National Exposure for JSU CMM

MISTER Edward Williams with Daniel Watkins, Donna Marie Winn, James Comer, Shawna Davie, & David Johns, Executive Director White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans

MISTER Devonte Stewart on White House Initiative Student Panel

Special points of interest: The Many Faces of JSU Call Me MISTER, Collaborations, & JSU Call Me MISTER Summer Internship Reflections

Coach’s Corner

The 2013-2014 academic year marked a major transition for the Jackson State University Call Me MISTER Program. We transitioned from merely attempting to get the word out about our scholarship and leadership development program to getting our message out that if we want to see significant change in elementary students’ academic outcomes, then we must invest in both education and people. At the heart of the Call Me MISTER model is the belief that if we select young men that truly desire to positively impact students’ lives, provide them with the support that they need to be successful, and model the behaviors that we expect; then they will go into our schools and communities and make a difference.

The JSU MISTERs showed that they are well on their way to making a difference through a myriad of accomplishments. They touched young people’s lives by volunteering in elementary and middle schools, completing a two month long summer internship in educational settings in South Carolina, and teaching and mentoring young men in a collaborative venture between JSU Kids Kollege and Blackburn Laboratory School. They continued to develop as professional educators by presenting at several conferences at the local and national levels, conducting research through the JSU Center for Undergraduate Research, and expressing their views through panels and public interviews.

We are proud to say that not only have our MISTERs grown, but our program has grown in its capacity. We currently support fifteen African American males majoring in elementary education and are in the process of recruiting our next cohort of five.

We hope that you enjoy the second edition of our newsletter and continue to follow and support us as we commit ourselves to the Call Me MISTER Vision.

Dr. Tony Latiker, Academic Coach
Call Me MISTER Summer Internship and Institute

My summer experience in South Carolina was very interesting. I had my first experience having my own class. At first it was difficult. I had to learn to adjust to different attitudes. I worked with kids unlike any I had previously worked with. I had students from troubled homes and even one student with autism. My autistic student was a big challenge, but it was a blessing to teach him because he made me a better person and educator.

Not only was working with the kids a great experience, but meeting new MISTERS from across the country and building strong relationships was great. Based on my summer experience, I can truly say that “teamwork makes the dreamwork.”

MISTER Freddrick Murray

This past summer, I was among seven MISTERS privileged to experience the Call Me MISTER Internship in South Carolina. I thought that there was no way possible that I could stay there seven weeks, but I met many African American males there with a common goal to become effective teachers and role models. During the 1st week there, my mentor, MISTER Michael Barron, challenged me to sit with a different person everyday. This was a big challenge for me because I am shy and do not like opening up to others. As the weeks passed, I met more individuals and had the opportunity to work with some of them at Courage Enrichment Learning Center. We were all from different areas, held different views on life, and had something different to offer. I am very grateful for the opportunity and the networking experience.

MISTER Larry Strickland

Entering the Call Me MISTER Program as a freshman this summer, I did not know what to expect or what was expected of me. I was shy and quiet at the very beginning of my relationship with my fellow MISTERS, but the trip to the institute at Clemson helped to break the ice. I received a lot of knowledge and guidance from the institute and older MISTERS. Although, I was ignorant about a great deal of what was occurring, older MISTERS helped me and my cohorts out greatly. Overall, it was a great experience and it left me looking forward to the future.

MISTER Jonathan Thomas

THE VISION

JSU Kids Kollege and Blackburn Laboratory School

This past summer, I had the privilege of working alongside two of my MISTER brothers at JSU Kids Kollege. We took on the roles of educators, leaders, and mentors for the 8th grade students of Blackburn Laboratory School. As a mentor, I realized just how vital my role was to the students. My fellow MISTERS and I were charged with mentoring and modeling the idea of what a “MISTER” truly is to a group of 8th grade males. This task challenged me a great deal. I had to walk the walk and speak the truth. There were times when lessons would fall by the wayside and we had to respond proactively. After a few weeks, I saw the impact that our persistence had on the students. They referred to us as “sir” and began to pattern themselves after us. Their attitudes and appearance began to change. By the time the closing ceremony arrived, these young men were able to recite the vision statement that my MISTER brothers and I created for them. We saw the astonished responses the parents gave their children! They watched in amazement as their own children dressed and established themselves as college-bound scholars. This past summer was indeed a great experience.

MISTER Edward Williams

MISTERs Ansel Heidelberg, Edward Williams, Alexander Gatewood with Vonda Beatty, JPS Deputy Superintendent of Middle Schools, Cedric Gray, JPS Superintendent, and Amy Berry, MLI Interim Director

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COLLABORATIONS

Project Tie at Pecan Park Elementary School

Members of JSU Call Me MISTER and the Gentlemen’s Academy combined forces to sponsor the 1st Annual Project Tie event at Pecan Park Elementary School. Gentlemen’s Academy and JSU CMM representatives met with the principal and assistant principal in order to plan this event for the male elementary students attending the school. They solicited tie donations from JSU students and faculty as well as purchased ties to donate to the students. Each MISTER and Gentleman paired with one or more students to teach them how to tie a tie and to discuss the importance of setting goals and dressing for success.

Tigers United

The College of Education and Human Development and JSU’s Mississippi Learning Institute are pleased to announce the formation of a partnership between the JSU Call Me MISTER program, and Clemson University’s Magnolia Clemson Club. Dubbed “Tigers United” in recognition of the mascot shared by both universities, the partnership is designed to provide professional and leadership development opportunities for the MISTERs through contact with Clemson alumni living and working in the Jackson metropolitan area.

The concept of the Tigers United partnership was developed by Clemson alumnus and Magnolia Clemson Club Secretary Dr. Otis Pickett. Dr. Pickett and other Clemson alumni had a goal of adding a community engagement component to the activities of the Magnolia Clemson Club, and he felt that supporting the JSU Call Me MISTER program was an ideal fit. With the support of Magnolia Clemson Club President Tripp Segars, Dr. Pickett approached JSU in July 2014 to discuss the partnership, and Tigers United was formally established in August 2014.

In order to support Tigers United, the Magnolia Clemson Club applied for and received a grant from the Clemson Alumni Association to launch the partnership. These funds will be used to support professional development opportunities for the MISTERs, as well as teacher certification training workshops and a community service project. On October 18, 2014, a social gathering was held at the home of Clemson alums Mike and Wylyn Doherty to celebrate the formation of the Tigers United partnership, to discuss plans for the coming year, and to provide an opportunity for the MISTERs and members of the Magnolia Clemson Club to connect and network in an informal setting. Rapport was quickly established between both groups, setting the stage for a powerful partnership.

Mr. Kyle Bray
THE MANY FACES OF

JSU MISTERS are actively engaged in college life and participate in a variety of organizations and extracurricular activities. MISTERS are encouraged to pursue their interests, while maintaining their focus on becoming the best elementary education teachers possible. It is not always easy for them to juggle all of their responsibilities, but they realize that developing self-discipline is a part of the maturation process that will make them effective mentors and role models in their future educational positions and in their communities.

Alexander Gatewood (left): Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Gentlemen’s Academy, NAACP, NPHC Board, STAB, SGA Street Team

Ansel Heidelberg (right): Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and the Sonic Boom of the South

Larry Strickland, Jr. (below): Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Student Board of Directors for Sodexo, NAACP, MADDRAMA Performance Troupe, Gentlemen’s Academy, SGA Street Team

Deon Holder
Alpha Lambda Delta, JSU W.E.B. Du Bois Honors’ College, JSU Track & Field, and JSU G.U.Y.S.

Markeith Donerson
Insatiable Modeling Squad & Gentlemen’s Academy

“We envision a nation that marshals its resources to assure that all children have an equitable and promising future – a nation in which all children thrive.”

W.K. Kellogg Foundation Vision Statement
JSU CALL ME MISTER

JSU MISTERS are proudly affiliated with Greek Letter Organizations, the Sonic Boom of the South, JSU Athletics, JSU Gentlemen’s Academy, NAACP, MADDRAMA Performance Troupe, JSU Honor’s College, and JSU Student Government among other campus organizations.

MISTER Malcolm Baldwin & Dr. Tony Latiker

Edward Williams
William Winter’s Scholarship Recipient

Malcolm Baldwin
Sonic Boom of the South

Alex Taylor
Sonic Boom of the South

Ansel Heidelberg
Sonic Boom of the South

Corey Shaw
JSU Baseball, Wavy Dave (JSU Mascot), Freshman Class Senator Gentlemen’s Academy

Call Me MISTER
Vision Statement
“I am a dedicated Servant Leader who is perpetuating a sorely needed concept - Servant-Leaders as role models in elementary schools. I am devoted to planting seeds of dignity and respect in children and inspiring them to cultivate those seeds producing a crop of unprecedented success. I will teach reading, writing, and arithmetic and progress to self-esteem, imagination and determination. Because of my immeasurable promise, not only have I earned your respect, I demand it! A title is only important if one’s character and integrity dictate its use. When you address me, please verbalize my destiny... please do not call me by my first name... call me in reference to my great vision... call me MISTER!”
MISTER Deon Holder was among MISTERS and program administrators interviewed on a NPR special, Role Model Pipeline for Young Black Men, focusing on the Call Me MISTER program. The segment aired on the Tell Me More Program. MISTER Holder represented his experience as a young black male from a middle-class two parent household and his decision to become a teacher rather than follow the path that his parents had planned for him.

MISTERS also co-facilitated a workshop session with CMM Executive Director, Dr. Roy Jones and JSU CMM Academic Coach, Dr. Tony Latiker at the 2014 Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color (COESBOC) Conference geared towards young men. The MISTERS led the participants in activities designed to get students to examine the impact of relationships that they are involved in and how they can utilize their personal stories to influence others.

Each first and third Tuesday JSU CMM members volunteer to assist with the “Sistas” Teaching and Raising Sons project through the Mississippi Learning Institute. The MISTERS work with black boys ages birth to six, while their single mothers participate in focus groups and interactive sessions designed to empower single mothers to better prepare their sons for reading, school and to develop positive self concepts.

In May 2014, the 3rd Cohort of five JSU MISTERS was selected. These young men completed online applications, essays, and were interviewed by current MISTERS and professional educators.

They waisted little time in acclimating themselves to the program. They joined the existing 10 JSU MISTERS in June to attend the Call Me MISTER Leadership Institute at Clemson University. While there, they met MISTERS from across the country, spent time bonding with their fellow JSU MISTERS, and learned about the program and expectations.

Pictured Front Row (left-right): Alex Taylor, Jackson, MS 
D’Audrek West, Hazlehurst, MS 
Corey Shaw, Jackson, MS 
Jonathan Thomas, Bolton MS
Jordan Seals, Dallas TX 

MISTERS Everett Anderson and Deon Holder with children of STARS participants
National Exposure Continued...

JSU MISTERs with Dr. Howard Stevenson prior to their joint workshop focusing on youth strategies for coping with stressful situations at the W.K. Kellogg Young Men of Color in Mississippi: Making Connections Conference

JSU MISTERs with JSU President Carolyn Meyers, Congressman Bennie Thompson, Flowood Elementary Student Qadre Latiker in JSU Student Center after meeting focusing on the relevance of HBCUs

JSU MISTER members with Governor and Mrs. Phil Bryant at the Governor’s Mansion for the W.K. Kellogg Young Males of Color Grantee Convening

Next Issue:

- JSU CMM Mentors
- Isabel and Van Winkle Elementary School Collaborations
- JSU Center for Undergraduate Research Sponsored Study on Urban African American Male Elementary School Teachers Conducted by MISTERs

*Funding for newsletter provided through grant by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Call Me MISTER Eligibility

Each applicant must meet the following criteria to be eligible for consideration for JSU Call Me MISTER:

- A graduating senior in high school applying to Jackson State University or accepted to attend Jackson State University;
- Complete online application including 1 page entitled, “Why I Want to Teach” and a 1 page essay entitled, “How I Believe the Call Me MISTER Program Will Benefit Me as a Student;”
- Submit two letters of recommendation (online process), one from an educator and one from a person of the applicant’s choice;
- Submit a copy of high school diploma and final transcript or General Equivalence Diploma (GED).

Online Application and Recommendation forms may be completed at the following website: http://www.jsums.edu/mli/MISTER/
Or simply send an email requesting an application to: tony.t.latiker@jsums.edu or cmm2012@jsums.edu

Call Me MISTER Rights & Responsibilities

- Major in Elementary or Early Childhood Education
- Maintain a 2.75 G.P.A.
- Enroll in at least 16 hours
- Adhere to attendance policies
- Not drop any classes without advisement from Academic Coach
- Take Praxis CASE by the end of freshmen year
- Satisfy all requirements for admission into teacher education at JSU
- Attend all scheduled seminars & activities
- Teach 1 year in Mississippi for each year funds were received.
- Conduct self in a manner that exemplifies a positive role model
- Reside on campus and not engage in outside employment that will impair effectiveness in meeting academic and program requirements
- Adhere to grievance policies of JSU
- Develop a plan of action with the Academic Coach to assist in academic success

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
Call Me MISTER® Program
College of Education & Human Development
Mississippi Learning Institute
P. O. Box 17096
1400 John R. Lynch Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39217
601-979-1476 (phone)
601-979-3781 (fax)

Clemson University Call Me MISTER Website: http://www.clemson.edu/hehd/departments/education/research/callmemister/