PREPARING FOR YOUR FIRST YEAR AFTER GRADUATE SCHOOL
IN THE LIFE & PHYSICAL SCIENCES
Thursday, May 5, 2011

PANELISTS

Joseph Bush (joseph_bush@brown.edu)
Joseph Bush is a Post-Doctoral Research Associate in Physics at Brown University. Joe, born in Massachusetts, received his BS in chemistry from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 2004. His undergraduate work focused on synthetic organic chemistry for the design of linking molecules in metal organic crystal frameworks. After a brief summer working in a synthetic chemistry lab in the department of chemistry at Brown prior to starting in the PhD program he made the decision to transition into physical chemistry to satisfy broader interests in physical properties of materials and methods of chemical analysis. He joined the research group of Prof. Peter Weber where he worked on photo-electron spectroscopy of bio-mimetic model systems. After completing his Ph.D. in January of 2010 he accepted a post-doctoral position in the department of physics under Prof. Derek Stein and is working on a nanopore single ion source for vacuum spectroscopy and mass spectrometry.

Eric Darling (eric_darling@brown.edu)
Eric Darling is an Assistant Professor of Medical Science in the Department of Molecular Pharmacology, Physiology, and Biotechnology with courtesy appointments in the Department of Orthopaedics and the School of Engineering. Eric received a B.S. in Engineering from Harvey Mudd College, a Ph.D. in Bioengineering from Rice University, and post-doctoral training at Duke University. The goal of his research is to understand the relationship between the biological function of cells and tissues and their micro/nano-scale mechanical properties. His long-term objective is to use quantitative assessment of the mechanical and biological characteristics of single cells to improve tissue regeneration and cell-based therapies.

Molly McCanta (molly.mccanta@tufts.edu)
Molly McCanta is an Assistant Professor of Geology at Tufts University. Molly earned her Ph.D. in Geological Sciences from Brown University in 2004. Following her degree, she spent several years as a post-doctoral researcher at NASA’s Lunar and Planetary Institute and the California Institute of Technology before going to Tufts. She is an experimental petrologist who studies the formation mechanisms of volcanic rocks from the earth, Moon, Mars, and other meteorite parent bodies. She utilizes high temperature and high pressure lab equipment to simulate the conditions rocks may have been subjected to deep within a planet’s interior. Her lunar research is currently supported through a grant from NASA. Her research has been published in many peer-reviewed journals including Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta, American Mineralogist, and Meteoritics and Planetary Science.

Xiaozhong Wen (wenxiaozhong@gmail.com)
Xiaozhong, Wen is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Obesity Prevention Program at the Department of Population Medicine, Harvard Medical School. Xiaozhong is co-mentored by Dr. Matthew W. Gillman and Elsie M. Taveras. He received his Ph.D. in Epidemiology at Brown University in May 2010. He got an M.Sc. in Epidemiology and Biostatistics (2006), and an M.D. (2003), both at Sun Yat-sen University (formerly Sun Yat-sen University of Medical Sciences). His research interests include developmental or early origins (e.g. fetal, infancy, early childhood) of health and diseases, childhood growth trajectories and obesity, gene-environmental interactions in cardio-metabolic health, and prevention of adolescent risk behaviors (e.g. smoking). His ongoing projects include, 1) modeling childhood BMI trajectories; 2) epigenetics in fetal origins of obesity and cardio-metabolic health; 3) components of gestational weight gain and offspring health; 4) intergenerational impacts of gestational diabetes.
RESOURCES

ONLINE RESOURCES*

“PhDs - The Transition from Graduate Student to Assistant Professor”, University of California–Berkeley Career Center

“Tomorrow’s Academic Careers” – postings from the Tomorrow’s Professor Listserv

“Early Career Geoscience Faculty: Teaching, Research, and Managing Your Career”

NB: Although this is from a professional development website designed specifically for Geoscience faculty, it contains a wealth of online resources relevant to all new faculty. Topics covered include finding balance, efficient/effective teaching, developing your research program, and getting tenure.

From The Chronicle of Higher Education

- “From Graduate Student to Faculty Member”
- “Open Letter to 2010-11’s First-Time Tenure-Track Professors”

Selected “Random Thoughts” columns by Professor Richard M. Felder of North Carolina State University

- “The Effective, Efficient Professor”
  NB: This article sums up the main points of Phillip Wankat’s eponymous book (listed below).
- “Things I wish they had told me” (coauthored with Rebecca Brent)
- “The New Faculty Member”
  NB: This article summarizes the key points of Robert Boice’s Advice for New Faculty Members (listed below).
- “How to Prepare New Courses While Keeping Your Sanity” (coauthored with Rebecca Brent)

Quentin Vicens & Philip E. Bourne, “Ten Simple Rules to Combine Teaching and Research”, PLoS Computational Biology

“Surviving the transition from grad student to new faculty member”

In a series of video clips, Carleton University Director of Learning, Technologies and Teaching Support Carol Miles addresses topics such as advantages/disadvantages of being a new faculty member, tips when starting your teaching career and maintaining professionalism.

BOOKS


Lucas, Christopher J. and John W. Murry, Jr., New Faculty: A Practical Guide for Academic Beginners, PALGRAVE (St. Martin’s Press), 2002.


*Clickable links for these online resources can be found on the Sheridan Center’s website: http://brown.edu/sheridan_center/consulting/jobmarket.html#first_year.