



Office of Multicultural Affairs
A Diverse Community of Scholars Achieving Excellence

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OHANA



2017 OMA Retreat Participants

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2017 OMA Retreat

On Friday and Saturday, November 17-18, 2017, 52 students participated in the OMA Retreat at Woodland Lakes Retreat Center in Amelia, OH. The theme this year was "IALAC," I Am Lovable And Capable. The retreat was planned and led by members of the Multicultural Programming Council. The purpose of the OMA Retreat is to motivate and connect students with one another through a variety of activities and leadership sessions. The focus of this year's retreat included:

- ❖ Understanding self and others
- ❖ Awareness of roles in society
- ❖ Team and community building
- ❖ Defining success

The retreat this year was a total success! Thank you to everyone who was able to participate. We hope to see you next year!

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Letter from the Director

Patty Alvarez, Ph.D.

Associate Dean of Students and Executive Director of Multicultural Affairs

As another year draws to a close, I want to congratulate the students for their many accomplishments. First, congratulations to any graduating seniors! We are proud of you and excited about all of the many contributions you will make in the world. A special congratulations to first-year students for completing their first semester of college! I also want to applaud continuing students and transfer students for getting one step closer to graduating from UD! If this semester has not ended as you would like, know that the new year and new semester brings additional opportunities. Take time over the break to reflect on what you want to continue, stop, or start doing. Contact an OMA staff member or another staff member or faculty member to assist you in achieving your goals!

As I prepare to depart the University of Dayton for a new employment opportunity at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, there are so many people to thank for making the past seven and a half years so special. I feel so very blessed to work with the OMA staff - a phenomenal and caring group of colleagues and individuals! I have a lot of love and respect for each of you: Merida Allen, Carlos Stewart, Cynthia Payne, Sherry Williams, Paola Ortiz, Joia Mitchell-Holman, Brandyn Hunter, Veronica Halfacre, Gaby De Leon, Jordyn Mitchell, Yasmeen Issa, and Royal Smith. A close second, in terms of my favorites, are the students who I have had the privilege to support and get to know. From the time that I stepped on campus, I was welcomed with open arms by the OMA staff and students. Thank you for being you and for all that you have done and will do in life. Do what you can to take care of yourselves and to support one another. As you work to achieve your goal of graduating from UD, I want to encourage you to use campus resources. As I like to say, it is not that you cannot do 'this' alone - you shouldn't! Take advantage of the many resources and opportunities that the University provides. Don't give up, and if you know that you are on the right path to achieve your goals, don't take 'no' for an answer. Where there is a will, there is a way!

I also want to express my appreciation for the great colleagues, many of whom have become friends, that I have had the opportunity to collaborate with to support students and to improve the campus climate for diversity. I have appreciated the opportunity and trust that was extended to me on countless occasions by the Division of Student Development, campus partners, and University leaders.

Best wishes and happy holidays! Let me know if I can ever be of assistance. Sending God's continued blessings to each of you.



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Editor's Note

Roberto De La Rosa-Finch

Hi! Hola!

Long time, no see everyone. I hope you all have had a wonderful few weeks since our last newsletter—I know I have. OMA has been full of events, food and a big goodbye. (Starts to tear up) WE'RE GOING TO MISS YOU DR. ALVAREZ!--You fed me and always kept it 100. Thank you. (Wipes tears) While farewells are sad they also cause amazing memories to resurface. So, in conjunction with all the positive vibes I'm going to throw for finals week and winter break, I thought it would be significant to highlight the small moments we have before we leave. Remember to tell your roommate 'I believe in you' when they sigh while studying. Play Truth or Dare—with deep questions for truth—and find out stuff you never knew about your best friend. Weather permitting, go have a snowball fight at 2 a.m. Finals will come and go, but the little things you do for your friends and yourself will stick with you for the long haul. We're all here at school to expand our networks, graduate and get a job/career. But as one of my favorite quotes says, "You should enjoy the little detours to the fullest. Because that's where you'll find the things more important than what you want."

With that, I'll see y'all next semester. Good luck on finals! Get some rest! And Happy Holidays!



Save The Date

- ❖ MLK City of Dayton Peace March - January 15
- ❖ P.E.E.R.S. First Friday - January 19
- ❖ 2017 UD MLK Social Justice Plunge/ Service Day - January 20
- ❖ Black History Month - February
- ❖ SASE's Midwest Regional Conference - February 2-3
- ❖ Chats with Chief Chatman - February 13
- ❖ Self-Defense Workshop - March 7

Check OrgSync for additional events and information.



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See you later Dr. Patty Alvarez!

Patty's OMAzing Day

As some of you may know, our beloved Associate Dean of Students and Executive Director of Multicultural Affairs, Dr. Patty Alvarez will be leaving the University of Dayton during the beginning of January. Dr. Alvarez will now serve as the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. Dr. Patty Alvarez dedicated 7 ½ years of her life to the University of Dayton and the Office of Multicultural Affairs and we could not be more proud of her and her achievements. On Thursday, December 7th the students and staff of OMA prepared a surprise farewell gathering, called Patty's OMAzing Day. During this time, she had the chance to interact with some students and faculty and staff from all over campus.

We will truly miss Dr. Patty Alvarez, but we wish her the best on this new adventure. Hopefully you had a chance to send her off with good thoughts! **Good luck, Patty!**

OMA Mid-Year Recognition Dinner

At the end of every semester, the Office of Multicultural Affairs coordinates a recognition dinner for the graduates of that semester and to acknowledge trusted partners of OMA, student organizations and individual students for their work and achievements this semester. This year, the Graduating Scholar of Excellence Award was changed to the Dr. Patty Alvarez Graduating Scholar of Excellence Award. This award is given by OMA and each School and the College to recognize students for their academic achievements, exemplary leadership skills and continuous commitment to and embodiment of the mission of OMA and their specific School or College. This year's recipients were: Rafael Margarida from the School of Engineering, Kristine Perez from the College of Arts and Sciences and Roselyn Nworie from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Congratulations to the graduating seniors!



Roselyn Nworie, Kristine Perez and Chris Garcia: Graduates



Dr. Spina, Dr. Patty Alvarez, Carlos Stewart

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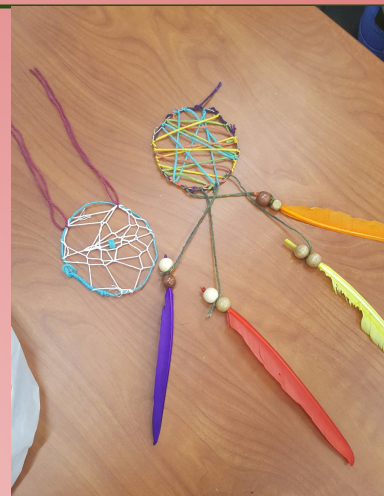
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Student Organization Spotlight

Multicultural Programming Council (MPC)

The Multicultural Programming Council facilitates cultural programming through inclusive events and activities on campus. Our mission is to break down socially constructed barriers and create inclusive events to enrich the University of Dayton community. MPC consists of marketing, programming, and finance committees that collaborate to plan events and achieve our mission. MPC had a great semester filled with engaging activities. We created a Latin Dance to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in September. The OMA Lounge was converted into a dance floor with lots of Latin music and fun. We designed dream catchers at our Native American Dreamcatcher event. We displayed the historical meanings of the dreamcatcher, while actively building our own. In between these two events, we programmed the OMA retreat. All members planned and participated in the retreat, and many of our executive board members facilitated the activities. We created great memories over the semester, and we hope to see new faces next semester. We hope you join us and come to our events. Email us at mpc@udayton.edu with any questions about membership or programming for the Spring semester.



Student Engagement Assistants and Graduate Assistants

Brandyn Hunter: I hope that this semester was filled with great experiences and great friends. Have a wonderful Christmas break and a happy new year. More life.

Veronica Halfacre: I hope that everyone had a successful semester! We had great turn out for Sister to Sister and Real Topics. I'm excited to see what next semester has in store! Have a great break and Merry Christmas!

Jordyn Mitchell: This semester has been great with you all, I hope you have a beautiful and blessed break and a great rest of the year. Bless up.

Gabriela De Leon: I'm thankful for the blessings this semester has brought. Merry Christmas and good luck on finals.

Joia Mitchell-Holman: I hope this semester has been filled with immeasurable growth and progress, I am so thankful to have spent my first year of grad school with this family and I am looking forward to continuing the journey with you all! Happy holidays and I will see everyone in the New Year! Take Care!

Paola Ortiz: Thank you for being involved with OMA this semester. I hope this year was wonderful. Have a great and restful Christmas break. Looking forward to another great semester with you all. Take care and Feliz Navidad!

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