Meet Maria Cordeiro



Maria with a statue of Oscar Wilde and Eduard Vilde in Galway, Ireland.

Maria grew up with a military father, then married a military man. As you might expect, she has moved a lot. She has lived in 20 different homes in places that include Louisiana, Virginia, Texas, Georgia, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Florida, England, and Ontario, Canada, where she spent a four-year stint. Her longest stint was 13 years in Oklahoma.

She and her husband are continuing their itinerant ways as they enjoy travelling both abroad and stateside. Their most recent adventure was a Viking Cruise in the Mediterranean.

Maria has always enjoyed learning. She started her education with an associate's degree in nursing from West Georgia College and worked in cardiovascular care and intensive care. She went on to earn her BSN at the University of Central Oklahoma. She then worked in geriatrics, primarily in nursing homes. Maria continued her education to become a geriatric nurse practitioner and ultimately completed her doctorate in nursing. She taught nursing in Oklahoma and here at USF.

In addition to her nursing career, Maria has been a family caregiver over the years. She spent time in Georgia taking care of her aging mother who was undergoing cancer treatment. After her mother's death, Maria moved back to Oklahoma to help with grandchildren. Then, she came to Florida to help her daughter care for a husband with cancer and to help with their two children. At the same time, she was caregiver to her mother-in-law who had dementia.

Maria enjoys dancing, though her husband doesn't, so opportunities are limited. She also likes to read and is currently working her way through a New York Times Bestsellers list. Her favorite genre is legal thrillers, seconded by spy thrillers.

She is a member of a book club in Temple Terrace. She plays Scrabble at the Temple Terrace Library and just joined the Board Games SIG. She is looking forward to checking out other SIGs in the near future. She also hopes to check out some OLLI classes soon.

--Shirley Herring