USC **Viterbi**
School of Engineering

Ming Hsieh
Department of Electrical Engineering

EE Student's 'Practical Guide' Seminar Series

"Picking a Research Topic"

SSL 150 (outside and North of Seaver Science Library)
Friday, April 4, 2008
11:30 am – 1:00 pm

All EE students welcomed!

Pizza will be provided by the EE Department.

Abstract: Selecting a research topic is important. It sets the course for the next three-four years of a student's life. What is more, it will define the area of a PhD's job search, and it my very well define the area of interest of a researcher in the industry or academia for years to come. The right research topic can set you on a successful path, and choosing wisely can be a combination of insight and luck. Alternatively, choosing the wrong research topic can cause major problems for any graduate student. Following some introductory remarks regarding right ways and wrong ways to approach this critical problem, this will be an informal conversational meeting with Dr. Psounis and Dr. Lidar, where students will be free to ask any questions about how to choose a good research topic.

SPEAKERS

Prof. Daniel Lidar obtained his Ph.D. in theoretical Physics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in '97. He was a postdoc at UC Berkeley between '97-00, then an assistant and later associate professor of Chemistry at the University of Toronto between '00-'05. He moved to sunny Southern California in July '05 as an associate professor of Chemistry and Electrical Engineering, with a cross-appointment in Physics. Daniel's research interests lie primarily in the theory and control of open quantum systems, with a special emphasis on quantum information processing. His past interests include scattering theory and disordered systems. Daniel is the Director and co-founding member of the USC Center for Quantum Information Science & Technology (CQIST). He is a recipient of a Sloan Research Fellowship and is a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

Prof. Konstantinos Psounis is an assistant professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Southern California. He received his first degree from the department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of National Technical University of Athens, Greece, in June 1997, the M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University, California, in January 1999, and the Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University in December 2002. Konstantinos models and analyzes the performance of a variety of networks, including the Internet, mobile ad hoc networks, delay and disruptive tolerant networks, sensor networks, mesh networks, peer to peer networks and the web. He also designs methods and algorithms to solve problems related to such systems. He is the author of more than 40 research papers on these topics. Konstantinos has received faculty awards from NSF and the Zumberge foundation, has been a Stanford graduate fellow throughout his graduate studies, and has received the best-student National Technical University of Athens award for graduating first in his class.

Organizer: Prof. Alan Willner

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http://ee.usc.edu/news/practical-guide/