

Career Panel - Friday, March 12 at 11am PST (after junior feedback session)

Held in Gather.Town - Starting in West Lecture Hall

Use 'locate' to find people in group discussions.

Panelists include:

Tahlia DeMaio - Product Expert at Hex Technologies

I studied galaxy evolution in dense environments during my PhD at the University of Florida. After graduating I completed the Insight Data Science program in the Bay Area and then joined a startup company, Second Measure, as a Data Scientist. In my first 3 years in industry I learned how to transfer my experience with data to business settings as well as just how valuable the 'soft' skills I excel at were for building great products. I've recently started a new role as Product Expert at a seed-stage startup, Hex Technologies. There I get to blend my human-centered approach with my technical experience to help build a company with some great people.

Brenna Flaughter - Distinguished Scientist at Fermilab

Brenna Flaughter is a Distinguished Scientist at Fermilab, and current head of the Astrophysics Department. Her previous experience includes 30 years of experience working on silicon detectors of various types, and 25 years of experience in project management. She was Deputy Head of the Fermilab Silicon Detector Facility, L2 manager for CDF Run IIB Silicon Vertex Detector, DES/DECam Project Manager, DESI Project Scientist and L2 Scientist for Integration and Commissioning. Her roles on CMB-S4 include: 2018-20 R&D Manager, Cost & Schedule development, Detector and Readout Task Force, Detector Fabrication Group, Governing Board and Speakers Committee member, CDFG 2020- present, Technical Integration Specialist, Interim L2 Scientist for Detectors, CDFG Chair.

Daniel Grin - Faculty at Haverford College since 2016

Daniel Grin is an Assistant Prof. of Physics at Haverford College (since 2016). His research focus is on the physics of the cosmic microwave background, dark matter, and dark energy. He teaches across the curriculum, advises senior research, and is happy to answer questions about career trajectories and what it is like to work at a small liberal arts college.

Zigmund Kermish - Senior Data Scientist at Spotify

Ziggy's been lucky enough to switch back and forth between CMB research and industry a few times. After starting out working summers as an undergraduate on experiments like MINT and the OG ACT telescope at Princeton, Ziggy started graduate school at Berkeley working on APEXSZ and POLARBEAR helping develop some of the first kilopixel focal plane technologies. Ziggy took some time off a few years into grad school to try out work in finance before coming back to Berkeley to help build and deploy POLARBEAR in Chile. He then came back to the east

coast as a Dicke postdoctoral fellow at Princeton to work on the SPIDER balloon borne experiment while continuing to collaborate with POLARBEAR and the growing Simon's Array collaboration. After a deployment to Antarctica with SPIDER, Ziggy tried out industry again, going through the Insight Data Science fellowship program before getting his first job as a "data scientist". After working at several smaller startups, Ziggy now manages a team of data scientists, engineers and user researchers at Spotify.

Ben Schmitt - Postdoctoral Research Fellow and Project Development Scientist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

Dr. Benjamin L. Schmitt is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow and Project Development Scientist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. At Harvard, Benjamin focuses on the development of instrumentation and infrastructure for next-generation Antarctic experimental cosmology facilities at the South Pole, including work on the BICEP Array, BART, and CMB-S4 projects. From 2015-2019 Benjamin served as European Energy Security Advisor at the U.S. Department of State. At the State Department, he advanced diplomatic engagement vital to the energy and national security interests of the Transatlantic community, with a focus on supporting Europe's resiliency to Russian malign energy activities.

Amy Trangsrud - Systems engineer at JPL (PhD with SPIDER)

I work at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, mostly on developing concepts for future space missions (generally in the Capture Lead role), but I'm also working right now on a funded mission in development: Jamie Bock's SPHEREx mission (as the Deputy Project Systems Engineer). The things I learned during my PhD on a CMB balloon experiment prepared me to work at the interface between science and engineering, helping NASA turn its big science questions into implementable missions that give great science bang for the buck.

Joaquin Vieira - Faculty at UIUC since 2013, PI of TIM (NASA balloon mission)

Joaquin Vieira is an Associate Professor of Astronomy and Physics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Joaquin grew up in California and bounced around as a journalist and a winemaker before completing his undergraduate degree in Astrophysics from UCLA in 2002. He received his PhD in Physics in 2009 from the University of Chicago working on SPT with John Carlstrom. As a postdoc, Joaquin worked at Caltech with Jamie Bock on Herschel/SPIRE, Z-Spec, and ALMA and remained active in the SPT collaboration. Joaquin joined the faculty at University of Illinois in 2013 and worked on instrumentation for SPT-3G and observations of SPT lensed sources with ALMA, HST, Spitzer, and Chandra. He is the Co-PI of a JWST ERS program to observe strong gravitationally lensed sources and the PI of the Terahertz Intensity Mapper (TIM), a NASA-funded balloon experiment slated for an Antarctic flight in 2025. Joaquin is the founding director of the Center for AstroPhysical Surveys (CAPS) at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA). Outside of work, Joaquin enjoys cycling, photography, fishing, hiking, music, and spending time with his wife and three children.