

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Joseph Bazbaz is the founder and creator of “The Bazbaz Blueprint for Winning@Work”. The blueprint itself is a rubric anyone can use to maximize their success and effectiveness in any situation. Joseph provides coaching to sales professional, professional sports coaches, teachers, mentors, professors and professionals in leadership positions from the C-Suite to front line managers. Additionally, he transforms struggling corporate cultures into high performing cultures by showing them how to prevent and quickly resolve conflict.

Milo Benningfield -Dr. Milo Benningfield had a practice in individual and family therapy in Dallas for thirty years. He now lives in Frisco where he divides his time between travel with his wife, yoga, writing, and individual consultations.

Lois Bir has been playing Mah Jongg since childhood. She has successfully taught this ancient Chinese game to young and old alike, including an increasingly large group of enthusiastic SAIL students.

Jim Blumetti has been in the film and entertainment business since 1988, first as a professional actor, then as a writer, director and producer of independent films. He passionately enjoys encouraging the fulfillment of the creative spark in others.

Kyle Brookhart graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Texas at Arlington in 2004 with a Bachelors degree in Exercise Science. He then attended the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas to obtain his Masters of Physical Therapy degree in 2007. Upon graduation, he was hired as a therapist at Zoom Sports and became the Director of Physical Therapy from 2008-2014. Kyle currently works for Ortho Texas at their facility located in the Dr. Pepper Arena.

Andy Brooks is rapidly approaching Medicare age, kicking and screaming all the way! A native of Dallas, he’s a graduate of W.T. White High School (Class of ’76) and a Fighting Lumberjack from Stephen F. Austin. He holds a Master’s degree from Capella University. Andy is an independent financial Planner with Pilot Wealth Advisors, LLC in Allen, is active in the Senior Service Coalition of the Allen Fairview Chamber of Commerce, and serves on the board of directors for the nonprofit North Texas Area Gerontological Society. His professional experience includes information technology, higher education, and advertising.

Sherry Christiaens is a certified Dementia Practitioner with a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology from New Mexico Highlands University. She has worked in memory and senior placement for the past several years and in the medical field for more than fourteen years.

Richard Cudlipp is a graduate of the Naval Academy and a twenty-year veteran of the Air Force. An engineer and a history buff, he previously taught at DeVry University and Richland College.

Joette Daily is a retired educator. She has played card games since childhood and taught her students card games to improve math and logic skills. She has been playing bridge since retirement and is a ACBL certified bridge teacher.

Dr. Lishan Desta earned a doctorate in political science from UTD. He currently teaches government and economics at the Spring Creek campus of Collin College. He has lived on three continents and teaches from his varied background in history, culture, and world affairs.

Paul Dolliver is a professional geologist and lifelong reader. He has led book discussion groups, Great Books and otherwise, for almost 30 years. He currently teaches geology courses at Collin College and Hill College.

Ray Dunlap has been with the Town of Fairview and the Fairview EDC since 2009, where he has several areas of responsibility including the marketing and selling of Fairview. Ray serves on the board of directors of the Texas Economic Development Council, the state association of Economic Development Professionals, Team Texas, the marketing arm of TEDC, as well as the board of directors of the Allen Fairview Chamber of Commerce. Ray has also been a student of Texas politics since the 1960’s. Ray actively follows the Texas legislature and reads about and keeps up on Texas politics. His discussion of politics is done in a humorous, irreverent, and non-offensive manner.

Bruce Eisen is a CPA with degrees in political science and economics and a master’s degree in accounting. Most of his career was spent as chief operating and financial officer for several Jewish Federations.

Jose Figueroa was born in Venezuela and has been a US citizen since 2006. He is a mechanical engineer from University of Carabobo, Valencia, Venezuela; and MBA from University Paris– Dauphine, France. Jose started as Quality Assurance Consultant in the automotive industry in Venezuela, including assignments in Mexico and Peru. His career in FM Global has taken him to take long term assignments in France, Brazil, Italy and the USA. His last assignment was as VP Reinsurance Manager for Latin America based in Plano, Texas. Jose developed

teaching skills as early as 1972 specialist in manufacturing processes. During his 35 year career in FM Global he was instrumental in training of other professionals and has made public presentations about Risk Management in many international forums in Europe, North and South America. His last ten years have been dedicated to implementing business plans in all countries in Latin America to set up durable business relationships or help implement local service offices, with focus on tax, insurance regulations and political environment across the region. Jose speaks five languages.

Marjorie R. Firmin is a retired bilingual (English-Spanish) teacher and published author. In the summer of 2016, she attended a course held at Rewley House, Oxford University in England which inspired her to create this course. In 1994, she was diagnosed with terminal cancer and given between 6 months and 2 years to live. This event triggered her journey in search for healing and she began writing a journal of her experience that later was self-published. *"My writing became an instrument of healing for me, and a way to communicate my emotional roller coaster to God"*.

Barbara Fix taught secondary English in Dallas and Plano schools for 28 years. She holds a bachelor's degree from S.M.U. and a master's in counseling from U.N.T. She enjoys teaching SAIL students most of all.

Dr. Jerry Frankel retired from the practice of medicine after almost forty years as a urologist. Now as a Bridge instructor, he feels like an ambassador for improving the lives of fellow seniors through this challenging and fun game.

Dr. Richard Furlong, Emeritus professor of civil engineering, taught and supervised research in structural engineering at the University of Texas in Austin from 1958 to 2006.

Fred Haiman JD, MBA was born in California to an Air Force family. After retirement, the family moved back to El Paso, where Fred graduated from Eastwood High School in 1982. He graduated with a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice with honors from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. Fred married his wife Deana in 1989 and joined the El Paso Police Department until 1994. He achieved a Master's Degree in Public Administration from U.T.E.P. and then proceed to law school at Texas Tech University. Fred graduated in 1997 and spent the first 10 years of his legal career as a trial attorney. In 2007, he experience a near fatal disease and decided to enter the Estate Planning and Elder Law field. Fred moved his practice to Allen in 2013 and in 2016 merged with Rex Hogue to form Haim Hogue, PLLC.

Dave Godinez is a retired Houston Police Officer attend Cardinal Glennon College and University of Houston in Houston Texas. He loves Latin and has shared his knowledge and enthusiasm for the language with SAIL students in the past. He co-hosts a current events class called "Something of Interest."

Dr. Janet Harris has taught literature and writing for over 25 years, coached readers and writers in pursuing their personal goals, and reviewed books. As an editor she has guided writers in publishing more than 120 books. Dr. Harris teaches literature and creative writing in the Master of Liberal Studies program at SMU.

ChiChi Hoquee is an information technology coach and consultant with over 25 years of experience. A bilingual instructor (Spanish and English), she teaches computer and language skills. She especially enjoys teaching seniors how to "speak Spanish creatively."

Lynn Hunter-Wilson is the current Program Manager for Externships and works closely with the Collin County medical community employers to place students into a clinical rotation. She works with private practices, hospitals, laboratories and patient systems like Health Texas Network, Baylor Family Health, Digestive Health Associates of Texas and Medical City. She has served in: education, administration, as well as 15 years with American Heart Association as the Oklahoma State Director for Emergency Cardiovascular Care Programs and as a published Senior Managing Editor of the healthcare provider Basic Life Support Program. She has also been trained as a First Responder and Medical Assistant. Her super powers are: Bringing calm to chaos and possibility thinking.

Dr. James Lamb is a retired college professor and IT manager. After receiving a doctorate in philosophy from Brown University, he taught classes at SMU. He was also Director of Computer Services at Ebby Halliday Realtors for 28 years.

Barney Lane holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts and a master's degree in radio-TV. He has worked as a professional broadcaster, middle school teacher, videographer and podcast developer.

Daphne Lee has been teaching Technology at Collin College since 2005, teaching computer, mobile device, software, and social media classes in both SAIL and Continuing Education. Discover how to make technology fun and easy with Daphne's classes. She shows you how to connect with friends and family with mobile device technology such as photos, videos, and texts.

Steve Lund has taught writing, literature, and music classes to adult, college, high school, ESL, even prison inmate populations for over 40 years. He has appeared on local radio stations talking about Mozart's opera, *The Magic Flute*, and Wordsworth's poem about "Tintern Abbey." He is the author of two books.

Sarita Malhotra is a Certified Personal Trainer with a special focus on nutrition and gentle yoga. She holds a B.S. in psychology from UTD. Sarita has a passion for healthy cooking and eating and is an advocate of a healthy lifestyle for both mind and body.

Curtis McIntyre, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Psychology, Southern Methodist University, retired after teaching psychology courses for 40 years. He earned his doctoral degree at Vanderbilt University. Also, he has taught as an Adjunct Professor at both the UTHSC-Dallas and University of Texas at Dallas.

Sonia Meltzer is a graduate of UT Dallas with a master's in interdisciplinary studies with coursework in holocaust studies, literature, history, history of criticism and aesthetics.

Ted Ogilvie, JD, MBA is a practicing attorney in Frisco, Texas. He obtained his undergraduate degree at the University of New Mexico and his MBA from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He earned his Juris Doctor from what is now the Texas A&M University School of Law. His practice areas include Family Law, Estate and Probate Law, and Business Formation. He holds the American Institute of Family Law Attorneys 10 Best.

James Parker owns The Book Gallery, an antiquarian bookstore in McKinney, Texas. Formerly an executive with the Southland Corporation, he retired from the business world and taught literature at the Fairhill School in Dallas before arriving at SAIL in 1999.

Shaila Parker –You know that person who just has to write a "To Do List," and who gets excited as the tasks are being checked off? She cannot conclude the day until everything on it is done. Through her experience, she has learned that organization is the key to success and has always felt God have her a heart to help others and a love for order.

Dr. Kathryn Pinkney (Kathie) is a graduate of Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) with a BA in American History. After moving to Texas in 1986, she earned an MA and Ph.D. in American History from the University of North Texas. She is retired from teaching at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Dr. David Plaut is semi-retired after more than 40 years in clinical chemistry and statistics. He writes for several different medical journals. He has taught at the high school, college and post graduate levels and now tutors and mentors 6-12th grade math students.

Christina Robinowitz has been an intercultural coach and trainer for over 20 years and has worked with people from all over the world. She has worked with various groups, including hospitality industry and many international companies. She is the co-author of a book on Swedish culture.

Jane Ryan is the founder and president of Jane Ryan & Associates, LLC, a women-owned, Dallas-based Emotional Intelligence, Leadership and Life/Career Transformation Coaching firm. She is an expert in transformational learning, executive coaching, leadership development, and life/career transitions with a specialization in helping her clients strengthen their emotional intelligence skills and live more fulfilled lives.

Cindy Sandell taught Texas History for 25 of her 33 years in the classroom, uncovering hundreds of fascinating stories along the way! She has written several text books and produced 20 documentary films on Texas that are used in schools across the state. She has also published four historical novels set in Texas and collected several literary awards.

Stuart Sax is a veteran, husband, father and grandfather! He now spends some retirement time at KVGI Radio in Frisco with two interview and talk radio shows. Stuart studies American Sign Language at Collin College and enjoys all kinds of music, both recorded and live. He also likes old movies, walking, cycling, dining, and spending time with his seven-year old grandchild.

Christine Smith is a professional artist whose career has spanned multiple areas of expertise. A graduate of The Art Institute of Dallas, she started her career right out of college into the video game industry, creating art and animation. She is accredited on 7 published titles. From there she freelanced as a graphic designer, photographer, illustrator, and web developer. She also started and ran her own small business for a couple of years, which got her interested in small business development. In 2014 she founded The WERX Foundation, and served as president and Executive Director, assisting nearly 100 start-up companies over to become successful small businesses. She also taught painting classes for 4+ years on the side to feed her creative nature. Christine now is fully re-immersing herself into an artist career path again and is serving as Vice-Chair on the board for the Visual Arts Alliance of Allen (VALA).

Fred Smith is a military retiree who has seen a lot of history first hand and enjoys teaching historical subject matter. He is a native Texan who has retired to his Texas roots after years of military experience all over the world. He retired from the U.S. Army as a Brigadier General.

Michael Smith is a retired husband and grandfather of 4. He has a M.Ed. degree as well as a B.S., and has had one book published, "Hidden Memories". As a passionate Civil War historian, Michael has visited some 40 battlefield sites and has read hundreds of books on the subject. Additionally, he teaches Life Learning at Frisco Lakes community and writes for the monthly newsletter.

Larry and Barbara Stern Barbara Lusk Stern, born in South Carolina and educated at the University of Alabama with a graduate degree in clinical psychology, has been a full-time professor at Collin College since 1988. Larry Stern, a New Yorker, educated at Columbia University with a graduate degree in sociology, has been a full-time professor at Collin College since 1990.

Huey Stevens has a Bachelor's of Science in Electrical Engineering and he currently tutors Physics, Mathematics (up to Calculus II), Astronomy and Anatomy at Richland College. He is also an Honorably Discharge Veteran of the United State Armed Forces.

Dr. Paul Tobolowsky is a retired physician, lecturer and the author of *Stardust Dancing (A Seeker's Guide to the Miraculous.)* His special interest is the intersection between science and spirituality.

Judy Tyler retired in 2000 and became an avid Bridge player. She is an accredited American Contract Bridge League teacher. She enjoys teaching beginners how to play Bridge and experienced players how to improve their game.

Bob Wacker brings his engineer's perspective to SAIL sessions. He is from Milwaukee, has degrees from Marquette and the University of Dallas and traveled worldwide for TI.

Elizabeth Wallenberg is a psychologist and counselor with ample experience in bilingual school counseling and psychotherapy. She has a Master's degree in Science and a Master's in Education. Elizabeth is an L.P.C. and works in private practice.

Barbara Walters, CPLP (Certified Professional in Learning and Performance), has an MA in Human Resource Development from U.T. Austin. She has spent 30 years in the corporate world in Leadership Development, including designing and delivering training to managers at all levels and managing teams of trainers.

Paul Weathers helps retirees every day to answer these two fundamental questions: Will we make it? Are there any blind spots? Paul is a Certified Financial Planner and has spent 14 years in the financial services industry.

Dr. Herbert Weinstein received his BS in Chemical Engineering from Tufts University and his Ph.D. from Princeton University. After a 32-year career in industry and as a private consultant doing oilfield research, adjunct teaching at colleges & private tutoring, he chose to enter secondary education. He has taught math at all levels and fundamentals of computer programming at Yavneh Academy, The Hockaday School and Parish Episcopal School. He enjoys making a major difference in the lives of his students, of all ages!

James Wigen founded Wigen Financial Services, LLC, in 2005. His primary focus is on portfolio management and financial advisory services. James philanthropic work includes serving as President/Treasurer of a private foundation and Chairman/President of the Believe In Your Dreams Foundation. In 2007, James established the Believe In Your Dreams Foundation to help individuals who were suffering from life-altering circumstances beyond their control.

Dr. Harvey Willenberg, has a PhD in Nuclear Engineering and worked on the Breeder Reactor in Richland Washington and Fusion reactor studies in Seattle. He left this career to join space sciences aboard the International Space Station. Dr. Willenberg was Boeing's chief scientist for the International Space Station from 1982 to 1995 with a continuing career in planetary exploration until 2004. He was Boeings first contact with the Russian Space Station program and part of the team that combined the American/European program with the Russian Space Station program.

Sheila Williamson is the Director of Community Services for a law firm. She has a passion for seniors and believes in embracing our "mature" side and looking for new adventures. Born in Greenville, Texas, she has been a McKinney resident since 2000. Sheila has been married for 32 years, has an adult child, and is very outgoing and friendly.

Dana Young graduated from Oklahoma City University with a BA in English/Performing Arts and has a MA from SMU in Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management. Dana has over 20 years' experience in leadership development, nonprofit, education, and legal sectors. "I help people find new approaches to what is getting in

the way, so they can move ahead and improve what they do for what they really want to do. Many times, people don't realize what they already know to make things better for themselves and for others in their lives. Getting there together is my goal, my reward."