CRA-WP Mid Career Strategies: What's Next?

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Research

New topics

Riskier, longer-term approaches

Teaching

New topics, maybe just new to you

Service

Outside organizations Internal, including advising



My Background

1977 BS Mech. Engr. Cornell

1977-1983 Engr at Boeing and Natural Gas Co.

qualified for PE license

1988 PhD Mech. Engr. Cornell

1988-91 Asst Prof Mech Engr Georgia Tech



Research

New topics, riskier, longer term

Material Appearance - wrote a book

Cultural Heritage - open software, data

Where do ideas come from?

Conversations after presentation



Research

Maintain a portfolio with variety

Some new topics disastrous

Prepare for failures

Personal Support

Plan for next steps



Teaching

New topics, maybe just new to you

Intro to CS: took it to learn to teach it

New Data Vis class: returning to a topic

Digital Humanities: co- teaching



Teaching

Not all successful

Be willing to hand off or drop



Service

Outside organizations - not just in specialty

ACM Publications Board

CRA

start by involvement in workshops, taskforces



Service

Internal, including advising

MS program(s)

University Committees



Service

Internal, including advising

Resign from some things as you add

Say no to a lot of things

Prepare to deal with emotionally more difficult situations



My Mantra



Make choices that matter, every day

Persistence

- Long-term focus but make progress every day
- Understand, not internalize rejections

Don't go at it alone

- Bring yourself along in the journey
- Institutional support
- Collaborators
- Emotional support group



Framework for future choices

Is my life sustainable?

Am I excited about my Research?

Depth, breadth, new areas, riskier projects, collaborators, impact?

Am I an effective teacher of topics I enjoy?

Revamp course? New pedagogy? Online opportunity?

New course? New curriculum?

Am I enjoying my research community, department, & University service?

Type of service? Why do it? Impact?

Are you at an institution that supports your life & career goals?



What I Did After Tenure

Life

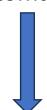
Divorced Moved



Remarried Work less

Research

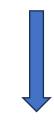
Electronics & Design Automation



Systems Biology + Machine Learning

Teaching

VLSI, Comp. Arch

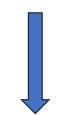


Systems Biology;

Craft of CS Research

Service

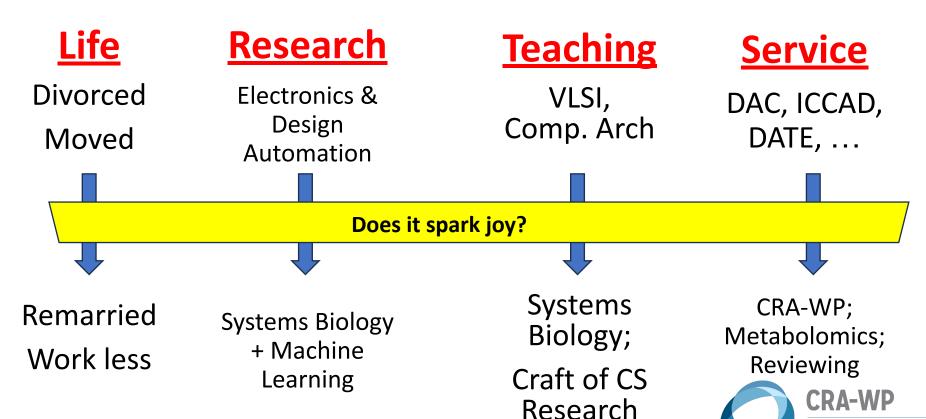
DAC, ICCAD, DATE, ...



CRA-WP; Metabolomics; Reviewing



What I Did After Tenure



Computing Research Association Widening Participation

The Journey

Career

- Life is a journey
 - ... not a destination.
 - ... avoid potholes.
 - ... learn lessons.
 - ... find joy.
 - ... travel with purpose.
 - ... travel it well.



Questions?



Exercises

Pairwise or groups of three:

- 1. What you have been working on
- 2. Possible new area
- 3. What do you teach, what would you like to teach
- 4. Is there an area of service you would like to get into?

