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 -> UC SD 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 advisor's 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?