MRS Tip Sheet 5:
9 Amazing Wonders of 2019 MRS Spring Meeting

By Alaina G. Levine

Yee-ha!! The magical moment has arrived! The 2019 MRS Spring Meeting in Phoenix is next week, y’all, and I am super psyched to welcome you to the desert. The sun will be bright but your brilliance is even brighter so I am definitely bringing my fabulous shades. As I perused the program to strategically plan my schedule, I couldn’t help but notice that MRS has been cooking up some really clever and invaluable experiences that will be featured (and in some cases, premiered!) at the Spring Meeting, all with the goal of enabling the success of materials scientists and engineers. Indeed, just within the last year, MRS Career Central has significantly expanded its offerings, opportunities, and services for MRS members. At the Spring Meeting, you will get a taste of how MRS is launching even more meaningful, bespoke programs that make a difference in the professional pathways of those who are materials science and engineering-educated. Take a gander at the following Amazing Wonders and plan to wrangle in a few!

Networking for Nerds—Become a Networking Rock Star
Monday, April 22
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
PCC North, 200 Level, Room 224 B

This is one of my workshops that I am giving. Learn the secrets of being a master networker—how to cultivate strategic, mutually beneficial relationships, find people to add to your networks, “work a room,” start conversations with people you have never met before, and obtain information that can set you on a path to career victory.

Career Planning and Job Searching in Entrepreneurship
Monday, April 22
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
PCC North, 100 Level, Room 121 B

Here’s another workshop I will be presenting! Learn about the basics of entrepreneurship, developing your brand, and finding and solidifying customers. The basic elements of marketing, and understanding and selling your services and products will also be addressed.

MRS Frontiers Reception: Building Communities
Thursday, April 25
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
PCC North, 100 Level, Ballroom 120 D

This is going to be a really fascinating and must-do event. Join us for an evening of drinks and hors d'oeuvres and help forge new communities on topics at the frontier of materials research—artificial intelligence, bio, quantum, sustainability and emerging areas of your interest. MRS Frontiers is specifically designed to help you craft collaborations and gain inspiration to take your materials research beyond the frontiers. Why not meet other innovators, disruptors, and doers who share your passion for these frontier disciplines that are already impacting how we leverage our understanding of materials to address humanity’s grand challenges.

Career Paths in Materials Science and Engineering
Wednesday, April 24
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm
PCC North, 300 Level, Halls C–E—Exhibit Stage
Join our panel of scientists who will share their insight about the role of materials science and engineering in their organizations and address existing career paths to explore.

Communicating Science to Public Audiences—Science Communication Workshop
This session is designed to increase confidence in scientists as they communicate their work and become part of a community of researchers who share an interest in science outreach and engagement. RSVP by April 19.

Designing Sustainability into Materials Research Workshop
Many sustainability initiatives focus on technologies that minimize carbon footprint and energy use. This workshop expands upon sustainability to include limiting sustainable materials development, as opposed to sustainable technology development. RSVP by April 19.

National Laboratory User Facilities—How to Get Access for Your Research
Monday April 22, 2:00 – 5:00 pm (PCC North, 100 Level, Room 122 B)
This workshop will bring you in direct contact with cutting-edge characterization facilities in the United States and Germany, and will support you with planning your research visit there. Networking reception to follow. Space is limited. Please RSVP

Open Data Challenge Awards Presentation
Wed. April 24, 3:00 – 3:30 pm (PCC North, 300 Level, Halls C–E—Exhibit Stage)
Attend the Open Data Challenge Awards Presentation and celebrate with the winning teams. Learn how they built their materials data sets and approached their analysis through poster and visual presentations

PowerPoint Karaoke
Wed. April 24, 7:30 – 9:00 pm (Sheraton, Second Level, Deer Valley)
What kind of slide is that? PowerPoint Karaoke asks the presenter to explain a slide without prior knowledge of its content or author. $300 prizes to the best presenter and slide author. Networking reception to follow. Presenters and slide authors must preregister. Just want to watch the competition? Space is limited. Please RSVP

Alaina G. Levine is an award-winning entrepreneur, international keynote speaker, STEM career consultant, science writer, corporate comedian, and author of Networking for Nerds (Wiley, 2015), which beat out Einstein (really!) for the honor of being named one of the Top 5 Books of 2015 by Physics Today Magazine. She writes Yoru Unicorn Career, an advice column for ScienceCareers/Science Magazine and is a regular speaker and consultant for MRS. @AlainaGLevine