Questions:

1. What is your hometown? West Brach, Iowa. A very small town.
2. If you could move to another city, would you? If I didn’t have any entanglements, yes.
3. If so, what city? I loved my time in Spain. I have also been very interested in Belize and Costa Rica just because of the difference in culture and difference in priorities that people have. And I love the climate; that Cost Rica has 3 of the 5 biomes in that tine county. Maybe somewhere far away where I could experience something completely different.
4. What neighborhood do you live in? Central Gardens
5. How long have you lived in Memphis? 20 years.
6. How would you describe the City of Memphis in three words? Progressing, tough, and BBQ
7. What were your first impressions of Memphis? When we visited to move here someone said it was like a big country town. So when we drove down Union, and the streets were so wide. It was not like Chicago. There was a certain amount of space that I wasn’t used to in a city . I was really surprised by the amount of trees. But also seeing the run-down aspects of it because we stayed on Union and we went by Overton Square and it was crazy and very run-down. And we ended up moving like two blocks away. So my first impressions were that it needed some love. But also there was a diversity … there was just something interesting about it. Something that draws you in. It is friendly yet very clearly not perfect but you kind of love it because it is not perfect.
8. What is your current impression of Memphis? I see us becoming more progressing. People are more aware environmentally, people are trying to promote it. That is a big difference because when I first moved here everybody that lived here put down Memphis. And now, especially in the last ten years, with the Grizzlies, and people thought that would never work, then Overton Square, and the City putting money into areas where people are starting to take pride in the City and pushing the City to be more progressive. But right now I love it because it is offering a lot that it didn’t offer even ten years ago.
9. Do you feel Memphis has improved while you have lived here? Tremendously
10. What is your funniest story about living in Memphis? When we first came here we visited Graceland because, you know, because it is what you do. And I grew up with Elvis, my Mom played a lot of Elvis. But I think it was when I found that they celebrate Elvis birth week and Elvis death week were these huge, and we were celebrating him dying. We have the January and the August; the death and the life and how seriously people take it with the candlelight vigil. I find it very charming. I don’t find it embarrassingly funny , I find it a charming thing.
11. If you could change something about Memphis, what would it be? I would like to see develop in the areas that really need it. As much as I love the kind of money the City has thrown into like uptown and downtown and Overton Square, just the amount of poverty here is frightening. So for me it would be a way to create some balance to where it is not the haves and have-nots so much because that is a huge problem for Memphis.
12. This web site only captures a snapshot in time. What would you like someone twenty years from now who reads this to know about you? Being from Iowa, from the north, the South always held a certain lore for me. Something about the southern belle, the southern drawl, the food, the pace, there were lots of things that held a certain lore that moving here and seeing the reality of life here, it is different being a northerner and now being a southerner has changed my perspective. I am raising southerners. SO my views on what it was before and what it actually is , it has sort of exceeded my expectations because we have come so far. So something about me is that you can be from somewhere and do a 180 in your life and really benefit greatly from it and for me that was a very positive thing.
13. What is your favorite thing about Memphis? The people. I’ve met a lot of very interesting people and being an instructor at the Kroc has allowed me to meet people I would never meet because it is a real community. Socially integrated which is what they wanted when they created it. So I would never have been able to meet them and yet we all get on well. I think people have become friends that I would never have known before. There are just a lot of really wonderful people in the world and in Memphis I seem to have found a lot of them.