

A Week in the Life...

They assign the work that keeps us up late at night. What are they doing while you study?

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As students, it is easy to overlook the hours and dedication that faculty members give to the university. Professors for the most part are only seen for two and a half hours during the week. Students do not always remember that there are many things faculty do that we never see. To get a better idea of what exactly happens during a typical week, we followed Ned Woodall, a professor of anthropology and a candid and well-liked member of the faculty. To corroborate Woodall's account of his busy schedule, we talked to Carol Browne, an associate professor of biology, and Simone Caron, an assistant professor of history. Hopefully, their insights combined with the day-to-day activities of Woodall will give a better understanding of what goes into being a professor at the university.

Monday
8 a.m.-2 p.m. - Woodall arrives at his office in the archaeology lab, of which he is the director. He checks his e-mail and corresponds with a few colleagues from around the country.
"E-mail is one of the things that I cannot believe that we lived without," Woodall said. Through e-mail, he is able to talk with various professors with whom he is working on an archaeological dig that is scheduled for the summer of 1996 in Austria, and his Austrian colleagues who are in charge of the find.
This is also the time when Woodall prepares himself for his 2-2:50 p.m. class, Old World Pre-History. It is a very small class, usually conducted in the seminar room of the anthropology building.
Woodall's method of teaching, evidenced by his 2 p.m. class, is informal and relaxed. He does not use notes when he teaches, except for a few ideas he jots on

At five, Woodall goes home and will not take any work with him. It is a strict rule to which he adheres.
"It is something that I think my father passed down to me," Woodall said. "When you are at home, it is not a time to do work. If I have to stay late grading papers or something then I will do that."

Leisure time and a life outside of the office is a concern for all faculty members. For some, there is a family and children to think about and to fit into an already hectic schedule. Caron has a seven-month old baby and she tries to incorporate as much time with her into her schedule as possible, including daily jogs with the baby.
"I will get home at 5 p.m. and stop working until 9 p.m. or 9:30 p.m. and then I will work until 11 p.m. or so," Caron said.

Tuesday
7:50-9:20 a.m. - Woodall arrives at his office and works on lectures for his 9:30-10:45 a.m. General Anthropology I class in Wingate Hall, the only large class he teaches. According to Woodall, it is the introductory classes which he enjoys the most. He said that introductory classes are more exciting because they offer a chance to show what the field is all about and, if successful, to turn the students on to anthropology.

Woodall also prepares for his afternoon class early. Teaching four classes may not sound like a huge load, but each class is different, thus requiring a different amount of preparation. Sometimes, Woodall said, it is difficult to switch modes like that.
9:30-10:45 a.m. - Class.
11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. - A departmental meeting is held every Tuesday at 11 a.m., unless there is a convocation or special event with the university. No classes are ever scheduled for Tuesday at 11 a.m., specifically for this reason. Woodall enjoys working with his peers in the anthropology department and said that meetings allow the faculty to discuss many different facets of their work.
"We talk to each other about different problems that we might face with students, different tricks that we know, what works and what doesn't. I think that there is a real cohesiveness, an informal interaction that keeps everybody up to speed," he said.

At today's meeting the progress of the graduate students was discussed, as well as the budget for the department and how funds should be allocated. Another issue was computer support in the department and when a technician would be able to assist members of the staff in learning to use the new equipment.
12:15-1:15 p.m. - Lunch.
1:30-2:45 p.m. - Class.
2:45-6 p.m. - First, Woodall meets with a computer specialist who helps explain to him some of the finer points of the new IBM ThinkPads, as he is one of the faculty members trying out the new system. Around 4 p.m., he talks with me for a bit and relays the happenings of events since yesterday. At 4:30 p.m., he attends a presentation at the Museum of Anthropology. Six p.m. approaches and he goes to a meeting at which the new anthropology majors and graduate students are introduced to the faculty and Woodall talks to the students about procedures and guidelines.

Though this may seem like a relaxed afternoon as these three events are spaced out over a period of three hours, this is not the case. The events are spaced such that no real work or research can be given proper attention. For the university, research and publication by faculty is very important. Afternoons like this make it difficult to get substantial amounts of work done, so Woodall squeezes time in for reading whenever it presents itself.

Woodall's current research is related to the "iceman" that was found on the Italian-Austrian border in the Swiss Alps a couple of years ago. James Toole, a neurologist at Bowman Gray, knew one of the neurologists at the University of Innsbruck who was in charge of the excavation. Toole wanted to get Wake Forest involved and he assembled a team of professors throughout the United States. Woodall will fly over to Austria to talk to professors at Innsbruck and then examine a possible site in Lake Garda (in northern Italy) which may have been a city in the iceman's day (about 3200 B.C.).
"What we are doing is examining the characteristics of the corpse and the archaeological materials of the time period and we are going to put him in a cultural

context; we want to track his life," Woodall said.
Woodall and other colleagues will assess the area and determine whether or not students and professors

8-9:30 a.m. - A joyful appointment with the dentist.
9:30-11 a.m. - Woodall prepares for his 2 p.m. class. The amount of time spent preparing for a class will

obviously vary depending on the class and teacher, but a few things seem to be consistent. Teachers will review the material that is being presented and some will reread the material that they have assigned. Before her labs on Thursdays, Browne will mix the solutions, set up and run through the labs. This will usually take between one and a half and two hours.

12-2 p.m. - A meeting is set up to write a \$4 million grant proposal with the medical school.

2-2:50 p.m. - Class.

3-5 p.m. - Another time period that is quickly filled with miscellaneous appointments. Woodall talks to a local citizen who has found an odd structure from a storm earlier in the week, another local citizen who is an avid bone collector and has just purchased some replica bones, a bank which needs advice on how to assess the damage done to an ancient Indian artifact and a woman from Surry county

who is interested in starting a museum and is soliciting advice.

Thursday
8:30-9:30 a.m. - Checks e-mail and prepares for class.

9:30-10:45 a.m. - Class.
11-11:30 a.m. - It's a little early for lunch, but now is the only time available.

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. - Woodall prepares for class and reviews the laws and procedures for archaeological sites. These laws change almost monthly so it is important to check sources available on the Internet and get the most up-to-date information for his students.

1:30-2:45 p.m. - Class.
3 p.m. - Woodall sends his manuscript to Austria for contribution to a book that is going to be published on the iceman.

6-8:30 p.m. - Like other faculty members, Woodall has committee responsibilities to fulfill. He is on a committee that evaluates teaching at the university. It has met monthly for the last year and is moving slowly as the group is still throwing ideas around.

Committees are one of the things that can become a nuisance for faculty members. Those on a tenure track are required to be on committees for the university, their departments and within the community.

Caron is on five different committees and said that they can run together and overlap, causing frustration for everyone.

According to Woodall, faculty members have to be prepared to succeed with full schedules. "The university expects teaching excellence, research productivity and committee assignments. You have to be fairly organized to do all of this," he said.

Friday

8-10 a.m. - Arrives at office and prepares for class.

10 a.m.-12 p.m. - Woodall's fourth class, Southeastern Archaeology, is an independent study course taken by a couple of students. It only meets on Friday and classes take place in the archaeology labs (his office).

12-1 p.m. - Lunch.
1-2 p.m. - He prepares for class.

2-2:50 p.m. - Class.

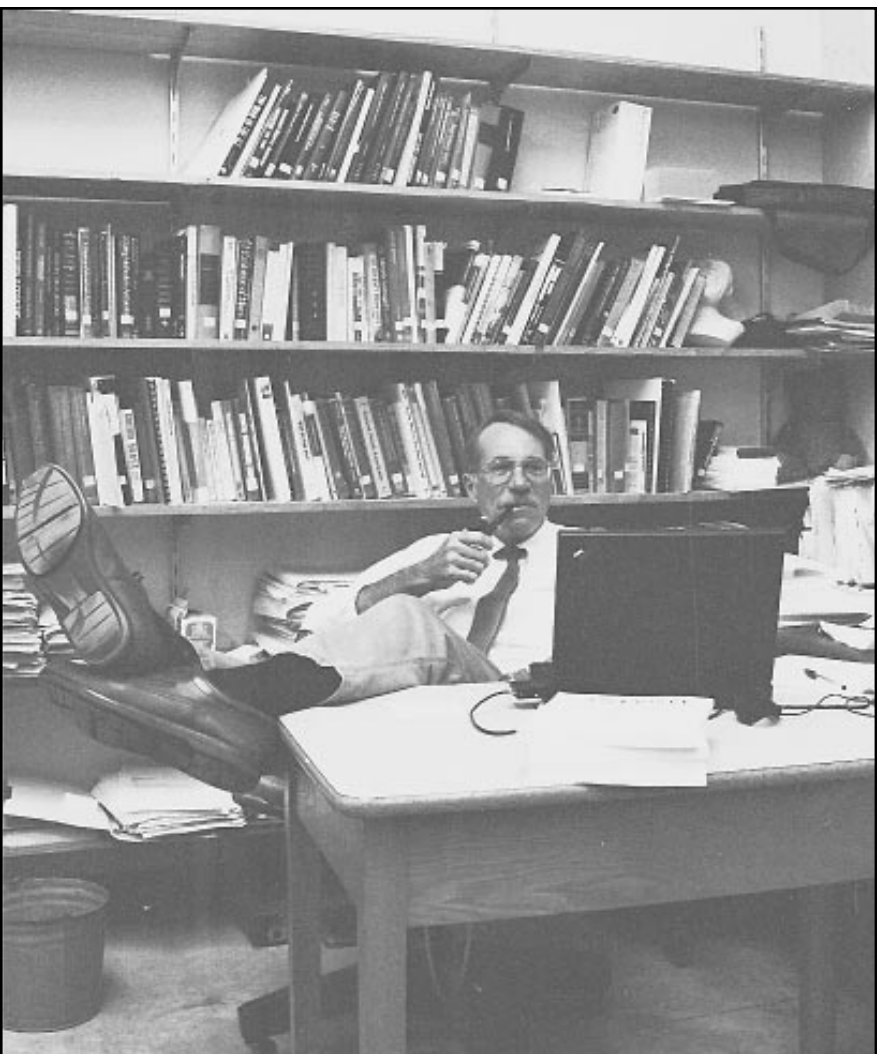
3-5 p.m. - Woodall has to pull together ideas for a paper that is to be presented later in the semester in New Orleans. He needs to submit the title of the paper today if he is planning on speaking.

He talks with his research assistant about various things and also talks with me for the last time. Woodall is preparing for a weekend fishing trip and a chance to get away from things for a bit.

The week is over and it is time to switch gears once again.



Woodall lectures to his Old World Pre-History class that meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Woodall has an informal method of teaching and teaches from memory, not notes.



Wendy Coulson

Woodall takes time out to put his feet up while preparing for class and checking his e-mail correspondence from colleagues around the country.

the board so he can keep his train of thought. In preparing for a class, he reviews the material for the class and some of his notes on the readings. He then goes through and finds specific dates to throw out at the class during the period.

"I have found that students like to know specific dates because it keeps them interested in the lectures and makes it seem more real," Woodall said.

Preparation times like these, regardless of when they occur, are crucial for all faculty members because they allow time for regrouping and a chance to prepare for future classes, but even these times can get cluttered and lose their original purpose.

Caron said, "I try to work at home on Tuesdays and Thursdays but I have not been able to yet, and I looked at my calendar the other day and it does not look like it will happen until the middle of October," said Caron.

Students, meetings and unexpected tie-ups can all upset an already full schedule.

"I think that some students think that (faculty members) don't do much and that we lead a life of leisure," Caron said. "Students expect contact with their professors, especially at a school like Wake Forest, and that's a good thing because I like talking to my students, but it takes time."

2-2:50 p.m. - Class.

3-5 p.m. - Woodall starts preparing now for tomorrow's 1:30-2:45 p.m. class, Conservation Archaeology, because there is not another convenient time to do so. He goes to the library for a while to read some German magazines. Woodall is flying to Austria Sunday and will be there until the following Sunday, Sept. 24, and needs to brush up on his German. (An unexpected tie-up occurs when the library does not have the resources he is looking for.)
During this time, Woodall also meets with graduate students who are beginning to construct their thesis papers and talks with me for about half an hour.

will be able to camp there next summer to perform research.

"The area has a lot of erosion and a lot of disturbance over time, so locating sites are difficult," he said. "This sight is actually a flint mine." When the iceman was found, the hikers who discovered him thought that he was another hiker who had been trapped in the mountains and had died, an event that is not uncommon. It was only after they discovered that he was carrying a weathered ax that they realized there might be something more.

Research is a priority for most faculty members, but a major concern is that it be kept in perspective.

"Research is easier," Browne said. "I love working in

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Ned Woodall
Professor of Anthropology

the lab and using the equipment. ... Teaching is more fulfilling, though. Teaching is hard work. I get satisfaction from doing a good job teaching."

"Research is so fulfilling because you are by yourself and studying in the library. I love doing it. But, at the same time, you are by yourself and it is different," Caron said. "Teaching is much more rewarding. It is a two-way street. When I meet with a student in my office, most of the time it is an enjoyable experience. It always starts off by talking about something related to the class and never fails to move on to a social thing, which is nice because I really get to know my students."

According to Woodall, keeping organized is the biggest factor in maintaining a full load. "You have to be careful about allocating time and try to remember that your first responsibility is to the students," he said.

Wednesday

Unlike some teachers, Woodall does not have a day of the week that is the most hectic or congested. These days just seem to pop up when there is a plethora of things to do and not enough time to do them.

"I (will) have lots of different things to do and I have to switch mental gears. I think that it damages the brain," he said with a laugh. "You just don't feel like you can give your best when there is not time to prepare for any of these things."

Wednesday is one of those days.



Wendy Coulson

Woodall (back right) talks with a student assistant during a dig at the Yadkin River Valley this summer. Woodall said this was exciting research as it was the first time the river had been excavated for ancient Indian artifacts.