POD PLANNING 2015

0 (8/25): Introductions

* where we are, how often we're meeting, who I am, what we're going to do
* distribute introductions on how to connect to lab machines
* emphasize: Google is your friend
* GO TO YOUR OFFICE HOURS! (yes, starting now!)
* nearby events:
  + 9/2: a cappella info session :D
  + 9/21: career fair
  + eat your \*
  + Turing events: blazer tag?

1 (9/1): Lab Week

* Morgan will send out more info

1.5 (TBD): Resumes and the Career Fair

* is an internship right for you?
* how to build a resume
  + how to create an online presence
  + personal projects
  + what looks good on a resume? what doesn't? what's important? what isn't?
  + workshops?
    - 9/9: resumania
* the career fair: when? where? why?
  + building a list of companies
    - popcorn companies people are interested in working for
      * Google, Microsoft, Apple, Facebook, Dropbox, Bloomberg, Square, Twitter, Indeed, Qualcomm/Intel
    - what are company tiers?
      * A: Google, Microsoft, Apple, Facebook, Dropbox (ish)
      * B: Bloomberg, Twitter, Square
      * C: Square, Indeed, Intel/Qualcomm
      * D: Rackspace, NI, etc.
  + "we don't hire freshmen"
  + emphasizing Turing Scholar status

// TODO: set up resume workshops -quick one-on-ones (10-15 mins) to discuss resume

2 (9/8): Free Week

* ask Doug to go bowling

3 (9/15): College Things to Do (Campus Resources)

* what can you get involved with?
* how to effectively manage your spare time
* balancing CS and the rest of UT
* clubs, sports, volunteer groups, spirit groups, Greek life, etc.
* is it worth your time? how much?
* how do you say no to commitments?
* leadership positions aren't always worth it

4 (9/22): Career Fair Debrief and Interviews

* first: congratulations! you're 5 weeks into the semester (one third of the way!)
* how was the career fair? share stories for 10-15 minutes
* moving on: interviews
* what's a technical interview? how do they work?
* what's a phone screen? what's an onsite?
* what if a company wants to fly you out?
* how do you prepare for an interview? what resources are available to you?
* handling rejection
* juggling offers: what to consider?
* how high can your standards be?

5 (9/29): Midterms!

* welcome to your first real academic experience!
* some of you might have three or four exams a semester and already know how this works
* for others, you might have three or four tests this week
* managing your time, managing your expectations, and studying
* what classes most desperately need your attention?
* what classes can you afford to skimp on studying for?
* when should you study? what about group studying?

6 (10/7): Research and You (Professor Week)

// TODO: schedule a professor to come and talk

* you've already started taking classes with Dr. Lin and Dr. Dillig for six weeks; both are great researchers
* do you want to do research? do you want to graduate with a Turing degree?
* there are a billion areas and specialties in computer science; how do you choose?
* how to approach professors
* the three outcomes: "no" (rare), "take my class" (common), "sure, read these papers" (common)
* what if you don't like what you're doing? what if you want to switch advisors?
* the Turing thesis

7 (10/14): Halfway Point Debrief or Talk

// TODO: bring games, food

* how is the pod working out for you so far?
* what do you like, not like, want to see more of, want to see less of?
* would you be interested in meeting weekly in the spring on a more informal basis?
* let's play games and eat food!

8 (10/21): Picking Classes and Advising (Registration I)

* what kind of classes should you be taking?
* structure of the degree: a handful of required classes (314, 311, 429, 439, 331, and a handful of others)
* know your degree plan!
* have a four-year plan, meet with Mei THIS WEEK to go over the plan
* how to use advising: make friends with your advisor!
* know the consequences of Q-drops, OTEs, late add/drop, etc.
* have a plan to graduate on track
* you should know by now if you want to double major
  + adding a second major now is easy
  + adding it later can extend your stay here

9 (10/27): How to Register, and Next Semester's Classes (Registration II)

* first: you're 10 weeks into the semester! (2/3 of the way!) how's everything going so far?
* CS: 429H, 178H (brief explanation of each)
* M: probably 427J, 340L(-CS)/341, or 408D if you haven't taken it already
* others: consider taking probability, definitely have a UGS!
* consider adding a VAPA/SBS to ease the process later on

10 (11/3): Studying Abroad

// TODO: get Jiwon or someone to come talk about studying abroad

* what's studying abroad like?
* what's the upside/downside?
* how to get started?
* when should you go abroad? what classes should you be taking?

11 (11/10): ???

12 (11/17): Finals, Cramming, and You

* finals start in three weeks
* next week is pre-Thanksgiving stuff
* week after is final pod meeting :'(, finals start the week after that on Wednesday
* know which classes have finals, and know when they are
* how should you study? what should you study?
* meet with your professors/TAs/proctors if you need addt'l assistance
* same theory as midterms

13 (11/24): Pre-Thanksgiving Activities

// TODO: find something to do here

14 (12/1): Debrief

* how did this semester go for you?
* do you want to meet next semester? weekly? bi-weekly (once every two weeks)? etc.
* what did you like, what did you not like?
* the far, far future: review everything covered so far
  + you might have an internship this summer, or you might be doing research, or taking classes
  + you might want to go into academia, into a startup, or to a more established company
  + know your strengths and weaknesses, etc.
* thank you! this has been great, tip your waitresses, etc.