Tips for Interviewing FOF Professors

- If possible record all interviews so it is easier to accurately include direct quotes.
- If you don’t record, don’t hesitate to ask your professor or people who know him/her to slow down and/or repeat a statement. You are writing what people are saying so just say that you want to make sure quotes are accurate.
- Remember that the article’s purpose is to feature your professor’s research and expertise.
- So ask questions that detail and flesh this out.
- Before you sit down with your professor you should have a pretty good idea about the research and expertise—what it involves.
- An important part is talk to your professor about his or her interest in this area—how do you become interested in this area? What drew you to this field or this research? When did you become interested in this field?
- Also, ask what motivates your professor? What are you trying to find out or learn in your research? What are or will be the benefits or your studies and research? What are the challenges you face in studying/researching this area? What is the “big picture” significance of your research?
- Do you bring your research to your classroom? Share with students?
- Have you received funding, grants, honors, distinctions in your research or as a college professor?
- What do you like about teaching at the College of Charleston?
- How did you end up coming to C of C? How long been here?
- What is your educational background?
- How do you balance teaching, research and personal life?
- Where are you from? Hometown?
- Any website links you’d like us to include with your article?
- We want to take original photos but are there other photos involving your research that we could possibly use as well?
- A good way to end an interview is to ask if there is anything we’ve missed, that we should talk about? Anything else to add?
- Be sure to thank your professor for the time and say that you will provide the story to him or her for review before it is posted on our website at www.cofc.edu/~facfocus