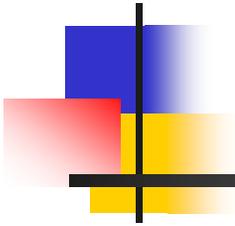


Preparing Now for Your Future Academic Career in the Geosciences



Heather Macdonald
College of William & Mary

The Academic Enterprise

- Teaching, research, service
- Freedom and responsibility
- Tenure or equivalent
- Change

- Choices!



From Cutting Edge website



The Academic Enterprise

- The Carnegie Classification*
 - Baccalaureate ~630
 - Master's granting ~530
 - Doctorate ~110
 - Research ~125

 - Don't forget two-year colleges
 - Don't forget other options

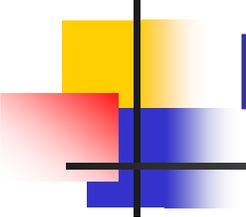
* From Richard Reis's presentation for the 2006 Career Prep workshop

Preparing for an Academic Career

- The Three-Way Stretch preparation strategy (Richard Reis)
 - Breadth on top of depth
 - Multiple options
 - **Next-stage**



Photo by Rowan Lockwood



The Three-Way Stretch Preparation Strategy

- **Next-stage**

- Enables you to think ahead, look ahead, and act ahead of the stage you currently occupy
- thus not only demonstrates your willingness, but also your readiness, to assume the position you are seeking

The Next-Stage Strategy 1

- Look ahead, think ahead
 - Ask questions
 - Make observations
 - What are characteristics of various options?
 - What's right for you (work/self/home)?



(The Outcrop, UW, 2005)

The Next-Stage Strategy 2

- Act ahead
 - Teaching and research
 - Service?



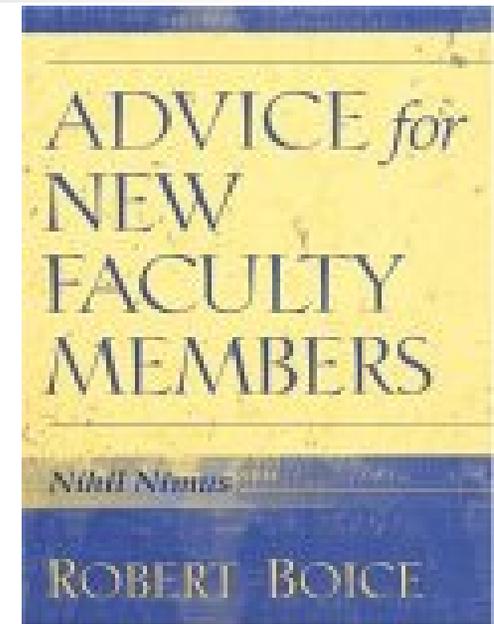
The Next-Stage Strategy 2

- Act ahead
 - Write papers and give presentations
 - Review manuscripts
 - Submit grant proposals
 - Get teaching experience – courses, guest lectures, outreach programs
 - Mentor undergraduate research students
 - Serve on committees (be careful though)

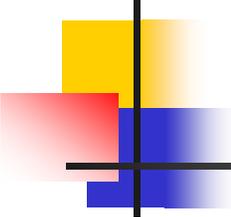


Advice for the Next Stage

- Faculty who did well early in their career
 - Published more
 - Received better teaching evaluations
 - Were happier than their stressed-out peers
- These “Quick Starters”
 - Avoided procrastination
 - Developed regular writing habits
 - Balanced teaching with other work activities
 - Sought help from colleagues early



Results of research:
415 early career
faculty from two
institutions



Selected Resources

- **Tomorrow's Professor: Preparing for Academic Careers in Science & Engineering** (*Richard Reis*)
- **Tomorrow's Professor Mailing List**
 - The academic job talk
 - General principles for responding to job offers
 - Improving student learning while saving faculty time
 - Elements found in most successful proposals
 - Tenure tips

<http://ctl.stanford.edu/Tomprof/index.shtml>

On the Cutting Edge

On the Cutting Edge

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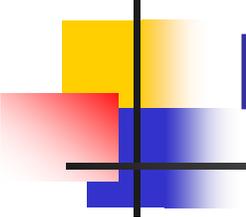
the Cutting Edge
resources that apply
beyond the
geosciences

News

- **[1st Day of Class Module](#)**
The [First Day of Class](#) describes a variety of ways to focus on student learning even on the first day of class, including a collection of examples of activities for the first day of geoscience classes. Engage students with course content, motivate their learning, and establish a positive classroom climate, right from the start.
- **[Earth and Mind](#)**
New Book: [Earth and Mind: How Geologists Think and Learn about the Earth](#)
Edited by Cathryn Manduca and David Mogk, this volume brings together essays by geoscientists, cognitive scientists, and educators that explore how expert geoscientists learn about the Earth and the implications for student learning.
- **[New Pedagogy in Action Portal](#)**
We've launched a new [Pedagogy in Action portal](#). This [multi-disciplinary portal](#)

Edrengiyn Nuruu
Lands at 7 1999

serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops
And, other resources at SERC@carleton.edu



Finding and Getting an Academic Position That's Right for You

- What departments look for in new faculty
 - Overall promise
 - General teaching ability, ability to teach courses needed by the department
 - Ability to do research, specific research area
 - “Compatibility” with department and institution
 - Potential for securing funding (depends on dept)
- What are **you** looking for in a department

Modified from Richard Reis's presentation in 2006