



Sloan Career Cornerstone Center

Profiles of Geoscientists



Laurel Bybell

**Micropaleontologist
U.S. Geological Survey
Reston, VA**

Education:

BS, Vassar College (Geology)
MS, Univ. of Miami (Geology)

Job Description:

Micropaleontologist

Advice to Students:

"I think you need to find a mentor as soon as you can. It's crucial to have someone you trust and respect -- who trusts and respects you -- to give you information about the organization."

Video Transcript 1:

"I think you need to find a mentor as soon as you can. I think that's - and their - you need to check out who you feel comfortable with, someone you respect. You, yourself take the initiative to have a relationship with that person, so that you can go to them and ask them and find out what the corporate culture is, what you need to do to get where you want to go, and use that person for information. I think it's crucial for you to have someone you trust and respect, who trusts and respects you and to give you information about the organization."

Video Transcript 2:

"I think you need to read the literature; you need to understand as much as you can about the male/female dynamics. You need to be ready to fight the battle for yourself, and you need to come to a comfort level with yourself about how much your career versus your family you're going to balance. I made the choice that my family was extremely important to me. And that means I balanced it a different point. And I think each woman has to look at herself and see what she wants and make some of those decisions. And, and they're hard decisions."

Video Transcript 3:

"As a woman, I think it's been a very difficult ladder to climb in my career. I've had three children while I've been employed by the USGS. Now I must admit, I was very pleased that I was able to cut back my hours to 20 hours a week, after the birth of each of my children, and then move my time back up. But it was very difficult trying to keep a career going, trying to keep the publications flowing, and manage a family too."

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