



Office of Multicultural Affairs  
A Diverse Community of Scholars Achieving Excellence

November/December 2018  
Volume 11, Issue 2

# OHANA



OMA 2018 Retreat

## 2018 OMA Retreat

On Friday and Saturday, November 16-17, 50 students participated in the OMA retreat at Woodland Altars Adventure in Peebles, OH. Students have shared that the OMA Retreat is one of their favorite events of the year. It is a time to get off campus, enjoy some time to learn about themselves and their peers, and to connect students with one another through a variety of activities. The theme this year was F.E.A.R. - Face Everything And Rise. The focus of this year's retreat included: ❖ Identifying and creating a student support system with the OMA community ❖ Identifying the challenges that students face during the semester and learn to overcome them ❖ Learning, promoting, and continuing self-affirmation and acceptance. The OMA Retreat was planned and led by members of the Multicultural Programming Council. Thank you to everyone who was able to participate. We hope to see you next year!

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### Time to reflect and be thankful!

As we end the year of 2018 and prepare ourselves to embark on the journey that will be 2019, it is essential for us to reflect on the year and how blessed we are. The OMA staff is blessed to work with such wonderful students every day. We are also blessed to have an OMAzing staff (welcome Sam!), and we are blessed to see the successes and struggles of each and everyone around us. As we approach the holidays, take some time to sit down and reflect about the year. It may have been great or maybe not that great, but we should always hold on to the hope that it will get better. Remember to always be OMAzing!!



OMA Staff

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## Letter from the Executive Director

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

Associate Dean of Students and Executive Director of Multicultural Affairs



It seems the end of the year always brings with it a time of reflection and contemplation. For some of us, it may seem that the year has gone by with great speed, and for others it may feel as if the year moved at a slow pace. As we reflect on 2018, some may recall experiencing great accomplishments and reasons for celebration while others in our community may recall experiencing difficulties that seemed insurmountable. This season of reflection can bring a variety of emotions about this past year and about closing the year out. I often hear the holidays referred to with great anticipation and excitement, but there are those who may be experiencing feelings of mourning, anxiety, or hesitation as they face the holiday season. Whatever your experiences in 2018 and however you feel about this holiday season, please know that the OMA Staff are a source of support for you. As you navigate completing your semester, closing out the business of your student organization, and connecting with family and friends, we hope that you take the time to rest and remind yourself of the great things you have accomplished thus far. Recognize the little lies that we sometimes tell ourselves when we are stressed or tired and counter them with great truths: You are worthy! You are enough! You can do this!

There have been many accomplishments this semester that highlight the greatness of our community. Some of these milestones are highlighted in this edition of the OHANA. OMA is excited to have Sam Ortiz as the new associate director for campus and community engagement. New organizations have formed and current organizations are celebrating milestones. We are excited to have students bring Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and Alpha Psi Lambda Fraternity to campus. We also join El Orgullo Latino in celebrating their 15th anniversary and Black Action Through Unity in celebrating their 50th anniversary. These and other student organizations continue to highlight the great leadership skills of our students.

As you bring in the New Year, we hope that you take the time to celebrate your own accomplishments whether you consider them big or small. Use the break to rest and (re)connect with those who energize you. Spend time creating memories and doing those things that sustain your body, mind, and soul. Leverage this time to assist you in returning to campus with renewed focus and determination to complete the required tasks and those things that we desire to accomplish for our personal growth as well. You've got this! Happy holidays!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Daria-Yvonne J. Graham".

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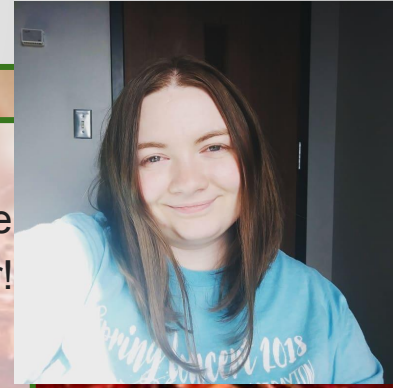
## Editor's Note

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

Hey everyone!

I hope Thanksgiving break was refreshing for y'all and that you are prepared for the little time we have left of classes. The end is near! While finals are stressing everyone out there are plenty of things to help keep us balanced and help guide us in our last days on campus. Don't forget about all the cool stuff Roesch library has going on for those late night studies, and if you're looking for a place other than the library, don't forget our own home in the OMA Lounge. Let's push through the last few things we have to do so we can enjoy our well-deserved Christmas break!

- Heather



Hola, mis amigos! What's good everyone?! It has been a minute. I hope you are all warm and bundled up in this snowy weather. Put on a coat! You know your mom/dad would yell at you if they saw you right now! Anyway, if you're worried about finals, don't.

You'll do amazing. Just remember to spend some quality time studying with mental breaks in between. Pick up that OMA finals week care package -- that thing is a life saver. Enjoy these moments around your friends and roommates because you likely won't see them until next year. \*Sad face\* Eat food. Get some sleep. Laugh. Drive to Bill's Doughnut Shop (and please get me one). Until next year, adios! Bye!

-Roberto



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Leading the Way

**Merida Allen**

Director for Multicultural Education and Student Leadership

*“Be thankful for your blessings and never doubt your struggles. Don’t ask why it happened, just be thankful for the strength it gave you.” -unknown*

This time of year requires so much. There are end of the semester finals, exams and projects. Also, you are preparing to pack up to return to your home or an alternate location for the Winter Break. All of that requires your energy, attention and a schedule. I hope that you are staying focused on what is priority in the moment, then move on to the next task, to complete what you need to get done. When you get a chance to settle down, I encourage you to reflect on this Fall semester. Think about the goals you set in August, and how you worked hard to progress towards achieving them. You may not have accomplished everything on your list the way you intended or in the timeframe you expected, but I guarantee you have made progress! For that, we celebrate you!

This is also the time to take inventory on what you want to continue to work towards during the Spring Semester, whether it is an academic, career, or even campus involvement related goal. Equally important are the personal goals; maybe it is going to the RecPlex, joining a new organization, securing a campus job, or just getting more sleep during the week. Your journey is already destined for success. 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! We believe in you!

Also, shout out to all groups and organizations making progress in expanding student life experiences here at UD!

Academic Success Corner

**Cynthia Payne**

Assistant Director for Academic Success



This message might be one of the worst you have ever read...

Yep. You read that right! And what is your **mindset** now that you have read that?? Do you think this article is going to be great and impact you in a positive way? Probably not. If I had \$5 for every time a student walked into my office and told me they were going to fail or were going to do terribly in a class, I just might be able to pay for a semester of tuition at UD!

By the time you are reading this, your finals might be over, but I think that this message is applicable in all areas, and at all times, of your life! There are many things beyond your control, but one thing you can certainly control is the mindset that you bring into situations. The more you can approach situations and circumstances with a **positive mindset**, the better the chance that you will achieve positive results. I'm not saying that you shouldn't be realistic. You will take hard classes. You will have difficult tests. But, if you can speak positively and with encouraging words, you will have a better shot of succeeding.

There are little changes you can make in your speech. Here are some examples:

- I will do my very best...
- I am able to...
- I will try my hardest...

All of these phrases can allow you to approach situations with a positive outlook. Then, you just have to put the action behind them! But speaking it into existence certainly gets you off to the right start.

Additionally, imagine giving advice to your little sibling or someone younger than you who looks up to you. Think about how you would speak to a child. If you heard them talking negatively about themselves, hopefully you would encourage them to speak in a positive way, and you should be kind enough to do this with yourself. You deserve positivity!

Try it out and let me know how it goes! I believe in you!! All of us do in OMA! But it truly doesn't matter if you don't believe in yourself.

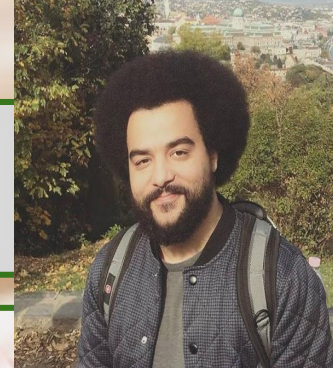
I am proud of all of you for getting through this semester - especially if it was your first at UD! I pray all of you take some time over the break to rest, rejuvenate and gear up for returning to UD in January with a POSITIVE outlook!! Go and be great! In all things.

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Super Sam's Galaxy

**Sam Ortiz**

Associate Director for Campus and Community Engagement



Hey fam!

I am incredibly excited to introduce myself to the OMA/UD community in this edition of the OHANA. My name is Sam Ortiz and I am the new Associate Director of Campus and Community Engagement in OMA. A little bit about myself: my father is from the Dominican Republic and my mother is from Puerto Rico. I was born in NYC in the Bronx but have lived all over the US including Texas, Utah, Missouri, Washington DC and Rhode Island (so I've been around). I have an undergraduate degree from the University of Utah in Social Work and a Masters Degree from Columbia University in Higher Education Administration. I have experience in working with refugee and undocumented communities as well as Residential Life and Student Conduct. If you only know one thing about me, though, it's that I'm the biggest nerd out here. I love all things geek culture but have a specific place in my heart for comic books and superheroes. Beyond that I love hip-hop, the NBA, soccer, and I watch all the tv shows! I hope to get a chance to meet each of you and ask for your patience as I learn names and faces.

In regards to the work I'll be doing here, I anticipate spending the next semester learning the ropes and getting a good feel for how things operate at UD. My hope is to evaluate and assess the current programs I will oversee including PEERS and the Cultural Heritage Months and help take them to the next level. I plan to include the entire OMA community in that process and would very much like to hear your voice to know what you all already love about OMA and want to continue and maybe some things you would like to see that you haven't seen yet from OMA. The process of matching mentors and mentees is ongoing so if you would like to participate or know of someone who might, please reach out to me.

A special shoutout to all of you who have already welcomed me so warmly! I'm excited to be in community with each of you! To those I haven't met yet please come through OMA and say hi!

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## Graduate Assistants & Student Engagement Assistants

What are you looking forward for the holidays and the new year?

**Joia Mitchell-Holman** Hey friends! I hope your semester is ending on a positive note! I really enjoyed meeting new faces and to welcome back old ones. The holidays and new year are always a time for me to rest and reflect on the year and also to plan for the upcoming year. I am really looking forward to that and also reading a good book and catching up with loved ones! Please get plenty of rest we will see you in January 2019! Happy Holidays!

**Paola Ortiz** Hello there! Let me start by saying how happy I am for all of us on almost being done with this semester, especially the first years. With this new year I am looking forward to many adventures, trips, and great friendships. I cannot wait to be home for the holidays, Christmas is my favorite time of the year because of the music, food, being with family and friends. and my BIRTHDAY! Christmas in Puerto Rico is just awesome. Happy holidays, enjoy!

**Brandyn Hunter** Hello all, I really enjoyed my time at the OMA Retreat. You all provided me with a great experience for my last Retreat. I thank every single one of you who showed up! In other new I look forward to Brother 2 Brother next semester. If you have any suggestions on what you want to see please let me know.

**Gabriela de Leon** I am looking forward to spend Christmas at home for the first time in 6 years! I look forward for the food, my family and friends throughout this time of the year. I am thankful of all the things that I have and don't have. I have enjoyed every single event that OMA has held and I am proud to be a part of this community. Happy Holidays and good luck on finals week!

**Jordyn Mitchell** This Christmas break I look forward to spending time with all of my family and spreading Christmas cheer! We aren't a "tradition" type of family, every year is something different and that makes for a great time. This year we are all wearing Christmas pajamas and having a seafood bash instead of a traditional Christmas dinner. See you after the holidays, have a happy Christmas and a merry New Year!!  
Love and cheer

**December Lee** I am thankful for my family, friends and support system at OMA. I love going home for the holidays and spending time with my little sisters and brother. I love my Grandma's homemade apple pie, so I'm definitely looking forward to that this Christmas. I will miss my friends during the holidays, but I am thankful for the fun times that we had this semester. I enjoyed participating in Secret Santa and Friendsgiving before Winter Break. With a new year comes a new start. I look forward to enjoying next semester with some of my favorite seniors and sharing new experiences.



## Student Organization Spotlight Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

The Poodles are on the yard! Welcome to the newest member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. On November 12, 2018, Jada Cooper-Taylor, a second year Industrial Technology Major with a minor in Chemistry, presented herself as the First SGRho to be inducted while an undergraduate student at the University of Dayton. The Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. was founded on November 12, 1922 at Butler University in Indianapolis, IN by seven educators. Sigma Gamma Rho is the fourth sorority of the Divine Nine National Panhellenic Council (NPHC) sororities and the only one founded on a predominantly White campus. Their colors are royal blue and gold. Their flower is the yellow tea rose and their mascot is the poodle. They believe in sisterhood, scholarship, and service. Their motto is "Greater Service, Greater Progress". For more information, feel free to check out the national website [www.sgrho1922.org/](http://www.sgrho1922.org/) or their Instagram page @udayton\_sgrho.



Jada Cooper-Taylor



NPHC members

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## Congratulations!

### Mona Guerrier Scholarship Reception and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

On October 12, we celebrated the 2018-2019 Mona Guerrier Fallen scholarship recipients. In August 2013, Mr. Destry Fallen '86 established an endowed scholarship in recognition of his wife, Mona Guerrier Fallen, who passed away in 2013 at the age of 47. Mona Guerrier Fallen received a Bachelor of Arts in 1991 from UD. As a way to supplement her educational costs, Mrs. Guerrier Fallen worked for the Department of English, served as an RA and was a grant writer for University Advancement. She received her Juris Doctor from the University of Cincinnati in 1996. Mrs. Guerrier Fallen served as an Assistant United States Attorney for over 13 years. Her husband, Destry Fallen, established the Mona Guerrier Fallen Endowed Scholarship for OMA to honor Mona Guerrier Fallen's commitment to UD and educational opportunities, as well as to remember her positive and enthusiastic approach to life.



#### Award Recipients:

**Paul Kramer**, Senior, G  
Marketing minor

**Danielle Lewis**, Sophomore, Marketing and  
Management Information Systems major

**Jenea Adams**, Senior, Biology major,  
Computer Science minor



The IMmaKulate Iota Mu Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi would like to thank everyone who came out and supported our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on October 20-21, 2018. As we have made our return to this beautiful campus that we hold near and dear to our hearts, you all have welcomed us with open arms and warm embrace. We will continue to strive to make this campus more fun and inclusive through community involvement and academic excellence. As Nupes, we strive to ACHIEVE in every field of human endeavour and seeing the students in this OMAzing community come together in fellowship and love at our events makes us feel like we achieve this goal every day we step foot on the yard. On that note, look out for more events next semester. Have a great finals week, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! Yo Baby!

Yours Truly,  
The IMmaKulate Chapter

Congratulations!  
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## OMA Mid-Year Recognition Dinner & Message from Student Leader

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 Dr. Patty Alvarez Graduating Scholar of Excellence Award was given to Lauren Rivera

and Jordan Shoemake from the School of Engineering and Alondra Roman from the College of Arts and Sciences. These awards are 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.



**Congratulations to the graduating seniors!**

### Message from a student leader:

With Thanksgiving behind us, many of us have shared with our families what we are thankful for. These things may include God, our family, or our health. However, with the semester coming to a close, I'd like to express my gratitude to each and every member of our OMA community. It is because of each and everyone one of you that UD has felt like home to not just me, but to many others as well. I have been amazed by the amount of growth I've witnessed in the five years I have been at UD. Reflecting back on these past years, I remember a conversation with Maceo "Mace" Cofield. I was nervous being the first member of my family to go off to University. I began to struggle academically, and slowly but surely began stepping into my own shell. During my conversation with Mace, he shared with me that in his experience each and every individual here is capable of rising up to the academic challenges. The struggle has more to do with loneliness. That is where OMA steps in. The community that has been fostered here has been an amazing support network for me. Every time I step in to the OMA Lounge, even if it is just to eat a quick lunch, I feel at home. That feeling is because of each and every one of you. **By: Roberto Millan-Ayala**

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## What is Going on in the New Year?

### MLK Events

# Our Call to Shape the Future: Building a Place for All

## Table of Plenty

**Description:** Come to a lunchtime dialogue on complex social justice topics related to the impact and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**When:** Thursday, January 24

**Time:** 12:30pm - 1:45pm

**Location:** KU Torch Lounge

## MLK March

**Description:** Meet for breakfast and make posters at the Adele Center McGinnis Room, then get ready to march Downtown Dayton! End with a discussion and a free lunch. Transportation is provided.

**When:** Monday, January 21

**Time:** 8:00am - 2pm

**Location:** Adele Center & City of Dayton

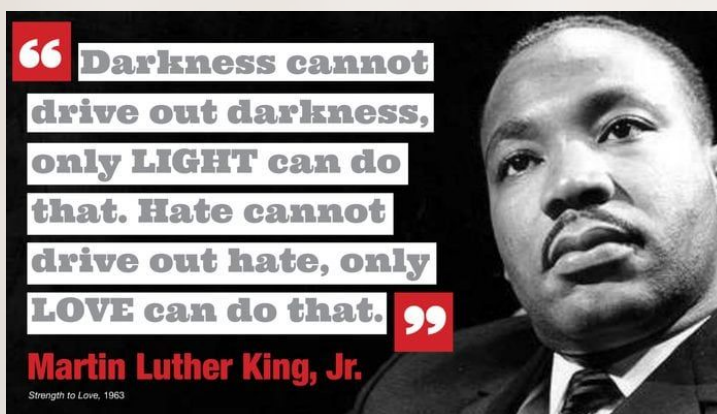
## MLK Social Justice Plunge

**Description:** Here's your chance to get out and serve in the Dayton community and engage in dialogue about race relations and current social justice issues. Lunch provided.

**When:** Saturday, January 26

**Time:** 10:00am - 4:30pm

**Location:** VWK & City of Dayton

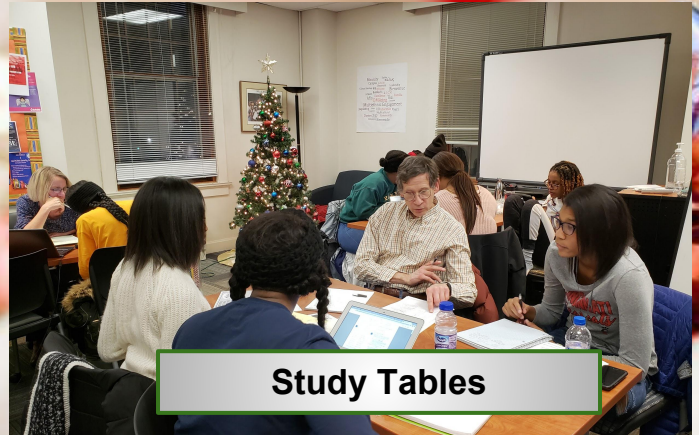


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## Some of OMA's Fall 2018 Events



**MPC Dreams & Tapestry**



**Study Tables**



**Alpha Psi Lambda Fraternity**



**VIBE Week: Rep your culture**



**Study Break by ASAs**



**Greek Unity**

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# OMA STAFF

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**Cynthia Payne**  
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**Sherry Williams**  
Administrative Assistant

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

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

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