

# “Your Voice”

Welcome UDM Students to “Your Voice”, the Student Senate Newsletter. As Student Senate strives to create positive change on UDM’s campus, we hope to share with you what we have worked on in the past, what is currently being done, and what plans we have for the future so you can see the progress that is being made. As leaders that serve this community of students, we hope that you also feel the need to share your opinions, thoughts, and ideas to improve upon anything at UDM, whether it is regarding student life, campus life or anything else. Just as Student Senate representatives do on a daily basis, we hope that you too raise **your voice**...

## UDM Student Senate October Newsletter 2009

### *A message from the President...*

My name is Ervis S. Fama, President of University of Detroit Mercy Student Senate. I am a senior and doing a double degree on Biology and Psychology. This is my second year as a member of the Senate. Student Senate has six sub-committees and I am the chairman of the sub-committee of Presidents Council. UDM Presidents Council is an organization that is made up of Presidents of all student organizations of the University of Detroit Mercy. We are very excited that more than 65 Presidents of different student organizations that have joined the Council. Presidents Council is a unique opportunity for student leaders to share ideas, learn from the knowledge of others, and deepen their understanding of leadership.

Presidents Council focuses on educational values, preparation for service, and leadership development, in order to express attitudes and intentions concerning intellectual, spiritual, social and substantial development of students of University of Detroit Mercy. Also, it recognizes and encourages the right of the student body to assemble in organizations, which promotes the interest of the organization and enhances the campus experience, concurrently promoting the University

of Detroit Mercy as a positive influence in the community. Presidents Council meets the first Monday of every month.

The meeting for the month of October was held on October 5<sup>th</sup>. We started with a prayer that was led by the Director of UDM Ministry, Father Gary Wright, SJ. We then continued with a brief introduction of all members and their organizations. Also, Associate Dean of Students, Ms. Dorothy Stewart was present at the meeting. Associate Dean Stewart explained and informed the members of the responsibilities of the Dean of Students Office and the different areas the office oversees. Members were able to network with other student leaders and discuss certain issues and concerns within their organizations and the University.

As the University of Detroit Mercy Student Senate President, one of my responsibilities is to meet with the Dean of Students, Ms. Monica Williams and the President of The University of Detroit Mercy, Father Gerard L. Stockhausen, SJ. The purpose of these meetings is to express views, concerns, and suggestions that the students have about the University to the administration.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please do not

hesitate to contact me at my email [famaer@udmercy.edu](mailto:famaer@udmercy.edu) or 313-993-1493. I am looking forward to meeting and working with you.

Sincerely,



Ervis S. Fama  
UDM Student Senate President





## Student Senate Organization Grants (SEN.S.O.G)

Vice President of Finance (SENSOG Chair)  
Jennie Furgal – [furgaljk@udmercy.edu](mailto:furgaljk@udmercy.edu)

SENSOG is a very important asset for student organizations to have. As the Vice President of Finance and chair of the SENSOG committee, we have the ability to distribute funds to various organizations on campus. The SENSOG process is different from years previous. There are a few new things to make the process easier for the SENSOG committee and for the organization that is

applying for funding. The application is more detailed so that the committee can understand what organizations are purchasing, how much is spent and what benefits the event has for the UDM community. Organizations must still complete a reimbursement form and make copies of the receipts for all purchased items. Organizations no longer need to come and give a presentation in front of the SENSOG Committee. The process is all based upon the detailed application. Additionally, IDC numbers give SENSOG the ability to grant organizations money before the event and directly deposits money into their account, thus shortening reimbursement time.

Additional information is located on the Senate webpage <http://www.udmercy.edu/slo/clubs/senate/sensog/index.htm>  
We hope this process makes it much easier for organizations to have creative and engaging events on campus.



## Mission & Values

Vice President of Mission & Values  
Maria Ibarra – [ibarramg@udmercy.edu](mailto:ibarramg@udmercy.edu)



This past summer and current school year has been extremely busy with the planning of various events, most importantly Hunger and Homelessness Week (H&H) November 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. In order to make this possible I have met with the Student Social Work Association, Phi Beta Sigma, HASA, MSO, Four West: Peace and Social

Justice Floor, Lambda Theta Phi, Dave Nantais, and Lara Wasner about their involvement with Hunger and Homelessness Week and making it a campus wide collaborative effort. After meeting with Adam Gallegos, his band will give a FREE concert on the 19<sup>th</sup> in the Fountain Lounge. The committee members, including Gema Diaz, Gabriel Guzman, Kandice Wright, Kaitlin Avery, Yanet Plascencia, and many more, have been very dedicated in their roles and I am grateful for their assistance in the planning of H&H week. Please look out for flyers, and messages regarding the upcoming events. Thank you so much to the committee and everyone else who is taking time to help. You



## NOVEMBER EVENTS:



### Important SENSOG Dates

SENSOG Forms due  
Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>

SENSOG Committee  
Meeting Thursday,  
November 5<sup>th</sup>

SENSOG Notifications  
Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>

### Hunger & Homelessness Week

**Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**  
*Fasting* @ the Univ. Ministry  
Office 6am – 4pm

*Movie Night* featuring “The  
Soloist” in Life Science 113  
7pm – 9pm

**Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**  
*Panel of Face/Poetry Night*  
in Grounds 7pm-10pm

**Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**  
*Annual Thanksgiving Dinner*  
hosted by N.O.A.H  
Sign up @ the  
Univ. Ministry Office

*Sleep Out for the Homeless:*  
Hosted by Phi Beta Sigma in  
Kassab Mall

**Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**  
*International Friendship  
Luncheon*  
11:30am-1:30pm in Ballroom

*Concert Against Hunger*  
featuring: Bad Cat in Fountain  
Lounge 7pm-10pm

**Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Final collection of Letters of  
Love to fight Hunger &  
Homelessness in Detroit  
12-5pm @  
the Univ. Ministry Office



# Student Programming Board (SPB)

Vice President of Programming (SPB Chair)  
Ben Montgomery, Jr. – [montgoobe@udmercy.edu](mailto:montgoobe@udmercy.edu)

As a committee of Student Senate, the Student Programming Board (SPB) aims to provide quality programs to the UDM community to create interest and attract others to become involved on campus, and to keep the community engaged. We meet on the following Thursday's at 1pm in Grounds CoffeeHaus: Nov 5, Nov 12, Dec 3, & Dec 10.

This month, SPB held its annual Breast Cancer Walk on Oct. 7, we had 200 walkers and collected over \$650, with all the proceeds going to the Karmanos

Cancer Institute. On Oct. 13, Root Beer Pong was held in the Fountain Lounge in honor of Alcohol Awareness Week. 16 teams competed in a single match elimination style bracket for a \$100 prize. SPB and UDM saw its first Stress Release Party on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. Tuesday Night Live is a bi-monthly event where the UDM community can come out share stories, poems, and show off their talents and featuring special guest. On Oct. 20, the special guest musician was jazz flautist Galen Abdur – Razzaq. SPB's Movie Night @ UDM was held on Oct. 27 in Grounds CoffeeHaus and this time had a Halloween feel with Orphan as the feature presentation.

Finally, SPB presented the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Safety Street & Façade Blowout Party. Safety Street is a program developed for local school – aged children up to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade to give them a safe place to trick-or-treat. Registered student organizations build mini-haunted houses or "facades" to distribute the candy to the students. The Blowout Party was held on Oct 29<sup>th</sup> and Safety Street was held on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>.



## Public Relations

Vice President of Public Relations  
Anjalee Shah – [shahan@udmercy.edu](mailto:shahan@udmercy.edu)

UDM Website, creating a Facebook group to link the students to Senate, and sharing information through word of mouth, we have successfully recruited a large number of new members to take a leadership positions and help enhance all aspects of UDM life. This year I hope to strengthen the bond between the many organizations on campus to work for a common goal of improving UDM campus life. With the help of everyone, we can increase attendance to events, gather more volunteers for outreach projects in the community, and hopefully increase the spotlight on UDM which has so much to offer. Some of the upcoming projects I am working on with my committee are creating a new logo for Student Senate, making flyers for Senate-sponsored events, working with the Varsity News, and spreading the word about how Senate is progressing through various mediums, such as this newsletter. I'm always open to hear concerns or thoughts about anything pertaining to UDM. Feel free to contact me at [shahan@udmercy.edu](mailto:shahan@udmercy.edu).



## NOVEMBER EVENTS:



Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> –  
**Texas Hold'Em Tourney @**  
8:30pm in  
Grounds Coffeehaus

Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> –  
**Tuesday Night Live @**  
8:30pm in Grounds

Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> – **80's Party @** 9pm in the Ballroom

Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> –  
**Game Show Night @**  
8:30pm in Fountain Lounge

Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> –  
**Tuesday Night Live @**  
8:30pm in Grounds

### Public Relations Committee Meetings

Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> @  
1:00pm in the  
Student Senate Office  
(Meeting room A)

### Presidents Council Meeting

Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> @  
9:15pm in C & F 209



Public Relations and Marketing are crucial, even on a small campus like UDM's. Whether it is about getting involved in clubs, and organizations or attending events, seminars, and volunteering opportunities, it seems that we can never quite inform everyone about what is happening around campus. However, this year has been different, especially for Senate and SPB. By advertising over the summer to the incoming freshman at SOAR and PTV, updating the new Senate page on the



# Executive Secretary

Executive Secretary  
Laura Hawatmeh – [hawatmln@udmercy.edu](mailto:hawatmln@udmercy.edu)

The Representatives at Large are the glue that holds Student Senate together. Although they do not have a specific job description, their position entails a variety of duties that make them extremely important to our organization. The Reps @ Large are focused, energetic, and assist the executive board, college

representatives, and special interest committees with events, fundraisers, and tasks that need to be followed through. The Reps at Large represent the student body as a whole, symbolic of their title. They chair ad hoc committees which are assigned throughout the year. These committees signify a solution designed for a specific problem or task. For example, the Reps at Large last year were in charge of the “Your Voice” boxes which were placed in each college for the students to voice their concerns. Many concerns were entered into the boxes and improvements have been made since last year. Some of those included issues with Sodexo Food Service and their prices, the opening of the new Titan Fit Zone, etc.

As a collective body, Student Senate is proud to say that we have had a great student turnout at our meetings and events so far this year. The executive board appreciates the dedication members have shown so far, and look forward to the remainder of the year.



## Student Senators

Welcome your newly inducted members of the UDM Student Senate



- Alimalik Al-Azzawi
- Kaitlin Avery
- Soujay Bodke
- Alicia Coleman
- Ellen Currie
- Natalie Deboer
- Gema Diaz
- Charlene Donelson
- Jocelyn Flemons
- Alvin Ford

- Kristin Furwa
- Kristofer Hall
- Jason He
- Tiffany Hollie
- Brittney Kittrell
- Stephanie LaFrance
- Christien Numan
- Christopher Petzak
- Yanet Plascencia

- Sara Powrozek
- Thomas Provost
- Tiffany Pritchett
- Vincent Reechia
- Kiana Sledge
- Lauren Stover
- Phillip Trotter
- Kandice Wright
- Angie Yono



## NOVEMBER EVENTS:



### Student Senate Meetings

- Tuesday, November 3, 2009 @ 12:45pm in ENG 239
- Tuesday, November 10, 2009 @ 12:45pm in ENG 239
- Tuesday, November 17, 2009 @ 12:45pm in ENG 239
- Tuesday, November 24, 2009 @ 12:45pm in ENG 239

### 2009-2010 Executive Board:

#### President:

Ervis Fama  
[famaer@udmercy.edu](mailto:famaer@udmercy.edu)

#### VP of Finance:

Jennie Furgal  
[furgaljk@udmercy.edu](mailto:furgaljk@udmercy.edu)

#### VP of Programming:

Ben Montgomery Jr.  
[montgobe@udmercy.edu](mailto:montgobe@udmercy.edu)

#### VP of Public Relations:

Anjalee Shah  
[shahan@udmercy.edu](mailto:shahan@udmercy.edu)

#### VP of Mission & Values:

Maria Ibarra  
[ibarramg@udmercy.edu](mailto:ibarramg@udmercy.edu)

#### Executive Secretary:

Laura Hawatmeh  
[hawatmln@udmercy.edu](mailto:hawatmln@udmercy.edu)

#### Contact Us:

The Student Senate Office  
313-993-1493  
(Student Center Basement – Meeting Room A)

[studentsenate@udmercy.edu](mailto:studentsenate@udmercy.edu)

[Click here for the UDM Student Senate Group on Facebook](#)