Career Panel
ISUPDA

Details: Thursday, 9/21 at 3pm in Hach Hall Atrium

Panelists:
- Dr. Brian Burt, Assistant Professor, School of Education
- Dr. Marshall McDaniel, Assistant Professor, Agronomy
- Dr. Julie Slaughter-Zrostlik, Associate Scientist, Ames Lab
- Dr. Shalabh Gupta, Associate Scientist, Ames Lab
- Dr. María P. Torres, Molecular Research & Development Scientist, Streck
- Dr. Stephen Schrader, Research Scientist and Group Leader, DuPoint Pioneer

Bios:

**Dr. Brian Burt, Assistant Professor, School of Education**
Assistant Professor of Higher Education in the School of Education at Iowa State University. He studies the experiences of graduate students in STEM, and the institutional policies and practices that influence students’ educational and workforce pathways. He also explores learning within research group experiences. He is the recipient of the National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship and National Science Foundation Early CAREER Award.

**Dr. Marshall McDaniel, Assistant Professor, Agronomy**
Marshall is an assistant professor in soil-plant interactions in the Agronomy Department. His research focuses on how carbon and nutrients exchange between plants and soils, and how management and the environment affect this. He has a B.S. from University of Oklahoma, M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Science from University of Illinois, and a Ph.D. in Soil Science and Biogeochemistry from Penn State University. After getting his Ph.D., Marshall had two postdoctoral research positions (one in the US and one in Australia) that lasted for a total of 4.5 years. He will share insights from his experience being a recent postdoc, obtaining a faculty position, and his first few years working at ISU.

**Dr. Julie Slaughter-Zrostlik, Associate Scientist, Ames Lab**
Julie Slaughter is an Associate Scientist at Ames Laboratory who works on replacing gaseous refrigerants in air conditioners and refrigerators with solid-state caloric materials. Julie’s nearly two decades of experience working on applications for magnetostrictive materials at a small company have served her well in her current role in developing a system to characterize refrigeration performance of caloric materials. Julie has a strong background in multiphysics modeling, experimental validation, and project management having successfully proposed and executed multiple research projects for the Navy. Julie holds a PhD in Engineering Mechanics from Iowa State University.

**Dr. Shalabh Gupta, Associate Scientist, Ames Lab**
Dr. Shalabh Gupta is an Associate Scientist at the Ames Laboratory with research interests in the area of structural inorganic chemistry and materials with applications in solid-state hydrogen storage and LED lighting. After obtaining his MS in analytical chemistry and Ph.D in solid-state chemistry from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi in 2007, Dr. Gupta joined Ames Laboratory as a post-doctoral researcher working on synthesis and crystallography of complex intermetallics. Since then, working in various capacities as Ames Laboratory staff scientist, he has moved on to establish himself in the field of mechanochemistry. Along with scientific research, Dr. Gupta is activity involved in mentoring assistant scientists and post-docs in the lab, and regularly participates in writing grant proposal with other investigators. He currently serves as a PI on the Ames Laboratory LDRD project and Co-PI on projects funded by the DOE office of EERE and Critical Materials Institute.
Dr. María P. Torres, Molecular Research & Development Scientist, Streck
Maria Torres is currently a Research and Development Scientist in the Molecular Technology Division at Streck. She earned B.S. degrees in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez in 2003. Subsequently, Maria completed her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Iowa State University in 2008 working with Professors Surya Mallapragada and Balaji Narasimhan. Her thesis work focused in designing novel biodegradable polyanhydrides for the delivery of protein vaccines. After completing her Ph.D., Maria joined the lab of Surinder K. Batra at the University of Nebraska Medical Center as a Postdoctoral Research Scientist, where she worked on the development of novel therapies against pancreatic cancer, novel diagnostic assays for pancreatic cancer, and studies documenting the role of mucins in pancreatic cancer progression. After five years of Postdoctoral experience, Maria joined Streck as a Scientist in 2013 and her principal role is to design and develop molecular diagnostic kits to detect antibiotic-resistant genes in Gram-negative bacteria using Multiplex Real-time PCR.

Dr. Stephen Schrader, Research Scientist and Group Leader, DuPoint Pioneer
Stephen Schrader is the facility manager and lead research scientist for DowDuPont Pioneer’s Soybean Growth Chamber facility in Johnston, IA. He joined DuPont Pioneer in 2014 after 10 years working at Monsanto in various capacities including weed science, pathology, and biotechnology. At DuPont Pioneer, he leads the introgression of traits into a wide variety of soybean germplasm including transgenic, native, and in-licensed traits. Stephen received his Ph.D. from the Univ of Wisconsin – Madison, studying photosynthesis and plant physiology in the Botany department.