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Ten Questions for Faculty Series

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 Dr. Brandon Jett, Professor of History.



Dr. Brandon Jett
Professor of History

Where are you from?

Houston, Texas

Which college or university did you attend?

I received my BA and MA degrees from Texas State University and my PhD from the University of Florida.

When did you begin teaching at FSW?

I began teaching at FSW last year.

What is your favorite food?

Hmm...what a tough question. I like all food. I've been into any kind of roasted vegetable lately. But, my all-time favorite food is a breakfast taco. For some reason, Floridians have no idea what breakfast tacos are (it is most certainly NOT a breakfast burrito). Breakfast taco stands are all over Texas, but I have yet to come across any in Florida. So, if anyone knows of one, please let me know ASAP!

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

So many to choose from, but probably Jesus. I'm not really religious, but I'd love to ask what he thinks of what has become of his movement and how his messages, likenesses, etc. have been and are being used today. I feel like he would hate it.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

Well, I live out in LaBelle. We have a new brewery/restaurant out here called LaBelle Brewery/Buckingham Farms. It is pretty good.

What made you become interested in your academic discipline?

I've always been interested in history, as most people seem to be. I liked learning about all the stories about the past that weren't talked about in school. I also thought my college professor's life looked really cool. They taught a few classes, wrote books, had summers off, what's not to like? Looking back, I was never told and did not realize a few things. The job market for professors is horrendous, professors teach classes during the summer, and writing a book is really hard work and, for historians at least, is often not accompanied by massive pay days! Nonetheless, I really enjoy engaging with students and participating in the construction of historical arguments. For the most part, my summers are pretty relaxed. My book is coming out in Fall 2021. So, all-in-all, my life is pretty cool!

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

Three-year-olds don't quite understand what "working remotely" means! They just want to play, color, watch movies together, ride bikes, read books, and engage with you. No matter how many times I try to explain to my daughter that I am "working remotely," she just doesn't seem to care!

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

We were doing quite a bit of cooking and I read frequently. We've protested. I don't think I really have done enough to take care of myself and don't really have the resources available at my disposal to do so.

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

Zoom happy hours help, but I really don't think I have a good answer for this. I'm open to hearing what everyone else has to say.

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

