TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF...

featuring Derek Leighnor

Lifelong learning at the Fromm Institute takes many forms, including learning about one another. Although you may know that our new Executive Director worked at the Fromm Institute from 1996 to 2005, and that he was an Estate Planning Attorney in Los Angeles before he returned to the Fromm Institute, there are still some things we have yet to learn. We put together a few questions that will help us get to know Derek a little better:

Where are you from?
That’s complicated. I was born in Perryton, Texas in 1972; lived in San Antonio from 1975 - 1977; grew up in Pearl City, Hawai‘i from 1977 - 1990; attended college and started working in San Francisco from 1990 - 2005; and lived in Los Angeles from 2005 to 2017 before returning to San Francisco this past November.

If you could live anywhere, where would it be?
San Francisco – the best city in the world. It has all the good qualities of a big city while retaining many of the best qualities of a small city.

What irrational fear do you have?
I am afraid of lizards of any size. Even the smallest lizard horrifies me. I’m sure a Psychology graduate student could write a dissertation on my fears.

What is your proudest accomplishment?
I finished law school early in two and a half years, and I passed the California Bar Exam the first time.

Who knows you the best?
My husband, Simon Flores. After 26 years, he usually knows me better than I know myself, but don’t tell him I admitted that.

Would you rather ride a bike, ride a horse, or drive a car?
Drive a car – I love to drive.

What would you do if you won the lottery?
I would first set up a charitable fund to minimize taxes. Hopefully, I would win enough to establish an endowment with the Friends of the Fromm Institute ensuring its longevity long after I am gone. I would also invest to ensure future income for my husband and I, and our families. Then, I would use all my vacation time when the Fromm Institute is not in session to travel at every opportunity.
What’s your favorite holiday?
Thanksgiving – I have fond family memories, especially of people who are no longer with us that I miss the most – my grandmothers from Texas and Maui, and my mother-in-law Ida. In my opinion, it is the best holiday because it is centered around the people we love most. Currently, our Thanksgiving table usually consists of my family, including a very large group of in-laws, and a few lifelong friends. We eat early (around 2pm) and spend 10 or more hours together every Thanksgiving, just eating and hanging out together.

What is one thing you are glad you tried, but would never do again?
I bungee jumped in New Zealand when I was a senior in high school, and now I am afraid of heights (and lizards).

Who is your go to band or artist when you can’t decide on something to listen to?
Tina Turner or Eydie Gorme y Los Panchos. My absolute favorite song is ‘Piel Canela,’ and Eydie Gorme’s version is the best. My nieces used to love to sing and dance to that song with me. Then they became teenagers. It hasn’t caught on with my 5 year old nephew yet, but I have high hopes for my two year old niece who just started dancing.

What movie best describes your life philosophy?
Auntie Mame. Life is a banquet…Live, Live, Live. The most meaningful part of that movie to me was Auntie Mame objecting to Patrick’s girlfriend as a “girl with braces on her brain.” My greatest wish for my four nieces and nephew is that I have taught them to be more contemplative and curious helping them craft their own opinions and viewpoints so they think for themselves instead of learning to think what others want them to think. It helps us all to progress. One of my nieces is 13 now, and constantly challenges me. Nothing brings me more joy than learning from her, and the pride she gets from teaching me to think about something differently. That is the point of Auntie Mame to me – to be open and to partake in life’s abundant opportunities.

What interest do you have that you are ashamed to admit you love?
People say, “it’s about the journey, not the destination.” I agree. I love watching YouTube videos of the journey in first class seats, first class lounges, and private jets. There have been times when I have sat watching those videos for hours. My favorite of these videos is about the Residence on the Etihad A380. Simply over the top.

What traits do you look for in others?
Kindness and generosity are most important to me. However, I also appreciate people who are thoughtful and contemplative, unafraid to admit they are wrong or to apologize. That is what I strive to be, although I am not always successful.

What do you like most about the Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning?
The relationships that are created at the Fromm Institute. During our lifetimes, our relationships are usually created by the things we are doing at the time. As children, we create familial relationships. As we go through school and college, we create friendships with classmates; and when we start working, we create relationships with colleagues. From what I have seen, the Fromm Institute is one of the few places where new relationships are created after retirement. I have seen these relationships reenergize and change many people among the students, faculty, staff, and board. It is those relationships that make the Fromm Institute such a special place, and that is why I am so excited to return to this amazing organization and the people who make it so. Thank you to everyone for making my return so welcoming.
WHAT’S UP WITH THE ‘WONDERS’

Are you experiencing all of the ‘wonders’ that the Fromm Institute has to offer? If you are missing out on the Wonders of Science Series every winter Wednesday morning at 10 a.m., then the answer is maybe you are. Open to all members of the Fromm Institute and their guests the ‘Wonders of Science’ Series coordinated by Dr. Jerry Lowenstein is off and running at a scientific pace faster than a cheetah. Here’s what’s coming in the next few weeks.

On January 17, California Academy of Sciences Michelle Trautwein will speak on “Mighty but Mostly Invisible Mites.” If you are curious about the world of mites, drop by Xavier Auditorium to hear from Dr. Trautwein. Dr. Trautwein is Assistant Curator of Entomology and Schlinger Chair of Diptera.

On January 24, it’s all about energy storage with UC Berkeley Professor Seth Sanders, lectures on “Flywheels for Energy Storage.” His research interests are in high frequency power conversion circuits and components, in design and control of electric machine systems, and in nonlinear circuit and system theory as related to the power electronics field.

On January 31, the Xavier Auditorium should be relaxed when University of California, San Francisco Prof. Daniel Lowenstein talks about the “Neuroscience of Meditation” Dr. Lowenstein is Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost of UCSF and is the Aird Professor and Vice Chairman in the Department of Neurology.

Remember there has been a revision of the Schedule of Lectures and a flyer detailing that is now at the Welcome Booth and in the Fromm Institute Office.

TRAVEL WITH PROFESSOR CHARLES FRACCHIA

Fromm Institute members are invited to join Prof. Charles Fracchia for a three week tour of Normandy at Brittany in France; Belgium (Ghent, Brussels, Waterloo and Bruges); and the trip ends in Holland. D-Day will be spent on the beaches at Normandy.

For questions about the trip or for more information contact Professor Charles Fracchia at 415-658-7819 or by email at charlesfracchia@gmail.com.

PROFESSOR JOE LURIE LECTURES ON A TRIP TO BASQUE COUNTRY

Professor Joe Lurie invites all interested students on a trip to Basque Spain and France to be taken through the CAL Alumni Association (You don’t have to be an alum to participate.) He will be the trip’s official lecturer. The trip is from May 19 - 27, 2018 and covers the following cities - San Sebastian, St. Jean De Luz, Espelette, Biarritz, Bayoone then onto Bilbao and the Guggenheim Museum there and sipping wine in the Rioja wine growing region. For more information on this unique trip contact CAL Discoveries Travel by phone at 510-900-8222 or via email at caldiscoveries@alumni.berkeley.edu.

ACTIVITY HALLWAYS DISPLAY RACKS

In the Display Racks you will find brochures on Tour & Travel Programs, Performing Arts material such as select Programs from current and recent shows, and performances for you to look through, and info that USF and other civic organizations wish to share with you. Peruse them as you would like, taking anything home with you except those marked “FROMM HALL COPY: DO NOT REMOVE.” That way we will have season programs for the entire year for you to reference. You will also find “ARTS MONTHLY” magazines on the tables nearby.
LET’S BE SCENT SENSITIVE
Here is a reminder to all that some of our fellow students do have an unpleasant reaction to the colognes and perfumes that others wear easily. For the sake of all, please use your favorites sparingly. Thank you.

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO ADD A COURSE TO YOUR SCHEDULE
An Important detail to keep in mind is that of our Census Date. The last day that you can add a course to your schedule is Thursday, January 25. While you can drop a course for any reason at any time, keep in mind that if you wish to add another course, and it is open, the last day to make that change is at the end of the third week of classes. Thank You!

PLEASE BE ON TIME AND SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES
As a courtesy to your faculty members and to your fellow students please arrive to class on time. Should you arrive late, please make every effort to enter the room without making too much of a commotion and close the doors quietly. Additionally, every student who carries a cell phone with them should silence the device before class begins. Thank you for your help in keeping our classrooms free of unintended distractions.

Fromm Institute student Mary Ann Wolcott wanted to share an experience she had last Fall volunteering for the Faith In Action Solidarity Teams. The FIA is looking for volunteers, so check out Mary Ann Wolcott’s words below and contact Faith In Action if you are interested.

SUPPORTING IMMIGRANTS: HOW YOUR HELP CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
by Mary Ann Wolcott

In September 2017, I attended an “accompaniment training” session for Faith In Action Solidarity Teams at the Fromm Institute. The training, offered by the Faith In Action Congregation, included ways to accompany and support persons facing detention or deportation. Individuals, whether unaffiliated or members of a congregation, participate with a team organized by an FIA leader in a specific “accompaniment” event. These events include court hearings, INS check-ins, or visits to detention centers. The purpose is to demonstrate community support for the immigrant and show that our community recognizes the dignity and integrity of every person.

On December 19, 2017, I participated in my first “accompaniment” along with sixteen members of the FIA community. We “accompanied” a young man in his request to the court for release to his family under a bond while he awaits a hearing on his appeal of the court’s denial of his request for asylum. He is the father of two children who are US citizens and the husband of a DACA recipient. He has lived in the US more than seven years and has worked in construction. His wife and young son also appeared in court with the members of the FIA team.

It is difficult to appreciate the hardship this man and his family face. The judge granted his request for release to his family because his family and employer raised the money for the bond while he awaits appeal of the asylum decision. He was, therefore, able to be with his family for Christmas.

Demonstrating support for immigrants is important at this time and if you are interested in becoming involved in this important work you can contact Sara Miles, Accompaniment Coordinator, Faith In Action, at sara@faithinactionba.org or call Sara at 415-786-4004.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Welcome to Winter Session and the Year 2018” by Lois Roach

The Fromm Institute Student Association welcomes you to the fantastic Winter Session classroom experiences AND the wonderful social agenda offered by your Student Association (FISA). The social agenda is planned by the FISA Council members and supported by your voluntary $5 dues and consist of concerts, lunchtime “Brown Bags,” 3 p.m. movies and discussions plus various snacks and treats. To support the social agenda activities, the Student Association encourages you to pay $5 voluntary dues per Session (or $15 for the year). These dues are separate from your class enrollment fees.

You can meet your FISA officers and Steering Committee members and pay your dues at the FISA Booth behind the Welcome Booth in the Fromm Hall lobby. One of us will be there, before class in the morning and at noontime, wearing identifying name tags. We’ll be looking forward to meeting you at the FISA Booth and at a lunchtime or “after school” event.

TOUR & TRAVEL NEWS

“Why Go With a Group?” by Susan Kennelly

Each year tours are offered to Fromm students, their family and friends from a variety of tour operators to unusual or to popular destinations by your Tour & Travel Coordinator – me. Why go? First of all there generally are substantial cost savings compared to independent excursions. Second and as important, it’s rewarding to travel with friends – your age, your interests, your level of activity. Count also among the benefits having everything arranged for you, from flights to hotels, meals to admissions, transportation to translation. A tour director takes care not only of you, but your luggage as well. You know in advance what your costs will be, what you’ll be doing – or not, as you wish. So pick up a flyer in the Activities Hallway, or contact me any Tuesday on campus or by email at susanpk123@gmail.com or phone at 707-257-1804. Learn more and join some of your fellows on one of our exciting trips for 2018!

Better yet, come to my “Brown Bag” events at noon on Jan. 16 and Feb 6 to hear and see some highlights. Upcoming trips are listed here:

PARIS/NORMANDY RIVERSHIP March 22-29. on AMA Waterways. Giverny, Rouen, Wineries, Beaches of Normandy, French Balconies available! All meals & beverages included.

ASHLAND OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL June 19-22 – our 18th Annual Trip!
Plays: OTHELLO, OKLAHOMA! or HENRY V, SENSE & SENSIBILITY, ROMEO & JULIET

JAVA AND BALI, INDONESIA August 2-21 & EXPERIENCE VENICE WITH A VENICE EXPERT - DR. SUNNIE EVER, Art Historian: October 11-21. All of the famous sites with personal lectures by a renowned art historian. Time for shopping, gondola and the Opera.

FUN FISA ACTIVITY THIS WINTER

“Winter Speed-Meeting - A Fun Filled Meet & Greet Opportunity” by Linda Marks

When we conducted our student survey last year we found that in addition to interesting and stimulating classes and professors, students wanted an opportunity to meet others in a setting without classes or entertainment. Our proposed solution? Speed meeting. This structured but informal networking exercise will help you establish initial contact with 10-15 new and experienced Frommies and open the door for future conversations with them. It’s energetic and fun.

If you’d like to meet Frommies you haven’t yet met, or have met but would like to get to know better, here’s your chance. We’ll provide healthy snacks and bottled water to give you energy, and questions for you to ask one another. If you’re interested, please sign up at the FISA booth so we’ll know how many people to prepare for. We hope you’ll join us on Tuesday, January 30 from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. in the Maier Room!
MATINÉE SERIES
“Calling Cinephiles Everywhere – at Fromm!” by Maxine Einhorn
Our film series this winter session will strive to offer something for everyone with a selection of wonderful films related to classes. The intention is to enrich the scholarship offered by our professors through film adaptations illustrating course materials. Let me know if you have ideas to contribute to the program. Matinée will screen Wise Blood, a Flannery O’Connor Southern Gothic novella, which is related to Professor Lorch’s “Great American Short Stories” class. The program will also cover Professor Hohmann search for the “Holy Grail” with films that feature debonair knights jousting and damsels in distress who need rescuing, or not. Finally, we will venture into the anxiety ridden world of dystopia with Professor Eilenberg. Look for movie calendars and flyers in the Atrium and if you would like to be more active in building our Fromm film community, let me know. If you have an idea about films that would enrich the course you choose, please email me at maxine_einhorn@hotmail.com. I’m always interested in suggestions for the series. Write Matinée in your header.

WELCOME COMMITTEE
“Don’t Look Now: it’s a Novella!, it’s a Movie!!, it’s a Conversation!!!” by Frances Pinnock
Join a Fromm Conversation for a multimedia exploration of that small masterpiece of British creepiness: Daphne du Maurier's Don’t Look Now (a mere 54 pages). Set amid Venice’s decadent splendor, du Maurier's novella is by turns erotic, suspenseful, elegiac and, most of all, unsettling. Nicholas Roeg’s movie adaptation makes brilliant use of Venice’s wintertime shades of gray, blue, and black to evoke a mood of exoticism and mystery. Donald Sutherland and Julie Christie turn in performances that include one of the sexiest love scenes ever filmed in Hollywood. We will explore the novella itself, the film and the effectiveness of the adaptation. Read the story, watch the movie on Fromm’s big screen and join our conversation. We're not a film group or a book club, we’re just intelligent people talking books and movies at Fromm. Come and join the fun and see if you agree with Du Maurier that the movie brilliantly adapted her story to the screen.

Movie: Thursday, February 22nd at 3 p.m., Maraschi Room
Conversation: Tuesday, February 27th at noon, Berman Room

NEW FROMMIES ORIENTATION
At noon on January 22nd, 23rd and 25th all new Frommies are invited to a welcome reception. We hope all of you who are new to Fromm can attend to hear from experienced students about their experiences joining the Fromm community. An information sheet that has been put together by some Fromm students to help you navigate around Fromm will also be provided. If you sign up with the office we will provide you with a lunch, but even if you decide to attend at the last moment, that’s fine.

POST CLASS DISCUSSION
This session, a post-class student discussion will be held in the Berman Room on Mondays at noon after Professor Lorch’s class on short stories. All are welcome.

SPRING SESSION PREVIEW
Towards the end of the semester we will have one or two sessions previewing the Spring classes in which “seasoned” Frommies will give their candid opinions on the upcoming classes and the professors. So watch for a date and time in an upcoming “Rooftop.”
Welcome to 2018 and The Fromm Winter Session. Here’s wishing you all a better year ahead in every way. I look forward to meeting all the new students this term and of course seeing all my fellow returning students and hearing about all your performances during the 2 month break.

The year ahead looks very promising in the Performing Arts and be sure to look through the two middle racks in the Activities Hallway where you will find lots of info on current and upcoming performances in theatre and music and more. Please remember that we never have enough for all our 1,300 students so only take with you what you are sincerely interested in and be sure to look at but do not take anything marked “Fromm Hall Copy - Do Not Remove.” You will also find in the bottom left shelf PROGRAMS from recent shows — please feel free to browse and then return. SF ARTS MONTHLY will also be available each month for those of you who do not get the NYTIMES.

BROWN BAG EVENTS: I have scheduled five events relating to the Performing Arts this session and hope that you will mark your calendars to join me for them. On Thursday, January 18 at noon I will hold my usual Performing Arts Q & A in the Broad Room. As I always do, I will explain how to use your STUDENT STATUS whenever you are buying a ticket of any kind not only in the Bay Area but no matter where you are traveling. I will also explain how to use the internet and organization websites to your student advantage. This will be a 45 minute talk so bring you lunch and questions and join me then. I strongly encourage all NEW STUDENTS to attend.

PERFORMING ARTS ORGANIZATION: On Thursday, February 1 at noon in the Maraschi Room I have invited THEATRE RHINOCEROS to come and speak to us about their organization. This is the oldest LGBT theatre in the country and they are celebrating their 40th Anniversary. Look in the display racks for their current Season Brochure and join us to learn all about the history of this historic San Francisco Theatre Company.

SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC CONCERTS: We continue our ongoing collaboration (in our 6th year) with the San Francisco Conservatory. I have arranged three concerts with their students to come and perform for us. By now I know I do not have to tell most of you what a joy it is to hear these young student musicians perform, but for those new students and those returning that have missed in the past I strongly urge you to join us for at least 1 of these and see what the rest of your fellow students know. Thursday, January 25 at 3:00 PM: After your classes please stay and enjoy a concert of a Woodwind Trio with treats. We tried this time last term and hope to continue this in the future for 1 of our concerts...so mark your calendar and come join us for an afternoon of wonderful music. Tuesday, February 13 (our Valentine concert) and Thursday, February 22 - BOTH at NOON: will be our other two SF Conservatory concerts. One will be a Jazz combo from their new Jazz Diploma program. Those of you who attended the Jazz concert in the Fall will tell you what a terrific concert it was. Next, we are arranging a A Guitar & Cello performance – so stay tuned. These concerts are always a full house so please be sure to put these dates on your calendars and be sure to be prompt as they always start on time.

I will be at Fromm for classes on Wednesday Afternoon and all day Thursday this term so look for me in the Activities Hallway before those classes and during those class breaks if you have any questions I can answer about Performing Arts. Have a great Winter term and look forward to seeing you out and about.
A MOSTLY BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL NOONTIME TALK

The Mostly British Film Festival reaches a milestone this year with our 10th anniversary program. We think it is our best yet and welcome you to a Fromm Listen & Learn Lunch at noon, Tuesday, January 30 in the Maraschi Room to hear all about it from Festival co-director Ruthe Stein and senior programmers Kathleen O’Hara and Maxine Einhorn (you know her from the wonderful Matinée program). Trailers from some films will be played. Box lunches are available for $10.

We are so excited to have as one of our guests Joanne Froggatt unforgettable as the lady’s maid Anna in “Downton Abbey.” On Friday, February 16, she will be interviewed by Jonathan Moscone, director of civic engagement at Yerba Buena Center. A screening of her new film, “A Crooked Somebody” follows in which she plays an American business partner of a bogus psychic.

The singer, songwriter and political activist Bob Geldof is another festival guest. He will present his inspiring documentary “A Fanatic Heart” about W.B. Yeats and answer questions about it afterward. This is part of our Irish Spotlight on Sunday, February 18.

The festival opens with a party at the Jewish Community Center (and yes you can count on it for dinner) on Thursday, February 15 followed by “Mad to be Normal,” a gripping biopic about Dr. RD Laing, the radical and controversial 1960s psychiatrist, who became a counterculture hero for advocating for the mentally ill. David Tennant (“Broadchurch”) portrays him with conviction and a realistic Scottish accent -- both men are Scots.

The closing night film on Thursday, February 22 is “Journey’s End,” a screen adaptation of a play first performed onstage in 1928 in London. The film marks the WWI centenary early next year and honors the sacrifice demanded of so many, the dignity they demonstrated and ultimately the futility of war. Paul Bettany and Tom Sturridge star. A dessert party follows in the Vogue lobby.

Based on the popularity of last festival’s Port tasting we will offer premium Scotch whisky to taste on Saturday, February 17 between showings of whisky-themed films “The Hippopotamus” and “Whisky Galore!” starring Eddie Izzard. A series of films from the 1960s British New Wave—“Alfie,” “Darling” and “a Taste of Honey”—will be toasted with free Hendricks Gin, like these films a British classic.

The Australian Spotlight is especially strong with screenings of “Sweet Country,” winner of the Special Jury Prize at the Venice Festival, and the thriller-detective story “Goldstone,” both set in the mysterious Australian Outback.

The festival is held at the Historic Vogue Theater, 3290 Sacramento Street. Fromm students are entitled to a discounted price of $12.50 for most individual tickets and $200 for a series pass that allows entry into all events and priority seating. Opening night, the Joanne Froggatt Tribute and the Bob Geldof Event are $20 per ticket.

Tickets are available at the Vogue Box Office or at mostlybritish.org. For more information call 415-346-2274.