Reflections on Scholarship

Laura M. Grabowski

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Preparing my application portfolio underscored how little primary research I have done since joining SUNY Potsdam. That is no surprise. I knew when I came here that I was trading my research agenda to do more undergraduate teaching. Becoming department chair served to effectively eliminate any hope of restarting my research. Teaching loads, changes in curriculum, and administrative demands occupy any time that might be used for research work, even during the summer. In addition, our students typically show little interest in research work, since they are primarily focused on industry jobs post-graduation and so pursue internships rather than research collaboration with faculty.

I have maintained my connections into my research communities in several ways. I remain actively engaged with professional organizations, particularly the International Society on Artificial Life, the organization most closely tied to my research focus. I am a regular reviewer for the Artificial Life conference, reviewing on average 5 papers each year. I also review for the journal *Artificial Life*, reviewing 1-2 journal submissions each year. I am in contact with my past research collaborators. I was invited to do a talk, "Applying Avida-ED in Computer Science Classes" at the 2022 virtual Active LENS Congress at Michigan State University and co-presented "Cultivating Diversity in a Small Computer Science Department" at the 2017 ACM New York Celebration of Women in Computing in Rochester New York. In Fall 2023, I co-presented a talk for the AI Working Group about generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) with the other Computer Science faculty.

There is no doubt that teaching is the outcome of scholarship, a fact that is recognized by SUNY Potsdam in the context of appointment and promotion. The efforts of the Computer Science faculty in updating the Computer Science curriculum were driven by careful assessment of the current state of the field, current and future job markets, the standards of computer science degree programs, and the needs of our students. This was not a rush to climb on a curricular bandwagon, it was a carefully studied approach and a process through some five years.

I confess that I miss my research, especially when I'm reviewing other researchers' papers. It's difficult to imagine, in practical terms, a time when I'll be able to resume my research here in Potsdam. I can continue to hope.