Defending a Dream

Here it is, the day of my Thesis Defense:

Defending A Dream

By: Damian Dyckman

But what a journey it took to get here - let's go back 1 year:

At the Committee Meeting

Well, that's my plan to complete my degree by May - just this last study.

Sorry Damian, this last study doesn't seem right. You'll have to reread it.

Committee Member

Yes, we all agree. You need to rewrite this design, send it to us, and then if it works we can let you defend.

So back to the desk...

Looks like I'm back to the drawing board.

Several Days Later...

Well Charity (lab manager), it's ready to go.

Sorry Damian, the IRB decided not to meet in December.

What!??! That's great timing... I'll never get the done. The wait is agonizing.

And the wait continued...
Moving onto the research study...

After a long month...

Approval has arrived.

You might feel some cramping of your back.

Ouch!

No pain...

Wow... that's a lot of wine in 10 minutes.

Let me know if you get dizzy, we're watching your BP...

Umm... I don't feel so good!

Must keep working...

Studies wrapping up...

Now the fun part of writing and data processing.

But finding a defense date was a little more challenging...

Email To: Committee Members:

Just looking for my thesis defense date...

Committee Member 1: Well, I can make it the 3rd week in April, but not the 2nd...

Committee Member 2: I can make the 2nd week of April, but not the 1st...

Committee Member 3: I can make the 3rd week of May, but not the 1st or 2nd...

Committee Member 4: I can make the 4th week of May, but not the 1st, 2nd or 3rd...

Committee Member 2: I can make the 1st week of May, but not the 2nd or 3rd...

What do I do now? May is here and I have to return to medical school! I'm out of time!
The Return to Medical School... time to return...

Research

Medical School

EXAM
Room

PEDATRICS

Here’s another earache...

Wow... the whole family, mom and 2 kids... shots?

HERE’S the baby...
CATCH!

OB/GYN

Meanwhile...

Email:
C. Member 2: I can make the 3rd week in August but not the 2nd...
C. Member 4: I can make the 1st week of September, but not August...

Still putting together this presentation, but no date yet...

Several weeks later...

Email:
C. Members: Yes, we can all make it September 20th...

Finally...
One week before defense...

Hey Damian. Just need to talk about your defense date.

Yes, my boss.

Looks like I have to reschedule...something in the family has come up.

I guess there's nothing I can do...

Back to the emails...

C. Member 1: I can make the 1st week of October, but not the 2nd...

C. Member 3: I can make the 2nd week of October, but not the 1st.

I'm beginning to wonder...

Research

Medicine

...is it possible to exist in both worlds!

And it continues...

Email: November is looking promising...

Email: C. Members: Okay, we have a new date: November 26th...This one is going to happen.

Email: Finally, the real day arrives.

Wow...the day is really here!

Thesis Defense
Back to the defense...

...The role of the vestibulospinal reflex in humans...

Any questions? Could you leave the room so we can talk?

Then, the longest 5 minutes of my life...

What's going on in here? Did I pass? What is it? I failed?

L Well... Congratulations Doctor!
Z Thanks.

L Thesis Defense
Z Congrats! Congrats Dr. Dyckman!

Is that really it? It's very anticlimactic.

What do I do now?

Well, back to work...

Moving onto the next dream on the list...