

## Group 2 Break-Out Discussions

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# Outline

( *Life in the Fast Lane* )

- *The Graduate School*
- *The Internship*
- *The Interview*
- *The Job*
- *The Second Thoughts*

## *Graduate School*

- Involvement in other departments
- Activity in diverse projects
- Attendance in workshops/conferences
- Mentoring initiatives
- Networking

## *The Internship*

- Ask around for opportunities
- Find out about the project (publishing, coding, mentoring)
- Be prepared to learn!
- Be a team player, enthusiastic and proactive
- Communicate, communicate
- Explore company's philosophy, culture, work environment
- Be prepared to be invited back!
- Network some more!

## *The Interview*

- Hone your people and communication skills
- Tailor your **resume** to a job
  - Know the buzz-words
  - Be consistent- claims must be backed by experience
  - Sound flexible and willing to explore new avenues
  - List your publications, and describe your research

## *The Interview*

- Ask the interviewers (among other things) about
  - the other women in the company-  
what types of positions, promotions, management responsibilities
  - the mentoring possibilities within the company
  - the internship program, its conversion rates
  - the promotion criteria
  - the possibilities of a research track position
  - the policies on publication
  - the sources of funding- grants or direct funding
  - the flexibility in the workplace - telecommuting, time off, etc.

- Ask about retention rates (politely)
- Ask people you know about the company
- Be empowered- **you** can direct the interview!
- Ask your potential colleagues about the manager's style

## *The Job*

- Make friends, network, and mentor others!
- Create internship opportunities for others
- Challenge yourself!
- Demonstrate taste in problem selection
- Exchange information about your research with others
- Listen to the needs of the problem-seeker
- Attend conferences- companies will pay you too!
- Be prepared to reassess your career goals

## *The Second Thought*

- Keep in touch with people
- Maintain your publication record
- Teach if you can!

## *Some Resources*

- “Industrial Mathematics: A course in solving real-world problems”  
(Friedman and Littman)
- Workshops for graduate students:
  - IMA Math Modeling in Industry
  - IMA Industry-initiated Workshops
  - NCSU Industrial Mathematics Modeling Workshop
  - Pacific Rim Institute Industrial Problem Solving Workshops
  - U. of Delaware MPI Workshop
  - AWM workshops and conferences