ENTERING THE ACADEMY – TRANSITIONING FROM DOCTORAL STUDENT TO ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Dr. Deborah Morowski – Auburn University
Dr. Antonio Castro – The University of Missouri at Columbia
Taking the Next Step

What concerns you the most about seeking an academic position?
GETTING THE JOB
SETTING YOUR GOALS

Do you want to be a professor?

If so, where do you want to teach:
  - AAU (research institutions)
  - Mid-tier university
  - Teaching university/college
Finding Jobs

- Chronicle.com
- Higheredjobs.com
- HR Web site for universities
- Attend national conferences
- Advisors (word of mouth)
- Journal advertisements
- Listserv and discussion boards
THINGS YOU WILL NEED

- A well-constructed vita
- 3 reference letters
- Samples of your writing (at least 3)
- Copies of teacher evaluations (for mostly teaching universities)
- Transcripts (check to see whether you need “official” and “sealed” transcripts)
- Cover letter
THE COVER LETTER

- Address the job (be specific)
- Address each of the three areas (adding emphasis based on the position)
  - Research
  - Teaching
  - Service
- Do not repeat back your vita
INTERVIEWING

- **Phone Interview**
  - Don’t say too much. Just focus on the question.
  - Be prepared to discuss why you chose that institution.
  - Let’s talk about the kinds of questions you might be asked.

- **On Campus Interview**
  - Be prepared for
    - Job talk
    - Sample teach
  - Be honest and open about your goals
  - Interview them as well
  - Do your homework before you show up
NEGOTIATING AN ACADEMIC POSITION

- Reflect on which university might be the best fit for you.
- How to negotiate your position
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
RESETTLING
GETTING SETTLED

- Moving to a new location
- Getting settled into a new office
- Learning the ropes
  - Make friends with staff
  - Learn systems for acquiring books, supplies, etc.
MEETING EXPECTATIONS
Faculty Expectations

Teaching

Research
(Outreach)

Service
NEGOTIATING THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

- Focus on your teaching duties
- Setting priorities
- Keeping up appearances
MANAGING YOUR TIME

- Setting Priorities
- Understanding Promotion and Tenure Requirements
- Establishing a Schedule
TEACHING DUTIES

- Course load
- Syllabi
- Getting to know your students
- Enhancing your teaching
RESEARCH

- Publishing in the right journals
- Finding time to write
- Authorship
SERVICE

- Protecting your time vs Being a team player
- Meaningful service
- Integrating teaching/research/service
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
BEING A GOOD COLLEAGUE
MENTORS

- Formal
  - Induction
  - Assigned mentors

- Informal
  - Seeking a mentor
  - Utilizing senior faculty
  - Writing groups/Colleague Circles
BEING A PROFESSOR

- “You can call me Ray, or you can call me Jay, or you can call me Ray Jay”
  (Using the Appropriate Title)

- Relationships with grad students

- Being part of the team
SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS

- Don’t gossip about colleagues
- Putting in appearances
- Departmental politics
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS