



THE ADVOCATE

THE OFFICE OF MINORITY STUDENT AFFAIRS' NEWSLETTER

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE OMSA

The Office of Minority Student Affairs provides exceptional support services that enhance the academic achievement, personal development, and graduation rates of first generation, low-income, and historically underrepresented students at Illinois.

The Advocate, our semesterly newsletter, allows you to stay connected to the OMSA and discover the outstanding successes of our students!

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WELCOME



Welcome to the Office of Minority Student Affairs' newsletter, The Advocate. As director of the OMSA and an alum of the U of I, I am thrilled with this opportunity to connect with the OMSA family.

This circular will keep the OMSA's students, alumni, colleagues, and friends informed about our endeavors and inspire them to invest in our mission to help first-generation, low-income, and historically underrepresented students succeed at the University of Illinois and beyond.

As we navigate the historic challenges that the fall semester brought, one thing is certain - we can overcome anything together! Despite the raging pandemic, economic downturn, and the contentious sociopolitical climate, OMSA students are thriving, and this issue is filled with the good news of their accomplishments. Watching our scholars rise to meet this enormously difficult moment with excellence is invigorating. I am so proud of them and incredibly thankful to all of you who partner with us to support their success.

Yours in Orange and Blue,
Domonic Cobb, Director of the Office of Minority Study Affairs & TRIO Programs
 FAA '96 and EDU'01

The pandemic has wreaked havoc on our economy. Federal relief efforts have fallen short and millions of American families are struggling. **Our students and their families are not immune.** Many have become unemployed and are grappling with food insecurity while other are facing eviction or foreclosure. And despite the university's significant investment in institutional financial aid (e.g., Presidents Awards Program, Illinois Promise, Illinois Compact, etc.) our student's unmet financial need reached nearly \$114 million dollars this year.

Our students need your help. Please visit www.omsa.illinois.edu/give and make a tax deductible contribution. Your gift will make a tremendous difference to our deserving scholars.

This year, we welcome you to donate to the named funds on our giving webpage. If you are unable to give to all the named funds, please consider supporting the **Greta Hogan Student Persistence Scholarship**. The Greta Hogan Scholarship was created in 2018 on the 60th anniversary of Greta's arrival in our community. Greta, as she is affectionately referred by her students, is a legendary educator and administrator. She taught, advocated for, and mentored thousands of Illinois' first-generation, low-income, and historically underrepresented students across four decades. In honor of her amazing legacy to Illinois students we are raising funds to endow her scholarship. Please join me in donating monies to reach our \$25,000 endowment goal in this year!



OMSA SOLIDARITY STATEMENT

Today, we find our nation gripped by a global pandemic that has strangled our economy, killed more than 250,000 Americans, and infected more than 11,600,000 additional Americans with no end in sight.

Millions of Americans are suffering, not only due to illness and death of loved ones from COVID-19, but also from unemployment, homelessness, and food insecurity. Many are also suffering from the devastating fires and hurricanes that have ravaged our coasts, causing more sickness and housing insecurity. Poverty rates are rising, making the wealth divide even wider, but we see no concerted federal efforts to address the suffering and provide adequate relief.

Concurrently, we are witnessing increased incidents of violence. We see violence in the hateful rhetoric and growing political incivility. We see violence in caging children and forcefully separating families with no means of reuniting them. But perhaps most regrettably, we see violence in the brutal policing of black and brown bodies across the nation and the lack of adequate responses to public demands for transformation within the criminal justice system.

We, the employees of the Office of Minority Student Affairs, lift our voices in unison with our students, stakeholders, and fellow citizens who are crying out for relief and accountability, but especially for justice and peace.

In these challenging times, we affirm our abiding commitment to providing the advocacy, mentoring, and support services that our students rely on to succeed at Illinois and beyond.

In solidarity,
The Office of Minority Student Affairs

NEWS BITES

In this section, catch up on quick highlights and updates from all across the OMSA! Have an update to share? Reach out to us at:
omsasocial@illinois.edu!

OMSA AMBASSADORS

Since the hiring of Brian Becker as Academic Outreach Advisor, one program that has been revitalized is the **OMSA Ambassador Program**. Functioning as a student advisory committee, outreach and advocacy group, and professional development opportunity for OMSA students, the OMSA Ambassador program includes some of the most involved OMSA students. Here, Sophomore Judy Chiang describes how being an OMSA Ambassador has already helped her on her journey:

"As an OMSA student ambassador, I have learned to develop my professional career through multiple shared resources and have gained connections with others. I first joined the OMSA Ambassadors envisioning myself having a positive influence on others with my experience in academics and college life in general.



Judy Chiang, Sophomore, Mathematics

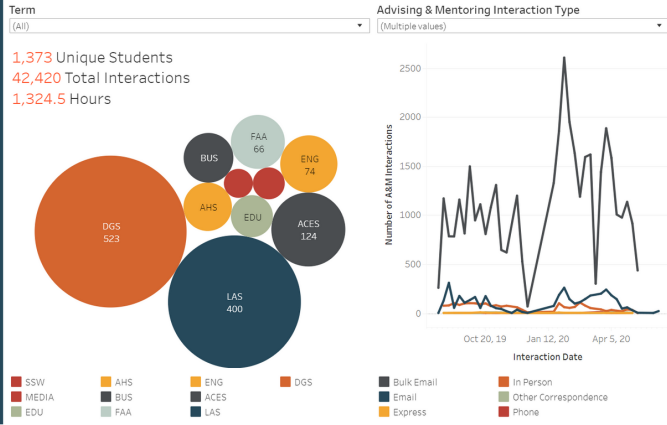
In this team, we not only ambitiously strive for our own excellence in different realms but also encourage and support each other as a family. This semester, I also am excited to connect with multiple new students through meetings and have continuous conversations with them. To me, being an OMSA Ambassador is not only a platform for service and self-development but a place with love and hope for every student to achieve their dreams."

OMSA INTERACTIVE ANNUAL REPORT

Advising & Mentoring

Through the OMSA's Academic Services Center, Advising & Mentoring pairs over 1,200 incoming first year students with a Student Success Advisor or Graduate Mentor to provide proactive advising services. In 2019-2020, Advising & Mentoring met with 1,173 students in 1,942 one-on-one sessions over 1,104 hours. All together, OMSA A&M staff logged over 42,420 points of contact with their assigned students.

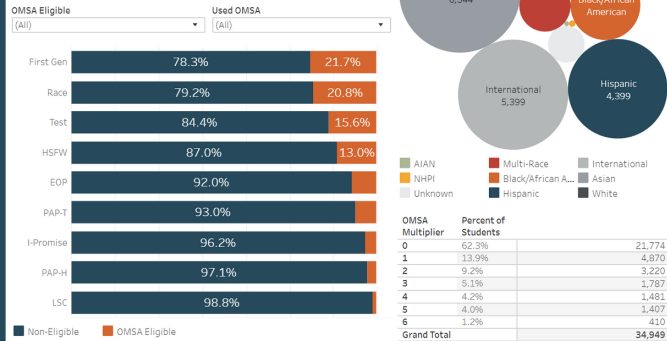
The Academic Services Center also provides walk-in mentoring sessions to any OMSA eligible student.



The Office of Minority Student Affairs released our **2019-2020 Interactive Annual Report**. This report was specifically designed to create a better connection between the services the OMSA provides, the outcomes of the students we serve, and the results we share with you--our students, campus partners and community stakeholders.

The OMSA Population

The OMSA is charged with serving a wide array of students based on their individual backgrounds. In keeping with student success literature and best practices, we have identified nine characteristics that signal a potential benefit to the student should additional support be provided. In order of prevalence on campus, these characteristics are: first generationality, traditionally underrepresented race/ethnicity, ACT scores between 17-24 (or SAT equivalent), admission fee waiver, EOP, PAF, PAP (both traditional and honors), I-Promise, and students from a low sending county in Illinois. Together, the number of these attributes a student identifies with forms a student's OMSA Multiplier and determines the intensity of services offered to the student.



Through the use of Tableau, the OMSA Interactive Annual Report allows for **real-time filtering and sorting of data to provide relevant information**.

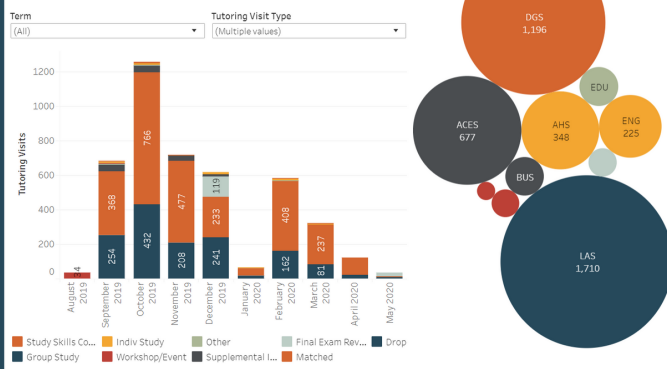
In the report you can:

- Explore the attributes of the 13,175 OMSA eligible students from 2019-2020
- Better understand the 42,420 interactions the Advising & Mentoring program logged
- Break down the 6,370 total Tutoring hours provided by the Academic Services Center
- Explore the next destination of 59 TRIO McNair Scholars, TRIO Upward Bound, and TRIO Talent Search graduates **and much more!**

Tutoring & Academic Services

Through the OMSA's Academic Services Center, OMSA Tutoring & Academic Services offers matched tutoring, drop-in tutoring, supplemental instruction, academic skills consultations, final exam review sessions, and a group study space. Tutoring is one of the major foci of the ASC, covering classes from ARAB, CHEM, ECE, ECON, FIN, FR, IB, MATH, MCB, PHYS, PSYC, SPAN, and STAT.

This year, 780 students logged 4,437 interactions over 6,380 hours at the Academic Services Center. In Fall, these figures continued the trend of pushing the ASC's high water mark of services provided.



Visit our website or go.illinois.edu/OMSAreport to explore the our Interactive Annual Report today!

2020-2021 OMSA SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS

Following a brief hiatus to move to fall semesters, the annual OMSA Scholarship Contest has returned. This year, the OMSA is proud to announce 12 recipients across 4 scholarship funds, with awards totaling over \$13,000. Congratulations to all our recipients!

Helping Others Prosper through Education (H.O.P.E.) Scholarship



Daniel Morales-Salazar | Senior, ACES

I am a First Generation student, and when I arrived on campus, I felt overwhelmed and that I didn't belong here. However, over time and with the help of the OMSA Tutoring Center, I was able to excel my first year. I am proud that I now work for OMSA Tutoring in Chemistry to give back for all the help I received. Earning the H.O.P.E. Scholarship is something that means a great deal to me and I am still shocked and honored to be a recipient.

Nevers Mushimata | Senior, LAS

I am currently completing the first of my last two semesters as an undergraduate senior. I plan on pursuing my Masters degree in MCB, however, I am also interested in a plant-microbe coevolutionary biology program, my current research focus. In addition, I plan on continuing to teach/tutor General Chemistry. To me, this scholarship resembles my continued desire to use my academic experience to serve as a mentor to underclassmen that are in the same position that I began in. This is accomplished through academic advice or guidance on undergraduate career building opportunities.



Bryana Rivera | Senior, LAS

I have been utilizing OMSA services since my freshman year and they have also been such a great resource for students like me. My future plan after graduation is in pursuing an advanced degree in either Biology or Bioanthropology, specifically studying health and hormones in minority populations. This award not only helps offset the cost of my undergraduate degree but also aids in my ability to afford an advanced degree, so this award means a lot to me and my family!



Ivette Zuniga | Sophomore, ACES

I am on a pre-vet route and wish to become a companion animal veterinarian. I am a first-generation Latinx student and the older sister to a 4- and 6-year old. This scholarship means so much to me because as you may be aware, college and veterinary school are very expensive. I have huge plans for my future and refuse to be held back because of money issues. The H.O.P.E Scholarship will help me tackle any financial barrier that comes my way.



Michael L Jeffries & Mrs. Gayle Jeffries and Friends-OMSA High Achievement Scholarship



Kathy De La Torre | Junior, LAS

I hope to attend graduate school for bioengineering, specifically to work on cancer therapeutics using nanotechnology. This scholarship is a tremendous help in helping me forward in my next phase in life! I am very grateful for your support, and I appreciate your generosity for OMSA. I cannot stress how much OMSA has helped me throughout my college journey, especially during my freshman year.

Sophia Espinoza | Senior, LAS

I hope to attend Medical School and be able to help improve access to medical care for under-served communities. This scholarship means a lot to me since I will be able to focus more on my studies without worrying about any financial problems during this pandemic.



Jennifer Guerrero | Sophomore, LAS

Since my transfer to UIUC, I have been very lucky to have gotten the chance to participate in so many extracurriculars and enrichment opportunities that have guided me on my journey to becoming a policy analyst and advocate for my community. My dream is to become the first person in my family to go to college and to attend graduate school once I have graduated from UIUC. With this award, I will be able to achieve my goals without worrying about the financial stress imposed on my family by college expenses.



Greta Hogan Student Persistence Scholarship

Kaijing (Emily) Yan | Sophomore, BUS

As an out-of-state student from California, I am grateful that I found my second home within OMSA during the first semester of freshman year. Through my involvement at OMSA as an ambassador and a tutor, I have grown a strong passion for providing mentoring and academic support services to minority student groups. In the future, I plan on continuing my commitment to serving as a role model of the minority student community at the University of Illinois.



Officer Diane and Ann Moore Scholarship

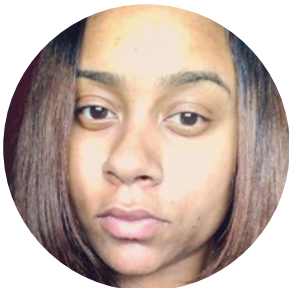


Ilya Ahmad | Sophomore, AHS

I am originally from Chicago, and I am working towards a degree in Kinesiology. I would love to go to grad school and become a strength coach for those that are currently serving, whether it be military, special forces, swat, firefighters, police, etc. I want to give back to them as they have given so much to us. This scholarships means a lot, as it will ease the financial stress, and allow me to study more on for the CSCS and have time for valuable in person unpaid internships.

Gia Banks | Sophomore, DGS

Thank you so much for selecting me for this scholarship! It means so much to me to know that there are people in my University's community that care so much about minorities and our success during undergrad. The Officer Diane and Ann Moore Scholarship allows for a little wiggle room for me for the 2020-2021 year, and I have to say that I am jumping for joy! Again thank you so much!



Jasmine Mitchell | Senior, AHS

I have always had a passion for advocating for underserved communities and adversity that arises in these communities. This scholarship means a lot to me because I want to continue my education in helping others. This scholarship will help me continue my education in serving communities of the world. I hope to use the advocacy and generosity given by OMSA to apply my skills to help communities fight inequities, adversities, and brainstorming ways in which I can advocate for better health outcomes for communities.

Penelopi Perez | Sophomore, ACES

I am currently studying environmental science with a focus in environmental justice and policy. I plan to further my education in marine biology research, and I hope to do work in sustainable and ethical fashion in the future. No matter what specific path I take, my future will involve making the world a healthier place for future generations. I am so grateful for receiving The Officer Diane and Ann Moore Scholarship as it will help me achieve these dreams.



Black Alumni Network Scholarships

The OMSA is also proud to partner with the University of Illinois Black Alumni Network to offer even more scholarship opportunities to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors of the African American background. All of these outstanding students are current, full-time students and have strong academic records. Congratulations to the Black Alumni Network and these outstanding students!



Aerial Burtely | Senior, LAS
Dr. Ashely Walls Scholarship



Fahren Zackery | Senior, LAS
Zeta Phi Beta Scholarship



Diamond Webb | Senior, LAS
Mable Floyd Scholarship



Kayla Wilson | Junior, BUS
Harris Family Scholarship



Ndidiamaka Ojiako | Junior, LAS
Zeta Phi Beta Scholarship, Nu
Delta Chapter



Drew Henry | Junior, AHS
Mable Floyd Scholarship



Ciara Johnson | Senior, LAS
BAN Scholarship



Eddy Almonord | Junior, LAS
BAN Scholarship



Michael Mitchell | Senior, BUS
BAN Scholarship

ACADEMIC SERVICES CENTER: ADAPTING AND THRIVING!

The Fall 2020 semester has brought extensive changes to the OMSA Academic Services Center. However, through it all, the ASC has adapted and is thriving! With our outstanding staff and students, there is nothing we can't overcome!

TUTORING & ACADEMIC SERVICES

“A good [tutor] is like a candle — it consumes itself to light the way for others.” —Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

Often the work of a tutor is in the shadows. However, each year the nation sets aside one week to shine light on those who give so much of themselves. This year, that week was October 4th through the 10th. This year under the leadership of Grace Casillas, Assistant Director, the Tutoring and Academic Services graduate staff, Lauren Pellant, Patrese Anderson, Karthik Satish and Alaina Arthurs, came up with some very entertaining ways to pay homage to, to strengthen our community, to hone NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers) competencies and to have some good old fashion fun!

We started the week with “OMSA’s Got Talent”. Using Flipgrid, the OMSA tutors had an opportunity to highlight their talents. Their fellow tutors voted by reacting to each post. We had two entries that were tied. However, in the end, who can resist cake pops and designer jeans? No one...that’s who! Lynne Pavletic, we just love your dedication and work ethic to your craft and to tutoring. How inspiring. Way to go!

Next, we had a Pictionary showdown using sketchful.io. With our services remaining online and having to use various types of whiteboards, we wondered whether this had up their computer drawing game. All our entries were amazing, and their individual and team spirits were on fire, but Nashita Hasan showed up and showed out!

ACADEMIC SERVICES CENTER: ADAPTING AND THRIVING! CONT.

Afterwards, what's better than an old-school Scavenger Hunt? Nothing! We posted some photo prompts in Slack under the handle #ntaw. Nevers Mushimata was the first person who completed all the photo prompts! Look at those critical thinking and problem-solving competencies at work!

Lastly, we wanted to hear from our tutors. So, we offered them the chance to make a 3-5-minute video on "Why They Enjoy Tutoring". Our tutors are innovative and phenomenal leaders. We can't wait to share these!

Tutoring and Academic Services team, thank you!

ADVISING & MENTORING

Who's pulling for you? Who's got your back? Who's putting your hat in the ring? Odds are, the OMSA Advising and Mentoring (A&M) Team!
Adapted from Sylvia Ann Hewlett

For Fall 2020, under the leadership of our Student Success Advisors, Danette Griffith, Haro Wade and Jazmine Thompson, the OMSA has the privilege to have twelve agile, resourceful and responsive paraprofessionals in the field of coaching and mentoring be apart of our team. Please help us say thank you to: Angelica Gonzalez, Shawn Hampton, Kamari Smalls, Dante Studamire, Anna Barkley, Ghaida Alrawashdeh, Brittney Decimus, Jordari Rene, Asmaa Elsayed, Benjamin Goldman, Amirah Burton Obanla and Jasmine Singleton.

Providing an essential retention service such as advising and mentoring is not an easy task. A&M is accountable for learning and grasping the policies associated with 8 colleges, 2 schools and 1 division while mastering not only student engagement related policies and resources and student development theory but also several institutional and OMSA student service systems as well as several collaborative technologies. Now, throw in a world-wide pandemic. Nevertheless, this has not stopped our fearless A&M team!

ACADEMIC SERVICES CENTER: ADAPTING AND THRIVING! CONT.

Again, who's pulling for you? Who's got your back? Who's putting your hat in the ring? Our A&M team, that's who! While serving remotely, these dynamic student affairs leaders continue to nurture and provide a welcoming environment for our students. For example, we're at the eighth week and already our team has had over nine-hundred interactions and fewer no shows than last year. Their strong record-keeping has allowed the OMSA to provide our academic affairs' partners valuable insight around campus-centered and current non-academic impediments impacting student success. Our advisors and mentors profoundly understand when the focus is on the students' enrichment where our students are valued, respected and actively listened to only then can students be empowered to reach their full academic and personal potentials.

A&M team, thank you!

Academic Outreach

As each OMSA scholar continues their academic pursuits, either in-person or remote, the OMSA has been there as they stride towards Excellence at Illinois. Whether partnering with The Career Center around finding internships or acing interviews, the Writer's Workshop around email etiquette, professional correspondence or integrating sources or partnering with companies such as Zebra Technologies, Eli Lilly or Altria Dist. Company to highlight career opportunities, the OMSA has been there to assist our students in harnessing their Power of I.

Our OMSA Ambassadors are prime example of the I at work! Our OMSA Ambassadors are burgeoning campus leaders who exemplify the four tenets of student excellence: Achievement, Leadership, Professionalism and Service.

ACADEMIC SERVICES CENTER: ADAPTING AND THRIVING! CONT.

So, it should not be unexpected that even in these trying times their bond to the OMSA and Illinois communities is indelible! Over the course of the term, under Brian Becker's leadership, our Academic Outreach Advisor, these scholars have advised the Director on key campus issues as well as run campaigns and have elected leadership! Please, help us welcome our newest OMSA Ambassador Executive Board:

President: Isaiah Williams
VP of Internal Ambassador Affairs: Kennedy Campbell
VP of Social and Community Development: Ivy Flores
VPs of Service and Philanthropy: Emily Yan & Alexa Flores



Isaiah Williams



Kennedy Campbell



Ivy Flores



Emily Yan



Alexa Flores

2020-2021
TRIO UPWARD BOUND
 Student Application

I UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
 URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

TRIO
 UPWARD BOUND

TRIO IS RECRUITING!

Three of the OMSA's TRIO programs are currently recruiting students! Both our pre-college programs, TRIO Talent Search and TRIO Upward Bound, and our TRIO McNair Scholars Program are seeking new students to participate beginning immediately.

TRIO McNair Scholars

Are you a First Generation or low income UIUC student planning on attending graduate school? Find more information about the McNair Scholars at go.illinois.edu/McNairApp! Call 217-265-4692 or email triomcnair@illinois.edu with any questions.

TRIO Talent Search

Serving 500 middle and high school students in Champaign, Urbana, and Decatur, TRIO Talent Search relies on community and family partnerships to create and sustain academic culture leading to graduation and collegiate success. View the application at go.illinois.edu/TSapp. Email triotalentsearch@illinois.edu for more information.

TRIO Upward Bound

Upward Bound is committed to providing our Centennial, Central, and Urbana High School students with high quality academic, cultural, and career related activities designed to prepare and equip them to successfully complete high school, enroll in an accredited post-secondary institution and obtain a baccalaureate degree. Apply at go.illinois.edu/UBapp and email trioupwardbound@illinois.edu for more info!

★ ★ ★
 The McNair 2020-2021 Applications are OPEN!
IS NOW Enrollment

Are You Eligible?
 1st Generation College Graduate
 Low-Income
 Underrepresented in Graduate Field of Study
 Attend Graduate School
 Immediately Post-baccalaureate Degree.

BECOME A MCNAIR SCHOLAR
 Priority Selection Deadline:
 Sunday, November 29th, 2020

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

VIRTUAL INFORMATION MEETING
 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 2020
 12:00pm - 1:00pm
 5:00pm - 6:00pm
 8:00pm - 9:00pm

REGISTRATION FORM:
<https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/7902751>

APPLICATION INFORMATION:
<https://omsa.illinois.edu/programs/TRIO/mcnair/docs/mcnair-application.pdf>

MORE INFO:
 217-265-4692 or email triomcnair@illinois.edu
<https://omsa.illinois.edu/programs/TRIO/mcnair/>



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