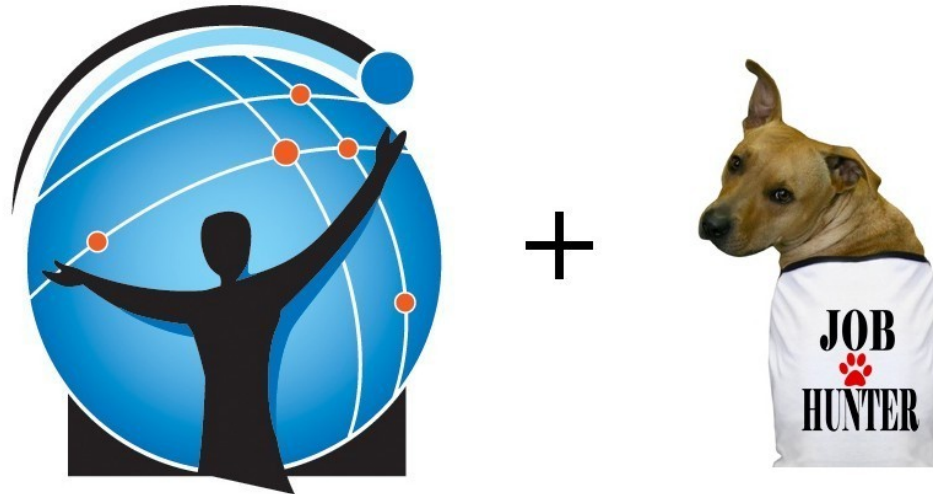


# How to Get a Job

January 14, 2010



# Job Hunters Web Site



<http://cse-gsa.ucsd.edu/csewiki/JobHunters2010>

# Upcoming Deadlines

- **Jan. 15**: CMU, EPFL, Rice, UCLA, Wisconsin
- Others
  - Toronto (**Jan. 17**)
  - Santa Clara (**Jan. 20**)
  - WUSTL (**Jan. 31**)
  - Washington (**Feb. 1**)

# Audience

- Graduating PhDs, Postdocs
- Students not graduating but thinking about jobs



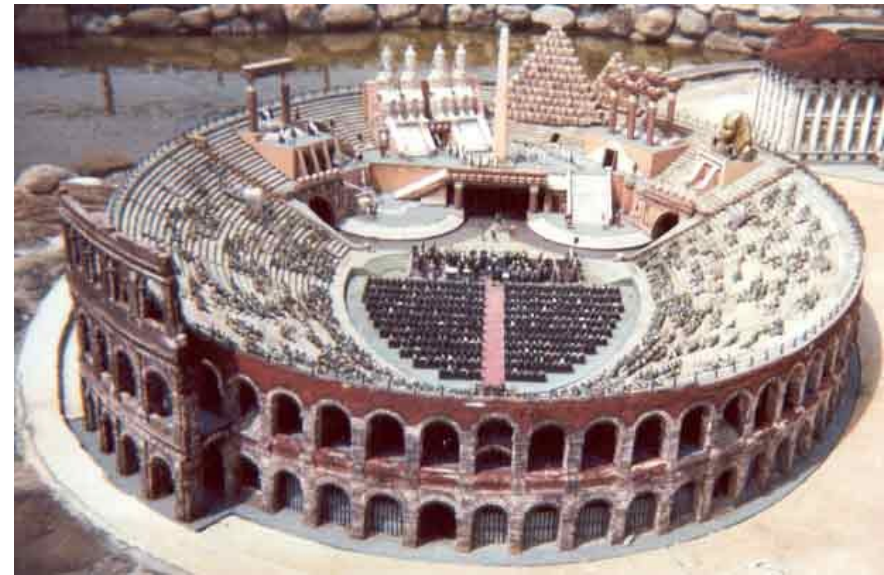
# Our Focus

- Academia
  - Research
  - Teaching
- Industrial Research Labs
- Focus on **getting the job** (less focus on pros/cons of the above)



# Providing a Forum

- Learn practical tips
- Meet other applicants
- Get informed





# Hot Topics Session

- For each area in computer science...
  - What's hot?
  - What institutions are well-known?
  - What is UCSD known for?



# Hot Topics planning

- When: January 27 at 3 – 6 pm  
(reschedule for Feb. 9?)
- Speakers: **need volunteers**
  - Embedded
  - OS
  - PL
  - Software Engineering/HCI
  - VLSI





# Faculty Panel

- Stefan Savage
- Sanjoy Dasgupta

# Phases of Job Hunting

- Pre-application
- Application (Geoff, Sorin)
- Interview ← today's focus
- Post-interview



# Interview Phase



# Interview Phase

- Scheduling
  - Be excited. Desirable interviews come later. Might not have too much flexibility. (Schedule talk on first day!)
- The **Job Talk**
  - Put in “insane” amount of effort (video tape, practice Q&A). Be mindful of your audience (how broad is it?). Project enthusiasm. Good motivation. You should choose the “summary sentence.” Consult your advisers.
- One-on-one interviews
  - Extremes: “dead fish” and “yappers.” Small talk outside your area, express interest in their field (bonus: connect to your field). Time: 2/3 your work, 1/3 their work. Or more meta questions. Avoid dead air.
- Meeting with students (if applicable)
  - Opportunity to learn more about the culture

# Typical Academic Schedule

- Correspond w/ your host (ideally, advocate)
- Meetings w/ chairs, deans, administrators: plan for the dept./school? Timely questions – how is weathering the current crisis?
- Individual meetings 30–45 min. each (watch the time... politely)
- Lunch, dinner: YOU'RE STILL UNDER THE GUN. Minimize alcohol. Don't say negative things about people. Tactfully broach hobbies and interests.
- Student meeting
- Research your one-on-one meetings

# Typical Lab Schedule

- Differs from academic in following ways...
- Meeting with specific groups (they care about your capacity to **collaborate**)
- May have coding questions



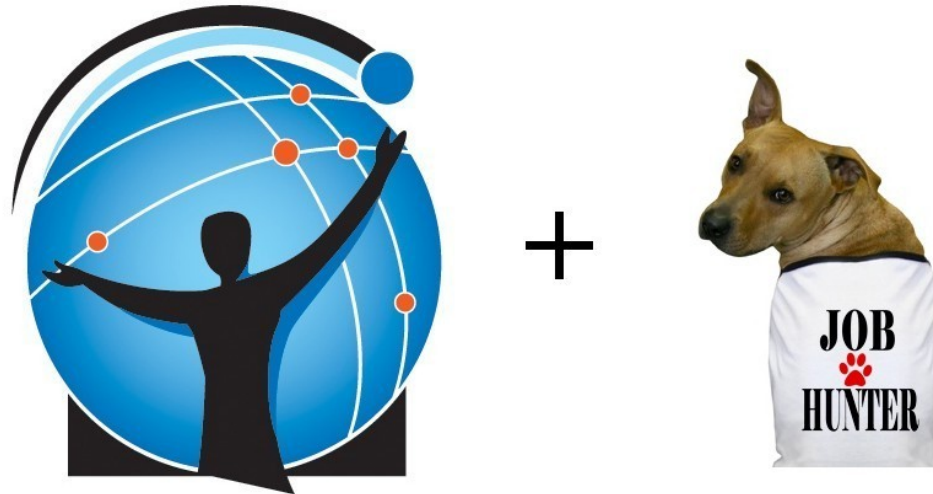
# Key questions to ask (or not to ask)

- (In Labs) How do projects get put together, etc?
- (In Academia) Asking students how much collaboration, etc.
- Sometimes need to phrase your **direct** questions *indirectly*.
- Avoid questions about family.

# Misc

- Attire: Dress nicely + comfortably. Be aware of regional/cultural differences. Try not to come across “disrespectful.”
- Energy: push yourself really hard. (rest between interview trips is important.) simultaneous research + interviewing is tough, not expected.
- Following-up: not expected. *natural* follow-up of particular conversations could be good. Boiler-plate follow-up not helpful.

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