

Career Management

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My Own Career





My Own Career





My Own Career





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Main Points

1. Always strive for excellence *and* integrity
2. Do *not* overcommit
3. When in doubt, ask a *trusted* mentor
4. Careers are long, and memories are longer

*Conveyed in the following as
(opinionated) “do’s and don’ts”*



Caveats

- I did not start my career in academia
- My career path is pretty atypical
- The world has changed a *lot* since I started

Building Your (Positive) Reputation

*What the world needs is more geniuses with
humility; there are so few of us left.*

— Oscar Levant

Building Your (Positive) Reputation

1. Do introduce yourself to new colleagues
2. Don't hide in your office, or put yourself in charge of gossip
3. Do promote your institution aggressively
4. Don't badmouth your institution or colleagues
5. Do network and try to make yourself visible at conferences
6. Don't be an eager beaver
7. Do think twice about what you post on Facebook!
 - The whole world is watching
 - Write-only and humble brags are obnoxious

Publishing

I hate writing; I love having written.

— Dorothy Parker

Publishing

1. Do aim as high as possible in terms of venue quality
2. Don't ever publish in a disreputable venue
3. Do know thy publication venues
4. Don't feel tied to your "home" conference/journal
5. Do plan research/student progress via publication deadlines
6. Don't be unfair to your co-authors
7. Do give first-author credit to PhD students
8. Don't ever plagiarize or double-submit
 - Can be difficult with over-enthusiastic PhD students

Collaborating

A knotty puzzle may hold a scientist up for a century, when it may be that a colleague has the solution already and is not even aware of the puzzle that it might solve.

— Isaac Asimov, *The Robots of Dawn*

Collaborating

1. Do collaborate with strong, like-minded people
2. Don't collaborate just to pad your CV
3. Do be opportunistic in starting interesting projects (including cross-disciplinary ones)
4. Don't collaborate *too much* with your PhD advisor
5. Do take care to demonstrate independence
 - New directions without your PhD advisor
 - Lead authorship on seminal publications

Invitations and Service

- It's nice to be wanted, but ...

Dear Dr. Rosenblum,

I am co-chairing the IADIS Virtual Multi Conference on Computer Science and Information Systems (MCCIS 2005), a conference made of 15 conferences in the broad areas of Computer Science and Information Systems (please see <http://www.iadis.org/multi2005>), and would like to invite you for the scientific committee of the conference Software Engineering and Applications (SEA2005) . You can also be part of one of the other conferences if you are interested.

Dear Professor Rosenblum,

The Organizing Committee of the Tenth International Colloquium on
Numerical Analysis and Computer Sciences with Applications, Plovdiv 12-17
August 2001 kindly invite you to take part in the work of the Colloquium
with an invited lecture.

Invitations and Service

*Flattery is like chewing gum. Enjoy it but
don't swallow it.*

— Hank Ketcham

Invitations and Service

1. **Do Just Say NO!** (*especially to bottom-feeders*)
2. Don't *always* say no
3. Do *be responsible* if you say yes
4. Don't overcommit
 - Don't pretend you didn't receive an email
 - Don't try to impress people with how busy you are
 - Don't use the “spam folder” excuse

Getting Tenure and Promotion

A man's got to know his limitations.

— Clint Eastwood as Dirty Harry, *Magnum Force*

Getting Tenure and Promotion

1. Do intimately know your institution's culture and expectations
2. Don't hesitate to ask for advice
 - If you don't trust your PhD advisor, find a surrogate *ASAP*
3. Do establish independence
4. Don't write a book before tenure (?)
5. Do take a pre-tenure sabbatical if possible
6. Don't alienate prospective letter writers
7. Do network with people early and often
8. Don't "cold call" prospective letter writers who don't know you
 - Let your institution do this for you 😊

Moving

*The graveyards are full of
indispensable men.*

— Charles De Gaulle

Moving

1. Do let yourself be upwardly mobile
2. Don't go job-hunting just to improve your current position
3. Do initiate contact if you're seriously considering a move
4. Don't be too hasty to leave a good thing
5. Do consider *all* factors behind a possible move
 - Salary, benefits, reputation, family, weather/climate, lifestyle, visibility, growth opportunities
6. Don't get blinded by “the grass is greener on the other side”
7. Do gather as much intelligence as possible about a new place
8. Don't burn bridges to your old place

Last But Not Least

Maintain a healthy work-life balance!

— David S. Rosenblum

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Thank you!

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