

One postdoc's journey on the academic job market.

Kenneth Hanson
 Assistant Professor
 Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
 Materials Science & Engineering

About Me

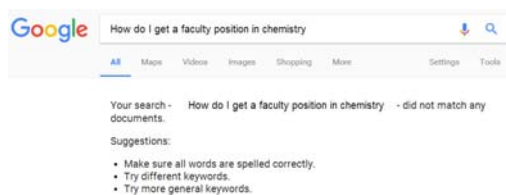
- Foley High School (2000)
 - Lowest grade in high school was in chemistry
- St. Cloud State University
 - Majored in: Athletic Training → Exercise Science → Biomedical Science → Chemistry
- University of Southern California
 - Graduate Student (2005-2010)
 - NearIR OLEDs
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 - Post Doctoral Researcher (2010-2013)
 - Solar fuels



About May 2012 Me



Not from faculty factories like MIT, CalTech, etc.



Consult my advisors, current junior faculty, anyone that will give me info.

Learn as I go.

About Me 2017

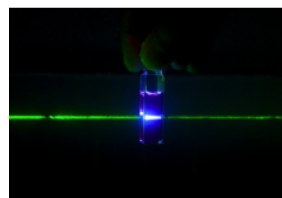
Florida State University


- Assistant Professor (2013-present)
- Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
- Materials Science & Engineering

Hanson Research Group



Molecular Photophysics
Solar Cells





"Get a job, Ken!"
 by Kenneth Hanson | Uncategorized | (57215 Views) APR 20

It has been several months since my last post, but I have (what I think is) a reasonable excuse: I've been trying to get a job. The demanding mantra endlessly looping in my brain for the last six months was, "Get a job, Ken!" Applying for chemistry faculty positions at R1 institutions has been a trial both scientifically and emotionally, especially since the likelihood of landing such a job is increasingly the exception rather than the norm. I've very glad my search is over and I humbly and yet happily share that I will be starting as an assistant professor at Florida State University in the fall (August 2013).

Reflecting on the job search, I found that there were very few resources that helped me understand what to expect beforehand. This is probably especially true for someone like me who did not come from institutions more traditionally known for producing professors, like Cal Tech, MIT, and Berkeley. I did not spend my undergraduate and graduate years observing and learning from older coworkers/friends going through the faculty job search process before me. To my surprise, I also found little online about the chemistry faculty job search and what makes it different from other job searches. Instead, I spent a lot of time cleaning hints

- 1) [The Timeline](#)
- 2) [Proposal Preparation](#)
- 3) [Proposal Format](#)
- 4) [Other Content](#)
- 5) [Submitting and Waiting](#)
- 6) [Phone and On-site Interviews](#)
- 7) [Research/Proposal Talks](#)
- 8) [The Offer, Second Visit, and Negotiation](#)


"Get a job, Ken!"
 by Kenneth Hanson | Uncategorized | (57215 Views) APR 20

It has been several months since my last post, but I have (what I think is) a reasonable excuse: I've been trying to

Disclaimer:

- This is my own anecdotal experiences or the stories I've heard from others.
- Based on a 2013 academic cycle search for a materials, inorganic, physical, and any energy related faculty positions at R1 intuitions.
- Some of the info may be useful for any search (R1, PUI, industry, national lab...)
- Actual experience will vary.
- Seek as much information/advice as you can.

7) [Research/Proposal Talks and Meeting with the Chair](#)
 8) [The Offer, Second Visit, and Negotiation](#)

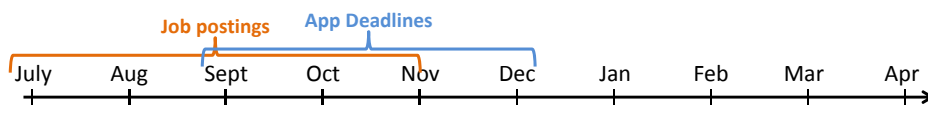
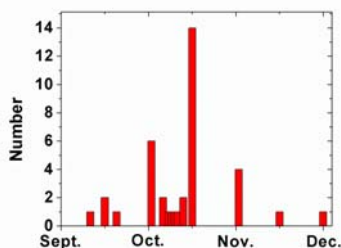
The Timeline

Job postings:

- Began appearing in July 2012 and continued until about November.
- Postings for professor positions at PUIs continued into Spring 2013.

Application Deadlines:

- September through December.



The Timeline

Job postings:

- Began appearing in July 2012 and continued until about November.
- Postings for professor positions at PUIs continued into Spring 2013.

Application Deadlines:

- September through December.

First contact:

- Phone calls offering interviews as early as two weeks after deadline.
- Others as late as February/March if the first round failed.

Decisions, second visits, and negotiations:

- Most offers between December and March.
- 2nd visit/negotiations shortly after.

Graduate Visitation Weekend:

- February and March (April 15th grad decision deadline).

Start Date:

- Formally July 1st or August 1st but is typically negotiable.



Finding an Opening

- Find an opening:
 - C&E news
 - Science/Nature Jobs
 - indeed.com (search “chemistry professor”)
 - Inside Higher Education
 - academicjobsonline.org
 - More recently: ChemBark/ChemJobber archive

The 2017 Chemistry Tenure-Track Faculty Openings List
 Bizarrely Plagiarized from ChemBark and ChemJobber Communities

1 Please leave a comment on the blog if you know of a position that is not listed and meets the following criteria: (i) tenure-track position in chemistry at an academic institution, (ii) starts in 2017, and (iii) is for an institution in Canada or the United States.
 2 The most helpful information to post in your comment is a link to the job announcement.
 3 Updated 3/25/17. Suggestions to @lost_ung_chem
 4 Newly added jobs highlighted in yellow.

Priority Date	School	Department	Specialization	Rank	City	State	Comments	Comments	Comments
18	94-0916 University of Waterloo	Chemistry	Nanotechnology	Asst	Waterloo	Ont			
11	94-0916 Northeastern University	Chemistry and Chemical Biology	Natural Products	Assoc. Full	Boston	MA		reaction letter received, reported 11/17/16	
12	94-0916 Northeastern University	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Structural Biology / Cryo-electron Microscopy	Assoc. Full	Boston	MA			
13	94-0916 State University of New York at Oswego	Chemistry	Inorganic	Asst	Oswego	NY			
14	94-0916 St. Mary's College of Maryland	Chemistry and Biochemistry	Biochemistry	Asst	St. Mary's City	MD			
15	94-0916 Texas Southern University	Chemistry	Forensic	Asst	Houston	TX			
16	94-0916 Texas Southern University	Chemistry	Computational	Asst	Houston	TX			
17	94-0916 Central College	Chemistry	Organic?	Asst	Fella	IA			
18	94-0916 Villanova University	Chemistry	Computational	Asst	Medford	CT	1/22/18, reaction letter received		interview sched
18	94-0916 Georgetown State College	Chemistry	Analytical	Asst?	Olympic	WA			
22	94-0916 Northwestern University	Chemistry	Theoretical	Open	Evanston	IL	interview scheduled, reported 10/21		
21	94-0916 Western Washington University	Chemistry	Analytical	Asst	Bellingham	WA			
21	94-0916 Western Washington University	Chemistry	Biochemistry	Asst	Bellingham	WA			
23	94-0916 Butler University	Chemistry	Biochem, Inorganic	Asst	Indianapolis	IN	Phone interview reported		
24	94-0916 Belmont University	Chemistry	Inorganic	Asst	Louisville	KY	offer accepted, reported 11/26/16		

Application Package

- Cover Letter
- CV/Resume
- Letters of Recommendation
- Sometimes:
 - teaching statement
 - diversity statement
 - transcript
 - rough budget

Submission:

- Email
- Department Websites
- University Websites
- Third party host
-academicjobsonline.org

- Proposal

Proposal Preparation

Generally two or three original research ideas that are:

- 1) Different from the work of previous advisors.

No one wants you to compete with your boss.

- 2) Unique enough to show creativity and the ability to compete with others in the field.

Your Tenure letter should open with “Dr. X is the worlds foremost expert at Y”

- 3) Interesting enough to be potentially fundable.

Good science is not enough! It must be fundable.

Start thinking of ideas now!

Proposal Preparation

Start thinking of ideas now!

Start thinking of original ideas in grad school.

- Usually required for qualifying exams.
- Good practice (even if you are scooped by literature)

Read, visit posters, and attend talks outside of your expertise.

- How could this research contribute to my area of work?
- How could my expertise contribute to their area of work?
- Many major research advances bridge the gap between sub-disciplines.

Create a Aspiring Professors Support Group



- Audience to refine ideas
- Broad science base
- Share job openings
- Set deadlines!
 - presentation
 - writing



"Get a job, Ken!"

by Kenneth Hanson | Uncategorized | (57215 Views)

APR
20

It has been several months since my last post, but I have (what I think is) a reasonable excuse: I've been trying to get a job. The demanding mantra endlessly looping in my brain for the last six months was, "Get a job, Ken!" Applying for chemistry faculty positions at R1 institutions has been a trial both scientifically and emotionally, especially since the likelihood of landing such a job is increasingly the exception rather than the norm. I've very glad my search is over and I humbly and yet happily share that I will be starting as an assistant professor at Florida State University in the fall (August 2013).

Reflecting on the job search, I found that there were very few resources that helped me understand what to expect beforehand. This is probably especially true for someone like me who did not come from institutions more traditionally known for producing professors, like Cal Tech, MIT, and Berkeley. I did not spend my undergraduate and graduate years observing and learning from older coworkers/friends going through the faculty job search process before me. To my surprise, I also found little online about the chemistry faculty job search and what makes it different from other job searches. Instead, I spent a lot of time cleaning hints



- 1) The Timeline
- 2) Proposal Preparation
- 3) Proposal Format
- 4) Other Content
- 5) Submitting and Waiting
- 6) Phone and On-site Interviews
- 7) Research/Proposal Talks and Meeting with the Chair
- 8) The Offer, Second Visit, and Negotiation

Follow us on Twitter/Instagram:
@HansonFSU

