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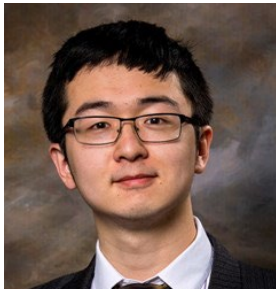
Fast Five with the TFSC

A Newsletter for First Year Faculty at the University of Arkansas

OCTOBER 2022 THEME: WHAT I WISH I KNEW – ADVICE FROM [NEW](#) PROFESSORS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

This month we'll share information from professors who joined the University of Arkansas recently on things they wish they had known from day one of their careers here.

1. Dongyi Wang, Biological and Agricultural Engineering, College of Engineering and Division of Agriculture



Dongyi joined the University of Arkansas as an Assistant Professor and the Director of the Experiment Station in June 2021. This is his first position after finishing his PhD program. The most important thing he learned was **the importance of efficient time management** for junior faculty. One of the biggest challenges he met in the transition from the role of student to the role of faculty is to effectively handle multiple tasks in a short period of time. As faculty members, we have to balance the energy and the time for research, teaching, service and personal lives.

Dongyi shared two tips which help him to better manage his time. One is to keep his Outlook calendar up-to-date, and he will go through his calendar every day before going to the bed to make sure he doesn't miss any events in the upcoming day. The other strategy is to note down the events which don't have deadlines. The calendar will be updated monthly, and each event will be given some priority to make sure everything gets completed.

2. Zachary Payton, Department of Math, Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences



Zachary says, as a first-year instructor, teaching multiple sections of math courses could feel daunting. He advised to remember that the students are human just like you, and an adversarial relationship is not desired. Here are his **teaching tips on how to teach in required courses** to help navigate your first semester:

- You will probably be teaching multiple sections of the same course. It is important to keep all of your sections at the same pace. For your own sanity!
- Build relationships with other instructors that are teaching your same courses. Collaborate on lesson plans to make your life easier!
- The students start out excited and ready to engage. Start engaging early by talking to students and bringing in exercises where students can work together at times.
- Don't take poor performances by your students on a particular assignment personally. If you are doing the right thing all along it will work out in the end!
- You are the expert in the room, and students are aware of that. Have Confidence!

3. Elizabeth Parke, Exercise Science Research Center, College of Education and Health Professions



Liz works as the Clinical Education Coordinator for the Athletic Training Program and is a Teaching Assistant Professor. The first thing that she wishes that she had known was about **teaching support and resources** that the University of Arkansas provides new faculty members. Uncertainty about a new position lessened when she attended both the New Faculty orientation and her college orientation, as everyone that she met was so friendly.

To learn more about resources, she attended numerous programming offered by the TFSC (contact: tfsc@uark.edu). This allowed for her to get out of her office and walk the gorgeous (and hilly) campus, but it also increased her teaching pedagogy, and she made more connections with individuals across campus. She earned the New Faculty Commendation from the TFSC. It also put her in positions to join committees at various levels on campus which made her feel integrated into the campus community. She even attended Teaching Camp offered by the TFSC in her first year. She strongly encourages new faculty to get involved on campus right away.

4. Venkata K P (Kamesh) Mallampalli, Information Systems, Sam M. Walton College of Business



Kamesh started as a Visiting Assistant Professor last year and is now an Assistant Professor in the Information Systems Department. He has some advice on navigating the first semester. Kamesh arrived on campus just in time for the start of semester and did not anticipate the amount of time required to get set up and **become familiar with all the systems and resources** we need to use, like Blackboard, UAConnect, Workday (training calendar: <https://uark.sharepoint.com/sites/wdt>), and the Faculty

Information System (how to sign up training which is usually on Fridays:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xELHeRzmpU--iaPLVmqA0cP81PJXm6dHq77_1mzl5otUQ1kyRUJLQUJJSjQ4NzRQUjdPSjNDVVRRTy4u).

To navigate technology challenges he worked with TIPS (contact: tips@uark.edu – they do individual consultations), Blackboard Help (contact: bbhelp@uark.edu is a good starting point), and campus information systems resources (contact: 479-575-HELP). He also made connections with colleagues he could turn to with questions. He definitely did not anticipate being locked out of the classroom on the first day of class, with the students standing around him and wondering what was going on. (Recommendation: Have the administrative support supervisor's phone number in your contacts). He thought of the guidance from the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy – "Don't Panic!" and used all the resources that he had available.

5. Flint Harris, Management, Sam M. Walton College of Business



Flint owns and operates two businesses in the NW Arkansas area and teaches in both the management and marketing departments as a lecturer. He began teaching at the Walton College in Fall 2019. He offers some **teaching tips related to having a good relationship with your students**. With his business background he thinks having a willingness to share your personal experiences from the corporate world is extremely beneficial in breaking down the perceived wall between professors and students. He encourages professors to share their love of their topic with their students. He says that students enjoy hearing about your successes and value the authenticity and lessons learned from someone who has failed along the way too. He believes it is also advantageous to make learning students' names a top priority as this allows students to feel seen and valued. His last tidbit is to not move your test dates as stated on your syllabus because students do plan road trips and other getaways based on the schedule and this will make life easier for all to stick with the plan even if you adjust the material covered on the test.