

Building a Unique Career Within and Outside of Mathematics

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Abstract: As professional mathematicians, many of us envision and live out a career in academia that often is limited to teaching, varying degrees of research, and service to the university or college. This talk will introduce and discuss what a career at a national laboratory has been like for me. Namely, I'll touch on my experiences as 1. a researcher and principal investigator, 2. a staff professional with non-research-related expectations, and 3. an individual with interests in contributing to the growth of others and communities. I'll try to cover many facets of what a "year in the life" of a labbie is *actually* like.



Dr. Brett Jefferson is an interdisciplinary scientist at PNNL who routinely works in the areas of human factors modeling, topological data analysis, and machine learning. His research interests include discovering hidden patterns in difficult datasets (like that data pertaining to human cognition) and studying robustness properties related to those measures. Brett says that one of the reasons he came to work at PNNL was that he had the freedom to explore multidisciplinary areas of research

in a collaborative environment. Brett served on the board of the National Association of Mathematicians and is a member of the Society for Mathematical Psychology. In his spare time, Brett enjoys playing boardgames and watching Marvel movies with his wife and their 2-year-old.