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The Teaching and Learning Center is pleased to present the *Ten Questions for Faculty Series*. The series is dedicated to helping faculty to stay connected with one another while working remotely. Every week, a faculty member will have the opportunity to answer ten questions about themselves and about navigating the changes brought about by COVID-19. This week, we are pleased to feature Arenthia Herren, Faculty Librarian and Chair of the Libraries.



Arenthia Herren
Faculty Librarian
Chair of Libraries

Where are you from?

I grew up about 15 minutes outside of Athens, Georgia in a small town called Watkinsville.

Which college or university did you attend?

I received my Bachelor's in the History of Art from the University of Georgia. I am die-hard UGA fan.

I

did my Master's in the History and Criticism of Art and my Master's of Science in Library and Information Science at Florida State University.

When did you begin teaching at FSW?

I joined the FSW team in Fall of 2011. I started out at the Hendry Glades Center back when I was one of only 4 full-time professors out there and the library was a tiny room! Seems like a lifetime ago.

What made you become interested in your academic discipline?

I fell in love with Art History when I took a Humanities class in high school with one of my favorite teachers. He made the arts come alive and I was hooked. I thought I wanted to be an art history professor

but once I hit the point where it was time to apply for the doctoral program I hesitated. A life of struggling

to publish and pursuing tenure just did not appeal to me. After talking with several of my professors in my

Master's program, I realized that I wanted to work directly with students. The idea of library school had been bouncing around in my mind for a while since I discovered FSU had a top 10 program and I'm so glad I decided to go that route. I love my work as a librarian and I love that I can still teach art history here

at FSW as well.

What is your favorite food?

Seafood. I could live off shrimp and crabs.

If you could have dinner with any historical figure, who would it be and what would you ask them?

Frida Kahlo. She was an amazing artist, activist, and human being. She went through so much in her life

and still spoke up standing strong in her beliefs. I'd love to listen to her perspectives and I'm sure she has

some fantastic stories from the characters in her life.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

Doc Ford's their Yucatan Shrimp is AMAZING.

What new things have you learned or done as a result of COVID-19 & working remotely?

I've learned to better balance my work and my life. Working on campus I was guilty of checking in with

email every now and again when I was home, but nothing overwhelming because there was a routine to life and work then. However, when the campus shut down and we were scrambling to ensure library services for our students and faculty, I was glued to my email and it was taking over and stressing me out. Once the initial panic calmed down, I was able to step back and I've been trying to make myself stick to hours of business for email so I can decompress. I've learned I can help others better when I take

time for myself and the library isn't a nuclear facility. It's fine if an email sits until I'm back on the clock.

What are you doing (exercise, cooking, reading, etc.) to take care of your mental and physical health during social isolation?

Checking in with friends has been so important for me. I have some of the best friends in the world and

having a quick FaceTime with an old friend when I'm down and laughing about stupid things and sharing our worries has been amazing. We've even had some virtual happy hours with themes. Bourbon

and Big Hats comes to mind as one of my favorites.

What advice do you have for your colleagues on how to navigate social isolation and changes from COVID-19?

If you're struggling say something. FSW is such a great family and there are plenty of ears to listen and years of experience to lend a hand.

If you would like to be featured in the *Ten Questions for Faculty Series*, please contact Kelly Westfield, Coordinator of Marketing & Technology for the Teaching and Learning Center: kwestfield@fsw.edu



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