

# *Joys of Administration*

UNIVERSITY  
OF MIAMI



***M. Brian Blake***

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs &  
Dean of the Graduate School

# Background

**Native of Savannah, Georgia**

## Education

Bachelor of Electrical Engineering, *Georgia Tech*  
Master of Electrical Engineering, *Mercer University*  
PhD, Software Engineering, *George Mason University*



## Professional Experience:

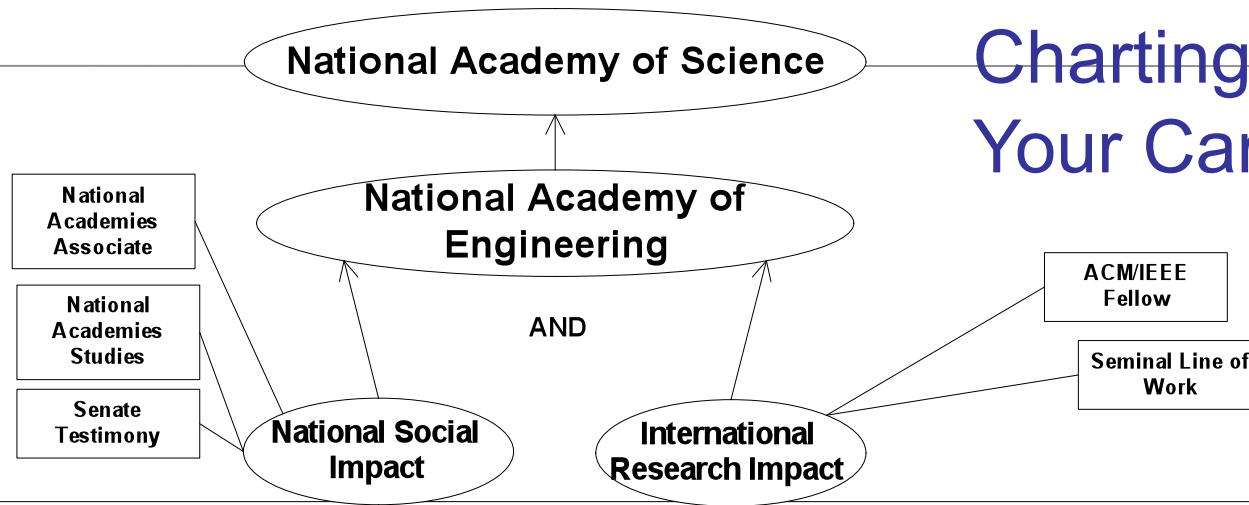
Engineer and Defense Contractor (6 yrs)  
Professor & Chair, Computer Science, *Georgetown University*  
Associate Dean & Professor, *University of Notre Dame*  
Vice Provost & Dean of the Graduate School, ***University of Miami***



## Family:

Wife, Bridget, BME GA Tech / MBA Johns Hopkins  
Brendan (8yrs old), Bryce (1yr old)

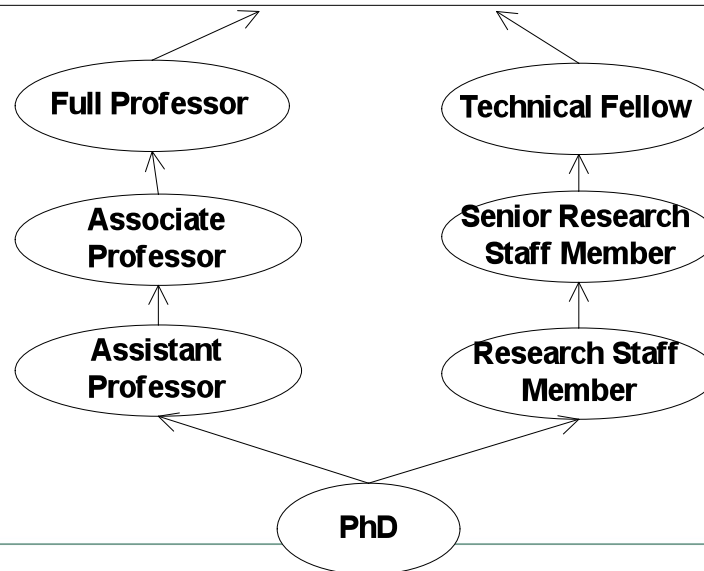
# Charting Your Career...



Products



Parallel Paths



Copyright 2010  
M. Brian Blake

UNIVERSITY  
OF MIAMI



---

# *1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being an academic administrator?*

- *Making organizational impact*
- *Direct funds instead of asking for funds*
- *Set the agenda and Lead the conversation*
- *Implicit broadening participation)*
- *Party like a Rock Star!!!*

---

## 2. You started as a regular academic, what caused you to think about administration?

- *I was nominated for Department Chair*
- *Initially said “No”, but realized the timing was right. Could I really guarantee that I would be in a position to become chair (by vote) in the future.*
- *Academic mentors said “Don’t”*
- *Personal and family mentors said “Yes”*
- *Felt like I could make a more memorable mark*

---

### 3. What training and/or mentoring did you received in the process of becoming an administrator?

- *Department chair training and retreat*
- *Supervisors supportive of mentoring questions*
- *Only now have I had a supervisor “sponsor and promote me” as opposed to just “support me”*
- *UM has an on-boarding process (real valuable!!) and I have a “mentor Dean” now at UM*
  - *Developed a mentor network by visiting Deans, Provosts, and Presidents during travel*

#### 4. Is there a pathway from administration back to being a regular academic? How would you navigate that path?

- *Negotiate research time and resources as a part of your administrative appointment*
  - *Research Scientist/Postdoc/Discretionary Money (Thanks Valerie!!)*
  - *Maintain and Co-advise MS/PhD students (Thanks Charles!!)*
- *Negotiate (although this is customary), a one-year sabbatical after your administrative term*
- *Look for Editor-in-Chief roles, write a book, synthesize your work*





## 5. What is your daily routine?, Can/do you still teach?, What about your research program?

- **Daily Routine-** *Meetings, meetings, receptions, dinners, meetings, sporting events, meetings, research and teaching, meetings, meetings*
- **Teaching** – *Working in private schools teaching is **emphasized** , My contract has 2-3 course over my 5 year term, can be seminars or high-level courses.....it helps in your conversation with faculty*
- **Research** - *1 Full-time Research Scientist, 3 PhD Students, 1 MS Student, a few undergraduate assistants. Training the research scientist to be my clone*