

# OBERLIN

## New Student Orientation 2009



## Many Voices/Building Communities Student Panel

Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.  
Warner Concert Hall

### Orientation Events 2009

**Oberlin College  
Multicultural Resource Center  
(MRC)**

*All events sponsored by the MRC.  
For more information contact:*

440-775-8802  
mrc@oberlin.edu  
www.oberlin.edu/mrc  
Facebook.com/oberlin.mrc

Wilder 208  
135 West Lorain St  
Oberlin, OH 44074



**MRC Open House**  
Sunday, August 30  
7:30 – 9:30 pm @ Wilder 208

**LGBTQ New & Returning Student  
Dessert Reception**  
Wednesday, September 2  
7:30 – 9:00 pm @ Wilder 112

**Africana New & Returning Students Cook-Out**  
Saturday, September 5  
1:00 – 3:30 pm @ Afrikan Heritage House

**Latino/a New & Returning Students Cook-Out**  
Saturday, September 5  
4:30 – 6:00 pm @ Third World House Courtyard

**Asian/Pacific American (A/PA) New & Returning  
Student Welcome**  
Sunday, September 6  
5:00 – 6:30 pm @ Third World House Courtyard

**MRC**  
Multicultural  
Resource Center

Coordinated by the Multicultural Resource Center (MRC) and co-sponsored by the Department of Residential Education, Many Voices/Building Communities is a panel discussion by current Oberlin students for all incoming first-year students during new student orientation each year. Panelists share their experiences and viewpoints around important, current issues of interest for first-years. Special attention is paid to the many opportunities and challenges that arise on such a diverse and dynamic campus. Students will have the opportunity to raise questions and socialize with the panelists and each other at a social reception that follows the panel.

Moderator:

Eric Estes, Associate Dean of Academic Diversity  
Director of the MRC

Panelists:

Cindy Camacho, Brandi Ferrebee, Tamara J. Fingal,  
Kailey Kawolics, Emmanuel Magara, Sohaib Naim,  
Tuyet T. Ngo, Steven Yackey

Steven Yackey, OC'11

Hey, welcome to Oberlin! I am a fourth-year Jazz Studies Major from Akron, OH, which is only a little over an hour away from Oberlin. Much of my time is spent playing guitar. Last year, I interned with an organization called CityMusic. As an intern with CityMusic, I taught elementary school kids how to play the recorder through an after-school program. Outside of music, most of my involvement has been with Oberlin Christian Fellowship (OCF), the Interschool Christian Fellowship chapter at Oberlin. I really started getting involved with OCF during the orientation week prior to my sophomore year, where I helped with some OCF sponsored events (this is actually the fourth year I've been at Oberlin during orientation week). I am now the president of the chapter. It has been through my experiences in OCF that I've made some of my closest friendships here at Oberlin. I am also interested in just about anything having to do with computers. This past Winter Term, I had the opportunity to begin working on a server/content filter for a school in Cleveland called the Bridge Avenue School. Throughout my time at Oberlin I have been involved with Oberlin's Relay for Life and have also worked in the Dean of Students Office since my sophomore year. The time I've spent working for the Deans has been a lot of fun. Well, I hope you have a great first year and I'll see you around! (Steven.Yackey@oberlin.edu)

We are grateful to the following people for making this year's program possible:

MRC Professional Staff:

Diego Luna, MRC Latina/o Community Coordinator  
Nicole Nfonoyim, MRC Africana Community Coordinator  
Domenico Ruggerio, MRC Asian/Pacific American Community Coordinator  
JAC Stringer, MRC LGBTQ Community Coordinator

Residential Education Professional and Student Staff  
Office of the Dean of Students

Tina Zwegat, Associate Director of the Student Union

\*We have included the panelists' emails. Their bios, pictures, and emails are also available on the MRC's website ([www.oberlin.edu/mrc/major\\_programs/Manyvoices.html](http://www.oberlin.edu/mrc/major_programs/Manyvoices.html)). Please feel free to follow up with them respectfully if you have questions after tonight.

worker). Through newspaper articles on terrorism in Pakistan, and reports on the financial crisis, I've tried to spur up serious debate. And, equally important, by being superbly incompetent at squash, I've made many of my fellow players proud of themselves; concurrently, I made a fool of myself, though I've salvaged some respect over time. I'm not (as) bad at cricket, however – you'll often find me batting aggressively, in the tennis courts or in the Barrows parking space. Cricket in tennis courts? Yes, sadly, Oberlin doesn't have a cricket pitch. But it has plenty of other (if not as) cool stuff. I've enjoyed it. I know you will, too. Welcome! (Sohaib.Naim@oberlin.edu)

Tuyet T. Ngo, OC'10

Welcome First Years! I am a 4<sup>th</sup> year from Chi-Town, double majoring in Comparative American Studies and Biology. Just like many other Obies, I am constantly running around campus. I am currently the co-chair of the Asian American Alliance, a student organization that mainly serves Asian American students. I eat in Third World Co-op, which is one of several co-ops where fabulous people enjoy cooking good food and working responsibly to maintain the co-op. Although I am not a varsity athlete, I used to work with the varsity women's basketball team and I must say I am one tough cookie in recreational badminton, intramural basketball and the volleyball Exco. When I'm not in meetings, class, or the gym, I am most likely making some money to shop, shop, shop. I work in the dining halls through Campus Dining Services and as a peer mentor working with first generation students for Student Academic Services. And oh, did I mention I was a Mellon Undergraduate Research Fellow? I am also working on my own research project through the Office of Undergraduate Research. My present interest focuses on the interactions among customers, workers, and owners of Vietnamese-owned nail salons. All this may seem overwhelming but I didn't do it within my first year. My diverse involvement developed over the span of my time at Oberlin. I wish you all the best and have an exciting journey during your time here! (Tuyet.Ngo@oberlin.edu)

Cindy Camacho, OC'11

Saludos! I'm a Mexican American third-year Sociology major and Politics minor from Dallas, Texas. I have been an activist in the Latina/Latino community since the age of fourteen and I am currently the secretary of La Alianza Latina. I spent this past summer in Oberlin doing research as a Mellon Undergraduate Research Fellow on reproductive health care for Latinas in Lorain County, and on the controversial use of Gardasil – the HPV vaccine. I also worked as a research assistant for Professor Greggor Mattson, who conducts research on the politics of sexuality. I am currently a Bonner Scholar and serve as a Congress Representative for the program. As a Bonner Scholar, I serve as the Site Coordinator of the America Reads tutoring program at the Oberlin Boys & Girls Club. Working with children in the Oberlin community is amazing in many ways. I lived in Third World House for two years and made a new family with the people in the house, which was especially important for me as a first generation student. On most Sundays I attend mass with the Newman Catholic Community on campus. In my spare time I love to dance and enjoy going to Latin Nights at the 'Sco with my friends. (Cindy.Camacho@oberlin.edu)

Brandi Ferrebee, OC'10

I'm a senior English major from Winchester, Virginia, a fairly rural area several hours from Washington, DC. I lived there my whole life, growing up in the house my great-great grandfather built. I declared to my parents when I was 15 that I was going to go to college, and I wanted that college to be Oberlin. However, since I'm the first to go to college (on both sides) they weren't convinced that I should leave Virginia to go to a private college, so I spent a year at a large, public in-state university to convince them. I transferred to Oberlin after my freshman year, and it fits me as perfectly as I'd hoped. This orientation will be a busy one for me, and serves as a prime example of the activities I've become involved in since coming to Oberlin; I'll be helping first years and transfers as an academic ambassador, settling transfer students in (I'm the former transfer hall RA and transfer student organization president), recruiting prospective students as intern in the Office of Admissions, teaching the beginning lesson at the orientation swing dance, and probably giving a few tours at the Allen Memorial Art Museum. In my free time during the regular year you'll be able to find me swing dancing several days a week, making eccentric meals with my housemates (think venison stew and creme brulee), and petting kittens at Ginko Gallery to reduce the stress of having to leave Oberlin and get a real job in the next year. (Brandi.Ferrebee@oberlin.edu)

### Tamara J. Fingal, OC'12

Hey everyone! I am a third-year, first generation, Double Degree student from Prince George's County, MD. My major in the College is Sociology with a minor in Religion and my Conservatory major is Vocal Performance. This year I will be serving as co-chair for Oberlin Conservatory Black Musicians Guild (OCBMG), Secretary for Abusua (Black Student Union), RA in South Hall, Big Sister for the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America, Peer Mentor working with first generation students and Ninde Scholars Tutor...a lot, I know...but it's not as overwhelming as it sounds! I spent this past summer as an Oberlin College Research Fellow doing a project called, "Unsung Heroes: Art Songs by Black Composers," tutoring for an academic program for the City of Oberlin 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders called WAVE (Words are Very Empowering) and taking Elementary French. When do I find time to breath, have fun or even think you ask? It's all about balance! If Oberlin has taught me anything, it's how to balance and manage time but also, how to squander it away sometimes. When I am not practicing, working or doing schoolwork, I am singing at or attending Jazz concerts, attending basketball and lacrosse games and track meets or just hanging out with friends in my community. Finding and building community has been essential to my growth here at Oberlin. I lived in Afrikan Heritage House my first year and still spend a lot of time there and in Third World House because the sense of family is so strong that you can't help but feel right at home! Along with being an active member of the communities on Oberlin's campus, I have been an active member of the Oberlin city community by participating in the programs within the schools and attending True Praise and Deliverance Ministries every Sunday. After school, I plan to pursue a Master's Degree in Public Policy or a Master's in Business Administration, Nonprofit Management. I wish you all the best your first year and I encourage you to take advantage of the MANY opportunities Oberlin (college and city) has to offer! Feel free to shoot me an email if you want to talk more later on! (Tamara.Fingal@oberlin.edu)

### Kailey Kawolics, OC'10

I'm a senior Comparative American Studies and Environmental Studies major hailing from outside of Cleveland, Ohio. I really enjoy the activist and social justice work abundant on Oberlin's campus, which for me has included involvement with the Transgender Advocacy Group, the Edmonia Lewis Center for Women and Transgender People, and the Oberlin College Dialogue Center, as well as a lot of time hanging out in the Multicultural Resource Center. I'm also passionate about education and empowering students, which has led me to tutor GED students in Lorain County and to work in Oberlin's Writing Center. When I want to take a break from the more serious side of Oberlin, I like to cook and eat yummy vegan food with good friends, catch one of the frequent events going on—a good concert or

an exciting speaker—or try to do some reading on Wilder Bowl (if I'm pretending to be serious—it always turns into cloud-gazing or conversation). I love meeting and talking to new people, so feel free to come talk to me! (Kailey.Kawolics@oberlin.edu)

### Emmanuel Magara, OC'11

When I first left my home country, Zimbabwe, two years ago, it seemed like I was leaping into the unknown by traveling over 13,000 miles away from my family. However, my stay here has shown me that Oberlin can easily become an amazing family, if you allow it to be. It has afforded me opportunities to explore almost all of my interests – quite diverse as they are. I have had the privilege of learning from renowned Chinese professors, been given grants to do projects in South Africa and Zimbabwe for my past two Winter Terms and I am currently involved in interesting Alzheimer's disease biophysical research. I have also had opportunities to interact with the greater Lorain County community by helping sexual-assault survivors through the Nord Rape Crisis Center, served meals at Oberlin's soup-kitchen, and helped organized a Poverty Symposium last year. I am an Entrepreneurship Scholar and a Creativity and Leadership award recipient, a Bonner Scholar for community service and an LRA for East, Burton and Noah residence halls, and chair of the African Students Association and a member of the Oberlin Christian Fellowship. I am currently a Biochemistry and East Asian Studies/Chinese double major on the pre-med track. As far as future plans are concerned, I hope to pursue a medical degree and maybe get involved in Zimbabwean politics. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or just need sometime to talk to about making the most out of your Oberlin experience. (Emmanuel.Magara@oberlin.edu)

### Sohaib Naim, OC'11

Hi, new Obies! I'm a junior from Karachi, Pakistan. Karachi has 15 million people; my "neighborhood" has some 150,000. So I first found Oberlin to be, well, small. (Yes, I didn't care much about the stats earlier. I still don't). But I have tried to make Oberlin's "smallness" work for me – and it's been fun. I found my majors: Economics and Mathematics. With Oberlin's professors, I did research on several (loosely related) things: Mali's traditional Muslim tribes, Indian constitutional history, and Japanese monetary policy. During my first year orientation, I founded Oberlin's first Model UN Club. (It sprung out of a Facebook group!). I revamped (and now lead) Oberlin's Muslim Students Association; getting the community together has been satisfying. Other fulfilling things I've done on campus include trying to recruit more Muslim students (as an admissions intern), helping organize the Social Justice Institute (as a student assistant at the Oberlin College Dialogue Center) – and of course, serving steak and wine to graduating seniors (as a commencement