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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 Leslie Bartley, Professor of Psychology and eLearning Coordinator for the School of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and First-Year Experience.



Leslie Bartley, PhD
Professor, Psychology
eLearning Coordinator

Where are you from?

I was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri until the age of 10 and then moved with my family to

Wisconsin where I spent the rest of my youth. I traded blizzards for hurricanes when I moved down to Fort Myers in Fall 2005. I vacationed down here during my childhood as my great-grandparents were snowbirds and had a house in Cape Coral.

Which college or university did you attend?

I attended the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse for my BA in Psychology and Capella University for my MS in Family Psychology and PhD in Psychology with an emphasis in Human Behavior.

When did you begin teaching at FSW?

I started as an adjunct professor in August 2010 when we were still Edison State College. I was fortunate to move into a full-time faculty position at the Collier Campus in August of 2015.

What made you become interested in your academic discipline?

I've always been a helper and fascinated with knowing why we do what we do. When I was still in high school, I was actually interested in becoming an ER pediatric physician, but after a summer stint at pre-med seminar/institute between junior and senior year, I realized that I struggled with the "medical model" approach to patient care. I didn't want to treat the illness – I wanted to treat the person and that just didn't fit. So I started looking into psychology and was immediately enthralled with the concepts and wanted to pursue a career in counseling.

What jobs or positions have you held that were formative for you and from which you draw experience that shapes your approach to teaching?

Some of you may or may not know this but I was an adolescent and family counselor for a number of years before pursuing academia – I loved it; but I eventually realized that I could make more of a difference educating people on applying psychological concepts than treating them individually. I have found that my past treatment experience can be wonderful examples for students to connect abstract concepts to real world applications.

What is your favorite food and favorite local restaurant?

I am a self-proclaimed "Equal Opportunity Foodist." Yeah, totally made that up, but I am going to own it.

I love food and need to work out frequently to counter that relationship. While I love a variety, I'm a sucker for a quality plate of nachos with all the fixins' (cheese sauce please, no shredded) or loaded-with-toppings pizza. As of now, my favorite restaurants to support are Ember Korean Steakhouse (College Parkway and 41) and Café Cibo (off McGregor). Both are consistently fantastic with their Food and service and I get to support small, family businesses.

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

One of my favorite theorists is Albert Bandura. He suggested social learning and cognitive theory, which argues that human learning is beyond just operant conditioning (punishment and reinforcement) and that there is a cognitive, willingness component that is necessary for engagement in behavior. I referenced one of his last published works for my dissertation and was just jazzed to see he was still writing! I'd love to pick his brain more on his concept of self-efficacy. I love the notion that we can be more influential in our thoughts and behaviors than we often realize and would like to learn more about how this could be readily applied.

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

I learned that I don't need to open the refrigerator every time I walk by it; nothing has changed in the last 15 minutes. Seriously though, I didn't need to adjust much to working remotely. If anything, I was pleasantly surprised by my ability to stay somewhat disciplined and motivated; I still set an alarm every morning, did my workout, maintained my organizational strategies to get my work done, and really just kept a routine. As the eLearning Coordinator for the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, I

had to stay organized since I had to hustle last spring and summer to get our folks certified and comfortable with teaching online. I found that it helped my sense of “normalcy,” which partially mitigated some stress and anxiety associated with the uncertainty surrounding us.

COVID-19 has increased online learning, and as a result, the need for promoting inclusivity in virtual learning environments. What ideas can you share with your colleagues about how to ensure inclusivity in the virtual classroom?

This year I taught asynchronously (which I have for years) and ventured into the new modality, Live Online. One thing that I’ve noticed that seems to help both the online and Zoom students is creating a safe learning environment and opportunity for them to share with you if they need. While maintaining boundaries, I am honest with my struggles during this chaotic time so that they know they are not alone which helps students connect and relate. While I know we do this in non-pandemic times, I find it is so important to emphasize this and reiterate that we are here for them. I have had more students attend my Zoom office hours than when I was in my office on campus. Every weekly video announcement I create, or when I start and end Zoom classes, I make sure they know where and when to find me. While there are understandable struggles right now, I also believe there is the opportunity to thrive and build resiliency.

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

Approach technology and social media as a means to stay “together” with friends and family until it is safer to be physically closer. Use this time of forced isolation as an opportunity to rediscover yourself; pre-COVID, many of us were so busy with our personal and professional lives that perhaps we had lost sight of who and what we are or what we wanted to be. Instead of looking at this as an inconvenient interruption, reframe it as a chance to learn about you.

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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