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Mid Career Strategies:

What's Next?

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Widening Participation

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



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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



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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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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



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My Mantra



You have to act as if it were possible to radically **transform the world.** And you have to **do it all the time.**

– *Angela Davis*

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



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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?



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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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What I Did After Tenure

Life

Divorced
Moved

Research

Electronics &
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DAC, ICCAD,
DATE, ...

Does it spark joy?

Remarried
Work less

Systems Biology
+ Machine
Learning

Systems
Biology;
Craft of CS
Research

CRA-WP;
Metabolomics;
Reviewing



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The Journey

Career

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



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Questions?



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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?



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