

What If... You Thrived on the Tenure Track?!



Cecilia Aragon
U. of Washington



Natalie Enright Jerger
U. of Toronto



Magda Balazinska
U. of Washington



Anne Condon
U. of British Columbia



Ioana Burcea
U. of Toronto
(Jan: IBM TJ Watson)



Jodi Tims
Baldwin-Wallace College

My academic and personal lives

Cecilia Aragon, Univ. of Washington

- Non-traditional academic career path
- 1987, MS in computer science, UC Berkeley
- Software developer, airshow pilot, mother (two children born 1995 and 2000)
- 2004, PhD in computer science, UC Berkeley
- 2005-11, staff scientist, Berkeley Lab
- 2011-present, associate professor, Univ. of Washington



Unconventional wisdom

- Modify conventional wisdom in a dynamic world
- You are different from most of the people in the profession now
 - find your own path
- “Organic networking”
 - Teachers, mentors, and friends



Transitions and changes

- From industry and government to academia
- Taking a leave... and returning from one
- Don't let yourself get scared off
 - If you're the CEO, you set the schedule
- The value of autonomy
- Defining the path for yourself helps others too
- Unintended consequences



Magdalena Balazinska

- Assistant Prof. at the U. of Washington since 2006
- PhD from MIT in 2006
- **Research**
 - Distributed stream processing (Borealis)
 - Imprecise, sensor data management (RFID Ecosystem+ Lahar)
 - Data intensive scalable computing, focus on science (Nuage,SciDB)
 - Database usability (CQMS)
 - Interactions between pricing and data mgmt (Data Eco\$y\$tem)
- **Some awards and honors**
 - NSF CAREER 2009
 - 10 year most influential paper award 2010
 - A couple of best-paper awards 2002, 2010, 2011, 2011
 - Microsoft faculty fellow 2007
- **Plenty of rejected papers, grants, award nominations but no one ever lists those ;-)**

Stuff I Did While on Tenure Track

New house (2010)



Two daughters (2007 and 2010)



Built from scratch!



How I Manage?

I get help from anyone who's willing to help!

I mix work and life



Business trip to UCSB



Conference in Greece



NSF Panel in DC



I do what I have to do
I ask for what I need



I don't try to be perfect
I just do what I can



Conference in France

My academic and personal lives

Anne Condon, U. British Columbia

	Academic	Personal
1982	PhD student, U. Washington	
1984		Meet Scott
1987	Tenure Track, U. Wisconsin	Marry Scott
1990		Daughter Fiona
1994	Tenure	Son Emil
1999	Move to U. British Columbia	
2011	Department Head	

Advice for the Academic Track

Anne Condon, U. British Columbia

- Work on important problems
- Communicate effectively
- Enjoy teaching others
- Build strong research support networks
- Persist in the face of challenges

- Go for it!

Academic and Personal Life

- **Natalie Enright Jerger, University of Toronto**

- **2002: Meet Chris (Undergrads at Purdue)**
- **2002: Start PhD at University of Wisconsin**
 - **Chris – Part-time Masters, Full-time job in Syracuse NY**
- **2004: Internship at Intel**
- **2005: Chris completes Masters, moves to WI, get married**
- **2006: Internship at IBM**
- **2008: Complete PhD, move to Toronto**
- **2009: Tenure-track faculty at the University of Toronto**

Advice for Women in Academia

■ Personal

- Find a supportive partner!
- Set your priorities, figure out what are the right choices for you
- Ask for help

■ Professional

- Work on problems that you are excited/passionate about
- Network
 - ◆ Establish collaborations, identify funding opportunities
- Develop a support network/find good mentors
- Practice saying “no”

Some journeys take a while...

Jodi Tims, Baldwin-Wallace College

	Academic
1982	Entered M.S. program, part-time
1986	M.S. completed
1988	Tenure track, Pitt-Johnstown
1989	Entered Ph.D. program, part-time
1994	Tenured, promoted to Associate
1998	Completed Ph.D.
1999	Coordinator of CS, St. Francis
2002	Moved to B-W
2004	Promoted to Full, Coordinator of CS
2007	Department Chair, Math/CS

Life beyond my career



Advice for the Academic Track

Jodi Tims, Baldwin-Wallace College

- Accept advice of good mentors
- Don't underestimate your potential
- Focus on your students
- Know your institution
- Get involved beyond your institution
- Appreciate life beyond work
- Enjoy the ride!

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