

(ms)²

(MS)² eNews - Fall 2023

As I near the completion of my first year as the Director of (MS)², I stand in appreciation for the scholars, faculty, and administrators with whom I have worked. Everyone helped me understand what it means to be apart of (MS)², and I felt supported in moments in which I stumbled. Since wrapping up the summer, a short visit to the (MS)² All Class Reunion in Atlanta, and some needed rest, I am already in the thick of preparations for upcoming summers!



Looking ahead, one important goal I have is to increase (MS)²'s engagement with alums and document institutional memory. This eNewsletter serves to check both boxes. Delivered on a quarterly-ish basis, the eNewsletter will provide programmatic updates, highlight a scholar (current or alum), offer opportunities for you to get involved with the program, discuss the impact of (MS)² and provide a way to financially support (MS)².

I hope you enjoy receiving these updates and the invitation to remain connected to (MS)². Feel free to reach out with feedback, ask questions, and suggest topics and/or scholars to highlight. Thank you in advance for your time and support!

Cheers,
Eliot B. Sykes, PhD, LICSW (he/him)
Director of (MS)²

Program Updates

Scholars often ask what the (MS)² office does during the regular academic year. (MS)² is like a "school within a school." There is a seasonality to our work - fall recruitment and college application support, winter finalist interviews and faculty hiring, spring enrollment and course registration, and summer "live" programming.

Currently, (MS)² is actively recruiting the incoming cohort of first-year scholars for summer 2024. We are offering a series of webinars for both school counselors as well as prospective applicants and their families.

Upon request, (MS)² College Counselor Karina Hernandez-Guarniz, (MS)² '96, is meeting virtually with individual "4th years" to review their college applications and offered a financial aid webinar in late October to the (MS)² Class of 2023 graduates.



Scholar Spotlight

(MS)² '12 alum [Jonathan Earl Conyers](#) is a respiratory therapist, debate coach, entrepreneur, and the acclaimed author of the recently published memoir *I Wasn't Supposed to Be Here*. Born in Chesapeake, Virginia, but primarily raised in the Bronx,

New York, Conyers graduated from Stony Brook University as an Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) student in 2017 where he majored in Respiratory Therapy and minored in writing. His (undergraduate) research was showcased at an international experimental biology conference, and his dedication to respiratory care continued as he bravely stood on the frontline during the COVID-19 crisis. Currently, Conyers is a respiratory therapist, specializing in neonates and pediatrics at New York University Langone Hospital.

In addition to his medical achievements, Conyers co-founded the Brooklyn Debate League (BDL) which brings Speech & Debate to at-risk communities. Conyers gained significant recognition when he was featured in a 12-part story on [Humans of New York](#) that resulted in raising 1.3 million dollars for his non-profit. Currently, BDL is in the process of filming a documentary in collaboration with Vice News, and their efforts have supported numerous students in establishing new teams, competing at tournaments, qualifying for States and Nationals, and participating in debate summer camps. In 2021, Conyers also founded Conyers Media platform as a platform for people to express their vulnerability and create diverse content.



Get Involved

Do you know a talented 9th student who is curious about how the world works? Enjoys a challenge? Draws inspiration from other cultures and peoples? Is willing to work hard to achieve academic goals? If so, encourage them to apply to (MS)²!

The (MS)² application for summer 2024 is now available online at www.andover.edu/ms2. Applications are due January 15, and the (MS)² program will run from Tuesday, July 2 through Sunday, August 4, 2024.

Thank you for sharing the [\(MS\)² flier](#) with your networks and spreading the word!



Support (MS)²

In summer 2023, (MS)² served 108 scholars from across the United States through rigorous STEM programming and a five-week residential experience on the Phillips Academy campus, all at no cost to students or their families. [Learn more](#) about the program and its impact on students' lives.

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Phillips Academy
180 Main St
Andover, MA 01810



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