

MAAB OFFICERS

President – Kamili Jackson, M4

Vice President – Tiffani Bright, M11

Secretary – Shawnielle Predeoux, M4

Treasurer – Torria Ellis, M4

Parliamentarian – Jason Lee, M3

Historian – Ahmad Ridley, M1

MAAB REPRESENTATIVES

M1 – Michael Haywood

M2 – Aliceson King

M3 – Angelique Blanding

M4 – Jattu Senesie

M5 – Jason McCullers

M6 – Jonta Williams

M7 – Camelia Owens

M8 – Alexandra Harryman

M9 – Raj Stewart

M10 – Sabrina Johnson Turner

M11 – Aolat "Abi" Chike

M12 – Erica Reaves

M13 – Nwokedi Idika

M14 – Donel Sequea

M15 – Tiffany Williams

M16 – Stephen Mobley

M17 – Nancy Chiles

M18 – Natee Johnson

M19 – Lydia Grmai

M20 – Breanne Wright, Robert Wardlow

Graduate Fellow – Joseph Washington

MAAB Committees

Communications

Events

Mentoring

Fundraising

Officer's Corner

A few words from MAAB President Kamili Jackson

My time as the president of the Meyerhoff Alumni Advisory Board (MAAB) is nearing its end. It has been a real pleasure to see the organization grow over the past 18 months. Whenever I am in a leadership position, my goal is always to leave something permanent behind for the next group to build upon. In that direction, we started the Meyerhoff Alumni/Student mentoring program and the LaMont Toliver Alumni Memorial Scholarship Fund. I am also extremely proud of our board that rose to the occasion to present you, the Meyerhoff Alumni, with creative and relevant programs like the White House and Capitol tours as well as a negotiation workshop with renowned lawyer/agent Ron Shapiro. And we're not done yet as you'll see with the announcement of our upcoming activities in this newsletter.

However, by June, I'll no longer hold this position and the question is: What's next? How will the MAAB move forward into the next couple of years? Well, that's up to you. In the next month or so we will be looking for nominations for all positions. Will you accept the challenge to lead your cohort, be on the executive board or lead a committee? I certainly hope so. We need you. We need your perspective, your creativity, your connections, your spirit, your smarts, your talents, and your energy. What will you get in exchange? You'll get to fellowship with your fellow alumni, leadership experience, an opportunity to implement your own ideas, the satisfaction of serving and the contentment that comes with a job well done. So, please, look out for the nomination announcement and seriously consider lending your talents and energy to MAAB. We can't do it without you!





QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

In this section of the newsletter, alumni answer questions submitted by other alumni. Thank you to all who participated and keep the questions and answers coming.

Question:

I need some insight from someone who has started a small business in the biotech, electronics or software area. My questions are:

- 1) How do you go about putting together a team?
- 2) What is the ideal size of a small but effective team?
- 3) Apart from the technical folks, what other critical function is needed?

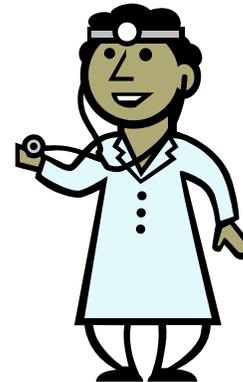
Answer:

- 1) To form a team, it is better to look back in your network of people that you know or trust. Look for someone with a background and skills that are complementary to yours.
- 2) Attend networking events. There is a course at UMBC called Innovate to teach scientists to be entrepreneurs. You should look into and possibly attend the course if you don't have any business background.
- 3) Business is different from science. To be an entrepreneur you will need to learn some more management, business, financial and marketing skills to be successful. The basics can be learned from classes but for most of them you need real life experience. I founded a nonprofit and ran it the past 6 years. I just started a health IT company recently focusing on bringing high stage technology to medicine, research and the public.

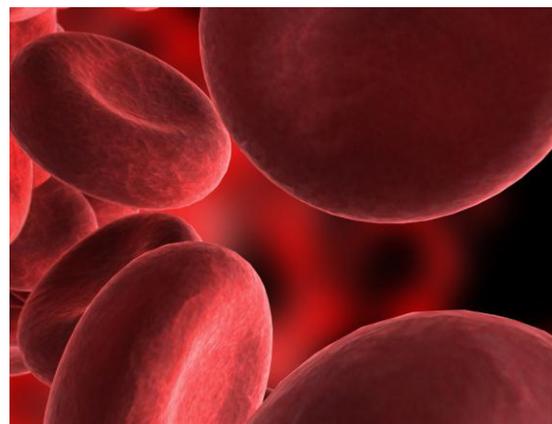


ALUMNI NEWS

Kalonji Collins (M4, Biochemistry) was voted one of the top doctors in *Northern Virginia Magazine*. It is based on a survey done by physicians and hospitals.



Regina Macatangay (M8, Biological Sciences) presented a poster at the American Society of Hematology meeting in Atlanta this past December: *Radioulnar Synostosis-Hematology (RUS-H) Syndrome: Description of the New Syndrome and Comparison to Similar Syndromes* and will be completing her Pediatric Hematology/Oncology fellowship this June. She will start her position as Assistant Professor in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at the University of Maryland Children's Hospital in July.



FEATURED ALUMNUS

Article written by Nwokedi Idika after an interview with Isaac Kinde



When Isaac Kinde, M13, stepped onto UMBC's campus as a freshman in 2001, nobody would have guessed that in little over a decade he would be named among *Forbes* magazine's 30 Under 30 in Science and Healthcare - unless, that is, you knew his work ethic which is still with him to this day. When Isaac found out that he had been selected to the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list, he said the following took place: "I took the time to appreciate the recognition, thank and share the news with key mentors, and then, shortly thereafter, got back to work"...Full stop. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the work ethic of an internationally recognized leader in the sciences.

Isaac's work ethic was partially molded at UMBC. He recalls the friendships he formed with fellow M13s Andy Windsor, Seth Miller, and Kenneth Gibbs, Jr. while at UMBC as being a set of experiences that affect him to this day. More specifically, the like-mindedness among these men fostered a unique support group for all involved. Another very influential force during Isaac's time at UMBC was President Dr. Freeman Hrabowski. Isaac said that the best piece of advice he has ever received is the following Meyerhoff-famous line: "Focus, Focus, Focus." Those three words should mentally teleport any Meyerhoff back into a Family Meeting with Doc moving both of his hands back and forth in unison as if he's doing karate chops - and you're doing the karate chops with him. According to Isaac, without "deliberate focus, it is

difficult to accomplish substantial tasks."

Isaac's work ethic is echoed in his advice to Meyerhoffs coming through the pipeline or those that have gone through and are still trying to find their way. His advice is the following: "Identify an important problem that you are passionate about. It may not be easy to find such a problem, but keep exploring until you do. Next, devote yourself entirely to solving your problem of choice. Backup plans are important sometimes, but I think they should be used sparingly." Interestingly enough, these sentiments jibe completely with elements of a now-famous Steve Jobs' speech to a graduating class at Stanford, and elements from a candid Will Smith interview.

In the Steve Jobs' speech, he implored students that if they had not yet found their passions, they should keep looking. He said "the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle." These words from late Apple CEO Steve Jobs are pretty much the first part of Isaac's advice. In the Will Smith interview Will stated "plan B distracts from plan A." This is very similar to Isaac's words about backup plans. Though not a big surprise, Isaac's positions seem to be shared by other elites--One wonders if their perspectives affected the amount and quality of success they have individually experienced?

So what is next for Isaac? World-domination?? In the short-term, he is planning to finish up his MD/PhD training at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Given that he has been immersed in research for the past 5 years, he wants to "re-experience" medical school before solidifying his career plans. In other words, we have not heard the last of Isaac Kinde.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cohort Giving Challenge Standings



1st Place	M17 (21% participation; 10/47)
2nd Place	M4 (20% participation; 9/44)
3rd Place	M3 (19% participation; 7/37) M2 (19% participation; 3/16)
Overall	11% participation; 93/851

As of March 13, 2013, The **LaMont Toliver Alumni Memorial Scholarship Fund** had reached almost two-thirds of the required \$25,000 to be fully endowed. You can give to the LaMont Toliver Alumni Memorial Scholarship Fund by going to:

alumni.umbc.edu/mhoffgiving

Once you fill in your information (don't forget to choose "Meyerhoff Alumnus/a: Parent or Friend" beside "Your Affiliation") you will be able to choose the "LaMont Toliver Alumni Memorial Scholarship Fund" from the drop down menu beside "Designation". All donations are tax-deductible. The Cohort Giving Challenge will run until the end of the UMBC fiscal year on June 30, 2013. Thank you to all who have already participated.

MENTOR/MENTEE SOCIAL

The MAAB Executive Board and Mentoring and Events Committees invite all current participants in the MAAB Mentoring Program (alumni and M24s) to come to the Skylight Room (The Commons Building, 3rd Floor) for an informal social from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm on Sunday, April 21st. This event will take place on Quadmania weekend and light refreshments will be served. Mentors are asked to please contact their mentees to schedule a time to meet on the 21st or to let them know you will NOT be able to attend this event. Please RSVP by Monday, April 15, 2013 via Evite or via e-mail at maabmentor@gmail.com.

Parking information will be e-mailed to mentors at a later date.

Please contact Marie Cox, M13 (mariecox@gmail.com) or Erica Reaves, M12 (ereaves@gmail.com) with questions.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Meyerhoff Alumni Advisory Board will be hosting a reception on Saturday, May 18, 2013 from 5 pm to 7 pm at UMBC to celebrate the retirement of Executive Director Earnestine Baker. All alumni are encouraged to attend. Stay tuned for more details.

This newsletter was brought to you by the MAAB Communications Committee:

Editor: Jattu Senesie (M4)

Staff: Christopher Aberg (M11), Stephanie Bates (M4), Vondell Coleman (M4), Nwokedi Idika (M13)

Questions, comments and corrections can be addressed to the staff at maabcomm@gmail.com.