Hello Dr Dixon!

    Here is the updated cv! I actually really need to touch base with my academic advisor because I think I’m supposed to be an assistant prof now that I have my PhD (was in the process of getting it when I signed all the paper work).

    I hope things are going well for you! And thank you for the note on rainbow R. It made me laugh because right as I was getting that I was reading a paper I was considering for my class to read that was dealing with rainbows. The paper is a small research paper on best color schemes for scalar colorings in R (eg heat maps, colorings for the points on a scatterplot, etc..). Biggest take away is that the viridis color scheme and ggplot2’s default blue are probably the best generally. The blues are  hard to interpret in darker/lower shades and once you see that you won’t ever unsee it.

    First couple months have definitely been a whirlwind. I feel like I’m hitting something like my stride but we will see. I’ve started to build a lot of my own notes so that it’s easier for me to match the words in the presentation and what I’m saying. Both good and bad come from that as you can imagine. The logical flow of the topics matters to me but it does cause more work and opportunities for mistakes. That being said I think it’s paying off and I haven't said anything too egregious (or at least corrected it afterwards).

    My informal mid semester reviews went well. Due to timing the review of one class was given immediately after their first midterm exam but it didn’t seem to affect the scores much. One student clearly disliked me and one student I think thought it was on a five point scale instead of a ten point scale. That survey had a written/free response section which was lovely but the student gave me “meh” and lower on everything (and in the same general pattern as other surveys). I’ll hand them over to the department search committee (everyone but me and Nathan Friedrichsen) and let them do with it what they will.

 Turns out I enjoy teaching R which is lovely at Grinnell but may be painful moving back towards JMP lol. There are a few things like that here that I will definitely miss. I don’t know if I’m pushing my students too much but, as I alluded to earlier, I have implemented a required reading section for my class that will end up with five papers in total with a quiz for each. I joke with them that they signed up for a math-y class and some how have ended up being required to read.

   Job-wise I think I stand an okay chance. My research output is a large negative (I have papers but as co-author only) but I do have a few niche things I’m working on (Order-of-Addition experiments in particular) that have potential and I have the idea to go back and tweak Katherine Goode’s ggResidPanel to allow for coloring/shapes which could be something undergrads could help on. I’d need to touch base with her though down the line; she was at Sandra NL last time I saw her. I gave a talk at the library to other profs that, while extremely small, still seemed well received. OoA Experiments can be explained pretty easily with cooking and that should always be leveraged when describing them lol).

      I didn’t realize I was suppose to invite the other profs into my classroom to observe me teach. I’ve talked with the chair and he’ll be coming to one or two and I’ll probably ask around the department for others as well.

      As a positive note  I made a pitch to the department on the use of accessibility in graphics that was really well received. Apparently (the coding help lab) has never seen this many requests for help with making graphics accessible. My arguments were that so long as we are teaching them how to graph data we might as well put them in best form now including shapes/linetypes included with color and that there is little work on our end outside of explaining why. Most of us teach coding via pattern recognition so as long as our code has colorblind friendly components the students will naturally have them as well and grow use to them. I made a fun[slide deck](https://vinnys-classes.github.io/lectures/accessible_graphics-3.pdf) on my website dealing with the topic. And actually, here is my [website](https://vinnys-classes.github.io/); its a cultural thing in our department to run your own website.

   On the social front I’ve made friends and am finding my place. I’m happy with Grinnell (the city) as it reminds me of my hometown up to and including the tweaker walking out of Caseys the first time I got gas….just like home. At some point I think I’d like to live in a large city with a gay neighborhood (eg Chicago) but that may be way down the line. And if this works out it might be something doable in the summers occasionally.

   Besides the fact most (all?) of my energy going towards teaching I’m doing well. I need more applications out but I don’t feel anxious or scared like I was last year. The fact I got the first one in means I can do it and it erases the dread. Also, if Grinnell is only a short term stop that is fine as I did learn a lot in teaching here already and how to improve moving forward.

   I don’t know but I hope things are going well! Let me know how things are going with you and your family, the consulting group, the department, etc…. or anything else on your mind if you feel like it. Thank you!