Alumni Q & A

Q: When were you involved in MESA, and how did you hear about it?
A: I became involved with MESA during my sophomore year of high school. I chose the MESA club as one of my after-school extra-curricular activities. It was a great way to get involved with other students interested in science and/or engineering and try new science-related activities. At such time, I was not completely aware of all the other benefits that were available through the MESA program. Once heading off to college, my involvement with MESA diminished. After being employed at the Lab for 1 year and learning of the Lab’s affiliation with MESA, I decided to volunteer my time to assist and encourage other young people interested in STEM.

Q: What does MESA mean to you?
A: MESA is an early development outreach program designed to serve as a resource for those interested in pursuing the STEM fields.

Q: When did you graduate, and what was your degree in?
A: I have earned degrees across a few disciplines. I earned dual B.S. degrees in Physics and Electrical & Computer Engineering, dual M.S degrees in Electrical Engineering and Materials Science & Engineering, and a Ph.D. in Materials Science & Engineering (2010).

Q: Where do you work and what is your role?
A: I am a Senior Electrical Engineer and Materials Scientist at APL in the Milton Eisenhower Research Center- Sensor Science group. I have served as Program Manager and/or Lead Engineer on space-, materials-, sensor-, and biomedical-based programs.

Q: What advice would you give students wanting to enter in math, science, or engineering fields?
A: Start early, commit to it, and NEVER quit.
Q: Were you the first person in your family to go to college? If so, how has that experience affected you?
A: No, I was not the first in my family to attend college, but I was the first person in my family to earn a Ph.D. There has been no direct impact on me as a result of this, but I now serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to other family members who have academic aspirations.