Building Resiliency & Overcoming Failure

Jeff Forbes, Duke
Lydia Tapia, University of New Mexico

2019 CRA URMD Grad Cohort Workshop

Lydia in One Slide

- PhD, Texas A&M 2009
- Postdoc, UT Austin
- Assistant Professor, UNM 2011- 2017
- Associate Professor, UNM 2017-present
- Research: smart motion planning for high-dimensional and complex systems (robots and molecules)
- Family: great husband, eight year old daughter, two cats, one dog

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Jeff in One Slide

- PhD, University of California, Berkeley, 2002
- Assistant Professor of the Practice, 2001
- Associate Professor of the Practice, 2009
- Program Director, NSF CISE/CNS, 2011-2014
- Associate Dean, 2014-2017
- Research: Computer Science Education & Learning Analytics
- Family: Great wife and 9-year old son

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Topics

- What to do before you need help (Jeff)
  - How to building networks
    - Peer networks
    - Career advising network (more advanced than you)
  - Where to find people for your networks
  - How to approach people for your networks
- What to do when you need help (Lydia)
  - Navigate your networks
  - How to deal with embarrassing/personal topics
  - Go to multiple people for help (resolve conflicts)

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Elements of success?

- Write papers!
- Transcripts won't matter
- Classes as tool to launch research
- Break up problems into small manageable (< 1 week) pieces
- Be visible
- Keep your advisor happy
- Don't
  - Do busywork on a big project
  - Spin your wheels
  - Reinvent your project too often
- Read *Getting What You Came For* by Robert Peters

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Working towards success

- Community
  - Initiatives & organizations
  - Peer study groups
    - Moving Towards Future Objectives
    - 2k Club
- Mentors
  - Many places, many faces

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Sustaining success via Networks

- Where to find people for your networks?
  - Within your group
  - Within your department
  - Outside your department
  - Outside your institution
- How to approach people for your networks?
  - Common interests
  - Persistence

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My Perfect Network Example

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Consider Your Networks When Seeking Help

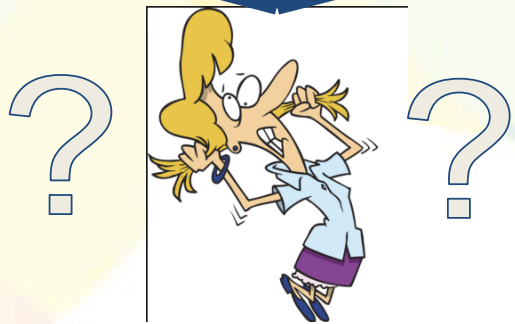
peer (local)

peer (remote)

Faculty (advisor)

Faculty (other)

administrator



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Multiple Sources of Help

Go through any differences, highlight those and take them to your advisor.

Man, I don't know.
Good luck!

From advice:
-Find the constant pieces
-Find the best pieces

Yeah, that happened to me before. Took me forever to find a new topic.
Talk to your advisor.

Guess you'll be here longer.
Talk to your advisor.

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Yet Another Example

Do Z.

How should I know?

From advice:
-Trust your own judgement!
-Keep seeking the advice you need.
-Move through your other networks.

Do X.

Do Y.

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Help When Disagreement Is Expected

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Sensitive Topic

- Assess your networks carefully, go to trusted resources
- Keep work networks work-related
  - Focus on the effect on your work
  - Provide only details needed
- It's probably not as bad as you think.

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