What do you do all day, Anyway?
The Secret Lives of Professors: Work, Life, and the Eternal Quest for Balance

What do you think about when you hear professor? Human Being, Don’t give curves [we laugh], life changing, knowledgable, boring voices

There was a film called Farris Buellers Day Off, there’s a scene, “Bueller, Bueller...”

So we hear some things generally not that positive. “I had no desire to be a professor. I was pretty sure I was only going to come back for football.” Dr. Jim Vick, was the vice president of student affairs. He came to programs and started talking to him just like he was a regular human being. “What are you doing, talking to me?”

Turns out his kids, went to my own high school.

Dr. Ricardo Romo, the president of UT San Antonio. “One day I missed his class and he caught me and asked me to enter his office.” They started talking about how he was a Texas Cowboy, how he broke the 4 minute mile, and he ends up getting an invitation to go to his house for a bar-b-que.

He then attended graduate school, and met Dr. Whitla, Dr. Willie and Dr. Long.

Dean Whitla is kind of a tall lanky white man, and he comes up to me and give me a “brother hand-shake”, and Dr. Richard Reddick thought, “whatt?” He started to work with him in discovering about the student responses on campuses such as Harvard, and Yale.

Deciding to apply to Harvard he found by simply looking into a Harvard book

“How has being a professor affected your father life, — well, it’s a huge advantage because they are use to being here. It is natural for them”
looking for at least one black guy. He then met, Charles William, another mentor of his, and one of the black guys he found in the book.

Working on a New Look at Black Families, a new book he was working on with Dr. William. Dr. William always taught that one can always be broken down and learn again. He called his students scholars.

Dr. Long, an ecologist who is now working with the White House, encouraged him to be a professor. She was very tough, but encouraging.

“Often times, faculty members start doing MEsearch, (Researching of one’s own category)”

So what do faculty do? — Teaching, Research, and Service. Most professors come to UT because they are great at Research, and may be so-so about the other two.

Where do our understanding of faculty come from? Paper Chase, Animal House, Laurence Fishbone in Higher Learning, these are movies that form the stereotype of Professors.

Dr. Reddick's research on mentoring African-American students showed that it is done simply because they wish to see more of them in the community. It is important to make oneself approachable, motivated, and use positive and negative reinforcement.

How do Males, balance their selves, their career, and their family? How can institutions support active fathering? “It is like being a monk, solitary distance.”

There are few correct descriptions of the professoriate, even for those who attend and/or work at universities. However Dr. Reddick has taught us that our teachers are actually quite more interesting than what may appear to the eye.

Biography: Richard J. Reddick, Ed.D., is a recently tenured associate professor in the Program in Higher Education Leadership, where he serves as coordinator of the College and University Student Personnel Administration master's concentration in the Department of Educational Administration at The University of Texas at Austin, where he has served as a faculty member since 2007. Dr. Reddick earned his B.A. in Plan II Liberal Arts Honors and was named a College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Dean's Graduate in 1995. He then went on to teach elementary and middle school in the Fifth Ward community of Houston, Texas. Dr. Reddick went on to work in the student affairs field at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and Emory University.