CSPG University Outreach Lecture Tours

My Geological Journey to date: The past experiences, current research, and future ambitions of an early career geoscientist

Wednesday February 14th, 12:00-1:30pm
Carleton University Rm 2120 Herzberg – Snacks and Refreshments to follow!

Dr. Nikole Bingham-Koslowski

Sedimentary Basin Geologist at Natural Resources Canada – Geological Survey of Canada

Dr. Nikole Bingham-Koslowski is an early career geoscientist working for the Geological Survey of Canada, Natural Resources Canada. She completed her Bachelor of Science (honors) and Master of Science degrees in geology at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario in 2008 and 2011 respectively and received her Doctorate in geology from the University of Western Ontario in 2015. Her research to date has primarily involved the study of Paleozoic carbonates and organic-rich mudstones with an aim of reconstructing their depositional environments and understanding the factors that influenced their formation. Following the completion of her PhD, Dr. Bingham moved to Calgary, Alberta for a four-month internship with Imperial Oil. Her internship introduced her to the realm of seismic data and focused on the interpretation and analysis of 2D and 3D seismic surveys, as well as the integration of stratigraphic and well data as part of a regional study. This was also Dr. Bingham’s first exposure to offshore Eastern Canada, and her first time working in a rift setting. The internship was an incredible learning experience but following its completion at the end of 2015, Dr. Bingham found herself amongst the many unemployed geologists struggling to find work in the oil industry during one of the worst downturns in recent memory. The next 9 months would prove to be more stressful than any of her thesis defenses as she struggled to be relevant in a highly competitive field while trying to remain positive and pay the bills.

While unemployed, Dr. Bingham’s time was unsurprisingly spent conducting seemingly endless job searches, tailoring her resumes and cover letters to any job that looked remotely promising, and filling out job applications to anything geology-related. It was during this time that Dr. Bingham also discovered the importance of the social aspect of unemployment. She attended alumni and other networking events, reached out to old and new contacts for advice and to maintain connections, arranged meetings with anyone willing to share their experiences, and tried to create opportunities for personal and career development.

Dr. Bingham started at the Geological Survey of Canada in September 2016 as a Research Scientist – Sedimentary Basin Geologist. Her current research involves investigating Paleozoic strata in the Baffin-Labrador Seaway as part of the Geo-mapping for Energy and Minerals (GEM-2) Program. She feels incredibly fortunate to not only have a job, but to have one in her field that allows her to pursue her passion for the Paleozoic world, that enables her to work with and learn from first-class geoscientists, and that supports her participation in outreach and educational opportunities. Dr. Bingham would like to share her experiences and the lessons she has learned along her journey from student, to intern, to unemployed, to research scientist in hopes that it will help students as they prepare to enter an uncertain job market.