

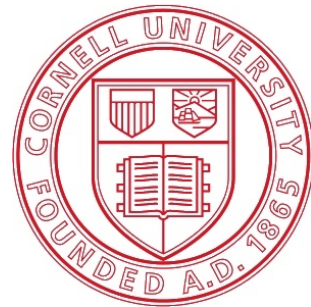
Things I've learned getting an
assistant professor gig
and doing it for a less than a year

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My Story

- Born in Los Angeles
 - Did very little to be proud of.
- Did my undergraduate degree (Math/CS) and MEng at Cornell, got exposed to databases
- Did my Phd at Washington with Dan Suciu
 - Got Married
- This year, started as an assistant professor at Wisconsin
 - Found out what cheese curds are.



Getting the Job

Choosing the Job

Doing the Job

Getting the Job

- Job market is **always** tough
 - Is this year worse than last year? Probably!
 - Lots of stress.
- Apply everywhere you are interested.
- Interviews are fun: talk to smart people about their work.
- Interviewing tips:
 - *You are interviewing them as much as they are interviewing you.*
 - *The talk matters.*
 - *Please send thank you notes.*

Choosing the Job

My two most important questions:

- (1) Are these people that I want to be around and will they help me get better?
- (2) Will my wife be happy if I move there?

- (1) is the most important, but fortunately easiest.
 - DB people are uniformly nice, very smart, and hard working. It's great!
 - As a junior person, everyone knows more than you do – and there is a lot to learn.
- (2) Well.... not much you can do here.
 - My wife is the best. So, it will probably be more difficult for you.

Not on my list: salary, best startup package, in a particular city, etc.

Doing the Job

- My first technique: *“Drive the job like you stole it.”*
 - It’s only fun if you are doing what you want.
 - This doesn’t mean you do what you want all the time...
- Ask senior people for advice and listen
- Listen to your students.
- Identify your weaknesses and try to fix them
 - I work hard, because I’m lazy.
 - Also, impatient, easily distracted, don’t know enough... there are lots of things to fix.

Summary

- It's all about the people.
- Looking for a job is the best experience you'd like to never do again.
- Doing the job is a lot of fun.