



FIELD *notes*

A Semi-Annual Publication of the Lynch School Practicum Experiences and Teacher Induction Office
Volume II • Issue II • Spring 2009

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

The spring 2009 semester marks the 10th anniversary of our Community of Learners School Partnerships in the greater Boston area. Indeed, it is with a deep sense of appreciation that my colleagues and I gathered on January 15 for our Spring 2009 Kickoff event as 133 full-time student teachers officially began their practicum experiences.



While we value our relationships with all our schools, we are especially mindful that this is the final year of our partnership with the wonderful folks at the James A. Garfield Elementary School in Brighton, as they prepare to join the Alexander Hamilton Elementary School community and move into the newly expanded Thomas Edison K-8 School next September. Our relationship with the Garfield School has been very special over the years, working with Victoria Megias-Batista and most recently with Louise Kuhlman. The Boston College/Garfield Partnership has produced innovative projects and activities that have contributed significantly to teaching and learning for children, teachers, and student teachers.

Given our special relationship with the Garfield, we dedicate this issue of *FIELD notes* to the Garfield community of children, their families, and the teachers with whom we have worked so successfully over the years. We pledge our continued support and commitment to the Lynch School mission to “expand the imagination, enhance the human condition, and make the world more just” by extending our Community of Learners Partnership and embracing the Thomas Edison K-8 School under the leadership of Principal Mary Driscoll.

I speak for everyone at the Lynch School of Education, when I extend our warmest wishes to the Garfield School community as they prepare to transition into their new home. We look forward to crossing the threshold with you at the start of the next academic year.

Sincerely,

Fran Loftus, Director

SPRING 2009 KICKOFF

The practicum team welcomed spring 2009 full practicum students at the Spring Kickoff event on January 15.

Pictured, left to right: Chris Bowen, Fran Loftus, Katie Anne Hengel, Kevin Casey, and Melissa Egrious.



SUPERVISION IN ACTION

This spring, the Practicum Office invites K-12 teachers in our partnership schools to learn, develop, and practice their mentoring skills as cooperating teachers for the Boston College students placed in their classrooms. “Supervision in Action” (ED 401) is designed to compliment supervisors’ roles as cooperating teachers, enhance their understanding of clinical supervision, and reinforce the roles and responsibilities of the student teaching triad.

The course is offered each spring and has been successfully completed by more than 250 teachers in our partnership schools since its introduction in the fall of 2000. Participating teachers are encouraged to use the Boston College voucher awarded for accepting a full practicum student to offset the cost of tuition. For more information, contact Dr. Amy Ryan at amy.ryan.2@bc.edu.

SPRING 2009 EVENTS

Thursdays, 2-4 p.m.

The Career Center offers weekly Drop-In Question Hours in Campion 106. Visit www.bc.edu/careers to view a complete list of resources, events, and workshops.

March 11, 2-3 p.m.; March 16, 3-4 p.m.

Jump Start
Campion 139

March 12

SIT: Education for the 21st Century
Heights Room, Corcoran Commons, 4:30 p.m.

March 23-27

Full Practicum Placement for Fall '09

April 7

SIT: Equity for Gay and Lesbian Families and Teachers
Campion 139, 6 p.m.

May 5

Student Presentations of Inquiry Research
Heights Room, Corcoran Commons, 3:30 p.m.

May 7 & 12

Undergraduate Endorsement Meeting
Heights Room, Corcoran Commons, 4 p.m.

HELPFUL LINKS

Educator Preparation
www.doe.mass.edu/edprep

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
www.doe.mass.edu

Massachusetts Licensure
www.doe.mass.edu/educators/e_license.html

Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure
www.mtel.nesinc.com and
www.doe.mass.edu/mtel



BOSTON COLLEGE
Lynch School of Education
Campion Hall 103
Tel: 617-552-4206
Email: prac@bc.edu

www.bc.edu/lsoe/academics/practicum.html

CLINICAL CLOSE-UPS

Susan Barahal, adjunct clinical faculty supervisor, is a quintessential example of a lifelong learner. She participated in a Title III faculty seminar on Supporting English Language Learners in mainstream classrooms and, through research and professional development, has developed the knowledge to support Donovan Scholars placed in Boston Public Schools and is a familiar face at the West Roxbury Educational Complex.



Susan’s professional activities also take her beyond Boston College. She is a lecturer at Tufts University in affiliation with the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and coordinator of the student teacher internships in art education. She also works as a teacher liaison and research assistant with the Visible Thinking and Artful Thinking research projects through Harvard’s Project Zero, focusing on how the arts can facilitate and inform teaching and learning.

Her recent article, *Thinking About Thinking*, appeared in the January issue of *Phi Delta Kappan*, and is available online at: http://www.pdkmembers.org/members_online/publications/Archive/pdf/ko812bar.pdf. In the article, Susan describes how pre-service teachers across the spectrum of secondary curriculum areas strengthen their thinking by exploring art images. Her most valued advice is to “empathize with your students and convey your love of teaching and learning.”

Ron Eydenberg’s career as an educator spans 40 years committed to the principles of educational reform in Massachusetts. During his tenure at Revere Public Schools, Ron taught history and English, was principal, and served as director of secondary education, director of humanities, and director of teaching, learning, and accountability K-12.



Ron’s presence at Boston College as an adjunct clinical faculty supervisor follows his previous roles as lecturer at the Lynch School, as well as participant in the Irish Institute’s University of the Middle East summer institutes on conflict resolution curriculum development. Ron is also associated with the University of Massachusetts Community College System as a lecturer of history and government. He is committed to building confidence in his students to take risks, to see new horizons, and to embrace the Lynch School mission. To student teachers, he says, “Know your content, be prepared to work hard, get organized, and ask questions!”

PRACTICUM INTERNATIONAL

This semester saw an increase in pre-practicum abroad participants, with 16 students completing pre-practica in 11 countries that include Amsterdam, Australia, Ecuador, England, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, South Africa, and Scotland. While completing their junior semester abroad, these students have the opportunity to learn about different educational systems while expanding their knowledge about teaching. Many colleges and universities offer methods courses that meet LSOE P2 and P3 requirements. Students interested in completing a pre-practicum or full practicum abroad should contact Amanda Cardarelli at cardarea@bc.edu or 617-552-4206.



Matt McCloskey, '10 is completing his pre-practicum in secondary English at St. Joseph Marist School in Cape Town, South Africa. He writes:

“My first day was the best first day of practicum in all of my practicum experiences thus far!! The kids actually stand up when I enter a classroom! They are so interested in me because I am American. The staff is so hospitable and graciously accepted me as a colleague! I sat in a staff meeting and was respected as much as anyone. This is a phenomenal experience and it has only been one day. More to come!!!”

SPRING 2009 FULL PRACTICUM DISTRIBUTION

