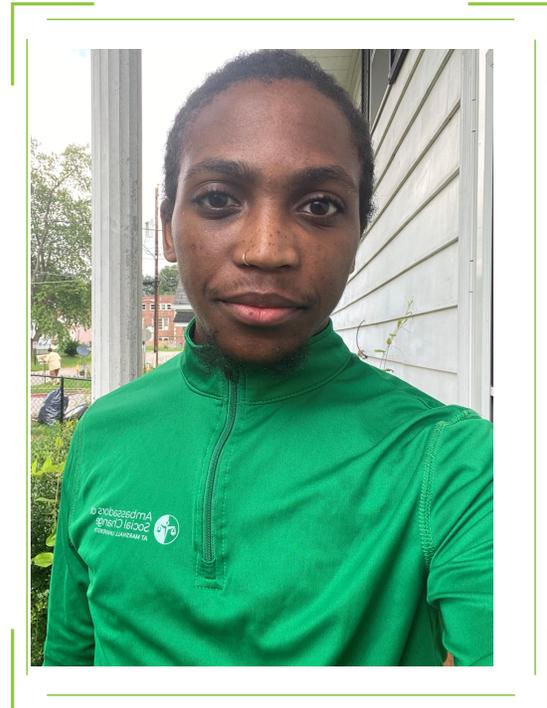


“I was ecstatic to find out that someone had taken an interest in me and wanted to see me accomplish my goal. Everything, without receiving a scholarship in my earlier years at Marshall from maintaining my coursework and extra-curricular activities, would have been difficult. Scholarships have provided some financial incentive and provided me with a peace of mind with affording school,” said Malik Q. Smith, who has received the 2017 American Council of Engineering Companies West Virginia Scholarship, West Virginia Engineering, Science and Technology Scholarship Program, Ima Blake Scholarship and the Charles and Elzada Thompson Memorial Scholarship during his studies.

A native of Institute, West Virginia, Malik is majoring in civil engineering and expects to graduate in the fall of 2021. Although he wanted to study architecture, Malik toured Marshall’s Arthur Weisberg Family Applied Engineering Complex and knew he wanted to study in Huntington, so he decided to study civil engineering. Spending two summers as an undergraduate intern in the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program at the University of Michigan, Malik was given the opportunity to work in a forest ecology lab during his first summer and for a non-profit organization with the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner’s Office and is confident that civil engineering is the right major for him.

Studying environmental justice and the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion in environmental and conservation related fields, the program also encouraged him to minor in sociology. At the completion of the program, Malik had a “desire for environmental engineering, water resource engineering and environmental and social justice development.” As a result of this internship, Malik has attended their annual conferences and forged many connections and friendships. After graduation, he intends to pursue graduate school at the University of Michigan in the dual master’s program that focuses on sustainable systems and civil engineering with a specialization in sustainable water systems.

“Once in my career, I plan to provide sustainable water systems to underserved Black and brown communities since our communities are faced with poor water quality and are affected by climate change in a greater magnitude,” Malik explained.



Fun Facts

Name: Malik Smith

Class of 2021

Hometown: Institute, West Virginia

Major: Civil Engineering

Favorite color: Yellow and Olive Green

Textbooks or eBooks: Textbooks, although e-books can be easier to access.

Favorite place in Huntington: One of my favorite places in Huntington is Pullman Square. I really enjoy going to the movies, Pottery Place, and the bookstore located there.

In addition to the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program, Malik has been involved in the KY-WV Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Program (LSAMP) at Marshall, which he believes has “been important to my experience as a Black STEM major.”

Malik has also been active on Marshall’s campus as a member of the Society of Black Scholars, where he now serves as an advisory board member; Ambassadors of Social Change, WV Earth Guardians and served as a board fellow with Coalfield Development. He loves the size of Marshall’s campus, the connections established with faculty, staff and classmates and the Huntington community. Malik’s favorite place on campus is the Office of Intercultural Affairs.

“Lisa Allen and Maurice Cooley have become extended family and I constantly find myself visiting them throughout the semester,” Malik said.

He is grateful that he has been able to participate in several service learning projects through the Society of Black Scholars, citing his favorite as “exploring the relationship between Mary Church Terrell and Carter G. Woodson.” The Black history in Huntington is Malik’s favorite thing about the city.

“Memphis Tennessee Garrison, Carter G. Woodson and the Bethel Memorial Park Cemetery are just some of the gems from Huntington. The community, as a whole, is very well connected and still growing,” said Malik, who hopes to continue growing and positively impacting the community by bringing a National Society of Black Engineers chapter to Marshall.

His greatest challenge at Marshall occurred during his sophomore year when he had a difficult course load and was working as a residential advisor (RA). Feeling overwhelmed at his responsibilities, Malik successfully completed his year and applied for an internship with the Corp of Engineers, where he has interned for nearly two years now, rather than return as an RA. Facing “large adjustments” during the Spring 2020 semester when courses all went online, Malik moved home, had assignments moved or dropped and began teleworking for his internship. He appreciates the flexibility that has come with the adoption of virtual schooling.

He is thankful for the alumni who give back and hopes to continue being involved on campus after he graduates.

“On my educational journey, I am most thankful for finding out my focus for graduate school and bringing all of my interests into a single idea.”