Abstract:
The inaugural talk for the IIRM-URA Student Seminar Series will provide an overview of common career options for IIRM students, with a focus on critical differences between the career tracks. Dr. Dolores Black and Dr. Jeffrey Black have PhDs in electrical engineering and have worked in and for large companies, small companies, academic institutions, and national labs. They will break down pay, benefits, raises, promotions, security, safety, training, work/life balance, and research/publication opportunities in each career path, and walk you through their advice and perspectives on choosing a career path, evaluating between career options, and moving between paths over the course of a career.

Biographies:
Dr. Dolores Black began her career in the U.S. Air Force, then received her PhD in electrical engineering from Vanderbilt University. She worked in industry following graduation at Honeywell Aerospace as a principal engineer and she also worked for her alma mater Vanderbilt as a Director of Graduate School Recruiting and continues to do recruiting on behalf of Sandia today. Today, she is a principal member of the Radiation Effects Theory Department. The Department performs theoretical and computational research to understand the effects caused by ionizing radiation from nuclear weapons, space environments and other sources.

Dr. Jeffrey Black began his career in as a research scientist at the Air Force Research lab, after graduating from the United State Air Force Academy. He worked at Mission Research Corporation managing the Microelectronics Division before going to Vanderbilt University for a PhD in electrical engineering. Dr. Black remained at Vanderbilt as a Research Assistant Professor following graduation, and then moved to Sandia National Lab where he remains today as a Principal Member of the Technical Staff in the Radiation & Electrical Sciences Center. The Center performs radiation testing and associated diagnostics to determine the deleterious and/or beneficial effects of radiation on electronic, material, and biological systems. They conduct radiation testing nationwide using above ground test facilities at numerous locations; they also participate in international testing programs.