

# The Academic Interview

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# About me

Love math



Computer Science

Love boys



UG Research Summer

Marry Scotty 1985

Love research  
& France



Rice PHd 1992

Post Doc, Ecole des Mines

Asst Prof UMass 1993

Tenure 1999

Love boys



Assoc Prof UT Austin 01

Cooper 1995

Dylan 1998

Wyatt 2001

# The Academic Interview

- Invitation
- The Talk
- 30 to 60 minute One-on-One
- Meals
  
- **Goal:** Convince them that you will improve their department.

# The Invitation

- Research University
  - Papers in top conferences
  - Great letters
  - Spark
- Teaching College
  - Papers in conferences
  - Teaching experience/evidence
- Factors out of your control
  - Area, slots, etc.

# The Talk

- **Goal:**
  - Convince them you are smart and a good teacher
- General Audience
- Clearly state problem & your contributions
- Enough details to convince the *one* expert
- Practice, practice, practice

# One-on-One

- **Goal:**
  - Convince them they want to work with you
  - Decide if you want to work with them
- Connect with their research
- Read 2 to 4 of their papers that really interest you

# Indirect Questioning

- What's the best thing about your dept?
- What's the worst?
- How does the dept make important decisions?
- Who do you collaborate with?
- Where are last year's PhD graduates working?
- What did you do yesterday?
- What do you like best about your job?
- What do you like least?

# Meals

- At most one drink
- Good topics: travel, hobbies, kids
- Bad topics: politics, religion

# Miscellaneous Tips

- Take breaks in the restroom
- Stay alert: sleep, exercise, caffeine
- Arranged marriage theory of interviewing: everyone should be able to behave for a day