



University of Pittsburgh

INFSCI 3005: Introduction to Doctoral Program

Lecture 12: Career Planning

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**With materials and inspiration from professors
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Career Options

- Is it the right degree for you?
- Postdoctoral Researcher
- Teaching/Research in Academia
 - Teaching-oriented college
 - Research University
- Industrial researcher/professional
- Another degree?



Post Doctoral Positions

- A stepping stone to a more demanding job
- Why postdoctorate is good for you
 - An ability to explore a slightly different area or the same area from another angle; finding your call
 - Learning from your postdoctoral advisor
 - Exploring yourself in leading others
 - Time to publish and wait for your PhD time papers get published
- Why it is good for your future employers
- Options for postdoctorate



Industrial Research/Industry

- Why many modern IT/Web companies like to hire PhD in CS and IS?
- Very few places will allow you to do academic-style research
 - Microsoft Research, IBM Research, PARC
- A few more have research labs and teams, but highly focused on company needs
 - Google, LinkedIn, Amazon, Telefonika, Bosch
- The majority of PhDs are employed as professionals in innovating companies
- You will have to do almost all things yourself
- Look for a chance to get interns



University/College Positions

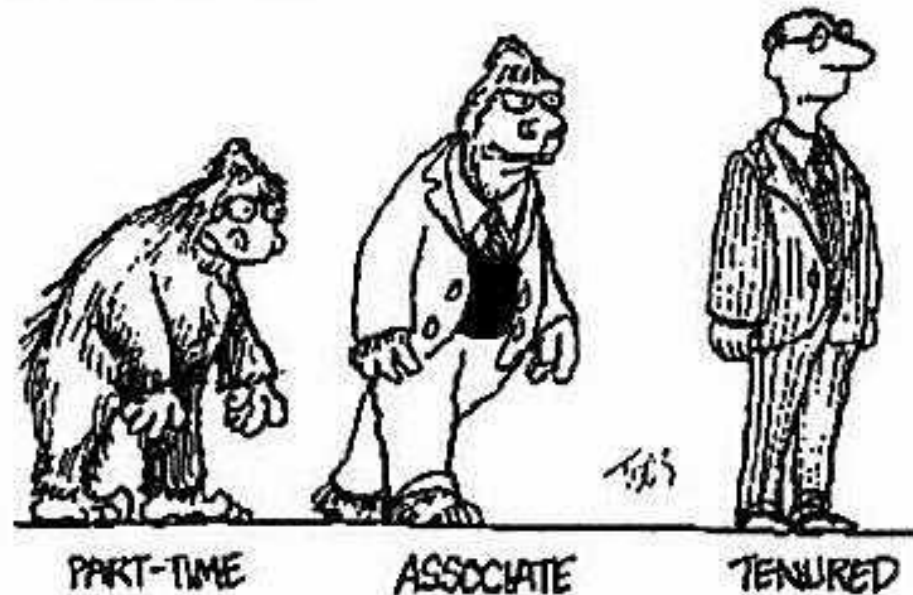
- What defines the rules of the game?
 - What do you need to show, what you will do?
- Job location
 - United States
 - Europe
 - Asia
- Nature of your college
 - Teaching-oriented college
 - Research University
- Tenure-track vs. Non Tenure-track



Range of Positions

- Part time positions/adjunct positions
- Instructor
- Lecturer
- Senior Lecturer
- Reader
- Assistant Professor
- Associate Professor
- Full Professor
- Full Professor II

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The Issue of Tenure

- The sign that your position is permanent: you are considered worthy to stay and continue research
- Criteria for tenure
 - Research/Teaching/Services
- Tenure clock: 6-10 years
 - Since your case should be ready at that time, subtract 1.5 years
- Early Tenure
- What if you were not granted tenure



"Behind one door is tenure - behind the other is flipping burgers at McDonald's."



University of Pittsburgh

Guest lecture: Dr. Kenneth Olden



“Some Keys to a Successful Career”

An invited lecture given at a Survival Skills and Ethics Program workshop around 1995



On Kenneth Olden's talk (MD)

- Decide early on that you want to make something out of your life, that you will make a difference to the society.
- Decide what it is that you want to become, find out what it is that will get you there (draw yourself a road map).
- Have vision, know what you want. Otherwise you don't know where you are going and every destination will seem a success.
- Think big (National Academy of Science, Nobel Prize).
- Ask important questions in science. Have a list of questions to answer, order them in the order of importance, address the first three on the list.
- Do not hesitate to challenge accepted truths.
- You will need a network to succeed, so create it at every opportunity. Find the "movers and shakers" in your micro-community and make sure that they know who you are.



More On Kenneth Olden's talk (MD)

Playmaker

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



This article's **tone** or **style** may not be appropriate for Wikipedia. Specific concerns may be found on the [talk page](#). See Wikipedia's [guide to writing better articles](#) for suggestions. *(February 2009)*

In [association football](#), a **playmaker** is an attacking player who controls the flow of the team's offensive play, and is often involved in [passing](#) moves which lead to [goals](#)^[1]. The term overlaps somewhat with [attacking midfielder](#), but playmakers are not constrained to a single position - creativity is the only true requirement, and good passing ability and tactical awareness help. Because many midfielders have these attributes, they tend to be the playmakers of a team. They are sometimes called the "number 10" of the team.

st-doc might help.
d, pick role models,
less prestigious jobs.

Do not worry about tenure!

- Have a vision. by the time you nobody will be
- Have the coura
- Be perceived as

Qualities of a good playmaker

[edit]

Perhaps the most important quality of a playmaker is the ability to read the game, and get into good positions making for effective receipt and distribution of the ball. Intuition is another key element of a playmakers' game, as they need to know where different players are at different times, without taking too long to dwell on the ball. A good playmaker will often hold possession, allowing other team members to make attacking runs. The ostensible role of the playmaker is to then provide or facilitate the final pass which leads to a goal^[2]. In football terminology this is often known as a *killer ball* or the *final ball* and is officially recorded as an [assist](#).

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d



Getting Ready to your Career

- Don't wait for your "lifetime" topic - this is an illusion.
- Don't think that hanging around for five years will give you a degree.
- Freedom of choice is also an illusion.
- Make a commitment to your career, organize your life, make sacrifices (no TV, no newspapers, no newsgroups and web surfing).
- Have a role model, be careful whom you are following and who you are listening to. Avoid crowd mentality.
- Get involved in research as soon as possible, preferably during your first semester here.



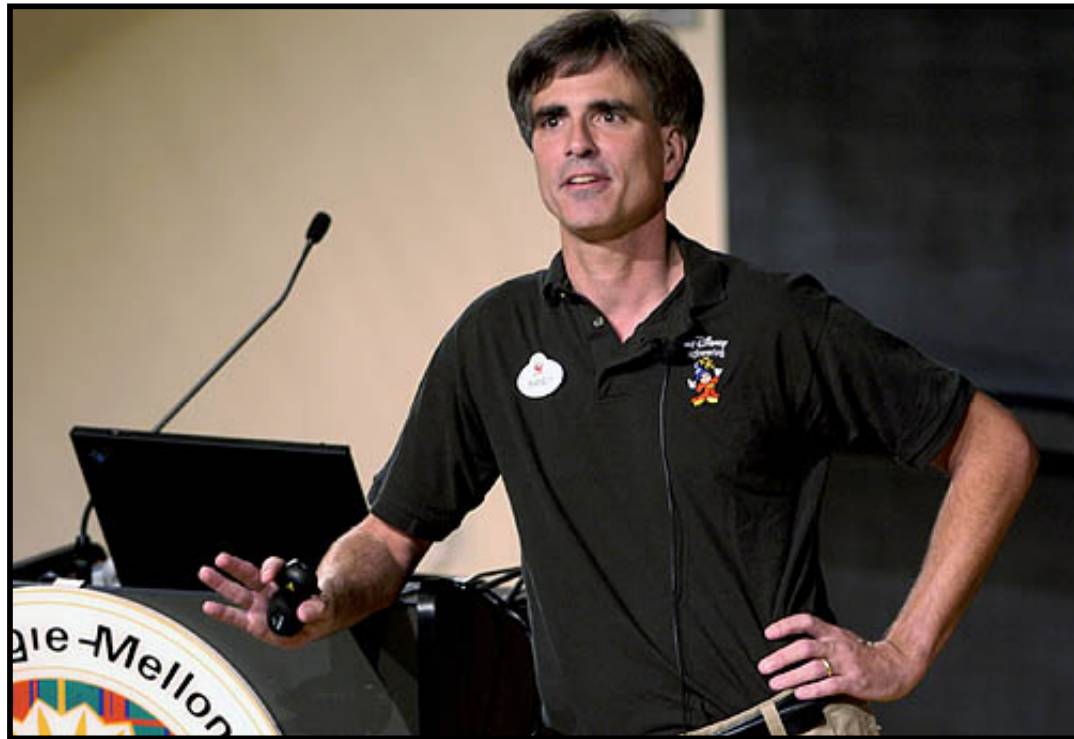
Getting Ready to your Career

- Don't jump around in terms of research groups and advisors. Make a commitment and follow it up (unless it really does not work out).
- Consider quitting your job so that you can focus on your studies.
- Work hard, spend time on things. You can't go around the 10 years 80 hours a week baseline. (Perhaps, if you are exceptionally smart, 9 years and 75 hours a week will suffice.)
- Stop working in the "course and exam" mode. Everybody knows that you are good at it.



University of Pittsburgh

Guest lecture: Dr. Randy Pausch



“Achieving Your Childhood Dreams”

A truly (almost) last lecture at Carnegie Mellon University

18 September 2007 († 25 July 2008)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ji5_MqicxSo



Your Career and Your Life

Randy Pausch's talk ...

- Dream and don't be afraid to live your dream
- Make sure that your children have a good childhood
- Brick walls are to test how badly you want something
- Scientists work a lot
 - “if you want me to tell you how to succeed, see me in my office at 9pm on Friday night”
- You need something to motivate you
- Having a mentor is a good idea
- Being a professor is like having a cake and eating it
- You need to learn how to deal with administrators



Beyond Career

Randy Pausch's talk ...

- Be generous with people, as you are never alone
- Acknowledge others
- Don't be an asshole
- If you give people enough time and they will show you their best side
- Don't be afraid of failing; otherwise you will never want to do anything
- Do first, ask permission later
- Learn to appreciate criticism

“When you're screwing up and nobody's saying anything to you anymore, that means they've given up on you.”



50,000 Feet View

Randy Pausch's talk ...

There are things that are more important than career

“My wife and children mean everything to me. They give a purpose to life and a depth of joy that no job (and I've had some of the most awesome jobs in the world) can begin to provide.”

Make sure that your children (and your family) are happy – this is one of the best things that you can give them.



Concluding remarks

- Connect the issues of career with the planning lecture and GTD approach
- Planning is very important and effective
- You need to find time for it (what about every evening, every Sunday night, every 1st of the month, every 1st of the year?)
- Role models make things easier – being first is not easy.
- Be careful who you are listening to!