Loving the journey: How to take advantage of unexpected turns in your career

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I’ve got a plan, and I sticking to it!

- Unlikely!

- Things that might influence your plan
  - Fall in love
  - Kids and their needs
  - Aging parents
  - Not thrilled with your employer
  - Significant-other needs to move
  - Economy changes
  - Needs of employers change, so job is gone
  - Tapped to take on a different role for your employer
1. Accept some chaos in the early years

Experimenting with choices early in your life
Unexpected events early on

• Significant-other entered life
• Jobs/graduate school opportunities in two different cities
• Bored to tears with that first job!
• Graduate school showed that I love to teach
• First child, retiring mentor, and spouse job all at once!
• When your mentor does not agree with your passion
2. When you are tapped to be a leader

Taking on challenges you had not asked for
Just when I was getting settled

- When the dean calls
  - Don’t be afraid to study new things
- What if others are jealous?
- Being the first woman
- Standing by your ethics
- Taking on frustrated or hostile people
3. When life gives you lemons

Make lemonade!
Balancing career choices with life challenges

• My ideal job does not exist in the right place at the right time
  • So create a new ideal!
  • Be willing to change priorities in your life over time
    • Family
    • Career
    • Location

• What are the differences between private colleges, large universities, and community colleges?
  • Find the way to make a positive difference no matter where you are
If you ever want to chat about unexpected turns and life choices ....

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