Job Search Panel
CRAW Career Mentoring Workshop

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Background

Research in computer architecture

1993 - PhD from Wisconsin

1993-99 - Assistant Professor at Rice University

1999 – current – Associate Professor at UIUC
Two Body Background

Research in computer architecture

Performance analysis → Compilers

1993 - PhD from Wisconsin

PhD from Wisconsin

1993-99 - Assistant Professor at Rice University

Research Scientist at Rice University

1999 – current – Associate Professor at UIUC

Assistant Professor at UIUC
Panel Organization

Preparing for the job search    - Sarita

What schools look for    - Kathryn

Making your decision    - Ellen
What to Prepare For?

Evaluation criteria

Papers
Letters
Research statement – past and future vision
Interview talk
One-on-one meetings with faculty in/out of your area
Social meetings

Focus is on research schools
Preparation in Early Graduate Career

It’s never too early to start

Advisor

Most important decision

Start cultivating peer group

Foundation of future network

Comments on your papers, talks, brainstorming, collaborations, breadth, your advocate for job

Read, read, read, take many courses
Mid-Career Preparation

Research impact, vision, network, breadth and depth

Work on important problems
   E.g., does industry care? Will they care in 5 years?

Publish
   Focus on quality - hard to build reputation, easy to destroy
   Focus on depth - create a body of work w/ impact
   Get feedback before submissions - use budding network

Give talks at conferences, industry
   Better to not give a talk than to give a bad talk
   Hard to give a good talk - practice, practice, practice
   Use your budding network
Mid-Career Preparation

Create your vision
- Start thinking about what are the big problems
- How does your work fit?
- Can you tailor to fit your vision?
- Brainstorm with your network

Cultivate network
- Peers, faculty, industry
- Aggressively seek feedback, offer your feedback
- Think about who can be your letter writers
- Interact with them on your work, their work, others’ work

Read, read, read
- Don’t forget to keep up with other work in your and other areas
Have a Thesis (Almost), Want a Job

Evaluation criteria

Papers

Letters

Research statement – past and future vision

Interview talk

One-on-one meetings with faculty in/out of your area

Social meetings
Have a Thesis (Almost), Want a Job

Evaluation criteria

√ Papers
√ Letters
√ Research statement – past and future vision
√ Interview talk
√ One-on-one meetings with faculty in/out of your area
√ Social meetings
Have a Thesis (Almost), Want a Job

Evaluation criteria

√ Papers
√ Letters
√ Research statement
  Ideas for future work - can set you apart in interview
√ Interview talk
  Impress CS faculty in and out of your area
  Practice before general and expert audience
√ One-on-one meetings
  Find connections to their work,
  convince them your expertise will be valuable to them
√ Social meetings
It’s not as Hard as it Sounds!

Do research, write papers, give talks, talk to people, …

May sound very hard

But more experience $\Rightarrow$ more confidence $\Rightarrow$ Fun!

Starting early $\Rightarrow$

Most mistakes happen early, when they don’t really matter

By the time you get to the interview, you are a master!

Confidence is very important!
Two-Body Issues - My History

The first time, economy was bad

I got offer from Rice

Rice worked to get a position for Vikram - he changed his research area

The second time, economy was great

We got many interviews in the same schools

Many dual offers!
When to Tell, What to Tell

My case

Both times, mentioned situation in cover letter
First time, willing to stay apart, asked to deal with us independently
Second time, we were not, and said so

My position

Better to tell earlier than later since it gets them thinking
Solutions need a lot of time, work, creativity, and flexibility
Two Body Interviews

Many places wanted to interview us together

We did not want that

  Talks would not be ideally scheduled
  Would not get ideal audience
  Social occasions - We work in different areas, different needs
  and priorities, want to steer conversations differently

In general, we like to be treated independently

Some people, places had trouble understanding that, but it is improving over time