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

Holly Rushmeier & Soha Hassoun
Keep Building and Changing

Research
   New topics
   Riskier, longer-term approaches

Teaching
   New topics, maybe just new to you

Service
   Outside organizations
   Internal, including advising
My Background

1977-1983 Engr at Boeing and Natural Gas Co.
qualified for PE license
1988-91 Asst Prof Mech Engr Georgia Tech
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Research

New topics, riskier, longer term

Material Appearance - wrote a book

Cultural Heritage - open software, data

Where do ideas come from?

Conversations after presentation
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Research

Maintain a portfolio with variety

Some new topics disastrous

Prepare for failures

Personal Support

Plan for next steps
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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
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Teaching

Not all successful

Be willing to hand off or drop
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Service

Outside organizations - not just in specialty
ACM Publications Board
CRA
start by involvement in workshops, taskforces
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Service

Internal, including advising
MS program(s)
University Committees
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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
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Does it spark joy?
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?