

## **You Are Here**

by Richard Schroeder

*Your mission, should you choose to accept it:*

### **...As a Graduate Student**

settle in and learn the departmental culture  
figure out who to take courses from (and who to avoid)  
find the right advisor  
impress your advisor (for future recommendation letters)  
impress the faculty as a whole (TAships, fellowships, job references)  
learn or maintain a language  
learn or maintain computer and information technology skills  
get teaching experience  
publish an article  
present a paper at a national conference  
get high teaching evaluations or win a teaching award  
choose a research topic  
prepare a research proposal  
learn the contours of the discipline beyond your research specialty  
prepare and pass Masters and Ph.D. exams  
win a research fellowship  
write thesis or dissertation  
win a dissertation or paper award  
get a job  
get a life?

### **...As an Assistant Professor**

settle in and learn the departmental culture  
catch up on reading  
design and prepare new courses  
write lots of articles (target refereed geography journals)  
write a book and get strong reviews  
travel and do a lot of public speaking to secure a reputation  
teach well enough to earn high evaluations  
win merit award pay increases  
organize, serve as discussant at conference sessions  
be a good mentor to advisees  
write grant proposals to fund research  
pass third year performance review  
serve on committees inside and outside the department  
serve on student committees  
read proposals and papers for friends, peers, students, grant agencies, publishers  
do something for your community  
learn administrative skills  
learn multimedia education bells and whistles  
line up tenure references inside and outside the discipline  
win tenure (hold a job)

buy a car  
buy a house?  
have a life?

### **...As an Associate Professor**

all of the above, plus...  
enjoy a pay increase  
get appointed to editorial boards  
win big grants with overhead costs and RA support  
write a second book  
edit a collection or two  
become graduate or undergraduate director  
maintain a heavy travel schedule  
deal with fame (double all the pressures of Assistant Professorhood, except tenure uncertainty)  
win a teaching award  
come back to life?

### **...As Professor I**

all of the above, plus...  
edit a journal  
establish a research center or laboratory  
chair your department  
hold elected office in national professional associations  
sit on high-powered university committees  
guide junior colleagues through the tenure process  
serve as external referee for tenure candidates at other institutions  
direct the hiring process for new faculty  
stay alive?

### **...As Professor II**

all of the above, plus...  
keep on writing  
get appointed to a "named chair."  
serve as an expert witness in court, state legislatures, or congress  
become the subject of a profile of path-breaking research in some glittery newsweekly  
live it up? (give it up?)  
become a dean?

### **...As a Dean**

become provost

### **...As a Provost**

become president