Notes from the FMP Scholarly Productivity Panel on January 30, 2025

12:30 pm on Zoom (24 participants)

Mentoring

- Can be from inside or outside the university
- Find mentors who have skills you don't have so you can learn them, e.g., if your strength is qualitative, find a quantitative researcher

Time Management

- Double dip on activities, e.g., do research/publish on your teaching or on your service. Think about assessing your teaching/service, scholarship of teaching and learning
- Learn to say no, particularly with service that will be a large time commitment
- Block out time for scholarship projects and other priorities (e.g., on your Outlook calendar so you are "busy").
- Use summers, evenings, early mornings wisely.
- "Know when to bunt and when to hit it out of the park." Bunt what you have to bunt, hit a home run when you can (all work doesn't have to hit the ball out of the park). Don't let perfection be the enemy of the good.
- There is no such thing as balance. Things will require your attention. When a grant is coming due, that will require 80% of your attention, and that's okay. Look for "balance" over the course of a year, not a day or a week or even a month.
- Pre-prep the semester (e.g. lesson plans) so you can have your teaching running while other activities are going on during the semester
- Those real professional activities can be brought into the classroom
- An engaged professional in the classroom is an asset to teaching
- Deadlines will determine your priorities. Write regularly, make time, perhaps have an accountability partner
- For work-life balance, realize that balance doesn't have to be achieved every day, as you may prioritize a project for a deadline for a day or week or month, but cycle back to other priorities, so at the year's end, there is balance
- Work with an accountability partner

Collaborations

- Colleagues
  - Colleagues in your own department can be great collaborators
  - Across the university, across disciplines and skill sets
- Search for common interests with other faculty through [Ram Research Directory](#)
- People on committees that you're on (see double-dipping)
- Network at conferences

- Students
  - Grad students
  - Undergrads
- Inform students you work with of your mentoring style
- Community partners
- Not everyone enjoys collaborating as much as others, and some collaborations can produce friction, but sometimes friction can be productive.

Publishing Outlets

- If you are aiming for a book contract, publication, or grant—go for it! There is money at WCU—apply!
- Contact editors before you send something out to get a feel of whether or not your work would interest their readers
- Jump in and do it!
- Talk to publishers at the exhibit hall at conferences
- Network at conferences where you present
- Podcasts are an outlet for research activity and networking, too
- Don't let perfectionism get in the way of moving bravely forward
- [Elsevier Journal Finder](#)
- Look at your own citation lists—what journals are you citing?
- The Writer's Market
- [Cabells Directories](#)

Identifying Research Interests

- Let your interests guide your work pursuits
- Nonteaching faculty—working you are already doing can convert to research
- "What did you do last Tuesday?" In other words, whatever you're spending a lot of time doing can be a research subject!
- Look at committee work, what you're reading, campus involvement, etc.

How to Handle Rejection

- Growth mindset: it's not accepted YET
- Take advantage of feedback
- Look for another, possibly better place to try to publish your work