

Alternate Career Choices Panel

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My Career Path

- BSEE '96 UPRM
- Software Engineer at Motorola, Inc.
- MSEE '98 GEM Scholar at Northwestern University
- Systems Engineer at Motorola, Inc. (1 year)
- Member of Technical Staff at Lucent Technologies (2.5 years)
- SAHM, business owner, consultant (2.5 years)
- Instructor at Interamerican University in PR
- Started PhD in 2004, defended in 2009
- Had a baby, moved to PR, finished dissertation, defended
- Assistant Professor at UPRM since 1/2010

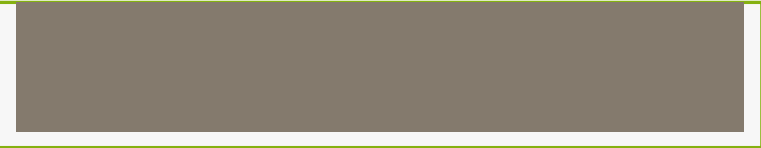


What compels you to pursue your current career path?

- I noticed that no matter what I was doing in my career, I gravitated towards teaching.
- I really enjoy and I am passionate about what I am doing.
- I love to work with my students and contribute to the education of others.
- I enjoy the flexibility, the variety of work that I do...I am never bored!

What other career options did you consider, and how did you go about narrowing down the choices?

- Engineer in Industry, Business Owner, Consultant, Expert Witness and of course... Household CEO
- I tried them! Even for a summer or a short period of time.
- Some career options I would like to pursue them in the near future...such as visiting lecturer, agency rotator, administrator, etc.



What key things should one do during Ph.D. studies to determine whether a career in academia is best for achieving one's goals?

- Try it! Offer to be a TA. Take an internship in Industry or National Lab.
- Offer your advisor to help in the proposal writing.
- Participate in meetings with visitors.
- Come to workshops like this one before you graduate!

What role, if any, have others played in influencing your choice of career and place of employment?

- Mother – professor at UPRM (Nursing)
- MS Advisor – really wanted me to continue a PhD
- Friend – offered me a teaching position as an instructor at a primarily-teaching institution.
- Friend – took me to the Chairman of ECE at UPRM, and help me negotiate a scholarship for graduate studies.
- PhD Advisor – help me to build skills, substituted in his classes, wrote small proposals for him, etc.

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