Job Getting Skills In Astronomy

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ASTR 8500
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Discussion Outline

• General skills necessary for all jobs
• Preparation now for future job searches
• Skills needed for job hunting
• Most important skills
General Job-Getting Skills

• Interpersonal Skills
  – Group meetings, subject specific meetings, TA work, etc.

• Communication Skills
  – Presentations, poster sessions, conferences

• Critical Thinking Skills
  – Classwork, general research, public outreach
General Job-Getting Skills (cont)

• Personal Development
  – Your CV should show how you have developed as your career has progressed

• Presentation Skills
  – Ties in with communication skills, learn how to use powerpoint, practice through other means

• Leadership
  – Grant proposals, research projects, outreach events, community service, etc.
Preparation Now for Future Job Ops

- **Networking**
  - Go to meetings/conferences, get letter writers, know your collaborators
- **Write proposals, write papers, work your CV**
- **Build technical skills**
  - Programming, mathematical expertise, instrumentation, etc.
- **Attend workshops**
- **Build Teaching skills**
  - TA work, public outreach, summer professorships
Job Hunting Skills

• What are you looking for
  – Post-doc, faculty position, science management, science staff, etc.

• Where/when should you start looking
  – AAS Job Register:
    • https://jobregister.aas.org
  – Astrobetter Rumor Mill:
    • http://www.astrobetter.com/wiki/Rumor+Mill
    • 266 Current postings
  – Astro jobs Facebook page
### AAS Job Register

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Institution/Organization</th>
<th>Posted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#53945</td>
<td>KASI-Job Opening: Junior Research Leader Positions in the KASI</td>
<td>Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute</td>
<td>Apr 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#53963</td>
<td>Faculty Position (Astronomy) at NCRA-TIFR</td>
<td>National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research</td>
<td>Apr 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#53965</td>
<td>Faculty Position (Observatory Support) at NCRA-TIFR</td>
<td>National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research</td>
<td>Apr 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#53967</td>
<td>Faculty Position (Technology Development) at NCRA-TIFR</td>
<td>National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research</td>
<td>Apr 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#53968</td>
<td>Permanent Position in Cosmology at CEA Saclay, Service d' Astrophysique</td>
<td>CEA Saclay</td>
<td>Apr 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#53799</td>
<td>Tenure-Track Position in Astrophysics at the Institute for Radioastronomy and Astrophysics, UNAM, Mexico</td>
<td>Institute of Radioastronomy &amp; Astrophysics, National University of Mexico</td>
<td>Mar 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#52912</td>
<td>Faculty Positions at School of Physics, HUST</td>
<td>School of Physics, Huazhong University of Science and Technology</td>
<td>Feb 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Astrobetter Rumor Mill

**Postdoc or term positions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place/Institution (alphabetical)</th>
<th>Matches (in boldface if accepted)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academia Sinica Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics (ASIAA, ad)</td>
<td>Due November 30, 2015. Some offers made (~10) and accepted. Rejections sent. There is a waitlist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIP Potsdam Schwarzschild Fellowship (ad)</td>
<td>Due December 1, 2015. Shortlist made, interviews in January; shortlist notified, including Arianna Di Cintio, Federico Lelli, Christoph Behrens, Denija Crnjevic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anton Pannekoek Institute for Astronomy, University of Amsterdam (Multi-wavelength astrophysics w/ Degenaar) (ad)</td>
<td>Due January 15, 2016; shortlist made, rejection e-mails sent, waiting list notified. (Skype) interviews in February; shortlist includes Aarron Shaw, Juan Venancio Hernández Santisteban. Offer made and accepted.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Job Hunting Skills (cont)

• Create a clear and coherent plan
  – Should have time to “personalize” every application you plan on sending in
  – Know when the prize fellowship deadlines occur (last year – 11/5/15)
    • Good prep for post-doc prep, CV refinement, etc.
  – Know well ahead of time when application deadline occurs. Remind letter writers. Remind letter writers again. Then for good measure, remind your letter writers
Job Hunting Skills (cont)

• Learn how to interview
  – Practice and prepare
  – Plenty of advice online, learn what to trust
  – Ask around with people you trust
  – Consider doing job-talks

• Create a website to easily demonstrate your skills to potential employers

• Give plenty of talks at multiple universities

• Build a good CV
My Top Job Getting Skills List

• Networking
• Building a good CV
• Knowing when and where to apply
• Give plenty of talks
• Build technical skills
References

- https://jobregister.aas.org
- https://aas.org/learn/careers-astronomy
- http://www.skillsyouneed.com/general/employability-skills.html
- http://www.astrobetter.com/blog/2012/01/19/aas-219-twitter-review-the-postdoc-job-market/