

Empowering Women Distinguished Lecture

Find your Passion, Wear your Passion,
and Keep Moving Forward



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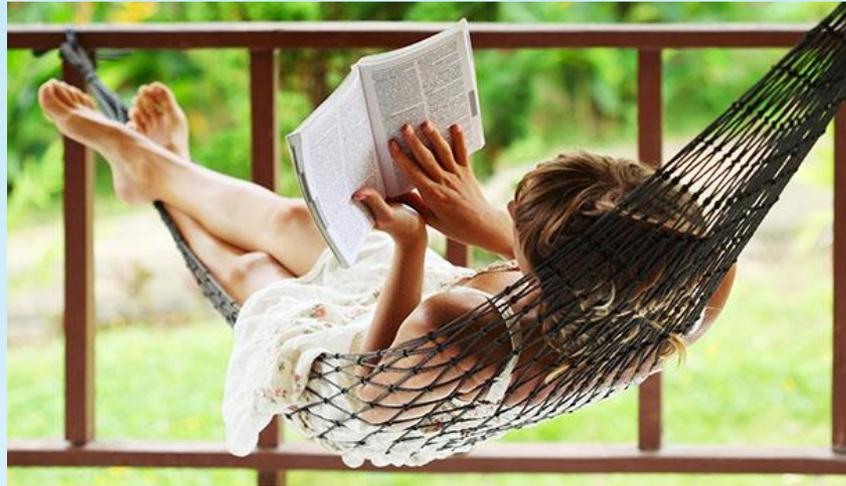
Quotes from my favorite book

- “I don’t think man was meant to attain happiness so easily. Happiness is like those palaces in fairy tales whose gates are guarded by dragons: we must fight in order to conquer it.”
- “In reality, when you have once devoted your life to your enterprises, you are no longer the equal of other men, or, rather, other men are no longer your equals, and whosoever has taken this resolution, feels his strength and resources doubled.”

— Alexandre Dumas, *The Count of Monte Cristo*

🎵 A Personal note

- If you think I am nerdy like –



- I am more like ...



About me

- Born in the northeast part of China, the single child of a happy family
- Father is an engineer and mother was a government officer – they both gone through the Culture Revolution (1966-1976) and thus had great expectation for my education
- Attended military based boarding school for 6 years which taught me a lot in how to discipline myself
- Learned Chinese Brush Painting for 13 years – always want to be an artist
- Love music, baking and handcrafts



Find Your Passion

- Prior to college, it never occurred to me that I would study computer science
- Enrolled in HIT and majored in Computer Science as my parents wished – not my wish
- I love arts, and also love my parents – have to find a solution
- Decide to focus my study in computer graphics, image processing, and multimedia
- Upon graduation in 2007, I've already fallen in love with computer graphics and imaging and decide to go further



Studying and Living Abroad

- Came to US in 2007 right after graduation
- Completed Ph.D. in Computer Science at UT Dallas, research focus in Multimedia
- Worked as research scientist at Image Vision Labs, Inc. (IT company) for ~3 years
- Get married in 2014 (right before I reached 30 years old 😊)
- Came back to UTD in 2015 (started teaching)



Challenges

- First year in college I really lost my direction
- Suffered real low vision till 2010
- I used to be a shy girl and was bullied in high school
- I felt isolated and lonely until I realized that I shut myself out
- Frustrated when people underestimate me, or my work
- I am still working on how to find the balance between work and family



My Research



- Computer Vision

- Face Analysis

- Face Detection
 - Face Recognition
 - Facial Beauty Analysis
 - Pet Face Detection/Recognition/Analysis



- Image/Video Analysis

- Image Forensics
 - Image/Video Content Analysis





Future

- Multimedia
 - Computer aided surgery system
 - Social media content retrieval
 - Image signal processing
 - Multimedia quality assurance
 - And more

The Mind is Limitless

And so are the Possibilities



Lessons Learned

- You cannot lose your vision or goal at any time
- Do not be afraid of making mistakes, just keep moving
- Aim for the best, prepare for the worst
- Find the beauty in life, in work, in yourself, in everything
- Do not overdraft on health and families
- Good Time Management always helps
- Passion – Love what you do is the key!



If you are in PhD program, or you are considering getting in ...

- It's okay to date, have fun, enjoy life a bit~
- Life is not easy but work hard pays
- It requires a peculiar mix of Intelligence, Discipline, Creativity, Rationalism, Stubbornness, and Nerdiness 😊 Thus, find your own recipe of the mix~
- You will gain invaluable experiences and it prepares you for many situations
- will open the door to a career of unparalleled intellectual freedom



Any questions, discussions are welcome!
Feel free to contact me at rrfeng@utdallas.edu

Thank you!

