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Interviewee: Meredith Webb

Interviewer: Madeline Hagan

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Madeline Hagan: Alright! My name is Madeline Hagan. I am a student at the University of Montana. I am an undergraduate with a double major in history and philosophy with a minor in African American studies. Today I am conducting an oral history with Meredith Webb. Meredith can you say and spell your name for me?

Meredith Webb: It's Meredith Webb. M-E-R-E-D-I-T-H. Last name W-E-B-B.

MH: Excellent! Alright. We're going to talk today a lot about what life was like with COVID-19 as a student and as a mother. I'm wondering who the members of your family are, what are their names, and how old they are.

MW: So I have twins that are two and their names are Lucy and Lucas. They're adorable [Laughing].

MH: [Laughs] And can you tell me where you're from?

MW: I'm from Birmingham, Alabama.

MH: And where do you live now?

MW: I live in Missoula, and I'm a student at the University.

MH: How did you end up in Missoula?

MW: So a friend of mine actually lived out here and when I found out I was pregnant with twins I pretty much came out here for the support that we would need to make it.

MH: Yeah. And how did you end up at the University of Montana? Why did you decide to go there?

MW: Well I knew that, when I was pregnant, that I would have to, you know, provide for them. And I wanted to set a standard for them. And in order to do that, I would have to do it myself to set a good example for them.

MH: And what are you studying at the University?

MW: I am a pre-law and political science major. I'm applying to law school in September.

MH: Very exciting. And why did you choose law to study?

MW: I was a legal assistant in Birmingham and so I always found criminal law fascinating. My mother was a private investigator and a police officer so I've always been around the legal field.

MH: Very cool. Can you tell me what your school routine was like before coronavirus?

MW: So, everything was running really smooth. The children go to the university daycare. I would drop them off at 7:30 and go to the main campus and find somewhere quiet to study until class started. And then I would go to class and then after—I was done around 2:00—and that would give me about three hours of time to do my studies and schoolwork, and things like that. That way, when I pick the kids up at 5:30 I could do dinner, baths, and focus on them and give them the attention and love they needed. So it was working pretty well before COVID [laughs].

MH: [Laughs] Sounds like it! With COVID disrupting the university systems in March, in the middle of the semester, how did your school routine change?

MW: It changed drastically. I actually even contemplated withdrawing because it was pretty impossible when the daycare decided to shut down and the classes went online. With their age, being toddlers, it was just chaos. And I was so exhausted by the time they went to bed that I wasn't really performing well with my schoolwork. I'm typically a very good student. And so, you know, staying up till two in the morning and then waking up with them at 5:30 was really challenging. So I really started reaching out for help and expressing to the professors my concerns and they were wonderful.

MH: Yeah. Can you talk a little bit more about that? How did professors help? How did they respond?

MW: Two professors specifically decided—after seeing the struggles and kids being on Zoom pulling my hair and jumping in my lap and screaming and yelling in the background—they kind of...my situation became a reality, I think. And so a couple of professors saw the struggles and I was crying and really stressed and they gave me my grade as it stood. It was a pretty good grade before that started so I just took that option. And then the other three wanted me to complete it all and see it through or withdraw. So I had to keep pushing forward. So, yeah. That was pretty challenging.

MH: Why do you think that they had you push through? And what were your feelings about that?

MW: I was a little hurt, I guess, in the beginning. I knew that it might not be a possibility to have my grade as it stood, ya know, that it's earned credit which I respect. But also, I would have liked a little more support and help. But it worked out in the end. I just had to not sleep [laughs]. I didn't sleep.

MH: So what did your study routine look like?

MW: So I would do activities with the kids. We were doing sidewalk chalk, you know, just constantly trying to keep them in a consistent routine. And then they would go to bed around 7:30 or 8:00; they were completely off of their schedule. I would do my schoolwork then and study. It was a pretty heavy load. They were all upper level division classes. So there was a lot of reading and a lot of writing. So I just stayed up really late and slept for a couple hours and then woke back up and did the mommy thing.

MH: Were there any resources, like online videos, from daycare or anything to keep your kids occupied?

MW: Yes, they did. The university daycare provided, like, daytime classes and activities and things like that. They would not sit still to do that [laughs] but we gave it a shot.

MH: And what other things did you do with your kids during that time? You mentioned sidewalk chalk, they were able to watch videos. What other things?

MW: We painted a lot. We did a lot of painting. And fortunately, there were a few really good days, sunny days, so we played outside a lot. We read. I went to Costco and bought a bunch of books that have, like, magnets and that were, you know, interactive that would keep them engaged. So they really enjoyed that. I think they love the quarantine time with mom [laughs]!

MH: [Laughs] Yes. So you mentioned your experience finishing the semester. If classes do continue into the fall and are face to face, do you plan on going back to school?

MW: Yes. I'm currently taking classes now—summer classes. I will go back in the fall and I'll graduate this fall. And so everything will hopefully go back to normal in August.

MH: Yeah. Can you talk about how technology aided your experience in finishing the semester?

MW: Oh absolutely. You know, being at home and on Zoom and keeping the kids engaged with their school via Zoom, made it all possible and made it much easier. I know that some of my friends didn't have computers and the school provided them. Actually, a neighbor of mine was going through that and I let her use my computer for a couple of days until she got that straightened out. So that would be a real thing if you didn't have the technology at home. I couldn't imagine that struggle.

MH: And can you talk about what the transition to online looked like? How did professors help? And what were the programs that you used?

MW: Well, I used Zoom and all of my professors went to class online. So we had to attend regular class hours. And so a lot of times it was pretty funny. I was like, “look, I don’t know how this is going to work with two-year olds.” They were like, “you have to attend.” And I was like, [laughs] “okay. Then you’ll get to see.” And the kids were just all over the place. It was so rough. So a lot of professors decided, you know, to record or send notes, such as Tobin [Miller-Shearer]. He was super helpful during that time.

MH: And you mentioned some people around you not having access to computers etcetera. What other struggles have you noticed with other people in transitioning to online learning, or just transitioning to quarantine in general?

MW: Well, I’ll tell ya. I made friends—other single moms that are students at the daycare—and so we decided that we would team up to help one another. And so having that community, you know, with the same, relatable issues have really helped us get through. Because we would take turns babysitting each other’s children for finals, or something like that. Like I had six kids in my apartment one day while one of the moms was taking a test, and you know. She ended up getting into the nursing school, so it all worked out. But, yeah, we just really pitched in and helped one another and just...you know, instead of throwing in the towel we all decided to keep pushing forward and we’re all getting really close to our goals. We just decided to push through, and we will be stronger in the end [laughs].

MH: Mmm. Can you tell me what your children’s experience with COVID has been like? How did you navigate, kind of, explaining to them? I know it would be hard with two year olds to explain, you know, why we have to stay inside.

MW: Oh yes. It was very difficult because they love going to the park. Like, it was a thing that we did quite often and most of the playgrounds in town were closed off. And I know the one at my apartment was closed. So we would walk past it and they would want to play. And I was like, “you can’t.” They didn’t really understand. There was a lot of frustration and having to get acclimated to being at home was challenging because they love to play all the time.

MH: How did you go about telling them why they couldn’t go to the playground?

MW: I just told them that it was new rules and it was for us to stay safe and healthy. I felt like they understood that. I just did a lot of redirecting. A lot of, “I know you want to go to the playground, but we’re going to stay and paint. We’re going to make horse paint.” You know, or whatever they wanted to draw. Would let them pick pictures and things like that. So with that age, you just pretty much have to redirect constantly which is exhausting [laughs]. You run out of ideas.

MH: [Laughs] Absolutely.

MW: Thank goodness for Pinterest, though [laughs]!

MH: [Laughs] Can you talk a little bit more about how you first heard about the coronavirus? Do you remember when you first realized that it was serious, or stuff like that?

MW: So a good friend of mine, who's a student—we've done a lot of classes together, we've been together a couple of years and we had the same major—she was taking a trip to China. And we were in class and I remember she came in and she was so upset because the university decided to cancel that trip all together. I just thought, well, that's their issue. I never really...it never occurred to be that, you know, it would be here, and this would happen. But it was, shortly after that we were locked down and things like that. So yeah. It was a really scary thing.

MW: I feel like we are really blessed to living in Montana. I know that my family in Birmingham, Alabama, is one of the hot spots. And so I worry about them. I have a friend in Missoula that actually tested positive and she was quarantined. So I was really concerned for her as well.

MH: Can you talk a little bit more about what your family is facing in Birmingham and what kind of precautions they are taking?

MW: The ones in particular that are in the healthcare industry, they are being very cautious. My sister works at a doctor's office and they are masking up. They're, you know, taking temperatures, things like that before they let people in the door. They're changing scrubs at work. There's just a lot of precautions they're taking. But Birmingham has a lot of cases and it continues to grow which is alarming.

MH: Do you notice any identifiable differences between their experience in Birmingham and your experience in Montana?

MW: Absolutely, absolutely. I feel that...Well, things are just back to normal it seems like here. There, I know, that there's a lot more fear there. And I know they have a lot more cases. And so they're not going shopping still. Like, you know, I go shopping every day here. My sister doesn't. Like they go out for supplies. So they're still being affected by the virus right now. I feel safe here.

MH: Was there any time that you didn't feel safe?

MW: Oh in the beginning I was terrified. I was terrified because Lucas and Lucy have really bad immune systems. They were premature. And so anytime anyone is sick, they get sick. I was terrified. We didn't leave for a long time and I was cleaning and sanitizing. I was very concerned for them and how to keep them safe. As a mom you don't really worry about yourself. You just worry about your children and keeping them healthy and safe.

MH: So you mentioned, like, sanitizing. Did you guys wear masks if you did have to go out, gloves, anything like that?

MW: Oh, yes. Absolutely. Not so much the gloves, but we all have masks and I had little tiny Spiderman mask and Frozen mask made for them, so they have been wanting to wear them. It was pretty sad because it scared them, like when I had one my mask. They were scared. They were like “What’s wrong mommy? Are you a monster?” [Laughs] This is for us to be healthy and safe, so trying to explain that to a two-year-old was pretty challenging.

MW: Lucas had to have tubes put in his ears. We had a small crisis in the middle of all this and he had to have the surgery. So, the protocols for that were very...I don’t know. Lucy couldn’t go with me. We had to wear a mask. He had to keep his mask on the whole time, which was terrible. He was crying. We were pretty much on lockdown at the hospital. People couldn’t come up to visit or sit with me or be with me during his surgery. So that was a really hard time and then, you know, it was right in the middle of finals as well. So that was extremally stressful.

MH: It seems like it. What were some of the precautions they took within the hospital with you guys, with something unrelated to COVID?

MW: We had to do the whole check in thing, the temperature thing. They screened us before we went in. No one could come, not even in the parking lot. So it was just me and Lucas. We had to have masks to enter. And then like, right after the surgery, instead of waiting around in recovery for a long period of time...once he came out and he was okay from the sedation they sent us out. We weren’t there that long because they didn’t want us to risk being there. But it was pretty sad to do all that alone. He was really scared and he had to wear his mask the whole time. He was just not happy.

MH: It was at St. Pat’s [Providence St. Patrick’s Hospital]?

MW: Yes. Yeah, yeah.

MH: Wow, yeah. What have you seen within Missoula as for people taking precautions? Do you see people wearing masks? Do you think that’s pretty widespread, or do people take more of a relaxed stance?

MW: In Missoula I feel like people are pretty responsible. They’re definitely out and about but I do see a lot of masks when I’m shopping and stuff like that for the kids. It makes me feel safe, knowing that people are being responsible here. I know that one of the things that my sister had mentioned in Alabama was that people aren’t really taking it that seriously and that could be why it’s spreading because she would be the only person in the store with a mask sometimes. So, I was like, okay, well Missoula is definitely respecting one another and trying to keep everybody healthy.

MH: Do you feel like you feel a responsibility to keep others outside of your family safe when you go out?

MW: Absolutely. Absolutely. I think about other people probably more than I think about myself and, you know, wanting to keep other people safe, especially children and elders are my concern.

MH: So as Montana opens up...What have you seen opening within the past month? What have you been able to do in the past couple months that you haven't been able to do at the beginning of lockdown?

MW: Well, immediately, one of the first things they did was, like, cancel all of our appointments, you know, just like the dental appointments and things like that. And so now we're rescheduling, and those kinds of things are opening back up for us. And then I just found out, like, Splash Montana and Currents [Aquatics Club] are going to be opening back up. I know the kids have really wanted to be swimming since it's summer and so hopefully we'll get to do that. I'm a little worry. I'm a little concerned. But, you know.

MH: Yeah. Have you been able to go to restaurants?

MW: Yes. Yeah, we have. We went to Famous Dave's for some barbeque [laughs]. And waitresses were wearing masks and we had like paper menus and things like that to keep things sanitized and safe.

MH: Very cool. How do you think coronavirus has changed your life or Montana life more broadly? Is there anything that you think about more? Do you see other people changing the way they operate in Montana?

MW: Yes I do. There was a gift that came out of the pandemic. And that was...it's really easy as a parent in school to focus on, you know, academics and just to get so tunnel visioned with your studies. And I got into a routine of study, do school, get the babies home, get, you know, it was very mechanical, and I didn't realize it. Then, you know I was just doing the next thing. I got to spend so much time one on one with my children and I learned so much about them that I didn't know. You know, little words and mannerisms that they have. Just getting to spend that quality time with them was a gift. It was a struggle doing school. But as far as, like, being a mom it was amazing to see how much they've grown, and to lay around and read with them and teach them new things. It was a really positive experience in that aspect.

MH: You mentioned having some friends at the daycare who you've made. Do you think there has been any difference in experiences with other mothers that you know that have older kids, or maybe younger kids? Do you think that there was any difference there?

MW: Not really. My friends do have older children and it was probably worse for them because their older children wanted to go. They knew that they need to be doing something or should be doing something else. Toddlers, they just kind of go with the flow. But I felt a greater resistance with the older children of my friends. They were pretty upset [laughs].

MH: [Laughs] Yeah. As Montana reopens are you worried about anything? Are you angry about anything? I can tell that you're probably excited about some things. Can you talk about that a little bit?

MW: Oh. I so the one thing I was a little upset about was that, and that was just for selfish gains, but I now understand why, was that the university daycare decided not to open at all until the fall and all the other daycares have reopened. I just really wanted to be able to stay there and keep them in a routine and so the other daycares in town have set up, you know, like groups of ten, and they work with the health department. And they're running, you know, running at full capacity at this point and the university is the only daycare in town that's chosen not to do that. So that was, you know...studying for the LSAT and being in the classroom this summer, selfishly, I was upset about that in the beginning. Now, I mean, I completely understand why they would do that because it is a university and it's better to be safe.

MW: So right now, I've had to change. Since I've started back and daycares are open, I've just enrolled Lucy and Lucas in a new school. And they're not happy. They're scared and feel awkward at the new place, and I just hate to see them going through that.

MH: Is there anything that you're worried about in terms of reopening and having coronavirus come back?

MW: I think it could. I'm not so concerned about Montana because there's not a lot of traffic, but I know that in Alabama it is doing that exact thing like Fauci [Dr. Anthony Fauci] had mentioned that it would. And so cases in Alabama are rising. So that does instill a little bit of fear.

MH: Mhhmm. Yeah. How do you think that places like Alabama can prevent that?

MW: I would say...I know Alabama, the governor Kay Ivey, has decided to just reopen everything and with cases rising I think that's a little premature. And with hot spots like that I feel like they should still be quarantining and things like that. But yeah, it's such a hard situation too because people have to work as well. It's really tough.

MH: Is there anything in your life that you've experienced, that you remember, or that you may remember your parents experiencing that resembles coronavirus?

MW: That is so funny that you mentioned that because I was talking to my mom, you know, and I'm older. We've been through a lot of, you know, different historical events and I haven't experienced anything like this. I know that in my lifetime I haven't and neither had my mom. That where we have been locked down and things like that.

MH: Do you remember seeing anything in the news that kind of resembles coronavirus? Any other infections that you remember being worried about?

MW: Not me. No. There was...I don't remember the name. I don't remember. I think it was in, like the early 2000s there was an outbreak of something I think Ebola or something like that. But I barely remember that. And I know that we didn't lock down. I know that we didn't have to quarantine. I don't know that we've done this! Except for the smallpox and, you know, years ago. So it has been unprecedented times for sure.

MH: So speaking of unprecedented times we're also seeing protests across the country. I'm wondering if you've seen any evidence of the Black Lives Matter protests in Missoula or Montana?

MW: I have. This is a, you know, near and dear to my heart topic. I have been watching the protests in Missoula and it just makes me really proud to live here. The way that people are standing up. The African American community is very small here, but people are still out protesting and, you know, standing for what they believe in. And I think it's just been done in a very, very classy manner here.

MH: And what has that manner been? What have people been doing?

MW: Peaceful protest. I've watched, and I've actually ridden by—I didn't go out because I have the kids—but there haven't been any big incidents, riots, and things like that. It's just been done tastefully. And I'm just so glad to know that even though the African American population is small here, that people still care about this matter. I was just so proud of Missoula when I rode by and saw everyone laying on the ground and standing up for human rights.

MH: And what have you seen in the news about protests across the country? What have those looked like?

MW: It's wild. And rightfully so. I know that my sister is in Birmingham and she lives in a smaller community. And she was out protesting and the KKK [Ku Klux Klan] came in their robes and it got ugly, and you know, I was like "you need to leave. It's not worth it." But I know that different places are handling it differently. In Birmingham today at the University of Alabama they're taking down all the confederate monuments. Unfortunately, in Alabama, those monuments are everywhere, but they haven't taken them down yet. So, they're making progress. It makes me very happy [laughs].

MH: Yay [celebratory laugh]! How do you think the protests across the country differ from the protests that are happening in Missoula?

MW: Well, I mean, they're rioting and looting. Things like that. Rightfully so. I would be extremely angry myself. My first response was like "burn it down." I'm angry. You know, I was

full of rage when I saw the video [of George Floyd's murder] and unfortunately the African American community has had to fight for their freedom and their rights. And even though there has been a lot of damage and a lot of injury, I mean, you have to do what you have to do. I'm here in a safe community so that's easy for me to say. But I know that that was a really, really terrible incident happened, and rage is part of that.

MH: What conversations have you had with your kids about race?

MW: Well, they're biracial and so...I'm not quite sure how I want to handle that. And one of my main reasons of taking so many African American studies classes was to be able to address this and to be able to teach them about both of their races. I know it's unfortunate, but we are going to come to some things in their life that are not going to be pleasant, but I want to prepare them. And right now, I just tell them "you are beautiful." Just, you know, let them know they're perfect and beautiful. But the color hasn't come up yet and they definitely look more African American. And we do live in Missoula, so it is very obvious when I take them to daycare that they are very different. So it's only a matter of time for them to realize that and to want to talk about that.

MH: Do you think that you have always been very conscious about race, or do you think a lot of your very strong feelings for the African American community has come about because of having biracial children?

MW: It started before that. I was raised to stand up and fight. Being in Birmingham, I mean, that is civil rights action and segregation is still a real thing. I grew up with black friends and white friends and my friends that were black were called the N-word and things like that. I used to stand up and be so angry. I remember that as a little girl. I remember one of my friends came to my spend the night party, and we were playing beauty dress up, putting on dresses, and someone said something terrible to her. And my mom was like, "call her mom. You need to come get her. She's not allowed." That was a pivotal moment for me. And I remember going, "I will fight. And I will stand up." And being down there is very different than being in Missoula. That doesn't happen in Missoula. Alabama...it is disgusting the way the African American community is treated and profiled.

MH: So across the country protests have been happening where people aren't able to socially distance with the six feet.

MW: Right.

MH: How do you see protestors, or even your sister, going about handling that? What has been the result of not being able to social distance during those times?

MW: I have that concern too. But when it comes to something that matters so much to you, there's no stopping my sister. I mean, "perfect love casts out fear" [Bible passage John 4:18]. So

I feel like her fear of the coronavirus, when it comes to something like this, is worth the risk to her. And I think it would be to me as well. I would wear a mask and I would do the best that I could to just stay safe, but I also know that there needs to be voices out there speaking truth and standing up for what's right.

MH: Besides Montana and Alabama, have you seen any news coverage, social media coverage, of protests that are happening in cities like Minneapolis, Portland, New York, D.C.? Can you talk about that?

MW: There have been a couple of situations and some videos that have been released about store owners being beaten and in intensive care. I don't really agree with that but I'm not there so I can't really say. There are a lot of things going on that I don't necessarily agree with, tearing things down. But also, on the other hand, how can I say what someone is supposed to do. It has been a really scary time; 2020 has not been that great.

MH: Do you think that the advent of coronavirus has made what the protesters are doing more significant?

MW: I can't say that...I think that if the George Floyd thing had have taken place at any other time that people would respond the exact same way. It was just horrific.

MH: How do you think that the news coverage of coronavirus has been? How did you get information about coronavirus? How did you get information about quarantining, or phases of reopening? Can you speak a little bit about that?

MW: I chose the New York Times. It's my favorite paper and I feel like they did a really good job of updating daily because at the beginning I was so terrified that our numbers were going to go up and I was looking at it like three times a day. I felt like they did a really good job reporting and breaking down cities and smaller communities, states, and how to handle it. I felt like media did a really good job covering the coronavirus.

MH: How do you think the politicians, whether in Missoula, or nationally, have handled the coronavirus?

MW: I feel like some of the Southern states, Georgia, Alabama, did not handle it appropriately. Florida and the way they were opening up the beaches. I just felt like, more in the Bible Belt, they handled it...they had high cases. So, I feel like they handled it inappropriately. I feel like everybody else did a pretty good job.

MH: Did you see any communication with either governor of Montana [Steve Bullock] or local politicians? How do they communicate what is going on?

MW: I feel like Montana did a really good job of reporting it and holding briefings and things like that and keeping us informed and transitioning into the different phases. I felt like it was done appropriately.

MH: What have the phases been like? Can you talk a little bit about what the phases are and what they entail?

MW: Yeah. So one of the ways that it has impacted my family transitioning into different phases was in phase two daycares and other things like that opened up. So that's how we were impacted by it. But other than that, I felt like businesses had just decided that even though it's phase two doesn't mean that we're going to open up our, you know, way of operating. Having said that, my church has decided not to open up just because of phase two. Some churches have, but my church has decided to keep people safe and just to be more cautious.

MH: Have they been able to do weekend sermons?

MW: Yeah. Online. So we go to church online and Lucy still puts on her dress on Sundays [laughs].

MH: Cute! [Laughs] You go to a church in Missoula, yeah?

MW: Yeah.

MH: Very cool. And when do you think that things like church service or some of those businesses...do you think there's any timestamp when, or number, that's going to help open up those places?

MW: I would definitely think by early August, depending on the cases. I mean, if it spikes again I would definitely say the end of the year. But I'm hoping that things go back to normal again by August.

MH: How has coronavirus been different from how you first perceived it to be? Did you think at the beginning that it was super dangerous and now you don't think it is as dangerous, or vice versa?

MW: That's a great question. I have gone back and forth so much. When I first heard about it...I'm such a skeptical person I was like "eh, whatever." And then things started up: cases started rising, videos of people being sick. I immediately changed to mama bear and just like, "okay this is real. This is really happening. How can I keep my family safe?" I was probably the most protective out of all my friends. I was really concerned, and I wouldn't let anyone come visit. People were really missing the babies, but I was like, "look, guys. We're going to stay safe." I have started, you know, getting out more and things like that. And the babies are in daycare now. So, I'm starting to feel a little better about it all yeah.

MH: You mentioned towards the beginning of our interview that you had a friend who was diagnosed with the coronavirus.

MW: Yes.

MH: How did that diagnosis come about, and what did she struggle with?

MW: She's a therapist and she continued to see her clients and she got sick and she tested positive. So, she was quarantined for a while and we were dropping supplies off on her property and things like that. She quarantined for a long time. And then she tested positive again, so she has been locked down since March. Her husband tested positive, so she brought it home. So that was such a reality. This is very real. Andrea was very sick. So, it was an eye opener. She is okay, and feeling better, but she can't be around anyone and her business is not doing well and things like that.

MH: Do you know any of what kind of symptoms she exhibited?

MW: Yeah. She had just the typical corona symptoms. So, she had a fever, the cough, all of those things.

MH: Have you thought at all that you might be tested positive? Do you think that you've had any soreness or anything like that? I know people are a little paranoid right now.

MW: [Laughs] I know. Lucas sneezed a couple of days ago and I was like "ahhhhh! Get away from me!" No [laughs]. You know, so that's the other thing is that no we have not had any symptoms. We've been very cautious. But with them back in daycare...Lucas did sneeze and I was like, "oh my god I don't know if we should be doing this or not." But I've got to graduate! So, I don't know what to do [laughs]!

MH: Do you have any summer plans for the summer besides summer school?

MW: Yes. We have tickets to go to Alabama and I'm going back and forth. I don't know what to do about that. I haven't decided. I'm very scared. My family's like, "come one! It'll be fine. We're just going to be at the lake house. We're not going to go out to eat. We're not going to do anything." So, I go back and forth. But I am scared, and I don't know what I'm going to decide to do yet.

MH: What are the reasons why you're hesitant to go?

MW: Traveling. It's just a hotspot and I don't know. It's easy to say that we're not going to go anywhere, or do anything, but they've been out and about. They've been at work so they can actually give it to us and not even know. They could be asymptomatic. I'm just concerned about

that risk. And, of course, traveling through the airports because flights have been changed and things like that so there's a lot more risk. I feel like with more layovers.

MH: What do you think is the biggest lesson that you've learned during coronavirus?

MW: The biggest lesson I've learned is that I sometimes...It's easy for me to get my priorities mixed up. School is very important, but putting my family first has definitely been something. And when they come home from daycare now, instead of like, doing our routine, I play. I've just learned that being their mother is the most important thing on earth and putting their needs first is what I should be doing because it's very easy to get those responsibilities mixed up. So, just spending more quality time with the children and playing and reading and still doing the things that they enjoyed the most during quarantine and still doing that even with busy schedules.

MH: Well, Meredith. Thank you so much! Good job!

MW: [Laughs] Thank you!