UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

IS PROUD TO HOST A SEMINAR BY

"METALLURGY, MICROSTRUCTURE AND ACADEMIA FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER"

ANDREW ZANG

POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR
PRATT & WHITNEY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

Thursday, April 10, 2025

2:00 PM - 3:20 PM

McDonnell Douglas Engineering Auditorium

Abstract: In pursuit of a career in academia, a researcher must make many difficult decisions and sacrifices despite limited maturity, perspectives and understanding. Each person's journey is different, but common experiences create opportunities to learn from those on a similar path. In this talk, I will share my own journey while reflecting on what it takes to build a successful career in academia, where excellence in both research and teaching are necessary. I will discuss my growth during my doctorate at the University of British Columbia, Canada, and briefly share details about my research on the wrought manufacturing of aluminum in the automotive field. In addition, my time as a lecturer in the Materials Engineering Department taught me many lessons on effective teaching, which I will explore during this talk. Finally, the transition from PhD to postdoctoral research is often difficult – filled with uncertainty, but also new opportunities to learn and grow. I will share the important lessons I've learned along the way, and to highlight the excitement that comes with the possibilities ahead in the hopes that it may help others on the academic sprint.

Bio: Andrew Zang is a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Pratt & Whitney Center of Excellence at the University of California, Irvine. He earned his PhD from the University of British Columbia, Canada in 2024, while working as a Sessional Lecturer in the Materials Engineering Department. The research featured in this talk won the Best of Track award and was selected as a plenary presentation at the 13th International Aluminum Extrusion Technology Seminar, 2024.