

Morehouse College and Spelman College Students Visit Campus to Learn About MSU Graduate Programs



EAST LANSING, Michigan, March 14, 2013 – During their Spring Break, 30 students and six faculty and staff from Morehouse College and Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, visited the Michigan State University Campus to explore opportunities for graduate studies at MSU. The students are participants in a Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) program funded by a National Institutes of Health grant to Spelman and Morehouse Colleges.

The Morehouse and Spelman visitors' time at MSU began with a welcome and overview of cutting edge science at Michigan State University from BEACON representatives, Dr. Judi Brown-Clare (Diversity Director) and Dr. Erik Goodman (Executive Director). "We were all very impressed with the BEACON presentation. It really accented the emphasis that Michigan State places on interdisciplinary research work and success. The statistics involving the amount of MSU research grant proposals that are accepted annually were extremely effective at portraying what makes MSU unique from all of the other institutions we visited," remarked Joshua Mann (Engineering Junior at Morehouse College). Afterwards, Associate Deans Dr. Julius Jackson and Dr. Tony Nunez delivered an overview of the professional development opportunities at MSU with a focus on the CAFFE Program (Center for Future Faculty Excellence).

The discussion with the deans was followed by a graduate student panel made of AGEP (Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate) members. Specifically, the panel was composed of Laura Allen (Digital Rhetoric, Spelman Alum), Christel Beverly (Kinesiology), Danielle King (Organizational Psychology, Spelman Alum), Elijah Lowe (Computer Science, Morehouse Alum), and Shylene Mata (Fisheries and Wildlife).

Students dined at the Snyder-Phillips Hall cafeteria for lunch. Afterwards, students were escorted to individual or small group meetings. Our guests visited the Colleges of Human Medicine, Social Science, Natural Science and Engineering and met with faculty representatives from over 15 different departments. Graduate Program Director Dr. David Barondess remarked, "The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics was extremely pleased to host the group of prospective graduate students from the Morehouse and Spelman colleges. More than a half-dozen students visited with various faculty members from within the department who shared their personal experiences regarding graduate education, research opportunities, and potential careers in epidemiology and public health. We were impressed with the depth of knowledge the students already possessed with respect to these fields, and this knowledge allowed them to ask particularly probing questions." Led by two graduating MSU seniors, the student guests were escorted on a campus walking tour after their faculty meetings.

The day concluded with attendance at the monthly AGEP (Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate) Community Meeting in the Biomedical and Physical Sciences Building. "The AGEP meetings always motivate me for my future in research through witnessing other minorities conduct premier research at a top research institution like MSU," said Kyle Lewis (Biology Sophomore at Morehouse College).

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