Grad School Emigration

Getting out alive, well, and prepared.

Monday, July 14, 2008

The problem

- How do you learn to be a faculty member?
- Experience varies greatly by advisor.
- Academic "myth" does not reflect reality.
- Much of the academic process hidden until you apply, which is too late to prepare.
- After they are in school from age 3~27, how do we prepare someone for ...?

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Prefix

- Working from 1992-2004.
- Stanford PhD 2004-current.
- I'm talking about academia in general not Computer Science unless I specify.

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Future Faculty Seminar

- 2004 6 lectures in targeting CS organized by Jeff Klingner.
- 2005, 2006, 2007 CS400 for engineers.
- Fall 2008 University course CTL400.
- Engineering, Sciences, and Humanities tracks.
- Support from VP Graduate Education.

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General Topics

- Application process application, interview, negotiation, day one.
- Grant writing. (the real story)
- Tenure process. (more blunt reality)
- Teaching, speaking, mentoring.
- Ethics and Service.
- Life in academia, 2-body problem, etc.
- "Politics" in academia.

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FFS Tracks

- What you need to know about academia varies by area.
- Public vs private.
- Research vs. teaching school. (night vs day)
- Grant sources vary greatly.
- Even the application process, like the goal of a "job talk" varies. Post-docs?

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Model

- Our hope is that this class will become a model for other universities to better prepare their PhDs for academia.
- People should know what they are really getting into.
- Format and content is universal.
- Based on our experience, the need for this education is profound++.

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