

**Hampton University Physics Department Pegasus Trips
Yale University November 10-11, 2016 Report
Prepared by: Jessica Freeman and Paul Gueye**

In the Fall 2016, the Physics Department of Hampton University established a new annual initiative labeled “*Pegasus Physics Trips*”, modeled after the 2014 precursor trip to the National Radio-Astronomy Observatory of the Physicists Inspiring the Next Generation (www.nsbping.org) program. It is a series of one to two days long visits to four majority institutions (Yale University, Michigan State University, Brown University and Purdue University), two per semester, from 22 (undergraduate and graduate) students attending Physics and Engineering Departments at four Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Hampton University, Spelman College, Elizabeth City State University and Howard University. The participants also include faculty members and staff.

The primary goal for these visits is to provide an avenue for undergraduate students to attend graduate school, for MS students to consider pursuing a PhD degree and for PhD students to look for postdocs. They also provide an additional emphasis on the needed qualifications and attitude to apply and be successful in graduate school.

The name, affiliation and classification of the participants are listed in Appendix A. It consists of 22 students: 20 undergraduate students, two graduate students from which 11 are males and 11 are females. Not all the students attended each of these visits, primarily for academic constraints. Individual reports from all participants were requested along with responding to a post-visit survey.

This short report focuses on the first visit that was held at Yale University on November 10-11, 2016. A copy of the schedule is listed in Appendix B. The post-survey form and results are appended to this summary along with all individual responses as provided. The participants (Figure 1) traveled on a bus that left Hampton University on Thursday morning around 5:00AM to arrive at Yale before 3:00PM.



Figure 1: Participants to the Pegasus trip to Yale University on November 10-11, 2016.



PAUL GUÈYE, PhD, CHAIR
PHYSICS DEPARTMENT
HAMPTON UNIVERSITY
HAMPTON VIRGINIA, 23668

T: (+1) 757-727-5542
F: (+1) 757-728-6910
E: paul.gueye@hamptonu.edu
<http://science.hamptonu.edu/physics>

While the overall visit was very well appreciated (77.8% ranked it as excellent), the activity that was ranked the highest was the presentation by Dr. Meg Urry on Thursday (92.3%). From the students' responses, Dr. Urry provided an inspiring talk along with her personal experience through school and as a professional that resonated with the students, especially female students.

There were several outcomes from this visit:

- Many of the undergraduate students, although very strong academically, did not consider going to graduate school before this visit coming from an HBCU. This experience changed their minds, including the strong possibility to apply to an ivy league school;
- Being part of a group of students from HBCUs on this visit, re-enforced the notion of a cohort as a supportive group to attend graduate school because of the low number of African American students at majority institutions;
- The interactions with the graduate students at Yale has proven to be a key factor in putting a positive perspective and attitude toward pursuing a graduate degree; and
- The work ethic and demand in graduate school, including the application process, seem to have provided a sense of “more hard work” while still being an undergraduate student for better preparedness.

Appendix A: List of participants to the HU Physics Pegasus Trips

Last	First	Classification	Gender	Institution	Major
Gueye	Paul	Department, Chair	Male	Hampton University	Physics
Pretlow	Monica	Administrative Assistant	Female	Hampton University	Physics
Freeman	Jessica	Graduate Student	Female	Hampton University	Physics
Guererro	Juan	Graduate Student	Male	Hampton University	Physics
Fernando	Ishara	Graduate Student	Male	Hampton University	Physics
Andrews	Bria	Undergraduate Student	Female	Hampton University	Physics
Burney	Kyle	Undergraduate Student	Male	Hampton University	Physics
Roots	Maurice	Undergraduate Student	Male	Hampton University	Physics
Miller	Matthew	Undergraduate Student	Male	Hampton University	Engineering
Johnson	Camara	Undergraduate Student	Female	Hampton University	Engineering
Mabulu	Katiso	Undergraduate Student	Male	Hampton University	Engineering
Matthews	Breyah	Undergraduate Student	Female	Hampton University	Engineering
Cole	Maya	Undergraduate Student	Female	Hampton University	Engineering
Rucker	Basseemah	Undergraduate Student	Male	Hampton University	Engineering
Wofford	Alia	Undergraduate Student	Female	Elizabeth City State University	Physics/Biology
Thomas	Brianna	Undergraduate Student	Male	Howard University	Physics
Smith	Sergio	Undergraduate Student	Male	Howard University	Physics
Blake	Ameer	Undergraduate Student	Male	Howard University	Physics
Hunt-Stone	Keenan	Undergraduate Student	Male	Howard University	Physics
Floyd	Hanna	Undergraduate Student	Female	Spelman College	Physics
Gordon	Ashlee	Undergraduate Student	Female	Spelman College	Physics
McCray	Mayla	Undergraduate Student	Female	Spelman College	Physics
Pruitt	Kimara	Undergraduate Student	Female	Spelman College	Physics
Walker	Lakirah	Undergraduate Student	Female	Spelman College	Physics

Appendix B: Yale University Visit Schedule

Yale University
Office for Graduate Student Development and Diversity (OGSDD)

Hampton University and Spelman College Visit to Yale
November 10 – 11, 2016



Hall of Graduate Studies (HGS)
320 York Street, New Haven, CT

Date	Time	Activity
Thursday, November 10	1:00 pm	Check into Courtyard Marriott Hotel – 30 Whalley Avenue
	3:15 pm	Meet Kara Cutrona in Courtyard Marriott lobby
	3:30 pm	Arrival at HGS 119A
	3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Welcome and Yale Overview (Dean Nearon)
	4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Remarks (Professor Meg Urry)
	5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Dinner at the Graduate Club (OGSDD Fellows)
Friday, November 11	8:30 am	Meet Kara Cutrona in Courtyard Marriott lobby. Check out of hotel and bring luggage to Yale or load on bus.
	8:45 am – 9:45 am	Continental breakfast (Meet Graduate School Dean, Lynn Cooley) HGS 119A
	9:45 am	Kara will escort physics students to meet with Fred Walker and Eric Jin; 15 Prospect Street, Room 223 (*See detailed agenda below.) Kara will escort electrical engineering students to meet Wen Wang; 10 Hillhouse Avenue in lobby area Kara will escort chemical engineering student to meet Eric Altman; Malone Engineering Center; 55 Prospect Street, Room 111
	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Department/lab visits
	12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Graduate Student Lunch Panel Discussion – HGS 119A (Alexandria, Yick, Brandi, Mila, Stephanie)
	2:15 pm – 3:45 pm	Campus tour (Includes time at bookstore for souvenirs) - Craig Holloway (Craig will meet the group in HGS 119A.)
	3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Q&A
	4:00 pm	Departure

Agenda for Friday, November 11 For Physics Students Only*

Time	Activity	Location	Faculty Member(s)
10:00 am – 10:40 am	Tour Physics Labs	Becton Hall; 15 Prospect Street, Room 223	Professor Fred Walker Eric Jin (senior graduate student)
10:45 am – 10:55 am	Meeting w/ Physics Faculty member	Becton Hall; 15 Prospect Street; Room 417	Professor Daniel Prober
11:10 am – 11:40 am	Meeting w/ Astronomy Department	Steinbach Hall; 52 Hillhouse Ave., 1 st Floor	Professor Hector Arce Professor Priyamvada Natarajan
11:40 am – 12:15 pm	Tour of the Yale Exoplanet Lab	Dave will meet the group at the coffee shop.	Dave Sawyer (Senior Research Scientist)
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	Return to HGS 119A for lunch graduate student panel	Hall of Graduate Studies; 320 York Street, Room 119A	Mila Chadayammuri will bring the group to HGS 119A

Physics Pegasus Trip - Yale November 10-11, 2016

Survey from the two-day physics visit to Yale University on November 10-11, 2016

* Required

1. Thursday Night Dinner *

Your opinion about the information provided and its usefulness to your future aspiration
Mark only one oval.

- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Excellent

2. Dean Michelle Nearon Friday Evening Session *

Your opinion about the information provided and its usefulness to your future aspiration
Mark only one oval.

- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Excellent

3. Dean Michelle Nearon Saturday Morning Session *

Your opinion about the information provided and its usefulness to your future aspiration
Mark only one oval.

- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Excellent

4. **Remarks from Dr. Meg Urry ***

Your opinion about the information provided and its usefulness to your future aspiration
Mark only one oval.

- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Excellent

5. **Meeting with Physics Group ***

Your opinion about the information provided and its usefulness to your future aspiration
Mark only one oval.

- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Excellent

6. **Meeting with Electrical Engineering Group ***

Your opinion about the information provided and its usefulness to your future aspiration
Mark only one oval.

- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Excellent

7. **Meeting with Chemical Engineering Group ***

Your opinion about the information provided and its usefulness to your future aspiration
Mark only one oval.

- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Excellent

8. **Laboratory Tours ***

Your opinion about the information provided and its usefulness to your future aspiration
Mark only one oval.

- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Excellent

9. **Graduate Students Lunch Panel Discussion ***

Your opinion about the information provided and its usefulness to your future aspiration
Mark only one oval.

- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Excellent

10. **Campus Tour ***

Your opinion about the information provided and its usefulness to your future aspiration
Mark only one oval.

- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Excellent

11. **Best Agenda Item ***

Your opinion about what you liked the most during your visit
Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Dean Michelle Nearon Welcome and Overview
- ☐ Prof. Meg Urry Remarks
- ☐ Meeting with Yale Faculty
- ☐ Meeting with Yale Graduate Students
- ☐ Yale Campus Tour

12. **Please indicate how globally (below) and how each of the following (next questions, short answers) added to your experience**

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Excellent

13. **Jessica Freeman**

.....

14. **Ishara Fernando**

.....

15. **Monica Pretlow**

.....

16. **Dean Michelle Nearon**

.....

17. **Prof. Meg Urry**

.....

18. **Yale Faculty**

.....

19. **Yale Graduate Students**

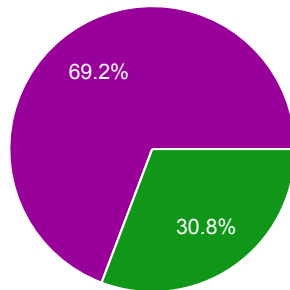
.....

13 responses

[Publish analytics](#)

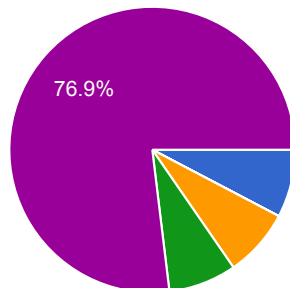
Summary

Thursday Night Dinner



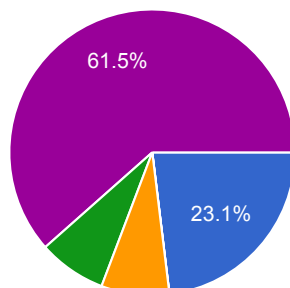
N/A	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Average	0	0%
Good	4	30.8%
Excellent	9	69.2%

Dean Michelle Nearon Thursday Evening Session



N/A	1	7.7%
Poor	0	0%
Average	1	7.7%
Good	1	7.7%
Excellent	10	76.9%

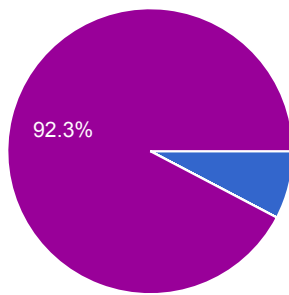
Dean Lynn Cooley Friday Morning Session



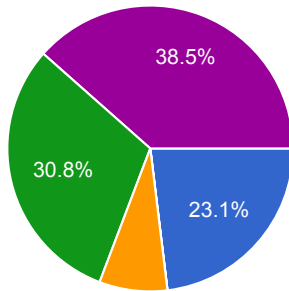
N/A	3	23.1%
Poor	0	0%
Average	1	7.7%
Good	1	7.7%
Excellent	8	61.5%

Remarks from Dr. Meg Urry

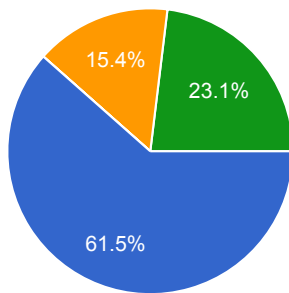
N/A	1	7.7%
Poor	0	0%



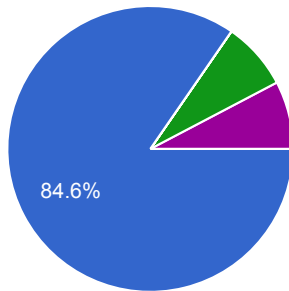
Meeting with Physics Group



Meeting with Electrical Engineering Group



Meeting with Chemical Engineering Group



Laboratory Tours

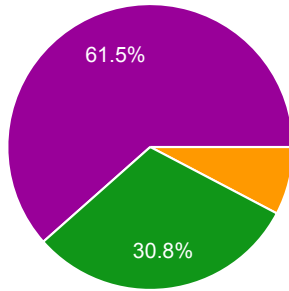
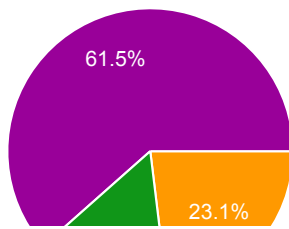
Average	0	0%
Good	0	0%
Excellent	12	92.3%

N/A	3	23.1%
Poor	0	0%
Average	1	7.7%
Good	4	30.8%
Excellent	5	38.5%

N/A	8	61.5%
Poor	0	0%
Average	2	15.4%
Good	3	23.1%
Excellent	0	0%

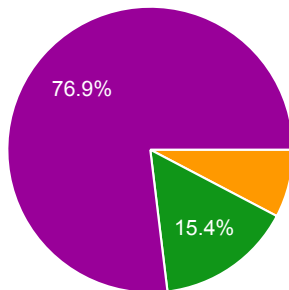
N/A	11	84.6%
Poor	0	0%
Average	0	0%
Good	1	7.7%
Excellent	1	7.7%

N/A	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Average	3	23.1%
Good	2	15.4%
Excellent	8	61.5%



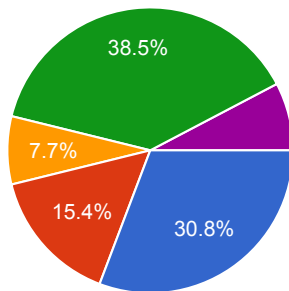
N/A	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Average	1	7.7%
Good	4	30.8%
Excellent	8	61.5%

Campus Tour



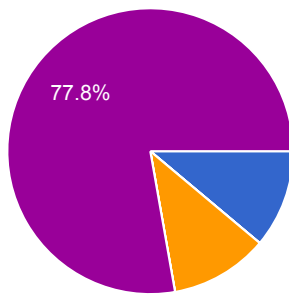
N/A	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Average	1	7.7%
Good	2	15.4%
Excellent	10	76.9%

Best Agenda Item



Dean Michelle Nearon Welcome and Overview	4	30.8%
Prof. Meg Urry Remarks	2	15.4%
Meeting with Yale Faculty	1	7.7%
Meeting with Yale Graduate Students	5	38.5%
Yale Campus Tour	1	7.7%

Please indicate how globally (below) and how each of the following (next questions, short answers) added to your experience



N/A	1	11.1%
Poor	0	0%
Average	1	11.1%
Good	0	0%
Excellent	7	77.8%

Jessica Freeman

Motivational and I aspire to be like her.

Excellent

Very warm and helpful

Excellent

Beautiful and positive energy! She helped us have fun.

Jessica was a joy to have on the trip. She kept everything organized but made everyone realize what an opportunity it was to visit Yale.

Ishara Fernando

Well prepared and always on top of stuff, which showed me the importance of preparedness.

Average

N/A

Good

n/a

Fernando was a great team mentor. He had a friendly disposition and enthusiastic personality.

Monica Pretlow

Organized, subtle, and in charge, which helped to keep the trip orderly.

Good

Helpful and friendly

Great

Very helpful

Monica was a great addition to the trip. She helped manage the group well and added on the the enthusiasm .

Dean Michelle Nearon

Informative and motivational. Her preparedness was effective for encouraging students to

apply to Yale.

Excellent

Dean Nearon was super helpful. Her guidance and wisdom was very much appreciated.

Great

Absolutely great. Planning to stay in touch

Dr. Nearon explained the graduate school application process. She gave a lot of helpful information in a manageable way. She was not intimidating yet professional.

Prof. Meg Urry

Excellent

Passionate and exemplary.

Prof. Urry's insight on the workplace was helpful. Her tips for being successful in grad school were great

Loved her remarks. I admired her wisdom along with her expertise.

Dr. Urry described the problems minorities may face in the STEM fields. She was honest but hopeful for the future. She gave examples of her own experiences that were relevant and valuable.

Yale Faculty

Good

Well versed and welcoming, which added to my decision to apply to graduate school at Yale.

excellent

Friendly

Dr. Altman talked about all the research disciplines in the graduate school of chemical and environmental engineering. He described the overall atmosphere of the department and how well all the students matriculate through the program. He was warm but very professional.

Yale Graduate Students

Excellent

Honest, disciplined.

Great

Friendly

Lynsey and Jay were great guides. They gave me detailed information on all the research labs and projects the graduate students are doing. They were very friendly and thorough.

Number of daily responses



Yale University Experience:

All students and myself arrived at HU approx 4:30am and loaded the bus about 4:45am to leave campus approx. 5am headed to Connecticut. For the most part due to the early morning commute we all slept most of the ride which was very relaxing thanks to Venture transportation. We arrived at the hotel approx. 2:30pm on 11-10-16 and we all went to our rooms to get refreshed for the day's events. The Yale student guided us to the Graduate school about 3:15pm where we met with Dean Michelle Nearon. This meeting was consisted of information concerning attending the university and all the benefits of each program offered at Yale. I actually have Dean Nearon sending me all this important information for our records via email. After Dean Nearon spoke and had Q&A she then had Professor Meg Urry speak with us about her personal experiences growing up in the field of Physics along with her ups and downs throughout the years. Professor Urry was a delight to meet and she made you feel her heartfelt concerns for each of us there. I felt she meant everything she shared and she just left a lifelong impression that she genuinely cared about others and their wellbeing. The one thing that stuck out to me about her was her 12 rules to live by, even though she could only remember 6 off hand. They were very interesting and true things to live by. After speaking and having a few Q&A with her we all walked over to the Graduate Club House for dinner. There Dean Nearon had several graduate students there to meet with us for dinner and personal conversations while we enjoyed a beautifully setup elegant dinner. After this was over we walked by to our rooms for the evening where we had free time to unwind to reflect on the day's events.

The next morning we checked out of hotel approx 8am and walked back to meet with Dean Nearon for a continental breakfast. We briefly had a discussion and then we were escorted to various departments according to each student's interest. We visited departments and labs for the students to see up close and personal what each field consist of and daily workloads for the day. The students even me found this very interesting and intriguing. There were plenty questions asked and pamphlets were also given. After the visitations were complete we all headed back to meet with Dean Nearon to have lunch with more graduate students. Dean Nearon had a panel of graduate students to have Q&A for the HU and Spellman students to find out more concerning Yale and their experiences while attending. After the platform discussion we went on a campus tour and stopped by the Yale bookstore for souvenirs. Then after the tour was complete we went back to meet Dean Nearon for final Q&A time and to say our goodbyes. Dean Nearon extended a very wonderful incentive by informing the students she would waive the application fee for anyone who was interested in applying to Yale. This is a savings of over \$100 which I thought was very thoughtful and sincere of her interest in the students in attendance. Then after our goodbyes we all loaded the bus for departure and before we pulled off the graduate school dean who was to meet us earlier came onboard to thank us for coming and that she hope she would see us again as her students.

Overall the experience at Yale University was very pleasant, informative and life-changing. I was enlightened myself even though I'm not a student but it has sparked my long lost interest in going back for my degree as well. This trip was a joy to attend and very much needed for any student who seriously wants to further their education. It helps them see first hand how graduate school works and can work for you. I personally hope each student takes advantage of these wonderful opportunities presented before them and that they fully see the benefits of pushing higher for their future endeavors.

Ishara Fernando
PhD Candidate
Department of Physics
Hampton University
Hampton, VA 23668
USA

November 17, 2016

Dr. Paul Gueye
Assistant Professor of Physics
Department of Physics
Hampton University
Hampton, VA 23668
USA

Dear Dr. Paul,

First of all, I would like to thank you for organizing such a great visit for us to see the opportunities at Yale University. There were altogether 15 students (13 undergraduate students from both Hampton University and Spelman University, 2 graduate students including my self) participated in this visit.

From the Yale University side, there was a warm welcome by Assistant Dean Dr. Michelle Nearon and the organizing committee. The program was well structured and they arranged the lab tours and talks in a very convenient way for all the streams of students (physics, electrical and chemical engineering). And also they treated all of us with a great hospitality.

Our students asked many questions and I realized that they had a very comprehensive overview of applying to Yale University including funding options. Not only about the applying process information, but also their tours to the labs were a great experience to our students. Our students got a chance to talk to Professors as well as graduate students, especially they organized a luncheon panel discussion session with current graduate students at Yale. Also our students got the chance to meet the Dean also.

From my point of view; it was an amazing visit because, for couple of reasons. First, Yale University is one of the greatest leading universities in the world. Second, I got an opportunity to talk to Professor Francesco Iachello who is one of the greatest and famous characters in theoretical nuclear physics who worked on quark models using spin-flavor symmetries. I provided my curriculum vitae and my research statement to him. He explained about his current ongoing research work and we discussed

about the work.

After a nice guided tour around the Yale University premises, we started our journey back to HU and we arrived safely.

I would like to thank again to you, Dr. Nearon and all the faculty members in both HU and Yale, all the graduate students, undergraduate students and non-academic staff members at Yale University for all their support, and also I should thank to our bus driver Mr. Tylor for bringing us back safely.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ishara Fernando

This was one of the most well put together school tours I have ever been on. I toured the chemical and environmental engineering graduate school and everything was explained in such great detail. I loved hearing about all of the different graduate projects and the overall culture of the department. I also liked how our host Michelle presented Yale as an attainable goal and a prospective school instead of an unattainable dream as many schools present themselves. She continued to say throughout the trip that we have more control over our futures than we think. I have never had anyone explain so in depth how to put together each part of our graduate application.

During our time at Yale University, we extensively learned about Yale's graduate program. Dr. Michelle Nearon gave us great advice in order to prepare ourselves for the Yale's graduate program. She mentioned that when we become graduate students, we need to "work balance". "Work balance" essentially means that we need to balance our work time and our free time. We should not just be working with no play, nor should we just be playing without working. To justify Dr. Nearon's point about "work balance", some graduate students also confessed the need to break away from working sometimes as well as the importance of time management. Some of the students even gave examples of how they would run or watch T.V. in order to give their mind a rest from working.

I had a meeting with one of Yale's Chemical Engineering Professors Dr. Eric Altman. He explained in great detail all of the projects and programs Yale has to offer in Chemical and Environmental Engineering. Everything he said about fuel cells, nano-scale fabrication and water desalination was very interesting.

I took a personal tour of Dr. Andre Taylor's lab with one of his Graduate student Lynsey. She gave me a detailed explanation of everything that happens in the lab. Everything

she told me about the lab's research with Fuel cells, Solar cells and Batteries was very exciting. She showed me all of the state of the art equipment and even explained a little bit of her own project to me. The one thing that surprised me about the tour was the way Lynsey described the lab's culture and atmosphere. She described it as positive, supportive and exciting. She said there is no bitter competition and the whole Chemical and Environmental Engineering Department is encouraging and close to one another. I am so grateful for Lynsey's tour because she described so well how difficult it is to be in graduate school but she also described how the hard work is worth it and how being in a lab doing work I believe in and being surrounded by positive energy can make my time at school more pleasant.

I took a tour of the rest of the Chemical and Environmental Engineering labs with a graduate student named Jay. We went to about four different labs and facilities and he explained everything that is researched and tested in each facility. I described how the chemical engineering and environmental engineering department is basically blended together. He is a chemical engineering student in an environmental engineering lab. We ran into another graduate student named Jordan and he explained his project on bio fuels and chloroplast to me. Jordan answered all of the questions I had and made the tour very easy to follow.

This tour showed what a great atmosphere Yale has and demonstrated how being surrounded by likeminded people and endless resources can move research forward.

Hannah Floyd

22 November 2016

My Yale Experience

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Yale University in November 2016. Getting the opportunity to meeting with various members of the Yale graduate school's faculty, deans, and Ph.D. students opened my eyes to the various possibilities available to me in my future academic career as a physics student. I appreciate the emphasis on the importance of diversity, especially coming from the perspective of an HBCU student. The labs we visited throughout the day also showed me how there are real projects going on by world renowned scientists—seeing the concepts from my thermal & statistical physics class being put into a real world application was incredibly fascinating.

One thing I would comment on is the amount of time this trip took—the trip to Yale took only about a day in a half, but I end up missing three days of school. Travel could've been condensed into something more efficient like a flight straight into New Haven. However, I am grateful for the opportunity and am so happy that I was able to go.

Mayla McCray

Yale Experience

November 19, 2016

I first want to to say thank you for letting me have the opportunity to travel up to Yale with the Hampton students. This Yale experience has been an amazing and eye-opening trip for me and has helped me to finally realize what my passion is and what I actually want to do, which is Material Physics. Secondly, I want to say that I want to change my major to strictly Physics. I would like to go into either Physics: Advanced Theory and experiment sequence or Physics: Chemical physics sequence. After traveling up to Yale and speaking with a few physicists, a few graduate students, and Dean Nearon, I have been thinking about applying to Grad School at Yale and of course other graduate schools for Materials Physics.

When I first arrived at Yale I had preconceived notions of the attitudes of the attending students there. Attending an Ivy League school as great as Yale University can fabricate one's mindset and outlook on others as if superior to others. Having this preconception myself on how I viewed the students was very inconsiderate. The graduate students were pragmatic, studious, and accomplished. When I looked at them I placed myself in were they were sitting and I could not see it another way at all.

From: Ashlee N Gordon agordo13@scmail.spelman.edu
Subject: Reflection
Date: November 17, 2016 at 1:28 PM
To: PAUL.GUEYE@hamptonu.edu

Dr. Gueye,

I am not sure if the other students from Spelman have sent their reflections, but here is mine:

The trip to Yale University with other students from Spelman College and Hampton University was completely transformative. Before going, I had no intentions of attending graduate school--let alone an Ivy League--but I realized my ability to bring my career goals to fruition with the plethora of resources Yale has to offer. The experience, for me, was important because I was able to envision myself among other scholars who prioritize professional, academic, and personal growth simultaneously. The tour of the labs in the Becton College of Engineering and Applied Physics was the most exciting part of the trip because I was able to meet graduate students working on Materials Physics and developing the next decade of technology, specifically for cell phones, who asked me complex questions about Thermal & Statistical Physics that I was actually able to answer correctly. Though seemingly minutia compared to discussions about fully funded PhD programs and the countless names of people who attended Yale, my most important memory of the trip was my recognition that a group of young, black, mostly female undergraduate students left our marks on the campus of Yale University.

--
Ashlee N. Gordon
Spelman College '18
Physics Major
Cell: 757-769-2247

Lakirah Walker

Spelman College

17 November 2016

The trip to Yale University was very beneficial to me. I was able to talk to current graduate students and faculty and get a glimpse of what graduate school would be like. I come on the trip being apprehensive about graduate school because I am not certain on what I want to do career-wise. However, I was reassured once I had a conversation with a graduate student who let me know that it was okay not to be completely sure and just to follow my interests. She told me to apply to different programs that I find interesting.

I found very useful that Dr. Nearon went through the process of applying to graduate school and informing us of what the admission's committees are looking for. I also found Dr. Urry's talk inspiring as she talked about what it was like being a woman in science as she gave words of encouragement.

Being able to get to know some of the Hampton University students was very refreshing. Once we got to Yale, there was a sense of community among all the students since we all came from HBCUs. We were able to talk about our goals and it was nice being able to interact with other like-minded students at a different institution.

Kimara Pruitt

18 November 2016

Yale Visit Reflection

During my years of contemplating how my post secondary life would go, I've never considered going to graduate school, until I visited Yale. The trip to Yale was an unexpected experience. The campus is beautiful and the students and staff I met are welcoming. The information Dean Nearon had provided was very clear and concise which made it easy to understand and very helpful in expanding my knowledge about not only Yale, but graduate school period. Yale definitely had many benefits, especially financially. The graduate students gave extremely truthful answers. In some departments, out reach into the community was very important and in others it wasn't. I know in whatever department I decide to pursue, I want to be involved in the community. I also learned that women that are starting families (are pregnant) are discouraged from the sciences. This is something huge to consider, because I want to start a family during the years I would be in graduate school. The down side is the percentage of African Americans attending the school and it was definitely a culture shock coming from a historically black college. If I decided to go there, then I would definitely join in the efforts to get more marginalized groups into Yale. On a more academic level, I definitely could see myself working in their labs on my very own research projects. I could follow a great majority of the terminology used to describe the projects, they were currently working on. Knowing this information only being a sophomore in undergraduate school made me feel good about myself and made me see more potential in myself. Overall I enjoyed Yale and even though it has its cons, which I am willing to change, I could definitely see myself at Yale.