Taylor Myers

AY 2015-16 All-S.T.A.R. Fellow

A. James Clark School of Engineering
Department of Fire Protection Engineering/Mechanical Engineering
Third year doctoral student, RA

In some ways, my work as a research assistant impacted my graduate experience in a decidedly traditional manner. I have presented research in places as far away as Canterbury, New Zealand and A Coruña, Spain. I have been recognized with the Best Fire Image award from the Fire Safety Science Symposium and the Outstanding Contribution to Fire award for my work on the Fire Dynamics Simulator. Closer to home, my assistantship also helped me to secure a place in the prestigious Future Faculty program.

In other, more surprising, ways, my assistantship provided me with service opportunities that have become meaningful parts of my experience at Maryland. This semester, for example, I designed and lead the Fire Protection Engineering Design Challenge, a semester long outreach program engaging young women from Elizabeth Seton High school in STEM.

Perhaps most importantly, my assistantship has been instrumental to my entrepreneurial success. In 2013, I lead a student-team in the design of an ultra-clean wood stove for the Wood Stove Decathlon. In 2014, I founded a Benefit LLC, MF Fire, to continue researching ultra-clean stoves and went on to win the MIT Clean Energy Prize, Energy Efficiency Prize, Grand Prize in the 2014 Wood Stove Decathlon, and was named a Maryland Innovator of the Year.

The unexpected service and business opportunities afforded by my assistantship made my graduate experience particularly rewarding. I am proud that my accomplishments reflect the strength of the University and am excited to continue showcasing that strength in years to come.