

Thoughts on
the mentee-mentor
relationship

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May 22, 2012

A special case

- The m-m relationship is but a special case of the professional relationship.
- Many relationships have a bit of mentee and mentor in them.
- Formal m-m relationships can be artificial.
- View m-m as a way of life.

Contribute to building an m-m community

The goal is to build a community
where mentorship is a natural, daily
activity.

People thrive in such environments.

Show an interest in being mentored

- If you are really interested!
- Listen, ask insightful questions.
- Acknowledge good advise - being insincere backfires.
- Reward your mentors.

Why academia?

- ...
- Collaborate with dedicated and smart people with the right values.
- ...

Treat everybody as an
equally valuable
person.

- Even if one has more papers than the other...
- Getting a paper accepted at the best conference does not make one a better person, even if it helps in terms of confidence.
- There is no need for arrogance.

A senior member of my
community once said:
“The currency we deal in is
reputation”
(or something to that
effect).

- It took me too long to really appreciate the importance of this, but I think it effectively conveys something important.