

Being an Excellent Colleague (with Paddy Blanchette)

1 Philosophy Mythbusters

1. **THE UNDERGRAD MYTH:** Graduate school is an extension of your undergraduate major, with more time and harder philosophy.
2. **THE GENIUS MYTH:** Some people are just philosophical geniuses. They do not need to work with others to learn philosophy—they just naturally have brilliant ideas. It is OK to be a jerk if you are such a genius. The philosophical genius trait surprisingly tends to be correlated with race and gender.
3. **THE LONE RANGER MYTH:** The way to learn to do philosophy is to take a lot of classes and supplement it with solitary study of articles on the syllabi.
4. **THE HUNGER GAMES MYTH:** Graduate school is a competition and the faculty are keeping score as you go along. Points are zero-sum; you are not succeeding unless someone else is doing worse. There is a quota for jobs at the end, and only the top-ranked performers in the competition will be able to have a job.
5. **THE MYTH OF COMMITMENT:** You should be certain of something before you suggest it. It is not acceptable to say you were wrong about an earlier claim or to change your mind. You should vigorously defend any point you make, regardless of how confident you are in the point.
6. **THE ENDLESS TOIL MYTH:** Work is supposed to be tedious and hard, not fun or fulfilling.
7. **THE MYTH OF PAST RETURNS:** You should work on whatever project or idea is currently popular, regardless of whether you actually like the topic.

2 Stories about Great Colleagues You've Had

3 General Goals for Collegial Life at ND and in the Profession

(We will talk about how to be excellent at seminar-ing next week.)

4 Practical Tips

4.1 Give Credit Where it is Due

1. Making a note of sources of ideas, and attributing them.
2. Tips for creating a culture that celebrates wins for individuals and groups.

4.2 What to Call People (and How to Tell)

1. Prof van Orman Quine? Van? W.V.O? Will-meister?

4.3 Emailing 101

1. Dear So-and-so (if I may)... and other greetings
2. Upset about something? Set up an in-person meeting... don't email it.
3. Say thank you... a lot... to everyone... and mean it.
4. Professional emails don't look like text messages.

4.4 Asking Faculty to Do Things

1. Its OK to ask for help. And lots of people want to help you!
2. Give lots of time and advance warning.
3. Send polite reminders.
4. Ask faculty how they want to work with you.
5. Say thank you.

4.5 Taking Feedback

1. What grades mean (and don't) now.
2. Valuing feedback.
3. Every comment is useful for something... even the bad ones.
4. Sticking with projects you believe in. Sometimes the reception is No, and sometimes it is just Not Now.
5. Who should be giving you feedback and what should it look like?

4.6 Giving Feedback

1. It's OK to not like things, but don't be a \$#& about it...
2. Getting inside another person's project
3. Time-management and reading others' work

4.7 Other Ideas?

