How to think about your career and other stuff

Rob, Jaco, Robin, and others..
Why are we here

• We write a lot of letters for people.
  – There are times when we believe that the individual is much better than the letter we can write
  – We want to avoid that type of situation in the future

• We get the question “which path should I take”....
  – We want to help you answer that!
  – It’s a very personal question...
As Leaders…

- Our job is in part to help others become the best version of themselves
- Coaching is an important part of our responsibility
- We have some perspective on the field
  - Always consult with many people
The goal of this talk

• To open a communication line with you on these issues
• To get you to think
• To give you the tools to make informed decisions about you
• We would also like to answer questions/discuss the issues of the day
  – LHC issues, ILC issues, budget, Fermilab, .... Whatever is on your mind.
What this talk is not...

• A recipe book
  – There is no single path to a successful career in HEP
  – Each person has to “find their own way” based on their strengths, interests, and desire
  – There is no right answer
What to think about

• What do you enjoy about physics?
• What kind of career do you want – faculty, researcher, faculty with emphasis on teaching, national lab, industry
• What are you good at?
• Where are you weak and want to improve?
• Where are you weak and don’t want to improve
A few “categories” that matter

- Technical prowess
- Physics acumen and the ability to perform physics analysis
  - Physics analyses: ability to work independently and get it done!
  - Physics choices-- tackling interesting or important problems, whether technical problems that the collaboration needs solved or physics problems that the community is interested in
  - Creativity in physics: coming up with new and interesting ideas.
- Leadership ability
- Commitment
- Personality
- Breadth and depth of knowledge
A couple of notes

• Take on jobs, assignments, responsibilities that you will enjoy or that interest you
  – No one does particle physics for the glamour or high salary
  – We do it because we enjoy it – so make sure you keep it fun
  – If you like it – you will naturally excel
Note #2, 3, 4

• Volunteer to do things
  – Gets you visibility
  – Stretches your abilities outside your “comfort zone”
  – Quickly become invaluable…

• Do something unique
  – Something that “defines” you in the eyes of others

• Get Senior people engaged in you in advance of the job market
  – Ask them for advice
Personal Opinion

• Don’t focus solely on “getting the job” as you go through your career.
  – It puts too much pressure on you
  – You forget rule #1 of enjoying what you are doing...
Common Misconceptions

• If I only work hard – I will succeed
• To get a job next year, I have to work on Higgs Analysis
• Convenership = job
• I have to move to the LHC now

– Any others you may have?
What Jaco and I would like to know....

• What are you worried about (besides the Yankees getting Clemens)
• Where would you like us to focus some of our efforts to help you?
• You guys are the life blood of this experiment – what can we do to keep you informed and feel more a part of this collaboration?
Score Card from this year

• 22 faculty openings
• 13 interviewed collider candidates
  – Remainder were particle astro/neutrino
• 9 offers went to CDF people
• 7 CDF people got jobs this year, 5 for the above jobs, and 2 fermilab associate scientist positions