

ZULF'S EVOLUTION THROUGH TEACHING AND TUTORING AND VOLUNTEERISM

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Let's see, so you want to know history of my life from the perspective of teaching, tutoring, and volunteerism. Maybe I can periodize my life in high school years 1987-1991, then Princeton years 1991-1995, the Columbia years 1996-2000.

Lys K. Waltien was fond of me and decided one day to ask me if I'd like to teach some advanced sixth graders who were bright something about mathematics. I was eager to do something, and produced some mathematical topics to teach and did that for a while. I was a good teacher overall. Then Princeton years I volunteered to tutor some high school kids in impoverished schools in Trenton New Jersey. Then at Columbia besides some teaching duties including Calculus and 'Help Room Duty' I tutored various business school people for some money.

In all this I was naturally volunteeristic by nature and considered it a reasonable contribution to society. I did not stay in academia, but I am a very good teacher. My style of teaching is irritating for some people because I emphasize only very important central issues and like to reinforce them. I don't like to go far away from the extremely central issues because most students can do that themselves and I always felt my duty as teacher was to keep solid ground which are deep. Many found my ways boring and remedial and I never cared. The deep things that are central need reinforcement.

At some point in my life I stopped thinking doing things of this sort is valuable at all. Perhaps it's growth in ambition. But I have paid my dues in those sorts of ways. Now in front of my is the entire human race of eight billion. And I don't even want to lift a finger for things that will not have wide effect on all peoples of the world.

I think there is a graduation process. I would not tutor or teach today for the audience of less than say a hundred million is too small for me now.