THE NEURAL NETWORK

LEARNING ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY



BOBBY SCHABEL

Given the many titles and roles Bobby Schnabel has held in the Computer Science department, he is an extremely difficult man to introduce. Although he self-identifies as "Chief Maverick and Rabble Rouser", Bobby is also the founding director of the ATLAS Institute, an external chair for the CS department, the cofounder of the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT), the College of Engineering and Applied Science Faculty Director for Entrepreneurship, and the Campus Thought-Leader on Computing. Do you see Bobby around

campus and want to get to know him better? He is extremely kind, eager to meet new people, and wonderful to talk to—just reach out and say hi!

You've had a lot of different roles, what did you learn from each? Bobby says that he's learned two main lessons from his many different experiences. First of all, he's learned the value of working with a lot of people with a vision, particularly in academia. Furthermore, he's learned the value of listening to and learning from people who don't share that vision. Bobby has also learned the importance of working with external supporters of an idea: those who aren't directly involved in the vision or team, but who are involved through fundraising and spreading ideas. Bobby says that at the beginning of his career he never would have expected to have loved fundraising as much as he does. "Fundraising is about getting to hang out with interesting people who you otherwise wouldn't get to hang out with!" He has found unexpected joy in helping people support a cause they believe in, and how rewarding the resulting friendships have been. What are three improbable facts about you? Bobby was the student manager of Dartmouth Football's famous 1970 season. He's also the first US born person in his immediate family, with all of his other family members being born in either Vienna or Germany. Bobby also loves to cook and to create through cooking. When I asked about the most recent dish he created, he paused to wonder aloud, "what did we call it?" before happily describing a delicious concoction he and his wife call Egg Delight.

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