



Each morning when I arrive on the fourth floor of the Administration building, Professor Tanya Augsburg's book *Becoming Interdisciplinary* greets me from the Faculty Affairs vitrine that holds a number of faculty publications. As we face a number of challenges this spring, Augsburg's book has become like a daily inoculation. Indeed "becoming interdisciplinary," could be the best way to row through the waves ahead of us.

Most of us understand interdisciplinarity as "involving two or more academic, scientific, or artistic disciplines," and we see the term sitting primarily in the laps of researchers and faculty. Yet, according to the Oxford Handbook of Interdisciplinarity, its practice has growing societal importance and has become more a question of philosophy rather than a methodology for specific research or creative project. As we face decreasing enrollments and therefore decreasing revenue, thinking and acting in an interdisciplinary manner in both academic and administrative areas will likely allow us to better serve our multi-channel students.

Fortunately for our campus, interdisciplinarity is not new. We have a College of Ethnic Studies made up entirely of interdisciplinary departments, where sociologists, historians, literary critics, and even an ethnomusicologist gather to talk about race and indigeneity. We are about to launch our School of the Environment where geographers, climate scientists and public affairs experts among others will collaborate to address pressing environmental issues. Moreover, we offer multiple interdisciplinary degrees. Last year we approved a minor in video game studies in which eight departments came together, including comparative world literature, music, and computer science.

Administratively, staff in DUEAP (Division of Undergraduate Education and Academic Planning), Student Affairs, Administration and Finance, Enrollment Management, and DECI (Division of Equity and Community Inclusion) have come together to form two teams under Incoming and Retention Enrollment Operations or "Retention Ops" for short. They meet weekly to bolster the recruitment and retention of future and current Gators.

As we prepare for a smaller number of students for the coming semesters, it will be important for us to continue our interdisciplinary work, to think outside the conventions of academia or higher education administration, and create alternative ways of being that better serve our students through collaboration. This will take all of us to ignite action within our realms of responsibility. With whom will you join hands to better serve our students?

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