

MSU AGEP Welcomes Morehouse and Spelman College Students



EAST LANSING, Michigan, March 14, 2013 - Over the years, Morehouse and Spelman Colleges have enjoyed visiting graduate schools across the country during their spring break in March. Now they can add MSU to the list of schools to the graduate school contenders. Recently, 30 students and 6 faculty mentors set out on a journey and an experience that cannot be taught in the classroom or read in a brochure where they visited campuses like Notre Dame, University of Chicago, Michigan State and the University of Michigan. The goal of the trip was to

expose the students to the unique experiences of each campus and interact with faculty, graduate students and deans.

After a full day of presentations, panel discussions and tours, our undergraduate student guests visited the monthly AGEP Community meeting. The meeting opened up with introductions from each visiting students describing their major and future research interests. Introductions were followed by acknowledgements of new achievements made by current community members, like the TIAA-CREF Ruth Simms Hamilton Graduate Merit Fellowship awardees, Kamahra Ewing and Alexandra Gelbard. The evening's chalk talk presenters included **Emily Weigel**, *graduate student in the Department of Zoology and Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior Program*: "Fishing for a Mate: Threespine Stickleback Mating Across the Season" and **Blair Zaid**, *graduate student in the Department of African American and African Studies*: "African Diaspora and Material Culture: A different perspective on the relevance of origins"

Each student came away from this trip with a better understanding of MSU, its dedication to diversity and its broader impact in a variety of scientific fields. This trip presents a unique opportunity for students to experience the culture of a professional organization and get motivated to pursue internships and career paths. "Our visit to MSU was fantastic. I overheard many students say that they had not considered MSU before but it was now a top contender on their list," said Dr. Sinead Younge (professor of psychology at Morehouse).

For more information about the MSU AGEP Community, contact Steven Thomas (deshawn@msu.edu) at 517-353-3220.