


The background of the slide features a dense pattern of green leaves in various shades, from light lime to deep forest green. At the bottom, there are soft, white ripples on a light blue-green surface, suggesting water. A large, semi-transparent white rounded rectangle is centered on the slide, containing the title and author information.

# **Academic Sabbatical: What, Why, How, ...**


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# My sabbatical history:

## A study in 4-body compromise

- ✿ 1984: Visiting assist. prof. @ UMASS
  - ✿ No sabbatical “credits”
- ✿ 1985: Assist. prof. @ UCSB
  - ✿ Infant, toddler, & husband is full-time PhD student
  - ✿ Used sabbatical credits to reduce teaching load pre-tenure (mini-sabbaticals in residence)
    - ✿ Missed many benefits of a “real” sabbatical
    - ✿ It was the best I could do for my situation
- ✿ 1997: Left UCSB for MSU
  - ✿ Gave up 5 years of sabbatical credit
  - ✿ (And recent promotion to full professor)



# My sabbatical history:

## A study in 4-body+CSE compromise

✿ 2003: Agreed to Chair CSE Dept.

- ✿ Not a good time for me to be away from the dept
- ✿ Not a good time for reduced pay (kids in college)
- ✿ Sabbatical plans on hold for 4 years
- ✿ Lost 4-years worth of sabbatical credits

✿ 2007: Finally, a *real* sabbatical!


- ✿ Fall 2007: University of Lund, Sweden
- ✿ Spring 2008: AT&T Research, Florham Park, NJ
- ✿ *Life should be a sabbatical!*  
(More details to come)

# A “typical” sabbatical system

- ✿ Mutual benefit: your university and you
  - ✿ Academic revitalization
  - ✿ Sustained time for research/creative activities
  - ✿ Expand skills/qualifications
- ✿ No more frequent than every 6 years
  - ✿ NOT automatic (at MSU)
- ✿ Application
  - ✿ Detailed plan explaining mutual benefit
  - ✿ Something you could not “normally” do
  - ✿ Submit at least 6 months in advance (at MSU)
  - ✿ Can be denied due to dept constraints (even if a good plan)

# A “typical” sabbatical system

- ✿ Reduction in pay? Institution dependent.  
At MSU:
  - ✿ 1 year at 50% salary
  - ✿ 6 months at full salary (discouraged)
- ✿ Restrictions on supplementing your income
- ✿ Sabbatical report afterwards
- ✿ *You promise to return to your institution for at least as long as the sabbatical leave (pay back your sabbatical)*



# Potential sources for supplemental funding

## ✿ Fellowships

- ✿ Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES): Fulbright Scholar Program
- ✿ Guggenheim Foundation
- ✿ Others?

## ✿ Federal agencies

- ✿ National Research Council
- ✿ National Security Agency
- ✿ Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education
- ✿ Naval Research Laboratory
- ✿ NSF?

# Potential sources for supplemental funding

## ✿ Industry

- ✿ Google, Microsoft, IBM, ...
- ✿ Motorola, LogicBlox, ...

## ✿ Teach at university hosting your visit?

- ✿ This can be (but often is not) a good opportunity

## ✿ Consulting

- ✿ Many (most?) faculty cinch their belts to be free of extraneous obligations

***CAUTION: Don't squander your sabbatical making money!!***

# Recommendations for a stay-at-home sabbatical

- ✿ **Don't** go into the office
- ✿ **Don't** serve on dept committees
- ✿ **Limit** other service
- ✿ **Do** work with your graduate students (off-campus, if possible)
- ✿ **Do** start new projects/research directions
- ✿ **Do** take short trips
  - ✿ Attend conferences
  - ✿ Give talks on your research
  - ✿ Visit other research labs
- ✿ **Do** take some personal time to recharge

# To go or to stay

At-home option	Go somewhere
Less overhead/disruption	Broaden your life experiences
On-going projects/students get focused attention	Exposed to new ideas, different culture/way of doing things
Can take short trips for research and to gain exposure	Close sustained interaction with top researchers
Cost-effective	Expand visibility of your work
	Naturally protected from dept politics, service, etc.

# Factors to consider when selecting where to go

- ✿ Quality of work by those in your area
  - ✿ Their level of interest, commitment to you
- ✿ Overall quality of institution/lab
- ✿ Professional enrichment opportunities
  - ✿ Visitors, seminars, meetings, ...
- ✿ Proximity to other interesting places
- ✿ Adequacy of facilities
- ✿ Quality of life
- ✿ Expense

# My *real* sabbatical

University of Lund, Sweden, fall 2007

- ✿ Husband invited there
- ✿ I invited myself to visit CS dept
  - ✿ Learned of work I can leverage in my own research
  - ✿ Gave talks and attended several conferences and program meetings in Europe
  - ✿ Met regularly with my students and others via skype
  - ✿ Established two new research collaborations remotely
- ✿ Recharged
  - ✿ Traveled/spent time with husband, daughter & her boyfriend
  - ✿ Exercised regularly
  - ✿ Made many new friends and experienced many Swedish traditions





# My *real* sabbatical

AT&T Research, Spring 2008

- ✿ Original plan: IBM Research
- ✿ Husband found a nearby institute (IES) to invite him
- ✿ Decided late that AT&T was a better fit for me:
  - ✿ Commuted to AT&T on Sundays, returned late on Wed's
  - ✿ Started collaboration with Cantata group at AT&T
  - ✿ Arranged summer internships for my student
  - ✿ Gave talks (Rutgers, AT&T, local workshop, ...)
- ✿ Recharged
  - ✿ Time with in-laws in New Jersey and Long Island
  - ✿ There for birth of our niece
  - ✿ Enjoyed museums, concerts, restaurants in NYC







# Summary

- ✿ Find a way to take your sabbaticals
- ✿ And make the most of them!