



FACULTY PROFILE: ROBERT DEANER

Robert Deaner, associate professor of psychology, has researched sex differences in distance running performance and motivation since 2003. Recently, his work on pacing in marathons has generated public interest, including mentions in *Runner's World* and *The New York Times*. "Men are about three times as likely as women to slow dramatically in the second half of a marathon, indicating that men are more likely to begin the race with an ambitious pace, whereas women are generally more conservative," he said. "One strategy isn't better than the other — they're just different."

Deaner is humble about the nonacademic origins of his research. "Just a classic research is me-search," he said. "In the early 2000s, I took up distance running and some of my training partners were men and some were women. I was initially just trying to understand the patterns I observed in distance running, but my observations eventually led to a variety of research projects addressing sex differences in sports."

Deaner enjoys studying such an accessible topic and appreciates having his academic publications discussed in academic and public forums.

"I'm not interested in studying something that only a few people care about," he said, "so one test of whether my papers are successful is whether I can engage people in discussion."

Deaner praised open access publishing as a crucial tool for publicizing his work. One of his articles is nearing 20,000 unique online views since 2012. "Anyone can engage in science," he said. "If we want people to have a sophisticated dialogue, everyone needs access to the research, and open access journals allow that. Some open access journals also provide Q&A opportunities online, so the conversation is just starting when the article is published. It's how science should be."

Deaner applauded University Libraries for making open access publishing a reality for faculty members through the Open Access Publishing Fund, which he has used to publish four papers. The Open Access Publishing Fund provides money for paying publishing fees, which typically range from \$1,000–\$2,000. "It's a great program that allows faculty to share their work more widely," said Deaner.