This talk draws from lessons I have learned after nearly 60 years of working in optics. The material presented is aimed at young faculty and students, describing both my mistakes, disappointments, and what I did right. Regarding education, I review what appear to be common trends in the advancement of technology, and emphasize my view of the type of education that will help one retain relevance during such changes. Regarding hard work, I have found that if you work hard you can overcome many educational shortcomings and, if you enjoy the work you are doing, it doesn’t seem to be hard at all. Finally, regarding good luck, I review the various kinds of good luck that befell me, in hopes that you will find similar good luck in your careers.