

EECS COLLOQUIUM

Fall 2015



**Wednesday
November 18**
4:00 - 5:00pm

Refreshments
served at 3:30pm

**Hewlett-Packard
Auditorium**
306 Soda Hall

How to Have a Bad Career in Research/Academia Pre-PhD and Post-PhD (including How to Give a Bad Talk)

David A. Patterson

Pardee Professor of Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and
Computer Sciences, UC Berkeley

Abstract

This talk collects advice that I wish I had been given when I started graduate school and after I got my PhD. This presentation is a reprise of one I first gave 20 years ago, at the midpoint of my career. I believe the advice even more so now.

The first piece of the talk is advice for Ph.D. students (or students thinking about a PhD) and the second piece is for careers in research or academic positions for those with Ph.D's. Each piece is further divided into a tongue-in-cheek presentation of how to have a bad career at that stage, with the second half offering advice on alternatives to a bad career (i.e., a not bad one).

Also, after Q&A, I'll spend 5 minutes reviewing my life story and lessons learned in my nearly 40 years of being a CS Professor at UC Berkeley.

Biography

David Patterson is likely best-known for the book *Computer Architecture: A Quantitative Approach* written with John Hennessy (President of Stanford) or for UC Berkeley research projects Reduced Instruction Set Computers (RISC), Redundant Arrays of Inexpensive Disks (RAID), and Network of Workstations (NOW). All three helped lead to multi-billion dollar industries. He also served as Berkeley's CS Division Chair, the Computing Research Association Chair, and President of the Association for Computing Machinery, and was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Silicon Valley Engineering Hall of Fame.