

# *CRA Career Mentoring Workshop*

*Advice from Early Career Faculty*

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# A bit of background

December 2008: PhD from University of Washington

January 2009: Assistant Professor at Columbia

January 2015: Associate Professor (untenured)

Currently: preparing tenure dossier

I am a computer architect, and do a lot of work at the hardware/software boundary. Currently working on techniques to manage energy consumption in application-specific ways.

# You are building a brick wall

No single brick is essential.

But one needs lots of bricks!

I aimed for one “brick” per month (i.e., paper or grant submission, invited article, PC).

Nice side effect: always know your “big” priority.



# Act first, plan later

Plans without action are useless.

Action builds momentum.

Impossible to know how something will fit at the outset.

Planning is often procrastination in disguise.



# Get comfortable with failure

You won't live in fear.

You can learn from it. Learning is valuable.

Master the art of the pivot.



# Do it your way

There are many ways to succeed.  
Exploit the flexibility of the job.

Following someone else's path rarely  
fits.



# Gather more than bricks

How you spend your hours is how you spend your life. Don't do anything "just until tenure".

Your work will be better if it is not all that you are.

