FACULTY FELLOW INFORMATION
Division of Housing and Food Service

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Faculty Fellow program emerged in 1968 in response to the realization that there was a growing gap between faculty members and undergraduate students on college campuses. In addition, many faculty members wished to extend their interaction with students outside the academic realm. Today, many campuses across the nation have well developed faculty/student interaction programs (e.g., Cornell, Stanford, Illinois, Northwestern, Michigan).

The Faculty Fellow Program, sponsored by the Department of Residence Life within the Division of Housing and Food Service, is designed to provide opportunities for significant faculty-student interaction outside of the classroom setting. Fellows are faculty members who agree to work with a Resident Assistant for a residence hall floor of about fifty students during the academic year.

Working as a team, Faculty Fellows and their RAs can plan activities with floor residents designed to create a sense of community on that floor. These activities offer an opportunity for the residents to develop a significant relationship with a member of the faculty, thus including the faculty member in the floor community. The activities help integrate Faculty Fellows into the life of the floor by allowing them to share particular interests, both academic and extracurricular, with the residents. The faculty and staff members involved in the Faculty Fellow Program are volunteers. A motivating factor in their involvement in the program is a commitment to improving the undergraduate experience for residence hall students by providing ways for faculty, their families, and students to get to know each other beyond the constraints of the classroom. Hopefully, the gap between undergraduates and the professoriate can be partially bridged.

The Faculty Fellow's association with the floor is intended to accomplish several goals:
- Provide undergraduate residents with role models or mentors;
- Encourage residents' use of faculty as resources for information, referral, or informal advising;
- Increase students' understanding of faculty life at UT;
- Increase faculty members' understanding of student life at UT;
- Meet the needs of those faculty who want more informal contact with undergraduates

FACULTY FELLOW EXPECTATIONS AND BENEFITS

Faculty Fellows are expected, through their experiences within and outside of their academic discipline, to add something "special" to the programming and community which occurs on the floor. Faculty Fellows work with their RA and the residents to provide program activities on the floor, but more important, Faculty Fellows develop informal relationships with floor members.

There is no minimum number of visits to the floor required to be a Faculty Fellow. Most Fellows have found, however, that scheduling a regular time together with residents (e.g., evening meals in the dining hall every other week) helps them get more involved in the life of the floor. In addition, Fellows have participated in one or two programs during the semester. These programs might include a PAC performance, sporting event, museum tour, floor discussion or an ice cream social.
Undergraduate students participating in the program will gain a greater understanding of the University, career goals, and themselves. Faculty members will obtain a different perspective to the challenges and issues undergraduate students are faced with on college campuses today.

Each Faculty Fellow is provided 320 Dining $$$ for the year to eat in residence hall dining facilities (less depending on when you join the program). We believe that meals are a perfect time to interact with residents on a more informal level, and we want to provide Faculty Fellows with this opportunity. We will also provide you with five guest meal passes each semester to use at your discretion. We encourage you to introduce other faculty members to the residence halls and our students through the use of these passes.

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

If you are interested in participating in the Faculty Fellow Program, please contact Lore Guilmartin, the Hall Coordinator of San Jacinto -- South, via e-mail at loreg@mail.utexas.edu or at 232-9049. We look forward to hearing from you!