



Academic
Career
Trajectory
Post doc lunch
meeting

Hank Bass, Jan 16, 2018, FSU

Academic Career Trajectory

Comments for postdoc association lunch meeting:

TOPICS:

Traditional Paths

Alternative Paths

My story & things I learned along the way

The role of timing and serendipity

Lateral moves at various stages

General advice

Questions and discussions, general or specific

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Traditional Paths:

- BS
- (MS)
- PhD
- Post-Doc
- Faculty position (Tenure-track assistant professor)

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Alternative Paths

PhD

Post-doc (company, university, or institution)

Faculty position

2 cases:

1. Dr. TE Clemente: PhD->company->UNL
facility->faculty UNL
2. Dr. SP Moose: PhD->company->UCSD
post-doc->faculty U of ILL



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Some general advice:

Try to operate at the next level:

As a BS student, try acting like a graduate student

As a graduate student, try acting like a post-doc

As a post-doc, try acting like a junior faculty

As a junior faculty, try acting like a senior faculty

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My story & things I learned along the way:

Slow start – 5-year steps

1980: Undergrad – 2 years; college
(Emory at Oxford)

1983: Undergrad – 5 years; UGA
(student, 2y tech)

1987: PhD – 5 years; NCSU, fairly typical

1992: Post-Doc – 5 years; UCB & UCSF (double)

1997: Joined FSU faculty



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things I learned along the way, ...

Things do not always go according to plan.
Be **resourceful**, **persistent**, & **positive**.

The post-doc I planned vs. the one I did

(my postdoc on **actin-binding proteins** that
never happened !)

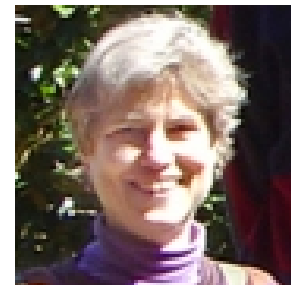
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My story & things I learned along the way:

What are people looking for when they make a faculty hire?

My PhD advisor Dr. RS Boston said:

"They are looking for good colleagues."



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More general advice:

Learn to develop your CV, image, and message.

- Frequently update and revise your **resume**
- Choose some professional venues and maintain a nice professional look ([ResearchGate](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), etc, keep it “formal”)
- Develop a good **reputation** – through research, meetings, gatherings, seminars, etc.
- **Highlight your accomplishments** or find a group that will highlight each others accomplishments

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Changing relationships –
before, during, and after postdoc

What will you need for academic progression?

- Evidence of productivity
- Evidence of **independence**

Discuss your work relative to your advisors early (before job hunting) and often (during job hunting, interview, offer stages, etc)

Comments & Questions?

General or specific questions from FSU post-docs or graduate students planning to do post-docs?