

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.