Transitions Pre-Orientation Program

Onboarding the incoming class of scholars

Fifty-seven students and over 100 of their family members arrived on UD’s campus on Thursday, August 21st. 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 22 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 activities were offered in the residence halls, OMA Lounge and Kennedy Union. Many thanks to 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 here at UD for all incoming students and families.

University of Dayton’s 19th president visits OMA

Dr. Erica Spina meets with OMA students and staff

On Thursday, September 15th, UD’s Board of Trustees announced and introduced the new UD president, Dr. Eric Spina. During the presidential announcement, Dr. Spina mentioned his commitment to a thriving diverse campus. During his campus visit, Dr. Spina requested a visit with students who are a part of the Office of Multicultural Affairs community. Approximately 40 students greeted Dr. Spina in the OMA Lounge, shared their experiences at UD and hopes for the university’s advancement under his leadership. The president also shared his philosophy for diversity and student success with the group. He encouraged students to continue to work hard, and he committed to working hard for them and to promote inclusivity as their new president. Welcome Dr. Spina!
On behalf of the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), I would like to extend a very special welcome to new students, faculty, and staff! Welcome back to returning students, faculty, and staff! I hope that your semester is off to a great start!

I have enjoyed meeting many new students and their family members, and it has been great to welcome back continuing students, faculty, and staff. It has also been nice meeting a few new faculty and staff members. I like to share with students that they will have the opportunity to become a part of many communities at UD. We hope that you choose to become a part of the OMA community and family! We look forward to connecting you with a variety of resources and opportunities, and look forward to accompanying you on your journey towards graduation.

Please put the following on your to-do list:

**If you have not stopped by OMA yet, please do!**

You can schedule a time to meet with me or another staff member or just stop by the first floor of Alumni Hall (South Wing)! OMA is also a great place to study or socialize. We look forward to welcoming you and getting you connected with a lot of great opportunities.

**Join the OMA OrgSync group!** To receive weekly email messages from OMA every Monday, please sign-up via OrgSync. You will receive information about OMA events as well as opportunities on and off campus. You can “join” the OMA listserv by visiting [www.orgsync.com](http://www.orgsync.com) and select the University of Dayton.

Attend an upcoming event! Visit the events calendar on the OMA website ([http://oma.udayton.edu](http://oma.udayton.edu)) or via the OMA OrgSync ([www.orgsync.com](http://www.orgsync.com)) group to learn about upcoming events. First-year students should consider joining the PEERS mentoring program. All students should check out the faculty/staff and student mentoring program. Make sure you take advantage of the following programming opportunities, which are often offered in partnership with other departments and student organizations: Hispanic Heritage Month, OMA Retreat, Brother to Brother, Sister to Sister, Real Topics, Native American Heritage Month, Native Peoples of the Americas Colloquium, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Programming, Black History Month, Colors of Leadership Conference, Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and many others!

Here is additional information and resources for students, faculty, and staff:

**All Students** - Pick up an **OMA student planner** from Alumni Hall 112 to help you stay organized. Also, attend weekly **study tables** on Wednesday evenings in Alumni Hall 101 – **math tutoring** is usually available from 6-7pm due to the generosity of math professors! A **chemistry study group** meets in the OMA Lounge from 6-8pm.

**Faculty & Staff** – **facilitate** an upcoming event, **become a faculty or staff mentor**, **collaborate** on a co-curricular program idea, **conduct office hours** in OMA, **request** a Partners in the Classroom workshop, or **contact** an OMA staff member if we can be of assistance in supporting you or one of your students.

The OMA staff members look forward to serving as a resource for students and being a valuable campus partner. Please stop by OMA or contact us if we can be of assistance:

- Patty Alvarez, Ph.D., Assistant Dean of Students/ Director
- Mérida Allen, Associate Director
- Carlos Stewart, Assistant Director
- Ieesha Ramsey, Academic Success Specialist – OMA & School of Business Administration
- Sherry Williams, Administrative Assistant
- Victoria Bordfeld, Graduate Assistant
- Adrian Diaz-Munio, Student Engagement Assistant
- Alison Gaines, Student Engagement Assistant
- Tiara Jackson, Student Engagement Assistant
- Katerina Cayere Diaz, Front Office Student Employee
- Yolanda Gavilan, Front Office Student Employee

We hope to see you in OMA or at an upcoming event!

Patty Alvarez, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Multicultural Affairs
palvarez1@udayton.edu
Jada Woods is a 2nd year student from Stone Mountain, Georgia and has a double major in Political Science and Communication as well as a minor in Pre-Law.

In August 2013, Mr. Destry Fallen ’86 established an endowed scholarship in recognition of his wife, Mona Guerrier Fallen ’91, who passed away in March 2013 at the age of 47. Mrs. Guerrier Fallen made many contributions to the campus as an undergraduate student and had a distinguished professional career as an Assistant United States Attorney for over 13 years. She was a role model for many, including her daughter, Sydney.

The generosity of Mr. Destry Fallen and all of the individuals who have contributed to the Mona Guerrier Fallen Endowed Scholarship for the Office of Multicultural Affairs is appreciated. Words may never truly express the difference that you are making in the lives of students. Thank you for helping students to achieve their goal of graduating from UD!

We are pleased to share that Jada Woods is the 2015-2016 recipient. Mr. Fallen is committed to building the scholarship fund so that students can receive the funds on an annual basis for as long as they are enrolled at UD. Due to Mr. Fallen’s generosity, Taylor Ruffin (2014-2015 recipient) is the first student to receive the scholarship for an additional year.

Congratulations to the students, and THANK YOU to all of the donors for supporting students!

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

Alison Gaines, Junior, Civil Engineering
Hi Everyone,
My name is Alison Gaines. I am a junior, Civil Engineering Major hailing from Cincinnati, Ohio. I am excited to see what my first year as an SEA holds. Part of my role as an SEA is to plan REAL Topics, a forum based program where members of the UD community can discuss current topics and issues of interest. On September 29th, I held the first REAL Topics: “OMA: Who belongs?” to discuss strategies to foster a welcoming environment for all. I will be hosting my second REAL Topic on October 13th in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Thanks for all of your support and I will see you over the school year at our future REAL Topics events!

Adrian Diaz-Munio, Senior, Marketing and Communication
Hey! My name is Adrian Diaz-Munio and I am one of the Student Engagement Assistants for the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Enrollment Management. Born and raised in San Juan, PR, I moved to the city of Columbus (OH) during the summer of 2013. I am pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, majoring in Marketing with a minor in Communication. This year I will be in charge of the Student Recognition events. Which means that in the OMA Lounge we have a dry erase board where students can thank anyone on campus who has been kind or has impacted them in any way. This initiative has been a great success! We also started a Student Spotlight board in the office, a biweekly recognition. If you want to nominate a student to be featured in this bi-weekly event, please send me an email at diazmunioa1@udayton.edu or write their name on the sign-up sheet posted on the Student Spotlight Board. Also, thanks to those who participated in the Hispanic Heritage Month events September 15 through October 15!

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 week STS had their first event titled Girl Code. At this event we discussed what separates women and what brings women together. At the end of the program we created our own Girl Code which will stand as the way we treat each other throughout the program. The purpose of the event was to make female students aware of different issues that we face because of each other and how we can get rid of those issues on UD’s campus. I encourage all female students to come to the next STS event, Save The Breast, which will be on October 16th from 4:00-5:30pm in the OMA Lounge. This event will be a breast cancer informational with activities and opportunities to win prizes. Lastly as an SEA, I’m also over 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!
My name is Devin Mallett and I am a 3rd year Mechanical Engineering major at the University of Dayton. This is my second year as a Student Engagement Assistant (SEA). One of my roles as an SEA is being the co-chair of the Colors of Leadership Conference. The purpose of the conference is to motivate college students to achieve their leadership potential. The conference will occur in the spring semester, so keep an eye out for it! Another one of my responsibilities as an SEA is Brother 2 Brother (B2B). B2B is a session where men on campus come together to talk about different topics happening in the world. The next one will be October 26, so be for good discussion.
OHANA means family; family means no one gets left behind. Welcome to this OHANA, this family! Welcome all students at the University of Dayton. Welcome OMA family! I hope you are just as excited as I am for all that OMA has in store for you. Hispanic Heritage Month is filled with many events, PEERS is always exciting with new speakers, CULTURE Fest, UKURI Open Mic, NPHC Yard Show, Sister to Sister, and so many study tables! I encourage you to talk to upperclassmen (not just so we can use some swipes the struggle is REAL) because we are stronger together. As a Senior I have been where you have been before, so feel free to ask for any advice!! I look forward to meeting all of you and building our community together. The great Maya Angelou once said “I believe the most important single thing, beyond discipline and creativity, is daring to dare”. So here is your chance. As a first year, or as a returning student, dare yourself to be daring. College is the chance you have been waiting for! You can become a member of new organizations, try new foods and even get to know new friends. The majority of these opportunities you can find on our campus as well as within the Office of Multicultural Affairs. OMA has plenty to offer for friends with PEERS First Fridays, REAL Topics, Sister to Sister and Brother to Brother. OMA hosts many student organizations such as SHPE, NSBE, W.O.R.D, BATU and a poetry organization called UKURI. With Culture Fest, and Hispanic Heritage Month, you can always expect for some sort of food waiting for you in the first floor of Alumni Hall. There is always something new and exciting for you to be apart of at the University of Dayton. All that is required of you is to do it. In this issue, we will highlight some past successful events as well as spotlight upcoming events for you to be apart of. I encourage you to try! There is a time and place for everything....it is called college.
I would first like to give a warm welcome to our first-year students—welcome to the UD family! To our returning, students—Welcome Back! I hope you all had an exciting summer and are energized about the start of a new academic year.

If I told you I was having a barbeque at my house and gave you my address, you may need to ask for directions on how to get there. You might either ask me for the directions, look them up online, or gps them. Those directions would provide a map for reaching your destination, or your goal—eating barbeque at my house.

Your college career is kind of the same way. You have already set long-term goals for yourself, such as graduating and getting a good job after college. To reach those goals, you will need to create a map for yourself to keep you on track toward reaching those long-term goals. Part of that map should include semester, weekly, or even daily goals.

I urge you to set semester goals for yourself. The goals that you set should be specific and realistic. You want to set goals that are attainable. If they are not attainable, you will become frustrated by the fact that you have put in a large amount of effort, with no possibility of success. "I want to do well in school" is not a specific goal. What does ‘doing well’ entail? “I want to run 3 miles every morning before class this semester” is not a realistic goal if you have never run before. “I want to get an A in Biology” is not an attainable goal if you are not attending class and turning in homework assignments on time.

I challenge you to set three semester goals for yourself. For each of your goals, set mini-goals or actions that you will take to achieve the goals you have set. For example, if you set a semester goal of earning at least an A- in your math class, mini-goals you could set to achieve that goal might be attending every class and being on time, keeping up with the readings in that class, taking good notes in class, and seeing your professor every other week to get assistance. The semester goal of earning a A- or better in your math class helps to support the long-term goal of graduation and getting a good job.

As always, if you need any help setting your semester goals, I’m here to help. My office is in 211 Miriam Hall, and I have office hours in OMA on Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 2:00-4:30. You can reach me via email at iramsey1@udayton.edu.

I wish you a safe and productive Fall Semester.
Human Rights Studies

Do you want a major that will make a difference in the world?

The Human Rights Studies (HRS) program gives you the opportunity to obtain a cutting-edge interdisciplinary degree that you can shape to fit your passion for social justice.

What do students do with an HRS Degree?

• Local, national, and international advocacy work for...
  - Nonprofits/NGOs
  - State and Federal Govt. Careers in international, labor, immigration, or family law
• Volunteer opportunities, like the Peace Corps or Teach for America
• U.S. State and Federal Legislative Offices

Issues that HRS majors are most passionate about...

• Human Trafficking
• Gender & Racial Discrimination
• Immigration and Refugees
• Labor and Health
• Peace & Conflict Resolution
• Sustainability and Development

Opportunities within your 4 years as an HRS major:

• Malawi Practicum on Rights and Development
• Dayton 2 DC
• Statehouse Internships
• Local, national & International internships
• Can easily pursue double major

To learn more: go.udayton.edu/humanrights
Or email: Dr. Natalie Hudson, Director of the Human Rights Studies Program- nhudson1@udayton.edu

Student Organization Spotlight

El Orgullo Latino (EOL) is an organization that represents the Hispanic/Latino community on campus by promoting fellowship through their diverse and culturally rich activities. We share the values of the University of Dayton as a Marianist institution and believe in learning, leading, and serving.

How to join?

• Come to our meetings (1st Thursday of each month)
• Search for us on OrgSync and request to join
• You DO NOT have to speak Spanish or be Hispanic/Latino

Upcoming Events

• King’s Island in October
• Thanksgiving Dinner away from home in November
• Christmas celebration during the month of December
• Welcome back Cookout in January
• Ski trip in February
• Easter Dinner and Themed Formal in March and April
• End of Year celebration in May

Come join us and be a part of our EOL family!
For more information, send us an email at elorgullolatinoud@gmail.com
Graduate Assistant Corner

Victoria Bordfeld’15, ’17, OMA Graduate Assistant

Hi Everyone!

My name is Victoria Bordfeld and I am the new Graduate Assistant for the Office of Multicultural Affairs. I am a first year Masters student pursuing a degree in Human Services, but this is my fifth year at the University of Dayton. I am a proud member of the Class of 2015, having graduated with a degree in Dietetics! I am beyond blessed to be able to call UD my second home for all these years and to be provided the opportunities that I have been able to take advantage of while I have been here. I am originally from Jackson, New Jersey and for anyone who knows me, my friends and family are the most important people in my life, so it only makes sense I would be writing in the OHANA newsletter.

I am so excited to be working in this capacity as a GA this year! Since accepting this position in late July and moving back to UD, I have hit the ground running! From AYIL to Transitions to the start of the 2015-2016 academic year there is already so much to report on. AYIL, a leadership academy designed to strengthen multicultural student leaders through a series of activities that help them define and develop their leadership skills. I have been able to meet hard working and motivated students who want to make a difference in their organizations and impact their communities. From AYIL, Kindred Presidents meet monthly to continue the discussion about leadership initiatives and current issues in their organizations.

And they are off! Transitions 2015 was a great experience for our first-year multicultural students. These first-year students were able to move in early and were taken through various workshops to help prepare them for the academic year and life at UD! I cannot wait to hear about all of their experiences and successes here!

Now on deck, MLK Celebration 2016! I am so ready to jump in with the planning committee to start organizing events for UD’s MLK Celebration. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King has had such an unexpected impact on my life that I hope I can honor him the way he deserves.

Well, let’s get to it! Come visit me in Alumni Hall Room 105!
Graduate Student Spotlight
Shanon Davis’16, Housing and Residence Life Graduate Assistant, OMA Intern

“No one is born fully formed: It is through self-experience in the world that we become what we are” (Paulo Freire).
UD graduate student Shanon Davis considers this quote to be one of her favorites as it grounds her thought process surrounding student development and how success takes place overtime. Shanon is a native of Columbus, Ohio. She received her Bachelors of Science in Organizational Leadership from Wright State University in 2009. Following five years of working in Ohio and Georgia within corporate and nonprofit arenas, Shanon discovered her passion working in student development and is currently pursuing her Master of Science in Higher Education Administration at the University of Dayton. Shanon is a second year Residence Coordinator with Housing and Residence Life, member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, and served as The Placement Exchange (TPE) Ambassador to support her peers during their national job search last year. When free time appears she enjoys painting, traveling, and is an aspiring yoga guru, although admitting that her current skill sets are rusty in that department. Shanon brings several experiences, honed transferable skills and is very excited to support students through student success initiatives, programming, and research.

UD Alumni Spotlight
Matthew Cotton’13, B.A. in International Studies

“For all of my college career, I have been volunteering outside of classes by focusing time and energy on learning how to work in a community in a process of education that seeks to raise capacity within its inhabitants to render meaningful service to society, through a program organized by the local members of the Baha’i community. The work basically entails getting to know the inhabitants of a community, likely the one you live in, through conversations around how to contribute to the betterment of the world. After acquiring a shared understanding with an initial group of friends wanting to commit to aiding the material and spiritual development of their surroundings, we then, as a group advancing on equal footing, explore the application of spiritual teachings to our individual and collective lives, through engaging in acts of service that assist us develop the qualities in ourselves that we are laboring to help society and its structures manifest. Progressively over time, more and more members of the community find their way to walk a path of service with others together, creating a vibrant and flourishing community that reflects that which we all hold dear to our hearts in hopes that it becomes more and more the reality, principles of oneness, justice, and equity.

This work is happening in communities in virtually every corner of the globe enabling people and communities of varied backgrounds to take charge of their own spiritual, social and intellectual development. Since graduating from the University of Dayton in December 2013, I have committed to offering a period of full-time service to help accompany groups of individuals engaged in local efforts such as described above in communities across Indiana and Ohio, after which I plan to continue my graduate studies.”
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. The PEERS program helps to 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.

Participants of the PEERS mentoring program will:

- Have access to a community of support and resources during key stages of their academic career.
- Receive support that aids in their personal and leadership development.
- Develop a greater sense of belonging to UD by engaging in the PEERS community.
- Be exposed to diverse perspectives and experiences that affirm their cultural identity.

"Mentoring relationships are mutual ones in which both partners in the relationship have a commitment to shared learning through the relationship" (Liddell, Cooper, Healy, & Lazarus Stewart, 2010).

The mentor/mentee relationship is a valuable and reciprocal relationship which both parties gain skills and grow.

Benefits of becoming a mentor include:

- Increased self-esteem and confidence when expressing self and providing leadership
- Satisfaction of helping a student reach their academic and professional goals
- Recognition OMA for participation in a leadership-related activity
- An expanded network of colleagues within the mentor cohort
- Recognition for service to the community
- Increased self-esteem, self-confidence and affirmation of leadership competence
- Learning new methods for effective communication
- Specialized training

Benefits of becoming a mentee include:

- A broader view of their UD experience
- Camaraderie and better opportunity to feel a sense of belonging
- Access to a support system during critical stages of their academic and leadership development
- Clearer understanding and enhancement of academic and co-curricular plans
- Exposure to diverse perspectives and experiences
- Direct access to powerful resources within their major and areas of interest
- Increased self-esteem and confidence when engaging with new people and situations that come with the college experience, especially those that tend to accompany multicultural students

Get Involved:

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 through providing advice, resources, caring, and sharing of their own personal experience. A positive mentor is one who challenges, is objective, follows through, celebrates mentee successes, inspires loyalty, and institutional attachment, reassures, is optimistic, courageous, supportive, perceptive and empowers.

Mentees...

OMA is seeking first-year students who are enthusiastic and 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.

If you are interested in being either a mentee or a mentor, please contact Carlos Stewart at cstewart1@udayton.edu.
More Opportunities to Connect with OMA

Hispanic Heritage Month 2015

The Office Multicultural Affairs is committed to recognizing the histories, cultures, experiences, and contributions of diverse populations. Through cultural heritage month programming, OMA supports the University of Dayton’s academic mission by providing educational opportunities that assist students in exploring new experiences while also enhancing their understanding of their cultural identity. In collaboration with faculty, staff, students, and the Dayton community, OMA seeks to provide thought-provoking co-curricular programming that supports the personal development of all students, while also influencing the campus climate.

Please Join the University of Dayton and the Office of Multicultural Affairs as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month 2015.

Visit oma@udayton.edu to see the list of events.

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 the OMA and campus partners to strengthen and sustain an inclusive campus.

Available positions include:
Program Director
Marketing and Communications Director
Finance Director
Education Director

Students, if you are interested in becoming a member, please email Carlos Stewart at cstewart1@udayton.edu.

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. 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 dialogue experiences. Contact Merida Allen, OMA Associate Director, at mallen2@udayton.edu for information.
Office of Multicultural Affairs
The family spirit is a hallmark of the University of Dayton. Here, 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, facilities, services and programs to support the experience of students. The staff works 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.

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