

Life Learning Academy
Curriculum Author Biographies

LIFE LEARNING ACADEMY CURRICULUM LEAD AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

Mimi Silbert, Ph.D., is Life Learning Academy's Headmaster. She is also the President and CEO of the Delancey Street Foundation, the nation's leading self-help residential education center for substance abusers and ex-convicts. Dr. Silbert oversees five Delancey Street facilities located across the country as well as the many self sustaining training schools Delancey Street operates including a national moving company, catering, a restaurant and a café/bookstore/art gallery.

Dr. Silbert designed adult and juvenile justice master plans for numerous cities and states including the revamp of San Francisco's juvenile justice system that gave birth to the Life Learning Academy.

Dr. Silbert earned her B.A. in English from the University of Massachusetts, a Masters and Doctorate Degrees in Counseling Psychology and Criminology from the University of California, Berkeley. She was awarded U.C. Berkeley's prestigious Alumni of the Year in 1991 along with being named one of 100 Berkeley Fellows, an honorific society. She has received the University of San Francisco President's Medallion and the University of California at San Francisco's highest medal. She has been awarded ten Honorary Doctorate degrees.

Teri Lynch Delane, Ph.D., has been the principal of the Life Learning Academy since its inception in 1998. She has a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Golden Gate University and she is a licensed psychologist and holds a PhD. in Clinical Psychology from the Wright Institute in Berkeley, California.

Dr. DeLane has twenty-five years of experience working with the Delancey Street Foundation, the nation's leading self-help residential education center for former substance abusers and ex-convicts. Dr. DeLane also went through Delancey Street beginning in 1977. In addition to replicating the Delancey Street model at Life Learning Academy, in 1997 she started a highly successful in-custody substance abuse program modeled after Delancey Street in the men and women's jails in San Mateo, California.

Carol Kizziah is the Dean at the Life Learning Academy. Ms. Kizziah participated in the research, development and implementation of the San Francisco Juvenile Justice Local Action Plan and the successful grant request to the State of California Board of Corrections to implement six pilot juvenile justice projects including the Life Learning Academy.

Ms. Kizziah has a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley. She worked for the Contra Costa County Administrator's Office for over 20 years doing adult and juvenile corrections planning, including the development of a model juvenile justice Continuum of Care. She consulted to the California Youth

Authority on the Statewide Needs Assessment of Youth Shelters and Youth Centers and the Statewide Needs Assessment of County Juvenile Facilities and Programs.

Donald Bartlow has been the Vocational Manager for the Life Learning Academy since the opening of LLA in 1998. In this role, he is responsible for the Crossroads Café Business Development Program as well as teaching a Personal Finance class.

Prior to coming to LLA, Mr. Bartlow served as Assistant Director of Hospitals and Clinics at the University of California, San Francisco; Support Services Administrator at Providence Hospital Oakland; and he was the Associate Director of Facilities Management at the University of California, Berkeley.

Mr. Bartlow holds an MBA, and for over a decade mentored minority students in health administration at the University of California, School of Public Health. His thirty-five year career in support services management provides him with a broad perspective on the many vocational career options available to LLA students.

Lieutenant Dirk J. Beijen retired from the San Francisco Police Department as an experienced and highly decorated member of the Department. He was assigned to the Juvenile & Family Services Division, and was the officer-in-charge of the Hostage/Crisis Negotiation Teams at the time of his retirement.

Lt. Beijen has been teaching Police Science/Law Enforcement Occupations class at the Life Learning Academy since July 2000. His previous experience includes teaching at the San Francisco Police Academy, the Santa Rosa Community College Criminal Justice Training Center, City College of San Francisco, and Golden Gate University.

Lt. Beijen has a B.A. with a major in Psychology and a minor in Sociology from San Francisco State University. He has a part-time Community College Teaching Credential from the University of California, Berkeley and a post-baccalaureate Certificate in Criminal Justice Education from the University of Virginia. Lt. Beijen also has a Masters in Public Administration from Golden Gate University and a Level I full-time Vocational Education Teaching Credential from the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Program. He is a graduate of the San Francisco Police Academy and the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy.

Nancy Bloch taught Art and coordinated the Life Learning Academy Café Program. She has a teaching credential in Art from San Francisco State University as well as a Masters of Landscape Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley. She has a Masters of Education Degree from San Francisco State University. Nancy also received certification in Entrepreneurship Education from the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship at Stanford University.

Before teaching at Life Learning Academy, Ms. Bloch was a landscape architect and vocational trainer for the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners. She also worked as a

natural resource management consultant with the United States Peace Corps in Niger, West Africa.

Josh Brankman was a world history teacher at Life Learning Academy. He was also Co-Director of the Academy's Wilderness Orientation Program. Before teaching at the Life Learning Academy, Mr. Brankman taught social studies at Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center in Estes Park, CO. Josh received his BA in History and certificate of Teacher Preparation from Princeton University and has a Masters in Educational Leadership from the University of California, Berkeley.

Wayne Brock teaches science at Life Learning Academy. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University and his teaching credential in physics at San Francisco State University. In the summer of 2004 he attended the San Francisco Exploratorium Teacher Institute. Before teaching at LLA, Mr. Brock was a mechanical engineer working in the aerospace field.

Carol Chodroff was one of the founding teachers at Life Learning Academy. She helped draft the charter, taught English and developed the Wilderness Orientation program. She served as a Member of the Board of Trustees at her former high school, College Preparatory School, in Oakland, CA. Ms. Chodroff received her BA from Georgetown University and her masters in education from Harvard Graduate School of Education and her teaching credential from Chapman University.

Joanne da Luz taught math, mentored students and coordinated staff development. She has a teaching credential in Secondary Mathematics, CLAD Certification, a Supplementary Authorization in English, and a Masters of Education from Stanford University, where she was recently recognized as one of the 150 Celebrated Educators by the Cosby on Campus Conference for Teachers. In 2003, Joanne earned the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification for AYA Math.

Before coming to Life Learning, Ms. Da Luz co-founded a mentoring program at Menlo-Atherton High School and later taught math for three years at San Lorenzo High School in San Lorenzo, California.

Michael Delane is a lieutenant in the San Francisco Fire Department where he has worked for over 25 years. He is a Neighborhood Emergency Response Training Coordinator and a qualified EMT. The San Francisco Fire Department has supported Lt. Delane teaching at Life Learning Academy since the school opened in 1998. He teaches a Fire Science class and mentors students interested in future careers as fire fighters or EMTs. Lt. Delane graduated from the Delancey Street Foundation in 1999 and received his BA from Golden Gate University in 2000.

Sabina Feinberg is the manager of Life Learning Academy's student-operated Crossroads Café. Sabina received a Certificate of Completion from the Culinary Arts/Health and

Safety Management program at Contra Costa College in San Pablo, California. Prior to LLA, Ms. Feinberg worked for many years in the restaurant and catering business.

Park Guthrie teaches biology and urban gardening. He directs Life Learning Academy's Organic Opportunities program. He earned a BA at Stanford University and a teaching credential at San Francisco State University.

Park taught for 10 years in Modesto, San Leandro, Honduras, and San Francisco. He also worked for two summers leading mountaineering trips for teens with the Pacific Crest Outward Bound School.

Robin Havens teaches bike mechanics, gardening and entrepreneurship with a special emphasis on writing across the curriculum. She frequently team-teaches and has led integrated, project-based curricula in subjects such as bikes and math, entrepreneurship and gardening, and the science of alternative transportation. She has both a teaching credential in Art and a Masters of Education from San Francisco State University.

Ms. Havens completed a teacher training in environmental education during the summer of 2004 at the Headlands Institute in Marin, California. She earned a certificate to teach entrepreneurship to low-income students from the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship Training at Stanford University in 2003. Before teaching at Life Learning, she developed and coordinated the Earn-A-Bike program, a bicycle repair and maintenance course at Safehaven, an after school program in San Francisco's Bayview neighborhood. She also taught adult bike maintenance classes at the Freewheel Bike Shop, also in San Francisco.

Clell Hoffman is the Chef/Instructor at the Life Learning Academy. He teaches in the Culinary Arts program, the Crossroads Café program and the Organic Opportunities program. Mr. Hoffman received his vocational teaching credential from UCLA. He has worked in the food service industry for over 25 years. His career has included owning his own restaurant, concert event catering, and working for several years in the British Virgin Islands as an Executive Chef at a restaurant and as a personal chef on private charter yachts.

Craig Miller is the Vice Principal and the History Department Chair, and coordinates the Student Council/Leadership Class. He has a BA in History from Pitzer College, a California single-subject credential in Social Studies and a Masters of Education both from San Francisco State University. In 2004, upon completion of his Master's Degree, Mr. Miller was recognized as the Distinguished Student of the Year for Secondary Education from San Francisco State.

Before teaching, Mr. Miller worked at the Delancey Street Foundation helping to develop and implement the San Francisco Juvenile Justice Local Action Plan, a series of innovative programs for high-risk youth in San Francisco. He was also the head basketball coach for the boy's team at International Studies Academy High School in San Francisco.

Mark Phillips, Ed.D., is a professor at San Francisco State University in the Graduate School of Education where he served as Chair of the Academic Senate. He received his Ed.D., from the University of Massachusetts in Curriculum Studies and was a member of the Santa Barbara Board of Education and currently serves on the Board of the Buck Foundation Educational Fund. Dr. Phillips has consulted with over 100 schools throughout the nation in curriculum development, focusing in the area of the impact of social and technological change. He is the author of a number of articles including “Postmodernism, Television, and the Contemporary Classroom,” *School of Education Review*, Spring, 1991, pp.20-28. Dr. Phillips has worked with the Life Learning Academy for a number of years developing a leadership curriculum with our staff through the use of contemporary films and providing supervision to our student teachers.

Jamie Pillers taught mathematics, maintained the library and coordinated facilities repair and maintenance projects at Life Learning Academy. He has a California single-subject (mathematics), clear, CLAD teaching credential. He graduated from the University of Nevada with a BA in Civil Engineering and Mills College with a Masters in Education.

Previous to his four years at LLA, he taught for three years at Pinole Middle School in West Contra Costa School District. Prior to teaching, Mr. Pillers spent 25 years working as a Civil Engineer at Pacific Gas and Electric Company in San Francisco, California.

Rob Simon was a founding staff member of the Life Learning Academy. He received his BA from Hampshire College, an MA in English Literature from the University of Massachusetts, an MA and M.T.S. from Harvard University, an MA in Education and his teaching credential in Language Arts and Social Studies from San Francisco State University.

Mr. Simon is the former chair of the Life Learning English Department and currently completing his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. He has been working on publications reviewing LLA and recommending the school as a model for wider-scale institutional reform. One publication is a book in a collection called Literacies Across Educational Contexts edited by Brian Street, one of the founders of what is called New Literacy Studies. His theories on the social and local nature of literacy are widely read and influential. The gist of this book is basically a look at literacy in multiple contexts, in policy outside of schools, in after-school programs, adult education, as well as inside schools, elementary, secondary and middle. The chapter on Life Learning is a look at some of the key tenets of New Literacy Studies and how they match up to Life learning Academy. The central claim is that policy makers are more likely to take notice of successful (and replicable) programs than wade through increasingly localized research studies.

Justin Warren has been teaching Photography and Visual Arts at LLA since Fall 2000. His beginning and advanced photography courses expose students to a broad range of photographic topics and skills. In addition, Mr. Warren frequently collaborates with other

teachers and creates interdisciplinary, project based visual arts lessons that allow students to combine their creative and academic skills.

Mr. Warren earned a BA in Anthropology and Afro-American Studies from UCLA in 1999. His award-winning photojournalism has appeared in national newspapers and magazines. He recently completed documentary projects at the International Center for Photography and the Eddie Adams Photojournalism Workshop in New York.

Adam Yas teaches business/entrepreneurship and music. He also helps train students in various aspects of the food service industry as part of the Crossroads Café program. Mr. Yas has been a member of the LLA family since 2000. In the years prior, he pursued a career in music as a singer/songwriter. He continues to explore these possibilities in addition to the many opportunities afforded him in the field of education.

Marilyn Morissette, Ph.D. has been the vocational and college counselor since 2005, providing counseling and support to students preparing for their transition to post-high school careers and higher education. Previously she was the Director of Planning, Evaluation and Information Systems for the Office of Human Resources at the University of California, Berkeley.