

Astronomy & Astrophysics

Speaker: Emily Cunningham

Emily Cunningham is a 3rd year PhD student in the Astronomy & Astrophysics department at UC Santa Cruz. Originally from New York City, Emily received her B.S. in Physics & Astronomy from Haverford College in 2012, and was a Fulbright scholar in Paris, France from 2012-2013. Emily will explain how she became interested in astronomy, and how she arrived at the decision to pursue astronomy as a professional career. She will discuss the benefits and downsides of pursuing a graduate degree in the sciences. She will also touch on the big questions that motivate her as a scientist, and describe what she does on a daily basis in order to answer these questions.

Attorney at Law

Speaker: Amber Booker

Amber Booker is a third year attorney, practicing law in the fields of estate planning and trust administration. She received her B.S. in pre-law at Santa Clara University in 2010, and her law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law in 2013, graduating with top percentage honors. Since starting law school, she has worked in a broad range of exciting practice areas, including; criminal law, employment law, and municipal government law. Today Amber is an associate attorney at an established estate planning firm. She provides legal advice and assistance to individuals and families regarding their wills, living trusts, and other legal documents to help communicate their wishes upon death or incapacity. She also advises trustees in administering trusts, and petitions the court in order to uphold a decedent's wishes.

Business Development - Sales & Marketing

Speaker: Nico Moe

After college I completed 2 years of active-duty service in the army (working in a Korean-language translator program), and immediately after, went in to Marketing working for a large PR firm in San Francisco. After brief stint there, I was invited to join a startup TechValidate in 2013 as sales-guy #9, and have been helping agile start-ups reach revenue goals since then.

Career Paths

Speaker: Harold Grey

Harold Grey LCSW works as a psychiatric social worker for Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clara, where he assesses and treats adult patients with a wide range of mental health issues. Prior to that, he provided mental health treatment to children and adolescents at a non-profit agency in Campbell. Originally from New York City, Harold moved to California in 1999 to work as a product manager at Adobe Systems, where he was responsible for developing the company's international library of digital fonts. Harold graduated from Brooklyn College with a bachelor's degree in English and then graduated from San Jose State University with a master's degree in social work. He will be talking about the concept of a "career path" and about being open to the planned and unplanned twists and turns in one's career.

Entrepreneurship

Speaker: Syrous Parsay

A lecturer at Stanford University, retired inventor, entrepreneur, investor, and corporate executive, who is experienced in high tech, medical science, retail, academia, and venture capitalism. He is a mentor to a broad demographic of individuals from students to corporate executives.

Exploring Business Oriented Careers in High Tech

Speaker: Ashok Swaminathan

Ashok Swaminathan is a Senior Director at SAP, responsible for SAP ASE Product Management . Prior to his current role, Mr. Swaminathan has led product management for several different products at Sybase, with large worldwide customer base and significant revenue. Mr. Swaminathan has significant leadership experience in the software industry, spanning all aspects of the software business, including product management, software development, marketing, M&A and business development. Prior to SAP, Mr. Swaminathan has worked at On Station, Oracle, Booz Allen Hamilton, and Digital Equipment Corporation respectively. In addition, Mr. Swaminathan has experience co-founding a web services startup. Mr. Swaminathan's educational background includes MBA from The Wharton School (Univ. of Pennsylvania), MS Computer Engineering from UMASS Amherst, and B.Tech in Electrical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology Madras.

Finance (corporate, investment, banking)

Speaker: Brian Franklin

Brian Franklin is a Vice President at Morgan Stanley as a Financial Advisor. He works with individuals with their wealth perspectives and small businesses regarding corporate retirement plans, advising about asset, liability and estate issues. Brian has over 25 years' experience in the investment arena, a BS in Finance from San Jose State University and is Series 7, 63 and 65 licensed, and designations of Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor and Retirement Planning Specialist.

Finance and Accounting

Speaker: Tricia Murphy

Finance and Accounting is a key role in any enterprise – a multi-national corporation, a start-up, a charitable organization, a school, etc. As a member of a Finance/Accounting team, you might be involved with financial analysis, budgeting, forecasting, purchasing, treasury, investments, etc. You help the organization make financially sound decisions. Want to explore more? Hear Patricia Murphy share her career path – including what's to like (and not like) about being in Finance and Accounting.

Patricia's career started out as a teacher with the Fremont Union High School District. After teaching, she transitioned to the finance field and started working for KPMG. From there she worked for Apple overseas for 15 years. Her last two positions were with Intuit and Symantec. She is enjoying retirement now.

Financial Services / Investment Management

Speaker: Deepak Sarpangal

Deepak Sarpangal (MVHS '96) is the Managing Member of Sarpa Holdings, a private investment firm. Prior to founding SarpaSM, he was a Partner, Senior Analyst and founding member of the investment team at Marcato Capital Management, a hedge fund focused on public equities. Previously, he worked as a Principal with Capricorn Investment Group, investment professional with Farallon Capital Management, and analyst in the Merchant Banking Division (private equity) and Investment Banking Division at Goldman Sachs. Deepak has worked in New York, London, Singapore, and the San Francisco Bay Area. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Molecular and Cell Biology from the University of California, Berkeley, where he was a Regents' Scholar. He also received a Master of Arts (MA) in Education and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Stanford University. Come hear what Deepak does currently, how he got there, and what general advice he has for you.

Fire Fighter / EMT

Speaker: Matt Bettencourt

Matt Bettencourt has been a paid professional firefighter since 2011 and currently works for the Alameda County Fire Department as a Firefighter/EMT. He is a cum laude graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara where he received a Bachelor's of degree of History in 2004. Additionally, Matt earned Master of Business Administration and Master of Public Policy degrees at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 2007. Along with his work experience in the fire service Matt has worked in the community outreach, business development, and hospitality fields. When Matt is not running into burning buildings he enjoys spending time with his family and friends on the boat or in the mountains, watching movies, playing sports and participating in fitness activities. Matt is a lifelong Bay Area resident; raised in Cupertino and currently resides in Fremont.

Studying Abroad Opportunities and How Global Education Influences Careers

Speaker: Holly Manie Oskoi

Holly is a Community Outreach Specialist at AFS.org, a program that provides direct global education and promotes intercultural understanding as a way to promote world peace. Holly is former high school AFS exchange student to Thailand and knows firsthand the value of a study abroad experience: intercultural learning, global competency, language proficiency, and college and career benefits. Studying abroad led her to a career in emergency management and later into the nonprofit field. If you want to hear opportunities for you to experience culture exchange and how exchange has impacted Holly and other AFS students education and careers, come to this presentation.

The Non-Profit World & Philanthropy in Business

Speaker: Megan Wagner / Palmrya Pawlik

Megan will be joining us via video conference. She represents Motorola Mobility and will share about the work of the Motorola Foundation. She will share more about working in the nonprofit world and how philanthropy helps to drive and engage business.

Megan Wagner is currently the Program Manager for the Motorola Mobility Foundation. The Motorola Mobility Foundation seeks to catalyze the innovative use of technology to improve lives and communities. We do this by leveraging employee expertise and talent, providing funding, and partnering with nonprofits, learning institutions, startups, government, corporate and civic organizations. In her current role she manages employee volunteer opportunities and special programs. Megan graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Boston College with a degree in Sociology and Business Management.
