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What would you like to see in future issues?

What did you think of this issue?
We'd love to hear from you.
Email your ideas and feedback to
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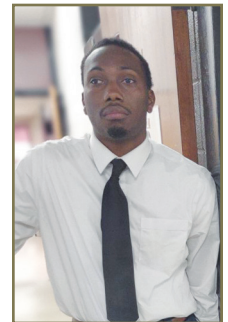
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PRESIDENT'S CABINET ANNOUNCED

Returning, new students step up to lead

The M2M President's Cabinet was selected on Feb. 11 after interviews with staff. The officers include three returning members and two students new to Hinds. Pictured below, L-R: President, Michael Mitchell; Vice President, Matthew Dilworth; Outreach Coordinator, Isaiah Hightower; Community Service Coordinator, Ben Brown; Academic Success Coordinator, Jarvius Collins



Despite pandemic, M2M continues to inspire, motivate, lead

Keys to engaging students: innovation, outreach

When Hinds Community College halted face-to-face classes in March 2020, M2M staff were faced with an unprecedented challenge: Reaching students who traditionally prefer face-to-face instruction. Dr. Aleisha Escobedo, program director, immediately started brainstorming.

"When COVID started spreading, I think all administrators had to figure out a creative way to pivot," says Escobedo. "We had no clue how to address this global pandemic in higher education. And we certainly were not prepared to switch to online student services that quickly. I took inventory of the services that our program already provided – tutoring, mentoring, counseling, and leadership training – and decided to incorporate a virtual component into each service."

"We had never had to convert services to a completely virtual option before. We are located in an area of Jackson that is home to an under-represented community. Individuals in the surrounding communities consider our institution to be a safe haven and source of access and support. It had never been fully shutdown, outside of holidays, for anything."

A priority was transitioning all forms to digital documents, including the M2M application, now available via a QR code. Instagram engagement increased tremendously, PPE supplies were ordered, and lab spaces rearranged to ensure compliance with social distancing guidelines.

As part of a plan to strategically reframe the scope of services to fit a more virtual format, Escobedo reached out to Paradigm Shift, a hands-on leadership training and development organization.

"We've done events and programs with them in the past, and they are the perfect group with the right amount of energy to engage with our students," Escobedo explains. "There is just something about human connection and social interaction that positively contributes to our students' college experience, whether it is happening virtually or in-person."



Black Lives Matter chat via Zoom

Alumnus on the Move:

Aaron Rivers

The former M2M president, 22, graduated from Hinds in 2020

Q: What is your major? What university do you attend?

A: Communication Studies. Minor in Public Relations. Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

Q: What are your career goals?

A: Being an entrepreneur, being involved in trading, investing in property, and being a traveling motivational speaker.

Q: Why did you choose that career?

A: I did not want to continue generational curses. Also, I always wanted to be my own boss, and I always saw myself being a better leader than any I had seen.

Q: What have you learned about yourself since leaving Hinds?

A: I'm adaptable, I'm charismatic, I can do anything I put my mind to, and I am what I say I am.

Q: What led you to Oklahoma?

A: An internship with Paradigm Shift that I found through an M2M event. I was inspired and decided to pursue the internship. I ended up qualifying, but I had so much adversity just to make sure to keep my spot, such as money, but when God says no one can shut the door, He means it.

Q: What do you do with Paradigm Shift?

A: We travel and hold events for 6th through 12th graders, giving them an experience of a lifetime, inspiring, motivating, and showing them the light they hold in them.

Q: Was it hard adjusting to a new college?

A: It's such a big difference such as cultural differences. I went from being around all black people to majority white. But I love it. It's more peaceful, and opportunities. It took some time, but I adapted. It was hard at first because I have no family here, but the people here make me feel like family, and my family check in all the time.

Q: Were you hesitant to move to Oklahoma?

A: Never. I know how Mississippi is, and I was ready to go. I saw an opportunity, and I pursued it like my life depended on it. Plus, I was ready for a change. I was unhappy where I was and needed a reset.

Q: How did M2M help you?

A: It helped me realize who I was. I never had people tell me what I could be until I got to M2M. I was always told what I couldn't do and why I couldn't. It taught me to be fearless and show up everywhere I go because I don't only represent myself, but everyone that is connected to me.

Q: Any advice for current M2M students?

A: Don't try to be like the others around you. If you always try to be cool or fit in, you will only be failing yourself. When God made you, he made you to be a leader. So don't follow. Lead, and be the star you are meant to be.

Follow Aaron on IG @theaaronrivers

Paradigm Shift offers customized workshops focused on leadership training, team building, and personal development. Follow on IG @paradigmshiftleadership



Rivers reading to elementary students during Read Across America in 2020.

Preparing for your 4-year degree

Take these steps to get ready for your next move – NOW



Jonathan "JJ" Graham, M2M member, is a May 2020 graduate.

Regardless of your classification, it's not too early to start thinking about life after graduation. Though 81% of community-college students want to pursue a bachelor's degree, only 33% actually transferred to a 4-year college within six years of earning an associate's degree, according to a Community College Research Center study.

One reason is lack of information about the transfer process, says Stephen Handel, director of higher education at The College Board. He suggests students follow these 5 steps to ensure they'll be ready.

- **Make a plan.** Even if you haven't chosen a major, prepare by taking courses that will transfer to a 4-year college.
- **Ask questions.** M2M staff are here to guide you through the process. Talk with transfer advisors at the colleges you are considering to ensure your courses and grades are sufficient. This is especially true if you are transferring out of state.
- **Make grades a priority.** Grades are an important criterion for admission. Also, studying hard now will prepare you for the rigors of a 4-year college.
- **Apply for financial aid.** Also, ask the colleges you are considering about scholarships that are set aside for transfer students.
- **Understand course and credit transfer.** Ideally, you will complete two full years of coursework at Hinds, so that you will be classified as a junior when you transfer. Meet with your M2M coach and a counselor at least once per semester to ensure you stay on track.

UPCOMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

- April 6-May 11 . . . Registration for Summer Mini-Term classes
- April 21 Last day to withdraw from full-term on-campus classes
- May 3-7 Final Exams
- May 12-13 Spring Graduation-the Clyde Muse Center on the Rankin Campus
- May 15 Spring Graduation-J. D. Boyd Gymnasium on the Utica Campus
- May 12 First day of classes for Summer Mini-Term on-campus classes; Last day to Add/Drop

Summer Mini-Term on-campus classes

- May 24 Last day to withdraw from Summer Mini-Term on-campus classes
- May 25 Last day and final examinations for Summer Mini-Term on-campus classes

VIP of the Month

>>> Michael Mitchell

"I practice what I preach"

M2M president an active member since 2019

Q: Why did you want to be M2M president?

A: One of the biggest reasons was to show what a young black man is supposed to be: A figure beyond the realm of a basic statistic.

Q: What are your goals as M2M president?

A: Goals are like deadlines without due dates; you'll achieve them in due time. I only have three. The first is to hold myself accountable for everything I do. As a leader, that is a trait you have to uphold. The second is to practice what I preach. All the things that I speak on, I can't mislead myself nor the people around me. The last goal is to simply have the best grades I can. I feel like this is the most important. Grades are what we as students are defined by. They make us or break us.

Q: What motivates you to stay active in M2M?

A: M2M staff give us students a reassurance that we can and will be great at whatever we want to do.

Q: What are your career goals?

A: Academically, I want to pursue a doctorate someplace away from Mississippi. I have yet to narrow down a true major of interest, but I need a doctorate to have at least the smallest chance at a comfortable life. Now that is a completely different story. Career wise, I love being a businessman. I am a videographer/photographer and I have my own business. I want to expand into other ventures and trends because money makes the world go around. I'm all about a dollar.

Q: How does M2M help with those goals?

A: The talks with the staff are what give us the most hope. I can literally move a mountain after I get advice from Dr. Escobedo or Dr. Dilworth. I want to keep track of my schedule and be productive after I speak with Mr. Smith. The constructive conversation is key because most young black men in the program don't have anyone to talk to at home.

Q: What are your hobbies?

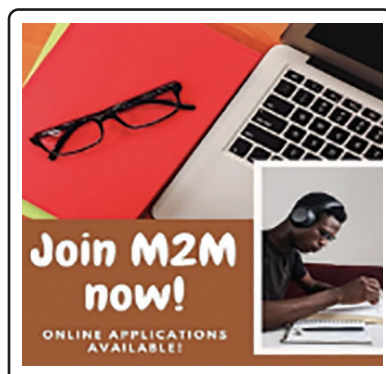
A: Photography/videography, doing visual research, praying, working out, reading, listening to music, observing art, and dreaming.

Q: What excites you about the future?

A: Knowing consciously that I have made it somewhere in life. We make plans and God laughs. I have a lot of plans for my life, but I cannot say they will all go up the way I wrote them down. My mission is to stay ahead of myself. I am my only competition. I am my only villain and hero. I would say I'm excited for the fortunes that I may get in the future, but money and material things come and go. I could say I am excited for the notoriety that having a degree, a business, and money brings, but those are things that people can get rid of easily. My future is bright regardless.



Mitchell representing the program in an M2M blazer.



Black Super Heroes You May Not Know

Lonnie Johnson:
Super Soaker Inventor

The NASA scientist, who has over 40 patents, invented the Super Soaker squirt gun in his own bathroom in 1989. Johnson, who holds an M.S. in nuclear engineering from Tuskegee University, still works for NASA and owns a research and development company.



Mark Dean:
co-creator, IBM personal computer

Dean started working at IBM in 1980 and was instrumental in the invention of the personal computer. He holds 20 patents, including three of IBM's original PC patents. Dean, who in high school built his own computer, radio, and amplifier, holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Stanford University.



Lisa Gelobter:
Computer animator, GIFs pioneer

Gelobter is a computer animator who has helped create several pioneering Internet technologies, including Shockwave, HULU, and GIFs. A Brown University graduate with a B.S. in computer science, Gelobter also served as the Chief Digital Service Officer for the Department of Education at the Obama White House.



Max Robinson:
Network TV Anchor

Robinson's career began in 1959 when he applied for a "whites only" job at a Virginia news station. His job was to read the news with his face hidden behind a picture of the station's logo. He was fired after demanding that the slide be removed so that his relatives could see him on air. The station manager said: "Portsmouth isn't ready for color television." He continued to work in broadcasting, and ultimately became the first black network TV anchor for ABC's World News Tonight in 1978, blazing the trail for other black broadcast journalists.



M2M staff have also organized a number of activities that include creating a voter registration video for the college, facilitating virtual meetings on issues including Black Lives Matter and mental health, volunteering at the Genesis and Light Center, holding workshops on scholarships and finance, and organizing toy and canned food drives. One highlight was M2M students representing the program by serving as ushers at a legislative meeting attended by Hinds Community College President Stephen Vacik and state representatives.

"Many of our on-campus activities and university fieldtrips had been some of our primary incentives that

drove student participation," says Escobedo. "However, when all of that went away, I had to start thinking about more creative ways to get underrepresented students more involved."

Escobedo says she thinks the M2M team has done a "phenomenal" job of pivoting and addressing the needs of the students in the community. "We have provided virtual services, and we've given them as much accessibility as possible over the past year," she says. "For now, my hope is that we can continue to serve students in an academic and virtual capacity and empower them to persist."

At right, top – Hinds Cares Day at Genesis & Light Center; bottom – scholarship Workshop



M2M members volunteer as Legislative Ushers



MSU Transfer Workshop



Alcorn State Financial Literacy Workshop

CAREER SPOTLIGHT: HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION

Jobs in the field are projected to grow 32 percent this decade

If you're interested in the health industry but not the idea of working closely with patients, consider a career in healthcare administration, which, simply put, is the process of handling all aspects of the business side of a hospital, clinic, or other health-related organization.

Jobs in the field are expected to grow 32 percent this decade, much faster than the average for other careers, and the median salary was \$100,980 in 2019, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Of course you won't earn that salary right after graduation; you have to work toward it. There are several entry-level positions in the field that will be a good starting point, according to nurse.com. They include the following (along with national median salaries):

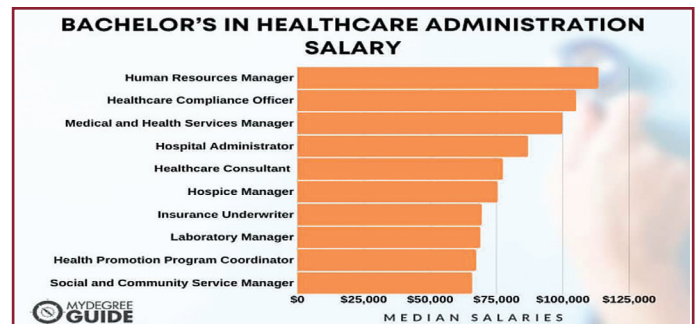
- Medical assistant, \$34,800
- Medical biller/coder, \$55,923
- Medical records technician, \$42,630
- Patient services rep, \$34,710
- Social service manager, \$67,150

Dr. Damien Thomas, a licensed professional counselor and founder of Resilience Counseling & Recovery Center LLC in Flowood, says the industry would benefit from more black males.

"Having black men in the field would allow them to have a voice for those that are underserved in the community," says Thomas, who opened his clinic because "there were many unmet needs observed in the field, particularly related to people of color."



Dr. Thomas has served as a guest speaker and mentor to the M2M program.



Although a degree in healthcare administration isn't required to manage a medical office or department, it is beneficial, says Thomas, who is also an assistant professor of Psychology and Counseling at Mississippi College. "Having a skill isn't all that is needed," explains the therapist of 14 years. "Understanding healthcare policy, accounting, managed-care, and other business-related factors would be necessary for long-term success."

Also important are experience, internships, and being open to change because healthcare is an ever-evolving field, says Thomas, who advises students to take advantage of mentoring opportunities with seasoned professionals. "I think that there must be a desire to help others before entering into such a field," he says.

Because healthcare administration is such a broad field, different areas require different degrees and credentials, so it's important that students do their own research into the various programs and certification opportunities.

Consider jumpstarting your healthcare career by taking advantage of JATC programs including Business Management and Medical Data, as well as prerequisites for majors such as Nursing and other health related programs.