



AGEP Finishes the 2017 Fall Semester Strong



MSU AGEP Community interacting in the Human Ecology Building

EAST LANSING- Thursday, December 7, 2017: Michigan State University hosted its monthly AGEP Community Meeting in room 300 of the Human Ecology building. Over 60 participants from the AGEP Community as well as graduate school faculty and staff were in attendance. Steven Thomas, program director of AGEP gave welcoming remarks before giving the floor to moderator, Mahlet Garede, Doctoral Student in the Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department.

The evening began with introductions from new members and guests. Mahlet then gave community announcements and introduced the Chalk Talk presenter of the night.

Monica Setien, a doctoral student in the Biomedical Engineering Department, discussed her research titled, "*Optical Control of Gene Expression for Neuronal Date Specification*". Her talk touched on the dynamic nature behind gene expression, and delved deep into the science behind how this relates to cellular programming.

Following the Chalk Talk came a Science & Society presentation facilitated by Sylmarie Davila Montero and Nomar S. Gonzalez-Santini of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. The duo discussed, "the atmospheric pros and cons of high-frequency experiments". As the talk went on, the audience was challenged to give their thoughts on ethics and scientific research in today's society. This sparked a healthy debate in the room that helped the audience to share and express their ideas.

As the meeting came to a close, Mahlet gave her last remarks to the audience and encouraged the AGEP Community to continue to keep up the good work. When asked her thoughts on the AGEP Community's Fall 2017 semester, Kesicia Dickinson, a first year graduate student in the Department of Political Science mentioned, "My first semester as an MSU AGEP member was awesome. Since day one, this support base of underrepresented researchers has helped me feel more comfortable in my transition to graduate school".

The December AGEP Community Meeting was a tremendous closing to the semester. We are excited to see what 2018 has in store for all of our members. For more information about the AGEP Community at MSU, contact Steven Thomas (deshawn@grd.msu.edu) at 517-432-3268.