



# FIELD *notes*

A Semi-Annual Publication of the Lynch School Practicum Experiences and Teacher Induction Office  
Volume II • Issue I • Fall 2008

## GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

At the start of each academic year, I find myself reflecting on the wisdom of Parker Palmer, one of my favorite writers and author of *The Courage to Teach*. Palmer tells us that “we teach who we are” and I am both thankful for, and proud of my caring and competent colleagues Melita Malley and Amy Ryan, as well as all the clinical faculty supervisors who are our ambassadors in the field, and coaches and mentors to full practicum students. To provide insight into “who we are” in the Office of Practicum Experiences and Teacher Induction, please be on the lookout for the new *FIELD notes* column, Clinical Close-Ups.



This semester, in addition to our regular offerings of Special Issues in Teaching, Jump Start Licensure Workshops, and professional development in the area of English language learners, full practicum student teachers in K-12 regular education programs are working with PPA-PLUS. The Pre-Service Performance Assessment (PPA), required by the state, has been enhanced to reflect the mission and teacher education themes of the Lynch School in meaningful ways that I believe will enrich student experiences in the field. Plans are underway for the development of a Specialist PPA-PLUS, which we will implement in spring 2009 to align with the graduate programs in reading and literacy, severe special needs, and moderate special needs.

The Practicum team extends best wishes to all students, faculty, and staff for a successful and productive semester. As always, we look forward to seeing you in Campion 103 where you will find an enthusiastic and informed staff ready to greet and assist you.

Sincerely,

Fran Loftus, Director

## MENTORING AND INDUCTION

Dr. Amy Ryan, Associate Director of Mentoring and Induction for the Lynch School, is the latest member of the Office of Practicum Experiences and Teacher Induction. Amy’s work includes providing support to current and future K-12 teachers and developing webs of professional development through connections with higher education faculty, master teachers, and school administrators in existing partnership schools and neighboring school districts.

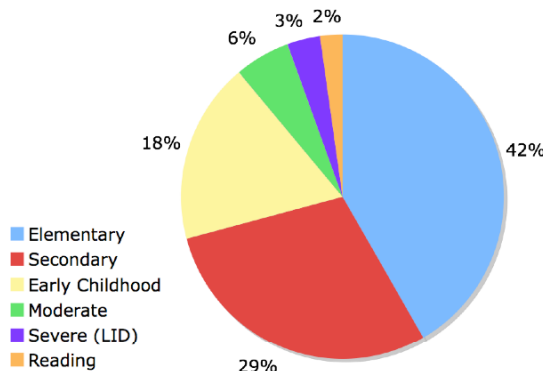


Such school-university partnerships include the New Teacher Academy and Advancing Practice Seminars. This work stems from the Boston College Teachers for a New Era initiative designed to improve teacher preparation through continued collaboration among Lynch School and Arts & Sciences faculty and school-based professionals.

A major focus of Amy’s mentoring induction initiatives includes coordinating secondary education small group content workshops required for all secondary education full practicum students each semester. These workshops are facilitated by Arts & Sciences faculty committed to supporting Lynch School students in the subjects they are preparing to teach. Additionally, Amy recruits Arts & Sciences faculty to become mentors to support individual students in their content areas. Future mentoring plans include expanding this model to include the elementary program.

## FALL 2008 FULL PRACTICUM DISTRIBUTION

Eighty-eight Lynch School students (65 undergrads; 23 grads) are participating in full practicum experiences this fall.



## FALL 2008 EVENTS

Thursdays, 2-4 p.m.

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

October 20-24

Full Practicum Placement for Spring '09

December 9

Community of Learners - Student Presentations of Inquiry Research  
Murray Room, Yawkey Center, 3:30 p.m.

December 11

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

December 16

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

## HELPFUL LINKS

Educator Preparation

[www.doe.mass.edu/edprep](http://www.doe.mass.edu/edprep)

Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education  
[www.doe.mass.edu](http://www.doe.mass.edu)

Massachusetts Licensure

[www.doe.mass.edu/educators/e\\_license.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/educators/e_license.html)

Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure

[www.mtel.nesinc.com](http://www.mtel.nesinc.com) and  
[www.doe.mass.edu/mtel](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mtel)



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[www.bc.edu/lsoe/academics/practicum.html](http://www.bc.edu/lsoe/academics/practicum.html)

## CLINICAL CLOSE-UPS

Joe Reilly, On-Site Clinical Faculty Supervisor and Grade 2 teacher at the Lincoln School in Brookline, embodies a vision of social justice in life, and in the classroom. And, when one of his former students, Molly, approached him for help with a special Valentine's Day project, Joe eagerly agreed.

"When Russ O'Neil shipped out to Iraq last summer, 11-year old Molly lost her best buddy and her biggest cheerleader as she has gone through treatment for leukemia over the past two years. For Valentine's Day this year, Molly picked Russ and his platoon as the collective valentine of the Lincoln School," says Joe, who has been at Lincoln for more than 30 years.

"In our school, there's a tradition of doing things around social justice," he continues. "Regardless of how you feel about the war, supporting the people who are there, to me, feels like a no-brainer."

Yet, Gammie [Molly's aide] and Joe downplay this project as just one of many works of social activism reaching from the halls of Lincoln to Southeast Asia to the Brookline Food Pantry. "Whether it be global or down the street, it doesn't ultimately matter, and unfortunately, there are a lot of things to be done," adds Joe.

-Portions excerpted from the *Brookline TAB* article by Jessica Scarpati, GateHouse Media.

Johanna Roses, Clinical Faculty Supervisor, has combined her love of traveling with her love of teaching over the years, ultimately challenging her educational goals for the classroom and shaping her techniques.

After teaching for 36 years, Johanna became involved with the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA). Through her work with MTA, she has been able to attend conferences in Israel; visit Arab and Israeli schools; and work with a group of teachers from South Africa, Germany, the Netherlands, and Israel to develop curriculum on children's writing from the Holocaust.

A year in England working in a primary school as a Fulbright Exchange Teacher opened the door for her work in a multi-age classroom with cooperative learning groups. Later in her career, Johanna became involved with the National Union of Teachers of England, allowing her to attend conferences and share research with colleagues in the United Kingdom.

More recently, she visited Greece through the Greek Scholars Studies Program at Brandeis University, and after returning home, developed a month-long unit on ancient Greece and created a Greek Festival for primary students.

There's no doubt teaching and studying children of the world has helped Johanna become a more effective clinical supervisor – guiding students through the process of becoming teachers, while sharing with them her career experiences.

## PRACTICUM INTERNATIONAL

In addition to international pre-practicum experiences many juniors complete while studying abroad, international full practicum experiences are also an option for seniors and graduate students. Students participating in these experiences stay connected to the Lynch School by engaging in a weekly journal dialogue with the practicum directors, who ensure they use the Pre-Service Performance Assessment Plus effectively. Additionally, they complete inquiry seminars through an online collaborative model that includes the seminar instructor as well as a content mentor from the Teacher Education faculty. Each student fulfills all Massachusetts requirements for licensure and certification while developing a global perspective on teaching and learning.



Undergraduate student Jenny Liu is completing her early childhood practicum at the Yew Chung International School of Beijing, China.



Grad student Frances Nebus is completing her elementary practicum in a grade 4/5 classroom at St. John's School in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



For more information, contact Amanda Cardarelli, Graduate Assistant Coordinator for International Practica, at [cardarea@bc.edu](mailto:cardarea@bc.edu) or stop by Campion 103.

## VOICES From Fall 2008 Student Teachers

One thing my supervisor can do for me this semester is...

"Keep me on track as I work with the PPA-PLUS."

"Help me see my strengths as well as the things I need to work on."

"Advise me on what to collect as evidence for my evidence binder."

"Help me develop my inquiry project and collect and analyze the data."

## SIMPLE STEPS TO LICENSURE

1. Create a profile on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Web site ([www.doe.mass.edu/educators](http://www.doe.mass.edu/educators))
2. Take the MTEL
3. Apply for your licensure online (after graduating from the BC-approved program)
4. Mail materials to the DESE after graduation

Visit the Practicum Office for more information.