Terrell Long, Jr.
Sophomore majoring in Electrical Engineering
Morgan State University

Alumni Q & A

Q: When were you involved in MESA, and how did you hear about it?
A: In the 4th grade at Windy Hill Elementary, my guidance counselor had conducted an interest meeting for the minority students in the 4th and 5th grade. He explained what MESA was and what we’d be doing. From there, I was interested and began to stay after school every Tuesday and Thursday to work on STEM projects.

Q: What does MESA mean to you?
A: MESA, to me, was the physical application to all of the things we were learning in school. I enjoyed math and learning about science, but I still would wonder ‘What is the point?’ From playing sports, I loved competition so MESA allowed me to compete against other schools, encouraged me to learn more about math and science, and reminded me that what we learn now will be used in the future.

Q: How did your participation in the MESA program impact you?
A: Participating in the MESA program forced me to be more creative and resourceful. The program creates ‘junior engineers’ because kids are using cheap materials and a lot of theory to generate a product that is very efficient and effective. The MESA program embedded this mentality.

Q: Was there something the MESA program offered that particularly helped you with your classes or major?
A: The MESA program did help me with my major now. Under the spirit of competition and knowing you had to be more knowledgeable and efficient than the next person, I got a head start on learning about physics equations we learn in depth now. It also helped me realize the competition I was actually up against in the engineering field. It encourages me to learn as much as I can so I can stack up against the rest of the engineers.

Q: What is your major and when will you graduate?
A: I’m finishing my sophomore year pursuing a BS degree in Electrical Engineering. I will be graduating in 2013.

Q: What advice would you give students wanting to enter in math, science or engineering fields?
A: I would advise students entering math, science, and engineering fields to be prepared to work hard. Of course, these fields are not easy but they are possible. In high school, I never really studied and did pretty well. In college, however, I faced reality and had to put in long hours of studying in order to do well. Overall, just don’t be discouraged. Keep working at it. And working with friends makes things a lot easier.
Q: Were you the first person in your family to go to college? If so, how has that experience affected you?
A: My mother had gone to a community college for an Associate’s degree. But in 2009, two of my cousins and I were the first to attend a university. We were once the babies of the family, but now they look up to us and support us.

Q: What are your future career, professional development and/or educational plans.
A: As far as future plans, I don’t have any one specific path. My major includes both electrical and computer engineering classes so I’m learning a wide variety of skills that will hopefully lead to a variety of different jobs to choose from. I plan to pinpoint what I really want to do after a few more internships.