From the Director

The Choice of Atypical Teenagers

(MS)², Phillips Academy’s oldest outreach program, develops the academic abilities of economically disadvantaged minority students and, in the process, helps fulfill their hopes and dreams. Inspired by deeply committed (MS)² faculty, like-minded peers, and the lively Summer Session environment, students strive to learn and experience as much as they possibly can, returning to their home schools with greater confidence, higher aspirations, and new skills to share.

For five weeks of their summer, (MS)² students choose to be immersed in our intensive academic program—not exactly the choice of a typical teenager! They embrace the challenges of math, science, English, and computer science, and eagerly meet with college counselors for advice and guidance. Despite all the hard work, many students describe their time at (MS)² as “my best summer ever.”

This past summer, we welcomed 39 first-years, welcomed back 38 second-years, and, at graduation, bid farewell to our 32 third-years, who have grown from smart yet timid adolescents into more knowledgeable and confident young men and women.

Their life-changing experience at Andover is almost fully funded by the generosity of people like you. Please help us continue to develop the abilities and explore the potential of these very worthy young people by supporting (MS)².

—Dianne D. Cruz

Please Support this Extraordinary Program

Participation in (MS)² is free of charge to all students for all three summers. Full scholarships—covering tuition, room and board, and travel expenses—are made possible thanks to generous gifts from individuals and foundations.

- A gift of $6,000 supports one scholar each summer.
- A gift of $125,000 to the (MS)² endowment supports one named scholarship in perpetuity.
- A gift of any size is appreciated.

Visit www.andover.edu/ms2giving to make your gift. For further information, contact Sharyn Bahn at 978-749-4523 or sbahn@andover.edu.

At a Glance

(MS)² was founded in 1977 to address the compelling need to cultivate the mathematical and scientific abilities of economically disadvantaged African American, Latino, and Native American high school students.

In a residential setting on the historic Phillips Academy campus in Andover, Massachusetts, the three-summer program challenges students intellectually and exposes them to peers and educators with diverse backgrounds, life experiences, and aspirations. This program is free of charge to all accepted students.
Native Couple Shares Knowledge, Culture, and Enthusiasm

The oldest of six children, Schuyler Chew is from the Tuscarora Nation, near Niagara Falls, N.Y. Upon arriving at (MS)² as a first-year in 2002, he felt a bit homesick, but then quickly embraced life on campus.

“Prior to (MS)², I had no idea what an Ivy League school was,” says Schuyler. “(MS)² prepared me to get accepted and to perform well once accepted.” Schuyler met Kari, his future wife, while they were undergrads at Dartmouth College. A member of the Chickasaw Nation, Kari is from Newbury Park, Calif. After earning master’s degrees, the couple married in spring 2012 and began as teaching assistants at (MS)² that summer. Schuyler teaches algebra and precalculus; Kari teaches English.

The Chews agree that all of their (MS)² students are bright and capable—and also face unique challenges. “(MS)² opens opportunities not even imagined or perceived as inaccessible,” says Schuyler. “Visits to colleges like Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, and Brown suddenly make them real places and real possibilities.”

“Schuyler is my first Native American alum to return to teach, and it’s fantastic that he brought Kari, too,” says (MS)² Director Dianne Cruz. The size of the program’s Native American student group, she notes, is now almost equal to the African American and Latino student groups.

Helping Make College a Reality

Walter Pineda has been an (MS)² college counselor for nine years. What inspires him about the program? “Everything!” he says. “The students help me recharge my batteries. They thrive in (MS)²’s culture of success and remind me that those who are given a chance will surprise you with what they can accomplish.”

Parents may push the goal of going to college, but they often don’t know the steps and timeline that make it happen. Pineda provides the practical guidance needed to apply, get accepted, and locate grant and financial aid sources. “(MS)² students quickly become close friends and provide a vital support network, cheering each other on during the transition from high school to college and beyond,” he says.

“My third-years always worry that they will not have anything interesting to talk about in college interviews,” says Pineda. “I urge them to tell their personal stories honestly and with pride. Their (MS)² success shows how hard they would work and what they could achieve if given the opportunity.”

Associate director of college counseling at Miami Country Day School, Pineda also teaches history and coaches soccer.

Welcome Receptions

The Joy of Familiar Faces

Welcome receptions were held this past spring in New York City and Cleveland to introduce newly accepted (MS)² students (and their parents) to second- and third-year students, as well as to older alumni. In late June, when those (MS)² first-years arrived at the airport to depart for Andover—often a nervous time—they saw familiar faces and already had heard exciting accounts of what to expect in the ensuing five weeks on campus.

The New York reception drew several dozen students, parents, and alumni, including (MS)² Advisory Council members Donna Sanabria, (MS)² ’87, Roy Adams, (MS)² ’95, and Daveed Frazier, (MS)² ’81. Alumni urged current students to take advantage of every opportunity and squeeze everything they possibly could into their invaluable time together at Andover.

In Cleveland, Daniel Burkons, a 1998 alumnus of Phillips Academy, hosted a dinner at his home for new (MS)² students and their parents, as well as second- and third-years. Recent (MS)² alumnna Regina Hill, (MS)² ’13, and her father, Tonyo, also attended. Regina, who had just been accepted to Dartmouth College, talked about her college application process.

If you are interested in hosting an (MS)² welcome reception, please contact Carolyn Zimmer at czimmer@andover.edu.
Spotlight on an (MS)$^2$ Graduate

Alpha Hernandez, (MS)$^2$ ’14

“’It’s really amazing how math and science can come together to make something completely beautiful.’”

Never in my wildest dreams did I think that a small Latina girl from Fort Worth, Texas, would be part of such an amazing opportunity. (MS)$^2$ taught me how valuable it is to have ambition and determination to succeed as well as the knowledge that you can make a difference.

(MS)$^2$ was never dull. There was always something new to learn, and if you didn’t understand a subject, the teacher would help you until you did. It’s so hard to choose a favorite teacher. Mr. Amanfu, one of my math teachers, taught me how to think things through and to not give up. Mr. Berghdal taught me how to have fun while doing physics. Mr. Pineda, my college counselor, taught me that even though life can throw crazy obstacles at you, you can still succeed no matter what. College counseling helped me get some paperwork out of the way and cleared up some things that I did not know about college or life in general. I’m much further ahead in the college admissions process than most of my peers.

When I was 9, I wanted to be an astronaut, but then I heard there was a height requirement. Now I am intent on merging my love of singing classical music with something in the STEM field. Hopefully I’ll be able to do great things. I’m forever grateful that I was selected to be part of the (MS)$^2$ class of 2014.
Donors for 2014 Program Year

We thank our generous donors* for making a positive difference in the lives of talented and deserving African American, Latino, and Native American high school students.

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*Donor list reflects gifts received from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014.

P = Parent of Phillips Academy alumni
GP = Grandparent
W = Widow