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Fast Five with the TFSC, February 2023

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Fast Five with the TFSC

A Newsletter for First Year Faculty at the University of Arkansas

FEBRUARY 2023 THEME: **ADVICE ON HOW TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES TO ENGAGE IN RESEARCH AND SERVICE**

This month we'll share information from professors who have been successful engaging in research and service. Teaching Faculty often engage in research focused on teaching known as the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Tenure track faculty generally focus on research related to their discipline. Almost all faculty will have a service component to their contract.

1. Dr. Jack Kern, Clinical Professor of Education Science, College of Education and Health Professions and former TFSC Co-Director.



In our college we urge teaching faculty to focus on 'Scholarship' in a broader sense, rather than traditional research. As a non-tenure track faculty member, most NTT faculty are not expected to collect data, etc. as part of their workload (TFSC note: Check with your college on this, as this varies by college). Professional involvement at conferences within their specialty area would involve scholarship, especially if it resulted in presentations (related to 'teaching') or leadership positions. The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) has also become very popular at conferences, and essentially involves "research" on the teaching/learning process. **(Note: All faculty who seek tenure and or promotion need to show their teaching proficiency. Watch for information on how the TFSC is assisting with this with conferences you can do either on zoom or on campus and think about how you can contribute now or in the future).**



2. Dr. Rebecca Miles, Teaching Associate Professor of Marketing, Sam M. Walton College of Business:

Rebecca shares her ideas about how to get started with research. Her research focuses on the scholarship of teaching and learning:

- Find peers with whom to collaborate because that provides support, additional ideas, and accountability.
 - Expand your definition of research to include scholarly writing, including creating or modifying Open Educational Resources (through the U of A library) for your classes.
 - Develop scholarly contributions (including OER) with your students, whether in one semester or across an academic year.
- Create a meta-analysis of research in which you are interested, whether alone or with peers.

3. Molly Jensen, Teaching Associate Professor of Marketing Department, Sam M. Walton College of Business:



Molly contributes to research on teaching. She advises that starting a research train on the scholarship of teaching and learning can be difficult. My recommendation is to start with a topic that you find extremely interesting and then find a collaborator.

Alternatively, find somebody in your department or college who already is doing research and who would be interested in collaborating with you. Allowing you to serve as a kind of an assistant, so that you can contribute in a meaningful way and earn a co-authorship. This way you aren't overwhelmed by starting from scratch.



4. Dr. Carole Shook, Teaching Assistant Professor of Information Systems, Sam M. Walton College of Business, and TFSC Co-Director:

Time is often an issue in contributing to research or service. A time audit helps you examine how you spend your time by tracking how you use your time for one week. The purpose is to find if there are activities that might not be productive (how much time is spent scrolling social media/watching Netflix) or if you are spending inordinate amounts of time on certain tasks (preparing for class or answering email are two that come to mind). For more information and a free template there are additional resources on this topic: <https://www.getclockwise.com/blog/time-audits> . After completing the audit, you are more aware of your time usage and can better plot tasks. This year I am putting things I want to get done into my planner before scheduling other activities to help stay on track with research obligations.



5. Dr. Paul Calleja, Interim Associate Dean for Administration College of Education and Health Professions, Teaching Professor of Education Science, and Teaching Academy President:

Managing your time can be like trying to catch smoke or herd cats. It is sometimes so elusive that you don't even realize that it has passed. While staying on track can be challenging, there are a couple of things that you can do to enhance your daily productivity. Identifying times of the week where repetitive tasks can be completed provide you with opportunities to focus your efforts. My course assignments are all due on Mondays, and I have set aside Tuesday morning to grade assignments. Technology can also provide the necessary bumpers to guide you from week to week. I use my calendar and things to do apps in collaboration, so I am always in the know. I hope that these two tips help to improve your ability to have time for research.

