A few lessons from an accidental professor

Lixia Zhang

UCLA

ACM SIGCOMM 2019 N2Women
Lessons I learned

1. Enjoy life

2. Broaden your world

3. Think different
1. Enjoy Life

• Give the best you have, and be happy

• Family is important

• Exercise as part of daily life
2. Broaden your world

• Networking

• Learn across boundaries

• Read books
The things with which we concern ourselves in science appear in myriad forms, and with a multitude of attributes. For example, if we stand on the shore and look at the sea, we see the water, the waves breaking, the foam, the sloshing motion of the water, the sound, the air, the winds and the clouds, the sun and the blue sky, and light; there is sand and there are rocks of various hardness and permanence, color and texture....
Curiosity demands that we ask questions, that we try to put things together and try to understand this multitude of aspects as perhaps resulting from the action of a relatively small number of elemental things and forces acting in an infinite variety of combinations.
For example: Is the sand other than the rocks? That is, is the sand perhaps nothing but a great number of very tiny stones? Is the moon a great rock? If we understood rocks, would we also understand the sand and the moon? Is the wind a sloshing of the air analogous to the sloshing motion of the water in the sea? What common features do different movements have? What is common to different kinds of sound? How many different colors are there? And so on. In this way we try gradually to analyze all things, to put together things which at first sight look different, with the hope that we may be able to reduce the number of different things and thereby understand them better.
The only way to get the best of an argument is to avoid it.
books
ROUTE MAP FOR THE ASCENT
OOF TRILLIONS MOUNTAIN
NOT TO SCALE
3. Think Different

• Learn all you can, no matter what

• Telephony was the product of its day

• So is IP
Three additional lessons

• Always believe in yourself

• Always keep an open mind

• Always look back: what can I learn from last week/year/decade?
ENJOY LIFE