It takes a particularly well-organized, creative, and meticulous individual to effectively juggle two critical work roles. One such resourceful person is Lisa Starks.

Lisa is currently a tenured associate professor of English. She is also the newly appointed associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences, the first to hold this position at USF St. Petersburg. She clearly relishes the yeoman work load—and the inherent opportunities—of these vital responsibilities.

In her work, Lisa displays a kaleidoscopic mix of skills and aptitudes gleaned from an adventurous academic journey. As a teenager, Lisa attended a classically-oriented arts academy in her native Michigan, specializing in drama and voice. Upon graduation she took a Greyhound bus to Los Angeles, envisioning a future as an actor. Living in L.A. reinforced her love of dramatic literature and film theory—and also fueled her desire to augment acting with scholarship, which she pursued by studying literature in college.

After earning her B.A. in English, Lisa moved to Florida to complete a M.A. and Ph.D. with a dissertation on gender in Shakespeare’s history plays. This work served as a springboard for her continuing research in gender studies, particularly masculinity and sexuality in Renaissance literature. Her academic specialties are Shakespeare, British Literature (Medieval to Early Modern), and film.

Before accepting a post as visiting faculty at USF St. Petersburg in 1999, Lisa was an assistant professor at Texas A&M - Commerce, where she earned tenure and promotion. But after six years living in a small town in Northeast Texas, she decided to move back to the Tampa Bay area, which she had long considered her home. Lisa incorporates many of her past interests in her present work here at USFSP.

Lisa uses "performance" aspects in the classroom as much as possible, prodding her students to think critically by incorporating a variety of scholarly tools.

As Associate Dean, Lisa also utilizes certain theatrical skills, too. Coordinating and overseeing the entire class schedule for the College of Arts and Sciences requires the deft handling of a director and the practical acumen of a producer. Lisa views her role as a "connecting feature," a means to serve student needs and to provide a voice for the faculty. She also helps staff courses with qualified adjuncts and visiting instructors.

Lisa takes justifiable pride in being a key administrative "collaborator" in the ongoing development of USF St. Petersburg. She views the campus as "an organic, dynamic, work in progress" that continues to prosper. She is energized by the vitality of her present work here at USFSP.

Lisa’s office is located in DAV-128. She can be reached by calling 3-4158 or by email at starks@stpt.usf.edu.