

# NETWORKING: BUILDING YOUR RESEARCH VILLAGE

Tom Conte, Georgia Tech

Shwetak Patel, University of Washington



**CCC**

Computing Community Consortium  
Catalyst

# Why?

- Doing good research is not the only thing that matters in academia
- Having people know about it is just as important
  - People will cite your work more, you'll be on people's radar for sabbaticals, funding, etc.
- People often know about your research by getting to know you
  - Networking is half the battle



CCC

Computing Community Consortium  
Catalyst

# Where to start?

- Think about your research network map
  - Get a balanced perspective from a research mentoring standpoint
  - First place to go for feedback, expanding the village, etc
- Determine the type research village for your type of work and what's in it
- Different ways to showcase your work

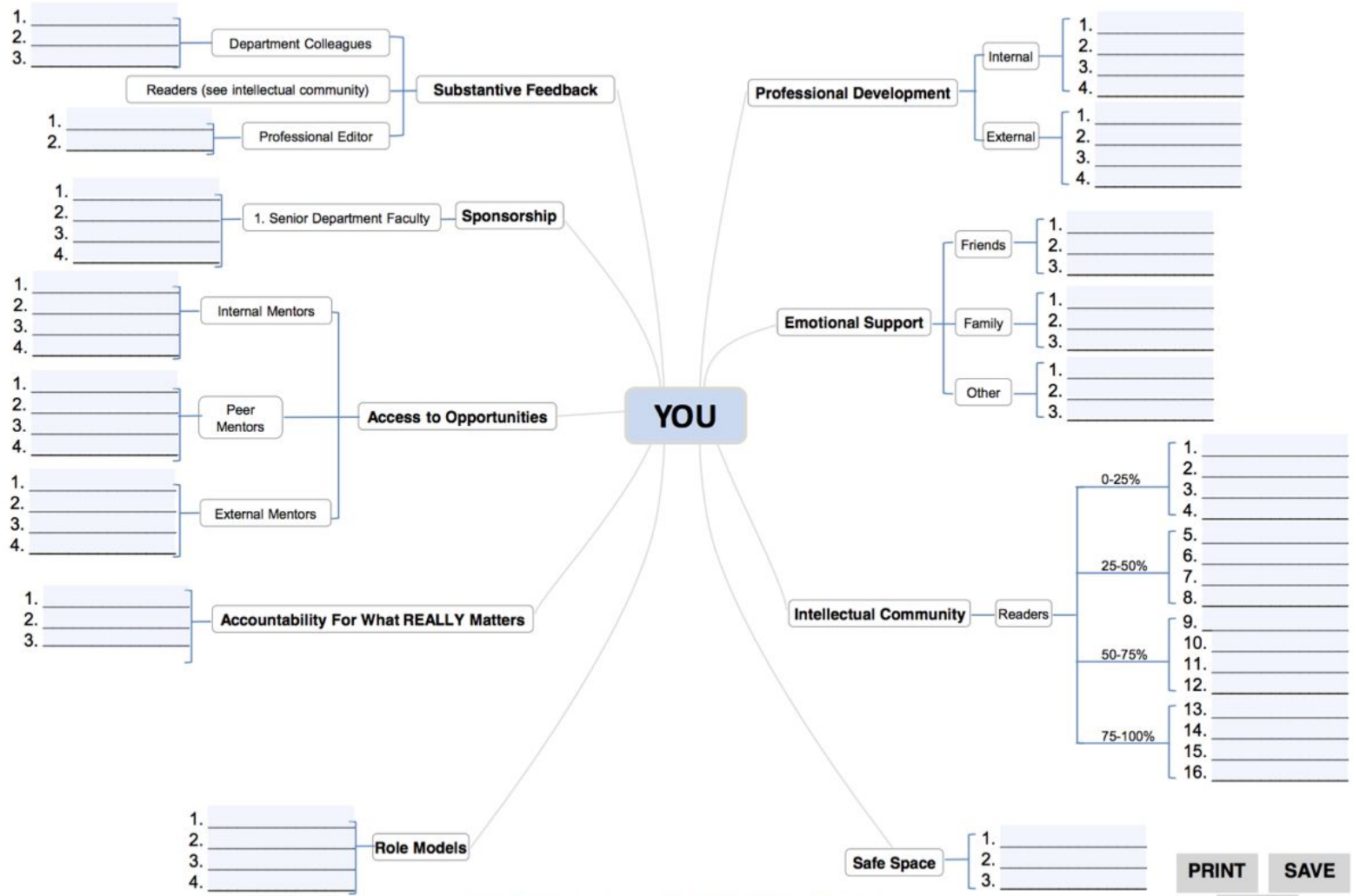


CCC

Computing Community Consortium  
Catalyst

# Research Network Map

## NCFDD MENTORING MAP



PRINT SAVE  
RESET

# Parts of your research village

- Everyone's village is different
- Start with building deeper engagements than going too broad
  - Ex. One or two strong industry partners than superficial engagement with 10
- Identify opportunities for thought leadership
  - Ex. CCC workshops, visioning exercises



CCC

Computing Community Consortium  
Catalyst

# Showcasing your work

- “Networking” has evolved drastically in the last 10 years
- Many ways to “advertise” your work
  - Research paper or poster
    - 10s of people
  - Research talk
    - 100s of people
  - Blogs or social media
    - 1000s of people
  - Popular press and videos
    - 10000s to 1000000s of people



**CCC**

Computing Community Consortium  
Catalyst

# Advice I Wish Someone Had Given Me

*Tom Conte*  
*Georgia Tech*



**CCC**

Computing Community Consortium  
Catalyst

# Two kinds of people you will meet

1) It's a Race to the Summit- the goal is total world domination!

2) I'm Going to Do Interesting Work- good work always wins the day

“No one is 100% a ...competitor”

Decide which you are and be honest with yourself about it

*You will find it's easier to build your network with people who are like you*



CCC

Computing Community Consortium  
Catalyst



# The conference gig

Ever wonder why senior people stand out in the hall during the conference talks and never see a single paper?

The action is in the hallway

Introduce yourself to senior people!

(...and junior people!)

And, about snobs...



**CCC**

Computing Community Consortium  
Catalyst

# Snobs



- Don't let them get to you (most boasting comes from insecurity)
- Avoid the temptation to boast back
- Make small talk and move on
- Remember how you felt and don't be a snob later on



CCC

Computing Community Consortium  
Catalyst

# Geek cliques

Sub-communities form naturally (university, advisor, ...)

Cliques are good for networking, but

Don't just stick to your clique!

Be a part of as many cliques as you can be

Cultivate the image of the “nice person” who doesn't take sides



CCC

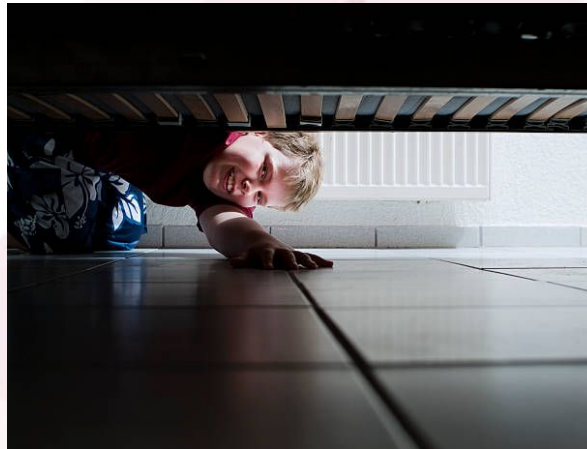
Computing Community Consortium  
Catalyst

# People grow over time

Before tenure



After tenure



ComputerHope.com



**CCC**

Computing Community Consortium  
Catalyst