

To: John Brockman[REDACTED]
Cc: Nick Pritzker[REDACTED]; Elon Musk[REDACTED]; W. Daniel Hillis[REDACTED]; Jeffrey Epstein[REDACTED]; Larry Page[REDACTED]; Salar Kamangar[REDACTED]; Nathan Myhrvold[REDACTED]; Charles Simonyi[REDACTED]; Jeff Skoll[REDACTED]; Pierre Omidyar[REDACTED]; Sean Parker[REDACTED]
From: Danny Hillis
Sent: Wed 8/26/2009 9:53:58 PM
Subject: Re: Lisa Randall

I have been part of the group trying to get her to come to Caltech, so I am too conflicted to offer objective advice. That said, Caltech is the clearly the right choice.
-Danny

On Aug 26, 2009, at 9:24 AM, John Brockman wrote:

> Eastover Farm
> [REDACTED]
>
> Nick, Elon, Danny, JE, Larry, Salar, Nathan, Charles, Jeff, Pierre,
> Sean,
>
> Lisa Randall needs advice re a possible move from the Harvard
> Physics Department to either Caltech or NYU, both of which have
> extended job offers. She's unhappy at Harvard, where the department
> seems to be intent on pulling the rug out from under her at every
> opportunity, and she wants a change. I am writing to all of you
> because I am out of my depth in advising her on her choices between
> universities and physics departments, compensation packages, etc. In
> this regard, it occurred to me that any of you might have good
> advice and/or connections and that Lisa might benefit by talking to
> you directly.
>
> Some background:
>
> I believe NYU has already matched her Harvard salary and just this
> week, a donor put up \$5 million to build up the physics department
> around her if she comes (i.e. adding two more senior faculty,
> support services, etc.).
>
> She prefers Caltech, both for the department and the ambience of LA.
> Their offer involves much less teaching but also less money. I have
> advised her not to take a penny less than she is making now. If
> there are resources available to allow Caltech to match her deal
> with NYU, that would require someone who knows the department to
> check it out (and that's not me).
>
> As Lisa's literary agent, as far as getting the attention of the
> media and readers in general, Harvard is the gold standard, and
> Caltech is high-value. But NYU is not even on the cultural map. (I
> have exactly one client there and don't know of anyone to chase).
> In any event, Lisa's next book is sold and this shouldn't be a
> consideration in her decision. And in general, it hasn't hurt Steve
> Weinberg and Shelly Glashow to have left Harvard.
>
> I know: Lisa is not easy. Some people are that way. But I say she's
> worth it. And, in terms of science, we all need to do what we can to

> give women a place at the table. It's not easy being a woman -
> perhaps the top woman - in theoretical physics, and nobody expects
> her male counterparts to be regular guys (nor are they). As I have
> said many times with regard to myself and the people I like to talk
> to: "Nice isn't enough". (And that includes all of you!).
>
> Contact info:
>
> Lisa Randall
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED] mobile
>
> Best to all,
>
> JB
> [REDACTED] mobile
>
> ~~~~~
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