

From: [TLC](#)
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Subject: Ten Questions for Faculty Series
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 4:26:45 PM
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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 Tina Churchill, Professor of Mathematics.



Tina Churchill
Professor of Mathematics

Where are you from?

The place that comes to mind first is Connecticut, where I spent a majority of my teen and adult years. I was born in Colorado, lived in California and now Florida for the past 13 years. I do miss the vibrancy of the changing seasons of New England, but have come to appreciate the subtle variations in Florida.

Which college or university did you attend?

I am an FSW (Edison State College) Alumni! I received my Bachelors of Science in Secondary Education of Mathematics from Edison State College, now FSW. I continued my education at the University of West Florida where I completed my Masters of Science in Mathematical Sciences.

When did you begin teaching at FSW?

I started as a Peer Tutor in 2010 while taking classes, then as an adjunct in 2013 and Professor in 2016.

This has truly been a full circle experience for me and I love being a part of the amazing faculty and staff at FSW.

What made you become interested in your academic discipline?

I have always loved problem solving and puzzles. Even at a very young age, I loved working a math problem, and yes, I was always the teacher at playtime. I found joy in sharing what I learned with others. For me, this was the perfect combination for becoming a Professor of Mathematics.

What is your favorite food?

Pizza all kinds, but my favorite is one with Feta, olives, mushrooms, spinach and chicken. So good! Sushi is a very close second.

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

Mary Magdalene. I would ask her to share her experiences, insights and perspectives of what she witnessed and experienced as a woman and a disciple of Jesus.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

Hurricane Charley's Raw Bar & Grill. The view outside on the water, sushi, and a glass of wine make the experience so relaxing and enjoyable.

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

I have learned so much more about finding balance and focus in my life. The importance of finding joy every day and celebrating the small victories is tremendously important to me. I have rediscovered the cool personalities of my kids, and yes, all the aggravating ones too. Most of all, grace: I've learned to give grace to myself and to others often! It's important to focus on what is most important and as the saying goes, don't sweat the small stuff.

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

I have been focusing on whole food nutrition and physical exercise. What a difference your mental state is when your body is healthier. My family has eaten meals together more! This has been a great time of discussion of highs and lows of the day and just connecting as a family. I have developed a mild obsession with podcasts; they are great when working outside in the yard. I have also started a compost and I'm getting ready to do some gardening soon. This will be my first attempt at gardening in FL and should be an adventure.

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

Take the time to be intentional and connect with someone daily outside of work and home activities. Read, explore outside, and as I mentioned above, grace: Let it flow.

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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