

## **2021 Prospect Practitioner Fellows**

### **Quena Crain**

Quena Crain is the Elementary Group teacher and Program Coordinator for the Hiland Hall School, a small independent school in Bennington, Vermont, whose purpose is to join with families in the liberation and development of the full capacities of the students entrusted to it. Dance, music, and exploration of the outdoors are among her primary interests and she incorporates her own passions, along with those of her students, into her teaching. A California native, Quena received her undergraduate degree from UC Davis, and then moved to Penobscot, Maine where she fell completely in love with the lush green of New England. With a love for world-wide education, she worked for several years at World Learning in Brattleboro, Vermont, helping students from the United States travel abroad, and facilitating youth leadership programs for international students. Following this experience, she spent two years in New York City earning a Masters in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) and K-12 teaching credential at the Teachers College, Columbia University. Quena currently lives in Shaftsbury, Vermont, where she is a member of a monthly inquiry group using the Descriptive Processes, and especially enjoys swimming and riding her yellow bicycle during the summer months.

### **Joanne Donahue**

Joanne Donahue has been teaching in Philadelphia public schools since 1998. She currently teaches fifth grade literacy and social studies at Julia R. Masterman School, a magnet school for gifted and talented youth. She graduated from Temple University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. She received her Master's in Education from Gratz College. Joanne has been an active member of Philadelphia Teaching Learning Cooperative since 2005. Prospect's Descriptive Process has been a key component in her classroom practice since this time.

### **Jessica Morris**

Jessica Morris, or Jess, is a third grade teacher at Jackson School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She will soon enter her 5th year of teaching. Jess is a graduate from Temple University's College of Education and a scholar of the Philadelphia Writing Project. She has recently earned the Project-Based Learning Certificate from the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education. She is also a member of Need in Deed, an organization that supports teachers in implementing service-learning and community engagement in the classroom. Jess is elated to be a fellow at The Prospect School, as she feels she has grown immensely in her practice as a teacher by engaging in the Descriptive Processes with colleagues within the Philadelphia Teachers' Learning Cooperative. In addition to teaching, you can find Jess running, biking, and exploring the world with her dog!

## **Rachel Schwartzman**

Rachel Schwartzman has been working as a teacher in progressive schools for the past 20 years; as an art teacher, classroom teacher and forest school director in New York and Philadelphia. Recently, her work has focused on supporting early childhood programs in deepening their relationship to materials, inquiry and the outdoors. Her work is inspired by the materials rich and play based approaches from Reggio Emilia, Italy and the outdoor learning environments in Sweden. Recently, Rachel has been running a materials studio for preschoolers at [BBYSTUDIO](#) and growing a Forest Days program with [ERAFANS](#) for public school Kindergartens.

## **Geralyn (Gigi) Yu**

Gigi Yu is a University of New Mexico assistant professor in Art Education. She has 20+ years visual arts teaching experience with young children to adults in community settings, museums, higher education, and public- school classrooms in Arizona, Chicago, Wisconsin, and New Mexico. In the early 2000's, Gigi served as the studio art coordinator at Chicago Commons Child Development Agency, inspired by the role of the atelierista from the early learning programs in Reggio Emilia, Italy. This role continues to inspire her work as an art educator/researcher. Gigi worked with the Albuquerque Art Museum, the Santa Fe Opera, the Albuquerque Public Schools Office of Early Childhood, and Chicago Artist Partners in Education providing pedagogical leadership and professional development facilitation. She is the co-founder of the New Mexico Collaborative Teachers Institute, a statewide inquiry group using the study of pedagogical documentation. Currently, she is also editor for the publication Innovations in Early Education: The International Reggio Emilia Exchange.

## **2021 Prospect Practitioner Mentor**

## **Joe Alberti**

Joe Alberti has been a teacher in the School District of Philadelphia for 14 years. He has been a teacher at his neighborhood school, Samuel Powel Elementary, for ten years, teaching 3rd and 4th grade and was a part of the school's leadership team. He recently moved to Julia R. Masterman school, a school for gifted and talented youth in the public school district, bringing project-based learning, inquiry, and the design process to his 6th grade math and literacy classes. He earned a Ph.D. in Education from the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania in 2010. He has also taught courses at the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University and at Community College of Philadelphia. He has also co-taught a course and led independent studies for undergraduate students at Swarthmore College in the Education Department. He earned National Board Certification for Teaching in 2012, the highest level of commendation/certification a teacher can earn in the United States of America (fewer than 3% of teachers in the U.S. achieve this level). He is a member of the Philadelphia Teacher Learning Cooperative, the Teacher Action Group in Philadelphia, Teachers Lead Philly, and Need in Deed, an organization that brings service learning to classrooms. He

looks forward to bringing all of his experiences to the University of Vermont this summer.

He is a board member of his neighborhood's Civic Association, serving as the chair of the streets committee. He is also a volunteer driver for Philly Patient Ride, a volunteer program that transports cancer patients to their treatments who have no other means of getting to the hospital.