

## The Annual Brandeis University DeLeT/MAT Alum Survey

**July 2007**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (cell): (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please also provide the name of someone we can contact who would know how to reach you in the event the contact information you list above changes.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (cell): (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### **A: CHOOSING TO TEACH AND EXPECTED CAREER PATH**

1. Using the following scale, please indicate the level of importance each of the following plays in your decision to teach in a Jewish day school.

	not at all important	slightly important	somewhat important	very important	extremely important
a)...I enjoy working with children.					
b)...teaching can promote social justice.					
c) ...there is a lot of autonomy in teaching.					
d)... it gives me a sense of being part of a community.					
e) ...it's a stepping stone to leadership in the Jewish community					
f)...it's a flexible career conducive to parenting/family life.					
g)... it allows me to live by the Jewish calendar.					
h)...it provides job security.					

Brandeis University – DeLeT Alum Survey  
July 2007

i)...It is fulfilling to incorporate Judaism into the various subjects I teach.					
j)...I enjoy my subject matter(s) I teach.					
k)... I have the personal qualities to be a good teacher.					
l)... I have always wanted to be a teacher.					
m)...teaching allows me to contribute to the Jewish community.					
n)...other _____ _____					

2. As a teacher, to what extent do you feel professionally respected by:

	not at all respected	slightly respected	somewhat respected	very respected	extremely respected
...peers at school?					
...your principal and school administration?					
...parents of your students?					
...friends?					
...your family and parents?					
...the Jewish community?					
...the broader society?					

3. Using the following scale, please indicate the level of importance each of the following played in your decision to enroll in the DeLeT Program.

	not at all important	slightly important	somewhat important	very important	extremely important
a. The program was close to my home.					
b. I wanted to work in the schools which the program serves.					
c. The program's strong reputation.					
d. The program offered me good financial assistance.					
e. The program offered me a way to explore my Jewish identity.					
f. I was attracted to the program's year-long mentored internship.					
g. I liked the program's pluralistic approach to Judaism.					
h. I knew someone who had attended the program.					
i. I liked the program's mission or philosophy.					
j. I liked the diversity of the fellows.					
k. The program's intellectual challenge.					
l. The program's support for future job placement.					
m. Continued help from program after graduation.					
n. Reputation of Brandeis (for Brandeis students)/HUC (for Hebrew Union College students)					
o. Chance to serve the Jewish community.					

p. Chance to pursue a teaching certificate.					
q. Chance to pursue an MAT (Brandeis) / MAJE (HUC) degree.					
r. Other: _____					

4. Please write the letters corresponding to your **top** three reasons from the list above (question 3) for choosing DeLeT.

    

5. What will you be doing next year? (check all that apply)

- Teach in a Jewish day school
- Teach in a congregational school
- Teach in a public school.  
 Please specify whether the school serves: urban; suburban, or; rural community
- Teach in a non-Jewish private school
- Work in a non-school Jewish educational setting. Please specify:
- Work in other settings unrelated to education. Please specify:
- Not sure yet
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. I have been teaching  years.

6a. approximately how many more years do you plan on staying in teaching starting next year?

I will probably teach for:

- 1-3 more years
- 4-6 more years
- 7-9 more years
- 10 or more years

7. What do you expect to be doing in 5 years? (check all that apply)

- Teach in a Jewish day school
- Work in Jewish education  
 If so, please specify type of position: \_\_\_\_\_
- Teach in a public school  
 If so, please specify whether the school serves: urban; suburban, or; rural community
- Teach in a private school
- Teach in a congregational school
- Work in a school-related position  
 If so, please specify type of school: \_\_\_\_\_, and type of position:  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Go to Graduate School. If so, please specify a subject: \_\_\_\_\_
- Leave education temporarily (e.g., sabbatical, child-rearing)

Leave education permanently. If so, please specify your professional alternative:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

8. If you do **not** plan to teach next year in a Jewish Day School, please assess your reasons, using the scale below. (If you **will be teaching** next year, please skip this question).

	Irrelevant	slightly important	somewhat important	very important	extremely important
I did not enjoy teaching in a day school as much as I thought I would					
Pregnancy/Child Rearing					
I was not able to secure a job					
I plan to take a break from teaching					
I want a job with a better salary or benefits					
I want a job with higher status					
I am going to graduate school					
Other family or personal reasons					
Other reason: _____ _____					

9. How much do you agree with each of the following statements about teaching?

	strongly disagree	disagree	neither agree nor disagree	agree	strongly agree
If I had to do it all over again, I would still become a teacher					
If I had to do it all over again, I would still choose DeLeT					
I am sure teaching will be my life-long career					
Teaching allows me to be a lifelong learner					

10. Briefly describe what DeLeT means to you:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**B: TEACHING PRACTICE**

**If you are not currently teaching, answer questions 11, 12, 13 on the basis of your prior teaching OR in case you did not teach skip to question 14.**

11. In your role as a day school teacher, how important are the following:

Brandeis University – DeLeT Alum Survey  
July 2007

	not at all important	Slightly important	somewhat important	very important	Extremely important
a. Integrating general and Jewish content					
b. Being a Jewish role model for students					
c. Preparing students for active citizenship					
d. Helping children to succeed academically					
e. Being a school leader					
f. Collaborating with colleagues					
g. Continuing my Jewish learning					
h. Developing my practice as a teacher					
i. Living a Jewish life					
j. Teaching about social justice					
k. Transmitting Jewish values					

12. Please write the letters corresponding to your top three reasons from the list above for choosing DeLeT.

13. When you picture yourself teaching, what would an observer see you doing and how often would he be seeing you doing it?

	Never	Very rarely	sometimes	often	very often
Asking open-ended questions					
Making connections between general and Jewish studies					
Involving families in children’s education					
Engaging students in the study of Jewish texts					
Teaching Jewish values					
Encouraging risk taking					
Facilitating student collaboration/hevruta learning					
Collaborating with a colleague					

14. Looking back on your internship experience, how much did each element contribute to your ability to practice what you learned in DeLeT?

	Not at all contributive	slightly contributive	somewhat contributive	very contributive	Extremely Contributive
Mentor teacher’s support					
Support from other teachers in the school					
Head of school’s support					
Students’ behavior					
School culture					
Parents’ involvement					
DeLeT’s support					

Cohort support					
----------------	--	--	--	--	--

**C: PROGRAM CHARECTERISTICS**

15. Thinking back on your experiences in DeLeT, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	strongly disagree	disagree	neither agree nor disagree	agree	strongly agree
DeLeT articulates a clear vision of teaching and learning					
DeLeT emphasizes strong subject matter preparation.					
The criteria by which I was evaluated as an intern were consistent with what I was taught in my courses.					
The courses in DeLeT reflect a similar view of teaching					
I feel part of a larger group of people who all share a common vision of day school education					
I have gotten to know well the other students in DeLeT					
What I learned in my courses reflected what I observed in my internship					

16. On the whole, do you agree or disagree with the following statements about DeLeT’s faculty?

	strongly disagree	disagree	neither agree nor disagree	agree	strongly agree
Enabled me to evaluate and reflect on my practice to improve instruction					
Taught in ways that were consistent with the practices they advocate					
Understood the realities of contemporary day schools and their students					
Often were available to meet outside of class					
Gave assignments that connected my internship with coursework					
Knew who I was					
Demonstrated caring about whether or not I was learning					
Are excellent teachers					
Are knowledgeable about teaching and content areas					
Are committed to preparing Jewish day school teachers					

Demonstrated how to integrate general and Jewish studies					
Provided diverse Jewish role models					

17. To what extent did DeLeT prepare you to...

	not at all prepared	slightly prepared	somewhat prepared	very prepared	extremely prepared
...become an effective teacher?					
...integrate Jewish values into the classroom?					
...integrate general and Jewish studies					
...design appropriate and challenging lessons?					
...become a teacher leader?					
...implement effective classroom management					
...teach language arts?					
...teach parashat hashavuah?					

18. What would you recommend doing to improve DeLeT preparation for day school teaching?  
 Please provide specific suggestions.

---



---



---



---



---

**D: SCHOOL CONTEXT**

19. Thinking about your current school (or, in case you left teaching, the school where you last taught), use the following scale to indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	I do not agree at all	I slightly agree	I somewhat Agree	I very much Agree	I completely agree
Teachers share a vision of good teaching and a language for talking about it.					
Teachers share an understanding of the school’s Jewish mission.					
Teachers have regular times to meet with colleagues to work on issues of teaching/learning.					
Teachers have regular opportunities for professional <b>development</b> .					
Teachers have opportunities for professional <b>advancement</b> in this school (e.g. mentoring).					

I am intellectually challenged by my daily work.					
Teachers have adequate curricular resources and materials.					
I am satisfied with my class size(s).					
The school's physical facility adequately supports the instructional program.					
Teachers are not unduly burdened with paperwork and non-instructional responsibilities.					
There is a gap between what the school stands for and what it does.					
The school supports the teaching practices I learned in DeLeT.					
Administrators support and value teachers' work					
My school is engaged in some positive change initiatives.					
My school takes the needs of beginning / experienced teachers (whichever applies for you) seriously.					

If you are not currently teaching skip to question 21

20. a) Are you currently teaching subject(s) you have trained to teach?  Yes  No  N/A  
 b) Has your teaching assignment changed from last year?  Yes  No  N/A  
 c) If YES, this change was  Voluntary  Mutually agreed on  Involuntary  
 d) Are you satisfied with your teaching assignment?  Yes  No  N/A  
 e) Do you have your own classroom?  Yes  No  N/A

21. On average how many hours a week (typical week) do you spend doing your job? Include time in school and time out of school (e.g. preparing, grading papers).  
Please round up to the nearest whole number and fill in average hours per week as a 2 digit number

average hours per week

**E: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP**

22. In the past 12 months, have you participated in the following activities related to education or teaching and how would you rank their importance to your professional growth and satisfaction?

	Not at all important	slightly important	somewhat important	very important	extremely important
University Courses					
Observational visits to other schools					
Individual or collaborative research on a topic of interest to you professionally					
Regularly -scheduled collaboration with other teachers on issues of instruction					
Mentoring and/or peer observation					

and coaching, as part of a formal arrangement that is recognized or supported by the school					
Participating in a network of teachers (e.g., one organized by an outside agency or over the Internet)					
Participating in an informal network of like-minded peers					
Attended workshops, conferences, or training					
Presented at workshops, conference or training					

23. Over the past 12 months, have you assumed any of the following leadership roles? Select all that apply

- Grade-level or Department Chairperson
- Mentor
- Administrator
- Trainer/Staff Developer
- Grant Writer
- Coach
- Community Activist/Organizer
- Coordinator (e.g., Testing, Technology, etc.)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

24. At this point in your development as an educator, how valuable are each of the following emphases (which were promoted by your education program) to your professional growth?

	not at all valuable	slightly valuable	somewhat valuable	very valuable	extremely valuable
Creating supportive networks of like-minded peers					
Reflecting on your practice					
Engaging in community-based work					
Experiencing close mentor/novice relationships.					

**F: PERSONAL INFORMATION**

25. What is your sex?

- Female       Male

26. When were you born?

Month   Day   Year

27. What is your marital status?

- Single, never married*  
 *Married or living with a partner in a committed relationship*  
 *Other:* \_\_\_\_\_

28. What is your spouse/partner's current religion (in case you are divorced, what was your spouse's religion)?

- Jewish  
 Protestant (Baptist, Christian, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.)  
 Roman Catholic  
 Some other religion (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 No religion/Atheist/Agnostic  
 Both Jewish and another religion  
 Don't know

29. How many children do you have?

- None*    *1-2*    *3 or more*

30. Where did you study for your Bachelor's degree?

*Name of College/University:* \_\_\_\_\_

31. What was your major/minor in College? \_\_\_\_\_

32. In what year did you obtain your undergraduate degree?

33. Did you enter DeLeT within 2 years of graduating from college?

- Yes*                       *No*

*If No:*

33a. List the main job(s) you had before DeLeT, starting with the *most recent*:

I. Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

II. Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

34. Have you earned any graduate degrees (since DeLeT)?

*Yes*                       *No*

*If Yes:*

What degree and from where?

34a. Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

34b: Name of College/University: \_\_\_\_\_

34c: Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

34d. What year did you earn this degree? : \_\_\_\_\_

35. Please indicate your level of fluency in Hebrew?

*None*  
 *Basic*  
 *Intermediate*  
 *Advanced*  
 *Fluent*

36. Did you spend time in Israel before attending college?

*Yes*                                       *No*                       *I grew up in Israel and moved to the U.S.*  
*(skip to question 33)*

a) Number of visits: \_\_\_\_\_.

b) Estimated number of days spent:

c) Main purpose of your visit/s (check all that apply):

Touring  
 Study  
 Visiting relatives  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

37. What Jewish movement did you grow up in?

Modern Orthodox                       Conservative                       Cultural  
 Orthodox                                       Reform                                       Other: (please specify)

Reconstructionist

38. What type of schools did you attend?

Brandeis University – DeLeT Alum Survey  
July 2007

- a) Primary school:  Public  Independent (private)  Jewish day school  
b) Secondary school:  Public  Independent (private)  Jewish day school

39. Did you attend a supplementary Hebrew school, high school, or a summer Jewish camp program?

- Yes*  *No*

39a. If Yes, which grades/programs?

- Kindergarten  
 Elementary (Grade 1 to 7)  
 Post bar/bat mitzvah (Grade 7 to 9)  
 Summer Jewish camp (one or more)  
 Jewish high school program (9-12)

40. If you have or plan to have children, have they enrolled/might they enroll in Jewish day school?

- Yes (skip to question 37)*  *No*

40a. If not, why?

- Financial reasons*  
 *Partner doesn't/might not agree*  
 *Geographical distance*  
 *Child's friends go to public school*  
 *Quality of school*  
 *Other (Please explain):* \_\_\_\_\_

41. If you have or plan to have children have they enrolled/might they enroll in a congregational school?

- Yes (skip to question 38)*  *No*

41a. If not, why?

- Financial reasons*  
 *Partner doesn't/might not agree*  
 *Geographical distance*  
 *Child goes to Jewish day school*  
 *Quality of school*  
 *Other (Please explain):* \_\_\_\_\_

42. If you were describing yourself now, which of the following would you use:

- Modern Orthodox  Conservative  Cultural  
 Orthodox  Reform  Other: (please specify)

Conservadox

Reconstruction

Renewal

43. How much of a priority is/was it for you to marry someone who is Jewish?

- Not at all important*
- Slightly important*
- Somewhat important*
- Very important*
- Extremely important*

44. Using the following scale, please indicate the level of importance that each of the following plays in your life.

	not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat Important	very important	extremely important
Meaningful work					
Personal fulfillment					
Being politically active					
Family					
Status					
Personal wealth					
Improving the world					
Friends					
Enjoying life					
Being part of a Jewish community					
Living a spiritual life					
Other: _____					

45. There are many different ways of being Jewish. For you personally how much does being Jewish involve...

	not at all important	slightly important	somewhat important	very important	extremely important
Ritual practice					
Social justice (tikkun olam)					
Community					
Zionism (Caring about Israel)					
Jewish Culture (art, literature, foods)					
Jewish history					
Jewish peoplehood					
Love of learning					
Remembering the Holocaust					
Living an ethical and moral life					
Studying Jewish texts					
Having a rich spiritual life					
Giving your children /(children you might have) a Jewish education					
Celebrating Jewish holidays					

Believing in God					
Giving to charity					
Being part of a Jewish community					
Countering anti-Semitism					
Supporting Jewish organizations					
Connecting to your family's heritage					

46. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	I do not agree at all	I slightly agree	I somewhat agree	I very much agree	I completely agree
I am proud to be a Jew.					
I have a clear sense of what being Jewish means to me.					
I have a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people.					
I have a special responsibility to take care of Jews in need around the world.					
Overall, the fact that I am a Jew has very little to do with how I see myself.					
It's important for me to have friends who share my way of being Jewish.					
When faced with an important life decision, I look to Judaism for guidance.					

**G: FAMILY BACKGROUND**

47. What is your mother's occupation/profession? \_\_\_\_\_

48. Please mark the highest level of education attained by your mother.

- Completed high school
- Completed Bachelor's degree
- Completed Master's/Professional degree

49. What is your father's occupation/profession? \_\_\_\_\_

50. Please mark the highest level of education attained by your father.

- Completed high school
- Completed Bachelor's degree
- Completed Master's/Professional degree

51. As you were growing up, how active was your family in:

	not at all active	slightly active	somewhat active	very active	extremely active
...celebrating Jewish holidays					
...attending synagogue					

Brandeis University – DeLeT Alum Survey  
July 2007

...working for Jewish causes					
...supporting Israel					
...engaging in Jewish learning					
...giving tzedakah					
...working for social justice					

52. Briefly describe the community/neighborhood in which you grew up (e.g., was it racially or economically diverse? would you describe your family as working class, middle class, or upper class?).

---

---

---

---

**THANK YOU FOR FILLING OUT THIS SURVEY!!!!**