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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 Dr. Kelly Roy, Professor of Early Childhood Education.



Dr. Kelly Roy
Professor of Early Childhood Education

Where are you from?

I'm originally from a small town north of Buffalo, NY – Lewiston. I started moving around a bit beginning in adulthood. Initially, my husband and I moved to eastern North Carolina (Washington). We lived there for seven years. Then we moved to the NC/VA border for four years. That's where I taught in higher ed for the first time at Danville Community College. We moved to Iowa next. I went to school in Ames and we lived in Cedar Falls. We left Iowa and I took a job at the University of the Virgin Islands in St. Croix. After three years we moved back to Frederick, Maryland. Unfortunately, I lost my husband there. I moved back to Western New York for a few years and taught at the University at Buffalo. I decided to hit the road again, and I took a job in Dominica. After a couple of years in Dominica, I wanted

to return to the mainland US which brought me to FSW.

Which college or university did you attend?

I completed three years at Alma College in Alma, Michigan. I finished my BA at the University at Buffalo. My MS is from Buffalo State College. I started my Ph. D. in Human Development and Family Studies at UNC Greensboro and finished at Iowa State University.

When did you begin teaching at FSW?

I started at FSW in the Fall of 2016.

What made you become interested in your academic discipline?

I'm actually a third generation early childhood educator. I started working in early childhood education in

high school. I worked with people with developmental challenges for the first ten years of my professional

career as well. I didn't really have a plan. I just continued to study as I was promoted at work, received grant funding to provide new services, and moved to different places. As I've studied and grown, early childhood education has become a passion. High quality early childhood experiences have the biggest bang for the buck for our society. Healthy young children are essential for our future, and it's the right thing.

What is your favorite food?

Being from western NY there are so many great choices! I grew up with great pizza, wings, calzones, homemade pasta, etc. I guess I'm missing it this summer, so I'll say Beef on 'Weck. It's a sandwich that includes thinly sliced roast beef on a hard roll with caraway seeds and kosher salt.

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

I would like to talk with Rudolph Steiner, founder of Waldorf Schools. His ideas about our physical, natural, and spiritual connections are interesting and controversial. I'd like to hear about them from him directly.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

My favorite local restaurant is The Crackerbox. The food and music are always good.

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

Our Early Childhood Education program has been available fully online for more than a year now. That shift wasn't significant for most of our students or faculty as a result. I've learned that it was a huge challenge for many of my colleagues and other students.

I've really appreciated all of the professional development available to help me become a better teacher and improve my technology skills. It's been wonderful to "meet" faculty with whom I haven't worked before. I used to look at my home as a place to stay in between trips. Since I haven't been able to travel, that has been a big change.

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

Living alone with my two cats Akeela and Bagheera, it is a struggle. Unfortunately, I've been baking a lot. I share what I bake, but I should share more. I also get together via Zoom weekly with several of my friends who live in other places and outside at a distance with local friends.

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

We're all in this together, so I'm not sure I'm in a place to give advice. Like my colleagues have said, we've got to be patient and kind with each other. I'm here for you, if anyone wants to chat virtually or have a coffee or a beer outside.

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

