



University of Dayton

OMA's Community Digest

Office of Multicultural Affairs  
A Diverse Community of Scholars Achieving Excellence

August/September 2018  
Volume 11, Issue 1

# OHANA



Transitions Pre-Orientation Program Participants with Dr. Spina

## Transitions Pre-Orientation Program

The Office of Multicultural Affairs would like to welcome the Class of 2022! This year we had 100 students and over 200 family members join us from August 16-17. These students were able to move in early and learn about opportunities on campus. Parents and students attended panels where they asked all the burning questions they had and had a chance to meet faculty, staff, and students. Many thanks to Dr. Spina, our faculty and staff partners, student volunteers, student staff and many others who were involved with making this year's Transitions program an excellent first step at UD for all incoming students and families.

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# Multicultural Leadership Institute (MLI)

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The Multicultural Leadership Institute (MLI) is a skill building leadership experience for students to learn how to be emerging leaders. Peer leaders and educators, executive board members of multicultural student organizations, and P.E.E.R.S. Mentoring Program mentors supported by OMA all participated. The mission of the Multicultural Leadership Institute is to empower and equip students to be effective leaders in the University of Dayton community and beyond, as well as learning to plan events and collaborations.



MLI Participants

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## Letter from the Executive Director

**Daria-Yvonne J. Graham, Ph.D.**

Associate Dean of Students and Executive Director of Multicultural Affairs



Welcome to the 2018-2019 academic year! To the incoming class of 2019 — first-year students and transfer students — we are pleased to have you as a member of the University of Dayton and OMA community. To our returning, it's good to have you back "home"!

We know that this year will be filled with successes, challenges, and change and we want you to know that OMA is here for you! Whether it is adjusting to being on campus, navigating new and existing relationships, or gaining a more intimate understanding of your major, OMA has services and programs to assist students on their personal and academic journeys. We create and provide a place for students to better understand themselves and others. We structure educational opportunities through programming and trainings that fosters an environment for students to engage in cross-cultural dialogue. OMA provides services that focus on students' academic success while strengthening their development as leaders with diverse backgrounds, experiences, talents and perspectives. The P.E.E.R.S. Mentoring Program is designed to connect students, to encourage students to be invested in each other's success by remaining connected, sharing information and resources. As a community, the OMA family of professional and student staff, student leaders, mentors, and mentees work together to create an environment where each student can successfully reach graduation. Together we are #OMazing.

Among many celebrations and educational moments throughout the year, a highlight for OMA is to celebrate our cultural heritage months. September 15 through October 15, OMA will lead the campus in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Be sure to participate in many of the events that have been structured to recognize and celebrate the rich history, traditions, and vast contributions of the Hispanic and Latin American cultures. See a list of our events on our website at <http://oma.udayton.edu>.

Along with continuing our annual celebrations, students will continue to serve in critical leadership roles as we engage students in opportunities for dialogue that raises critical consciousness about academic success, diversity, inclusion, and social justice. OMA's Academic Success Ambassadors will host a variety of programs that will assist students in addressing issues that impact their ability to be successful in the classroom. Student Engagement Assistants will host opportunities for dialogue across a variety of topics including perspectives informed and shaped by gender in the Brother to Brother and Sister to Sister programs. Our new Visionary Scholars will join the Diverse Peer Educators as OMA will also attempt to provide multicultural education in partnership with faculty through the Partners in the Classroom program. See more information in later in the newsletter.

The name Ohana was intentionally selected for the OMA newsletter to remind each of you that as a family, you each belong. Students should take advantage of every resource, program, and service the University of Dayton provides because it they have been created with YOU in mind.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Daria-Yvonne J. Graham". The signature is written in a cursive style.

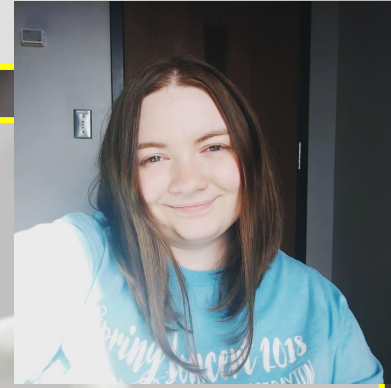
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## Editor's Note

### Heather Ashley and Roberto De La Rosa-Finch



Hey lovely people, welcome back to campus and I hope you are excited as I am about the new beginnings every semester brings. Remember if you run into any trouble this semester, you have so many resources, USE THEM! The LTC is located in the Library to help with any tutoring you may need, as well as study tables at OMA every Wednesday. If you're feeling down and out, make sure to call the Counseling Center. It happens to the best of us after all. Campus resources are here to make you feel welcome. You belong here. While we're on the subject of welcome, we all can't help but notice a beautiful smile missing from OMA as we will all miss Carlos Stewart! We love you Carlos and you deserve an amazing "thank you" for everything you've done for OMA. Until next time, have fun and stay safe lovelies!

Thank you, Heather Ashley



Hello, everyone! Oh my God, it is hot outside! This summer has been sweltering, but I hope you have been enjoying it. I'm glad to see everyone back on campus, ready to get back into the groove of things, and back at OMA. Once again, the coolest place on campus is hosting events and programs. The open house was a success, and the BATU cookout was great; both with great food and laughter. A lot of that laughter came from reminiscing — thank you Carlos for all you've done for OMA! You carry an aura of joy and comfort wherever you go, something that the River Campus will quickly love. Thank you for your impact and leadership. Speaking of leadership, the Program to Engage and Exchange Resources for Students (P.E.E.R.S.) program will have its second meeting on October 12. First-years, check it out for a mentor. Upperclassmen, join and help these rookies out. Until next time, bye! Adios! Sayonara!

Thanks, Roberto De La Rosa-Finch

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## Leading the Way

### Merida Allen

Director for Multicultural Education and Student Leadership



Hola estudiantes!

Fall is my favorite time of year, where everything is so new, fresh and crisp. Students have a new opportunity to create an experience at the start of the new year of college, whether it is the first or final year- make it count!

OMA is a part of planning so many exciting programs, events and opportunities to enhance your educational journey. Stay motivated in the classroom and join us in some of the additional educational experiences coming up!

[Hispanic Heritage Month](#) is kicking off with close to twenty events planned. You can view the full schedule of events on the OMA [website](#).

*Mérida*

### Highlights from the HHM calendar

**Friday, September 14:** OMA Day – Hispanic Heritage Month Lunch: Join OMA as we dine together in the spirit of fellowship in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. A variety of authentic dishes associated with Latin culture will be served. This event is free to all UD students, faculty and staff. **11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.** in **Alumni Hall 101**

**Wednesday, September 19:** Culture Fest: The annual Culture Fest is a time when students, faculty and staff come together to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of the University of Dayton's campus. Culture Fest is a campus-wide collaborative initiative that showcases music, dance, spoken-word and culinary traditions. **4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** in **KU Central Mall**

**Saturday, September 29:** UD Men's Soccer - Hispanic Heritage Night: Join UD Men's Soccer team before their match with St. Louis University for an evening of food, dance, and fun. **5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** at **Collins Gym (Right by Baujan Field)**

**Monday, October 8:** Film & Discussion: Dolores (facilitated by Dr. Neomi DeAnda, Dept. of Religious Studies): Dolores Huerta is among the most important, yet least known, activists in American history. An equal partner in co-founding the first farm workers unions with Cesar Chavez, her enormous contributions have gone largely unrecognized. Dolores tirelessly led the fight for racial and labor justice alongside Chavez, becoming one of the most defiant feminists of the twentieth century—and she continues the fight to this day, at 87. With intimate and unprecedented access to this intensely private mother to eleven, the film reveals the raw, personal stakes involved in committing one's life to social change. Seating for this event is limited. *Refreshments provided* **6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** in **LTC Forum (Roesch Library ground floor)**. Path Eligible Event.

**Monday, October 15:** Latin Flavors Student Potluck: Enjoy a variety of authentic Latin dishes prepared by UD students. Join us as we dine and fellowship together in the true spirit of *la familia*. All are welcome and you do not need to bring a dish to attend. **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** in the **Office of Multicultural Affairs (Alumni 101)**

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## Student Engagement Assistants

### December Lee

I am the newest Student Engagement Assistant. A junior majoring in medicinal pharmaceutical chemistry. This summer, I interned in Washington, DC at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. I got lots of experience in the public health sector and had plenty of fun in the city. I'm excited to work with OMA staff and students this year! My advice to everyone to make this year bigger and better than the last!



### Brandyn Hunter

Hello, OMA community! I am a Senior MIS major from Dayton, OH. I am also a Student Engagement Assistant. I am so happy to see everyone come out and be a part of our events. I hope everyone will have great first semester. This semester we have a lot more in store for you all! The Black male roundtable is planning to have monthly meetings. Also Brother to Brother has a lot more in store for you this year.



### Gabriela de Leon

Hello! I am from San Juan, Puerto Rico, I am a senior majoring in Entrepreneurship. This is my second year as an SEA at OMA. My role as an SEA this year includes helping organize the P.E.E.R.S. mentoring program, where first years get paired with upperclassmen that will guide them throughout the year. I also coordinate OMAzing days, the purpose of these events is to host fun activities that involve real-time issues where we can talk about them in a welcoming environment. The next OMAzing day will be soon, so keep an eye out for it. Lastly, be open to joining organizations that are of interest to you. If it does not exist, create one!



### Jordyn Mitchell

Hey everyone! Love to see everyone's beautiful faces back in the lounge everyday! I am a junior Sport Management major and Business Administration minor from Mason, Ohio. This year I have a lot in store for you all with Sister 2 Sister and other events I plan on promoting throughout the year. Keep a look out on the OMA Instagram and Twitter feeds about new events and information. Stay blessed!



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## Academic Success Corner

**Cynthia Payne**

Assistant Director for Academic Success



For all of our wonderful returning students, **welcome back to UD!!**

We missed you!! For all of the wonderful new students, **welcome home!!** We are excited that you chose UD! We are even more excited that you have connected with us in OMA. I hope you know that **we are here to support all of you**, returning and new, in any way that we can. We only want to see you flourish and succeed!

My role at UD is to provide academic support to any student who connects with our OMA community. I do this in a number of ways! There is a Textbook Loan Library for you to utilize, I help with producing a Student Planner to keep you organized, and I am always happy to meet 1:1 with students. But, I do not do this work alone! I work with a group of students called *Academic Success Ambassadors*. They assist me with providing Study Tables, Study Breaks, Beyond the Classroom Workshops and doing outreach to connect with all of you. They are a FANTASTIC group of students and they are here to help you as well! Learn more about them below, check out their tips for getting off to a great start in a new academic year and PLEASE be in touch if there is any way I can assist you in your journey at UD, academics related or otherwise!

### Meet your Academic Success Ambassadors:

**Sandy Smith****Major:** Marketing**Hometown:** Columbus, OH**Tip for a Great Start:** Don't be afraid try new things.**Niani Brown****Major:** Environmental Biology**Hometown:** Dayton, OH (the best city ever)**Tip for a Great Start:** Manage your time wisely!**Maritza Betancourt****Major:** Sociology**Hometown:** Chicago, IL

**Tips for a Great Start:** Always stay ahead on your school work because last minute things do come up and it is best to always be ahead!!!! Also when you need help from anyone don't be afraid to ask for help!!!! Everyone is here for YOU!!!!



**Back Row:** Diego, Luis, Maya, Joshua  
**Front Row:** Sandy, Niani, Maritza, Han

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## Academic Success Corner continued...

### Han Le

**Major:** International Business Management and Entrepreneurship double major

**Hometown:** Biên Hòa, Vietnam

**Tip for a Great Start:**

Get involved! Don't wait around for opportunities to knock on your door, go out there and create opportunities for yourself!

### Diego Buxeda

**Major:** Pre-Med

**Hometown:** San Juan, Puerto Rico

**Tip for a Great Start:** Don't procrastinate.

### Luis Rogel

**Major:** Civil Engineering

**Hometown:** Chicago

**Tip for A Great Start:**

Keep an academic planner with all due dates so you don't miss any assignments.

### Maya Katundu

**Major:** Biology/ Pre-Med Track

**Hometown:** South Bend, IN

**Tip for a Great Start:**

Go to office hours and ask the professor questions even if you already know the answer to the questions.

### Joshua Biris

**Major:** Mechanical Engineering, M.S. Materials Engineering

**Hometown:** Cleveland, OH

**Tips for a Great Start:**

- Don't be afraid to fail, we all do at some point. Learn from those failures and move on to the next thing.
- Engineering students: fail often and early and don't be afraid to ask for help.
- Don't let your final grade come down to the final. Study hard throughout the semester and get good grades so you don't have to study hard for the final.



**ASAs at PEERS First Friday on Sept. 7th!**  
**Left to Right:** Sandy, Niani, Maritza, Han, Diego, Luis, Maya, Joshua

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## Visionary Leader: Jeremy Hill

What's up guys! I'm thrilled to be on staff in OMA. I am a senior studying Computer Engineering with a minor in Philosophy. I primarily serve as the chairperson for the Creating Inclusive Communities Conference, but my main goal is to interact with you all and assist students in feeling at home in OMA. I am also the President of the Asian American Association (AAA), a student organization started last semester to celebrate Asian American culture and to serve students that identify with cultures spanning across Asia from the Middle East to the Pacific Islands. I, myself, identify as Filipino American. Look out for me in the lounge! I'll probably be on my laptop, but never hesitate to have a conversation!



## The Mona Guerrier Fallen Endowed Scholarship for the Office of Multicultural Affairs

In August 2013, Mr. Destry Fallen ('86) established an endowed scholarship in recognition of his wife, Mona Guerrier Fallen, who passed away in 2013 at the age of 47. The Mona Guerrier Fallen Endowed Scholarship for the Office of Multicultural Affairs at the University of Dayton recognizes a student(s) who demonstrates a similar level of commitment and engagement as Mona Guerrier Fallen to the University of Dayton and our diverse campus community. The undergraduate student recipient/s should demonstrate a commitment to leadership and service to the OMA and UD community as well as academic achievement.



The Office of Multicultural Affairs is proud to announce this year's recipients of the Mona Guerrier Fallen Endowed Scholarship for the Office of Multicultural Affairs.



Paul Kramer,  
Senior Graphic  
Design



Danielle Lewis,  
Marketing and  
Management  
Information  
Systems



Jenea Adams,  
Biology

The scholars will be honored at a reception on October 12. Read more about Mona Guerrier Fallen on the OMA website at <http://oma.udayton.edu>.

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

First Friday of 2018-2019

This year is a record year for the P.E.E.R.S. Mentoring Program! Over 120 pairs of students were connected as mentor/mentees to formalize a student to student support relationship for the academic year. What we know is that these relationships last well past their one year assignment.

Students have been paired based on their major and other factors that a student might have requested consideration being given. Distance from home, academic goals, and personal interests were captured as Student Engagement Assistants (SEAs) and OMA staff met with over 200 students to better understand students hopes for their pairing and specific concerns students may have in participating in the program.

Students have committed to connecting with each other on a regular basis and to attending the P.E.E.R.S. monthly meetings on the first Friday of every month. The First Friday Meetings began on September 7 where mentors and mentees were officially announced. The next meeting is on Friday, October 12 (UD is closed for Fall Break on October 5) 4:30pm.

Thank you to the SEAs for conducting the mentor/mentee meetings and for committing to secure student participation. This year will be a stellar year as students are invested in each other's experiences and committed to exemplifying UD's Marianist charism of community in this real way. Another example of how OMA students are #OMazing!



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## Graduate Assistants Corner

Paola Ortiz and Joia Mitchell-Holman

### Hello there!

Welcome to this academic year and to our office. For those of you who still do not know me, I am Paola Ortiz, the GA for leadership initiatives at OMA. I am in my second year in the College Student Personnel Program.

My hometown is San Juan, Puerto Rico; I went to UD for undergrad which means I kind of know this school like the palm of my hand.

In OMA I work with the Multicultural Leadership Institute, Transitions Pre-Orientation Program, L.E.A.D. Team, the OHANA newsletter, and more. What I enjoy most about the work I do is getting to know and creating relationships with you. I also enjoy being a resource. With that said, I want to make you aware I am available for whatever you need. Feel free to email and/or stop by my desk in Alumni Hall Room 107C. Trust me, if I do not know how to answer your question or help you, I will direct you to the right resource.

I am beyond thrilled for this year, to get to know all of you, welcome you as a new person into our team, and enjoy life.



### Hello everyone!

Welcome to 2018 Fall semester!! To our new students, welcome to UD and to our returning students, welcome back! My name is Joia Mitchell-Holman. I am the GA for Creating Inclusive Community. I am also in my second year of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program here at UD. I am originally from Columbus, OH and I earned my BA from Miami University of

Oxford, OH. As the GA for Creating Inclusive Community, I serve as support for students for the mini-course, assist students and faculty in the planning of a student Fall conference and serve as logistics coordinator for a national conference during Spring semester. As a part of the mini-course, students use knowledge from the course and conference to create a project to bring about awareness and change. It is such a transformative experience! I also assist and support with the Diversity Peer Educators to facilitate student to student dialogue around topics such social justice education and intergroup relations. Please come and talk to me if you are interested in learning more!

I am ecstatic that you are here whether you are a new community member or returning! We have so many great things planned for this upcoming semester and year and I am looking forward to successfully journeying through this semester with you. I would love to see you in our office in Alumni Hall! Please come by the office to say hi and hang out! See you around!

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## Student Organization Spotlight African Student Association



The African Student Association is a new organization that was officially established at the University of Dayton Fall semester of 2017. The purpose of this organization is to provide a group where students of African descent or students interested in African culture can interact and create meaningful relationships and acquaintances with each other, other African students, other African faculty members/professionals. The organization also works to educate others about African culture through dialogue and social engagement sought to inspire and embrace both the culture and the students. Thus, the mission statement of the African Student Association is: **“To Provide a platform that empowers UD students of African descent to build/strengthen community through Afrocentric social events, professional development, civic engagement, academic excellence, education of African History, and celebration of African culture.”**

In 2017, the International UD Blog highlighted the African Student Association as a newly formed organization where ASA founder and former President Regina Baffoe expressed, “We established the African Student Association to create a sense of unity and inclusivity amongst students from all ethnic backgrounds, specifically African students, and to introduce cultural aspects of the different regions in Africa”.

This upcoming school year, the executive board for the African Student Association is tenaciously working to meet the agenda they have set out for the year including the following: Recruiting at least 10 active general member to the organization to help build up the African community within UD campus, and bridging the social gap between African American student and native African students.

*-2018 UD Emerging Organization Award Recipient-*

### **Executive Board**

President- *Gabriel Gaiusbayode*

Vice President- *Nneoma Ezenagu*

Presidential Advisor- *Martha-Marie Bervell*

Presidential Advisor- *Regina Baffoe*

Treasurer- *Suh Ndenge Che*

Secretary- *Thomas Mativo*

Committee Chair- *Emmanuel Agyeman*

Community Service Chair- *Gifty Antwi*

Social Chair- *Davida Okyere-Fosu*





## Student Showcase & Announcement

### Shyanne Smith

#### A Jewel by Shyanne Smith

This place can be warm or cold depending on the day. There are few plants and you can hear water trickling and sometimes voices from the depths below. Surrounded by literature of all sorts and even a puzzle should you so choose. The chairs are plenty and bathed in a soft light, shielded from the elements outside that you can still observe. You are not completely alone as you get greeted, there can be others like you, and others are for you. For some this place is past over pebble but for others it's a hidden jewel but definitely worth finding.



#### About the Author:

Shyanne Smith is a sophomore majoring in Biology. She is a Flyer Promise scholar and leader in the community. She is a Member of BATU and loves OMA as her own home.

#### OMA and Public Safety Partnership

*Dialogue. Engagement. Cultivating Understanding.*

The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) and Public Safety co-sponsor a series of programs and initiatives designed to increase understanding and engagement among students and campus police. Out of a recognition of existing and historical tensions between the Police and Communities of Color, we are offering some new initiatives to increase dialogue and engagement between multicultural students and Public Safety. We hope to see you at our first upcoming event.

**Safety Bowling** - OMA Students and Public Safety - September 18, 2018, 4:30-7 pm in KU Hangar. Refreshments were provided! Students enjoyed the opportunity to meet with Campus Police and to become acquainted.

The **OMA Lounge** (Alumni Hall 101) is a space for students to gather for a variety of purposes, most commonly it is an informal study and engagement with peers. Other uses include OMA, other departments or student orgs. frequently host programs and services for multicultural students. With **After Hours Access**, students are able to access the Lounge, Library and Computer Lab after 5:00 pm weekdays, weekends. [Register Here](#) to request access.

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# OMA STAFF

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Associate Dean of Students and Executive Director

**Mérida Allen**  
Director of Multicultural Education and Student Leadership

**Vacant**  
Associate Director for Campus and Community Engagement

**Cynthia Payne**  
Assistant Director for Academic Success

**Sherry Williams**  
Administrative Assistant

**Graduate Assistants**  
Paola Ortiz  
Joia Mitchell-Holman

**Student Engagement Assistants**  
Gabriela De Leon  
December Lee  
Brandyn Hunter  
Jordyn Mitchell

**Student Office Assistants**  
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