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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. Sandra Seifert, Professor of Mathematics.



Dr. Sandra Seifert
Professor of Mathematics

Where are you from?

I was born in a little district called McNie (pronounced Mac-nee) in the hills of the parish of Clarendon in Jamaica, West Indies. I grew up in Spanish Town, St. Catherine, the old capital of Jamaica.

Which college or university did you attend?

I attended Miami-Dade Community College when I arrived in the US and earned an AA degree. From there I went to Prairie View A & M University for one year with my sister, who had received a full ride to Prairie View, and majored in Computer Engineering. I finished my undergrad at Florida International

University, where I received a BS in Computer Science with a minor in Mathematics. I have a MS in Mathematics from Florida Atlantic University, a MEd in Learning and Technology from Western Governors University and a Doctorate in Education in Leadership and Professional Practice from Trevecca Nazarene University.

When did you begin teaching at FSW?

I must tell you that I began my stint at FSW (then Edison State College) as a Math Tech, what is not an Instructional Assistant, at the Lee campus in July, 2009. I began teaching at FSW in Fall 2009 on a full-time temporary contract, also at the Lee campus. In the Fall of 2010, I became a full-time math professor (the second full-time faculty) at the Hendry/Glades Center.

What made you become interested in your academic discipline?

I have always loved mathematics. That was my favorite subject in school, always excelled at it. I did not think, originally, that I could make a decent living at it, so I opted for a degree in Computer Science instead. However, my love of the subject led me to minor in it, taking a math course almost every semester I was in college. While I was a full-time systems analyst/programmer, I started teaching at Broward College as an adjunct and became very interested in teaching.

What is your favorite food?

I have many favorite foods: Ackee and saltfish and roasted breadfruit (um, um, um); my mother's potato salad with stew chicken and lots of gravy; oxtail and broad beans with rice; avocado with bulla cake. Not to mention Jerk Pork, Jerk Chicken and Curried Goat. My mouth is watering as I type. And that is just Jamaican food. I love Chinese food, especially vegetable fried rice, Szechuan Shrimp, Orange Shrimp/Chicken. And my brother makes some killer jerk wings! The list can go on and on. I love to eat.

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

I would like to sit down with Jesus and ask him to tell me exactly what he told the two disciples on the way to Emmaus.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

PF Chang's!!!

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

I have always tried to put myself in the shoes of my students, but that really hit home when we had to teach remotely this Spring, and I was having so many internet issues: the connection going down in the middle of a lecture; everything working fine right up to class time, and then not. So I can empathize with them when they are having problems getting work done off-site. It takes some innovation and ingenuity to get around the issues, but the main thing is to keep trying and not get discouraged. We will get through it.

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

I am doing a lot of Scrabble with Friends, and crossword puzzles on the tablet. I have not been doing a lot of physical exercise, but my husband and I are building a shed in the backyard from scratch, which involves both mental and physical acumen. I love to read as well and I listen to a lot of audiobooks. My latest find is the author Anthony Horowitz.

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

My advice is to be what you want to see and do what you want to have happen. For example, If you

want

to get calls or receive cards, make some calls and send some cards. And do for others, get out of or away from yourself. Go help distributing food – we have a great time at our church directing people and handing out boxes of food, and interacting with each other, no matter how brief the time.

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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