Final Thoughts

CS398T: Supervised Teaching in Computer Science
November 5, 2014
Teaching Matters

• Teaching matters to you
  – Clarify and articulate thoughts
  – Strengthen knowledge
  – Jobs! You may need a teaching statement
• Teaching matters to the students
  – They are trying to learn!
  – Answer questions promptly and carefully
  – Grade promptly and carefully
• Your attitude affects the tenor of the class
Research Matters

• Research is integral to your degree (duh)
• Think of your PhD as a long-term science fair project
  – Review literature
  – Identify a problem
  – Develop a hypothesis regarding the cause/solution
  – Test your hypothesis
  – Analyze the results
    • Do they support your hypothesis? Did you even test the right things? If the answer to either is no, go back!
  – Conclude
Coursework Matters

• No kidding, so...
Time Management

• There is no solution to the time management problem, only heuristics
  – 15-minute rule
  – Be nice to your future self
  – A little bit every day
  – Correct and redirect (Take time to think critically)
  – Ask questions
  – Work hard, play hard
  – Pay attention to the calendar

• Sometimes, things will still get out of control
Balance

• Find a teaching/research balance
  – Prioritize appropriately
• Also, find a work/life balance
• Balance doesn’t happen on a daily or even weekly basis. Strive for balance over time.

• Pay attention to your support network. You will need it, and they will need you.
Legalities

• FERPA
• Don’t date your students
Resources

• SIGCSE
  – ACM Special Interest Group Computer Science Education

• *Teaching at Its Best: A Research-Based Resource for College Instructors* by Linda B. Nilson
Summary

• Teaching is important
• A little preparation and creativity goes a long way

• Thank you!
• Good luck!
Evaluations