

Pam Samuelson Session 07 Closing Remarks

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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SPEAKERS

Pam Samuelson, Molly Shaffer Van Houweling, Robert Glushko

- M** Molly Shaffer Van Houweling 00:00
Our next speaker, Bob Glushko, Adjunct Full Professor on the Cognitive Science Program at UC Berkeley. Or just for today
- R** Robert Glushko 00:15
Pam Samuelson's bag boy.
- M** Molly Shaffer Van Houweling 00:17
I was going to say Mr. Pam Samuelson.
- R** Robert Glushko 00:21
Okay, this is really going to be hard for me because I've learned things in the last six hours that I didn't know when I [inaudible] that I didn't know, for 35 years. What is that? I didn't know she could do all these things because she's always so busy doing things that I can see, that I don't see any of this stuff, like being a nice person and a mentor and all that. I didn't know that. I didn't mean it that way exactly. Not exactly, but you don't mentor me, for example, you mostly criticize me but that's okay. The second thing is, is it showing right on the screen? Okay. The second thing is that, okay. But the second thing is that I've actually learned things that, I remember things that Pam has told me that now makes sense. So one thing she told me, probably in the first few years of our relationship, which is about 35 years, was that a lot of people in the legal academy think it's their job to sit on the mountain and predict train wrecks. They look down the mountain to say, there's going to be a train wreck down there, it's going to be really interesting and exciting and devastating. Pam goes, my job was to get down there and lie on the tracks and stop the trains. That's what a real scholar does. It's not just predict it, but stop it if it's going to be bad. And now it all makes sense. And I see what you guys have talked about all day, it's like, she stopped a lot of train wrecks. So I'm going to show you some


things that you don't know about, Pam. Some of them have been hinted at, but most of you don't know. So I'm going to start. Okay, so first of all, you know that she's written just a ridiculous number of law review articles. But you probably don't realize she's written over 100 articles in computing journals, and other technology oriented venues, which I estimated the other day as 700,000 words. 700,000 words of stuff that wasn't in a law review or wasn't in a, you know, it's like this is stuff that's just art. In particular, since 1990 or so, she's written this quarterly, legally speaking column in a computer journal called Communications of the ACM, the largest computing society out there. And if you look at the articles over the last 35 years, it's like a history overview for anyone interested in law and technology. And if you read them, you actually might learn a bunch. So if I looked back to 35 years ago, here's some of the titles. Why the look and feel of you, can read them. Look at this stuff. This is what she's writing about 1990 ish. Okay. What is she writing about in 2000? Oh, well. Again, some of this stuff is this pretty prescient. 2010, 2020 ish. And one of the most foremost recent things she's written in the last like 12 months? You got to be kidding me? How could she always be so on point, or ahead of point. Okay. And then, of course, there's this recent thing that came out in this cheesy journal called Science. That I mean, I have an article come out in Science. In Science? That's like the most prestigious journal in the universe and law professors don't publish in Science, they publish on like, journals and legal [inaudible]. Says, no, no, it's going to be in Science. See, this editor called me said they want to do a special issue on the technology of generative AI. And there's been some people raising copyright issues, but they want to talk to me because they want to know something about this. An hour later he says, will you please write us an article about this stuff? And she goes, so of course, I said, sure. Now, the question, that has been come back over and over again is how can she be so productive? And I finally cracked the code thinking about this, these few remarks, which is that Pam loves to travel. Okay. But she, unlike people who when they face impossible deadlines, say, I panic, I freeze, she goes, I had a reason to be productive. I'm going to go off to someplace really neat. So the week before our travel, she writes like 10,000 words. And then she's at dinner, I wrote 3,100 words today Bob. Next day, I wrote 1900 words. Said what, you're slacking off? But she really, most of her, if we looked at her publications submissions, I bet we can track them through like our trips. What day was she most productive? The day before we went to someplace really neat. So I think the lesson here is that travel shouldn't be an escape from work, it's a reward from it. They think like, it motivates me to be productive rather than when I'm behind on my work. Let's go someplace and then all of a sudden turns into a productive machine. At least it works for Pam. So we've been to some pretty cool places. You might recognize some of these. But the next ones are about clothes. So we went to a mosque in Casa Blanca, recently, and you recognize this person on the left. All right, very cool. When you were kids, you sang a song called "Sur le Pont d'Avignon". That's it in the middle. All right. And there's these pointy things in the desert. I forget what they are, but they're pretty cool, too. But one of the most transformative trips that we did was in 2017, I think, went to this place called Antarctica. Now, why was it transformative? Because Pam discovered in that trip that she loves penguins. I'm serious. The woman loves penguins. I mean, she loves penguins so much that she like could probably name five penguin species. Right? Gentoos, Emperors. She knows penguins. Now, why is it interesting? Because in moments of great weakness, she becomes a penguin. She does this whenever she gets kind of goofy. She does. penguin walks around the house. Okay, so you didn't know that she was a penguin lover, did you? You know that she's a scuba diver? You're kidding me right, scuba diver? Well, it kind of correlates with travel sometimes. So we've been to, she got certified in Hawaii. But one of the places that crazy people go diving, Fiji, Tahiti, Seychelles, Bonaire. We've done that. She loves to dive. Again, it's like because it's probably frees your mind to go home and write 10,000 words the next week. You want to have them which is so different that it clears your mind for the next 10,000 word bench. And guess what, it works? Okay. Some of you who follow, one of the 10,000 followers on Twitter. She has two

distinct communities. People who think she's a law professor and people who think she's a person who cooks and grows flowers. They're like two distinct communities. So Pam loves gardening, flowers and vegetables and cooking. Have you ever cooked with a flower. I don't think she has. So she cooks the vegetables. These are all pictures from our garden. Yes, she has 11 kinds of roses. 11 different kinds of flavors of roses. Is that the right word, flavor? No. 11 kinds of roses. This is a picture, you have to, I had to have two because you couldn't tell what it was if you didn't see them from both sides. That's a cactus. Okay? Now, she mostly titillates us with these vegetable pictures. So I go okay, we're having beets tonight, right? And she goes, maybe if you're lucky. But, so we have here, this is the tomato. I think somebody else referred to gazpacho we have about once a week in the summer when we had like this many tomatoes every day being picked. We have a lot of apples. So some of you had the apples she brought into the law school. She brought them into a faculty meeting once it was like five bags of apples. Well, we make these things with apples. These little apple cinnamon crisps. All right. Well, so another thing that probably now you know this, but I was surprised how much it really was true that Pam likes hanging out with interesting women. There are so many of you guys out there. It's like I'm Pam's best friend. Well, you can't all be her best friend. But a lot of you are good friends of hers, and I could find 10 pictures like this of different groups of Pam club. Maybe they're different sororities or whatever. They have different Greek names. I don't what is. But like here's some other interesting women. And of course, it's been mentioned a couple of times that we have this interesting group of women in Seattle called the Dovie Samuelson scholars that we created a scholarship for to honor Pam's grandmother who was basically her most positive role model as a woman when she was growing up. We skipped a generation there. And every year we go up there and I say to these, me, and I'm the only man in the room. There's me and the Dovies. We meet the new Dovie that year and we go back every year for a reunion, and most of them come back. No other scholarship in any school ever, do people go back for fun to go back and meet the person. And these kids come back. We say, this is the most selective sorority at the University of Washington. You get invited, you don't rush this, we invite you. And we had like in 20 years, we have three PhDs, physics, chemistry and material science. We got executive at Microsoft. And they're all like mind blowing women because, partly because they were good going in and we sort of helped them. But because Pam with them inspires them. She tells a story of her grandmother, and she's says a little bit but she doesn't go, wow, I can do that. But occasionally Pam hangs out with men if they have interesting women in their lives. I found a couple of these. But we'll give Erwin some credit for being, hanging out with some smart women, I guess. But Pam also loves being a grandmother. So the and the one on the right you have my sons Bobby's latest startup. Was born in June 2023. And Pam loves him so much that we kidnap him and brought him to San Francisco. There's proof, there's proof. That's visible proof that we took him to San Francisco, you see that? Okay. Now, by closing words to you, Pam. I should have had you read the Wikipedia article on Festschrift. Because it highlights this idea about retirement and you know, and you haven't didn't read it. You didn't quite read that part about retirement? Because I know you're not retiring soon because, I mean like I said, this this pick one innovation hype mean hysteria about generative AI and copyright, it's like, she goes, I did this in 1985. How can I give this up now? And so in the last three months, three articles. Are you kidding me? It's supposed to be retiring Pa,, remember? So, in all honesty, this wasn't the Pam fest. Save the date, November 3rd, 2033. It'll be about right in 10 years, we'll do this again. And maybe it'll really will be the time stamping of our time. So anyway, I really enjoyed being here to share Pam with all of you. Actually, I'm sharing too much of everything I can tell. You get more ever than I thought you did. But thank you for letting me be here at the investiture of St. Pam.



 Molly Shaffer van Houweling 12:50

Thank you, Bob. So you know Pam is the adult in the room. And there's Bob. So I hope that Pam will come up and give some closing remarks and before she does, I wanted to say a word about the imagery of today, which was put together by one of our brilliant BCLT colleagues, Abril Delgado, who along with Richard Fisk was the mastermind of this event. So let's thank them again. So this is a peony. I understand from Pam flower Twitter that the peony is her favorite flower. I hope that is correct. And so it's a tribute to Pam. We know, we all know now about Pam's love of gardening, who loves to share the beauty and bounty of her garden. And she cultivates it just as she has cultivated the careers and relationships that are represented here today. Pam's army is one metaphor, but we are all also flowers in Pam's garden. I like to think of it that way. This image is from the public domain collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which I think is fitting that public domain collection is available for free online in part because of advocacy by other members of Pam's garden inspired by her work, and of course, it's a tribute to her championing of the public domain. And to me, it's also a symbol of the fullness of Pam's career and life, her cultivation of ideas. I can't look at her, and relationships and nature and beauty. And to represent that and as a memento of today, I have this gift for Pam. Pam, I hope you'll come up to receive it. It is a peony. A title to remind you of today, and our celebration, our symposium celebrating Pam Samuelson. November 3rd, 2013.

 Pam Samuelson 15:52

My heart is so full. Thank you so much. First Molly, to come up with this idea and carry it off so beautifully. I just can't thank you enough. You did a brilliant job bringing some of the best people I know, here to have a conversation and it's helped to attract many other people whom I also love. So thank you all for coming here. A huge thanks to Richard and Abril for their amazing work putting this thing together, I really am so, so touched. To the speakers, you know, this has been so important to me and I want to also thank my brothers, Mark and Scott and their families, and my son, Bobby, for coming to this event. You know, Bobby kind of knew what I did. But I think my brother didn't really know what I did. So it's kind of education today. And of course, I have to thank and want to thank Bob Glushko, who's made so many things possible in my life. He's been my technical expert, my best friend. And that too, although there was a time when I was the VC. There was about five years when he was getting paid intermittently. And the Microsoft, I mean the MacArthur Award came in just at the right time. Yeah, that extra \$350,000 really came in handy. So, but Bob has been so important in my life, and so important to my work. And because I don't have a technical background, to have somebody in the household, who actually can explain things to me and can help me sort of like fine tune things so that I won't embarrass myself in front of technical people. But I also am going to say thanks to David Lang, Ralph Brown, and Ray Patterson. These were three copyright scholars who actually cared about the public interest and who thought of copyright in public interest terms. And not only were they a model in that particular respect, but they also mentored me. And were generous in their mentoring and their support for me. And it came at a time when there weren't very many women in the field and a woman who was interested in copyright in the public interest was kind of like not really welcome in certain places. So if I have mentored many of you, in this room, it is because I'm paying it forward. But also because I just really love being with people who are kind of trying to do good work and trying to advance the public interest. But so you can understand why this tribute means so much to me. I want to tell you a couple of things about my early life. My father told me that the only reason that he sent me to college was so that I could earn my Mrs. degree. And it was my job as a student at a state university to find somebody who was studying business and who had become a bank vice president. And because that was what I was supposed to do, is become the wife of this

particular person. Now, my mother actually didn't think I was going to be marriageable. So, so she told me to, she insisted that I take a typing class at a junior college so that I could earn my way, as a spinster, as a secretary. And then, the week before I started college, she took me to lunch someplace. And she said to me, you know, Pam, I know that you've been used to getting A's in your classes, but you know, you're about to go to the big time now. And you need to understand, you're not really that smart. And it's okay with us. If you start getting B's and C's, it's really not a problem for us. And I just sort of said to myself, well, thanks for the vote of confidence. And now typing has come in handy because I write. And I think even my father would say, I did better than a bank vice president. But my parents didn't believe in me. And one of the reasons why you saw that picture of my grandmother, Dovie Samuelson is that she was the only person in my life who was my family, who believed in me, and who taught me to love art and literature and poetry and classical music, and to believe that I could make something of myself. And so Dovie is a really important person. But you see that this tribute, is something that was kind of unimaginable, when I was 18. And my parents just think I was stupid and unmanageable. So to be here today, and to feel not only that I was successful, but that actually people like me, it's really, really super important. I thought I'd also say something more about accidents in my life, because a lot of the sort of where I am now is basically due to a lot of accidents. So I didn't start out intending to become a law professor. I was working really, really, really hard at Willkie, Farr, and Gallagher as a litigation associate. And I just didn't have time to think about what else could I do with my life. And all of a sudden, I get a telephone call from a friend from law school, saying, you know, we need somebody to teach a class on a subject that you've been working on lately, at the University of Hawaii. Why don't you take a semester leave from your firm, and come out and be a visiting professor for a semester. And I was like, I am so there. And then I got there. And I started teaching, I said, you know, this is actually a different experience than I had when I was in law school. And I kind of like it. And so maybe this is actually something I should try to do. And I didn't intend to become an intellectual property person, either. I had my, the things that I was asking to teach when I filled out my form about, you know, what are you willing to teach, didn't include anything intellectual property. But my dean said, you know, you've been doing some antitrust stuff, why don't you do intellectual property because it's kind of a [unknown] cousin. And so I thought, well, okay, I'll give it a try. I didn't intend to focus on computers or software or any new technology issue. I don't have a background in that particular space. But by accident, I met two computer science, researchers from Carnegie Mellon University, and I met them and I told them that I was teaching this class about a seminar about advanced copyright issues. And the copyrightability of computer programs was actually, there were split decisions on it at the time. And so I gave them the contour report to read and then they came down to my class. And on the way down from the hill from Carnegie Mellon, they got into a huge fight with each other. One of them saying of course, computer programs are copyrightable, and the other of course they're not. And they came to my class and I said, okay, we'll just pick up where you left off. And, and then they started talking about, you know, the people who wrote this contour report, they don't know anything about computer programs, and I'm going. And so the contour paper basically grew out of that accidental seminar, and of course, I thought I was going to write just that one article that one time I'm. And instead, I got sucked into the vortex of new technology copyright issues. And so, you know, that was, that was another thing. I didn't intend also to become a writer for the Communications of the ACM, but short time after I married Bob, I went to his conferences because there were all these people who were like doing new technology things. And oh man, I can learn new things and have new things to write about. And so at this one conference was the editor in chief of the Communications of the ACM, and I got talking and she said, you know, there's so many important technology and policy issues that are happening in the legal field, why don't you write something for us, and then I kind of got into doing it. Now, the reason that that was a particularly important kind of development in my career, is that I wouldn't have got

hired at Berkeley, if it weren't those for those Communications of the ACM articles. Because Hal Varian was the moving force behind my being hired. Hal Varian was an economist, Hal Varian had some people from the computer science department here to say, to advise him about whom to hire. And they also had me because they had, they were familiar with my effort to kind of be that bridge between the technology community and the legal community. And so my Berkeley appointment is actually due to that. And so you see that there's a series of kind of accidents that happen. And it kind of had a pretty good outcome. But I just wanted to say to you, you know, there are people in the audience who have had accidents too, some of those accidents have been bad accidents, and some of them have been good accidents. But I have to say, my accidents have been really wonderful. And I also want you to kind of understand that I don't have any kind of grand theoretical background, I'm kind of like, I have what I call a moral compass. My moral compass tells me, you really need to write about this, you really need to think this through, you really need to do whatever you can to advance this particular legal or policy issue. And I found myself saying, I may not win this battle, but I'm damned if I'm going down without a fight. And that's been kind of what I've been doing all my life and actually, some of the fights have turned out pretty good. So anyway, that's my kind of like little story to end on. Thank you.