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When I started graduate school 25 years ago, I was excited about the scientific challenges of physical oceanography and hopeful that the field would provide a more hospitable environment for women than I had found as a physics undergraduate. While oceanography definitely felt more hospitable, that doesn't mean that it was always fully welcoming, and I sometimes felt like a small voice in a room full of bearded men. Over time, the demographics have changed. My hallway at Scripps Institution of Oceanography is now packed with women faculty and researchers. When my mind wanders in meetings, I routinely calculate the ratio of women to men in the room. Now, as often as not, women outnumber men, and the issues that concern us are more readily heard. Nonetheless, puzzles remain: for a recent faculty search, the ratio of male to female job applicants was about four to one, and I wondered how that could be, given that women comprise roughly half of our students and postdocs.

I'm fortunate to have a supportive husband. He is also a UC-San Diego professor (in mechanical and aerospace engineering), so we both have complicated schedules and also flexibility. We share responsibilities for our two boys (ages eight and 11), and we often lament the inefficiency and duplication associated with sharing responsibilities. Both of us need to know what goes in the kids' lunch boxes and who has soccer practice on Friday. We routinely remind the kids' school and sports teams to include both of us on e-mail distribution lists: "Things run more smoothly in our household if both of us are notified about events." That's code for saying that we travel more than we care to admit.

My research group focuses largely on the Southern Ocean, where research cruises can test the duration limits of the research fleet, sometimes running 50 to 60 days. Although I've been involved in recent seagoing projects (including the Diapycnal and Isopycnal Mixing Experiment in the Southern Ocean, DIMES), I've dodged the cruises in order to stay home with my family. This can get me into trouble, because shipboard data fundamentally "belong" to the principal investigators who are on the ship getting knocked over by big waves. However, there's no shortage of science questions,



and my group makes extensive use of satellite data, autonomous floats, and numerical models, and we stray over a broad latitude range.

One direction we've taken is examination of diurnal variability of winds and temperatures in the upper ocean. Diurnal effects are largest in the tropics, equatorward of 30° latitude. My initial work on diurnal winds was with my husband. Working with someone I know so well is tremendous fun—but also difficult, because he and I tend to lose any remnant veneer of politeness when we collaborate. Our initial husband-wife project has grown in scope, and my research group is excited about the recent launch of the RapidScat ocean vector wind instrument aboard the International Space Station, because its orbit will give us new perspective on diurnal wind variability.

When I started 25 years ago, I could not have predicted the future trajectory of my life in oceanography with any accuracy. So I won't conjecture what the future might bring, but I hope oceanography continues to provide as much satisfaction as it has so far.