

# **BEING A SUCCESSFUL ADVISOR: FOUR EASY STEPS**

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# ABOUT ME

- **2011 - now** Assistant Professor (Waterloo Engineering)
- **2006 - 2011** Member of Research Staff (AT&T Labs)
- **2001 - 2006** Grad student (Waterloo CS)

# STEP 1

- **Make sure you have mentors**
- **... and be nice to them**

# I LEARNED FROM THE BEST!



# STEP 2

- **The difference between grad student supervision and marriage is that you can divorce your spouse**
- **Corollary 1: One strong student > Two average students**
- **Corollary 2: Zero students > One weak student**

# CHOOSING STUDENTS

- **Intellectual ability/personality/work ethic/enthusiasm**
- **What can you bring to the table that other students can't?**
  - What can I bring to the table that other advisors can't?
  - What are my weaknesses?

# STEP 3

- **Your success = Your students' success**
  - Research grant proposals:
    - 1/3 quality of PI
    - 1/3 quality of proposal
    - 1/3 training of HQP
  - You will influence your students' careers and lives
- **(In my opinion) one of the biggest differences between academia and industry**

# STEP 4

- Don't forget teaching

**THANK YOU!**