Success Strategies

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Potential Career Paths

- B.S
- M.S
- Ph.D.
  - Post Doc
  - Teach
  - Industry
  - Government

- B.S
  - Government
  - Post Doc
  - Teach
  - Industry
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Strategy: Build a Stable Foundation

- Choose work environment carefully
- Build and maintain support structures
- Try to limit number of restarts
- Remember NNUTS=> Nothing New Under the Sun
  ✓ Failure modes tend to be institutionalized
  ✓ Learn from your predecessors.
- Avoid “One-at-a-time” environments
Warning Signs of a Poor Match

- Is it a token position?
  - Job description maps into your weakness rather than strength.
  - Funds disappear shortly after being hired.

- Setup for failure.

- Wild Goose Chases:
  - Little or no access to resources.
  - Tasks don’t tie into mainline organizational efforts.

- No relationship between work quality and rewards.

- Receive little visibility in organization relative to co-workers.

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Typical Sources of Visibility

- Immediate boss or bosses
- Mentor with upward leading tendrils
- Cliques
Strategy: Achieve Visibility

- External activities
  - Professional organizations
  - Publications
  - Acquire control over funding
- Internal activities
  - Visibility with upper management
    - Understand reward metrics
    - Lay a paper trail
- Try to avoid insecure bosses
Parting Thoughts

- “If we stand tall, it is because we stand on the backs of those who came before us.” Yoruba Proverb
  - Don’t forget the ones who paved the way for you.
  - Listen and learn from their experiences.
- Your job is to do better than us.

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SPACE TALES

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Six Phases of a Research Project

I. Enthusiasm
II. Disillusionment
III. Perseverance
IV. Panic
V. Punishment of the Innocent
VI. Praise and Honors for the Non-Participants

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Enthusiasm (Motivation)
Disillusionment (Performance Goals)
Disillusionment (Performance Goals)
Perseverance
Panic

THE TOWER.

MURPHY'S LAW

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Punishment of the Innocent
Praise and Honors for the Non-Participants

Moral: ??

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