

BRET

Office of Career Development

ASPIRE EVENTS OF THE FORTNIGHT

CV/Resume Drop-In Clinic

Wednesdays • 12:30-1:30pm (*drop in anytime within the hour!*) • Light Hall 340

Making the Most of Your Presentation

Featuring Jean-Luc Doumont • Co-sponsored by the ASPIRE Program and the VU Graduate School
Deadline to apply: February 5

ASPIRE Bistro for Grad Students: Exploring and Preparing for Faculty Careers

Wednesday, February 5 • 2:00pm • Light Hall 419

PhD Career Stories: Jennifer Sparks, PhD

*Deputy, Advanced and Emerging Threats Division, Chemical and Biological Techniques
Department, Defense Threat Reduction Agency*

Friday, February 7 • 10:00am • Light Hall 214 • [Registration requested.](#)

ASPIRE Cafe for Postdoctoral Fellows: Nontenure Faculty Track

Wednesday, February 12 • 2:00pm • Light Hall 419

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Remember that ASPIRE seminar you attended where the speaker emphasized how important informational coffees can be for networking? But what did that speaker say? ***WHERE IS THAT PRESENTATION?!*** We've got you covered. Under the ["Resources" page of the ASPIRE site](#), log on to the [Vanderbilt Box site](#) where ALL the ASPIRE resources are available for your review.

[The Wond'ry](#), Vanderbilt's innovation and entrepreneurship center, is excited to announce a **new consulting program** this spring for graduate students. This is an opportunity for students to get consulting experience working for startups developed at the Wond'ry. Students will work in teams of 4-5 for a month-long project on campus with a time commitment of 5 hours/week total (1 hour weekly meetings, 4 hours working remotely). We invite graduate students who are interested in entrepreneurship and consulting to participate in this program and use their experience and subject-matter expertise as part of an interdisciplinary team. Prior experience in these areas is preferred but not necessary. All students who are selected to be part of this program will receive training in consulting principles to facilitate their project with the clients. To apply, complete [this form](#). Check out the detailed description of the program in [this post](#).

Did you enjoy hearing from Dr. Jill Weimer, PhD at the 2019 ASPIRE Annual Career Symposium? There is a **summer internship** opening in her Chicago lab. Applications are due February 9. Check out all details [here](#).

Have you ever thought about **teaching at a community college**? This spring the CIRTL Network is hosting an [online series](#) about what it's like to teach at these institutions, how to navigate their hiring practices, and what issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion look like on community college campuses.

Consider [Biogen's Postdoctoral Fellowship in Medical Affairs](#), which provides PhD graduates a hands-on opportunity to learn the ins and outs of Medical Affairs and the pharmaceutical industry within the walls of a cutting-edge biotech.

UPCOMING ASPIRE EVENTS

CV/Resume Drop-In Clinic

Wednesdays

12:30-1:30pm (*drop in anytime within the hour!*)

Light Hall 340

The Writing Studio Drop-In Hours

Fridays

2:00-4:00pm

Light Hall 433

Learn more [here](#).

ASPIRE Bistro for Grad Students: Exploring and Preparing for Faculty Careers

Wednesday, February 5

2:00pm

Light Hall 419

PhD Career Stories: Jennifer Sparks, PhD

*Deputy, Advanced and Emerging Threats Division,
Chemical and Biological Techniques Department,
Defense Threat Reduction Agency*

Friday, February 7

10:00am

Light Hall 214

[Registration requested.](#)

ASPIRE Cafe for Postdoctoral Fellows: Nontenure Faculty Track

Wednesday, February 12

2:00pm

Light Hall 419

Featuring Alyssa Hasty, PhD, and Maureen Gannon, PhD



ASPIRE Job Search Series for PhD Students and Postdoctoral Fellows: Behavioral Interviewing

Wednesday, February 19

2:00pm

Light Hall 419

Featuring Ashley Brady, PhD, Assistant Dean of Biomedical Career Engagement and Strategic Partnerships

PhD & Master's Virtual Career Expo

February 26

ASPIRE Cafe for Postdoctoral Fellows: A Fair Look: How to Review a Paper

Wednesday, February 26

2:00pm

Light Hall 419

Featuring Kathy Gould, PhD, Associate Dean for Biomedical Sciences

ASPIRE Bistro for Grad Students: Building Your Biosketch

Wednesday, March 4

2:00pm

Light Hall 419

Featuring Ashley Brady, Assistant Dean of Biomedical Career Engagement and Strategic Partnerships

ASPIRE Cafe for Postdoctoral Fellows: Developing Your Mentoring Style

Wednesday, March 11

2:00pm

Light Hall 419

Featuring Kathy Gould, PhD, Associate Dean for Biomedical Sciences

SPEAKER PREVIEW

Dr. Jennifer Sparks, PhD will be our featured ASPIRE PhD Career Stories Speaker for the month of February. We asked her a few questions prior to her visit. See what she had to say below, and be sure to attend her talk on February 7th! [Registration requested.](#)



JENNIFER SPARKS, PHD

Division Program Manager in
the Research and Development Directorate
Defense Threat Reduction Agency

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I'm very passionate about the work I get to do. Most days it doesn't feel like work. I love that I get to serve my nation and shape the direction of new chemical and biological scientific discoveries. While I am no longer at the bench, I interact with scientists from around the world regularly and get to work with an incredible team on a daily basis.

WHAT IS ONE STATEMENT YOU WOULD SAY ABOUT YOURSELF NOW THAT YOU WOULD NOT HAVE SAID 10 YEARS AGO?

I am happy with where I am right now, and I know where I want to go next. It took me a long time to find my way to my "dream job," but the journey was worth it! And I learned so much along the way.

CONSIDERING ALL THE PEOPLE YOU'VE MET IN YOUR FIELD, WHAT PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS?

The ability to inspire others, drive, subject matter expertise, the willingness to constantly learn, and humility

IS THERE ANY ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE SOMEONE JUST ENTERING THE FIELD, MAYBE SOMETHING THAT

YOU WISH SOMEONE HAD MENTIONED WHEN YOU WERE STARTING?

The best advice I can give is to immediately work on expanding your network. Find people you admire and reach out to them. Find people with jobs you find exciting and reach out to them. Don't let yourself be deterred by seniority or rank. I've found that almost everyone is willing to share their experiences and lessons learned, especially those people in senior positions. The more people you meet, the better understanding and perspective you can get of your field. After you've met someone, develop authentic relationships with them and maintain your network. It's the people you know who become your best advocates throughout your career.

WHAT SHOW ARE YOU BINGE WATCHING?

Stranger Things

WHEN YOU WERE A KID, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

An architect, an aerospace engineer, and a neuroscientist were on the list.

OTHER EVENTS

[Demystifying Taxes for Grad Students and Postdocs](#)

Monday, February 3

[The Grad Students and Postdoc's Guide to Personal Finance](#)

Tuesday, February 4

[Vanderbilt Healthcare Consulting Group Info Meeting](#)

Tuesday, February 4

Writers' Accountability Group

Sponsored by Center for Student Wellbeing


Feb 18, March 10, April 7

[Learn more here.](#)

[ELC Academic Writing Workshops](#)

Sponsored by the English Language Center

Various dates this spring



Topics cover improving writing clarity, enhancing your academic vocabulary, effective data commentaries and more!

[Lunch & Learn: Data Science Overview](#)

Sponsored by the Data Science Institute Spring Workshop Series

February 4

12:00-1:00pm

[Spring Dissertation Writers' Retreat](#)

March 2-3

Application Deadline: February 7

[Lunch & Learn: Introduction to Deep Learning Frameworks](#)

Sponsored by the Data Science Institute Spring Workshop Series

February 11

12:00-1:00pm

[Exploring Career Diversity: Finding Satisfying Work Outside the Academy.](#)

Sponsored by the Women in the Academy Series

February 18

[Lunch & Learn: Making Data Science Reproducible](#)

Sponsored by the Data Science Institute Spring Workshop Series

February 18

12:00-1:00pm

[Data Science in Practice: Exploratory Software Development: Creating Real Software in Jupyter](#)

Sponsored by the Data Science Institute Spring Workshop Series

March 24

12:00-1:00pm

[Exploring Career Diversity: Finding Satisfying Work Outside the Academy.](#)

Sponsored by the Women in the Academy Series

February 18

[14th Annual Vanderbilt Postdoctoral Association Symposium](#)

April 23

DEADLINES

[Making the Most of Your Presentation](#)

Featuring Jean-Luc Doumont

*Co-sponsored by the ASPIRE Program and the
VU Graduate School*

Deadline to apply: February 5

[Spring Dissertation Writers' Retreat](#)

Application Deadline: February 7

[Neuroscience Scholars Program Application](#)

*The Neuroscience Scholars Program (NSP) is
an extensive two-year training program open
to underrepresented neuroscience graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.*

Deadline: February 19

[California Science + Technology + Policy Fellowships](#)

Deadline: March 1

[SEE-Diversity Success Workshop](#)

Announcing a new mentoring and career-enhancement program, SEE-Diversity (Scholarships to Enhance and Empower Diversity) to Success, for diverse early-career neuroscientists. The program begins with an intensive workshop to be held at the Marine Biological Laboratories (MBL) on June 11-17, 2020, to be followed with 4-8 months of individual career-development



coaching.

Deadline: March 6

Biogen Postdoctoral Fellowship in Medical Affairs

Applications due: March 31

JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Follow us our job feed on Twitter! [@VUBRETPhDJobs](https://twitter.com/VUBRETPhDJobs)

If you would like to advertise an open job or postdoc position in the BRET Office of Career Development newsletter, please post the opportunity through our [webform](#) or contact [Kate Stuart](#). We welcome submissions from faculty, alumni, postdocs, students, and the community.

Local Opportunities

[Postdoctoral Fellow, Ferrall Lab, the Division of Hematology/Oncology, VUMC, Nashville, TN](#)

[Biology Faculty, Arapahoe Community College, Littleton, CO](#)

[Professional-track Lecturer, Neuroscience, the University of Maryland, College Park, MD](#)

Other Opportunities

[Postdoctoral Associate, Laboratory of Dr. Jennifer Trowbridge, The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME](#)

[Program Manager, Biological Sciences Division \(BSD\), The Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs \(OGPA\), The University of Chicago, IL](#)

[Tenure-Track Investigator Position, Brain Mechanisms of Drug Addiction, The National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\), National Institutes of Health \(NIH\), Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\), Bethesda, MD](#)

[Assistant Director, Office for Postdoctoral Affairs \(OPA\), Columbia University, NY](#)

[Staff Scientist \(Biologist\), The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences \(NCATS\), Bethesda, MD](#)

[Lecturer in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Albuquerque, NM](#)

[Staff Scientist, Informatics, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences \(NCATS\), Bethesda, MD](#)

[Assistant Professor of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM](#)

[Program Officers, Disruptive Technology, Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA](#)

[Education Strategy and Planning Manager](#)
[\(Director of the Office of Science Outreach\),](#)
[Penn State University, University Park, PA](#)

[Associate Professor in either Biology, Chemistry](#)
[or Biochemistry-Fall 2020, Fairleigh Dickinson](#)
[University, Teaneck, NJ](#)

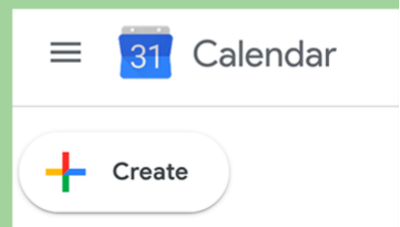
[Senior Biological Scientist, Government](#)
[Accountability Office, Science, Technology](#)
[Assessment and Analytics \(STAA\), Huntsville,](#)
[AL, Denver, CO, Oakland, CA, Washington DC](#)

[Research Scientist, BSCS Science Learning](#)
[\(BSCS\), Colorado Springs, CO](#)



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All ASPIRE events are
in Google Calendar.



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