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Professor Alessandro Cesarano and Professor Daniel Marulanda pose for a photo snap during the New Faculty Seminar tour of the Edison and Ford Winter Estates in November 2019.

TLC Times

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The Monthly Newsletter of the Teaching & Learning Center

Nov. 2020

Professional Development Totals>>>

AUGUST – OCTOBER

Total Participants: 1,285

FT Faculty: 788

Adjunct Faculty: 379

Total Sessions: 90

TLC Times Editorial Board >>>

KELLY WESTFIELD

Coordinator, Marketing & Technology, TLC

ANNE ANGSTROM

TLC Ground-to-Remote Coordinator

KATIE O'CONNOR

TLC Ground-to-Remote Coordinator

SCOTT ORTOLANO

TLC Ground-to-Remote Coordinator

KELLY ROY

TLC Ground-to-Remote Coordinator

SANDRA SEIFERT

TLC Ground-to-Remote Coordinator

Defining Resilience

A Message from the New TLC Director
Gloria Kitchen

Gloria Kitchen joined the FSW community in October 2020 as the new Director of the Teaching and Learning Center. In addition to holding previous leadership roles in professional development, Gloria is also a talented musician and college educator. As the TLC's new Director, Gloria leads with a rare combination of exceptional energy, support, and compassion, which has already made her an invaluable member of the TLC.



Breathe. I understand. It's okay.

Together, we will get through this.

These are some of the shared thoughts expressed in conversation with others or acknowledged inwardly to find solace during this time of uncertainty as we continue to find our way through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last month, I was gifted by my mentor a book entitled *The Resilience Factor, 7 Keys to Finding Your Inner Strength and Overcoming Life's Hurdles*. The book firmly questions: How resilient are you? How well do you react to unexpected challenges and conflicts? Do you tend to shy away from problems or

bravely face them? While reflecting on these questions, I was inspired as I observed the resilience of the faculty and staff at FSW during my first month as the Director. The pandemic challenged ideals of education and technology, and FSW faculty shifted accordingly and effectively for the success of our students and families.

"I am passionate in conveying that our esteemed faculty at FSW have indeed defined resilience."

It has also required faculty and staff to leverage communication, unite, and persevere without excuses, while refining us all as educators in our commitment and zeal for life-long learning. In identifying these triumphs, I am passionate in conveying that our esteemed faculty at FSW have indeed *defined* resilience. As we continue to move forward during these challenging times, I look forward to learning how I may better serve each of you.

Gloria

Ground-to-Remote Coordinator Q & A

Dr. Scott Ortolano joined the TLC in Summer 2020 as a Ground-to-Remote Coordinator, a temporary role made possible by funding through the CARES Act Institutional Funds. As FSW prepared the transition to new online learning modalities, Scott created the Live Online Certification course and developed the first asynchronous Digital Pedagogy Group. Scott's energy, extraordinary work ethic, and contagious laugh are well-known and valued by his TLC colleagues.



Q: *What have you liked most about your experience as a TLC ground-to-remote faculty coordinator?*

A: Henri Bergson once said that “what we do depends on what we are; but . . . we are [also], to a certain extent, what we do, and . . . are creating ourselves continually.” There’s an important truth in that. Our roles and actions constantly exert themselves outwardly on the world, but also inwardly on ourselves. In the same sense, this work has provided additional avenues for participating in and contributing to the life of the college, but just as importantly, it has left its own brushstrokes on me, as I’ve had the opportunity to collaborate with and learn from some incredibly talented faculty and staff. It’s the sort of work that I love doing.

Q: *In addition to serving in this role and as a full-time faculty member, you’ve recently developed a number of professional development*

series. Please tell us a little about these workshops and why we shouldn’t miss them!

“Henri Bergson once said that
“what we do depends on what we
are; but . . . we are [also], to a
certain extent, what we do, and
are creating ourselves
continually.”

A: Absolutely! My current favorite is the asynchronous Digital Pedagogy Reading Group. Each month, faculty and staff get together to read a set of articles or book chapters on important topics on teaching and technology. Participants have a continual discussion through our Microsoft Teams site and then engage in an optional video chat. I’ve loved the dynamism and flexibility of the new format.

In addition to the reading group, there is “Advice from the Front,” a roundtable series that brings experienced faculty together to discuss how they’ve found success in various aspects of their professional lives, and the Community of Practice in English, which is open to all faculty and should be of interest to anyone who teaches writing intensive courses.

Q: *Despite your teaching load and various other duties, you somehow find time to not only participate in PD but also to develop trainings. How do you manage to do this, while also having time for family and yourself?*

A: I’m running short on space here, so I’ll just say lots of coffee ☺



Exceptional Staff Spotlight The Importance of Accessibility in Online Learning Environments

Steven Bianco is the Electronic Information Technology (EIT) Accessibility Specialist serving FSW from the College’s Office of Information Technology since August 2018. He works closely with the Office of ADaptive Services, the Teaching Learning Center, eLearning, and other areas. Every week, Steven offers faculty and staff the opportunity to learn about accessible technology through his Accessibility Tech Tuesday Series. Steven has been a member of the FSW community for 15 years and is well known to his colleagues for his approachability, dedication to faculty and staff, and efforts to promote accessibility.

Access to course content within the online learning environment has always been important and even more so for persons with disabilities. Many individuals within our FSW community rely on assistive technologies to participate in our programs.

Over the past two years, FSW faculty and staff have been increasing their efforts to make accessible materials

available on our website and within online courses.

While these efforts did not start two years ago, the recent pandemic has forced us to shift into an online learning space, making accessible digital materials crucial. The lessons learned from the online shift are many, but for accessibility, keep in mind the following for content within your online courses:

- ✓ Locate videos with accurate closed captioning.
- ✓ Utilize Canvas’s “My Media” in each of your courses to upload lectures and check-in videos for automatic captioning.
- ✓ Add alternative text descriptions to important images within Canvas pages, Word Documents, and PowerPoints.
- ✓ Select vendors of online tools and textbooks committed to accessibility. Usually, the link to their accessibility policy is next to their privacy policy.

Guest Speaker Series

A Message from Dr. Thomas Norman Vice Provost for Workforce Programs



Competencies Empowering Student Success) grant. Funded by the Department of Labor, this program targets community colleges nationally in developing innovative strategies to grow our connections with the business communities we serve using guided career pathways. We expect a decision on the grant in January.

"I don't think there's anything better than to work with systems designed to see people succeed educationally, socially and economically. That's why I am so excited to be a part of this institution."

As the Vice Provost for Workforce Programs, I'm enjoying my new role. It's a privilege to work as part of the Provost's Office and to help lead the schools of Education, Health Professions, Business and Technology and FSW's Corporate Training and Continuing Education programs.

Securing new funding has always been an area I have pursued. I think we have significant opportunities to highlight our institution, quality of instruction, innovative programming, and service to students in new and innovative ways. An example of pursuing this goal was our recent submission of the ACCESS (Accelerating Career

In addition to spending most of my career in higher education, I also had an opportunity to lead Minnesota's workforce development system and to pursue multiple avenues of workforce development for marginalized populations in Minnesota.

Programs included services for displaced workers, veterans, and Minnesota's sizable refugee population to name a few. These activities all had a common focus: providing individuals with high quality career counseling, wrap around services, access to short and long-term educational programs, and comprehensive placement assistance. (Sounds like Career Pathways!)

I don't think there's anything better than to work with systems designed to see people succeed educationally, socially, and economically. That's why I am so excited to be a part of this institution.



Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities>>>

- **Digital Pedagogy Reading Group**
(November 30)
- **Instructional Technology Community of Practice**
(November 30)
- **Creating Connections in Remote Environments**
(Delivered by Karen Costa on December 10 - Hosted by FGCU)

Ten Questions for Faculty Series Participants (October & November) >>>

Sonji Nicholas

Anne Angstrom

Michael McGowan

Lenny Owens

Douglas Magomo

Jordan Donini

Brandi George (forthcoming)



From your friends and colleagues in the
Teaching and Learning Center,

Happy Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you for all that you do.



Adjunct Faculty Spotlight

An Interview with Rebecca Quimby Professor of Humanities

To nominate an exceptional faculty member for the Adjunct Faculty Spotlight, please email: kwestfield@fsw.edu

Q: When did you begin teaching at FSW?

A: I still remember my first day in the classroom. It was a Saturday in Fall of 2009. I was nervous, with lots of handouts. Professor Lawler checked in with me to make sure I was ok.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being an FSW faculty member?

A: Working with my peers and the camaraderie we have established. The FSW faculty and administration have given me support, answered countless questions, and offered me words of encouragement, which I truly appreciate. The students at FSW are the best. Each student brings diversity and a uniqueness to the classroom.

Q: What types of programs or professional development do you think adjunct faculty members can benefit from as we continue to work remotely and teach online?

"The FSW faculty and administration have given me support, answered countless questions, and offered me words of encouragement, which I truly appreciate."

A: The online certification has been a plus, although it does not replace the ground courses. With the online courses you still have contact with the student, but on a limited basis. "Blooming with Zoom" offers the instructor a broad and versatile classroom. You can see, hear and listen to the students and have the students work with others. It's not the ground classroom, but under the current circumstances, in my opinion, it's the best alternative.

Q: What are you doing to take care of your health during social isolation?

A: Staying busy seems to work the best for me. A good night's sleep is important. Being an equestrian rider gives one the opportunity to be outside with nature, while relieving tension and anxiety.

Q: What advice do you have for your colleagues on how to navigate change and social isolation brought about by COVID-19?

A: COVID-19 does not look like it's going away in the immediate future. With worldwide deaths exceeding 1,183,000 and the United States passing 233,000, everyone needs to exercise due diligence. Wear your mask, wash your hands, and maintain social distance.

In The Next Issue >>>

- Guest Speaker Series
- Adjunct Faculty Spotlight
- Exceptional Staff Feature
- Ground-to-Remote Coordinator Q & A
- PD Opportunities
- And More...



Keep in Touch with the TLC

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