

Beyond Boulder 2/24/14

Careers in Public Outreach

Ka Chun Yu: Grad at CU in APS, now at Denver Museum of Nature and Science, staff scientist, Curator of Space Science

Emily Leveque: Post doc here at CU

K: Museum setting is mostly public presentations, PhD positions are not common, museums are usually not for profit so there are a lot of volunteers (HS students get credit for community service), there are about 1700 volunteers every year, Labs at the museum train volunteers to prep specimens, and the overall goal is public education

E: Science Journalism -> moving online, if you are interested get in touch with writers that you like

Science Policy-> there is a program on campus for science policy, google it, there are internships in Washington, you can get into politics on a local/state/or federal level, we need people who can communicate with the public about science, there are REUs at museums (American Museum of Natural History in NYC, Smithsonian...)

K: Washington gets a lot of free work done from top scientists because some piece of legislature will come across and they need to know what is going on, so they will call someone up to see if it is feasible and that person will research it for them

Q: Policy program

E: there is a program here at CU -> the center for science and technology policy research, talk to them personally if you want to learn more about it

Tito: Planetarium, work study student, wanted to be a teacher, taught for 3 years, came back to run the planetarium, still do outreach with local minority students

Q: How often do you do research to update presentations?

T: School presentations are specialized for what the teacher is covering or wants to cover, and the age of the audience

K: most of our presentations are movies, which is a marketing decision, only a few live shows per week, and then it is improve depending on what the group looks like

Q: education research/how do you get knowledge about how to communicate?

K: education research is huge, because there are so many misconceptions about basic astronomy

T: most of the team at fiske has a teaching background, and we test shows w/out an audience before we present them, we also can apply research done at CU to presentations without doing the research

E: Communication is key because there is a difference between the language of science vs the public, not even jargon, but the word we use having a different meaning to different people

K: I am involved in research about how textbooks illustrate astronomical phenomena and how they form misconceptions

E: Digital arts -> use in tv shows, and news, you have one image to get the point across and so it helps if you have a science background to convey what is going on

K: Science Visualization, many observatories employ artists (Chandra), but there can be a breakdown between reality and what sells or what the viewers want to see

T: If you want to work at the planetarium, apply at the end of the semester for the summer or next year

K: don't take your non-major classes for granted, go beyond math and science, make sure you do well in your writing classes, you will need that for writing proposals and papers and you will need to know how to sell yourself

K: Volunteer at DMNS contact:

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