

Faculty: They Live Among Us!

Featuring Faculty in Residence, Brianne Stanback

At the University of South Florida, Housing and Residential Life is breaking down the barriers between academics and the residence halls with the program: Faculty in Residence (FIR). FIR's, according to Dr. Elizabeth Kaplon, Director of Academic Initiatives with Housing and Residential Life, "assist students in seeking academic support and guidance and help residential students navigate academic challenges." There are four current USF Faculty who live across campus; planning programs, eating in the dining halls with students, and bringing the academic life style into the residence halls. They are able to reach residents in new ways and allow students to connect to faculty outside the classroom. This month we are featuring FIR Dr. Brianne Stanback who is an instructor as well as director of the field placement program within the School of Aging Studies. She received her Masters of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences at the University of Florida, and her Doctoral degree from USF in the School of Aging Studies. Dr. Brianne Stanback started as a FIR in 2012 and has since been known for her sustainability programming, field trips, wellness events, and even her knitting nights with the residents.

Parent and Family Programs (PFP): Why do you think the FIR Program is an important part of the Residence Life experience?

Brianne Stanback (BS): I think the faculty in residence program is important because a lot of life lessons and education are taught beyond the confines of the classroom or an office, which can sometimes be intimidating for students. Students may catch me in the dining hall, see me in the Marshall Center, or ask me a question on the way back from getting my mail, and we have a really great discussion. I wanted to be a faculty in residence to have those kinds of moments that so benefitted me.

PFP: What do you think parents should know about their students and the Residential Experience? Why is this important?

BS: I have one major thing parents should know. The residential experience is important for the social development of students. It teaches them how to get along with and appreciate individuals who are different than they are, excellent practice for the real world.

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PF: Tell us about your hobbies.

BS: I spend a lot of time knitting, cooking, and reading in my spare time. I'm also big fan of the outdoors - walks, bird watching, and taking lots of photographs - both locally and on my travels.

PF: What was the last book(s) you read? Why these books?

BS: Over the break, I actually read a bunch of books. The most recent one was the one that perhaps resonated with me the most - *Thank you for Your Service*. The author was embedded with the group of servicemen in theatre and wrote a book about that experience. *Thank you for Your Service* is a sequel of sorts, the result of being embedded with them and their families upon return to home and civilian life. It was honest, provocative, and haunting to read the experience of these young adults and think about how this will impact them over time. I also read *Full Body Burden* for part of the USF committee I serve on and *Five Days at Memorial*. I love non-fiction, so you'll always find a few on my nightstand and on my Kindle.

PF: What advice do you have for parents?

BS: My advice for parents is to listen more than ever to your child. College is a time of discovery, growth, independence, and practicing decision making. It's hard to resist the urge to give advice or fix problems when we only want people we care about to succeed. Listening is doing something, and they will succeed and they just might surprise you, too.

Though Brienne Stanback is just one of four FIR's that live on campus, her passion for students, sustainability, and academic success make her a great example of the FIR program. Whether inside the classroom or in the residence hall, Dr. Stanback is working hard to ensure that students are reaching their full potential while being more connected to the faculty at USF.