

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