



OFFICE OF  
**DIVERSITY  
& INCLUSION**  
at Capital University

# ODI Newsletter

APRIL 2022 | EDITION 14



@capitalodi  
Email us: [odi@capital.edu](mailto:odi@capital.edu)

## WELCOME BACK!

SPRING SEMESTER 2022

There is a new face in the Office of Diversity & Inclusion. We would like to introduce you all to our new Associate Director, Mikayla Carter. Here's more information about Mikayla.

Mikayla is a graduate from The Ohio State University where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She has also worked as an Assistant Hall Director for Ohio State's Higher Education and Student Affairs program. In her time at Ohio State, she was involved in organizations such as the Morrill Scholars Program, African-American Heritage Festival and Black Student Association, where she worked as an executive board member and later an advisor. Mikayla is coming to the office with a passion to help students and expand the sense of community. She is hoping to collaborate with campus partners to provide resources that students will find useful and work to create the best possible college experience for them. Feel free to drop in and introduce yourselves, she is excited to get to know you all!

We hope that you can get to know Mikayla better in the next academic year. As the year comes to an end we hope that you are all prioritizing your health. We know that you are all smart and will do amazing on your final exams.

*See You in  
the Fall*

### UPCOMING NEWS:

#### April

13 Easter Break begins after last class  
19 Classes resume  
28 Finals start

#### May

3 Semester ends  
7 Commencement

#### Events

9 Pride's Gayla  
11 Watch & Discuss with Sola & Anime Club  
13 VespaFest  
21 Ask us Anything

### Term of the Month

#### Neurodiversity (noun)

- idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways showing that there is no one "right" way of thinking, learning, and/or behaving and differences are not viewed as deficits



## Let's Hear From Our Students

We took time to ask our current students how they feel about the semester coming to an end and getting closer to that degree they've been working hard for. Hear from some of your fellow students down below.

When asked about how he feels about the school year coming to an end, Kelly Wilson, a psychology major in his third year said, "I'm excited for it to end. It's been a long semester." After all his hard work he's ready for a well-deserved break.

For other students like Bryheem Forbes, one of the students you can see working in our office said, "The school year has gone by fast. Probably because we're going back to some type of normalcy, even though things will never be normal again." We started this semester wearing mask and have now gone to being mask-optional state wide. Classes have flipped between online and in-person and many students are trying to adjust to a new learning style.

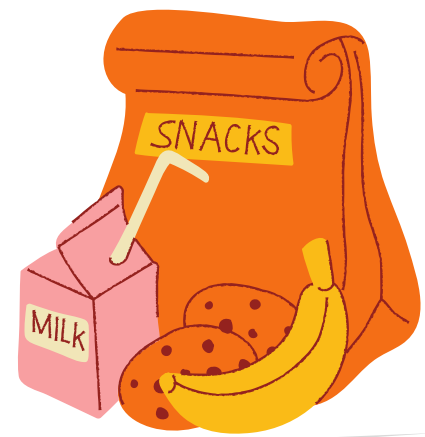
We could say that this semester has been a challenging one. The majority of students have said that they are ready for the semester to be over. Aiyanna Sly, a social work major and Bonner Leader Program Intern, said, "I'm ready for a break from school."

While everyone is ready for the break we wanted to know what students were looking forward to in the next academic year. Kelly told us, "I'm excited for the track team and the new members we're going to get. I've had the chance to meet some of them and it's looking promising." For Aiyanna and Bryheem they are excited for their field placement for their respected majors. It's giving them the opportunity to do the work they've been studying for and bringing them one step closer to graduation.

We're sure you've made a lot of memories over the school year. We asked students if there would be something about campus that they would miss. Bryheem said, "I'll miss having something to do. While it is nice to have a break I'm afraid I'm going to get bored."

There was a common answer we found among students related to their friends. Aiyanna Sly said, "The easy access to people is gone during break so it's going to be a little lonely not seeing my friends who are not from Columbus." Being on campus has allowed countless of friendships to appear, crossing between states, countries, cultures, and identities.

We hope that you stay connected with one another and continue to make good memories when you're back on campus. For our seniors, stay in touch! We'd love to see and hear all of the great things you do after graduation!



## *ODI Snack Pack*

Dikiea Elery is the new Assistant Director of Religious and Spiritual Life.

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion welcomes their new Associate Director Mikayla Carter. She will officially begin in her new position April 11th, 2022. Read a little about her on the the first page.

The Interfaith calendar is now available to all faculty, staff, and students as an opportunity for education.



# What's Going On!

The ODI Graduation Celebration returns bigger and better than before. Join us to celebrate those who have worked hard for their degrees and prepare to leave their mark on the world. This celebration will take place in Koinonia in Trinity Seminary on Saturday, April 23 from 12-2pm. To fully accommodate everyone and ensure for a good time, please RSVP whether you are a graduating senior, current student, or faculty. The link will be attached below.

Before the graduation, join us in getting to know the new Associate Director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Assistant Director of Religious and Spiritual Life Friday, April 22nd from 1-3pm.

As the year comes to a close we get ready for the ODI's annual Smooth Transitions program. This program is established for incoming students to engage in a pre-welcome weekend experience. The goal is to provide support for the introduction, matriculation and retention of underrepresented student populations to our university. We are looking for co-coordinators to help us organize this program and peer mentors to support our incoming students.

Here are the links not only to RSVP for ODI graduation, but to also apply for Smooth Transitions this summer.

## ODI Graduating Students RSVP:

[https://capital.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eJPZjJWM5HNzMLI](https://capital.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eJPZjJWM5HNzMLI)

## ODI Current Students & Faculty RSVP:

[https://capital.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_87VAcMpqbX9pYQS](https://capital.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_87VAcMpqbX9pYQS)

## Smooth Transitions Application:

[https://capital.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9FC550TA7rpWbIO](https://capital.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9FC550TA7rpWbIO)



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

The 2022  
ODI Graduation Celebration

SATURDAY, APRIL 23  
12-2PM  
KOINONIA

Come celebrate our ODI seniors and all of their accomplishments as they prepare to leave Capital a better place for having attended. All are welcome!

FAMILIES WELCOME • FOOD PROVIDED • MULTICULTURAL STOLES • SENIOR LEGACIES • ODI AWARDS

# ASK US ANYTHING

Come out and meet the Assistant Director of Religious and Spiritual Life and the Associate Director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion



Please join us in meeting our new additions to the Capital Community. They will be here to answer any questions you have and discuss their roles in working with students and campus partners.

Refreshments will be served.

1-3 | FRIDAY  
April 22nd

## Alumni Spotlight:

Norman Strickland III

he/him

Class of 2008

Cleveland, Ohio

Norman received his Bachelors of Arts at Capital. He now currently works as a bank branch manager and runs his own catering company. At some point in the future he plans on continuing his higher education. His favorite memory while at Capital was hanging out in the Saylor-Ackerman (SA) lounge with friends.

Norman would like to tell Capital students today, "Follow your dreams, the money will come. School does not equate to success. Start paying your student loans as soon as you graduate."



## Student Spotlight:

Kelly Wilson

he/him

Class of 2023

Gahanna, OH

Kelly is a psychology major here at Capital University. He plans on continuing his education by pursuing a masters degree. On campus he is part of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). He runs track for the university. He is familiar with the ODI and its organizations from previously being a mentee in the Smooth Transitions program.

His favorite memory of Capital is the late nights/early mornings that he had with his friend group. Whether that was playing a game or staying up late to study. He always had a good time with good people.