

11-2022

Fast Five with the TFSC

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Citation

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Wally Cordes Teaching and Faculty Support Center. (2022). Fast Five with the TFSC. *Fast Five with the TFSC*. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/fast-five-tfsc/9>

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Fast Five with the TFSC

A Newsletter for First Year Faculty at the University of Arkansas

NOVEMBER 2022 THEME: WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD YOU INVESTIGATE TO BETTER HELP STUDENTS?

*Recently, one of our co-directors mentored a student from another department/college. Faculty within the department were asked for advice. As new faculty you may be going through something similar because everything is “new” to you. During orientation we talked about reaching out to people within the department and making connections. Use the following questions to learn more about your department and meet people you may not have talked with yet. All of the faculty listed here are members of the **Department of Biology** and are providing advice to a student considering a career in medicine.*



Adnan Alrubaye: I recommend that your student starts doing Honors research with one of the biology or poultry science faculty. (Dr. Alrubaye has a dual appointment in both of these departments). It will look really good on her CV, and she’ll end up securing a good recommendation letter from the faculty member. While doing research with the faculty member, she can apply for one of the Honors research grants like the SURF or Honors Research Team. The grants will help pay her some \$\$ and provide bench fees to the faculty member. **Question to ask in your department: How does the honors thesis work? Do we have opportunities for research collaborations with faculty and students?**



Tim Kral: I would suggest that the student volunteer at a health care facility, especially one where Physician Assistant’s work. When it is time to apply, it would be helpful to get a letter of recommendation from a PA. **Question to ask in your department: What kinds of work experience are the most helpful for our students? Where can I direct students to go for help in finding an internship?**



Kate Walker: Generally, as a part of an RSO or other organization and pre-professional program they are required to complete hours shadowing or observing. I would recommend she begin to make connections in the community or her home community for observing physicians in offices/hospitals, various settings if possible. There are also opportunities on campus to work/study medicine abroad but that would be a financial barrier to some. **Question to ask in your department: How do students find job shadowing opportunities (these generally last one or two visits versus an internship which can be a semester or a year)? What study abroad opportunities does our department or college offer?**



John Shadwick: We also have a Biology club and a Wildlife Society club. Joining and eventually taking on a leadership role would be excellent.

I was just made aware of career counseling for biology majors in Fulbright College. Information found here, <https://uark.sharepoint.com/teams/CareersForBiologyMajors>.

Question to ask in your department: What clubs do we have in the department or college that students can join? Do we have career counseling resources available for our department?



Faith Lessner: To be successful in class, I advise students to review course materials early and often and to not wait until the last minute to do their assignments. Successful students will review the lecture and/or lab materials shortly after the class period, refer to the text or accompanying documents to take extra notes, and supplement their knowledge. They will also typically complete homework assignments a few days before they are due instead of waiting until the couple of hours prior to the deadline to complete them. Some students will read ahead so that they are already familiar with the topics that will be covered in lecture each week and can ask thoughtful questions during the class. They are, then, knowledgeable of the topics discussed and can participate in class more easily/readily. So, successful students attend class, review materials frequently, complete all assignments, and participate during the class session.

Question to ask in your department: How do you let students know the best way to succeed in your class?