



Office of Multicultural Affairs
A Diverse Community of Scholars Achieving Excellence

September / October 2017
Volume 10, Issue 1

OHANA



Transitions Entering Class of 2017

Transitions Pre-Orientation Program

95 students and over 200 of their family members arrived on UD's campus on Thursday, August 17th. The students were able to check into their residence halls, attend a welcome reception and were given an opportunity to meet returning students, faculty and staff. On Friday, August 18 the group engaged in a full day of workshops designed to give them a glimpse of some of the opportunities awaiting them at UD. Students and parents participated in an academic success workshop where they began setting academic goals for the year. Students learned about the P.E.E.R.S Mentoring Program from a panel of students and engaged in a resource challenge to familiarize them with the campus. Parent sessions focused on assisting students through the transition to college and also provided support to parents. Several other community building experiences were offered in the residence halls, OMA Lounge and Kennedy Union. 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.

Inside the issue:

Letter from the Director.....	2
Editor's Letter.....	3
Upcoming Events....	3
Leading the Way.....	4
Student Engagement Assistants.....	5
Academic Success Corner.....	6
P.E.E.R.S. Mentoring Program.....	7
GA Corner.....	8-9
Student Org. Spotlight.....	10-11



2017 Multicultural Leadership Institute

Follow OMA!

Snapchat - ud_oma | IG - uds_oma | Facebook - Office of Multicultural Affairs



Letter from the Director

Patty Alvarez, Ph.D.

Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Multicultural Affairs

The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) staff members would like to extend a warm welcome to new members of the University of Dayton community - this includes new first-year students, transfer students, and faculty and staff! We look forward to getting to know you, partner with you, and support you! We are also very happy to welcome back all of the returning students, faculty, and staff!

The University of Dayton welcomed one of its most diverse classes, based on race/ethnicity as well as, reflective across all racial/ethnic groups - socioeconomic status and first-generation college student status, in the University's history. Domestic multicultural students accounted for 16.7% of the entering class. Over 300 incoming students and parents/family members participated in the OMA Transitions Pre-Orientation Program in August 2017. Over 50 campus partners and 20 student organizations welcomed the students and their family members. President Spina and Provost Benson also assisted OMA in welcoming 86 students and their family members at the OMA Welcome Reception held prior to the start of classes.

The start of the academic year has already full and challenging, which includes natural disasters that hit the hometowns of many of our students, including, but not limited to Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. We especially remember our Puerto Rican students and their family members in our prayers. UD and Puerto Rico have a longstanding relationship due to the presence of many Catholic Marianist high schools on the island.

It has also been great to see so many students experience and celebrate individual successes, which includes getting an A on an exam, finding a major that they are passionate about, or securing employment opportunities. The vision statement for OMA: **A Diverse Community of Scholars Achieving Excellence**, is representative of every student and individual who is a part of the OMA community as well as the University of Dayton. Excellence looks different for every person, but know that you are excellent and that we are all on a continual path of working to achieve excellence (even if it may not feel this way at times).

Contact an OMA staff member if you need to be reminded of how excellent you are (we all need a reminder at times!) and if we can assist you in achieving your goals.

Sincerely,

Patty

Follow OMA!

Snapchat - ud_oma | IG - uds_oma | Facebook - Office of Multicultural Affairs

Editor's Note

Roberto De La Rosa-Finch

Hello everybody! and hola mi gente!

It's great to be back for another year at UD and OMA. It's my fourth year and our faculty and staff are still as warm and welcoming as they were my freshman year, the events are still knowledgeable and amiable as ever and the free food actually tastes a little better. This semester has not been the best it could be, so far due to things far out of our control. Natural disasters and strangers snapping into random acts of terrorism are near impossible to prevent. Despite that, let's remember to not take a negative and harsh look at the planet.



Yes, there are difficult times and constant news on the negative in this world, but that does not mean we shouldn't be thankful for what we do have and forget to be enthralled in the goodness and strengths that occur daily. Let's all thrive in the blessings we have, cherish the connections we've made here on campus and continue to engage in inclusive and charitable activities.

I hope we continue acknowledging the goodness in our lives and that it gets a little colder (it's October for God's sake, I wanna wear a sweater). Til next time, bye!

Save The Date

- ❖ P.E.E.R.S Mentoring Program First Friday - Oct. 13
- ❖ Hispanic Heritage Month Potluck - Oct. 16
- ❖ Chat with Chief Chatman - Oct. 17
- ❖ Beyond the Classroom Workshop - Oct. 24
- ❖ Sister to Sister: Natural Hair Care Swap - Oct. 25
- ❖ J.A.M. Session - Oct. 26
- ❖ Native Peoples of the Americas Colloquium - Oct. 30-31
- ❖ Native American Heritage Month - November
- ❖ OMA Day: Native American Heritage Month - Nov. 2
- ❖ P.E.E.R.S. Mentoring Program First Friday - Nov. 3
- ❖ OMA Retreat - Nov. 17-18

Check OrgSync for additional events and information.

Follow OMA!

Snapchat - ud_oma | IG - uds_oma | Facebook - Office of Multicultural Affairs

Leading the Way

Merida Allen, Associate Director, Leadership Initiatives



Involvement = Investment

Fall semester is a great time of year to notice all of the changes happening around us. Seasons are changing and each day we have new experiences. Experiences are what influence growth and development. Be intentional about where you invest your time and energy. Make sure to create balance between your academics, social and student activities. Remember that involvement on campus is not just “something to do” but instead valuable opportunities to gain leadership skills, and extend your professional network and increase your readiness for academic success. Check out two ways that OMA offers opportunities for involvement through OMA. Continue to check out OMA’s OrgSync page for upcoming events! Keep us posted on social media when you and your organization are meeting, having events or planning an event. Hashtag #OMazing to keep us in the loop. Contact me at mallen2@udayton.edu to talk through options for mapping your leadership journey.

Multicultural Programming Council

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.

Students, if you are interested in becoming a member or want to know more about their events, check out MPC on OrgSync.

Diversity Peer Educators

The Diversity Peer Educators Program, a new initiative, kicked off this semester! At the initial planning and training meetings, the DPE’s discussed the development of a Halloween campaign that would encourage students to be respectful of the experiences of others when choosing costumes and planning events. The group is hosting a PATH Eligible event, HALLOWEEN COSTUME WORKSHOP on Oct. 20 and Oct. 24, for all students interested in getting clever costume ideas for this year. Check Orgsync to register. A great and committed group of students are involved in DPE. The DPE’s are excited about continuing to make a positive impact on campus. The students will begin Intergroup Dialogue training to further prepare them to facilitate intercultural workshops and intergroup dialogue experiences.

Contact dpe@udayton.edu for information.



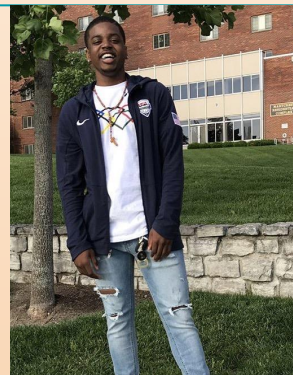
Follow OMA!

Student Engagement Assistants

Brandyn Hunter, Junior, Management Information System

Hello! OMA community!

My name is Brandyn Hunter I am from Dayton, OH. This is also my second year as a student engagement assistant. I am so happy to see everyone come out and be a part of OMA events. I hope everyone is having a wonderful 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. Check us out OrgSync for dates.



Gabriela De Leon, Junior, Entrepreneurship

Hello! I'm Gabriela De Leon and I am from San Juan, Puerto Rico. This is my first year as a Student Engagement Assistant (SEA) at the OMA. My role as an SEA this year includes helping organize the P.E.E.R.S. mentoring program, where first year students get paired with upperclass students who will guide them throughout the year. I also coordinate OMAzing days, the purpose of these events is to host fun activities that focus on real time issues where we can talk about them in a welcoming environment. The next OMAzing day will be coming, so keep an eye out for it. Lastly, thanks to those who will be participating in P.E.E.R.S. this year and for everyone who attended the first OMAzing day, I will be seeing you in the future for these events!



Jordyn Mitchell, Sophomore, Sports Management

Hello there!

My name is Jordyn Mitchell and I am a Student Engagement Assistant in OMA! I am from Cincinnati, Ohio and I am a sophomore Sport Management Major and Business Administration Minor. My roles this year includes planning events for our P.E.E.R.S. Mentoring Program and working with the Diversity Peer Educators. This year myself and the other SEAs are working on planning more events for the multicultural community to get involved on campus. I hope you all are having a beautiful semester and hope to see you stop by the office!



Veronica Halfacre, Senior, Visual Arts

Hello everyone!

My name is Veronica Halfacre and I am a senior visual arts major. This is my second year as a Student Engagement Assistant and I am so excited for this year! Each month I lead Real Topics which is a time for us to have critical conversations about important issues, as well as Sister to Sister when I bring all women together for different activities. Be on the lookout for Real Topics this month, and I will be hosting a self defense workshop and a natural hair care swap. It's gonna be a great time! I hope to see you there!



Follow OMA!

Snapchat - ud_oma | IG - uds_oma | Facebook - Office of Multicultural Affairs

Academic Success Corner

Cynthia Payne, Assistant Director for Academic Success



Are you asking yourself, how is it possibly October?! Me too. Time goes by quickly! If I haven't met you yet, I am Cynthia Payne, Assistant Director for Academic Success in the Office of Multicultural Affairs. It has been such a pleasure to get to know so many new students and it has been wonderful to re-connect with all of the returning students. I hope this semester is starting off well for you all! Did you set **goals** for yourself at the start of the semester? If so, now is a great time to pull those goals out again and see how you are progressing toward meeting them. If you didn't set any goals, why not set just one to meet by the end of the semester?! Make sure it's something realistic and attainable. Make sure it's something you will be motivated to work toward!

In fact, allow me to give you some tips and a reminder as you are thinking about GOALS and are near the mid-point of the semester...

G GO to class!!! If you find that you are skipping classes, missing classes because you need to get something else done, or sleeping through classes, that's not a good move! When you aren't in class, you are missing out on critical information. Going to your classes AND engaging in them counts toward studying! If you are missing classes and struggling in the class – that is the first problem. Make sure you go to class!

O OMA is here to support you!!! If you didn't already know, you are #OMAZing. Everyone in OMA wants to see you succeed! We are all here to help however you need it. If you just need a place to come and hang out or if you aren't sure what is the best thing to do in a particular situation you are encountering come and talk to an OMA Staff member! Come and talk to our wonderful Student Engagement Assistants! We are here for you.

A ASK questions!!! If you find that you are confused about the material in your class, go to your professor's office hours and ask questions! Find someone in your class who you can study with, and ask them questions! If you have encountered a challenging situation or problem outside of the classroom, ask a staff or faculty member questions! Questions are how you learn and they are always welcomed.

L LOVE yourself!!! And by that I mean, take care of yourself. Your well-being is important! If you aren't taking care of yourself physically, spiritually, emotionally and mentally you probably won't be able to perform at your best. If you are having a hard time figuring out the best way to take care of yourself, come and talk to us! We can help you with that too.

Your success is important. Your well-being is important! Set a goal or two that will help you to be successful and/or take care of yourself. Please know, I am happy to meet with you at any time. Email me (cpayne2@udayton.edu), call 937-229-3686, or stop by Room 106 in Alumni Hall and we will schedule something! I wish you all nothing but the best.

Academic Success Resources

Study Tables – Wednesdays – 6-10pm – OMA Lounge – Faculty from Math, Physics and Chemistry are regularly there to help students!

OMA Navigation Program – It can be helpful to have a faculty or staff member to help you navigate through your UD journey. Learn more and sign up for the program on [the OMA website](#).

Beyond the Classroom Workshops – Oct. 24th and Nov. 29th - Learn about important topics that impact your experience on campus! Check the OrgSync Listserv for up to date information.

Follow OMA!

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

Carlos Stewart, Assistant Director of Student Services



The P.E.E.R.S. (*Program to Engage and Exchange Resources for Students*) mentor program is dedicated to engaging and empowering first-year students to successfully navigate the college experience. The program is designed to give multicultural students a way to create and maintain meaningful relationships with peers and build a connection to the greater UD community. This program helps foster an inclusive environment that is rewarding for mentors and mentees. While students learn and grow together, they become active partners in shared learning experiences through programs, services, and relationships. Mentors and mentees will receive personal, social, cultural and academic support that will aid in their retention and persistence towards graduation from UD. **There is still time to sign up to be either a mentor or mentee!**

MENTORS...

A mentor is a trusted student who helps facilitate a student's transition into college and the UD community. The mentor supports the mentee by providing advice, resources, care, and sharing of their personal experience. A positive mentor is one who challenges, is objective, follows through, celebrates mentee successes, inspires a dedicated work ethic, an institutional connection, is optimistic, courageous, supportive, perceptive and empowers the mentee.

Benefits of becoming a mentor include:

- Increased self-esteem and confidence when expressing self
- An opportunity to serve in a leadership role
- Satisfaction of helping a student reach their academic and professional goals
- Recognition from OMA for participation in a leadership-related activity and service to the community
- An expanded network of colleagues within the mentor cohort
- Opportunity to learn new methods for effective communication
- Specialized training

MENTEES...

OMA is seeking first-year students and transfer students who are enthusiastic and are dedicated to ensuring they are successful as they navigate the college experience. We are asking that students take the first step in investing in their college career by joining PEERS.

Benefits of becoming a mentee include:

- A broader view of the UD experience
- Increased opportunity to feel a sense of belonging
- Access to a support system during critical stages of your academic and leadership development
- Clearer understanding and growth of academic and co-curricular plans
- Exposure to diverse perspectives and experiences
- Direct access to remarkable resources within your major and areas of interest
- Increased self-esteem and confidence when engaging with new people and situations as a college student, including experiences that may be encountered by multicultural students



If you are interested in becoming either a Mentor or Mentee (First Year undergraduate students or Transfer Students only) please visit go.udayton.edu/omapeers

Questions? **Please contact Carlos Stewart at cstewart1@udayton.edu**

Follow OMA!

Graduate Assistant's Corner

Paola Ortiz '17, '19, OMA Graduate Assistant for Leadership Initiatives

Hello friends!

Welcome back to this wonderful academic year and for new students, welcome to UD. My name is Paola Ortiz and I am the new Graduate Assistant for Leadership Initiatives at THE Office of Multicultural Affairs. I graduated in May 2017, from the University of Dayton with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. This is now my first year as a graduate student pursuing a Master's in Business Administration. While I thought my time at UD would expire after graduation, God (with the help of Student Development) gave me the opportunity of being able to call this place home for 2 more years.

My time at this institution has been incredible and I am still so grateful for my parents and the people who helped me get here. I am from San Juan, Puerto Rico and just having the opportunity to find a place this far from my hometown that I can still call home is just wonderful. I owe a lot of my success to my OMA family, if it weren't for their support and advice I would not be where I am right now. Thanks fam!

During my junior and senior year I worked as one of the front office student assistants and it's super exciting to be a part of this wonderful office again, this time as a GA. Some of my duties include working with the Multicultural Leadership Institute, which is a full day leadership intensive retreat that focuses on the further formation of leadership skills, creates a planning foundation for the academic year, and connects students with community leaders.



Another one of my responsibilities is Kindred Presidents L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Engagement and Development) Team, this is a council of the student organization leaders supported by OMA. Registered student organization executive board members become automatically part of the KP L.E.A.D Team. We meet monthly to discuss leadership initiatives, current issues within student organizations, and to plan collaborative events. A few of my other fun duties include helping with the Transitions Program, Diversity Peer Educators, Partners in the Classroom and many more.

Again, welcome to the family and please feel free to stop by my office (107C) to chat, ask for advice or Puerto Rican cuisine recipes or even learn Spanish.



Follow OMA!

Graduate Assistants Corner

Joia Mitchell-Holman '15, '20

OMA Graduate Assistant for Creating Inclusive Communities

Hello everyone!

To our new students, welcome to the community! To our returning students, welcome back! My name is Joia Mitchell-Holman and I am the Graduate Assistant for Creating Inclusive Communities (CIC) in The Office of Multicultural Affairs. While Columbus, OH is home, I have spent the last five years in Oxford, OH attending Miami University. I am a proud member of the RedHawk graduating class of 2015, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. During the end of my undergraduate career, I knew I wanted to continue with my education but I was unsure of where I would call my second home. After thorough research, applying, and interviewing with Dr. Hall and Dr. Polanski from the Counseling Department, I knew UD would be my new home!

My time thus far as a graduate student and graduate assistant has been nothing short of amazing and I am so grateful. As a first year graduate student at The University of Dayton in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program, so many opportunities and growth has happened, both professionally and personally. I could not have chosen a better community to be a part of.

As an undergraduate student at Miami University, I had so many incredible learning opportunities! I have had the opportunity to study aboard to Managua, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic to study Spanish and learn about how the current cultures of the countries are rooted in African culture.



I also served as a mentor and tutor for inner city youth within Cincinnati Public Schools. Aside from traveling abroad, working as a research assistant was my most memorable moment. As an R.A. I was able to work with doctoral students with recruitment and surveying for their research which was really awesome. My years as a RedHawk were some of the best!

As the graduate Assistant for CIC, I serve as support for students for the mini-course and to assist students and faculty in the planning of a Fall conference and attending a conference in the Spring. As a part of the mini-course, students use knowledge from the course to create change. How awesome is that! I also assist with the Diversity Peer Educators to facilitate student to student dialogue around topics such as race and oppression.

I am so glad you are here and please come by OMA to say hi!



Follow OMA!

Student Organization Spotlight

Black Action Through Unity (BATU)

The University of Dayton, is a medium-sized campus of roughly 9,000 undergraduates, less than 300 of those students are Black students. In the year 1960, BATU was founded by a group of students who wanted to give Black students a voice on the university of Dayton campus during times in which they felt they had none. BATU was the glue that held all the Black students together, no matter their Greek organization or extracurricular activity, major, place of residence, etc. It was the foundation upon which underrepresented students could stand together against racially charged incidents, be there for one another in times of need, and provide a tangible family of multiculturalism at a University where it is easy to get lost in a sea of people who don't look like you. BATU often serves as a life line for Black students at predominantly White campuses, but has also stood up for *all* students of color and other discriminated classes that may need the aid of BATU. For years we have been acting through events, protests, and trips that strengthen the Black community, fortify the voice of students of color, and show that BATU is a student-run organization that thrives on tangible change, passion, and courage to stand up for what is right. The action of BATU has taken the form of panels and dialogues centered on about student and faculty development around the effort for increasing diversity on campus.

Day in Dayton gives BATU members the opportunity to reach outside of the UD bubble, engage in service within the Dayton community, learn something about it through an educational lens outside of the classroom, and come together in a fun event that we all can plan to reflect on the day that we had spent with one another. BATU week is going to be during Black History Month this year, and the idea is to have more of a collaboration with the local Paul Lawrence Dunbar branch of the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History—a foundation founded by the Father of Black History Month, Dr. Carter G. Woodson. This Fall, two executive board members Darius Beckham (President) and Jenea Adams (Secretary), went to the ASALH conference to professionally develop ways in which they could serve the Black community, and educate themselves as leaders on the history of the advancement of Black students on predominantly White campuses. Through this knowledge, they hope to take BATUs events to the next level with more Black arts showcases, educational experiences and dialogues, and professional engagement opportunities for students of color on the University of Dayton—because BATU believes that *nity* is the key aspect to creating a better college experience for everyone.

-Jenea Adams '19



Follow OMA!

Snapchat - ud_oma | IG - uds_oma | Facebook - Office of Multicultural Affairs

Student Organization Spotlight

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)

The University of Dayton Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Student Chapter is one of many SHPE chapters within Region 6. A national organization whose mission and vision is as stated, **Mission:** SHPE changes lives by empowering the Hispanic community to realize its fullest potential and to impact the world through STEM awareness, access, support and development. **Vision:** SHPE's vision is a world where Hispanics are highly valued and influential as the leading innovators, scientists, mathematicians and engineers.

As a student-run professional chapter on UD's campus, we work in effort to empower the Latino and Minority community to reach its fullest potential. SHPE aims to provide its members with the skills and knowledge to improve their professional and academic knowledge, through events like resume-building workshops in which upperclass members volunteer their time to positively critique resumes of other students who seek improvement in these areas. By adding to our members professional development, we are ultimately preparing students to face the real-world challenges in these STEM-related fields. This emphasis we place on professional development sets us apart from other student-run organizations at UD. We aim to create a community of well-rounded individuals capable of tackling academic challenges in the classroom, as well being able to utilize networking abilities to further their co-op or internship experiences in the work force.

Often we work in collaboration with other multicultural and STEM-related chapters on campus including the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and El Orgullo Latino (EOL), to host events on campus that raise awareness of each organization and its values as well as influence on UD's campus and in the OMA community.

Upcoming Events:

- Latin Flavors Student Potluck Monday, October 16th from 6:00pm - 7:30pm in Alumni Hall RM 101.
- Gyro Room Takeover, Tuesday, October 17th from 4:00pm - 8:00pm in Brown Street.
- National Conference, November 1-5. (All national SHPE chapters attend a leadership conference/career fair in which we build networking experiences and gather with hundreds of employers throughout the country. This year's SHPE Nationals is hosted in Kansas City, Missouri.)



Follow OMA!

Snapchat - ud_oma | IG - uds_oma | Facebook - Office of Multicultural Affairs

OMA STAFF

Patty Alvarez, Ph.D.

Assistant Dean of Students and Director

Mérida Allen

Associate Director

Carlos Stewart

Assistant Director for Student Services

Cynthia Payne

Assistant Director for Academic Success

Sherry Williams

Administrative Assistant

Graduate Assistants

Paola Ortiz

Joia Mitchell-Holman

Student Engagement Assistants

Veronica Halfacre

Brandyn Hunter

Jordyn Mitchell

Gabriela De Leon

Student Office Assistants

Yasmeen Issa

Royal Smith

Office of Multicultural Affairs • University of Dayton • Alumni Hall First Floor South 937-229-3634 • <http://oma.udayton.edu> • oma@udayton.edu

Follow OMA!

Snapchat - ud_oma | IG - uds_oma | Facebook - Office of Multicultural Affairs