Pathways to a productive career (and happy life)

Music pairing: Ripple and So Many Roads
“Will this be on the test?”, “Do we have to know this for the final?”, “Will this be on the exam?”, “Can you tell us what we need to know for the final?”

“I was gone all last week. Did I miss anything important?”
Imagining a Successful Career...and Planning For It

Why higher education?

What are your professional goals and values?

What kind of position/institutional type do you find most appealing?

If you were to assign weighted values to your future work, what would that look like?

Life? What’s a life? (Yes, you can—and should—have one, from day-one)
What’s Cookin’?
We do not learn from experience........
we learn from reflecting on experience

John Dewey
Setting Realistic Goals and Finding Your Way

Goals
- 5 year
- 3 year
- 1 year
- This semester
- This month
- This week
- Today I will...

Different Content/Goal Domains:
1
2
3
4
5
Productivity Tips

Read everything, think hard, write a lot—true, true, true.

Good research is worth doing badly—your first stab at a research question might be a little messy, but if the question is good, you’ll find a way to refine your approach: don’t waste that curiosity—harness it!

Keep a captain’s log or journal of your ideas, but only one idea per page—when inspiration hits, you’ll need that space to add to it.

Think about how you can handle time and space and develop and signal your process.

You have to treat academics as though it is at once the single most and least important thing in your life—there are times when you have to focus like a laser on your work, and there are times when you have to set it all aside and focus on what really matters.

Well-being matters

You matter

So do your colleagues, coauthors, students, chairperson, and mentors—so be a good colleague/person.