

# Establishing a Doable Research Agenda and... Getting it Done!!

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FACULTY MENTORING PROGRAM

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DR. ELAINE SILVA MANGIANTE AND DR. WILLIAM LEEMAN

# The Situation at Salve

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- Salve Regina is a teaching university
- Scholarship is required
- But...you need to be realistic about what you can accomplish



# When do I have time to get it done?

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- We have many responsibilities during the academic year.
- You need to be creative to find opportunities for research and writing.
- The key is to identify those opportunities and block them out on your calendar.



# Different approaches—which works for you?

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## THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Some faculty work well by setting one day a week aside for writing.

They chunk their work into smaller pieces for each day

Beware: Protect that day!!

## SPECIFIED BLOCKS OF TIME

Other faculty need larger blocks of time to maintain a flow in the writing.

- Winter Break
- Spring Break
- Summer Break

# But it feels so overwhelming!

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Trick yourself into feeling it is manageable.

Set goals for yourself based on the time you have available.

**Make lists of different CHUNKS!! And then check them off.**

- If you only have a few hours on a given day, set your goal to complete one paragraph for the introduction.
- Begin with what is the easiest to tackle to feel a sense of accomplishment...then take on another small piece.

# Where can I get support?

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- Colleagues at Salve can make suggestions
- Colleagues in your field can make suggestions
- The library used to offer writing support and a writing group for faculty. This approach was so useful because it gave you deadlines—great motivation!!



# Where can I begin???

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Begin where you have already completed so much work and with a topic you know well...



## Your Dissertation

- Identify portions of your dissertation that can be published as an entire book, in a particular journal, or in a book chapter.
- You may be able to get more than one publication from this major piece of research.

# How do I establish a research agenda?

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Our time is limited. Begin with what fits into what you are already doing.

For example... combine research with your teaching.

- Many fields have journals devoted to teaching pedagogy.
- Consider different pedagogical approaches for your field.



# Examples of combining teaching and research

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- Dr. Jameson Chace did a study comparing two different approaches he used in two sections of an environmental science course. His study was accepted by the peer-reviewed journal, *Journal of College Science Teaching*.
- Dr. Louise Sullivan invited her class to collect pre- and post-data from a student stress reliever session with pet therapy.
- Dr. Silva Mangiante collected data about her juniors' promotion of social norms of interaction with 4<sup>th</sup> graders during their science methods practicum. Published in the *Journal of Classroom Interaction*.

# Research can take different forms!!

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Scholarship for a faculty member in science looks different for a faculty member in the arts or in history or in nursing.

- Connect with senior faculty in your department to find out what is considered scholarship for your field.
- Meet with a prior member of the tenure committee to see what they have noticed about scholarship in your field.

# Research in specialized programs

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- The arts: Performances or creative pieces need to be peer-reviewed.
- Professional programs: Clinical and practicum work can provide opportunities for research that can advance the field.

# But what about funding???

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Seeking out funding can always be challenging, but look for the “low-hanging fruit.”

- Apply for the \$5000 Antone Award.
- Apply for Provost funds for student researchers
- Seek out local foundations—it may take time, but begin the process.
- Apply for larger grants (i.e., NSF funds)

# Salve strength—Student Researchers

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Salve has been committed to promoting student research.

You have three options:

- Seek funding to pay students (i.e., Antone award, etc.)
- Request of your department to allow work-study students to help you with research
- Provide credit to students for assisting you with your research—this will require approval by the curriculum committee for an internship or research elective.



# Benefits to Students

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- Participating in an opportunity to do scholarly work that usually only graduate students do at larger universities.
- Presenting at SRU and other conferences
- Being listed as a co-author or co-presenter
- Receiving an acknowledgement in a publication

# How to get more time?

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- Presidential Faculty Award—you receive a one course reduction for one semester.
- Arrange to do this during your three-course semester, so you only have to teach two courses.
- Down the road...consider applying for a sabbatical when eligible to have one semester with no teaching at full salary –or– one year with no teaching at half salary.

# How do I get IRB approval?

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Dr. Chad Raymond is now the person in charge of the Institutional Review Board.

You must submit a full application or exempt application to him **BEFORE** you begin any research that involves human subjects or animals.

For the application materials, go to

- Salve portal
- Menu (on the left)
- Offices
- Institutional Review Board



# Also on Canvas

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- Go to Canvas
- Faculty Resources
- Modules
- Institutional Review Board

# Apply to conferences

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Attending professional conferences is a great way to keep up with current trends in your field.

- Determine appropriate conferences for your field.
- Note deadlines for proposal submissions on your calendar.
- You can reshape a proposal with a different emphasis for another conference.
- If you present at a conference(s),...use \$1000 from Salve to pay for expenses (save receipts and the program listing your name). You are also permitted to draw from your \$800 professional development funds for conference expenses.

# Connect with colleagues at conferences

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At Salve, each of us is usually the only person working in a particular field. It is helpful to collaborate with a colleague.

- Go to conferences and make connections with like-minded faculty.
- Seek to conduct comparative studies with faculty in nearby universities.
- Connect with practitioners in your field to create a research project.



# How can I set up a routine for applying to conferences and writing manuscripts?

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## **A possible routine**

- Apply in summer #1 to present a paper at a conference the following spring.
- Write the draft paper in summer #1
- Present the paper in the spring and receive feedback
- Revise the paper in summer #2 for submission to a journal, book, etc.

**Set up a routine for yourself that you follow each year...so think ahead with your scholarship ideas.**

# Planning for the publishing process

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- Think ahead!!
- Read journals for the expected writing approach.
- The publication process from manuscript submission to final publication is **SLOW!**
- For most fields, this process can take a minimum of two years.

# What if a manuscript gets rejected or requires a revision?

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**Don't give up!!** You spend so much time on this work.

- Identify and rank relevant journals
- Revise and resubmit.
- Reshape the manuscript based on the reviews.
- Address each point recommended by reviewers.
- Find another journal. Sometimes, your work does not match the journal's goals.

**Just don't give up.**



# When things get tough...

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Talk to your mentor, colleagues, and department chair.

Other people at Salve understand the challenges of establishing and implementing a research agenda.

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**



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# Let's share some of our ideas with each other now!

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Take a few moments to share some of your ideas for research with a person or persons sitting near you.

You may get ideas from each other...or at least an approach that may work for moving forward with your scholarship.

Discuss:

- What are your scholarship ideas that you would like to work on in the next year? The next two years?
- What are the next steps that you will take?
- What are the obstacles that you face?



# Any questions you would like to ask or thoughts you would like to share?

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