



OHANA

Spring 2016



MLK Social Justice Plunge: Service and Dialogue

2016 MLK Celebration

What affects one...affects all.

Merida Allen, Associate Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs

UD students participated in service on Saturday, January 23 at various locations on the Salem Ave. Peace Corridor in Dayton. Over 30 students gathered at Holy Angels Gym where they engaged in meaningful dialogue and student led-experiences that highlighted the importance and continuous need for social justice in every community. The students committed to being a part of social change by participating in community service. Transportation provided by RTA buses, as seen above, took students to their service sites including the United Theological Seminary Church where students assisted community leaders in painting, moving items and transferring furniture to dumpster bins. The debris was removed in preparation of renovations to the seminary that will host visiting clergy and their congregations, community classes, and community groups. Sponsored by UD's Center for Social Concern and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the all-day Plunge gave students an opportunity to explore their own experiences with social justice, learn from one another and collectively serve the greater Dayton community.

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Special points of interest

- 2016 MLK Celebration
- Race Symposium
- OMA Calendar of Events
- Updates on new OMA Student Orgs.
- 2016 MLK Events
- Heritage Month Recap



Letter from the Director

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

February 2016

In this first edition of the OHANA newsletter for 2016, I want to wish all of the students the very best as they work towards their goals during the new year. Each new semester brings opportunities to reflect on the past and future! Think about what you want to continue or change. Here are my resolutions or wishes for you:

Contact an OMA staff member or someone else at UD if you have a question, are facing challenges, or want to become better connected on campus.

Assess your study plan. If what you are doing is working for you, then continue many of those same strategies. If you are not doing as well as you would like in a class then take advantage of learning support offered by your professor (e.g., go to office hours), the Office of Learning Resources, and OMA (e.g., attend study tables on Wednesday evenings – tutoring is offered by faculty from the math and physics departments and a Chemistry Study Group is available).

Take care of yourself! This may mean getting more sleep, going to the gym, adopting healthy eating habits, speaking with family, creating new connections on campus, seeking new involvement opportunities, making an appointment with the Counseling Center to meet with a counselor, and/or dedicating more time to your faith life. There are a lot of people on campus who can provide support as you reflect on and work towards achieving your personal goals.

Plan ahead! You have the opportunity to become involved in diverse experiences and opportunities while attending UD. Do you want to study abroad, work on campus, conduct an internship, attend graduate school, gain research experience, join a student organization, serve in a leadership position, perform in a play, sing, engage in community service, and/or write? Begin to map out a plan for how you want to spend your time at UD.

When I was an undergraduate student, I was motivated by the following quote: “If it is to be, it is up to me.” You are not expected to navigate college on your own, but it is up to you to take the first step. I want to encourage you to seek out the assistance of others and/or say ‘yes’ when someone offers help. There are many resources available at UD - take full advantage of everything that the University has to offer!

Take care,

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.

Congratulations and Thank you!
Alumnus and Staff Achieving Excellence



Mr. Rob Durkle '78,'85 Associate Vice President in Enrollment Management

We want to congratulate Mr. Rob Durkle on being selected to receive a Lackner Award from UD. Joan McGuinness Wagner was also selected as a Lackner Award recipient in 2016. The award is named in honor of Brother Elmer Lackner, S.M., whose influence throughout 45 years of service permeated nearly all areas of University life. The Office for Mission and Rector presents the award to two faculty or staff each year who are not vowed Marianists and who have made a noteworthy contribution to the Catholic and Marianist character of the University.

Mr. Durkle has worked at UD since 1980. During this time, he has been an advocate for multicultural students. We greatly appreciate that Mr. Durkle designated the financial award that accompanies the Lackner Award to the Office of Multicultural Affairs to benefit scholarships in support of multicultural students and the Myron Achbach Scholarship for students from Puerto Rico.

Please congratulate Mr. Durkle on this honor and thank him for his generosity!

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 Faith Fest, 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.



Editor's Note/Carta del Editor

Roberto De La Rosa-Finch

Sophomore, English

Hi everyone,

I hope your year has gotten off to a great start. With the close of Black History Month, I hope everyone was able to attend some of the events OMA had to offer this month. I myself attended one of the events at the Race Symposium last month. At the event Provost Dr. Benson spoke on race, belonging, and the academic community at UD. I was impressed that he was able to comprehend his inability to understand the multiple burdens that under represented populations undergo. The main goal Provost Benson projecting was that although there is difficulty in diversifying our university, the school is making steps in the right direction to create progress. And I believe this to be true. Change is not something that happens overnight, and only recently have people begun to see, and recognize the struggles of minorities. And that was one of the reoccurring themes of the symposium, that change is long and growth requires a continuous effort. We should all remember that and not quit in our progressive efforts whenever we come across a bump in the road.

Academic Success Corner

Ieesha Ramsey, Academic Success Specialist



Academic Success Corner



It's What You Know and WHO You Know: Building Your Own Learning Communities

We've all heard the saying, "It's not what you know. It's *who* you know." Knowing something is important—we all know that. When you graduate from UD, you are expected to be proficient in your area of study. But making positive connections with others is an important aspect of any business, and life in general. Have you ever sat in your classes and looked around the room at all of the folks taking the same class as you at that moment? Sitting all around you in each of your classes are many valuable resources—your classmates!

Many of you have taken a class where the professor has required that you work together in groups on a project or a presentation. That professor is asking you to build learning communities within your class. Learning together as you learn from one another is often overlooked by students as a way to gain knowledge. Your professors understand the power of learning communities. But what if you could harness that power yourself and build your own learning communities amongst your peers?

We've also heard the saying that "Two heads are better than one." There's a reason for that. The sharing of ideas sharpens those

who share those ideas.

When you are able to discuss class material with someone else, it reaffirms what you know, fills in the gaps of what you don't know, and helps you gain a deeper knowledge of the course material.

I challenge you to reach out to others in your courses and form your own learning communities. It can be as simple as making a quick announcement as folks are leaving class to ask if anyone would be interested in forming a study group. If there are folks in your class that you know, ask them if they'd like to get together and review on a regular basis. You're all in it together, so why not use one another as resources?

Jorge Munoz Figueroa is the Student Academic Success Assistant for OMA. He is working on building our new Study Buddy Board. It will be located in the OMA Lounge. Students will be able to post their names, emails, and the classes for which they would like to build a learning community. Other students can reach out and together, they can determine when and where they want to get together to hold their study group.

Sometimes your fellow classmates are your greatest untapped resource. Use those resources and harness the power of the learning community by building your own learning communities.

Student Organization Spotlight



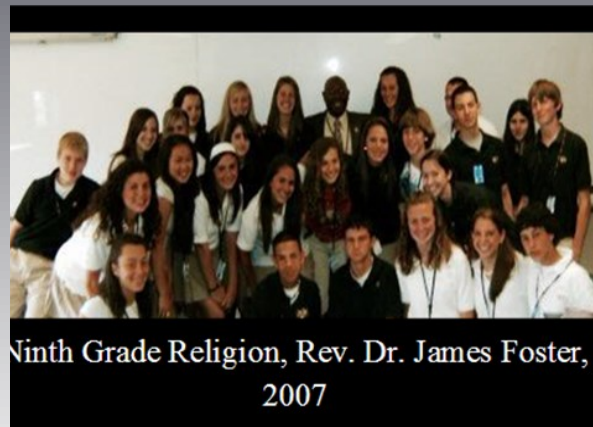
Black Action Thru Unity (BATU) is a student organization that serves as the voice of Black students on The University of Dayton's campus. BATU have a special interest house located in the student neighborhood on Evanston. Our president for this academic school year is Adanna Smith and there are 8 other executive board members. We are excited about Black History Month and bringing the community together to celebrate Black Excellence. For February we are hosting BATU's Soul Food Potluck, where we invited students to make their favorite soul food dish and share it with the community. Every Friday night of February, there'll be an opportunity to hang out at the BATU house for snacks, games, movie clips and discussion. We hosted a Black History Trivia night in collaboration with NPHC. Hopefully you supported our events or any of the other Black History events hosted on campus. BATU holds meetings every first and third Monday of the month at 8:00pm in the BATU House, if you are interested in getting involved. You can be added to the email list by sending a message to batu.udayton@gmail.com. We will have more events throughout the semester such as BATU Week, Community Service and a Unity Series.

Graduate Assistant Corner

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

I love school. I believe that school is a place for academic, personal, and spiritual growth. I believe that every person is entitled to an education and to have that experience during that education. I am lucky enough to have had that experience at my grammar school, high school, undergraduate, and graduate years. In my 20 years of school, I have had the privilege of having my life touched by some of my educators. Looking back, the educator to impact my life, while I was in his class and still today is, Rev. Dr. James Foster. Better known as Mr. Foster, he was my freshman year religion teacher at St. John Vianney High School in 2007. Not only did I experience God through Mr. Foster, I was able to hear firsthand accounts about Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., from a man who was there during the March on Washington and in front of the Lincoln Memorial for the *I Have a Dream* speech. Mr. Foster believed in each of his students and promoted an inclusive environment in the spirit of Dr. King. Mr. Foster challenged and supported me to strive for dreams, I hadn't even thought about yet. I have carried his stories and words since that semester.

Fast forward to 2016, I was able to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the 2016 MLK Celebration. From January 18 to January 26, the MLK Planning Committee along with various campus partners, hosted events to honor the life and work of Dr. King. These events included the City of Dayton March, the Campus Wide Prayer Lunch, The Table of Giving, a short film viewing, and the Social Justice Plunge. The City of Dayton's Annual MLK Memorial March and Peace Rally, 15 UD students joined over 500 people from all over Dayton to march about 2 miles through the streets of Downtown Dayton. The Table of Giving provided an opportunity for lunch and dialogue focused on the work and impact of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Social Justice Plunge was a student led dialogue about social justice followed by community service within the City of Dayton community.



Mr. Foster passed away this past spring. A man who had given so much of himself to the students, educational system, and the promotion of African American/Black lives was finally called home. To be a part of the committee that honored the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was one of the greatest experiences I have done since coming to UD. It was so important to me to honor Dr. King in a way that Mr. Foster would have been proud. It felt like a final goodbye to a man who impacted my life so greatly. Thank you to OMA and the MLK Planning Committee for assisting me with planning the Celebration!

This semester, I have new events planned, most notably, OMAzing Days! I am super excited to be launching this! Each week will focus on a different part of the theme for the Month! February is Heart Health Awareness Month! Join me for weekly recipe ideas, word searches, heart healthy facts, and heart healthy snacks! Keep a look out! It's under the bulletin board of AH105.

Student Engagement Assistants

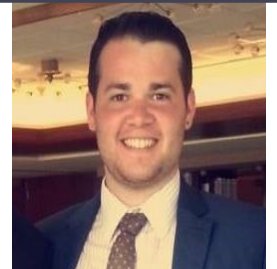
Alison Gaines, *Junior, Civil Engineering*

Hey guys, Alison here! I hope your semester is off to a wonderful start. As you may know I hosted the first REAL Topic of the semester February 9th. Our topic was “Do Black Women’s Lives Matter?” It is believed that Black women are the most discriminated demographic in American society. Not only are they discriminated against because of the color of their skin, but also their gender. They are often the targets of sexual objectification, experience unjust workplace practices, are often believed to be threatening and hostile and are even targets when discussing the decline of the Black family structure in American society. We discussed these issues from the view of the wealth and the value of Black women. There was an amazing turn out. Thanks so much to the students, faculty, and staff who made that possible. I want to give a special thanks to our partners for this month’s REAL Topic—Green Dot and the Women’s Center. Keep your eyes peeled for the next REAL Topic, coming to ya in March.



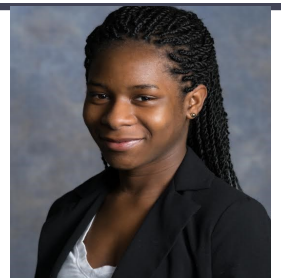
Adrian Diaz-Munio, *Senior, Marketing and Communication*

Hello everyone! I hope that everyone’s semester is off to a good start. The Student Spotlight Board is up and running! If you feel like someone should be featured let me know by email at diazmunioa1@udayton.edu or just find me at the office. We are still doing Random Acts of Kindness, so make sure you thank those who have helped you in any way. The drop box is by OMA’s lounge doors. This has been great and I really appreciate the lovely messages that have been written for students, faculty, and staff. As always, keep supporting the SEA events and have a wonderful semester!



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. STS has two events and collaborations happening for the month of February. In honor of Green Dot Week Sister to Sister hosted a Self Defense Class facilitated by Public Safety. Later in the month we collaborated with Brother to Brother for a Valentine’s Day Special event. This is an opportunity for ladies and gentlemen to come together and discuss relationships and the pros/cons of Valentine’s Day. I encourage female students on campus to get involved! Lastly as an SEA, I’m also lead 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 everyone’s semester has started off well. One of my responsibilities in OMA is co-chairing The Colors of Leadership Conference. The Colors of Leadership Conference (COLC) is a conference geared towards informing diverse collegians—those new faces of leadership—to achieve their full leadership potential. Participants will be challenged to develop and explore leadership skills and fulfill the tenets of responsible leadership. The conference will be held on April 16, 2016, in Kennedy Union. Register on Org Sync to save your spot. Space is limited!



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

Carlos Stewart, Assistant Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs



*OMA/MEP
Welcomes back
the participants
of the PEERS
Mentoring
Program*

Fall 2015 was a fantastic semester for the PEERS program and this was due to the time and dedication of both the mentors and the mentees. For this, the PEERS program would like to send a heartfelt THANK YOU. We would like to congratulate many of the participants as they have completed their first semester of college. We know that things have not been easy, but I hope that the PEERS program - and the relationship with the mentor(s) - have been of benefit to all that have completed this milestone. The PEERS program would also like to acknowledge the dedicated mentors. We really appreciate your time and effort and we know that you have contributed to UD being a more welcoming environment for your mentees. You should all know that you are loved by OMA and the MEP program and we look forward to working with you and assisting you as you take the next steps in navigating the college experience.

If you would like more information about the PEERS Mentoring Program, please contact Carlos Stewart at cstewart1@udayton.edu.

Upcoming Events:

First Fridays – March 4, 2016 @ 4:30 p.m. in Kettering Labs 221

Black History Month:

The University of Dayton and the Office of Multicultural Affairs was pleased to offer a host of educational opportunities during Black History Month. Thanks to any and all that helped make this year's programming initiatives hugely successful, especially our event sponsors.

Looking ahead, if you are interested in assisting in the planning and implementation of Asian and Pacific American Heritage for the month of April, please contact Carlos Stewart at cstewart1@udayton.edu.

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.

Connect with OMA!

twitter

@UDsOMA



@UD_OMA



Instagram

@UDS_OMA

facebook

OMA (Office of Multicultural Affairs)

Follow OMA Events on OrgSync!

Look forward to OMAzing Days!

•The purpose of the **OMAzing Days** program is to empower students to begin each week equipped with knowledge and skills to enhance self-efficacy, well-being and encourage a positive outlook on life and as a UD student.

•The initiative will be led by OMA GA Victoria Bordfeld on a weekly basis, following a monthly theme. The passive programming will include a weekly handout, bulletin, or electronic promotion. Look out for smoothies in March made by our partners in Community Wellness.



March

Women's History Month

OMA Weekly Study Tables

(Every Wednesday)

6:00-10:00 p.m.

*Math and Physics tutoring available from 6-7p.m.

OMA Chemistry Study Group

(Every Wednesday)

6:00-8:00 p.m.

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

"First Friday"

Friday, March 4

4:30-6:00 p.m. **KL 221

Creating Inclusive Communities

Mini Conference,

Saturday, March 5, Science Center

Beyond the Classroom Workshop

Pay Yourself First, Personal Budgeting and Finance

March 9 Noon-1:30 p.m.

Alumni Hall 101-OMA Lounge

Save the Date:

Multicultural Overnight

for prospective students

Sat-Sunday, April 2-3

RecPlex

*UD Student Leaders invited to assist in welcoming the prospective students and their families

*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

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

Office of Multicultural Affairs

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DAYTON