

## On the Cutting Edge Webinar Series Supports Graduate Students and Post-Docs Pursuing an Academic Career

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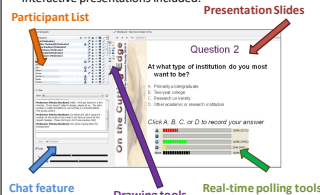
### Description and Purpose

- Series of webinars designed to demystify the process of pursuing an academic career through the use of short presentations by faculty from a variety of institutions across the US.
- Series builds on material from the annual *On the Cutting Edge* Preparing for an Academic Career and past Pursuing an Academic Career face-to-face workshops.
- Intent was to make key topics from these workshops more accessible to a larger audience by providing virtual events that are free and do not require travel.



### Format

- One to 1.5 hour interactive webinars using Elluminate® web conferencing software in conjunction with audio via a conference call.
- Sessions were preceded with a tutorial for using the Elluminate® software.
- Interactive presentations included:



- Participants were able to ask questions and provide comments throughout the presentation using the chat feature in Elluminate.®
- Presentations concluded with an open question and answer session.



This workshop is part of the On the Cutting Edge professional development program for current and future geoscience faculty, sponsored by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers with funding provided by grants #1022985, #1022776, #1022844, and #1022950 from the National Science Foundation Division of Undergraduate Education.



### Topics Covered

#### Interactive Teaching

Rachel Beane, Bowdoin College and Heather Macdonald, College of William & Mary  
Participants learned about effective, interactive teaching methods such as Think-Pair-Share, Jigsaw, and Concept maps, among others, & how to use them effectively in the classroom.

#### Negotiations in the Hiring Process

Tim Bralower, Pennsylvania State University and Scott Fendorf, Stanford University  
Including, what can be negotiated for your first faculty position & about how negotiation works and how it may vary in different settings

#### Developing Yourself as a Teacher: Teaching Philosophies, Teaching Styles, and Teaching Statements

Rachel Beane, Bowdoin College and Heather Macdonald, College of William & Mary, And Tim Bralower, Pennsylvania State University

Including, various approaches to teaching, and how to effectively present their teaching philosophy and experience in a teaching statement.

#### Strategic Early Career Planning

Rachel O'Brien, Allegheny College

The Early Career Inventory sheet, from Rachel O'Brien, is designed to keep track of application materials & experiences relevant to applying for an academic position.

#### Faculty Positions: Exploring the Range of Possibilities

Led by Rachel Beane, Bowdoin College and Heather Macdonald, College of William & Mary, with presentations from faculty at a variety of institutions.

Participants learned about the responsibilities, benefits, and challenges of being a faculty member at two-year colleges, primarily undergraduate institutions, and in departments offering graduate degrees.

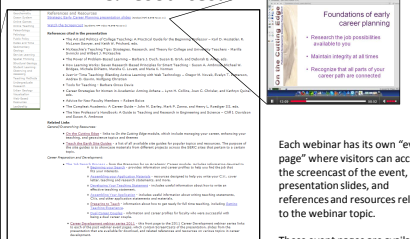
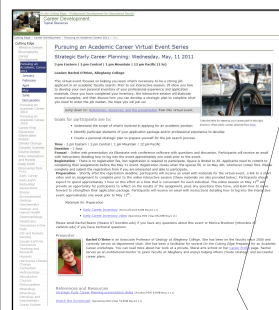


SERC hosts a collection of sites that feature teaching methods, including the what, why, and how of using them in class and with a library of example activities.

Presenter	Institution	Topic
Jon Lewis	University of California Berkeley	Early Career Planning
Elizabeth Hays-Charman	Eastern Michigan University	Early Career Planning
Carolynne	University of California Berkeley	Early Career Planning
Joseph	University of California Berkeley	Early Career Planning

Presenters from a variety of institutions shared a glimpse of their experience as a faculty member at their institution.

### Interested, but couldn't participate? Check out our event pages for screencasts & resources!



Each webinar has its own "event page" where visitors can access the screencast of the event, presentation slides, and references and resources related to the webinar topic.

These event pages are available from the Pursuing an Academic Career 2011 Event Series home page.

Find it all at:  
<http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/careerdev/AcademicCareer2011>

### Outcomes & Feedback

- Each webinar had between 15-50 participants.
- 137 people participated in one or more of the webinars offered in 2011.
- Participants agreed webinar goals were met, including that they:
  - would try incorporating interactive techniques, such as jigsaw, gallery walk, or think-pair share, into their classes,
  - were now better informed about how to approach negotiations for academic positions,
  - would write their teaching statements to better convey their teaching philosophies and to incorporate specific examples and experience,
  - benefited from the career inventory to organize components of teaching, research, service, & job applications and as a way to maintain focus & strategize the professional activities they pursue, and
  - gained new perspectives on positions at different types of colleges and universities. Many participants indicated that they expanded their scope of interest to institutions they had not previously considered, such as two-year colleges.
- Participants also indicated that the webinar format was useful and appreciated, but some found the chat distracting.
- Participant Quotes:
  - "As I am a PhD student preparing to graduate and that I have no previous experience in teaching, this workshop was very instructive in giving me new and creative ideas about teaching methods that can be applied in class and that would keep students engaged."
  - "The whole presentation was great -- really hit all the main points and was easy to follow and relevant to the issues of how to approach negotiations. Answered a lot of questions that I had about start up costs, etc and mentioned several things I hadn't even thought about."
  - "Discussing the different types of teaching philosophies and how they are suitable for different types of institutions was valuable. I strongly believe that I have learned how to strategically develop my teaching philosophy. Before this workshop, I found it difficult to identify good samples of teaching philosophies in my related field (i.e., geosciences). Even if I did, a description about what may/may not be useful is not as complete as what was taught through this workshop."
  - "The event provided me with a guideline on what should I be thinking about when I start planning my career"
  - "Before this event, I did not appreciate just how different a career can be at different types of teaching institutions. The discussions were eye-opening. I was also happy to get specific and helpful feedback on issues that are important to me (for example, finding what Jon called a "two-body solution"). The panelists were very positive, and I came away from the experience feeling motivated and hopeful."
  - "Hearing about the wide range of institutions was incredibly eye-opening. The panelists provided not only facts, but insight into the cultures at the different institutions."
  - "I really liked and appreciated this format. I would probably not have attended this event in person, even if it were held on campus. This was a great way to convey useful information to a large number of people in very diverse locations."
  - "Something came up and I was unable to attend the live session, but REALLY appreciated having it available to watch on my own -- thank you for that"
  - "I haven't done many web conferences or webinars, but this seemed to make it easy for me to both follow along with the moderators and to participate."



### Related Sites and Upcoming Opportunities



<http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/careerprep>

The Preparing for an Academic Career in the Geosciences module includes resources on:

- the job search process
- preparing to teach
- moving your research forward

Next workshop:  
June 27-30, 2012 - University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC



<http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/earlycareer>

The Early Career Geosciences Faculty module includes resources on:

- time management
- preparing for tenure
- effective teaching
- developing a research program

Next workshop:  
June 10-14, 2012, with optional visit to NSF June 15  
College of William and Mary, VA



[http://serc.carleton.edu/teachearth/site\\_guides/career.html](http://serc.carleton.edu/teachearth/site_guides/career.html)

The Career Development Site Guide features career resources from across the SERC sites.



<http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/careerprep/faq.html>

Frequently asked questions from the Preparing for an Academic Career workshop participants.

### Join us for the 2012 Pursuing an Academic Career webinar series, January – May 2012!

Conveners: Rachel Beane, Bowdoin College and Michael Williams, University of Massachusetts

<http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/careerdev/AcademicCareer2012/>