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Tara says she was spoiled living within a short walk of her grandparents' homes in Greenfield where she could avoid her mother's vegetables and enjoy whatever one of them was cooking but also pushed as she worked alongside one grandmother cleaning houses and often "picked and shucked" whatever the other was growing in the garden. As the only girl in the family and the only one on her block, she grew to love playing outdoors and competing with three brothers more than she cared to stay indoors and learn to cook.

Still from early on, her mother told her that a woman's work was never done. But it was not until Tara married Robert Gentry 10 years ago and assumed a parental role with then fifth-grader William that she realized the truth of that statement.

"Now, I know. She's spot on. She's absolutely correct."

A strong work ethic and resilience are among the lessons that Tara gained from both her parents.

"Both instilled that we needed to tell the truth. Be open and honest with people. Do the best you can with everything...no exceptions," she explained. "Your word is huge. If you say you're going to do it, do it. That's your name, that's your reputation."

When her first knee injury occurred, she says they assured her that she would be fine. And she was. She put in the time that they, both athletes themselves, knew she would require to regain her strength. Admittedly hard-headed, she says she rushed each stage of her recovery, and, laughingly says she helped shape new protocols that have athletes back on the court or field much sooner than was predicted in her day. When the second knee went, she says her parents said, "Hey, you did it once, you can do it again." And she did.

Working on a doctorate in education technology and teaching at UTM might be a full plate for many women but for Tara, the last ten years have meant a chance to finally relax. After years of a schedule that was "basketball 365" including 13 ½ years as a coach, she finds the chance to be a mom at her son's games relaxing and enjoys her role as a go-to for



Tara and Rodney Gentry

homework questions from both him and her twin nephews.

One of her concerns as both a teacher and an advisor, is today's students don't ask questions. Out of a fear of looking bad, she believes, they refrain from asking about what they don't know, and they compound the problem by not asking for help.

She tells them, "You are not going to know everything. I don't know everything. We are going to find it out together."

To assist with the issue, she turns to technology and currently uses "clickers" in the classroom. Every five minutes or so she will ask a question on what she covered, and students respond with clicking on the answer using their phones, tablets or laptops.

"If I have 80 percent that got it wrong then I have to go back and explain it right then."

Putting learning first was ingrained in the Tansil family, she says.

"I was a good student. Our parents demanded that. Academics were first. There's no ball, there's no going outside, there's no anything without homework done."

Tara applies that same hard line with the students she advises. She says she challenges them and is tough when it comes to making a plan and being mindful that choices can help or hinder one's future. Since technology is her area of

expertise, she homes in on making good choices when it comes to what is posted, tweeted and liked on social media.

"You've got to be serious," she tells them. "Check that ring back tone. If I call you, what am I listening to? Check that email. What is it? If it's sexykitten245, that's a no. Check that social media. One photo can ruin your opportunities."

Though women's professional basketball was just getting underway when Tara graduated, she did have an opportunity to pursue that route. But when she got the invitation for a tryout, she says she replied, "I think I'm OK. I'm happy. I think I've done a lot and accomplished a lot. I'm OK with being done."

And later, after the unrelenting pace of coaching proved to be more than she wanted to sacrifice as a newlywed and mom, she stepped away again. She laughs when remembering what she told friends at the time, "I had my midlife crisis. I didn't go get a motorcycle or cut my hair or get a tattoo."

Now she points out that the chance to spend more time in classroom was a big draw. "And I absolutely love it."

Spending time with family, loving what you do ... learned lessons that would make any mother proud, right Mae?

Sherry Moore Page says focus on what's important

Sherry Moore Page's home is a testament to what she considers important. Messages of "faith, hope, family" hang on her kitchen wall as one of her favorite fall dishes – tortellini soup or lasagna – simmers. She's at her best when her three children, grandchildren, parents or in-laws are at her table or sitting on the back porch.

"There is nothing better than having Saturday off, lighting a candle and cooking stuff for the kids to come over to eat," the longtime school counselor and church volunteer offers. "To smell that aroma in the house ... it's about home."

Mom to Neel, Payton, and Alyse and grandmother to Halton, 5, and Hutton, 2, Sherry hopes that the lessons of compassion and caring for the sick and those in need are part of what she has passed on. She laughs at her hesitation when asked what lessons she inherited from her own mother Claudia Moore.

"My mom told me a lot of things," she confesses. "I probably just didn't listen."

As a school counselor for more than three decades, she grieves at the many youth she sees coming from broken families, learning early to take care of themselves, being shuffled to the homes of grandparents or even the couches of friends, presented with choices that lead to dire consequences. She mentions recent classes on methamphetamines and sex trafficking as examples of what today's students face that weren't part of the curriculum when she walked the halls of Greenfield schools as a basketball standout and beauty queen.

But she celebrates other changes.

"Girls are more empowered now," she observes. "Girls feel more equal to guys than they used to. They are running for offices, fighting for scholarships. I see girls that are rising above guys. I just think more than anything girls feel like they are important. They don't sit back. They go for what they want."

Married to her high school love for 36 years, Sherry says



spending time with Andy Page of Security Bank and Trust Company is her current favorite pastime. After surviving a breast cancer diagnosis in 2013, she is reflective these days, "In your 30s and 40s you are so caught up in life and taking care of your kids that you don't take every day as you should. We've had more fun in the last ten years. As a mother you focus on your kids, when they are older and gone, you have a sigh of relief, and you think 'oh it's all about us now.'"

The couple's "me time" is now spent "riding around in the country" in Andy's corvette, taking off for a night in Nashville, grilling or smoking and enjoying the back porch they added a few years ago. But the tales of how she is focusing on herself quickly switches to others as she adds other current tasks -- "telling the kids to go somewhere so we can stay with the grandkids" and cooking for her some portion of her family at least twice a week.

When queried for her perspective on what women want, she considers carefully and then replies, "Love, attention, affection

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