Sample questions to ask at the Professional in Residence brown bag lunch

Career Preparation
What is the best preparation for this profession? (i.e. education, part-time work, training programs, etc.)
What skills or talents are most important for this field and how can they be acquired?
How did you become interested in this profession/organization? What are the good and bad points about this profession?
What was your undergraduate/graduate major? How did it help you prepare for your career? What additional training/education have you had?
How can students find summer jobs or internships in this field? Are there other ways to get experience?
Is a graduate/advanced degree important? If so, which areas of study would you recommend?
What journals, magazines, books, or websites would be helpful for me to learn more about this profession?
What personal attributes do you think have contributed to your success in this field?
What professional organizations do you belong to? Would you recommend I join?
Which of my transferable skills should I emphasize when looking for employment in the field?
What skills are most valued in this profession/industry?
What are some good resources for job opportunities and further research?
Do you have any suggestions regarding my resume?

Job Content and Responsibilities
What services are provided by your organization?
What is a typical day like? Do you work alone or as part of a group?
Can you describe the work environment? (i.e. casual/formal, structured/flexible, etc.)
Which part of the job is most challenging for you?
What do you like most about your position? The least?
What are the greatest pressures, strains, or anxieties in your work? What are the toughest problems or decisions with which you must cope?
What are the time demands related to this field?
How did you find your job?
Can you describe your job history?

Industry/Job Trends and Environment
Tell me about the current state of the industry.
What changes do you foresee in this profession/industry over the next five years?
What is the outlook for jobs and career growth?
In what other settings do people in this profession work? (e.g. educational institutions, corporations, non-profits, etc.)
What are the titles/responsibilities of the people you work for/with?
To whom do you report?
What are the typical entry level positions in this field?
What is the typical career path?
What are the beginning, mid-range, and top salaries in this profession?
Where are the best employment prospects? What are employment prospects in your company?