Looking Back on What I Have Learned during My Time at Louisiana Tech

COES Graduate Seminar
May 2012
“What They Didn’t Teach You in Graduate School”
Paul Gray and David E. Drew
The Basics

• Think of who you know in the field: look at their careers for guidance on what you need to do to become successful
• Every paper can be published somewhere: publish your dissertation or thesis
• Make sure you have a mentor early in your career: find multiple mentors, some at your job, some elsewhere, who believe in you, support you, can give you sound advice
• Specialize: get known for something, develop expertise, take advantage of opportunities, planned and unplanned, to enhance your skill set
Advice from Tech Grad Students

• **Krystal Corbett**, Ph.D. Engineering Education

• **Joan Rasmussen**, M.S., Mathematics
Other Grad Students

Narate Taerat, Ph.D., CAM

The work of graduate students usually focus on theoretical contents of research. However, implementation (of the work) is also very important to make students competitive. Good theoretical contents may show that students are educational, which surely helps students in academic career. Implementation (e.g. programs that come from students' research) shows practical skills of the students.
Other Grad Students

Narate Taerat, Ph.D., CAM
Specifically for my own story, I got a post-doctorate position in computer science at a company in Austin--working with Sandia National Laboratories--because I showed them that I am capable in both theoretical analysis and implementation by collaborating in writing papers with them and implementing a program module in their project. People in industries and research labs will love skillful labors that have good theoretical backgrounds or good researchers that have good skills in implementation.
Other Graduate Students

Nichamon Naksinehaboon, Ph.D., CAM

1. Make connections both in campus and out of campus (with fellow grad/undergrad students, professors, people in the same/related fields). Participating in professional organizations (ACM, student councils, etc) would help students to broaden their connections and their skills. Students should know that going to conferences is very important because they can get to know people and learn some things new.

2. Internship is very important in my opinion. Students can practice their resume writing or even interviewing when they are finding an internship. Having an internship will help them understand the nature of their career path and it would help them make a decision when they are about to graduate. They might find an internship position online or ask their advisor or other professors.

3. Take their research/studies seriously. Don't just be at Tech only because of wanting a degree. I know that there are not many classes for grad students to take (especially for PhD students). They might want to consider taking classes from different departments/colleges. For example, taking stat classes offered from College of Business or from Quantitative Analysis.
Other Graduate Students

Nichamon Naksinehaboont, Ph.D., CAM

In term of research, they should know how to do good research. Frankly, they might not be able to find an answer from their advisors, but they should be able to ask/talk with other professors. They might consider to invite them to be their committee members. I know that many grad students don't discuss their research with their committee until they want to graduate. From my experiences, my committee has helped me getting through many obstacles in my research. Also, on my defense day most of my committee have known what I have done so far for my dissertation, and that eased me to get through their questions.

Above all, if they do good research, it will reflect in their work/publications. It might help them to get a job. Actually, I just met one of my friend who was at Tech and transferred to Cornell. He got a job right after he presented his work at a big conference in his field.
Questions?

http://www.latech.edu/coes/owise_seminar.shtml