

Career Development Program for ERC Students

The ERC students requested to have more informal meetings to learn about research in the other labs and to get a first hand description of life after graduation. For the latter, they wanted exposure to the life of professors and research scientists. To address this need, we organized the Friday Student Seminars series initially as weekly meetings, but re-adjusted to bi-monthly meetings to accommodate the students' busy schedules. These Seminars were specifically designed to advance the career development and leadership skills of the ERC CISST students.

Each ERC lab had the opportunity to provide a one half hour presentation of the research being conducted in their lab. This opportunity provided a time for the students to learn about possible collaborations and to learn about alternative skills and techniques that may be helpful in the completion of their project. Discussions generated from these informal seminars have increased interaction among students, particularly across ERC labs.

Additional topics were requested to address career development. ERC faculty were recruited to discuss their experiences and provide professional advice on topics that included: Post Doctoral and Professional Opportunities, Research Grant Writing Skills and Networking, and Mentoring and Advising. Additionally, JHU staff and faculty provided a Proposal Writing Workshop and an Introduction to the JHU Career Center.

The interactive and informal professional development seminars given by faculty were the most enthusiastically received parts of the Seminar series. Students made the best of asking the faculty tough, insightful and, typically, unasked questions about their experiences as graduate students, post-docs and/or faculty members. The faculty members were very candid in their responses, providing meaningful guidance through dialogue.

Lastly, providing this informal, student only, forum has opened doors for volunteering, leadership opportunities, and club memberships across campus. When new ERC students attend, the seminar topics provide tremendous insight to the collaborative nature and environment of the ERC. We will continue this successful seminar series, rotating faculty lecturers, recruited for their expertise on student requested topics.



Professor Allison Okamura leads a Student Seminar on the topic "Advising and Mentoring Students: K-12 through Postdoc."