

# UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

## Office of Multicultural Affairs

April/May 2012 Volume 4 Issue 6



*OMA is moving from Gosiger Hall to Alumni Hall*



OMA's New  
Home  
Fall 2012

# OHANA



# Letter from the Director

Congratulations to all of the students who graduated and to everyone for completing the 2011-2012 academic year! At a fun-filled and emotional end of the year recognition dinner, we recognized the graduates and the contributions of many others. UD is a better place because of the following individuals and organizations:

Graduating Scholar of Excellence Award

Recipients:

Henry Aldridge  
(School of Engineering),  
Sariana Garcia  
(College of Arts and Sciences),  
Danyell Lewis  
(College of Arts and Sciences),  
Anastasia Nunn  
(School of Business Administration),  
Jasmine Roberts  
(School of Education and Allied Professions)

Outstanding PEERS Mentor:

Dan Forero;

Outstanding PEERS

Mentee:

Miracle Reason

Inaugural OMA Meritorious Service Award:

Fred Cox

OMA Proclamation:

Dr. Tom Morgan  
and Dr. Leslia Picca

Community Building Award:

El Orgullo Latino  
(EOL), Alpha Phi  
Alpha Fraternity,  
Inc.

Outstanding Event Award:

EOL, Black Action  
Through Unity  
(BATU)

Significant Service Award:

Women of  
Remarkable  
Distinction  
(W.O.R.D.), Zeta  
Phi Beta Sorority,  
Inc.

Alumni who gave financial gifts that supported 12 book scholarships for students

All UD students for getting to this point in their college journey!

The end of each academic year is a time for recognition, but also reflection. OMA staff members are proud of the students who we get the opportunity to engage with at UD. Each of you is a beautiful gift. Think about all that you have accomplished and will achieve in life. For some,

these accomplishments and achievements are easy to recognize. For others, it is a little more difficult to visualize these successes due to this busy and perhaps stressful time of the year. Continue to try and give each moment your best – if you do this, you will continue to see positive results (even when things may not go as you had hoped). In OMA, you will find individuals who will help you celebrate your accomplishments and remind you of your many gifts. We look forward to continuing to support you on this journey towards graduation! Thank you to the many campus partners who assist us in supporting students!

Please keep in touch over the summer! Stay connected via Facebook, email, telephone, or stop by the office. Remember, we are moving this summer to the first floor of Alumni Hall! We look forward to welcoming each of you to OMA's new location in the Fall!

Take care,

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

# Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Soleil Verse, Senior

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asian and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Asian-Pacific encompasses the entire Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

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Like most commemorative months, Asian-Pacific Heritage Month originated in a congressional bill. In June 1977, Representative Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian-Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration. Twelve years later, President George H.W. Bush signed an extension making the week-long celebration into a month-long celebration. In 1992, the official

designation of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month was signed into law.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants. Due to our academic calendar, the University of Dayton recognizes Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month in April. To find out more information, or about events happening during this month-long celebration, visit <http://asianpacificheritage.gov>.

## A Note of Congratulations and Thanks

Carlos Stewart, Assistant Director

OMA and the Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Committee would like to thank those who participated in all of the heritage month activities. OMA appreciates your support and we hope that you felt the programming opportunities were rewarding on all levels. As we look forward to the planning of Hispanic Heritage Month, we would like to extend an invitation to all those who would like to serve on the planning committee. Please contact Carlos Stewart – [cstewart1@udayton.edu](mailto:cstewart1@udayton.edu) if interested.

### OMA Graduating Senior Awards

The Office of Multicultural Affairs would also like to congratulate these exceptional graduates who have received the 2012 Office of Multicultural Affairs Graduating Scholar of Excellence Awards.

Students are recognized for their academic achievement, exemplary leadership skills, and continuous commitment to and embodiment of the mission of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and their respective academic school. Graduates are selected by consultation from both The Office of Multicultural Affairs and The College of Arts & Sciences, School of Engineering, School of Education & Allied Professions and The School of Business Administration, respectively. Please join us in congratulating our five recipients this year.

College of Arts and Sciences—Sariana Garcia and Danyell Lewis  
School of Business Administration—Anastasia Nunn  
School of Engineering—Mr. Henry Aldridge  
School of Education and Allied Professions—Ms. Jasmine Roberts

# Academic Success Corner

Aaron Witherspoon, Academic Success Specialist, College of Arts and Sciences



Can you believe the academic year is at a close already? It seems just yesterday it was August and everything was beginning a new! Hopefully you have had a productive year, and have some great experiences lined up for the summer.

I would like to take this opportunity to say CONGRATULATIONS to all of our graduates this semester! We are very proud of you and your accomplishments, and wish nothing but the best as you enter the next phase in your lives as UD Alumni.

Here are a few parting bits of information, as we head into the summer:

- Remember, OMA is MOVING! When you return in August, OMA will be in Alumni Hall!
- If you are planning on taking courses at a different institution this summer, make sure to speak with your academic advisor BEFORE registering for classes. You want to make sure that the classes you are taking will transfer back to UD.

## OMA Student Spotlight



**Name:** Yvette Cabrera

**Hometown:** Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

**Major:** Marketing and International Business

**Class of** 2015

***What accomplishment are you most proud of from this academic year?***

I am very proud of the fact that I am here at UD and following my dream to become a great leader and future employer. I never thought I would be studying in the United States and challenging myself to learn and experience many new opportunities in life. I am also proud that I will be coming back next semester to keep on this journey.

***What are your summer plans?***

This summer I am going to be working in an internship for a publicity agency and coordinate

some events with different companies. I am very excited for this opportunity. Also I will be enjoying my time with my family and going on road trips with my friends around the island!

***What is your most memorable moment from this past year?***

This year has given me so many great opportunities and I have so many good memories from my first year in college. The most memorable moment for me would be meeting so many people with different backgrounds and with different experiences and learning about things I never knew about. My friends here at UD have helped me grow and become a better person and I am so grateful for them and all the people that I have met this past year.

# FREE

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# COMING THIS FALL

## CHANGE AGENTS

The Change Agents series will be an opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to participate in critical dialogue around difference and social justice. The facilitators of this Brown Bag series will conduct an ice breaker, team builder, and a dialogic experience around a different topic per session, and conclude with training participants on how to conduct the sessions in other settings. Additional opportunities and resources will be available to those who participate in all CHANGE AGENTS sessions.

Contact OMA for more information regarding CHANGE AGENTS at 937-229-3634.

# A Goodbye Letter



It is with a sad, yet joyous tone that I write this letter of farewell. These past four years have gone by so quickly, and it would be impossible to relate every great thing about being a part of the

community here at the University of Dayton. But, I can speak about a few. First, the Office of Multicultural Affairs – the office that makes OHANA possible – has played a significant role in my time here. I was able to stay overnight on campus during my senior year of high school, which helped me decide that I would attend UD, and it is also where I met a few of the OMA staff and peers and upperclassmen that I have grown close to. OMA, along with the programs housed under it, has shown me a real idea of community and support. I have been a part of many events, programs, and initiatives through the office and it has really been a key

piece in my experience as an undergraduate student, but also as a person.

It has been a joy to be a part of *Ohana* for the last two years, and I look forward to what it will become. I am excited to move forward, but I will be ever mindful of my experience at UD and the experience that I have shared with faculty, staff, and students.

-Soleil, senior, co-editor

**Save the date** **AYIL**  
**Leadership Academy**  
 Wednesday, August 15, 2012  
**Move in on August 14**  
 A leadership program for the executive board members of multicultural student groups  
**FREE** Registration opens June 1 at [oma.udayton.edu](http://oma.udayton.edu)

# PEERS Review

Carlos Stewart, Assistant Director



The PEERS Mentoring Program capped off a wonderful year by taking a trip to Laser Quest. Participants were able to blow off some steam by competing against each other in a venue that combined the classic games of hide and seek and tag, with a high tech twist. Approximately 30 students participated making this a very successful conclusion to a spectacular year for the PEERS Mentoring Program.

## *PEERS Call for Mentors for 2012-2013*

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.

### **Basic Expectations of a Mentor:**

- Communicate with mentees at least once a month through face to face contact i.e. meal dates, studying together, attending events together, etc.
- Attend mid-semester 1:1 meeting with Assistant Director for OMA and/or Minority and Women Engineering Programs Staff
- Complete a PEERS mentee Bi-weekly Recap form
- Encourage attendance at Study Table and OMA/MEP/PEERS Events
- Attend at least 1 Study Tables per month (OMA or MEP)
- Attend all First Friday events
- Develop an Academic Success Plan with the OMA/MEP staff
- Develop a Personal Success Plan with OMA/MEP staff

You would also be expected to move in a couple of days early this coming summer for PEERS Training.

The P.E.E.R.S. mentor program is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Minority and Women Engineering Programs. The mentor program has a positive impact on the lives of UD's multicultural students, regardless of their class year, as they transition from high school to university study to a professional career.

The P.E.E.R.S. mentor program calls for energetic, enthusiastic and motivated returning undergraduate students who will serve as mentors to first-year students. Students may be paired with up to two mentees. If interested, please contact Carlos Stewart at 937-229-3689 or [cstewart1@udayton.edu](mailto:cstewart1@udayton.edu).

# Graduate Assistant Reflections

Chase Jones, Graduate Assistant

It is hard to believe this school year has come to a close so swiftly. It seems as if it was just yesterday I moved into my house by the hospital, met my new roommates, and settled into as new hometown. But, here I am closing out yet another chapter in the book of Chase.

This chapter has been one of the most challenging and rewarding for me. As a graduate assistant in the Office of Multicultural Affairs I have been blessed with new experiences, stimulating work and the support of a family here in the office. Within days of being a member of this team I felt accepted

and warmly welcomed by all of my office mates. The same can be said for my time interning in the Center for Social Concern, the collaborations I took part in throughout the year, and the professional staff who guided me through the ups and downs of my first year in graduate school. I thank you all!

As for the academic side of life I can honestly say I have learned so much. It has been a journey of developmental proportions. One filled with theories of everything as well as research and guidance on how to be a great student affairs

practitioner. I have made many friends in my program and some of them will be off to start new lives soon...you will be missed dearly.

Overall this year has been full of laughter and tears, hard work and lots of free food, and most importantly it has been full of growth. Dear UD, you are awesome in your own special way and I look forward to hanging out with you again next year. Have a great summer

everyone and I'll be looking for you on the flip side come August!



## Kindred Presidents Update

What an amazing year! This year Kindred Presidents has been a wonderful group of strong student leaders determined to make a difference not only in their school and own lives, but in the lives of others in the community. Members of Kindred Presidents organized a number of wonderful events and developed some great ideas for all the student organizations it represents. They have had service drives, networking dinners, enlightening conversations and so much more in this short time together.

From the Thanksgiving Turkey basket drive where they were able to feed several families for the holiday to a dinner of professionals where lives and perspectives were changed and jobs were found, Kindred Presidents has been influential in the support and advancement of OMA supported student organizations.

Much of this support and effort will come to the newest members next year as we will be planning executive board training for AYIL (plan to return to campus on August 14) as well as implementing other ideas with a new group of dedicated campus leaders. If there is one thing to take note of in regards to Kindred Presidents is that the ideas get bigger and the smiles last longer! We again congratulate those of you who will be leaving us this year; you have done an excellent job and you will be missed. And to those who will be joining this group in the year to come, we hope you are excited and ready to bring a lot of energy to the program next year! Great job and have a wonderful summer!

## CONGRATULATIONS

to the University of Dayton chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professionals and Engineers (SHPE) who will host the Region 6 2013 Regional Leadership Development Conference here at UD!!

Congratulations to the members of SHPE, who wrote the accepted proposal, and Laura Bistrek, the campus adviser for UD's chapter of SHPE.

# I Will Miss Thee!

Carolina Alvarado, Senior, Co-Editor

Standing in front of the OMA community at the senior recognition dinner, many emotions emerged. For one, I was proud to see the familiar faces of the individuals who four years ago came to UD inspired to achieve our best and be an example to our families, friends and society. The journey has not been easy, but here we were all standing together.

These four years at UD have been a learning experience, not only in academics, but also spiritually and in personal aspects. Growing up as a Catholic (and going to Catholic school since the fourth grade) my faith was subtle. I did not question the meaning of the traditions I grew up nor attempted to understand the history behind my faith. Yet, I turned to God more than I ever had in my life throughout the experiences that helped me find a deeper meaning to the faith that I had taken for granted.



Furthermore, in four years I have met many people who helped me along this journey. Friends who have been there to listen, comfort, laugh and share; professors who went out of their way to make sure I understood the material and assisted in academic and personal aspects. Staff and faculty have also helped. I cannot be thankful enough to the people of OMA—past and present—who have provided opportunities in leadership, a second home and support system as well as a place full of resources! Moreover, I am grateful for the people who reached out in time of need, like my financial aid adviser who was flexible, patient and willing to answer my questions and concerns in times of uncertainty. There are two individuals that I cannot go without naming. These two individuals are the reason that I decided to attend UD after all!

The first individual is a strong woman, who without a doubt, has always been supportive—my aunt Dominga De Leon. At the time I wanted to visit UD, my mom and I did not have transportation to travel from Chicago to Dayton. My dad was unable to drive us, thus this trip seemed impossible. All my mom had to do was to call my aunt to ask her if she could help us with the situation; without hesitation, she dropped everything and drove 10 hours in one day—just so I can visit! I wasn't even sure if I wanted to come here. If it wasn't for her, I would not have been able to see this campus nor meet the other individual, Beverly Jenkins, who ultimately, is the reason I am here. She is the face of hope that my mother cannot forget.

After my mother, aunt and I had toured UD, my mom was not sure if she and my dad would be able to afford such institution. We had talked with another financial aid counselor who did not give us many options or resources. Disappointed, we began to head out of the office when we happen to pass by Beverly's office. Call it coincidence (or a miracle), she recognized me (by name!!) from a trip she had done in October (it was late April when I came to visit) to Chicago at an on-site college admission event from my scholarship program. My mom and I were in awe!! She was the person who assured my mother that UD was the place for me and that she would do whatever was possible for me to attend. On our drive back to Chicago, my mother could not stop crying and thanking God for giving us a ray of hope—and it was this event that I had reached my decision. Without these two individuals, UD would not have been possible.

Finally, I am grateful for my family. There are no words that can express the love for my parents, who have sacrificed many things in order to provide the best they can for my siblings and I to be educated and live well. Both have been there to support me financially, encourage me in my academics, guide me spiritually and most importantly, love me through it all. I know this journey has not been easy for them either—I am the first in my family to attend college outside of Chicago (and to graduate as a traditional student), thus distance was a challenge as we are a very united family. Moreover, my parents are strong in their faith and I know that it was a struggle for them to see me go through these stages of reconnecting to my faith but we have made it!

As I look back, I can only smile for my accomplishments and be happy that I decided to be part of this community. Oh UD, how I will miss thee!



# 2012-2013 OHANA Editors



Hello all,  
I would like to formally introduce myself and welcome you to the last edition of the 2011-2012 OHANA newsletter. My name is Gerald Kierce and I will be the co-Editor in this adventure, together with Miracle Reason. I am currently a Junior from Puerto Rico studying Entrepreneurship and Political Science. I

range from the move of the Office of Multicultural Affairs to Alumni Hall, some student spotlights, and will include in the next edition the exciting possibility of the 2013 Regional Society of Professional Hispanic Engineers Conference being held here at UD next year!

I hope you all enjoy!

Gerald P. Kierce

am greatly looking forward to an exciting year, which we can hopefully inform, entertain and help you gain awareness of multicultural affairs here at The University of Dayton.

We have some interesting updates covered in this edition, which



My name is Miracle Reason and I am a first year accounting major, a Dayton native, and an active member of the multicultural community on campus. Within the next four years I hope to complete my MBA and begin work as a Certified Public Accountant, while pursuing my ultimate dream of opening a family restaurant. As a business major I seldom have the honor of adhering to my passion for writing. As one of your new editors, I hope to use my passion to inspire and inform you on the various aspects of the multicultural affairs taking place on campus. It is such an honor to be one of your new OHANA co-editors and I look forward using my talents in the upcoming year to expand OHANA, your multicultural newsletter.

## Special Thanks to Alumni

The Office of Multicultural Affairs would like to thank the generous alumni and friends of OMA who have generously given of their time, talents, and/or financial gifts.

We would like to extend a special thank you to the following individuals who have given financial gifts during the 2010-2011 and/or 2011-2012 academic year, which supported book scholarships for students, and/or given of their time in countless other ways (e.g., writing a letter of encouragement to students, serving as a speaker at an OMA event):

Carna Smith Cureton '94 and Warren Cureton '94  
Ms. Carmen Stroud Dent '72  
Mrs. Veronica M. George '06  
Mrs. Lynnette Heard  
John S. Kendall, Esq. '85  
Fred T. Leftrict '84  
Mr. David G. Moriarty '66

Veronica Morris '92  
Esther O. Ogunjimi '96  
Lynton P. Scotland '84  
Mr. Arper Tentman, III '80  
Mr. Johnny M. Vance '85  
Rashad M. Young '98  
Dr. Marcus Washington '95  
Black Greek Alumni and Friends

There are also a number of University of Dayton faculty and staff members who have given in similar ways. Thank you, and may God bless each of you. Your gifts will have a lasting impact on the students involved in the OMA community.

# 2012-2013 Student Organization Executive Board Members

Daria-Yvonne Graham, Associate Director

Aside from providing collegiality and a space for intra-group connection, multicultural student organizations have been found to play an important part in institutional attachment (and retention) for students of color, particularly at predominantly white institutions (e.g., Hurtado & Carter, 1997, Sidanius et al., 2004). The following organizations are connected with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and are considered a cohort of student leaders who not only work within their organizations but together often collaborate to share resources and support each other's programs and initiatives. The Office of Multicultural Affairs provides the leaders of these student organizations a leadership orientation and training (AYIL Leadership Academy) and hosts monthly cohort meetings for presidents or their identified designees via the Kindred Presidents meetings. The 2012-2013 members of the student organization executive boards are as follows:

## **Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.**

Frederick Cox- President  
Stefon Towler- Vice President  
Jerami Johnson- Secretary  
William Coleman- Treasurer  
Aaron Haynesworth- Historian

## **Black Action Through Unity (B.A.T.U.)**

President - Jerami Johnson  
Vice President - Andrea Session  
Secretary - Alexandra Smith  
Treasurer - Chelsea Jones  
Historian - Shayln Cook  
Fundraising Chair - Lyndsey Diggs  
Special Programming Chairs - Yaimarie Queeman & Natalya Lynn  
Publicity Chair - Lauren Porter, Imani Sherman  
Academic Excellence Chair - Tessa Terrell  
Community Service Chair - Darius Johnson

## **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**

Kailah Ware (Wright State) - President  
Ametra Harris - Vice President  
Allante Booker (Wright State) - Secretary  
Molique Reese (Wright State) - Treasurer

## **El Orgullo Latino (EOL)**

President - Daniel Forero  
Vice President External - Esther Arizmendi  
Vice President Internal - Rafael Cajigas  
Treasurer - Franz Silva  
Social Chair - Ciarilis Colon  
Outreach Chair - Javier Hernandez

## **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)**

President - Aaron Haynesworth  
Vice President : Lauren Porter

## **National Society of Black Engineers (N.S.B.E.)**

President - Winston Black  
Vice President - Erin-Chanel Larkin  
Treasurer - Darrell Goolsby  
Secretary - Deanna Wright  
Programs Chair - Margaret Idiake And Daniel Solomon  
Telecommunications Chair - Imani Sherman  
Conference Planning Chair - Kelvin Freeman

## **Society of Hispanic Professionals and Engineers**

President - Daniel Forero  
Vice President External - Esther Arizmendi  
Vice President Internal - Rafael Cajigas  
Treasurer - Franz Silva  
Social Chair - Ciarilis Colon  
Outreach Chair - Javier Hernandez

## **Women of Remarkable Distinction (W.O.R.D.)**

President - Lauren Porter  
Vice President - Amber Beavers  
Treasurer - Anastachia Hicks  
Historian/Secretary - Ellyn Davis  
Fundraising - Ashlyn Porter & Ametra Harris  
Service - Jasmine Randle  
Special Programming - Erin Larkin, Alycia O'neal

## **Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.**

Cherrelle Gardner  
Tessa Terrell  
Nia Holt

*Officer selection pending for*

**National Association of Black Accountants (NABA)**  
**Students in a New Direction (S.A.N.D.)**  
**UKURI**

Hurtado, S., & Carter, D.F. (1997). Effects of college transition and perception of the campus racial climate on Latino college students' sense of belonging. *Sociology of Education*, 70, 324-345.

Sidanius, J., Van Laar, C., Levin, S., & Sinclair, S. (2004). Ethnic enclaves and the dynamics of social identity on the college campus: The good, the bad, and the ugly. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 87(1), 96-110.



# Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Reunion

Daria-Yvonne Graham, Associate Director

On April 13-15, 2012, alumni members of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Iota Mu chapter, and friends held a reunion on-campus. Among the festivities, the alumni presented a \$6,000 check to President Curran to establish the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Fund. The University is grateful to the alumni members and friends of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. for their financial contribution and their commitment to students. A application process is being created for the distribution of the scholarship. Current undergraduate students can receive more information from the Office of Multicultural Affairs.





Office of Multicultural Affairs

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at

[www.twitter.com/UDsOMA](http://www.twitter.com/UDsOMA)

OMA Fall Welcome  
Back Reception  
Saturday, August 18

# End of the Year Images

