Graduate School and Personal Life

with

Amy Ko, Pamela Gibbs, Kyla McMullen, and Bushra Anjum
Hi, I’m Amy

Work/life bio
I became a parent in my senior year of undergrad. My daughter age 1-6 during grad school, 7-12 pre-tenure. She’s now a Sophomore at UC San Diego. I was divorced by 30, remarried by 36. I’ve been balancing lots of life with work!

1. **Boundaries**: During grad school, I only worked 9-5, making the most of that time.

2. **Time**: Manage it like a precious resource, carving out time on your calendar for work, tracking your commitments.

3. **Work culture**: Activity resist and refuse toxic norms around evenings + weekends.

4. **Cultivate creativity**: Reserve time to wander, wonder, be bored. It’s fuel for discovery.

Professor, The Information School
University of Washington, Seattle
Why is pivoting important?
What’s the big deal about titles?
Who makes up your community?
What is your story?
Who am I?
Pamela Gibbs
Kyla McMullen

About me:
I am a computer science researcher and professor but I am also so many other things, including a dancer, podcast host, real estate investor (REI), audio engineer in training, pseudo-chef, wife, sister, daughter, friend, etc. I believe that how I spend my hours should reflect that.

1. Schedule everything, including the fun stuff. That way you know what you have time for.
2. Have a creative outlet and make it a non-negotiable part of your weekly schedule.
3. Don’t feel guilty for “humaning”. You’re more useful as a refreshed individual.
4. Say no. A lot. Think about what your “yes” means that you’re saying “no” to.
Dr. Bushra Anjum

► BSCS (FAST), MSCS (LUMS) - Pakistan
► First to go to grad school and get a PhD-CS (NCSU)
► Academia (NCSU, LUMS, NCSU, MST, Cal Poly)
► Industry
  ► Amazon – SE, Tech Lead (Prime)
  ► Doximity – Data Lead, Data Analytics Manager
► Volunteer
  ► ACM Ubiquity, Sr. Editor
  ► ACM–W, Standing Committees Chair
  ► Anitab.org, PWiC, CRA etc.

About me

@DrBushraAnjum
www.linkedin.com/in/bushraanjum/
Dr. Bushra Anjum

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Points to Ponder
1) Having a Ph.D. midlife crisis?
2) Careers are like jungle gyms
3) A Ph.D. does not close doors for you
4) Understand the power of ”AND”
Q&A

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