

Lumberjack Link

A weekly newsletter for the newest members of the Lumberjack family

November
16, 2008

Issue 13

Class of
2013



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SFA 101

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Who's Who in the College Faculty

While looking through the General Bulletin or perusing your academic department's website, you might have noticed that faculty members have certain designations. If you are confused by this, you are not alone. To help you out, here's a guide to the sequence of teaching faculty positions from juniormost to seniormost as found on most American college campuses:

- **Teaching Assistant-** (aka: T.A.) an upperclassmen or graduate student who assists in either lecture or lab classes
- **Adjunct Professor-** a part-time, untenured position; sometimes has a PhD; usually someone who does not have a permanent position at the academic institution and is hired to teach courses on contractual basis
- **Instructor or Lecturer-** a full-time, untenured position; occasionally held by someone with a terminal degree (PhD, doctorate, J.D., M.D., etc) but not usually.
- **Assistant Professor-** the entry level tenure track position; usually a full-time position; PhD necessary

You might be asking
"What's Tenure???"

In a nutshell, tenure is... a professor's permanent job contract, granted after a probationary period of six or seven years. A faculty member in such a probationary position is said to be in a "tenure-track appointment."

- **Associate Professor-** PhD necessary; the mid-level, full-time position; usually tenured
- **(Full) Professor-** the senior faculty position; usually only a few in each department
- **Professor emeritus-** retired full professors who continue

to teach or otherwise continue to be involved in the university community.

- **Distinguished professor-** title granted to the top few percent of the full tenured faculty in the entire university

At most smaller colleges, a faculty member's eligibility for tenure is determined first by teaching ability, second by research/publication record (academic or creative, depending on what the candidate was hired to teach), and third by a combination of departmental service (participation in various faculty committees) and student advising. At larger universities, research is often considered as important as, or even more important than, teaching.

Additionally, there is an administrative chain of command in most departments that usually looks something like this:

Professors and faculty members report to:

Department Chair- oversees a specific department; ex. Chair of the department of accounting or psychology. You might have to visit with the department chair of your chosen major if you have a situation requiring approval that the faculty member is not authorized to provide. **Department Chairs report to:**

Dean- oversees an entire college (which is made up of the individual departments); ex. Chair of the College of Business or Fine Arts. **Deans report to:**

Vice President for Academic Affairs- The Vice President for Academic Affairs is the chief officer, under the President, responsible for guidance and supervision of the academic affairs of the University. Deans of the seven Colleges are directly accountable to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. **Vice President for Academic Affairs reports to:**

University President

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So Many Majors, So Little Time!

If you have yet to declare a major, or have but are questioning your decision, you are certainly not alone. It is very normal to be unsure of what you want to do for the rest of your life. Your freshman year is the best time to explore your options because if you change majors once you are more deeply into a specific major, you may end up with hours that don't count for your new degree. Below are a few steps to help you in your quest for the perfect major:

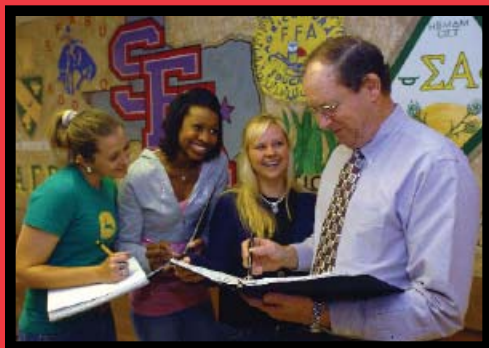
Step 1: Be Honest with Yourself

Consider your academic abilities:

Think about the areas or courses that come naturally. Choosing a major which focuses on the areas in which you excel will make the path towards graduation much easier. Be aware though that not every aspect of your chosen major or career goal is going to happen automatically. College is difficult for a reason! Personal growth is only a result of being challenged.

Consider your personal characteristics:

Are you a people person, a person who enjoys the solitude of independent research, a person who enjoys "hands on" projects, a person who is creatively strong-minded, a person who finds solving complicated math problems invigorating, or a person who would find an office with no windows on the tenth floor of a high-rise suffocating.



During your first semester, take note of your habits. Do you look forward to going to some classes and not others? You may say you want to be a certain major because it was the major your parent or sibling had, or it is lucrative. However, if your feet are not getting you to class you can jeopardize your entire future at SFA. ***Skipping a class may be the first sign that the major is not a match for you.***

Perhaps most importantly, don't let outside pressures choose your major for you. They might mean well, but parents and others concerned for your well-being often have their own ideas about what major or career is best for you. Listen politely to their suggestions, but ultimately, the choice is yours.

Step 2: Set goals but be realistic

Hang on to your dreams, but also take a reality check once in a while. Even if you've wanted to be a doctor since watching the pilot episode of ER, you are unlikely to get into medical school with a C average in all of your science courses. If you are not sure what your dream is, realize that finding the perfect career

won't happen overnight, and it's going to take some work and deep self-reflection. You can begin by making a list of subjects and opportunities you would like to explore. Strategize ways you can get some "real world experience" in the areas you are considering through volunteer work or internships.

Step 3: Seek out resources for extra help

If you are considering two or three curriculums that are very different, if you are reconsidering your first-choice major because you are struggling academically, or if you are beginning your third semester and you still have not made a decision on at least a particular college, you may benefit greatly from interacting with special campus resource offices such as:

Academic Advising Center for Undeclared Majors

<http://www2.sfasu.edu/advising/>

The mission of the Academic Advising Center for Undeclared Majors is:

- To reach students who have not declared a major through knowledgeable, personalized, proactive advising
- To serve as a campus-wide resource for advising information
- To provide academic direction while encouraging students to make responsible decisions.

The advisors of the Academic Advising Center are collectively and individually interested in your academic success at SFA. While the AAC primarily serves the undeclared students, any student who is seeking general information on a major or academic policy is invited to come by Steen Library 203. If you are an undeclared student, don't be surprised to hear from the AAC throughout the semester. They are committed to fulfilling their responsibilities as your academic advisors, and want to remind you that you are always welcome in the Advising Center. Visit their website listed above for more information.

Counseling and Career Services - <http://www.sfasu.edu/ccs/>

To help you in your search for a career and major, career and counseling services has several avenues to assist you. They offer career counseling to help you discuss and narrow down your options. Additionally, they offer interest/vocational tests that can help you understand what professions and majors might be a good fit for you. There are no charges for testing because the office is funded through student service fees. Finally, they have an up-to-date library of educational, career, and personal self-help information. CCS is located in Rusk 328. Visit their website listed above for more information.





Spotlight on:

Spring Registration

Finals are less than a month away, and you will soon be turning your attention toward the spring semester. Here's a few things you need to know to get ready:

Before Registration:

Step 1: Clear any holds that might have been placed on your record. You can find out if you have a hold by logging in to mySFA and following these links:

1. myServices
2. Student and Financial Aid
3. Student Records
4. Holds

Be aware that all freshmen will have an advising hold. Before you register for spring classes, as a freshman (and until you have earned 61 credit hours), you will need to be advised. Academic advising is available in the departments. Contact your major department for advising schedule. You must be advised each semester before you register for classes if:

- You have fewer than 61 earned hours of credit
- You are on academic probation

Once you have more than 61 earned hours of credit, you must be advised on an annual basis, but may be advised more frequently if desired. Additionally, individual colleges and/or departments may specify additional requirements of students for mandatory advising. You will have a hold on your record that will prevent you from registering until you are advised.

The process of being advised for spring classes is simple. During advising, the advisor will take into consideration your academic progress and accomplishments made thus far. At that point, recommendation of classes for spring are made and recorded on an Advisor's Slip. Once the session is over, your advising hold will be lifted and your advisor should check your account to notify you of other registration holds you must have taken care of before being allowed to register.

Step 2: Plan which courses you are going to take.

After being advised, you will select your class times and construct your class schedule. Although your advisor can help you greatly, each student is responsible for ensuring that the courses selected will meet degree requirements. Utilize the GENERAL BULLETIN and degree audit to confirm which courses will meet degree requirements. Failure to obtain correct information will not exempt you from having to meet degree requirements. Additionally, courses should be selected with attention to prerequisites and to advancing sequences. Students pre-registering for classes for which they lack the prerequisites may be dropped from those classes by the head of the department offering the course in order to release spaces to students who have satisfied the prerequisites. Students who wish to take courses for which they lack prerequisites will be protected from such removal only if they secure permission of the head of the department offering the course prior to registering.

During Registration:

Students are allowed to register based on their student classification: seniors first, then juniors, sophomores, and finally freshmen. Freshmen may begin registering on *November 20th*. You will register online through the mySFA portal. If you need help or have any questions, visit <http://www.sfasu.edu/registrar/>.

After Registration:

Be sure to pay your bill by the given due date. Failure to pay your bill could result in you being dropped from your classes. Students are encouraged to access account information over the Internet at mySFA. Students may also contact the Business Office at (936)468-6960 concerning their financial obligation. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Business Office concerning billing information and payment deadlines.

Fast Facts about the SFA Faculty:

Gender:

Male: 52.7%

Female: 47.3%

Ethnicity:

White: 89.7%

African-American: 3.4%

Asian: 3.2%

Hispanic: 2.8%

Native American: 0.6%

Age:

19-30: 14.5%

31-40: 20.4%

41-50: 21.5%

51-60: 28.2%

61+: 15.4%

Average Age= 47

Rank:

Full Professor: 16.6%

Associate Professor: 12.2%

Assistant Professor: 21.2%

Instructor: 9.8%

Lecturer: 6%

Teaching Assistant: 10%

Adjunct: 22.3%

Other: 1.8%

Upcoming Events:

Monday, November 10th

- Lumberjack Basketball vs. St. Mary's, 6:00 p.m., Johnson Coliseum

Wednesday, November 18

- SAA presents Double Take Comedy Show, 7:00 p.m., Grand Ballroom

Friday, November 20th

- Swinging' Axes & Swingin' Aces jazz bands, 7:30 p.m., Cole Hall
- SAA presents The Perfect Date, 8:00 p.m.-12:00 p.m., Twilight Ballroom
- Register for classes on mySFA, 7:00 am

Saturday, November 21st

- Ladyjack Basketball vs. Rice, 4:30 p.m., Johnson Coliseum
- Lumberjack Basketball vs. Jackson State, 7:00 p.m., Johnson Coliseum

Tuesday, November 17th-November 21st

- Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, 7:30 p.m., Turner Auditorium

Friday-Saturday, November 20th-21st

- *Holiday in the Pines* - Holiday in the Pines is an indoor holiday shopping extravaganza that is open Friday and Saturday. With more than 100 merchants showcasing everything from jewelry to edible treats, it's the best way to kick-off the holiday season! Advance tickets are recommended. Saturday evening, be dazzled by more than 2.5 million Christmas lights that decorate the downtown historic district. The lighting ceremony includes entertainment and a fireworks show. Fredonia Hotel and Convention Center

Sunday, November 22nd

- Wind Ensemble, 2:30 p.m., Cole Hall

November 25th - 27th

- Thanksgiving Holiday!
- Housing Facilities re-open at noon on Sunday,

Tip of the Week

Don't schedule classes according to times, but according to professors (go to ratemyprofessor.com).

-Ida Yaple, Junior