Graduate Skills Seminars 2010-2011 Grad Student Panel

Panelists: Martin de Lasa, DGP <u>mdelasa@dgp.toronto.edu</u> Inmar Givoni, Machine Learning Group <u>inmar@psi.utoronto.ca</u> Oktie Hassanzadeh, Database Group <u>oktie@cs.toronto.edu</u> Brendan Lucier, Theory <u>blucier@cs.toronto.edu</u> Danny Tarlow, Machine Learning Group <u>dtarlow@cs.toronto.edu</u>

- Introduction
- What was your motivation to come to grad school? What is the motivation to stay?
 - If you have an exceptional offer today, would you stay?
 - What is your favorite part of grad school?

15 minutes: 3 minutes each panelist +5 minutes discussion

- What are some problems that you have struggled with during grad school?
 - How have you handled them?
 - Would you do anything differently today?
- Have you ever thought of changing direction?
 Change supervisor, topic, school, or quit entirely?
- If you had a chance to go back and change one thing in your life as a graduate student, what would that be?

10 minutes panelists + 5 minutes open discussion

- Do you have a success strategy?
 - If so, what are the things you think a graduate student should keep an eye on?
 - What do you think/How do you feel about your own research? What about your research area in general?
 - How did you choose the topic?

10 minutes panelists + 5 minutes open discussion

- How did you manage your time as a graduate student? (research, TAship, courses, ...)
 - How about leisure, exercise, … how did you spend time on these?
 - How did/do you interact with other people in grad school, conferences, …?

10 minutes panelists + 5 minutes open discussion

- Final thoughts
 - Best piece of advice you can offer you fellow graduate students!

Up to 2 minutes each panelist