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 (T'Aships, 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