BRIAN L. FINLEY

Science Teacher

Teaching Experience

Science Teacher Fall 1998 to Present

Marshall Middle School, San Diego Unified School District, San Diego, CA

Instruct a hand-on, standards-based science and technology curriculum to seventh graders; periodically teach the Advanced Science 8 classes; have had several of my eighth graders selected to the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair; my students won the 1999 and 2000 San Diego regionals of the PACT2000 Young America's Cup Boat Design Competition; my students competed in the national finals of the 1999 PACT2000 Competition in Newport, Rhode Island; founded and sponsored the Y2K Time Capsule Club; co-founded and currently sponsor the Golf Club; established and currently sponsor the Model, Rocketry, and Space Club; currently sponsor the Science Olympiad Team which qualified for the 2001 and 2002 California State Competition, finishing 10th in the state in 2001; was voted the 1999 Teacher of the Year by the students; was voted 2002 Teacher of the Year by the teaching staff; was the runner-up for Teacher of the Year for the entire district.

Seminar Science Teacher Fall 1995 to Spring 1998

Correia Junior High School, San Diego Unified School District, San Diego, CA

Instructed seminar and heterogeneous advanced science curriculum to seventh and eighth graders at a culturally diverse language magnet school; developed and implemented a hands-on, technology-centered, standards-based curriculum; four of my twenty-one eligible students were selected to the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair, one of whom placed third in the California State Science Fair; my students won the 1996 and 1998 San Diego Regionals of the PACT2000, Young America's Cup Boat Design Competition; my students made it to the national finals in the 1997 and 1998 PACT2000 Competition; established the Kona Kai International Yacht Club as a business partner with Correia; founded and sponsored the Sailing Club, recruiting the principal as a co-sponsor and the Institute of Marine Science as a club partner; threw out the first pitch at an August 1998 San Diego Padre game due to the generosity of my students.

GATEWAYS Science Teacher Summers of 1995 and 1996

La Jolla High School, GATEWAYS Summer Program, San Diego, CA

Instructed secondary Human Anatomy, elementary Marine Biology, and elementary and secondary "Science Through Sailing" enrichment courses to mentally gifted students.

Science Teacher Spring 1994 to Spring 1995

Keiller Middle School, San Diego Unified School District, San Diego, CA

Instructed Life, Physical, and Earth Science to eighth graders at culturally diverse science and computer magnet school; taught innovative and hands-on seventh grade computer/laboratory science course; students won the 1995 PACT95/Unum/Young America Boat Design Competition for California and

Teaching Experience, Continued

finished second nationally; instructed Math 8 courses for one semester; sponsored the Rocket Club and Hispanics In Action Organization; member of Portfolio Implementation Committee that created Keiller's "portfolio culture".

High School Student Teacher Fall Semester 1993
Sweetwater Union School District, Chula Vista, CA
Taught Biology classes to ninth through twelfth graders; instructed the first block science classes at this school, completing a full year of material in one semester; supervised dance and sporting events; assisted Junior Class Committee.

Education

National University, San Diego, CA 1993 to 1994
Masters of Education, emphasis in Curriculum Development and Leadership Instruction; Single Subject Teaching Credential, emphasis in Life and General Science; Dean's Scholarship and California Assumption of Loans Scholarship winner.

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 1987 to 1991
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, emphasis in Real Estate and Corporate Finance; Dean's Scholar and Presidential Scholarship winner. (Originally was accepted to Cal Berkeley's Biomedical Engineering Program and Notre Dame Engineering, and received a Naval ROTC scholarship, all of which I respectfully declined).

Credentials/Personal

- *Biology and General Science Credentialed*
- *National Board® Certified in Early Adolescence General Science*
- *Current BTSA Mentor Teacher*
- *GATE Certificated*
- *SDAIE Certificated*
- Completed the Edna McConnell-Clark Foundation's Portfolio and Standards Training Program
- University: President of USC Honor Society; Best Buddies Program for mentally handicapped children; USC Joint Education Project teaching elementary students; Member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and 'Ironman' athlete in golf, football, and track
- High School: Graduated from Mount Carmel High School with a 4.0+ GPA; letters in track, football, and golf; received the Ben Franklin Award for academics and civic involvement, given to one senior each year
- Won second place in Physics at the 1982 Virginia State Science Fair
- Lived and traveled abroad, visiting over 30 different countries
- Son of an aviator and diplomat which provided opportunities to, on occasions in Washington D.C. and Jakarta, Indonesia, meet President Reagan and Vice President Bush along with other foreign dignitaries

Philosophy and Mission

The following goals will be achieved through the delivery of a sound, standards-based curriculum in a safe, well-managed classroom. My objectives are to:

- To improve the students' proficiency in solving everyday challenges by using scientific reasoning skills (critical thinking, inquiry, inference, and investigation), hands-on manipulation, observation, resource gathering, research, and technology.
- To enhance the ability to communicate concepts and discoveries with peers, both in an oral and written style.
- To develop students' appreciation for the ubiquity, complexity, and beauty of living things by analyzing their unique and unusual attributes.
- To augment the students' esteem through their involvement in the class as a well-rounded, cooperative, disciplined team player who takes pride and responsibility in their work, turning it in neatly and in a timely manner.