DPF 2015 Career Panel
August 7, 2015

Meghan Anzelc, PhD

Meghan Anzelc is an Assistant Vice President in the Small Business Pricing group at the insurance carrier CNA, responsible for pricing of CNA's $300M small business owners book. Previously she held a role in the predictive modeling group at CNA and led an analytics team in the development of pricing guidance for CNA's $350M commercial auto book. Prior to joining CNA in 2011, Meghan worked at Travelers in a predictive modeling role. She was also the co-founder and co-chair of the Women in Actuarial & Analytics group at Travelers, the first Diversity Business Network at Travelers, a group dedicated to the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women in analytical roles and winner of the 2011 NALC Above-and-Beyond Award.

Meghan holds a Bachelor's degree in physics from Loyola University Chicago and a Masters and PhD in physics from Northwestern. She has participated in numerous initiatives focused on providing relevant guidance and mentoring on career planning and professional development, including formal panel presentations as well as informal one-on-one mentoring, to both insurance professionals as well as to graduate students and post-doctoral scholars in the sciences and math.

Erik Brubaker, PhD

Erik Brubaker is a physicist in the radiation/nuclear detection systems group at Sandia National Labs in Livermore, California. His work focuses on radiation detector development for nuclear non-proliferation applications, primarily fission-energy neutron detection and imaging. He has led projects to develop high-efficiency double-scatter neutron imaging, time-encoded imaging techniques, and fast neutron coded aperture imaging, as well as investigations of He-3 alternative thermal neutron detection methods. He has experience in data reduction and analysis, calibration techniques, and image reconstruction methods, as well as a particular interest in approaches to nuclear arms control treaty verification.

Before joining Sandia in 2008, Erik began his career in experimental particle physics. He was a graduate student at UC Berkeley and a postdoc at the University of Chicago. His dissertation was on a measurement of the top quark mass at CDF Run II, and he has also been a member of the ATLAS collaboration. Erik has a BA in physics from Lawrence University (Appleton, WI) and a PhD in particle physics from UC Berkeley.

Katherine Jordan, PhD
Katherine Jordan is a design quality engineer at Terumo Cardiovascular Group, where she designs new products used in cardiac and vascular surgery. Previously, Kat worked for a small R&D company focused on innovating for Federal R&D needs, where she was able to use her technical knowledge in a variety of research projects, including building an MRI-compatible robot arm for real-time image guided surgery, tactile robot fingerpads, medical device simulation software, telehealth monitoring system development, and projectile laser tracking. A passion for improving healthcare through technological advancement continues to drive her pursuit of a career in medical device development.

As a graduate student in the Physics Department at the University of Michigan, Kat initially studied X-ray harmonics generation from the laser-plasma interaction using a tabletop terawatt laser, but received her PhD for the development of a theophylline-specific RNA-based microfluidic microarray biosensor.

Tom Schwarz, PhD
Tom Schwarz is an Assistant Professor of Physics at the University of Michigan. He is an experimental particle physicist who has performed research in astro-particle physics, collider physics, as well as in accelerator physics and RF engineering. His current research focuses on discovering new physics in high-energy collisions at the Large Hadron Collider. Tom earned his PhD in particle physics on the CDF experiment in 2006 at the University of Michigan, and continued his work at CDF and later CMS as a postdoc with the University of California, Davis.

Emily Thompson, PhD
Emily Thompson earned her PhD in particle physics on the ATLAS Experiment in 2011 with the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and continued research on ATLAS based at CERN as a postdoctoral researcher with Columbia University until December 2014. She is now the Program Director for Growth at Insight Data Science, a Fellowship program that helps PhDs in quantitative fields make the transition from academia to a career in data science.

Crystal Bailey, PhD (Moderator)
Crystal Bailey is the Careers Program Manager at the American Physical Society (APS) in College Park, MD. Crystal works on several projects which are geared towards marketing physics and physics career information to high school students, undergraduates, graduate students and physics professionals. She also devotes significant amounts of time to planning career workshops and other professional development related activities to support early-career physicists and helps manage the activities of the APS Committee on Careers and Professional Development.

Before coming to the APS, Crystal did research in nuclear physics at Indiana University, Bloomington in the area of few-body systems, receiving her PhD in 2009.