Building Resiliency & Overcoming Failure

Jeff Forbes, Duke
Lydia Tapia, University of New Mexico
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
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
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)
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
Working towards success

● Community
  ○ Initiatives & organizations
  ○ Peer study groups
    ▪ Moving Towards Future Objectives
    ▪ 2k Club
● Mentors
  ○ Many places, many faces
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
My Perfect Network Example
Consider Your Networks When Seeking Help

- peer (local)
- peer (remote)
- Faculty (advisor)
- Faculty (other)
- administrator
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.
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.
Help When Disagreement Is Expected
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.