

ALUMNI MENTOR SESSIONS

May 12-13, 2022 | Baker Center

Come speak with College of Science and Mathematics alumni and get questions answered, learn about what life is like after graduation and the many opportunities available to you.

Session 1: Brendan Hughes, Biological Sciences, '20

Topic: Careers in Research Without Advanced Degrees

Brendan Hughes received his B.S. in biological sciences from Cal Poly in December 2020. After an internship at Rubedo Life Sciences in 2019, Brendan discovered his passion for the biology of aging and will begin a PhD focusing on the biology of aging in the Campisi lab at the Buck Institute for Research on Aging.

Session 2: Julia Gladding, Mathematics, '18

Topic: Navigating the First Few Years out of College

Julia Gladding graduated from Cal Poly in 2018 with a degree in Mathematics and a concentration in teaching. After graduation, Julia returned to her hometown of Davis to earn her teaching credential ('19) and Master's in Education ('20) from UC Davis. Now, Julia is a math teacher who shares her love of Learn by Doing with her students at Rex & Margaret Fortune Early College High School in Elk Grove.

Session 3: Michelle Caruana, Ecology & Systematic Biology, '92

Topic: Breaking the mold - Diversity and innovation in Fields of Science

Michelle Caruana is a graduate of Cal Poly in environmental and systematic biology with a minor in technical writing. She founded Natures Image a company solely focused on native habitat restoration in 1995. In 2018, HANA Resources was launched as an environmental consulting firm specializing in technology for the environmental industry.

Session 4: Dr. Daniel Kostalnick, Biological Sciences, '96

Topic: Applying to Medical School

Daniel J. Kostalnick, M.D., F.A.P.A. is a board certified physician by both the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and by the National Board of Physicians and Surgeons with extensive training and expertise in psychopharmacology and psychotherapy — incorporating the biological and psychological aspects of psychiatric health and wellness. Additionally, Dr. Kostalnick is a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a Fellow of the International College of Neuropsychopharmacology (CINP) Scotland, United Kingdom. Dr. Kostalnick is started his pre-health track at Cal Poly and is deeply passionate about increasing the number of doctors in the world, with Learn by Doing being paramount to that mission.

Session 5: Peggy Burhenn

Topic: Careers in Healthcare

Peggy Burhenn is a clinical nurse specialist (CNS) specializing in geriatric oncology at the Center for Cancer and Aging, City of Hope, in Duarte, California. She received her Bachelor and Master of Science in nursing from the University of Illinois in Chicago. She holds certificates in Oncology Nursing, Advanced Oncology Nursing, and Gerontological Nursing. She has worked in diverse healthcare settings ranging from small community clinics to major medical centers, and in the pharmaceutical industry as well. Her research roles included principal investigator and co-investigator on healthcare related studies. She has received multiple local and national awards for her work.

Session 6: Dr. Jeffrey Jasper, Chemistry, '84

Topic: Opportunities in the Pharmaceutical Industry

Dr. Jeffrey Jasper is an '84 Chemistry alum and founding AXΣ member. After graduating from Cal Poly, Dr. Jasper earned his Ph.D. in pharmacology from UC San Diego and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Jasper has worked at several pharmaceutical companies including Merck, Roche, Rubedo Life Sciences and is now the Senior Vice President and Head of Research at Terns Pharmaceuticals. Jeff wants all interested students to know about the many opportunities in the pharmaceutical industry.

Additional Mentor Sessions with Faculty

Session 7: Dr. Charalampidis (Math) and Dr. Theobald (Statistics)

Topic: Ph.D. programs and applying to graduate school (Mathematics and Statistics).

Session 8: Dr. Bockmon (Chemistry)

Topic: Ph.D. programs and applying to graduate school (Chemistry).

Session 9: Dr. Lent (Kinesiology and Public Health)

Ph.D. programs and applying to graduate school (Kinesiology and Public Health).

