayton Business Plan Competition's Elevator Pitch Competition, pitching his business, Intellect Kinematic.

## Editor's Note/Carta del Editor

Kwyn Townsend-Riley,  
Senior, Journalism



Well, one semester down and one more to go! This has been a LONG semester. Protests, demonstrations, social consciousness, retreats....and through all of that OMA has been there!

As this semester is coming to a close be on the lookout for all of the festivities during Christmas on Campus, free food for Finals Week, and much, much more! It is also close to enjoying the holidays with your love ones! I encourage you, if you have room, to invite an International friend with you. Because home is far away for many of our international students, it would be very nice to invite our Flyers home with us. It will really be a great experience for you and them to invite them to our American culture of Thanksgiving. I mean, what is a community for? Anyways, you are going to have a great time with this issue. There are job and leadership opportunities available for you to take advantage of! So get to it, Flyers :) There have been a lot of events that occurred these last couple of months. For example, the Intercultural Talent Show was a huge success! I was lucky to perform in it. There was also the Christmas on Campus sign up, as well as, the annual Stroll Off competition by the men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Lastly, we had our amazing annual OMA Retreat! This was a huge success! Flyers do not let the harsh cold get you thinking you can't fly, I hope you enjoy this issue.

I am so grateful to have been Co Editor for the past 3 years at the University of Dayton because it impacts my beautiful diverse OMA family. I would not be able to succeed academically, spiritually without my OMA family.



Welcome to our new  
OHANA editor, Roberto!



## Editor's Note/Carta del Editor

Roberto De La Rosa-Finch

Sophomore, English

Hello to everyone at OMA, my name is Roberto De La Rosa-Finch and I have just been named the new co-editor of the OHANA newsletter. I'm excited to work alongside Ms. Kwynn Townsend-Riley, and assist her in having the newsletter continue to shed light on important topics and events concerning OMA. Since I'm relatively new to OMA, not many people may know me, so let me take this time to tell you a few things about myself. I am a second-year English major, Dominican, and was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. I came to UD because I loved the balance of atmospheres. There's an aura of being away from it all, but coincidentally right at home. This was great because of the stress that comes with growing up in a huge city. Now that I've talked about myself, I want focus on the topic of stress, as finals week will soon be upon us. Whether you're a freshman and you're already panicking, or if you're a junior and you've seen this show one too many times, I urge you to maintain a balance while preparing for finals. If you plan to study for hours, make sure you take a few breaks in between to give your brain a chance to rest. If you're like me and your immune system just decides to breakdown because of all the stress, make sure to e-mail your professors because they will understand what you're going through. Also, don't forget to pick up a finals care package from OMA next week (the whole bag came through in the clutch last year when I had a bad cough). Lastly, and this goes for everyone no matter how many years you've been at UD: it's ok if you don't get an A. I know it's common sense to say but just because you get a bad grade, it doesn't make you a bad student. Good luck to everyone, and I'll see you all in the spring semester.



## Academic Success Corner

Ieesha Ramsey, Academic Success Specialist



### Stay Focused and Finish Strong

With less than one month left in the semester, the due dates for essays, assignments, and projects, and upcoming

final exams are probably coming at you pretty quickly. It can seem a little overwhelming, but with a little advanced planning and perseverance, you will emerge from the semester victorious!

### Deadlines. Deadlines. Deadlines!

All of your upcoming deadlines can seem suffocating, but here's a way to allow yourself some breathing room--Use your lovely OMA Planner or Google Calendar to plot out deadlines for all of the important end of semester assignments and projects you have coming up. If you are using Google Calendar, you can set alerts to remind you a few days in advance so that those deadlines don't sneak up on you. Don't wait until the last minute to start working on those big end of the semester papers and projects. Make a plan for what you will accomplish on those projects each day and start today by doing a little bit of work on them every day. This will allow you to make steady progress toward completion.

### You don't have to go it alone.

Sometimes studying with a partner or a group is better. Actively discussing class material with someone else can help you make sense of things and better understand concepts that seem abstract at the moment. Grab a classmate, or two, or three and plan a study group. Each person can bring a snack and when it's time to take a break from studying together, you can all enjoy a mini-potluck. You'll find that your classmates may have similar questions, and working together may help you all

find the answers and the support you need to be successful.

### Don't forget about your resources.

If there are things your professor discussed in class or things in your readings that aren't quite connecting, don't forget that you can use your professor's office hours to get further clarification. Your professors want to help you and have set aside time during their office hours to assist students.

Many students have research papers due—don't forget about the Knowledge Hub on the 1st floor of the Roesch Library where there are research librarians and peer editors to assist with writing and proofreading your essays.

OMA Study Tables are still occurring on Wednesday evenings from 6-10pm in the OMA Lounge through the end of the semester—tutoring in Physics, Chemistry, and Math are available at 6pm during Study Tables. There is also tutoring available for many 1st and 2nd year courses on the 2nd floor of Marianist Hall, Monday through Thursday evenings from 6-9pm. It's easy to get bogged down with all of the things you need to get done at the end of the semester, but remember to reach out and get assistance when you need it.

Fall Semester 2015 will soon be a distant memory. However, putting forth your best effort through the end of this semester can give you a strong sense of accomplishment. You'll be able to enjoy your holiday break, knowing that you gave it your all and had a strong finish!

## Student Organization Spotlight

### The Ethereal Epsilon Rho Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

DAYTON---Ebola, the Eddie Murphy film "Coming to America" and poverty is all people seem to know about Africa now a days. With the current events surrounding the continent about kidnapping, diseases and war, the ladies of the Epsilon Rho chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated decided to talk about it. During their "Delta Week: Class is In Session", the ladies hosted an event titled Exploring Africa: A Cultural Awareness Event.

Over 24 students, an audience comprised of college students from the University of Dayton and Wright State University, had a discussion that was very diverse and enlightening. Presentations were given by a distinguished faculty member from the University of Dayton, Harriet Brown. The presentation focused on the sexism dynamic as well as her personal experience with cultural shock in the United States of America. Ms. Brown is originally from Kenya and worked at the Center of International Programs as a student specialist. Most students truly enjoyed the Q&A session with the African Student Association of Wright State University. Stereotypes were clarified as only single stories to the whole novel about the African race. "It was powerful, it was honest it was funny, I enjoyed myself" said Brittany Archie, first year at the University of Dayton.

"I never knew how similar African students were to us African American students, but also how all Africans are not the same" said Naje Parks, sophomore at Wright State University. The event was honest and very educational. Questions were asked about movies, music, dance, and relationships. There were even a few personal questions concerning sexism, circumcision, and the recent Ebola outbreak. "Any question is a good question, as long as the person is honestly trying to learn and not judge" said Cedric Ntwali, member of the African Student Association.

Audience members also experienced food from the homeland with jollof rice, provided by the chapter. Dancing, singing and entertainment were provided during this cultural awareness event. The night ended with a presentation given by the Vice President of the chapter, Kwyn Townsend Riley, about her cultural immersion trip to Kumbaa, Cameroon. Riley worked at a radio station, enjoyed a homestay experience and also traveled the country. This is a luxury that she was able to enjoy through a scholarship she was awarded by Campus Ministry and the University Of Dayton Office Of Multicultural Affairs.

Students not only left the event with full stomachs, but a full and bright perspective on the continent of Africa.



### The Iota Epsilon Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

continues to work hard and excel at the University of Dayton in the name of Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood and Finer Womanhood. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. was founded January 16, 1920 on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. by five trailblazing women. These women believed that *sorority elitism and socializing overshadowed the real mission for progressive organizations and failed to address fully the societal mores, ills, prejudices, and poverty affecting humanity in general and the black community in particular (Nat'l Website)*. Today, Zeta has over 120,00 members worldwide and continues to prosper everyday.

The Iota Epsilon Chapter has had a successful semester thus far with two Zeta weeks and numerous other events with the NPHC. Next semester, students can look forward to a semester filled with all things Zeta including Finer Womanhood Month, which is celebrated nationally within the organization beginning the last week of February and throughout the month of March. We also look forward to welcoming the newest members of Iota Epsilon as we finalize our intake process in late March. To learn more about Zeta and Iota Epsilon, or if you have any questions in regards to intake, please contact President Jalisa Robinson at [robinsonj4@udayton.edu](mailto:robinsonj4@udayton.edu). Also, be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using our handle [iotaepsilon1920](https://www.facebook.com/iotaepsilon1920). Last but not least, feel free to shoot us an email at [zetaphibeta@udayton.edu](mailto:zetaphibeta@udayton.edu) or check out our chapter website at <http://udayton.orgsync.com/org/iotaepsilon1920> or our national website at <http://www.zphib1920.org>.

*Picture Caption: (From L to R) On campus chapter advisor Brittney Philbert and chapter president Jalisa Robinson with Phi Beta Sigma brothers Devin Bolden and LT Solomon of the Alpha Beta Mu Chapter at Wright State University at UD's NPHC step show.*

## Graduate Assistant Corner

Victoria Bordfeld'15, '17, OMA Graduate Assistant for Leadership Initiatives

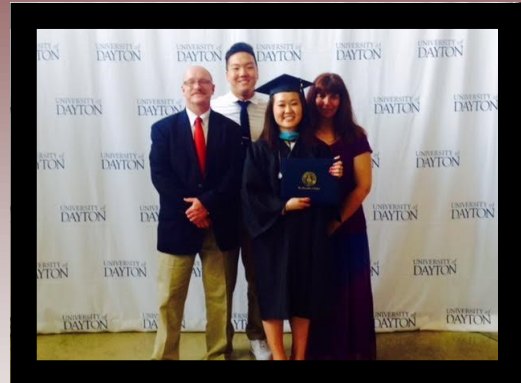
Hi Everyone! Thanks for stopping by the Graduate Assistant Corner! Since the first Newsletter of the year, I have been able to keep extremely busy. You would think that after such an action packed first couple of months, we would slow down! **Never!** As the Office of Multicultural Affairs, our responsibilities never cease and I would not want it any other way. Here's what I have been up to!

Since this is the season of Giving Thanks, I would like to center this article on what I am thankful for...

I am thankful for my family and friends. Throughout my entire life, my family and friends have been with me every step of the way. They keep me grounded and are there to help me back up when I fall (both literally and metaphorically). Together we have faced obstacles and hurdles and have come out stronger each time. Without their constant support I would not be where I am today. **#Family #Friends**

I am thankful for Kindred Presidents. I would like to give a **SHOUT OUT** to all our organizations, BATU, NSBE, SHPE, MAPS, EOL, NABA, WORD, HBSA, NPHC, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. These outstanding organizations have been promoting and hosting events for their organizations throughout the entire semester. They come to each of the KP meetings ready to fully participate in the dialogue. During our monthly meetings, the group has discussed retention and recruitment, funding and fundraising, and the campus climate with the assistance with our Campus Partner, Public Safety. This young and bright group of students has already impacted my Graduate experience. To work with a group of student leaders who truly want to make a difference in their campus community, is inspiring. Nothing is out of their reach and their ideas and actions are so impactful on UD's campus. I encourage all students to join and support these organizations. **#StudentOrgs #KindredPresidents**

I am thankful for the 2016 MLK Celebration committee. The committee began meeting in



October and we have already accomplished so much. The theme for this year's celebration is "What affects one...Affects us all," which speaks volumes about MLK and the committee. The committee is completely focused on increasing student participation in the events and furthering the goal of increasing awareness on campus and continuing the mission of Dr. King. Some of the events include a City of Dayton Social Justice Plunge to engage students in a service opportunity to teach the importance of supporting the community we live in. There is the Table of Giving, which is an opportunity for students to discuss how MLK's work can continue to be implemented today. The MLK March is an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of race equality within the City of Dayton. **#MLK2016**

I am thankful for the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the University of Dayton. Making the decision to come to UD five years ago was the best choice I have made to date. UD is my second home, it is where my closest friends are, where I am able to grow as an individual, where the challenges I face only make me stronger, and it brought me to the Office of Multicultural Affairs. I am thankful for the staff in OMA and how they have accepted and welcomed me. This group of people gives 200% of themselves to their job and to the students we serve. It is an honor and a privilege to work with them and I am reminded everyday how **#blessed** I am to be sharing this experience with them. **#FlyerNation #OMA**



## Student Engagement Assistants

### Alison Gaines, *Junior, Civil Engineering*

Hi All! This semester has passed so quickly! I can't believe we're already at exam season with three REAL Topics behind us. The first REAL Topic of the year was "OMA: Who belongs?" We talked about who makes up the community here at OMA and how offices of multicultural affairs around the country came to be. In October, in conjunction with Hispanic Heritage Month, REAL Topics focused on what it means to be Hispanic. The most recent REAL Topic was titled, "Has Native American Culture Been 'Erased'?" Up for discussion were perceptions of Native American culture and how media attention—or lack thereof—affects what we know. I want to thank everyone who has come out to support these discussions and I hope to see you at our next REAL Topic! Thanks for all of your support and I will see you next semester.



### Adrian Diaz-Munio, *Senior, Marketing and Communication*

Hello everyone! I hope everyone's semester is going well. Remember we are all here as resources. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the OMA Retreat. Thanks to you the events were a total success and I hope that next year we have the same enthusiasm as we had this year. As seen in the office, the Student Spotlight board has been in total effect and if you feel like someone should be nominated please don't hesitate to email me at [diazmunioa1@udayton.edu](mailto:diazmunioa1@udayton.edu) or feel free to speak to me. Also, we are doing something new, Random Acts of Kindness is running till the end of the month. Check that out in the doors just outside the OMA lounge. Make sure to thank and recognize those who have helped you throughout the day. As always, keep supporting the SEA events and have a wonderful rest of semester!



### Tiara Jackson, *Senior, Marketing and Social Justice*

My name is Tiara Jackson, and I am one of the Student Engagement Assistants in The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA). I lead Sister to Sister (STS) which is a monthly program that caters to female students. Last month, STS had their last event for the semester titled Creativity & Cookies in collaboration with Women of Remarkable Distinction (W.O.R.D.), a student led organization on campus. At this event, students came in between their classes to make a vision board and decorate cookies. The purpose of the event was to give students a break from classes and time to clear their mind especially since we are close to the end of the semester. I encourage all female students to get connected with W.O.R.D. on Orgsync especially since they have various leadership opportunities available for next semester. Next semester STS will host events that will focus on career, beauty, and relationship tips. Lastly as an SEA, I lead social media marketing for OMA. **Get connected with us on Facebook - OMA (Office of Multicultural Affairs), Twitter - @UDsOMA, and Instagram - @UDS OMA.**



### Devin Mallett, *Junior, Mechanical Engineering*

Hello everyone! I hope your semester is going well! As part of my position here at OMA I am chairing the Colors of Leadership Conference and I am looking for committee members! If you are interested in being apart of this illustrious event on campus, please contact me! My email is [dmallett1@udayton.edu](mailto:dmallett1@udayton.edu).

In addition, since we are in the holiday season, I just want to share what I'm thankful for. I am thankful for my parents, who have helped me become the person I am today. I am also thankful for OMA co-workers, because they keep me grounded when I need it the most! I just want you guys to sit back and think about the things you are thankful for, and be appreciative of where you are in life!





## More Opportunities to Connect with OMA

### Multicultural Programming Council (MPC)

The Multicultural Programming Council strives to further the OMA mission of providing engaging, cultural, educational, and social programming opportunities for all members of the University of Dayton community. The MPC will work collaboratively with OMA and campus partners to strengthen and sustain an inclusive campus. The MPC contains of the following positions:

President  
Programming Chair  
Marketing and Communication Chair  
Budgeting and Finance Chair

If you are a student interested in being a member of the MPC please contact Carlos Stewart – [cstewart1@udayton.edu](mailto:cstewart1@udayton.edu).

## Connect with OMA!

 @UDsOMA

 Instagram @UDS\_OMA

 facebook

**OMA (Office of Multicultural Affairs)**

**Follow OMA Events on OrgSync!**

## Calendar of Events

### **Finals Care Packages**

**Available Dec. 11-18<sup>th</sup>**

Alumni Hall Rm. 108 | 8:30-4:30 p.m.  
(Merida's Office)

### **P.E.E.R.S. Mentoring Program**

*"First Friday"*

Friday, Dec. 4  
4:30-6:00 p.m. \*\*KL 221

### **Creating Inclusive Communities**

Accepting applications for Spring 2016  
mini-course accepted through Dec. 7

### **Global Learning Living**

**Community Application Deadline -**  
Spring 2016 | due Dec. 4

### **OMA Fall Recognition Reception**

Thurs., Dec. 10  
6-8 p.m. | KU Ballroom

### **Housing & Residence Life**

2016 RA applications | due Dec. 11

### **Ebony Heritage Singers: "Praising In the Season"**

Saturday, December 5

7:00 p.m.

South Park United Methodist Church

### **OMA Study Tables**

*(Every Wednesday)*

6:00-10:00 p.m.

\*Math Tutors & Faculty available from 6-7p.m.

### **OMA Chemistry Study Group**

*(Every Wednesday)*

6:00-8:00 p.m.

*\*All events listed are hosted in OMA Alumni  
Hall Rm 101, unless otherwise noted*

*\*\*Complete calendar of OMA events can be  
found on OrgSync :-Office of Multicultural  
Affairs (OMA) [oma@udayton.edu](mailto:oma@udayton.edu)*

**Office of Multicultural Affairs**

The family spirit is a hallmark of the University of Dayton. We are committed to creating an academic community that celebrates inclusivity while focusing on the Marianist philosophy of learning, service, leadership and community. The Office of Multicultural Affairs provides staff, a facility, services and programs to support students. The staff work closely with academic faculty and administrative offices to provide a supportive campus environment based on the intellectual, social, and cultural needs of a diverse community of learners. OMA serves as a resource for the entire campus community, while providing multicultural students and their families with an additional connection to the University.

**A Diverse Community of Scholars  
Achieving Excellence**



**Thank you Dr. Benson!**

Interim Provost Dr. Paul Benson invited Dr. Patty Alvarez, OMA Director and staff as his guests to the UD Men's Basketball game on Sat., Dec. 5th at the UD Arena. OMA staff witnessed a Flyer victory over Northern Florida University and were pleased to sit with UD President Dr. Curran and incoming President Dr. Eric Spina and his family at their first UD basketball game! What an honor! If you get a chance, support YOUR UD Flyers this season!

Office of Multicultural Affairs

University of Dayton  
300 College Park  
Alumni Hall  
First Floor South  
937.229.3634



**Save the Date**

**Register on OrgSync AVIATE**  
**Limited Space Availability!**

**2016 MLK Celebration Events**

- 1/18 City of Dayton March\***  
8:00am-3pm | OMA/ City of Dayton
- 1/19 MLK Campus Wide Prayer Lunch**  
11:30am-1pm | KU Ballroom
- 1/20 Table of Giving\***  
Noon-1:30pm | Alumni Hall 101
- 1/23 MLK Social Justice Service Plunge\***  
10:30am-4pm | Holy Angels Gym/  
Salem Avenue Peace Corridor



Orgsync registration required for all events  
\*indicates PATH eligible event  
<https://orgsync.com/login/university-of-dayton>  
oma@udayton.edu