



# THE MSIPP STEM SCHOLAR

A DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Dr. Radman M. Ali, Chairperson



Scholars in the MSIPP STEM Summer Program at Morris College kicked off their summer filled with engaging educational and social activities by exploring exhibits at the Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, South Carolina, the Historic Camden Revolutionary War Park in Camden, South Carolina, and the Cecil Williams South Carolina Civil Rights Museum in Orangeburg. First photo from left to right: Ta'Myia Tyler (biology major), Wanye Griffin (cybersecurity major), and Isabella Crocker (biology major). Second photo features Dr. Dorothy Bishoff, Associate Professor of Biology, admiring an outdoor exhibit space and picnic area at the Historic Camden Revolutionary War Park.

## The MSIPP STEM Summer Program

### Offering Engaging Educational and Social Activities



Prior to the June 5, 2023, summer school registration at Morris College, Dr. Radman M. Ali, Chairperson of the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Director of the Minority Serving Institution Partnership Program (MSIPP) STEM Summer Program, selected three outstanding scholars to be participants. The following scholars selected were class of 2023 high school graduates: Isabella Crocker (biology), Wanye Griffin (cybersecurity), and Ta'Myia Tyler (biology). MSIPP is funded by the Department of Energy and provides free tuition, room and board, books, school supplies, as well as educational and social activities.

Scholars in the MSIPP STEM Summer Program at Morris College kicked off their summer filled with engaging educational and social activities by exploring exhibits at the Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, South Carolina on June 10, then by visiting the Historic Camden Revolutionary War Park in Camden, South Carolina on June 17, followed by excursions to the Cecil Williams South Carolina Civil Rights Museum on July 1 and the Ripley's Aquarium in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on July 15.

Memorable exhibits at the Columbia Museum of Art include *Indigenous Art of the Catawba Nation* including pottery, basketry, quilt works, and photography. Also, there was art inspired by veterans, oil paintings that explored the end of the Gilded Age to World War II, and the *Stories of Grace* created by Tina Williams Brewer, which features beautiful quilts that represent African diasporic history and ancestral heritage.

The Historic Camden Revolutionary War Park is located in South Carolina's oldest inland town; Camden was founded in 1750. The Revolutionary War Park is unique due to its living history, which features interesting indoor and outdoor exhibits about South Carolina's historic role in the American Revolution.

The Cecil Williams South Carolina Civil Rights Museum is the Palmetto State's first and only civil rights museum, which offers historical exhibits, photos, artifacts, and documents that capture events between 1950 and 1970, the era of the civil rights movement. Among the historically significant civil rights exhibits include: the *Briggs-Delaine-Pearson Gallery*, which features artifacts and information about how these cases were consolidated into *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Thurgood Marshall Legacy Hall*, *Althea Gibson Collection*, and many more!

Ripley's Aquarium is one of the most visited tourist locations in South Carolina. MSIPP STEM Scholars enjoyed learning about the importance of algae to the ecosystem, the various species of sharks that exist, and many other sea creatures. Scholars also enjoyed walking on the boardwalk and fine dining at a local seafood restaurant.

"When students join the MSIPP STEM Summer Program at Morris College, they will gain a great deal of educational experiences such as earning college courses, being mentored by the faculty and staff, as well as going on exciting weekend excursions to zoos and aquariums, which are sure to pique students' interests about wildlife conservation. Field trips also include visiting various types of museums such as history, art, and natural history." says Ms. Priscilla Patten, Summer Activities Manager for the STEM Program.

Students selected for the STEM Program for next summer 2024 must be a junior or senior, hold a 3.0 or higher GPA, and wish to major in a STEM area. STEM is an acronym for the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. For more information about the MSIPP STEM Summer Program at Morris College, please contact Dr. Radman Ali at 803-934-3284 or rali@morris.edu.

## STEM Voices

"I am extremely honored to be a biology major and STEM scholar at Morris College! I have always wanted to help people since I was ten years old. I am looking forward to working hard and meeting my goals of one day becoming a pediatric surgeon."

~Isabella E. Crocker, biology major



"Being selected for the MSIPP STEM Summer Program at Morris College has been an exciting and fulfilling opportunity!

This summer I am enjoying meeting new people and learning new things. Being a mentor to my little sister motivates me to fulfill my dreams of studying veterinary medicine."



~Ta'Myia R. Tyler, biology major



Above photo: MSIPP STEM Scholars explore folk art exhibits at the Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, South Carolina.

Photo on the right: A replica of The Battle of Camden at the Historic Camden Revolutionary War Park in Camden, South Carolina.



Photo on the left: Cecil Williams, co-founder and curator, world-renowned photographer, giving a lecture about the history of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

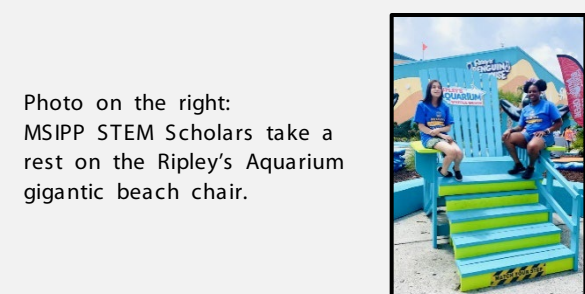
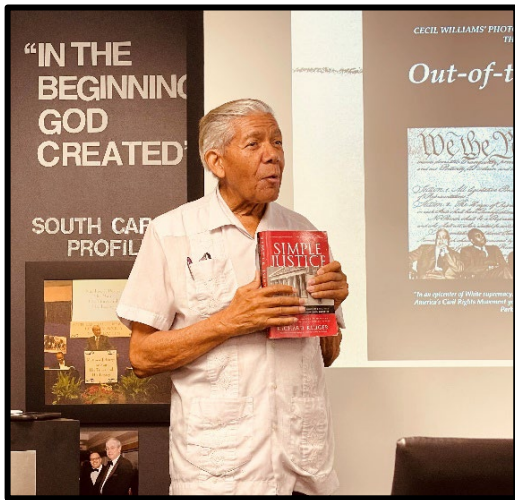


Photo on the right: MSIPP STEM Scholars take a rest on the Ripley's Aquarium gigantic beach chair.



STEM Voices



STEM Summer Program scholars at Morris College toured the Cecil Williams South Carolina Civil Rights Museum, the first and only civil rights museum in the Palmetto State! First photo from left to right: Ta'Myia Tyler (biology major), Mr. Cecil Williams (SC Civil Rights Museum Founder), Dr. Dorothy Bishoff (Associate Professor of Biology), Isabella Crocker (biology major), Ms. Priscilla Patten (Summer Activities Manager), and Mrs. Brittany Garrett (Administrative Assistant). Second photo: Students explored historically significant exhibits and attended a lecture given by Cecil Williams about *Briggs v. Elliott*, a South Carolina case, and other cases, which led to *Brown v. Board of Education*.

## Exploring the Painful Past

### MSIPP Scholars Tour the Cecil Williams South Carolina Civil Rights Museum

On Saturday, July 1, 2023, scholars in the MSIPP STEM Summer Program at Morris College toured the Cecil Williams South Carolina Civil Rights Museum in Orangeburg. "This museum is unique because it is the first and only civil rights museum in the Palmetto State!" says Cecil Williams, founder, and curator of the museum. Upon entering the Cecil Williams South Carolina Civil Rights Museum, visitors feel the remarkable impact of hundreds of photographs, powerful exhibits such as *The Orangeburg Massacre*, and artifacts such as a replica of a segregated water fountain, and a Confederate flag that once hung atop South Carolina's capitol building. Students explored historically significant exhibits and attended a lecture given by Cecil Williams about *Briggs v. Elliott*, a South Carolina case, and other cases, which led to *Brown v. Board of Education*.

According to the museum's website, approximately 500 photographs are displayed in the museum, and efforts are being made to digitize "an estimated collection of approximately 600,000 images."

As noted on the museum's website, the mission of the museum is "To pay tribute to the people who engaged in events between 1950 and 1970; the era of the civil rights movement."

"The STEM Summer Program is a great way for students to *try out* college life before fall semester. Students learn to manage their time, get into good study habits, and be self-reliant in a stable and nurturing environment. In addition, they knock out some introductory courses, so they enter with the academic wind at their backs—ALL FOR FREE!"

~Dr. Dorothy Bishoff, Associate Professor of Biology

"Would you like to enjoy the rewards from technology growth in our society? Do not be just a struggling technology consumer. Invest in a strong Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM) education. Then spread the joy of providing STEM solutions to our people."

~ Dr. John H. Day, Associate Professor of Physics

"The benefit of STEM association provides access to a large professional network. This is the start of the networking process where many students will learn social skills." ~ Dr. Clorissa L. Washington-Hughes

"STEM is the proven wave of the future! Careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math will provide job security for those who can think analytically. Students must learn to handle the rigor of STEM courses. The workforce seeks to hire people who can demonstrate analytical ability in problem solving. Every career field is dependent on some area of math and technology. I encourage all students to make good grades, secure that high grade point average, and apply for stem majors so that they position themselves for prosperous career paths."

~Ms. Terri Kenely, Instructor of Mathematics

"The MSIPP STEM Program has so many opportunities for students to develop skills in leadership, a strong work ethic, and a renewed commitment and dedication to their education."

~Mrs. Brittany Garrett, Division Administrative Assistant





Members of the MSIPP STEM Summer Program enjoying excursion at Ripley's Aquarium in Myrtle Beach. From left to right: Dr. Dorothy Bishoff (Associate Professor of Biology), Ta'Myia Tyler (biology major), Isabella Crocker (biology major), Mrs. Brittany Garrett (Administrative Assistant), and Ms. Priscilla Patten (Summer Activities Manager).

# Making Waves in the Aquarium World

## MSIPP STEM Scholars Explore Ripley's Aquarium



On Saturday, July 15, 2023, MSIPP STEM Scholars, Ta'Myia Tyler (biology major) and Isabella Crocker (biology major) explored Ripley's Aquarium in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Scholars learned unique facts about thousands of fishes and sea creatures as well as conservation efforts. These scholars learned about zoological practices, sea turtle rescue and release, as well as penguin conservation. When asked about their favorite part(s) of Ripley's Aquarium, both scholars said in unison, "The Shark Exhibits!"



MSIPP Scholars, faculty, staff, and a chaperone enjoying a hearty lunch at *The Hangout* in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.