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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. Martin Tawil, Professor of Accounting and Faculty Senate President.



**Dr. Martin Tawil**  
**Professor of Accounting**  
**Faculty Senate President**

***Where are you from?***

I am originally from Jordan. However, I lived most of my life in New York.

***Which college or university did you attend?***

I attended several universities during my educational journey:

PhD Northcentral University: Educational Leadership  
MSED St. Thomas College: Secondary Education  
MSSE University of Montana: Science Education  
MBA Wilmington University: Accounting  
MS West Virginia University: Legal Studies (2021)  
BBA Pace University: Public Accounting

***When did you begin teaching at FSW?***

I started teaching in 2010 as an adjunct for the School of Education where I was also serving as the Coordinator of Assessment and Student Success. I began teaching full-time as a Cornerstone Professor in 2012.

***What made you become interested in your academic discipline?***

I am a logical person and I always enjoyed numbers. As for an academic discipline, I like to think that I am multidisciplinary as I have many interests in accounting, science, and law. I believe that I am a life-long learner.

***What is your favorite food and favorite local restaurant?***

My favorite food is falafel! Unfortunately, there are no local restaurants that serve Middle Eastern Food on the West Coast. However, Al Salam Mediterranean Restaurant located on the east coast is very good (Plantation). My next best choice would be Texas Roadhouse; I love their hot bread.

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

I would love to have dinner with Albert Einstein. Einstein's story is very typical where he faced many failures in his life. Everyone enjoys moments of success but get discouraged when they fail. I would ask him: What motivated you to succeed? How did you handle failure? Did you ever contemplate quitting?

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

I learned how to use Zoom! And my outlook on life has definitely been impacted. I am now more focused on living life to the fullest. I realized that I worked all of my life and helped many people but had not done some of things I wanted to do. I am going to work hard on not working and enjoying the time we have together. Life is not all about work!

***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?***

Flexibility on our part will lead to more inclusivity. I flex my meeting times and my schedule to help accommodate more students. Allowing students time to think during the lesson is also extremely important. I bought a sketch pad that I use during the live lessons which worked well for me.

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

I am using Facetime more than ever and I enjoy baking and cooking! I spend more time doing outdoor activities with my family. It is imperative that we maintain our safe distance but not remain isolated.

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

My advice for my colleagues is to stay positive and engaged. Most people are concerned with physical movement and its limitations, but we are also missing out on the intellectual conversation with each other. Zoom can never replace or be equated with the personal connections we make on daily basis. We are in this together.

1. Call your colleagues,
2. Call your friends,
3. Take care of yourself, and
4. Take care of loved ones.

This too shall pass. I remember being told by my mentors over the years "what does not kill you, will make you stronger." As a result, we are stronger than ever. Stay positive!

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](mailto:kwestfield@fsw.edu)



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