DEVELOPING THE RESEARCHERS-RESEARCH STUDENT NEXUS

Dr. Marjorie S. Zatz
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The starting point

- What are the key elements of the researcher-research student relationship?
  - Preparing students to excel as independent scholars
  - Working with them on joint research endeavors and publications – mutually beneficial
  - Helping them learn to balance multiple types of professional responsibilities to maintain productivity
  - Mentoring them into professional norms and expectations so they will be good colleagues
  - Helping them to land a good job
Preparing students to excel as independent scholars and researchers

- What are the markers of success in your field? Does your student know what these markers are?
  - Which journals?
  - Expected number of publications/year?
  - What level of grant funding is expected?
  - If book publishing, which publishers count?

- What theories and methodologies do they need to know?

- Guiding them as they learn to write for publications and grants
  - Collaborating on writing
  - Showing them how you review manuscripts, proposals
Working with your student on joint research endeavors

- Teaching them how to approach a research project, from start to finish
  - From research questions to final write up
  - Do the theory and methods mesh properly (same underlying assumptions?)
- Absorbing professional values –
  - E.g., being responsible, turning in their share of the work on time
- Learning how to analyze data
  - I do some analysis together, then they do more, then we review, then they do more…
- What are you looking for in a literature review?
- The write-up
Figuring out the balancing act

- Data collection and analysis
- Writing up results for publication
- Quality teaching
- University, professional, community service
- Family and friends—having a life
Professional norms and expectations

- Being a good colleague within your university
  - Attend most meetings, seminars, workshops
  - Read and comment on colleagues’ work if asked
  - Being friendly
  - Doing your share of the work
  - Choose your battles carefully
  - Don’t send emails without rereading them—including the “to” and “cc” lines!

- Being a good colleague within your disciplinary/professional circles
  - Reviewing manuscripts in a timely fashion
  - Organizing conference sessions, serving as discussant
  - Serving on professional association committees

- How to know which and how much of the above to do?
After graduation – a good job and continued research success

- The curriculum vitae
- Writing a good application letter
- Asking for references (letting the student know what the references will want to see, and when)
- The application process
Points of stress and strain, and strategies for success along the way

- Encouraging students to have multiple mentors
- Recognizing and reducing isolation
  - Recruiting and building cohorts
  - Networking and writing groups
- Recognizing and reinforcing the value of diverse perspectives
- Recognizing community, religious, family, and other cultural demands and commitments as valid
- Providing a safe environment for students to try, fail, and try again
Time management strategies

- Time management as an ongoing challenge
  - Stop sharpening your pencils
- Prioritize and rebalance your priorities daily, weekly
- Lists are your friend
- Make time for you-
  - To relax, exercise
- Use train/tram time time efficiently
In sum: useful tools

- Developing roadmaps with clearly defined short and long term objectives
- Setting timelines—and reviewing and revising them
- Making your expectations clear
- Providing lots of feedback
- Checking in with your students to make sure the research and learning environment is optimal
- Providing networking and mentoring opportunities inside and outside your university
Thank you!

- Comments?
- Questions?