Academic Career Mentoring Series

"Applying and Interviewing for an Academic Position"

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Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs

November 1, 2013

http://gapp.usc.edu/academic-career-mentoring-panel-series

USCViterbi
School of Engineering

University of Southern California
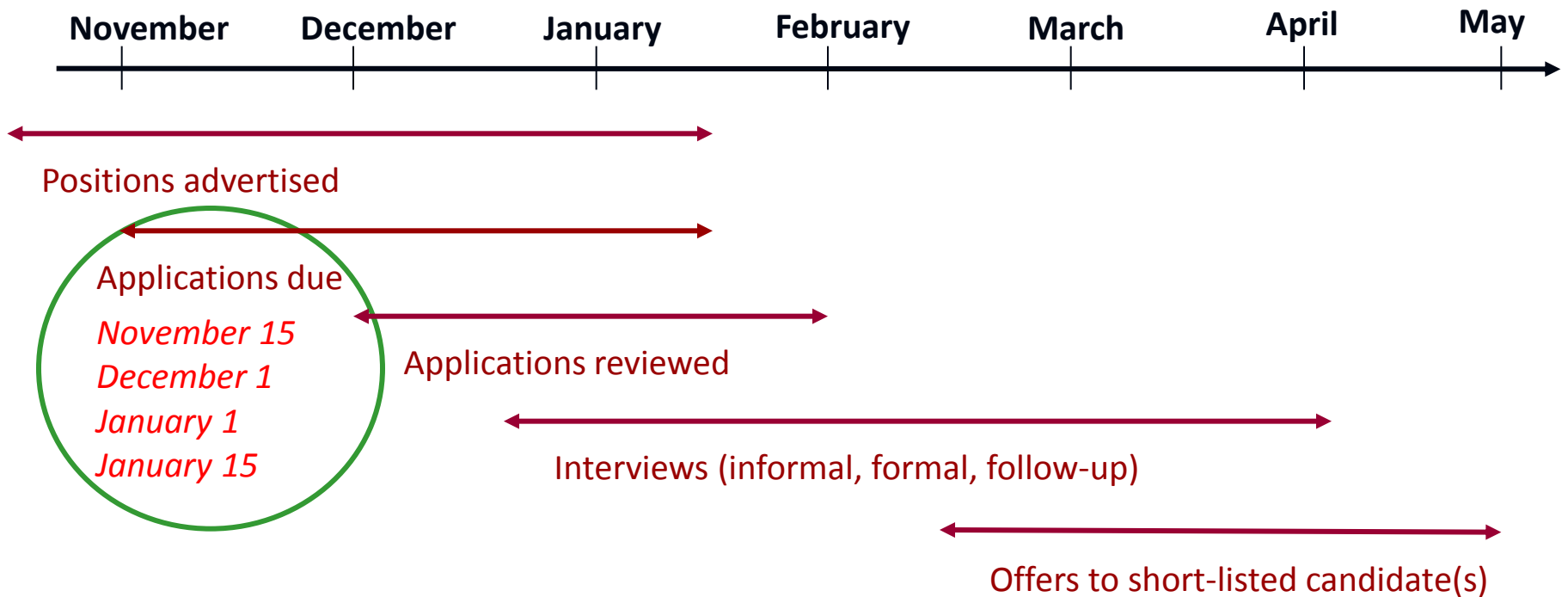
Personal and Corporate Missions

- **Our central mission is the development of human beings and society as a whole through the cultivation and enrichment of the human mind and spirit. The principal means by which our mission is accomplished are teaching, research, artistic creation, professional practice and selected forms of public service.**

  – *Mission Statement, University of Southern California*

- **A career in academia can be highly rewarding!**

Application and Interview Timeline
(varies by discipline & institution)

November — December — January — February — March — April — May

Positions advertised

Applications due

November 15
December 1
January 1
January 15

Applications reviewed

Interviews (informal, formal, follow-up)

Offers to short-listed candidate(s)

Start dates vary:
Aug., Jan., following Aug.

Panel Discussion Questions

• **What are key things to do in early, middle, and late stages of PhD program or postdoc to prepare for a career in academia?**

• **How best to find out about open positions, and what are important things to know about the places you may want to apply to?**

• **What helps make your application stand out among many others?**

• **What "homework" and other preparation should you do for the interview (e.g., information about the department and institution, needed start-up resources for your research, etc.)?**

• **What "takeaways" should come from the interview—from both the interviewer's and interviewee's perspectives (i.e., what should become known by both parties)?**

• **What general advice is offered for successfully applying and interviewing for a faculty position?**

Panelists

- *Nora Ayanian*, Gabilan Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science

- *Paul Bogdan*, Assistant Professor, Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical Engineering-Systems

- *Amy Childress*, Professor, Soni Astani Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Director of Environmental Engineering

- *Stacey Finley*, Gabilan Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering

Panel Format

- **Panelists' remarks:**

  - *personal background; path taken to academic career*

  - *responses to panel discussion questions*

  - *additional tips*

- **Open Q&A:**

  - *questions from the audience*

- **Wrap-up**

Job Search Resources for Placement in Academia

- **Viterbi's *academic job search website* for postdoc and faculty opportunities:**

  - http://gappblog.usc.edu/?cat=8 and http://gappblog.usc.edu/?cat=10

- **Additional links of *national academic search engines*:**
  - http://www.academickeys.com/
  - http://www.academiccareers.com/
  - http://AcademicJobsOnline.org
  - http://jobs.sciencecareers.org/

- **Some clearinghouses of *postdoc opportunities*:**
  - http://ppfp.ucop.edu/info/
  - http://www.hercjobs.org/home/index.cfm?site_id=793
  - http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Training/
  - http://www.pathwaystoscience.org/Postdocs_portal.asp
  - http://minoritypostdoc.org/
  - http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/