My Experience and Advice

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Beware: Your institution and research community may differ.
Things you want me to say:

- Journal publications are important!
- Concentrate on one agenda!
- Attend conferences and schmooze!
- Waste minimal time teaching!
- Waste minimal time with service!
- Learn to say no!
I ignored that advice.

- Journal publications are important!
- My journal submission was not reviewed for two years...
- Concentrate on one agenda!
- I worked on what my students were excited about: Coordinates, social, measurement, wireless.
- Attend conferences and schmooze!
- I sent my students.
- Waste minimal time teaching!
- I love to teach; what’s the point otherwise?
- Waste minimal time with service!
- How can you resist trying to fix your department’s problems?
- Learn to say no!
- I refused only being a local arrangements chair (ick) and various tasks during sabbatical.
What I did instead

- Work really hard doing what you’re motivated to do.
- Service:
  - Wrote a rails app to manage graduate admissions.
- Teaching:
  - Found a class other people don’t like to teach, meaning I could teach that repeatedly.
- Research:
  - Submitted only to top conferences and NSF.
What I did wrong

- Desperate for students early, I didn’t know who I could work well with.
  - Your students are unlikely to be as driven or capable in their second year as you were in your seventh.
  - I ”fired” a student. I mentored students who didn’t consider me an advisor.
- Should have taken CAREER more seriously
  - Start early and get feedback.
  - Think big, creatively, and write well.
- Should have tried to collect awards
- Should have managed undergraduates better
  - They’re smart, but they often need detailed specs and weekly meetings.
Advice

▶ Know your strengths and weaknesses and find students (and collaborators) that complement them.
  ▶ e.g., If you’re not a good cheerleader or slave driver, seek students with initiative
▶ Stay happy and driven: do what you love.
  ▶ I LOVE writing code.
  ▶ I LOVE writing papers.
  ▶ I LIKE writing proposals.
  ▶ I HATE writing annual reports: sorry program managers!
▶ Don’t panic, don’t stress.